

Throughout the reign of Queen Elizabeth the Second, commencing in February 1952, most of the coins minted within the nations of which she is sovereign have depicted Her Majesty wearing a crown which is known as the George the Fourth State Diadem. It features the Maltese Cross ✠ in four places (but only one is fully seen in images).

The diadem was commissioned by King George IV in 1820. It includes 1,333 diamonds (weighing in excess of 320 carats) including a single yellow diamond of four carats. Along the base are two strings of pearls. Between the crosses are roses, thistles and shamrocks, which are the flowers of England, Scotland and Ireland, respectively.

The diadem is on display in the Queen's Gallery at Buckingham Palace in London.

According to Australia's *Royal Style and Titles Act*, Her Majesty is titled as follows:

> "Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God Queen of Australia and Her other Realms and Territories, Head of the Commonwealth".

It is recognised in Australia that by God's grace, Her Majesty is Queen of Australia and Head of the Commonwealth - the greatest family of nations in world history.



The fifty cent coin depicts a stylised version of our Commonwealth Coat of Arms, that features Australia's largest animals (the kangaroo and emu), the Golden Wattle (our National Flower), a Federation Star and the States Shield (showing the State Badges):

New South Wales:	The red cross of St George with four stars and a lion;
Victoria:	The Southern cross and St Edward Crown;
Queensland:	A blue Maltese Cross and St Edward Crown;
South Australia:	A white backed piping shrike against the rising sun;
Western Australia:	A black swan;
Tasmania:	A red lion.

The kangaroo's tail is bent, and the Southern Cross is compacted, to make them fit.

Australia's 50 cent coins were round (from 1966-1969) but are now dodecagonal - to distinguish them from the 20 cent piece. They were 80% silver, but are now copper and nickel, since the worth of the silver became greater than the coin's face value.

The Commonwealth Coat of Arms has seven crosses: St George's Cross, the Southern Cross, a blue Maltese Cross and two Maltese crosses fully seen on the two St Edward crowns; each of those crowns has five crosses but only two are fully visible in images.