AUSTRALIAN FLAG SCHOOLS KIT

CONTENTS

1. DVD “Our National Flag … since 1901”
   Refer Page 2

2. Australian Flag Schools Kit
   Covering note explaining links to National History Curriculum etc
   Refer Page 3

3. Message from HE the Governor-General
   Refer Page 4

4. Australian Flag Learning Experience Plan
   Year Level 3 -7
   Refer Page 5

5. Proclamation by Governor-General of September 3 as Australian National Flag Day
   Refer Page 12

6. Australian Flag – Reference Sources
   Refer Page 13

7. Australia’s Flag – Did You Know?
   Refer Page 14

8. The History of the Australian National Flag
   A Compilation from Official Sources
   Refer Page 15

9. Flag Quiz
   Refer Page 18

10. Australian National Flag Day (3 September)
    Brochure published by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
    Refer Page 20

11. The Australian Flag Has Always Been Blue
    Refer Page 21

12. Dignity of the Australian Flag
    Protocol and Procedure for Flying Flag etc
    Refer Page 23

Please contact us at info@australianflag.net.au

Further information and source materials, plus historic photographs, are available at the ‘Home Page’ for the Australian Flag -
www.australianflag.org.au

Published by the Australian National Flag Association 2013
Item 1 - DVD “Our National Flag … since 1901”

Distributed to Australian Schools by the Education Department as part of the Discovering Democracy programme.


DVD Cover:
RE: AUSTRALIAN FLAG SCHOOLS KIT

Some years ago the Education Department distributed a resource entitled “Our National Flag ... since 1901” as part of the ‘Discovering Democracy’ programme. This has now been released as a DVD (attached) which can help inform students about the origins and significance of our chief national symbol. An Australian Flag Learning Experience Plan (also attached) has been developed to accompany this DVD, which can also be downloaded online for free at http://www.australianflag.org.au/our-national-flag-video/. These materials dovetail with a number of elements of the National Curriculum, viz:

* History / Year 3 / Historical Knowledge and Understanding / Community and Remembrance - ACHHK063: "...examining the symbolism of flags ... and recognising special occasions when they are flown..."

Obviously students will be able to celebrate our flag’s “birthday” on Australian National Flag Day (September 3); proclaimed by the Governor-General to “commemorate the day in 1901 on which the Australian National Flag was first flown”. A variety of resource materials are available - eg the brochure produced by the Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet is available online at http://www.itsanhonour.gov.au/symbols/docs/PMC-flag-brochure.pdf.

* History / Year 6/ Australia as a Nation: "...students explore the factors that led to Federation and experiences of democracy and citizenship over time ..."
Not only was the federation process itself highly democratic for the times, but the fact that our national flag was then chosen in an open public competition in which 1% of the population participated is also very significant. This testifies to the Australian ethos of “have a go” and the democratic spirit prevailing even more than a century ago. In her address on Australian National Flag Day in 2009, the Queensland Governor remarked that “the idea of holding an open public competition to choose a country's national symbol was unprecedented - we were the first country in the world ever to do so...” Her Excellency noted that the story of our flag “from the very beginning has asserted our distinctive Australian identity ... in the very way it was conceived - through a novel competition, a democratic and inclusive process that made it truly the people's flag” [Refer: http://www.govhouse.qld.gov.au/the_governor/090903_austnatflagday.aspx] The inspiring story of the Australian flag deserves to be better known - not only was it the first flag to be chosen in an open public competition but it is the only national flag to fly over an entire continent. (In some countries the world’s first “flag design competition” would be part of national folklore, and the five competition winners would be household names! This feature of our history particularly resonates with students given that one of the winners of the design competition in 1901 was a fourteen year old school boy...)

The ‘Home Page’ for our flag - www.australianflag.org.au - contains a wealth of information about flag history and protocol, and more suggestions about how to celebrate Flag Day. Email info@australianflag.net.au for electronic versions of the attached materials.

Published by the Australian National Flag Association, which aims to promote a wider appreciation of the history and significance of our chief national symbol. Go to www.australianflag.org.au for more information.
Item 3 – Message from HE the Governor-General

Message from Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC

Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

Since it was first unfurled from the Royal Exhibition Building in 1901, our Australian flag has been an icon of our shared identity, of what it means to belong to our country.

It is much loved, touched, worn and flown by Australians here and across the world. It graces our most solemn occasions and significant moments, our arrivals and departures. It flies in schools, neighbourhoods, communities, urban centres and in the bush. Wherever it is raised, it stirs in us a sense of unity.

On National Flag Day, I hope all Australians will join me in feeling extraordinarily blessed to share in all it symbolises, and to be a small part of a great story.

Governor-General

9-7-09
## Australian Flag Learning Experience Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year level</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Focus</th>
<th>Curriculum area(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 - 7</td>
<td>60 min or 2 X 30min lessons depending on grade level</td>
<td>Highlighting the history of the Australian Flag, the importance of flags and recognising that the Australian flag is a symbol of Australia.</td>
<td>History with links to English</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Key Vocabulary for Learning Experience


### Curriculum Links: The Australian Curriculum

#### Historical knowledge and understanding:
- Days and weeks celebrated or commemorated in Australia (including Australia Day, Harmony Week, ANZAC Day, NAIDOC week) and the importance of symbols and emblems (ACHHK063)
- Key figures and events that led to Australia’s Federation, including British and American influences on Australia’s system of law and government (ACHHK113)
- The contribution of individuals and groups, including Aboriginal people and/or Torres Strait Islanders and migrants, to the development of Australian society, for example in areas such as the economy, education, science, the arts, sport (ACHHK116)
Historical skills:
- Use historical terms (ACHHS066)
- Pose a range of questions about the past (ACHHS067)
- Use a range of communication forms (oral, graphic, written) and digital technologies (ACHHS071)
- Sequence historical people and events (ACHHS081)
- Locate relevant information from sources provided (ACHHS084)
- Locate information related to inquiry questions in a range of sources (ACHHS121)

Cross curriculum priority: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures

Prior knowledge: What does the learner already know? (Links to prior knowledge & interests)

Learners already know:
- how to contribute to class discussions by offering ideas, answers and suggestions
- how to work independently and in groups
- how to contribute to the KWL (know, want to know, learned) brainstorming process
- how to present findings to the class independently and in groups
- what the appearance of the Australian flag looks like
Learning strategies: *Where does the learner need/want to be? (Knowledge & skills to be acquired or developed)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Knowledge &amp; understanding:</th>
<th>(declarative)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The learner will know:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- the history behind the design of the Australian flag including how it was designed, who designed it and why it was designed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- the meaning of the symbols embedded into the Australian flag (the combination of stars and components of the Union Jack)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- that national flags are used to label us, give us a sense of belonging and allow us to be recognised all across the world</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- that all countries have their own national flag as a means of recognition</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- that Australians celebrate Australian National Flag Day each year to honour our flag</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- that the Australian flag represents important ideals and the Australian way of life</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- the reasons why Indigenous Australians and Torres Strait Islanders have their own unique “people’s” flags, and why that’s different to a national flag</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- key dates in Australian history relating to federation and other historical events</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skills:</th>
<th>(procedural/do)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The learner will be able to:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- explain who designed the Australian flag, how it was created and why it was created</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- identify and explain the meaning behind the important symbols in the Australian flag</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- list the reasons why it is important for us to have a national flag</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- explain the importance of Australian National Flag Day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- brainstorm the important ideals that our flag represents</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- explain why Indigenous Australians and Torres Strait Islanders have their own people’s flags, but that they are also represented by the overarching national flag of Australia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- list key events relating to the federation of Australia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Learning processes &amp; procedures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15mins</td>
<td>What will constitute the learning journey?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Who will do what?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Phase 1- Introduce, engage, focus, advance organiser, review prior knowledge, ‘hook’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. The teacher instructs the class to remain seated at their desks and explains that today they will be exploring an exciting new topic that will require the students to pay very careful attention and the use of their listening skills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. The teacher explains that the students are about to view a collection of unique images that all have something in common. Using their problem solving skills, students will view the images and identify what the images have in common.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Using an electronic whiteboard or an overhead projector, the teacher presents the collection of images to the class of famous Australian icons. Suggested images include a jar of Vegemite, a koala, Ayers Rock, a gum tree, The Big Banana, the boxing kangaroo, a boomerang, the Sydney Harbour Bridge or Opera House, the aussie meat pie, the didgeridoo or an akubra hat etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4. After the class views the images, the teacher uses thoughtful questioning in a whole class discussion to help students reach the conclusion that all of these items are Australian, unique to our heritage and are recognised all over the world as being Australian. Suggested questions include: How are these images the same? What do they have in common? Where did these products/people/flora and fauna come from? What part have these images played in shaping the identity of Australia?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Slideshow of images that are Australian icons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Electronic whiteboard/overhead projector</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. The teacher asks the class if they can think of another special Australian icon that is unique to our country that was missing from the slideshow of images. The teacher gives the class a hint by saying that the icon he/she is thinking of can be found at school, is used at special events and is only used to represent Australians.

6. Once the class has established that the icon is the Australian flag, the class is invited to the floor to sit in a large circle.

#### Phase 2- Develop skills & knowledge, build, practice, acquire, integrate, extend, refine

7. The teacher places the Australian flag in the centre of the circle for the class to view, describe and explore.

8. Using the KWL (know, want to know, learned) teaching strategy, the teacher writes “know” in bold letters in the centre of the whiteboard. Students are given individual copies of the KWL worksheet.

9. Students are asked to brainstorm together as a class everything they already know about the Australian flag. These answers are written on the whiteboard and on the worksheets.

10. The teacher then asks praises the class for their contributions and asks them “What else do we want to know about our flag?” or “What information do we still need to find out about our flag?” The teacher writes “Want to know” in bold on the whiteboard and records the class’ contributions. Students are to also complete this component of their worksheets.

11. The students are asked to return to their desks for the presentation of a special Australian Flag video.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual copies of the KWL worksheet</td>
<td>An Australian Flag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whiteboard and markers</td>
<td>The “Our National Flag video” to be viewed by CD or to be located online at <a href="http://www.australianflag.org.au/our-national-flag-video/">http://www.australianflag.org.au/our-national-flag-video/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10mins</td>
<td>video that will help them to find out the information they want to know about the Australian flag. Students are asked to think about the questions remaining in their W column of their worksheets before watching the video. The teacher asks the class to pay very careful attention and listen to the details in order to find the answers.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

12. After watching the video, the teacher asks the class to turn to a partner next to them and share two new facts they have learned about the Australian flag.

13. After a few minutes, the teacher chooses approximately six students to share with the class the two new facts their partner had learned from watching the video.

**Phase 3- Conclude, culminate, draw together, review & summarise key learnings, checks for learning, consolidation, homework/review tasks**

14. In a whole class brainstorming session, students are invited to explore and discuss all of the new knowledge that they have now gained about the Australian flag.

15. The teacher writes “learned” in bold letters on the whiteboard and students are asked to individually come up to the front of the class and write their answers on the whiteboard.

16. The teacher uses prompting questions to synthesise learning such as:

   “What did we learn about the southern cross?”
   “What do we now know about the stars?”
   “What were the names of the people who designed the flag?”
   “What special days celebrate and honour our flag?”

An electronic whiteboard, television or overhead projector

KWL worksheets

KWL worksheets

Whiteboard and markers
“Why does the Union Jack appear on the Australian Flag?”

“What do each of our State and territory flags look like?”

“Where do the crosses of St George, St Andrew and St Patrick come from?”

17. Students are asked to record all of the new knowledge learned in the L column of their worksheets.

18. To encourage higher order thinking, the teacher asks the class the following questions: “What would happen if we didn’t have our beautiful Australian flag?” The consequences will emphasise the importance of flags as a means of pride and recognition.

“Why is it important to have a flag at an event like the Olympic Games?”

**Extension Activity: Planning for National Flag Day**

- Review the section of the video (03:00 to 04:40) that shows citizens celebrating the first official National Flag Day.

- Discuss how people celebrate civic occasions, highlighting the activities in those celebrations – for example, marches, unveiling ceremonies and music. Working in groups, each group selects one key event (for example, Anzac Day, Australia Day, a citizenship ceremony). Each group creates a profile of the event by completing the following: When and where does the ceremony occur? Who is involved? What do they do? What values is the ceremony celebrating? How are these values shared with the audience?

- Introduce the idea of planning a school-based celebration for National Flag Day on 3 September. Brainstorm possible ideas for the ceremony, including the location of the event, special guests (such as members from the local RSL or sporting identities), the program, involvement of other school members, and so on. Divide the class into work groups, each with a responsibility to plan a section of the ceremony. Groups could include: publicity, programs and invitations, staging and decorations, class liaison and ceremony coordinators (Curriculum Corporation, Commonwealth of Australia, 2002).
Item 5 – Proclamation by Governor-General of September 3 as Australian National Flag Day

PROCLAMATION

I, WILLIAM PATRICK DEANE, Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia, acting with the advice of the Federal Executive Council, declare that, to commemorate the day in 1901 on which the Australian national flag was first flown, 3 September in each year shall be observed as "Australian National Flag Day" throughout Australia and in the external Territories of Australia.

Signed and sealed with the Great Seal of Australia on 2 AUG 1996 1996.

WILLIAM DEANE
Governor-General

By His Excellency’s Command,

Minister for Administrative Services

Produced by the Australian Government Publishing Service
Cat. No. 96 3114 3 ISBN 0644 468238
ISSN 1032-2345 © Commonwealth of Australia, 1996
Item 6 - Australia’s Flag – Reference Sources

“Our National Flag…..since 1901” (see “the Video at a Glance’below) was distributed by the Commonwealth Curriculum Corporation and can be viewed online at http://www.australiannflag.org.au/our-national-flag-video

The DVD is available for purchase from ANFA
Telephone (07) 3892 2965 or email info@australianflag.net.au

The website www.australianflag.org.au contains a wealth of source material and information about our flag and its history; including reproduction of official Gazettes and the ‘review of Review’ magazine describing the flag competition, plus a tribute video from rugby legend John Eales.

The “Australian Flags” booklet (published by the Department of Prime Minster and Cabinet) describes the history and significance of the Australian National Flag and other flags of Australia and explains the protocol for flying and displaying flags within Australia. It is distributed by parliamentarians free of charge.


For an electronic version of the Flag Quiz or other educational material (including a Teacher Resource linked to the new Australian National History Curriculum.

---

**The video at a glance**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section (time marker min:sec)</th>
<th>Key ideas</th>
<th>Some questions for discussion during or after the video</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Flags as symbols (00:00 to 03:00) | - Introduction: focus questions  
- Use in modern and ancient times  
- The Olympic flag | What questions does the video explore?  
Why is it Important to have a flag at an event like the Olympic Games?  
What practical purposes have flags been used for? |
| National Flag Day (03:00 to 04:00) | - Why this day?  
- Purpose of the celebration  
- Federation and the 1901 flag competition  
- Competition winners | Why was an annual flag day proclaimed?  
Why do you think it is important that we celebrate our flag?  
Why did Federation create the need for a new flag?  
Why was the Union Jack Australia’s official flag at the time of Federation? |
| History of the national flag (04:40 to 07:15) | - Southern Cross  
- Commonwealth or Federation Star  
- Union Jack | What symbols are on our flag? What is their role?  
Why is the Southern Cross included?  
Why is the largest star called the Federation Star? Why did the star change?  
Why is the Union Jack included on our flag? |
| Indigenous flags (11:56 to 13:35) | - Aboriginal flag  
- Torres Islander flag | Why is it important for Indigenous peoples to have their own flag? What do these flags symbolise?  
What are the key ideas that the flag reminds us of?  
Where else do you see the flag?  
Why is it important that the flag be seen at civic events?  
Why do people honour the flag? |
| Role of the national flag (13:05 to 15:40) | - Symbols of democratic tradition  
- Citizenship ceremonies  
- National identity, values and the flag | What ideals did Ivor Evans associate with the flag?  
What values are symbolised in Anzac Day? How is the flag used on Anzac Day?  
How do the other scenes in this section show the ideals represented in the flag?  
Do you believe the flag is an important symbol? Why? Why celebrate National Flag Day on 3 September each year? |
| National ideals and the flag (15:40 to 18:17) | - Ivor Evans describes national virtues  
- Commemoration on Anzac Day  
- Flags in celebrations |  |
| Centenary of the national flag (18:17 to 21:36) | - Celebrations on 3 September 2001 |  |
Item 7 - Australian Flag – Did you Know?

- The Australian National Flag is the only flag to fly over an entire continent.

- The Australian Flag was the first national flag chosen in an open public competition.

- The prize for the design competition (£200) was a substantial sum of money in those days – representing nearly a years’ wages for an average worker.

- Given that there were 32,823 entries in the design competition, and the ‘Australian’ population was estimated to be around 3.6 million in 1901; an equivalent response rate from today’s population would amount to some 200,000 entries!

- Arranging the 32,823 entries for display at the Royal Exhibition Building in Melbourne took eight weeks, and the judges needed six days to inspect them and choose the winning design.

- Entrants in the flag competition gave their imagination free rein: designs submitted featured “every kind of flora and fauna identifiable with Australia – sometimes all at once” (eg a flag depicting a kangaroo with six tails to symbolise the six states; one with a galloping emu heading south; and another of native animals playing cricket with a winged cricket ball !)

- The winning design was unveiled by the wife of our first Governor-General at a ceremony held at the Royal Exhibition Building in Melbourne on September 3, 1901.

- Two out of the five prize-winners in the 1901 flag design competition were teenagers (school boy Ivor Evans and apprentice optician Leslie Hawkins), another was a well-known female artist (Annie Dorrington) and one (William Stevens) was First Officer for the merchant navy. The fifth winner was a young Melbourne architect (Egbert Nuttall).

- The Southern Cross (formally known as “Crux Australis”) is a constellation that can be seen only in the night skies of the Southern Hemisphere. The individual stars are named by the first five letters of the Greek alphabet – Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta, and Epsilon.

- The Southern Cross has a very significant status in Aboriginal mythology (eg as part of the legend of Mululu of the Kanda tribe).

- The Australian National Flag is raised every morning at the school in Villers-Bretonneux in France, in memory of the thousands of Australian casualties incurred in liberating their village in 1917 (during the First World War).

As our Governor-General (Her Excellency. Ms Quentin Bryce AC) has remarked:

“Since it was first unfurled from the Royal Exhibition Building in 1901, our Australian flag has been an icon of our shared identity, of what it means to belong to our country. It is much loved, worn and flown by Australians here and across the world ... Wherever it is raised, it stirs in us a sense of unity...”

Published by ANFA (Qld) Inc. For further information about flag history and protocol, and the “rules” for flying the Australian flag, go to www.australianflag.org.au.
SUMMARY

When the Australian colonies federated to form the Commonwealth of Australia on 1 January 1901, the Union Jack had been the official flag for 100 years to the day. A new nation raised an urgent demand for a new emblem. An official competition for a design was arranged, which attracted 32,823 entries. Five of these, which contained almost identical designs, were placed equal first. Apart from later changes in the magnitudes of the stars and the number of points, they had produced the present Australian flag.

1901 – The competition to design a new flag for a new nation

Shortly before the opening of the first Parliament it was decided to hold a worldwide competition to obtain designs for two Australian flags – one for official and naval purposes and the other for the Merchant navy service. The competition was conducted in conjunction with a newspaper, The Review of Reviews.

The conditions of the government competition were set out in the Commonwealth Gazette of 29 April 1901. Entrants were asked to submit colour sketches for two flags – one for merchant services and one for naval and official use. The notice also stated that the successful design would be submitted to the imperial authorities for approval.

The prize money (£75 from the Review of Reviews and £75 from the Government) was boosted to £200 by a donation from the Havelock Tobacco Company.

More than 32,000 entries

In all 32,823 entries were receive from all over the world and from people of all ages and backgrounds, even an unnamed State Governor. The size of the entries also varied, from two postage-stamp-sized ones (which were disqualified for being too small) to a pair of entries using about 60 square metres of bunting.

The majority of the designs contained the Union Jack and Southern Cross but native animals were also popular. Among the more quirky designs were a kangaroo leaping through the constellation of the Southern Cross, a scene depicting native animals playing cricket with a winged cricket ball, a six-tailed kangaroo representing the six Australian States and a fat kangaroo aiming a gun at the Southern Cross!

The judges settled on five designs that were almost identical. So the prize money of £200 was divided amount the winners: Annie Dorrington from Perth, who became a quite well-known artist; Ivor Evans from Melbourne, a 14 year old schoolboy whose father owned a flag making business; Leslie Hawkins, a teenager from Leichhardt in New South Wales; Egbert Nuttall from Prahan in Victoria; and William Stevens, First Officer in the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand.
The national flag is raised

The Australian Flag flew for the first time on 3 September 1901. The day Prime Minster Barton announced the winners. It was a large flag, 5.5 meters by 11 metres, with a blue background and was flown over the dome of the Exhibition Building [Melbourne], where all the designs were on display. The Australian nation flag as we know it today is based on this design.

In 1996…..to commemorate the first flying of the Australian national flag in 1901, the Governor-General proclaimed 3 September of each year a s Australian National Flag Day.)

At first this flag was known as the Commonwealth blue ensign, later it became the Australian National Flag. The Commonwealth red ensign, or merchant flag, was identical except that it had a red background instead of a blue one. The design of the Southern Cross was simplified when the flags were formally gazetted in February 1903. The four main stars, which originally had different numbers of points to reflect their varying brilliancy, all became seven-pointed stars. The smallest star stayed as a five pointed star.

In 1908 the six pointed star representing the six States was replaced by a seven-pointed star, the seventh point to represent the Territories. At that time Papua was the only Territory of the Commonwealth but the symbolism was intended to include any Territories created in the future. The change was publicly notified in December 1908.

Use of Australian Flags

For many years there was considerable misunderstanding in Australia and in other countries in regard to the use of the Australian flags, particularly the Australian Blue Ensign. This was due in the main to the lack of any statutory law governing the flying of national flags in Australia, although endeavours had been made from time to time to lay down some definite procedure for use of the Australian ensigns.

At first the blue ensign was intended for official and naval purposes only and the red ensign was to be used by the merchant fleet. However, the general public also began using the red ensign on land.

On 15 March 1941 Prime Minister Menzies issues a press statement recommending the flying of the blue ensign as a national emblem on public buildings and schools and by private citizens, provided it was used with respect. The red ensign was to continue to be used by Australian merchant ships. On 24 February 1947 Prime Minister Chifley expressed his support for the wider use of the blue ensign.

[On] 4 December 1950 {the} Australian Cabinet decided to formally proclaim the Commonwealth blue ensign as the Australian national flag. In 1953 the Flags Act was passed in the Commonwealth Parliament, formally establishing the Australian National Flag and the Australian Red Ensign.

War and Peace – our flag since 1901

The new flag heralded Australia’s entry into nationhood. It flew over the site for the national capital at Canberra in 1908, on the first ships of the new navy in 1910 and at the first Australian base on the Antarctic continent in 1911. Since 1908 it has also been raised for medal winners at every Olympic Games. The flag was carried into New Guinea at the outbreak of World War 1 by the naval and military force which captured the German colonies, by the cruiser Sydney in the first naval battle of the war, by the ANZACS who landed at Gallipoli and by the “diggers” who spearheaded the victories in France in 1917-18.

It was seen around the world again in World War II. When Singapore was retaken in 1945, the first flag to fly was an Australian ensign made secretly in a prison camp.
In the Korean War, Australian service was marked by official use of the Australian national flag as well as the United Nations flag; in the Vietnam War the Australian national flag and the flags of the United States and South Vietnam were used.

The Australian national flag is the only one to fly over a whole continent.

**Our Flag Today**

The federal Government encourages the flying of the Australian national flag by all Australians and is committed to retaining and promoting pride in the flag and actively encourages all Australians to be aware of and proud of their country’s identity.

The Government issues flags free to many establishments and organisations in the community. Requests for free-issue flags must be made through Federal Members of Parliament or Senators in the relevant state of territory.

Today the Australian national flag is a symbol of the entire nation. Flying the Australian flag is a way of exhibiting pride in our nation and respect for our heritage.

**Note on Sources**

Every sentence of the above history is extracted from official Commonwealth sources; namely:

- The official website of the Prime Minister (www.pm.gov.au)
- “The Australian National Flag” (Department of Special Minster of State, AGPS, Canberra 1985)
- “Australian Flags” (Published and produced for the Awards & National Symbols Branch, Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet, Canberra second edition 1998)
- “Year Book Australia, 1989” (no 72, ABS, Canberra)

Compiled by the **Australian National Flag Association of Queensland (Inc)**

GPO Box 2064 Brisbane Qld 4001

www.australianflag.org.au

For further information, write to the above address or go to

Australian National Flag Association addresses in other states:

- 245 Castlereagh Street, Sydney NSW 2000
- ANZAC House, 4 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000
- PO Box 7603 Cloisters Square, Perth WA 6850
- GPO Box 1193, Hobart TAS 7001
Item 9 – Flag Quiz

FLAG QUIZ

Test your knowledge about our flag!
(Answers overleaf, for further details refer www.australianflag.org.au)

Australia’s flag is the only one to fly over an entire continent; how much do you know about it?

(1) Following federation in 1901 the new Commonwealth Government held an open competition calling for public input into the design of a flag – the first time in history that a national flag had been chosen in this way. Where were the entries displayed for judging, thus becoming the first place that the Australian flag was flown?
   a. Parliament House, Canberra
   b. The Sydney Opera House
   c. The Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne
   d. ‘The Lodge’ (Residence of the Prime Minister)

(2) The opportunity to design a new flag for the new nation of Australia really captured the public imagination. In proportion with our current population, how many entries would be needed today to replicate the 1901 response?
   a. 50,000
   b. 2,000
   c. 200,000
   d. 20,000

(3) The designs submitted featured (according to one writer) “every kind of flora and fauna identifiable with Australia – sometimes all at once” Which of the following were not included on the would-be flags entered in the competition?
   a. A kangaroo leaping through the constellation of the Southern Cross
   b. Native animals playing cricket with a winged cricket ball
   c. A platypus with six babies representing the six Australian states
   d. A fat kangaroo aiming a gun at the Southern Cross

(4) Which famous Australian wrote the words:
   “And with Australia’s flag shall fly
   A spray of wattle bough
   To symbolise our unity –
   We’re all Australians now…”
   a. Dorothea Mackellar
   b. Sir Robert Menzies
   c. “Banjo” Paterson
   d. Rupert McCall
(5) Five people tied for the honour of designing our flag, and they shared in the 200 Pounds prize money (which was a substantial sum in 1901, described as equivalent to the annual wage for an average worker). Match the description with the name of the winner below:

a. Ivor Evans
b. Annie Dorrington
c. Leslie Hawkins
d. Egbert Nuttall
e. William Stevens

i. First Officer with Union Steamship Company of NZ
ii. Teenage optician’s apprentice from Leichhardt in NSW
iii. 14 year old schoolboy from Melbourne
iv. Well-known artist from Perth
v. Architect with the Melbourne & Metropolitan Board of Works

(6) The Southern Cross featured of the flag is a constellation that can only be seen in the night skies of the Southern hemisphere, and it also gives acknowledgement to aboriginal Australians because it is so prominent in their mythology. What is the name given to each of the stars in the Southern Cross?

ANSWERS:

ANSWER 1 – c. None of the other place existed in 1901! It took eight weeks to display all the entries, and following judging the winning design was flown from the Royal Exhibition Building on 3 September 1901.

ANSWER 2– c. There were 32,823 entries from an estimated population in 1901 of some 3.765 million ... this would be equivalent to about 200,000 entries today.

ANSWER 3 – c.


ANSWER 5 (a) = (iii), (b) = (iv), (c) = (ii), (d) = (v), (e) = (i)

ANSWER 6 - The formal name of the Southern Cross is “Crux Australis” and the individual stars are named by the first five letters of the Greek alphabet in order of brightness – (clockwise from the bottom star) Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta and Epsilon.

Published by the Australian National Flag Association of Queensland (Inc.)
GPO Box 4062, Brisbane QLD 4001 Phone (07) 3892 2965
Email info@australianflag.net.au

We’re all proud to be Australians, and we can show it by flying or displaying our flag.

For more information about our flag (history and protocol etc),
Item 10 – Australian National Flag Day (3 September)
Brochure published by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

COMMONWEALTH FLAG NETWORK

Join the Commonwealth Flag Network to be notified of national events and other significant occasions for flying the national flag. To subscribe to the network, visit www.itsanhonour.gov.au/australianflagnetwork.

AWARDS AND CULTURE BRANCH

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
PO Box 6500
CANBERRA ACT 2601
Phone: (02) 6271 5029
Fax: (02) 6271 5063
Email: webmaster@itsanhonour.gov.au
www.itsanhonour.gov.au

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL FLAG DAY
3 SEPTEMBER
A GUIDE TO CELEBRATING AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL FLAG DAY

WWW.ITSANHONOUR.GOV.AU

HISTORY OF AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL FLAG DAY

Australian National Flag Day celebrates the first time the flag was flown on 3 September 1901. On that day Prime Minster Edmund Barton announced the winner of a competition to find a flag for Australia. It was a large flag, 1.5 metres by 1.1 metres, and was flown over the dome of the Exhibition Building in Melbourne. At that time the flag was known as the Commonwealth blue ensign; later, the flag became known as the Australian National Flag. Australian National Flag Day was proclaimed by the Governor-General on 25 August 1951 and has been celebrated since 3 September 1996.

HOW TO CELEBRATE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL FLAG DAY

All Australians are encouraged to fly or display the Australian National Flag to celebrate Australian National Flag Day on 3 September each year.

Australian National Flag Day is an opportunity for individuals, communities, organisations, local authorities, businesses and schools to celebrate with pride the anniversary of the Australian National Flag.

Here are some ideas to help you celebrate Australian National Flag Day:
- Conduct a flag raising ceremony (see the protocols for raising the Australian National Flag.)
- Business and organisations which don’t have a flagpole may wish to display the Australian National Flag in the public areas of their buildings, such as lobbies.
- Read about the history of the Australian National Flag and the protocols for flying the Flag on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet website www.itsanhonour.gov.au.
- Request a copy of the Australian Flags booklet, available free of charge from your Senator or Federal Member of Parliament.
- Join the Commonwealth Flag Network (see page for instructions on how to join).

WWW.ITSANHONOUR.GOV.AU

PROTOCOLS FOR RAISING THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL FLAG

While there are no official guidelines in relation to conducting flag raising ceremonies, basic flag protocol should be observed:
- the flag should be treated with respect and dignity;
- the flag should be raised no earlier than dawn and lowered no later than dusk, but may be flown at night when illuminated;
- the flag should be raised briskly and lowered ceremonially;
- the Australian National Flag should be raised first and lowered last;
- two flags should not be flown from the same flagpole; and
- the flag should not be allowed to fall or lie on the ground.

The official Commonwealth Government Gazette (No. 27) on 29 April 1901 announced the world’s first ever flag design competition: “The Government of the Commonwealth of Australia invite competitive designs for a Federal Flag...Each competitor will be required to forward two coloured sketches – one for the merchant service, and one for naval or official use ...All designs must be indorsed on the cover ‘Commonwealth Flag’...”

Following the receipt of entries from 1% of the Australian population at that time, on 3 September 1901 the judges chosen by the Commonwealth Government announced the winning design. The Australian National Flag (henceforth known as “Australian Flag” or ‘ANF’) is the same flag flying proudly on our flagpoles today. (There were some very subtle variations made to the number of points on stars, but the concept and appearance of the design is unchanged.) The “red ensign” as we know it was declared as the winning design for a merchant navy.

A contemporary report described the event: “At the Exhibition Building yesterday afternoon the Countess of Hopetoun [wife of the Governor-General] formally opened the Commonwealth Flag and Seal Exhibition and announced the name of the successful competitors...As Lady Hopetoun entered a huge Blue Ensign [emphasis added] with the prize design of the Southern Cross and a six-pointed star thereon was run up to the top of the flagstaff on the dome and, breaking, streamed out on the heavy south-westerly breeze, a brave and inspiring picture.”(From the Melbourne ‘Age’ 4 September 1901. Note that the six-pointed star referred to above – representing the founding states – became a seven-pointed star in 1908; with the seventh point representing the territories.)

The “Review of Reviews for Australasia” magazine September 1901 issue shows the ANF above the caption “Federal Flag adopted as the National Flag by the Commonwealth Government”

The official confirmation of the flag design came in the Commonwealth Government Gazette on 20 February 1903, which referred to approval of the design “... for the Flag of the Commonwealth of Australia”

A subsequent Gazette on 15 August 1903 identified the ‘red ensign’ as “... the Flag adopted as the Merchant Flag of the Commonwealth of Australia, to be flown by vessels registered in the Commonwealth...”

Then the House of Representatives resolved on 2 June 1904 that "the Australian flag as officially selected should be flown upon all forts, vessels, saluting places and public buildings of the Commonwealth upon all occasions when flags are used” [emphasis added]

In 1908 the Australian flag replaced the Union Jack on forts and barracks around the country.

The Australian flag flew over the site for the national capital at Canberra in 1908, and was also raised for the first time at an Olympic Games in that year. (The 1904 Games in St Louis did not record any medal victories for Australia’s “team” of two competitors).
A further Military Order in April 1911 directed that “in future the Australian Flag is to be used as the saluting flag at all reviews and ceremonial parades”.

In fact, the federal Government was perhaps too zealous in asserting the official status of the ANF, and for several decades insisted that only the Commonwealth was authorised to fly it. Even state government were rebuffed – eg when they sought permission to fly the ANF at state schools: while private citizens were obviously not authorised to do so. In frustration some patriotic individuals and schools began flying the “red ensign” on land to show their national pride.

On 19th January 1918 the Secretary of the Prime Minister’s Department advised in response to a query that “the blue ensign ... should be flown by Departments, establishments or vessels of the Government only”.

Such statements added to earlier confusion, and over succeeding decades reinforced the view that only the Commonwealth was authorised to fly the Australian flag - thus the “red ensign” was often seen flying on land. To correct this impression, and to encourage proper practice, Prime Minister Menzies issued this statement on 15 March 1941: “The Official view is that there should be no unnecessary restriction placed on the flying of the Blue Ensign on shore. Its use on public buildings, by schools, and by the public generally would not only be permitted but appreciated, provided it is flown in a manner appropriate to the use of a national emblem. Australian merchant vessels will, of course, continue to fly the Commonwealth Red Ensign”

On 24 Feb 1947 Prime Minister Chifley issued a statement in similar terms: “For many years the Commonwealth Blue Ensign was reserved for use on vessels of the Royal Australian Navy and on Commonwealth Government buildings. There is, however, no restriction on the flying of the Commonwealth Blue Ensign on shore...”

However confusions still abounded, until legislation in 1953 resolved any doubt through the passage of Flags Act; which also set out the exact dimensions of the flag, plus the position and size of the various stars etc

Introducing this legislation into Parliament, PM Menzies declared that it.... “is very largely a formal measure which puts into legislative form what has become almost the established practice in Australia. At the inauguration of the Commonwealth of Australia, the attention of the Australian Government was directed to the necessity to adopt an Australian flag [emphasis added] ... no legislative action has ever been taken to determine the precise form of the flag or the circumstances of its use, and this bill has been brought down to produce that result ... the bill will set out legislatively something that represents common practice and a common view in our country...”

Thus the ANF has always been “blue” since its “birthday” on 3 September 1901 (officially proclaimed as ANF Day by Governor-General Sir William Deane to “commemorate the day in 1901 on which the Australian national flag was first flown”). Our flag’s “birth certificate” was issued in 1903 with the official proclamation of the winning design, and it came of age fifty years later with the passage of the Flags Act. (Note that special legislation is not required to establish a national flag ... the proclamation in 1903 gave official status to the ANF. Similarly there is no legislation confirming the Union Jack as the flag of the United Kingdom – there is merely a proclamation similar to that gazetting the Australian flag design in 1903).

Published by the Australian National Flag Association (Qld) Inc,
GPO Box 2064, Brisbane QLD 4001.
For further information go to www.australianflag.org.au
Dignity of the Australian Flag

The Australian National Flag should be displayed only in a manner befitting the national emblem. It should not be subjected to indignity or displayed in a position inferior to any other flag or ensign. (For example it should always be flown aloft and free and should not be allowed to fall or lie upon the ground.)

The Australian National Flag takes precedence in Australia over all other flags when it is flown in company with other flags. After the Australian National Flag, the order of precedence is: national flag of other nations; then state and territory flags; followed by other flags prescribed by the Flags Act 1953 (including the flag of the Aboriginal peoples of Australia [1], the flag of the Torres Strait Islander people of Australia [2], and the Defence ensigns); and finally other ensigns and pennants (eg flags of local councils, government agencies, and non-government organisations).

Flying the flag

- The flag should be raised briskly and lowered ceremoniously.

- The flag should be raised no earlier than first light and lowered no later than dusk. (However the flag may be flown at night provided the flagpole is illuminated.)

- When the flag is raised or lowered, or when it is carried in a parade or review, everyone present should be silent and face the flag. People in uniform should salute.

- The flag should always be flown freely and as close as possible to the top of the flagpole with the rope tightly secured.

- A single flagpole must only ever fly the Australian National Flag [3] (If it is desired to fly other flags as well, then it is necessary to erect another flagpole. Two flags should not be flown from the same flagpole.)

- When flying with other flags, the Australian National Flag should fly on the left of a person facing the flags. Then the order is: state/territory flags, followed by other Australian flags prescribed by the Flags Act 1953 (eg the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags [1], [2]), and finally other flags and ensigns.
• When the Australian National Flag is flown with flags of other nations, all flags should be the same size and flown on flagpoles of the same height.

• Unless all flags are raised and lowered simultaneously, the Australian National Flag should be raised first and lowered last.

• The flag should never be flown if it is damaged, faded or dilapidated. When the material of a flag deteriorates it should be destroyed privately and in a dignified way (eg. it may be cut into small unrecognisable pieces then disposed of with the normal rubbish collection).

• The flag should not be flown upside down, even as a signal of distress.

• The flag should not fall or lie on the ground or be used as a cover (although it can be used to cover a coffin at a funeral).

• The flag should not be used as a covering of a statue, monument or plaque for an unveiling ceremony, as a table or seat cover, or as a masking for boxes, barriers or intervening space between floor and ground level on a dias or platform.

Commercial use
The Australian National Flag may be used for commercial purposes, including advertising, without formal permission but subject to guidelines:

• The flag should be used in a dignified manner and reproduced completely and accurately.
• It should not be defaced by overprinting with words or illustrations.
• Other objects in displays should not cover the flag.
• All symbolic parts of the flag should be identifiable.

Importers of items bearing an image of the Australian National Flag should consult the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet for approval of the item before applying for an import permit through the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service.


[1] The Australian Aboriginal Flag is protected by copyright and may only be reproduced in accordance with the provisions of the Copyright Act 1968 or with the permission of Mr Harold Thomas.

[2] The Island Coordinating Council holds copyright in the Torres Strait Islander Flag. Requests for permission to reproduce the Torres Strait Islander Flag should be addressed to the Secretary of the Island Coordinating Council.

[3] The only exception is on 24 October (United Nations Day), when a UN flag may replace the Australian National Flag even if only one flagpole is available

Published by the Australian National Flag Association using information provided by the Commonwealth of Australia (Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT FLAG PROTOCOL & HISTORY, GO TO THE HOME PAGE FOR OUR FLAG www.australianflag.org.au