

NEWSLETTER

OF



*The Australian National Flag
Association of Queensland (Inc.)*

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“KEEP OUR FLAG FLYING”

*The Australian National Flag Association aims to support our flag,
and to provide information about its history and significance*

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**ANFA AGM — 10.30AM ON SATURDAY FEB 18 —
BRISBANE CITY LIBRARY**

As per the official notice attached, the 2012 Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held at 10.30am on Saturday February 18, in the Community Meeting Room, Ground Floor of the Brisbane City Library at Brisbane Square, George Street, Brisbane. Brisbane Square is the new council building at the George St end of the Queen St Mall. The building is on the river side of George St opposite the casino. Please come if at all possible; we would love a great turn out. All members, and friends of the flag, are warmly invited to attend and to join us for morning tea after the conclusion of formal business. **NOMINATIONS** for Council positions (President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and up to ten other members) must be in writing and signed by the nominee and his/her proposer and seconder — all of whom must be current financial members of the Association. These must be lodged with the Secretary (GPO Box 2064, Brisbane Q 4001) by 9am on Friday February 3, with the envelope endorsed “Nomination”. If you wish to nominate for a position and are not able to locate a nominator and/or seconder please contact the Secretary on (07) 3892 2965 or at agwil@acenet.net.au



CAN YOU HELP US ON AUSTRALIA DAY AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE?

Government House in Brisbane will be open to the public between 10.00am and 3.00pm on Australia Day, Thursday January 26th . Once again, your association has been honoured by being invited to staff a stall for the day. A condition of taking part is that we are not permitted to sell anything, including membership, so the stall will be a point to hand out free flags and information.

Many different community organisations take part in the day and a range of bands will be along to keep you entertained. You might like to take a tour of Government House or just look at the extensive grounds. There will a sausage sizzle and you can bring a picnic lunch if you like. You might even meet the Governor herself.

Government House is at 168 Fernberg Rd Paddington. There will be no on-site parking but free parking will be available in Norman Buchan Park corner of Baroona and Rainworth Roads. Free shuttle buses will run between there and Government House.

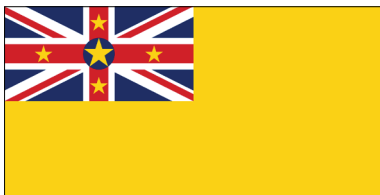
To help us make the most of the day we really need a few volunteers to come along to help. If you can help, for whatever time you can afford, we would love to see you. Please contact our Secretary, Austin Wilkins on 38922965 or send an e-mail to info@australianflag.net.au for more details.

SOME OTHER COMMONWEALTH FLAGS

With the Gold Coast's successful bid for the 2018 Commonwealth Games came a reminder that one of the interesting things about the games is the appearance of flags that you don't see at many other times. In some cases that is because particular territories or regions compete individually rather than as part of another country eg. Norfolk Island, the Isle of Man and the other countries of the British Islands. There are also some tiny countries that enter teams in the games.

One very small country from our general region that you may never have heard of is Niue which is sometimes called the Niue Islands. The locals refer to it as "The Rock". Niue is situated about 2400kms to the north east of New Zealand. The whole country is only 260 sq kms and the whole population is only about 1400. Most of the people are Polynesian. Niue is self governing but is in a free association with New Zealand. The political system is based on Westminster. The Queen as head of state of New Zealand is represented by the Governor-General of New Zealand. There is a locally elected parliament.

Niue's flag is a striking one. Like our flag, the union flag is in the top left corner (upper hoist). There is a large yellow star on a blue disc in the centre of St George's Cross which represents Niue itself. Each of the arms of that cross has a smaller star, signifying the Southern Cross on New Zealand's flag. The rest of the flag is a yellow field which represents the warmth of the relationship with New Zealand.



Perhaps you have been lucky enough to enjoy a holiday on Norfolk Island. The island is a territory of Australia.. It also has an interesting and often harsh history. The island was settled by Polynesian people for a short time in the 14th or 15th century before being abandoned. Captain Cook found the island in 1774 and named it after the Duchess of Norfolk.

The British were interested in Norfolk because the flax which grew there provided an alternative source to Russia. When the First Fleet arrived in 1788, a party of soldiers and convicts was sent to the island to begin developing it. It was hard going and the island was abandoned again between 1814 and 1825. Norfolk was re-opened as prison for the toughest convicts. After thirty years, transportation of convicts ended and Norfolk began a new era as home to Pitcairn Islanders who were descendants of Tahitians and HMS Bounty mutineers. Those people really began the modern history of the island. In 1901, Norfolk Island became an external territory of Australia. It was granted substantial self government and its own parliament in 1979.

Norfolk Island's flag was adopted in 1980. The flag has the same lay out as the Canadian flag and is sometimes referred to as being in the Canadian pale design, although that is not quite correct. The flag has a white vertical bar in the centre with a Norfolk Island Pine imposed on it. Slightly narrower green vertical bands are on either side of the white bar.



Our final little island is the Isle of Man which also has an interesting history. The island is a self governing British Crown Dependency located in the Irish Sea between Britain and Ireland. Its head of state is the Queen in her role as Lord of Mann but the island is not part of the United Kingdom. The island has been populated since before 6500BC and was influenced by Gaelic and then Norse culture. A Gaelic Manx language developed along the way.

The island's flag, which was adopted in 1931, is very distinctive. It has three armoured legs with spurs on the heels arranged in a circular pattern on a red field. This particular design is called a triskelion but is referred to as trinacarnia in Man. It can be traced back to ancient Mycenaean and Lycian cultures. How this design came to the island is not known, but it has been used there since the thirteenth

century. There is also a civil ensign (shipping flag) which imposes the trinacaria on the British red ensign. That flag can only be used in waters between Britain and Man.



HONOUR FOR LOYAL FLAG MAN

ANFA Life Member and patriot, Mr Edward (Ted) Cattell was recently inducted into Logan City's Wall of Acclaim which honours the city's most distinguished citizens. The honour is richly deserved. Your President and Councillors would like to record their congratulations.

During World War II, Mr Cattell carried out nearly 50 missions over enemy occupied territory as a fighter pilot. He was awarded the highly regarded Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) for bravery. Mr Cattell was awarded another six medals for his service in the Royal Australian Air Force. Mr Cattell moved to the Logan City area over forty years ago and became active in the Rural Fire Authority and the State Emergency Service. Mr Cattell's long and loyal service to his country and city led to Cr Darren Power to nominate him for inclusion on Wall of Acclaim. Cr Power described Mr Cattell as a "real life hero". All who know Mr Cattell would second that. The Wall of Acclaim only honours fifteen people and ANFA is well represented. Apart from Mr Cattell, stalwarts Mary and Keith Brough have also been honoured.



THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ORDER

One of the most highly respected honours available to Australians until 1972 was the Distinguished Service Order (DSO). It was awarded to just over 1,000 service men, including 70 bars (second awards) and one double bar. The DSO could be awarded to members of all of the services and, later, the Merchant Navy. It was regarded as the second highest award for gallantry. Some of you may recall that our late patron, Air Commodore Deryck Kingwell was a DSO. The medal of the DSO is perhaps the most striking of all the Imperial military awards. It is a gold cross covered with enamel bearing a field in the centre with a crown and wreath.



The DSO was established in 1886 with Queen Victoria's approval to be awarded to junior officers, from the level of Major, to recognise gallantry in action or for other distinguished service. At that time, there was no award available for such officers who did not qualify for the Victoria Cross. More senior officers could be awarded the Order of the Bath, and enlisted men were eligible for the Distinguished Conduct Medal. Most recipients received the DSO because of their action under fire although it was sometimes awarded for other service. Those kinds of awards caused some resentment which led to a 1917 instruction that the DSO could only be awarded for actions under fire. There were occasions when the DSO was awarded to men below

the normal rank level, which usually meant that they had been close to receiving the Victoria Cross.

A remarkable fact about the DSO is that a small group of men actually earned three bars. That means that they qualified for the award four times. One of those which our members might be familiar with was Lord Freyberg of New Zealand. Lord Freyberg also won the Victoria Cross and served as Governor-General of New Zealand.

From 1972, the DSO was no longer awarded to Australians with the move to an Australian award system. In 1993, the British government changed the rules under which the DSO was awarded in that country. Rather than being awarded for gallantry, the DSO would be granted for distinguished leadership in action. While it can now be awarded to service personnel of any rank, it is most likely to be likely to be senior officers. The new Conspicuous Gallantry Cross became the second highest award for gallantry.

FLAG DAY 2011

Our flag's 110th "birthday" on 3 September 2011 ('Australian National Flag Day') was marked with celebrations all around Queensland, and the centrepiece event in Gatton was honoured by the presence of Her Excellency the Governor-General. Other flag raising ceremonies were held in Brisbane, Bundaberg, Caboolture, Ipswich, Logan and Toowoomba. Full details will be provided in our next newsletter, but included below are reports from Logan and Caboolture.

LOGAN CITY- *Special thanks to Lynne for this report.*

Flag Raising ceremony was held on Saturday 3rd September at the flagpole on the forecourt of the Logan City Council administration building. Unfortunately, the guest speaker was unable to attend & we had not received notification of that fact. Luckily, Mr Malcolm Badgery was in attendance & accepted the last minute invitation to be our guest speaker. The event was attended by members of the local SES units as well as members of the Vietnam Veteran's Motorcycle Club. The Flag was marched to the flagpole by members of the ANFA plus ex serving military personnel. Music was provided by Tracey Charlton who also led us in singing the National Anthem. Messages from the GG, Qld Premier, & Leader of the Opposition were read by members of the Emergency Service Cadets. The ceremony was followed by morning tea.

CABOOLTURE

The members of your council were surprised to learn that the Caboolture Historical Village was planning to celebrate Flag Day and what a great celebration it was. Next year, the village's team wants to work with us to make the event even bigger and better and we will be happy to help.

It is obvious that the village is flag friendly from the moment you enter it and a special effort had been made on the day. Tables in the café displayed flag decorations and the flag could be seen in a number of places throughout the grounds. Taking pride of place in the gift shop is a rare flag which is believed to have been used by the R.A.A.F in General MacArthur's headquarters. There are also a number of flag items for purchase.

The ceremony began with a parade featuring historic army vehicles, cadets, a mounted light horseman, the National Servicemen's Pipe and Drum Band, the Redlands' Ladies' Marching Drum Band and the Kilties Scottish Band. A number of visitors spontaneously joined the parade. The bands remained in the village for the rest of the day providing entertainment for visitors. Following the parade, a flag raising ceremony took place. Wyatt Roy, Federal Member for Longman described the flag as "one of our most important national symbols". He said that our flag contains much symbolism and is itself an "enduring symbol of our nation". Mr Roy noted that the flag had graced all significant events, both sad and happy. He made the point that our flag represents the "extraordinary qualities" of Australians. State Member for Glasshouse, Andrew Powell, noted that not only was 2001 the 110th anniversary of our flag but the 100th anniversary of our navy gaining the title of "Royal" but the 70th anniversary of the allied landings in Crete and the battle for Tobruk. Mr Powell called the flag a "constant reminder of sacrifice" by Australians.

Congratulations are due the village's team for all the work they did to arrange such a fitting celebration of our flag's birthday. If you have never been to the village, why not spend a day there soon? There is a lot to see. It would be an ideal outing if you have overseas visitors.

MEMBERSHIP

All Annual Memberships are now due for renewal – or if you want to avoid annual fees, why not upgrade to Life Membership? If you are a Life Member you are still welcome to make a donation to support the work of your Association. Please use the attached coupon to join, or to renew/upgrade membership, and/or direct any membership enquiries to our Hon Secretary (Austin Wilkins on 3892 2965) or by email to info@australianflag.net.au until further notice