

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL FLAG ASSOCIATION (NSW) Inc.

NEWSLETTER

245 CASTLEREAGH STREET, SYDNEY, 2000
telephone: 02 9264 8188 fax: 02 9264 8497

Website: www.australianflag.org.au

FOUNDED 1983 by Sir COLIN HINES OBE: PATRON in CHIEF; REAR ADMIRAL PHILIP KENNEDY AO RAN (Rtd)

August 2009



*Invitation From Miss World Australia, Katie Richardson:
Please join us to celebrate the birthday of our Australian Flag of
Stars and Crosses at 12 noon, Thursday 3rd September 2009
in Martin Place, Sydney NSW.*

"The Australian flag is our chief national symbol by law, custom and tradition. When traveling to various countries, I often look up to the stars at night, and when the Southern Cross is visible, I think of Australia and our beautiful flag of 'Stars and Crosses' - which gives me a sense of pride and reminds me of my home country." **Katie Richardson - Miss World Australia 2008/09**



**Mayor of Leichhardt
Jamie Parker**
will be one of the guest speakers at Flag Day in Martin Place Sydney City





Trooper VC Mark Donaldson was awarded the Victoria Cross for outstanding bravery on 2 September 2008 in the Oruzgan Province Afganistan by deliberately drawing enemy fire from the wounded and carrying the Interpreter back to a vehicle. The ceremony was held at Government House Canberra on 16th January 2009



AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- To communicate positively to all Australians the importance and significance of our chief national symbol - the Australian National Flag.
- To provide promotional and educational material concerning the Australian National Flag.
- To promote the Australian identity overseas by the use of the Australian National Flag.
- To support existing "fly the flag" programmes and encourage support from recognised service organisations.
- To encourage personal identity with the Australian National Flag at all levels within the community.

HELP PLEASE!

We are in dire need of retirees to volunteer, 1 day per week, to answer phone and mailing. Contact us on 9264 8188 ext. 363 or 99880411

The next Annual General Meeting of The Australian National Flag Association will be held in the Boardroom, 7th Floor, ANZAC House, 245 Castlereagh Street, Sydney Wednesday 30th September 2009 commencing at 10.30am. Morning Tea to follow.



Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

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.

Quentin Bryce
Governor-General

9-7-09



This booklet on the birth of our flag is available from ANFA for \$2.50 including postage.

FLAG DAY PARRAMATTA 2009

A ceremony commemorating Australian National Flag Day at Parramatta Public School, 177 Macquarie Street, on Thursday 3rd September, commencing at 2pm. Members of the RSL, Army Lancers, Parliament and local groups will be in attendance.

FLAGS UNDER THE SOUTHERN CROSS AND THE EUREKA MYTH

The development of a 'national flag' was related to the victory at Trafalgar as Royal Navy's White Ensign used exclusively at the sea battle was admired as the banner of the World's supreme force that protected the 'crimson threat' of British Subjects in the vast and growing Empire. By the 1820s the constellation of stars, the Southern Cross was acknowledged as patriotic symbol by many of the new settlers and was then woven into many Aboriginal legends.

A local patriot, Captain John Bingle and his friend, Captain John Nicholson RN, Harbour Master of Sydney designed the first flag of 'stars and crosses' in 1823/24 known as the Australian National Colonial Flag. It was said to have been officially adopted by the then Governor of New South Wales. The attractive design featured the naval White Ensign emblazoned with four stars of the Southern Cross. Australia had acquired a flag symbol that was to inspire hearts and minds and eventually lead to a unique public competition that resulted in our Australian National Flag in 1901.

By 1831 a variant of first Southern Cross flag had been drawn up by Captain Nicholson. It was illustrated in the 1832 NSW Calendar and Post Office Gazette. The new Australian flag, known initially as the New South Wales Ensign and later the Australian Federation Flag was based on a White Ensign pattern with a central blue cross where five, eight pointed stars dominated the design. This Southern Cross flag, popular though unofficial, was honoured as the 'national' flag of Australia for some seventy years. It was runner-up in the competition for the Australian National Flag in 1901 and strongly influenced other designs including the Australasian League flag 1851, Murray River 1853 and Eureka Stockade flag, 1854.



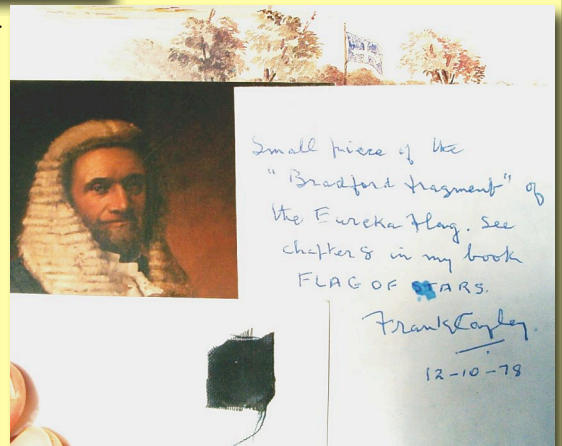
The Eureka flag was lost to general public imagination until after WW11 when, for mainly political reasons it was re-discovered and promoted as a 'rebel' symbol.

In the latter decades of the 1800s notable patriots arose such as Sir Henry Parkes who focused attention on the benefits of Australian Federation. Campaigning succeeded in the creation of a new nation, the Commonwealth of Australia on 1 January 1901 and Australians democratically chose, from 32, 823 entries the Australian National Flag on 3 September 1901 now proudly celebrated annually as Australian National Flag Day.

JOHN CHRISTIAN VAUGHAN
VEXILLOGRAPHER



It is a myth that the Eureka flag flown at the stockade rebellion in 1854 was the first Southern Cross emblem. The acknowledged designer, Henry Ross of Toronto, Canada, would have been influenced by the popularity of already existing starry flags and the 1831 design had its colours reversed to a blue field and white cross and the Union Jack deleted.



ANF Kandahar Airport & Certificate



ANFA NEWS

Are you aware that the NSW Coat of Arms has been replaced by the current Premier of NSW, Mr Nathan Rees? There has been no public discussion or referendum. So far, the NSW Flag is safe. How safe do you think the Australian Flag would be if our current Prime Minister decides Australia must be a Republic?

There are many moves "afoot" to change our flag as modernists do not believe it represents the multi-cultural aspect of Australia today.

We need you to fly the flag!

We are such a young country, Australia has so few icons that truly represent us and have traveled with us through our short history.

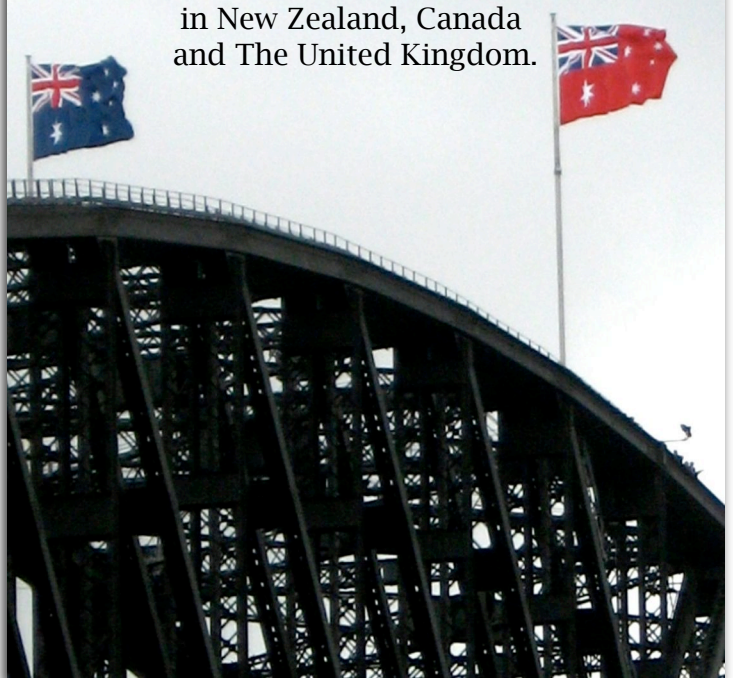
Don't allow ANYONE to remove that which was voted and approved by the Australian public as OUR FLAG. "If it aint broke - it don't need fixin'" Let them find another cause!

A Big Thank You to Mr Ray Avard and Woolooware High School Senior Concert Band from all at ANFA. Ray retires this year, we wish him all the best and hope our association with this wonderful youth orchestra can continue.

Since its inception the band has a wonderful record. Highlights include Winners 1997, 1999, 2000 and 2007 in the Youth Marching Band Section of the Sydney Anzac Day Parade. Engaged to open the Sydney Anzac Day March 06 and 07 and by the Sydney Olympic Committee for the Southern Sydney Olympic Promotion.

In 1997, 1998, 2002-2008 they were the chosen official band for Australian National Flag Raising Ceremony in Martin Place, Sydney. 1998, 1999 and 2000 finalists in Sydney Eisteddfod. Toured the West Coast USA 1999 performed at Universal and Disneyland, 2003 performed in Hollywood, Phoenix, Las Vegas, & Grand Canyon. July 2006 placed third in prestigious Vienna Arts Festival. Recordings 1996, 1998, 1999 and 2000 plus a fine studio recording 2006 at Trackdown Studios.

It is an incredible co-incidence that Merchant Navy Day and ANF Day are the same - as both our Blue and Red Ensigns date from the 3rd September 1901. Australian Merchant Navy Day co-insides with Merchant Navy Day in New Zealand, Canada and The United Kingdom.



AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL FLAG PROMISE

I promise allegiance to Australia & our flag of "Stars & Crosses",... to serve my country and all its people faithfully, ... and to uphold Australia's laws, values & traditions.

Email: nsw@australianflag.org.au

Website: www.australianflag.org.au