



Australian Government

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Australian Symbols



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&C

Australian Symbols presents the official symbols and emblems of the Commonwealth, states and territories of Australia.

Australian Symbols is a companion book to *Australian Flags* which describes the history and significance of the official flags of Australia (the Australian National Flag, the Australian Aboriginal Flag and the Torres Strait Islander Flag) and the other flags of Australia, as well as explaining the protocol for flying and displaying flags within Australia.

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For further information on state and territory symbols, contact the relevant Premier's departments in the states and the Chief Minister's departments in the territories. The addresses are given within the individual state and territory sections of this publication.

Acknowledgments

The Parliamentary and Government Branch would like to express its thanks to the people and organisations that contributed their knowledge and expertise to each edition of *Australian Symbols*.

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- National Indigenous Australians Agency
- Mr Harold Thomas
- Torres Strait Island Regional Council
- State and territory government protocol officers
- Administrators of Norfolk Island, Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands



Foreword

A world of symbols

Australia's national symbols provides a shorthand way of representing Australia to the world. Our symbols represent what is unique about the nation, and reflect different aspects of our cultural life and history.

The story of Australia's symbols is rich and colourful, and fosters unity within the Australian society.

From the time of the most ancient human tribes there have been symbols. In Australia, animal totems have been used as symbols for tens of thousands of years by First Nations Australians as links to mythical beings of the Dreaming.

Throughout the history of our nation, Australians have looked to our environment for symbols to represent the spirit and attitudes of the land.

The environment of Australia offers a rich variety of animals, birds, trees and flowers to choose from as the national symbols.

Australia has a vast array of both national symbols and well known icons. Australia's national symbols that have been officially chosen (via vote, legislation or proclamation) to represent Australia and its states and territories include the Australian National Flag; the Commonwealth Coat of Arms; our floral emblem, the golden wattle; the celebratory national colours of green and gold; and our vibrant gemstone, the Australian opal. The Australian National Anthem is also one of our most important national symbols. Each state and territory also has its own symbols which are further detailed in this booklet.

Some of the icons of Australia, which have not been officially proclaimed but are well known by many both nationally and internationally, include Uluru; the Sydney Harbour Bridge; the Sydney Opera House; the Great Barrier Reef; and the kangaroo.

This booklet tells the story of the symbols of Australia.

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National symbols



The Australian National Flag

A radiant star group helped early sailors find their way to Australia as they voyaged for many months from Europe. Known as the Southern Cross, its 5 stars were useful night-time companions to the settlers and explorers. It became one of the first symbols of the Great South Land. When sailors explored the east coast of Australia in HMS *Endeavour*, they used the Southern Cross and the nearby brilliant pointer stars *Alpha* and *Beta Centauri* to find the south celestial pole, as navigators and bushmen still do today.

First Nations peoples formed images with the stars. Some saw the Southern Cross as the footprint of a giant wedge-tailed eagle, with the pointer stars as a throwing stick used to hunt it. The stars of the Southern Cross were also known to the ancient Greeks, who regarded them as part of the Centaurus constellation. In 1516 the stars were first described as a cross. They were recognised as a separate constellation early in the 17th century.



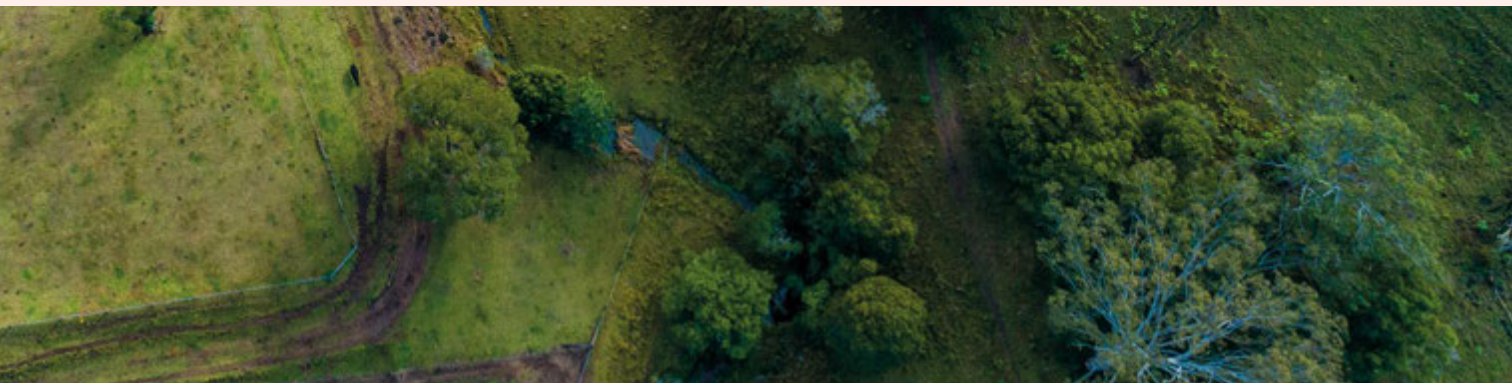


The
Union
Jack



The
Southern
Cross

The Commonwealth Star



The Union Jack

Britain's flag, the Union Jack, appears on the top left quarter of the Australian National Flag to acknowledge the history of British settlement in Australia. The Union Jack, the commonly used name for the Union Flag, is the flag of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and has its own history.

The first Union Flag, created in 1606, combined the red cross of St George (England) on a white background and the white diagonal cross of St Andrew (Scotland) on a dark blue background. When Ireland became part of the United Kingdom in 1801, the red diagonal cross of St Patrick was added to the Union Jack.

The Commonwealth Star

The Commonwealth Star, symbolising Australia's federal system of government, appears on the Australian National Flag below the Union Jack. This star has 7 points which symbolise the 6 Australian states, with the seventh point added in 1908 to recognise Australia's territories.

The Southern Cross

Four seven-pointed stars arranged in a cross, together with a smaller five-pointed star appear on the right-hand side (the 'fly') of the flag to represent the Southern Cross. The stars of the Southern Cross are named after the first 5 letters of the Greek alphabet in order of brightness: *Alpha*, *Beta*, *Gamma*, *Delta* and *Epsilon Crucis*. *Alpha Crucis* is really 2 stars and these can be seen apart with a small telescope on a dark night. *Beta Crucis* is a brilliant white star and *Gamma Crucis* is a red giant.

The Southern Cross has also appeared on unofficial flags in Australia from the 1850s, as a strong sense of nationalism developed. One of the best known unofficial "flag of stars", the Eureka flag, was used by gold miners at Ballarat, Victoria, who rebelled against the policies imposed by the colonial government.

A world-wide search

A world-wide competition to find the first Australian National Flag was announced by the Commonwealth Government, when the 6 colonies united as the Commonwealth of Australia, on 1 January 1901. In all, 32,823 entries were received from all over the world and from people of all ages and backgrounds, even an unnamed state Governor.

Winners found

The judges settled on 5 designs that were almost identical. The prize money of £200 was divided amongst 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 Prahran in Victoria; and William Stevens, First Officer in the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand.

The Commonwealth blue ensign, which later became the Australian National Flag, was developed from the winning entries. The same flag design, on a red background, was called the Commonwealth red ensign and used on Australia's merchant ships.

On a white background, the design became the white ensign and is used by the Royal Australian Navy. Other ensigns became the flags of the Royal Australian Air Force and Australian Government organisations responsible for civil aviation.

The national flag raised

The Australian National Flag was first flown on 3 September 1901, when the then Prime Minister Edmund Barton announced the winning design and, since 1996, we have observed Australian National Flag Day on 3 September each year.

Permission to use

The Australian National Flag, or a representation of the flag, may be used for commercial or advertising purposes without formal permission (with the exception of imports and trade marks), subject to the following guidelines:

- The flag should be used in a dignified manner and be reproduced completely and accurately.
- The image of the flag should not be covered with other words, illustrations or objects.
- All symbolic parts of the flag should be identifiable, such as the Union Jack, the Southern Cross and the Commonwealth Star.

You don't need to seek formal permission to use the Australian National Flag for commercial purposes. Permission does need to be sought to import goods to which there is applied a representation of a flag of the Commonwealth. To seek approval for the importation of goods bearing an image of the Australian National Flag, or if there is any doubt about the appropriateness of a suggested application, you may contact the Parliamentary and Government Branch for further information.

Colour references for the Australian National Flag are:

- Blue: PANTONE® 280, and
- Red: PANTONE® 185.

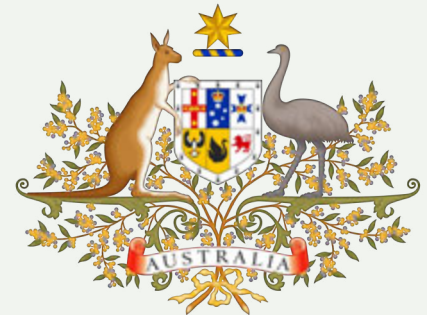
Commonwealth Coat of Arms

Australia's first Commonwealth Coat of Arms was granted by King Edward VII in 1908. This showed the kangaroo and emu supporting the shield and standing on a grassy mound.

Australia's second Coat of Arms was granted in 1912 by King George V in a document called a Royal Warrant. This made changes to the first Coat of Arms to include the symbols of the states.



The first Commonwealth Coat of Arms



The second Commonwealth Coat of Arms

Symbols of Australia's 6 states are woven together into the Coat of Arms with a kangaroo and an emu standing on either side of the central shield.

The central shield features the black swan of Western Australia, the lion and stars of New South Wales, Victoria's Southern Cross, the Maltese Cross and Crown of Queensland, the walking lion of Tasmania and the piping shrike of South Australia.

The border of the shield symbolises Federation, which was the union of the states into the Commonwealth of Australia in 1901.

The Commonwealth Star appears in gold at the top of the Coat of Arms and also appears in white on the national flag. A wreath of gold and blue appears under the Commonwealth Star. These colours are known as the livery colours of the Coat of Arms.

The supporters of the shield (the native animals chosen by Australians to hold the shield) are 2 of our best known wildlife symbols, the kangaroo and the emu. Though chosen because they are familiar and uniquely Australian creatures found in almost all states and territories, some say these animals were chosen because of the common belief that neither can move backwards easily, reflecting a nation's intent on moving forward.

Australia's floral emblem, the golden wattle, frames the Coat of Arms, with a scroll reading "Australia".

Use of the Commonwealth Coat of Arms

The Coat of Arms appears on Australian Government documents, publications and other property, representing Australian Government ownership and authority. The design is the property of the Australian Government.

Our international sports and representative teams may seek Australian Government permission to wear the Coat of Arms on their uniforms. Permission may also be given to use the Coat of Arms in educational publications. Requests to use the Coat of Arms are assessed on a case by case basis.

Permission to use the Coat of Arms is rarely granted to private individuals and organisations.

Requests for permission to use or reproduce the Coat of Arms should be directed to:

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Australia's National Anthem

Advance Australia Fair

Peter McCormick, the composer of Advance Australia Fair, was a patriotic young man who was determined that Australia should have its own national anthem. Inspired, he produced the words and music of Advance Australia Fair in 1878.

Although the tune was used on some major occasions in Australia's history, such as the inauguration of the Commonwealth of Australia in January 1901 and at the inauguration of the national capital in 1913, a hundred years would pass before Peter McCormick's patriotic inspiration of the 1870s became the song which now identifies Australia to the world.

During that time a number of competitions were held to find a unique song for Australia, but it was not until the Melbourne Olympic Games in 1956 that the Australian people started a determined search to find an anthem unique to our country - one that would better identify Australians globally.

In 1977, a national poll was held to find a national song. Of the 4 tunes offered, Advance Australia Fair was the preferred choice of 43 per cent of voters, with Waltzing Matilda preferred by 28 per cent of those voting. God Save the Queen, which was the national anthem in 1977, found support with 18 per cent of voters and just under 10 per cent of voters supported Song of Australia, a patriotic song by Carl Unger.

Finally on 19 April 1984 Peter McCormick's Advance Australia Fair with slightly amended words was proclaimed as Australia's National Anthem.

On 1 January 2021, the words of the Australian National Anthem were changed from 'For we are young and free' to 'For we are one and free' by proclamation of the Governor-General His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd).

Permission to use

You don't need permission to use, perform, record or reproduce the Australian National Anthem for non-commercial purposes as the music and the words are in the public domain. However permission must be sought to use the national anthem for commercial purposes. Permission is granted at the discretion of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and may be subject to certain conditions.

For more information on the appropriate use of the Australian National Anthem, visit the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website at <https://www.pmc.gov.au/government/australian-national-anthem/use-australian-national-anthem>.

Proposals to use the Australian National Anthem for commercial purposes should be submitted to:

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Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet**

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Canberra ACT 2600

Telephone: (02) 6271 5601

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The Australian National Anthem

*Australians all let us rejoice,
For we are one and free;
We've golden soil and wealth for toil;
Our home is girt by sea;
Our land abounds in nature's gifts
Of beauty rich and rare;
In history's page, let every stage
Advance Australia Fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia Fair.*

*Beneath our radiant Southern Cross
We'll toil with hearts and hands;
To make this Commonwealth of ours
Renowned of all the lands;
For those who've come across the seas
We've boundless plains to share;
With courage let us all combine
To Advance Australia Fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia Fair.*





Australia's floral emblem

On the first day of September each year, Australians wear sprays of wattle to celebrate National Wattle Day. National Wattle Day was officially proclaimed on 23 June 1992 by the then Governor-General of Australia, His Excellency the Honourable Bill Hayden AC. Before then, Australians in different states and territories celebrated Wattle Day on various days between July and September dating back to 1 September 1910.



There are more than 1,000 different species of wattle in Australia, of which some are in flower every month of the year. Wattles flourish in environments which range from the humid tropics to dry deserts and from the coast to the Snowy Mountains. Whilst there are many wattle species in Australia, the golden wattle (*Acacia pycnantha*) is recognised as Australia's floral emblem.

The golden wattle is an evergreen shrub or small tree that grows naturally in the understory of open forest and scrubland in South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory. In south-eastern Australia, the golden wattle blooms in September with sweetly scented large, fluffy, bright yellow flower heads, each made up of up to 80 tiny flowers forming a mass of pollen-rich stamens.

Wattle is resilient to cope with Australia's droughts, winds and bushfires. Most species of wattle have tough, leaf-like flattened stems called phyllodes instead of leaves. These help the plants to withstand water loss through sun and wind.

Even if the parent plants are destroyed in bushfires, their seeds have a special survival mechanism to ensure new wattle plants grow back after sufficient rain. The wattle's secret for survival is that its seeds have tough coats that open after the heat of fires. Just like the Australian people, the golden wattle has a great capacity to flourish in the face of adversity.

The search for a national floral emblem

The idea of the golden wattle as the national floral emblem arose in the 1890s in the search for a national identity, generated by the approach of federation. In the early 1900s, the Wattle Day League was established with the principal objective of promoting a sense of national pride and unity through the wattle flower.

In 1912, the then Prime Minister Andrew Fisher suggested that wattle be included in the new Commonwealth Coat of Arms.

Wattle has been used in the design of Australian stamps and the most recent banknotes, as well as for many awards in the Australian Honours system. The Order of Australia is modelled on a round wattle flower head, and the 1939 to 1945 Civilian Service Medal and the insignia for the Group Citation for Bravery both use the wattle as a major element in their designs.

Although there had been a history of celebrating Wattle Day in Australia, those celebrations were not coordinated and recognition of the wattle was somewhat fragmented. The Wattle Day League encouraged celebration on 1 September and many parts of Australia did so. However, some places celebrated Wattle Day on 1 August.

The power of one

Mrs Maria Hitchcock of Armidale, New South Wales, lobbied the Government for over 5 years and was instrumental in having the golden wattle formally proclaimed as Australia's national floral emblem in 1988.

Continuing her quest, Mrs Hitchcock sought the agreement of all states and territories to a single day of celebration each year for Wattle Day. In June 1992, her persistence was rewarded with the proclamation of the first day of September each year as Wattle Day, the first day of the Australian spring.

Permission to use

There are no legislative requirements surrounding use of the floral emblem.

Australia's national colours

Gold - the symbol of Australia's sporting victories, and the colour of our mineral wealth, beaches, the golden fleece of Australian wool and the harvests of golden grains across every state.

Green - the colour of the Australian forests, gum trees, pastures and the endless horizons of growing crops.

Australia's national colours of green and gold are also those of the golden wattle in flower.

The emergence of national colours

Since the late 1800s, green and gold have been recognised around the world on the uniforms of Australia's sporting teams.

Green and gold were formally proclaimed Australia's national colours in 1984 after many requests for recognition of what had become our traditional sporting colours.

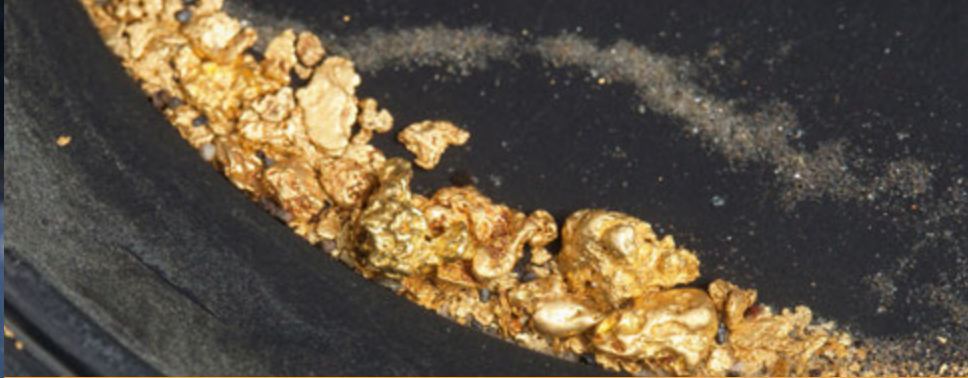
Before 1984 Australia had no official national colours. The country was represented with combinations including: red, white and blue; blue and gold; and the ever-popular green and gold.

Red, white and blue are the colours of the Australian National Flag and featured on the first version of the Commonwealth Coat of Arms. Blue and gold had heraldic importance as the colours of the wreath in the Coat of Arms. In 1975, blue and gold were chosen as the colours of the ribbon of the Order of Australia.

Australians are free to use our national colours but, to be used correctly as national colours, they should appear together and not be separated with white or another colour.

The colour references are:

- Green: PANTONE® 348C, and
- Gold: PANTONE® 116C.





Australia's national gemstone

On 23 July 1993, the then Governor-General, His Excellency the Honourable Bill Hayden AC, proclaimed the opal as Australia's national gemstone.

The finest opals in the world come from Australia. Precious opals can flash with all the colours of the rainbow, changing from red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet when moved against the light.

In Dreaming Stories, a rainbow created the colours of the opal when it touched the earth. Also, known to Indigenous Australian peoples as the fire of the desert, the opal is a powerful symbol of Australia's arid interior.

Australian opal forms when water containing dissolved silica seeps into openings in the rock. The water slowly dissipates and microscopic spheres of hydrous silicon dioxide form.

The importance of the opal

Australia's opal fields are bigger than those found in the rest of the world combined, and support many communities in South Australia, New South Wales and Queensland.

Australian opals are valued for their stability as well as brilliance. Australia is the only place in the world where sedimentary opal has been discovered as well as opalised animal fossils. Most opals found outside Australia are associated with volcanic rocks and have a high water content.

Opal types

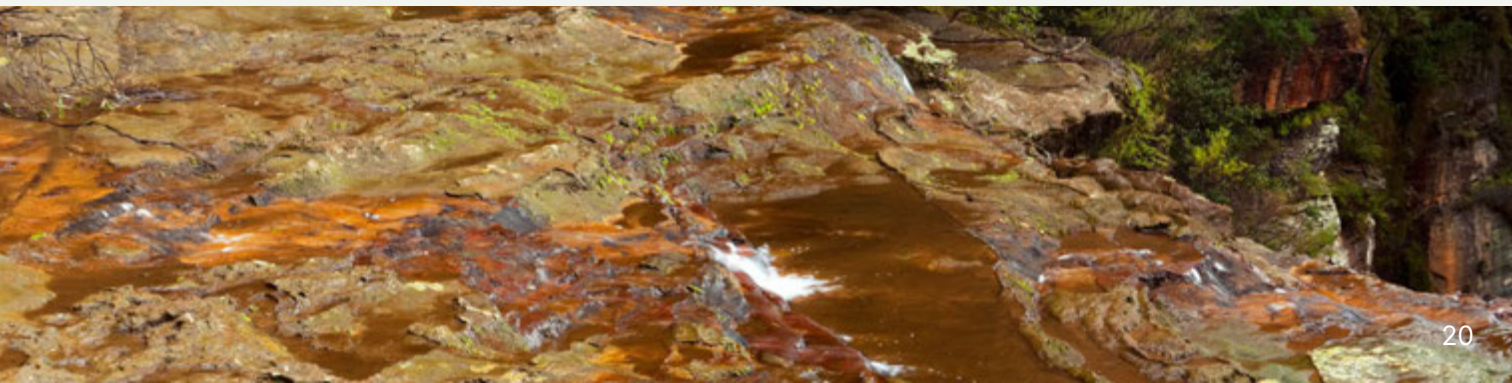
Australia's precious opals include:

- **Black opal**, for which Australia is best known. Its colours play from red, green, blue, violet, magenta or yellow against dark backgrounds like black, dark blue or dark grey. Most of the world's supply of quality black opals come from the mines of Lightning Ridge in north-western New South Wales.
- **White opal**, the most common type of precious opal, has vibrant colours that appear from a background that is white or milky. These gems are found at White Cliffs in New South Wales, and Coober Pedy and Andamooka in South Australia.
- **Crystal opal** is transparent or extremely translucent, with colours that appear from below the surface. White and crystal opal form the bulk of the precious opal supplied to the world from Australian fields.
- **Boulder opal** is a kind of white opal, found in veins and cavities in mudstone or sandstone. Queensland's south-west opal fields, such as Quilpie, Yowah and Eromanga, have been important sources of boulder opal.





Other symbols of Australia



The Great Seal of Australia

Making our mark

Most governments, as well as companies, use seals to establish their most important documents and agreements as genuine.

The authenticity of some agreements made by the Commonwealth Government is shown when the Great Seal of Australia is embossed into those official documents.

The design for the first Great Seal of Australia was chosen by the Government in 1901. Several hundred entries were received for a Great Seal design competition and its winners were the Bulletin cartoonist DH Souter and the painter Blamire Young.

The current version of the Great Seal was granted to Australia in a Royal Warrant by Queen Elizabeth II in 1973 and shows the Commonwealth Coat of Arms. The Commonwealth Coat of Arms is the formal symbol of the Commonwealth of Australia and signifies Commonwealth authority and ownership.

The history of seals

The study of seals is called sigillography and helps historians because the seal attached to a document may provide proof that it's genuine. Many wax seals have survived from ancient times and the designs of the seals often give clues to the dress, arms, tools, ships and architecture of the period.

Romans commonly wore signet rings which they used to seal documents. In the Middle Ages, prominent men and women, as well as Kings and Administrators, had their own seals and used them in the same way as people use their signatures today. In Asia, many people even today have a carved block which they use as a method of authenticating documents and identifying goods.

In England, the Great Seal was first used in the 11th century as an indicator of the King's authority. As the power of the seal grew, the King turned to using a private, often secret, seal for his more personal correspondence.

Permission to use

You may not reproduce images of the Great Seal without permission of the Cabinet Secretariat, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.



ROYAL WARRANT

TO Our Governor-General of Australia

WITH THIS you will receive a Great Seal prepared by Our Order for the use of Our Government of Australia.

OUR WILL AND PLEASURE IS, and We do hereby authorize and direct, that the said Great Seal be used in sealing all things whatsoever that shall pass the Great Seal of Australia.

OUR WILL AND PLEASURE FURTHER IS that you do cause the Great Seal that accompanied Our Royal Warrant given at Our Court at Government House, Canberra, on 16 February 1954 to be defaced by you in Our Executive Council of Australia.

AND FOR SO DOING this shall be your Warrant.

GIVEN at Our Court at Government House, Canberra, on 19 October 1973.

By Her Majesty's Command,




Symbols of Australia's Indigenous Peoples

Australia is made up of many distinct Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People groups, each with their own culture, language, beliefs and practices.

There is an estimated 250 autonomous First Nations language groups. The First Nations peoples of Australia are as diverse and distinct as any other nation.

This diversity makes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander symbolism very dynamic and specific to each People group. There is not one floral, animal, fossil or gemstone symbol, for instance, that is singularly representative of all groups.



Flags of Australia's Indigenous Peoples

The Australian Aboriginal Flag and the Torres Strait Islander Flag were proclaimed flags of Australia under section 5 of the *Flags Act 1953* on 14 July 1995.

The Australian Aboriginal Flag

The Australian Aboriginal Flag was first raised on 9 July 1971, National Aborigines' Day, at Victoria Square in Adelaide. The flag was designed by Mr. Harold Thomas, an Aboriginal artist from the Northern Territory.

The flag is divided horizontally into equal halves of black (top) and red (bottom), and has a yellow circle in the centre, representing the Aboriginal peoples, the earth and the colour of ochre used in Aboriginal ceremonies, and the sun.

On 25 January 2022, the then Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced the copyright of the Australian Aboriginal Flag was transferred from Mr Harold Thomas to the Commonwealth of Australia.

The colour references for the Australian Aboriginal Flag are:

- Red: PANTONE® 179, and
- Yellow: PANTONE® 123.



The Torres Strait Islander Flag

The Torres Strait Islander Flag was adopted in May 1992 during the Torres Strait Islands Cultural Festival. The origin is attributed to the late Mr. Bernard Namok of Thursday Island.

The flag has 3 horizontal panels divided by thin black lines which symbolises the people; the top and bottom panels are green representing the land and the middle one blue representing the sea. The Dhari (traditional headdress) is a symbol for all Torres Strait Islander peoples, the white five-pointed star represents the island groups in the Torres Strait and the white represents peace. The star is an important symbol for seafaring people. The flag stands for the unity and identity of all Torres Strait Islander peoples of Australia.

The 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 the Torres Strait Island Regional Council.

The colour references for the Torres Strait Islander Flag are:

- Blue: PANTONE® 280, and
- Green: PANTONE® 342.



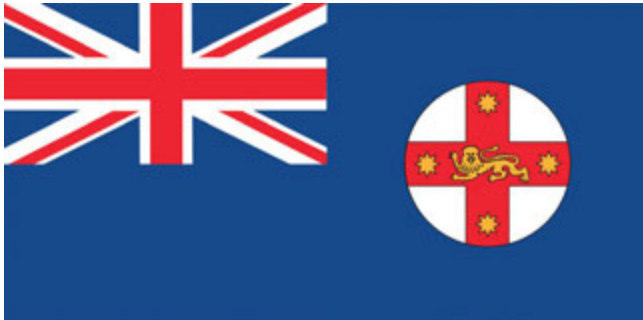




State and territory symbols



The symbols of New South Wales



The flag

The New South Wales state flag has a blue background and consists of 2 elements; the Union Jack in the upper left corner and the badge of New South Wales on the right side. The first badge of the colony of New South Wales, authorised in 1869, was simply the red cross of St George on a silver (white) field.

The colour references for the New South Wales state flag are:

- Red: PANTONE® 485,
- Blue: PANTONE® 2758, and
- Gold: PANTONE® 123.

The Coat of Arms

The New South Wales state Coat of Arms was granted by King Edward VII in 1906. On the New South Wales Coat of Arms, a lion and kangaroo support the shield on which the old state badge of the colony appears. A golden fleece and sheaves of wheat symbolise the greatest achievements of New South Wales' agricultural industries of the time. The crest above the shield is of the rising sun which represents the newly rising country, and rests on a wreath of silver (white) and blue which represent the state's livery colours.



Motto on Arms

Reflecting the rising sun crest of New South Wales, the state's Latin motto is:

Orta recens quam pura nites: "Newly risen how brightly you shine".

The badge

The current badge on the state flag was announced by the then Governor of New South Wales, Sir Hercules George Robert Robinson, on 15 February 1876 and has been used since it was proclaimed in the *New South Wales Gazette* on 18 February 1876. It shows the golden lion of England in the centre of the red cross of St George on a silver (white) background.



The cross also bears 4 eight-pointed stars, one on each arm, which represent the Southern Cross. The golden lion and cross of St George reflect the British heritage of the first European settlers. The cross of St George is also the traditional badge of the British Royal Navy.

The floral emblem

The waratah

The New South Wales waratah has been the floral emblem of New South Wales since 1962. Brilliantly coloured waratah blooms can be seen for miles. No wonder the New South Wales waratah was given the Greek botanical name of *telopos*, meaning seen from afar. There are 4 other waratah species in Australia, occurring from Tasmania to northern New South Wales.

The waratah flower is made up of a pincushion arrangement of small flowers, surrounded by bright red bracts, with blooms growing up to 12 centimetres wide. The flowers appear on tall bushes with stiff, long, saw tooth leaves. While the flowers are pollinated by the many native birds which perch on the blossoms to sip the nectar, waratahs are notoriously hard to cultivate.

Unfortunately, no one now knows the exact meaning of the Aboriginal name waratah, however it comes from the language of the Eora people and appears in a number of First Nations Australians Dreaming Stories across New South Wales nations.

In an Aboriginal Dreaming Story, Wamili, the great hunter, loved the nectar of the waratah. When he was struck blind by lightning, the Kwinis, tiny bush spirits, made the central pincushion flowers of the waratah more rigid so Wamili could find the bloom by touch.

You can find waratahs in the Blue Mountains, west of Sydney, and a rare breed of white waratahs can be found only in the southern highlands; you can't pick them as they are protected by the state. The waratah was adopted into the New South Wales Government logo and brand in 2009 which features prominently and consistently across government communications and within the community.





The animal emblems

The laughing kookaburra

There are 10 species of kingfishers in Australia and the largest kingfisher in the world is the laughing kookaburra, which has been the bird emblem of New South Wales since 1971. Kookaburras have brown and white feathers to help it blend in with the environment, large heads, a distinctive dark brown stripe which runs around each eye and long beaks that can grow up to 10 centimetres long. They can measure up to 46 centimetres from the tip of its beak to the end of its tail.

With a territorial call like fiendish laughter, kookaburras wake people up throughout eastern Australia.

Its other names are the “bushman’s clock” and the “laughing jackass”, since it sounds a little like the braying of a male donkey. Kookaburras live mainly in the eucalypt forests of eastern Australia but have adapted well to life in towns and suburbs. Kookaburras do not need to drink any water, getting enough water from the food they eat. Their diet includes lizards, small snakes and insects, and unfortunately on occasion can also include chicks and ducklings on farms and fish in garden ponds.

The platypus

The platypus is a mammal which lives in burrows by rivers in eastern Australia and became the faunal emblem for New South Wales in 1971.

The platypus is one of the world’s strangest creatures. It is one of only 2 monotremes, or egg-laying mammals, on earth - the other is the echidna, the spiny anteater. The female platypus feeds milk to its grub-like young but since the mothers have no nipples, their young uses its rubbery, long lips to suck milk from fur on the mother’s belly for its first 4 months of life.

The adult males have a poison spur on the heel of each hind foot for combat against other males; the poison is extremely painful to humans and produces symptoms similar to a snakebite.

The platypus is an agile swimmer with a big appetite. It finds its food mainly by nosing around in the beds of streams and rivers. Each day, it eats nearly its own weight in food: yabbies, fish, frogs, shellfish, tadpoles and earthworms.



The fish emblem

The eastern blue groper

An inquisitive and friendly fish, the eastern blue groper is endemic to Australia and was proclaimed in 1998 as the fish emblem of New South Wales, the first state to identify a fish as a state emblem.

The eastern blue groper is a species of wrasse and, once endangered, has made a strong recovery from over-fishing as a result of laws of the state, limiting exploitation of the species.

Strongly territorial, inhabiting rocky reefs, river estuaries and sea grass beds along the New South Wales coastline, it is very responsive to contact with humans. It's no wonder it is a favourite of the diving fraternity who have found the fish willing to accept hand feeding from divers and to welcome close encounters of the submarine kind.

This stout bodied species has peg-like teeth, heavy scales, a large tail and thick lips and can grow to over a meter in length and weigh up to 25 kilograms. Eastern blue goppers are born females and transition around the time it reaches 50 centimetres in length into males. Though the eastern blue groper is in no danger from spearfishing, it is likely to be snapped by underwater photographers keen to capture the beautiful deep navy to cobalt blue of the male fish, or the green brown to golden colour of the female.





The gemstone emblem

The black opal

The black opal was proclaimed in 2008 as an emblem of New South Wales. It is the rarest and most valuable type of opal, at times even reaching carat prices rivalling the best diamonds. It is called black opal because it has a dark grey to black background hosting a kaleidoscope of colours.

Australia produces over 90 per cent of the world's supply of precious opal. The major opal producing areas in New South Wales are Lightning Ridge and White Cliffs. Over 99 per cent of the most valuable

black opal comes from only 2 localities – Lightning Ridge and Mintabie in South Australia.

Opals are usually found in solid rock containing minerals in the center (nodules) or formed in thin layers in the strata (seams) but sometimes they emerge in fossils. The area around Lightning Ridge was part of an inland sea 100 million years ago home to many animals, including birds and fish. As their remains sank into the mud, some transformed into opalised fossils.

Australia is the only part of the world where opalised animal and plant fossils have been found. The most famous opalised fossil is Eric the Pliosaur, who can be found in Sydney's Australian Museum.

The fossil emblem

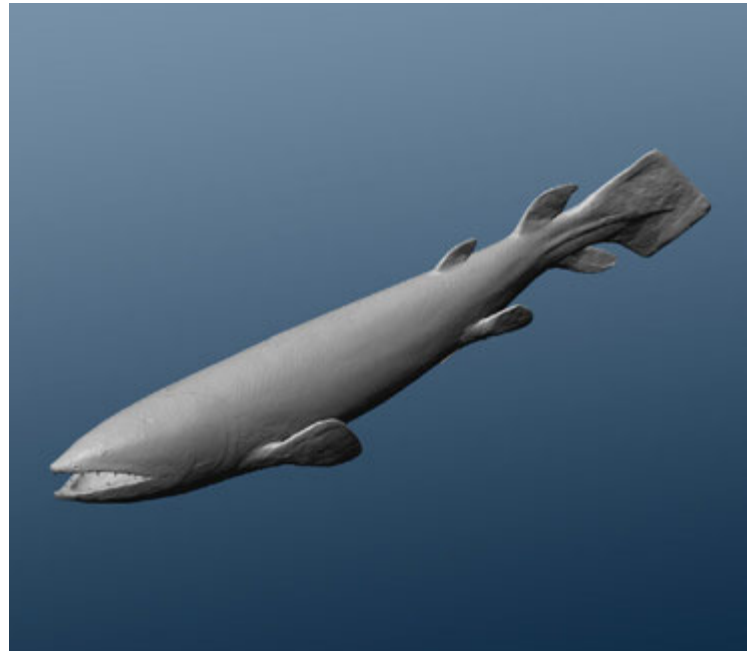
Magdageria fairfaxi

The 370 million year old *Magdageria fairfaxi* was proclaimed in 2015 as the New South Wales state fossil emblem and is one of the largest fish fossils in the world and unique to New South Wales. The predatory fish was a large, air-breathing lobe-finned fish that grew up to 1.7 metres long and had powerful jaws lined with many large fangs from the Canowindra Fish Bed in central New South Wales.

The *Magdageria fairfaxi* belongs to the Tetrapodomorphs, this clade of vertebrates exhibited the transition from fins to limbs, and from using gills in water to breathing air. They are significant because they are considered ancestors of all land vertebrates including humans.

The historic paleontological dig of 1993 was led by Doctor Alex Ritchie, a research scientist from the Australian Museum, and remains a significant paleontological site. It represents a mass grave of fish trapped in a shrinking billabong. The dead fish were rapidly covered by sediments that preserved them with little disturbance, ensuring they remained complete and in excellent condition upon excavation.

Over 3,000 other fossil specimens were discovered with 8 new species and 4 genera known only to New South Wales. The *Magdageria fairfaxi* is the largest fish discovered at the site and the fossil was affectionately nicknamed Fred to honour Fred Fewings who was the skilled operator of the 22 tonne excavator. You can visit the Age of Fishes Museum in Canowindra that displays many hundreds of freshwater fish fossils from the Devonian Era that were unearthed, including a life-size three-dimensional model of the *Magdageria fairfaxi*.



For further information on the symbols of New South Wales, please contact:

**New South Wales Protocol
Department of Premier and Cabinet**

GPO Box 5341

Sydney NSW 2001

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The symbols of Victoria



The flag

When Victoria and other Australian colonies put their warships to sea in the 1800s, their navies needed to show their own “national flags”. The colony of Victoria developed its own flag after Britain’s Secretary of State for the colonies wrote letters in 1865, which required all colonial vessels of war to wear the British blue ensign, with the seal or badge of the colony on the fly. In February 1870, the then Governor of Victoria, the Honourable Sir John Henry Thomas Manners-Sutton, proclaimed that the colony’s badge design on the flag would show the Southern Cross with 5 white stars.

From 12 November 1877, the badge was changed to include a Royal Crown to top the Southern Cross. In 1901, with the accession of Edward VII, this Crown was replaced with the Crown of St Edward and the flag has not changed since.

The Argus newspaper reported the first flying of the flag on one of the colony’s first warships, HMVS *Nelson*.

The white stars on the Victorian flag have differing sizes and numbers of points (from 5 to 8), to signify the brilliance of each star in the constellation of the Southern Cross and their varying brightness.



The Coat of Arms

From 1870, the 5 stars of the Southern Cross appeared on Victoria's colonial badge. In 1877, a Royal Crown was added to the badge to top the Southern Cross to align the Coat of Arms badge with the Victorian flag badge. In June 1910, Victoria was granted its Coat of Arms by Royal Warrant.



The shield is blue with the 5 stars of the Southern Cross. Its supporters are 2 female figures named Peace and Prosperity, the state's motto.

The state's floral emblem, common pink heath, was added to the Coat of Arms in 1958 and grows from a grassy mound under the shield. Above the shield is a wreath of silver and blue, and the torso of a kangaroo holding the Royal Crown. The design of the Crown was changed from the Imperial Crown to St Edward's Crown in 1973.

The colour references are:

- Blue: PANTONE® 541, and
- Silver: PANTONE® 877.

These are also the state colours.

Motto on Arms

"Peace and Prosperity."

On the Victorian Coat of Arms, Prosperity holds a horn of plenty (*cornucopia*) to symbolise rich harvests and she wears a circlet of golden cereal. Peace holds a symbol of peace, the olive branch.

The badge

The badge of Victoria is taken from the Victorian flag and the Victorian Coat of Arms. The colour reference for the shield is:

- Blue: PANTONE® 541.





The floral emblem

Common pink heath

Imagine small, slender bushes tipped in tiny, bell-like pink flowers all pointing in the same direction and attracting little birds which hover like mini-helicopters to sip their nectar. It's the common pink heath which was adopted in 1958 as the floral emblem of the state of Victoria.

The common pink heath actually comes in scarlet, crimson, rose pink and white - the pink variety is Victoria's emblem.

Heath bushes are visited in winter and spring by the eastern spinebill, which hovers in front of the flowers for their nectar and returns the favour by pollinating the plants.

The common pink heath is a great survivor. It copes with frosts and is found mainly in southern Victoria's semi-shaded wet foothills, coastal heathlands and in the scrub of the Little Desert. It grows from sea level to 1,200 metres and is also found in New South Wales, South Australia and Tasmania.

The animal emblems

The helmeted honeyeater

Victoria chose one of its rarest birds, the helmeted honeyeater, as its state emblem in 1971. Though seen by few people, the helmeted honeyeater would be hard to mistake with its tufted crown of downy gold feathers which project right over its bill, like a helmet.

The body of the helmeted honeyeater is olive-grey, with the outer wing and tail feathers turning greenish-yellow. Its underparts are yellow-green with dark streaks.

The sides of the head are glossy black with golden ear tufts and a yellow throat. It is 20 centimetres long and lays 2 pink, spotted eggs in a cupped nest from spring to summer.

The honeyeater can only be found in southern Victoria.

Yellingbo State Wildlife Reserve was set aside to protect colonies of the birds at a time when just 100 to 150 birds remained. The Reserve is on Woori Yallock Creek near Yellingbo, on the outskirts of Melbourne. Helmeted honeyeaters need a combination of manna and swamp gums, with tea-trees and shrubby bushes alongside grass-lined watercourses to provide a suitable natural habitat.



Leadbeater's possum

The leadbeater's possum became one of Victoria's faunal emblems in 1971.

Once feared extinct, the leadbeater's possum lives in the great mountain ash forests of Victoria's central highlands.

They were rediscovered near Marysville in 1961 and are now known to range over a large area.



These nimble little possums, whose tails can be longer than their bodies, jump from branch to branch searching for insects on the leaves and under the bark, and eating nectar, insect honey-dew, sap and gum. Unlike other possums of their size, they do not have any gliding membrane between their legs.

Covered in soft grey-brown fur, these possums have beautifully marked faces and large, black eyes. A leadbeater's possum is about 40 centimetres long from its nose to the end of its furry, dub-shaped tail.

The possum's future depends on preservation of its natural habitat in the hardwood forests. The leadbeater's possum is found in population pockets, particularly where there are old growth trees with hollows to provide sites for nesting.



The state mineral

Gold

Victoria is the second largest gold producer in Australia. Gold was first discovered in Victoria in 1850.

The Victorian gold rush started when it was discovered in Ballarat in 1851. This led to mass immigration, wealth and development in Victoria. At its peak, up to 2 tonnes of gold per week flowed into the Treasury Building in Melbourne.

Victoria is known for giant masses of gold, referred to as nuggets. The most famous nugget found in Victoria is the Welcome Stranger. Discovered in 1869, it had a calculated weight of over 62 kilograms. It was the largest discovered alluvial gold nugget in the world.

Throughout history, gold has always been a valuable and sought-after precious metal. Its uses include coins, jewellery and other arts. It also has many practical uses in dentistry, electronics and other fields.

In 2012, both Houses of Parliament recommended that gold be the first mineral emblem of Victoria.

The state fossil

Koolasuchus cleelandi

Koolasuchus cleelandi is a 125 million year old extinct amphibian.

It was about the size of a car (3 to 4 metres long) that lived alongside dinosaurs in Victoria during the Cretaceous period.

Resembling something between a huge salamander and a crocodile, Koolasuchus cleelandi had dozens of ridged fangs and 2-inch tusks growing from the roof of its mouth. It lived in the rushing rivers that separated Australia and Antarctica, and fed on small dinosaurs, fish and turtles.

The fossil was found in 1978 near San Remo on Bunurong Country and is on permanent display at Melbourne Museum. Fossils of Koolasuchus cleelandi have only been found at beaches and coves in South Gippsland.

For further information on the symbols of Victoria, and for permission to reproduce the state Coat of Arms, please contact:

**Strategic Communication,
Engagement and Protocol Branch
Protocol and Events
Department of Premier and Cabinet**

1 Treasury Place

Melbourne VIC 3000

Telephone: 1300 336 356

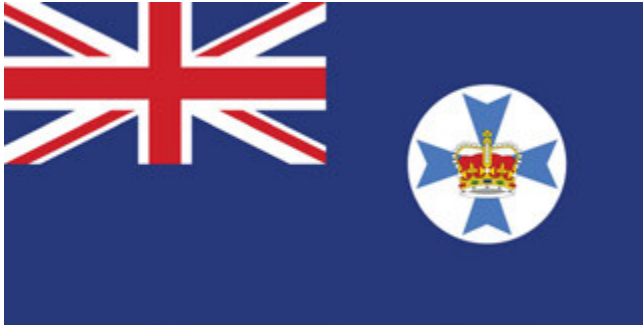
Email: protocol.enxxxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xxv.au

Other symbols may be used without seeking permission, but it is recommended that guidance on their proper use be sought from the address above.

For further information on the state's emblems, please visit www.vic.gov.au/government-events-and-protocol.



The symbols of Queensland



The flag

The state's flag dates from the days when it was a self-governing British colony with its own navy. In 1865, the then Governor of the colony of Queensland, the Honourable Sir George Ferguson Bowen GCMG, was directed by the Admiralty in London that all vessels in service of the colony, except commissioned vessels of war, should fly the blue ensign bearing the seal or badge of that colony. Queensland, which did not yet have a badge for the flag, submitted a design for a badge to London.

Years later, in 1875, the then Queensland Governor received a number of drawings of the badges of several colonies from London. They showed badges of several colonies which were proposed to be inserted in the Admiralty flag book. The Governor was asked to certify that the correct badge was shown for Queensland.

It showed a picture of Queen Victoria's head, facing right, on a blue background with a white band, with the word "Queensland" on top.

The Queensland Government replied to London that it would be too hard to adequately reproduce the head of the Queen on a flag, and submitted an alternative design of a Royal Crown on a Maltese cross.

This was approved by the Admiralty in 1876 as the future badge for the colony. It was to be put on the British blue ensign as the flag for government vessels.

The colour reference is:

- Blue: PANTONE® 280,
- Red: PANTONE® 185, and
- Light Blue: PANTONE® 298.

The Coat of Arms

Queensland's Coat of Arms is the oldest in Australia and was granted to the colony by Queen Victoria in 1893. It was the first Coat of Arms assigned to any British possession since King Charles II granted Arms to the island of Jamaica in 1661. As of August 2012, the Queensland Coat of Arms has been used as the government's corporate logo.

The shield on the state's Coat of Arms symbolises Queensland's primary industries: a sheaf of wheat, the heads of a bull and a ram, and mining which is represented by a column of gold rising from a heap of quartz.



On the crest, the state badge (of the Royal Crown and Maltese cross) is framed by 2 stalks of sugar cane. The badge was incorporated in the Queensland Coat of Arms in 1893. On the Coat of Arms is Queensland's state motto, *Audax at Fidelis*, which means "Bold but Faithful".

In 1977, during the Queen's Silver Jubilee year, the Coat of Arms was given a more modern appearance when Queen Elizabeth II granted the inclusion of supporting animals, the brolga and the red deer. The brolga is one of Queensland's most distinctive birds and symbolises the native population. The red deer was introduced from the royal herds near London and represents the old world.

The badge

The badge of Queensland is officially described as "On a Roundel Argent, a Maltese Cross Azure surmounted with a Royal Crown", and was adopted as part of the state flag on 29 November 1876. It was designed by William Hemmant, the then Queensland Colonial Secretary and Treasurer.



It is not known why this was chosen as a suitable badge. However, it is interesting to note that a Maltese Cross is the final stop on the legend band around the Great Seal of Queensland (1859). The Royal Crown also appears on this seal. The Royal Crown has been altered slightly since the badge was first adopted under Queen Victoria's rule, as succeeding monarchs have preferred different interpretations of the Crown. It was last altered in 1963, after Queen Elizabeth II decided to reproduce the Crown during her reign.

In 1893, the badge was incorporated into the Queensland Coat of Arms.

The colour reference is:

- Light Blue: PANTONE® 298.



The floral emblem

The Cooktown orchid

Queenslanders voted the Cooktown orchid their favourite flower in a Government poll in 1959, during celebrations to mark the state's centenary. Soon after, it was proclaimed Queensland's floral emblem.

Purple, with sprays of up to 20 flowers on each stem, the Cooktown orchid clings to trees or rocks in Queensland's far northern tropical rainforests.

Each plant flowers for up to 6 weeks in autumn and winter. Individual flowers grow to about 4 centimetres across. While usually purple or mauve, white or white-spotted flowers have been found.

The Cooktown orchid is relatively easy to grow on the trunks of trees in frost-free gardens along the state's coast, but it needs a well-drained sunny position protected from winter winds.

The animal emblem

The koala

The koala became the faunal emblem of Queensland in 1971, after a newspaper poll showed strong public support for this endearing marsupial.

The koala is a favourite animal symbol of Australia for millions of people around the world. They are captivated by its broad sleepy face, big fluffy ears, leathery nose, small yellow eyes and tailless stout grey body.

While people think the koala is shy, colonies often thrive near built-up areas, provided there is enough bushland to create a suitable habitat.

The koala can be found throughout eastern areas of Queensland, south of Townsville. As a marsupial, the koala carries its young in its pouch, which opens backwards unlike other tree-dwelling marsupials. Bean-shaped, newly born young crawl through their mother's fur to her pouch, where they are suckled and kept safe for about 6 months.

Most koala activity is at night when they actively forage for choice leaves. As the species rarely drinks water, the name 'koala' originates from the Indigenous word meaning 'no drink', since it usually gains sufficient moisture from dew and their diet of oily, eucalyptus leaves. To help them digest eucalyptus leaves, they have a 7 metre-long digestive tract.

Young koala cling to their mothers back until they are about a year old. Koalas live for about 20 years.

In February 2022, koalas were declared an endangered species under Commonwealth law in Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory. Despite conservation efforts, koalas continue to be threatened by disease and loss of natural habitat.



The bird emblem

The brolga

The brolga has featured on Queensland's Coat of Arms since 1977 and has been the state's bird emblem since January 1986.

Of the 14 species that comprise a worldwide family of cranes, brolgas (*Grus rubicunda*) are the only species native to Australia. Imagine 2 feathered creatures on stilt-like legs. Picture them in a courtly dance, bowing and bobbing to each other with grace and dignity, jumping into the air together, pirouetting and prancing back and forth. Imagine their enormous wings spreading gracefully throughout the dance and you'll start to get an impression of the brolga in their intricate dancing displays at mating time.

Brolgas stand more than a metre tall and their outstretched wings can measure 2 metres across. The adults are mainly light grey and have a long, thin neck, a bare head and a patch of striking red coloured skin on the lower part of their head below the eyes. Brolgas are Australia's only native crane and they can be found along Queensland's coast from Rockhampton to the Gulf of Carpentaria.



THE SYMBOLS OF QUEENSLAND

The fish emblem

The Barrier Reef Anemone fish

The Barrier Reef Anemone fish was officially named as Queensland's aquatic emblem in March 2005, following the public's nomination of the species as their preferred representative for Queensland.

As the official aquatic emblem, the Barrier Reef Anemone fish symbolises Queensland's close association with the coastline and water.

The Barrier Reef Anemone fish is commonly found in the northern region of the Great Barrier Reef, just off the coast of Queensland.

Anemone fish grow to 12 centimetres in length and are known to live amongst large, tropical sea anemones. The species are distinguished by their brown-orange colour which features a pure white tail and 2 white bars across the head and body.



The gemstone emblem

The sapphire

The sapphire has been mined in central Queensland since the 1870s and became the state's official gemstone in August 1985.

Second only to diamond in its hardness, the sapphire is a clear gem and comes in many colours other than the traditional blue. These include deep indigo, yellow or green. The rarer pink sapphire is better known as a ruby.

The sapphire is a natural variety of corundum, or aluminium oxide, which has been highly prized as a gemstone for almost 3,000 years.

The state colour

Maroon

Although the use of maroon to represent Queensland has a long history, maroon was not officially named Queensland's state colour until 2003.

Maroon is particularly prominent in Queensland sport and is one of the official colours of the rugby league club, the Brisbane Broncos.

While the Governor in Council elected a particular shade of maroon, Queenslanders continue to wear all shades of maroon to show the spirit of the state at sporting and other events.

The colour reference is:

PANTONE® 202C, and

PANTONE® 201U.

For further information on the symbols of Queensland, and for permission to reproduce the state badge and Coat of Arms, please contact:

**Protocol and International Engagement
Department of Premier and Cabinet**

PO Box 15185

City East QLD 4002

Telephone: (07) 3003 9253

Email: protocol@premiers.qld.gov.au



The symbols of South Australia



The flag

The South Australian state flag was proclaimed on 13 January 1904. The state badge on the flag shows a white-backed magpie, or Australian piping shrike, on the branch of a gum tree set against a golden background representing the rising sun. Originally, the state flag was meant to be flown only from government buildings and vessels, but in 1908 the government of the day encouraged wider use by both government institutions and private citizens.

The state flag cannot be used for commercial purposes.

The Coat of Arms

Proclaimed on 19 April 1984, the state's Coat of Arms replaces an earlier Coat of Arms conferred by King Edward VIII in 1936. The state badge, the piping shrike, appears on a shield in the centre of the Coat of Arms. The crest is of 4 sprigs of Sturt's desert pea mounted on a wreath of red, blue and gold. The Coat of Arms stands on a grassy mount, on which stands grape vines, stalks of wheat and barley, citrus fruits, 2 cog wheels and a miners pick, along with a scroll bearing the name "South Australia".



The badge

South Australia's state badge, the piping shrike, was proclaimed on 14 January 1904. The piping shrike is an official name for the black and white bird most Australians call the white-backed magpie. Almost every South Australian backyard is visited by the magpie and its sweet song. Magpies live in open forest and pasture country, eating insects, lizards and dead animals. They lay up to 5 green-blue or red-grey eggs in their deep nests of twigs, built in trees.

The piping shrike is the formal badge of the South Australian Government and is displayed on government buildings, brochures, stationery, flags, banners and sports uniforms for state teams.

The state colours

Red, blue and gold were proclaimed South Australia's official colours on 25 November 1982.

The colour references are:

- Red: PANTONE® 199,
- Blue: PANTONE® 295, and
- Gold: PANTONE® 137.



THE SYMBOLS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA



The floral emblem

Sturt's desert pea

Sturt's desert pea was adopted by the South Australian Government on 23 November 1961 as the state's floral emblem.

Blood red, with a central blue-black blotch, Sturt's desert pea flowers in autumn in clusters of up to 8, which are held up on a short stem. It is probably the most striking of all the plants of inland Australia, thriving in arid deserts and other areas receiving less than 380 millimetres of rain a year.

Colour variations have been found from pure white to pink and purple.

The seed is hard-coated. To be planted, it should first be soaked in hot, not boiling, water to germinate, rather like wattle seeds.

The animal emblem

The hairy-nosed wombat

The hairy-nosed wombat was adopted by the South Australian Government as its faunal emblem on 27 August 1970.

Don't get in the way when a hairy-nosed wombat decides it's going somewhere. The hairy-nosed wombat is a powerful, skilled digger and all muscle. Wombats make tracks for themselves, which they use on their night-time wanderings. They push their broad, blunt heads through or under most obstructions like farm fences. Some farmers make swinging doors in their fences which the wombats learn to push open.

The hairy-nosed wombat grows to be up to one metre long, weighing between 18 and 32 kilograms.

It is a plains dweller living in the dry areas of South Australia, with a few colonies in Western Australia.

It excavates deep, cool, humid burrows which are essential for it to survive in hot, desert conditions. Plant material is often its only source of water.

The wombat gives birth to a single young, only 2 centimetres long, between September and January. The young wombat remains confined in its mother's backward-pointing pouch for 5 months. Then it starts to venture out to accustom itself to adult food.

Young wombats live in their mother's burrows for another 2 years before they are driven out.

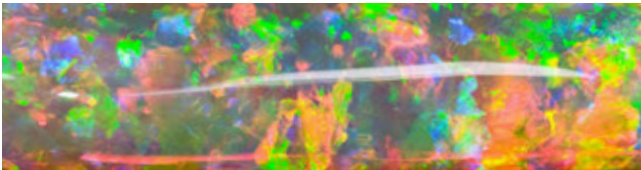


The gemstone emblem

The opal

Opal was adopted by the South Australian Government as the state gemstone emblem on 15 August 1985 and is shared with Australia as the national gemstone.

Eight out of ten of the world's opal gemstones come from South Australia's 3 major opal fields - Coober Pedy, Mintabie and Andamooka.



The state badge (piping shrike) and Coat of Arms symbols are for the official use of the Government of South Australia only. Under the *Authorised Documents Act 1916*, no person can print, publish or manufacture the symbols without permission.

Individuals or organisations can reproduce the faunal, floral and gemstone emblems, and state colours without seeking permission. The symbols cannot be used for commercial purposes.

For further information on the symbols of South Australia, and for permission to reproduce the state's symbols, please contact:

Department of Premier and Cabinet

GPO Box 2343

Adelaide SA 5001

Telephone: (08) 8429 5135

Email: dpcprotxxx@xx.xxv.au



The symbols of Western Australia



The flag

The flag of the state of Western Australia is the British blue ensign, consisting of a blue flag with the Union Jack occupying the upper quarter next to the staff, and the state badge situated centrally in the fly.

The black swan has been used as the emblem of Western Australia since the 1830s, although there is no record of any early official confirmation.

The use of the black swan on Western Australia's badge, which appears on the state flag, was officially confirmed by the then Colonial Governor Sir Frederick Aloysius Weld in 1875, although it had been appearing on the blue ensign as the Western Australian flag prior to 1870. Originally facing away from the flagpole, the swan was reversed in 1953.

The colour references are:

- Blue: PANTONE® 281C,
- Yellow: PANTONE® 109C,
- Red: PANTONE® 032C,
- White: PANTONE® White, and
- Black: PANTONE® Black.

The Coat of Arms

The state Coat of Arms was granted by Queen Elizabeth II by Royal Warrant on 17 March 1969. Use of the Coat of Arms is protected under the *Armorial Bearings Protection Act 1979*.

The central part of the Western Australian Coat of Arms is a silver shield showing a black swan floating on a blue base representing water. It is supported by 2 red kangaroos, each holding a boomerang.



The crest on the Coat of Arms is a Royal Crown on a gold and black wreath between 2 kangaroo paw flowers.

The badge

The state badge is taken from the flag of Western Australia. The colour reference is:

- Yellow: PANTONE® 109C, and
- Black: PANTONE® Black.



THE SYMBOLS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The floral emblem

Red and green kangaroo paw

The red and green kangaroo paw was proclaimed the state's floral emblem in November 1960 and was incorporated into the Coat of Arms of Western Australia on 17 March 1969.



Western Australia's floral emblem grows naturally only in Western Australia. The red and green kangaroo paw is striking for its brilliant red and green flowers that appear in spring and summer in fan-like clusters at the end of red felted stems. The sturdy high stems provide a ready-made perch for honey-eaters and wattle-birds, which are often seen clinging precariously to the stem, drinking nectar from each of the flowers in turn and helping in pollination.

The red and green kangaroo paw is the best known and most famous of all the kangaroo paws. The plants flower from July to November and are usually found in many areas of remnant bushland near Perth and is common in the sandy coastal plains of the south-west of the state, ranging from Shark Bay in the north, to Scott River and Mount Barker in the south.

The animal emblem

The numbat

The numbat was declared Western Australia's animal emblem on 25 July 1973. Numbats were once widespread across southern Australia, however the destruction of their habitat through clearing and the arrival of introduced predators such as foxes and cats, have led to their remaining natural population becoming restricted to small pockets in the south-west of Western Australia.

Numbats, also known as the banded anteater, dine among fallen tree trunks and hollow logs on their favourite food, termites. Numbats use their sharp claws to expose the termites and eat them with long, whip-like tongues. An adult consumes up to 20,000 termites per day, the equivalent of 10 per cent of its body weight. Numbats grow to about 40 centimetres and usually have a litter of 4 each year, between summer and autumn. These are carried and nursed by the mother through winter.



The bird emblem

The black swan

Western Australia, which was often referred to as the Swan River Colony in its early days, proclaimed the black swan its state bird emblem on 25 July 1973.

This graceful bird had a special association with Western Australia from the earliest times. Dreaming Stories tell how ancestors of the Noongar people, the Indigenous Australian peoples living in the south-west of the state, were once black swans who became men.

In 1697, Dutch explorer Captain Willem de Vlamingh sighted flocks of black swans in the estuary and subsequently named it the Swan River. Although the black swan can be found throughout Australia, it has been regarded with special affection by many generations of Western Australians and has long been used to identify things as Western Australian.

The bird has a red beak with a white band near the top, black plumage and pure white flight feathers. The voice of the black swan is often heard at night as a musical honk or bugling sound.

The nests are a bulky collection of sticks and rushes found in swamps and lakes. Between 4 and 8 eggs are laid. The eggs are pale green, becoming paler as incubation proceeds. Swans feed on water plants and animals.

A design showing the black swan was chosen for the first Western Australian postage stamps, issued in 1854.



THE SYMBOLS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The marine animal emblem

Whale shark

The whale shark was proclaimed as Western Australia's marine animal emblem on 12 November 2013.

In the dappled light of the ocean, the whale shark can swim past almost unnoticed despite its size due to its grey skin with yellow markings that act as camouflage. This pattern is unique to each animal and much like a human fingerprint, can be used to identify them. The markings and its large mouth (up to 1.5 metres wide) distinguish the whale shark as a striking inhabitant of the ocean.

The species originated approximately 60 million years ago and represents a link to the prehistoric past. Whale sharks live for 70 to 100 years and do not reproduce until they reach approximately 9 metres in length. It takes a whale shark pup up to 30 years to reach this size.

Although they are found in tropical and warm oceans across the equator, whale sharks have become famous for their gathering during autumn and winter in oceans off Western Australia and have been seen as far south as the Kalbarri Cliffs. Whale Sharks are capable of diving to depths of 1,286 metres but usually spend their time swimming and surface feeding. This makes Western Australia one of the best places in the world to see these spectacular creatures.

Whale sharks are a vulnerable species and in Western Australia they are respected and protected.



The fossil emblem

Gogo fish

The gogo fish was proclaimed as Western Australia's fossil emblem on 5 December 1995. The initiative for Western Australia to adopt a fossil emblem and for that emblem to be *Mcnamaraspis kaprios* came from pupils of a Perth primary school.

If you were a shrimp-sized fish 375 million years ago, swimming in the tropical reefs of prehistoric Western Australia's far north, the terror in your life would have been the sharp-toothed gogo fish.

From the shales known as the Gogo Formation that formed in quiet inner-reef bays, have come exquisitely preserved, three-dimensional skeletons of the fishes that swam in these ancient seas. Preserved as original bone in limestone nodules within the shale, they represent the best-preserved early fishes in the world.

The gogo fish had a shark-like dorsal fin and grew to be about 25 centimetres long. It had a bony head shield which swiveled in a ball-and-socket joint in the fish's trunk.

The fossils show that the fish had a special cartilage in its snout indicating that these placoderms, a group of ancient armoured fish, were close relatives of sharks.



For further information on the symbols of Western Australia, please contact:

**Protocol and State Events
Department of Premier and Cabinet**

Locked Bag 3001

West Perth WA 6872

Telephone: (08) 6552 6333

Email: ProtocolBranxx@xxx.xx.xxv.au



The symbols of Tasmania



The flag

A red lion, with one paw raised, stands in a circular white badge on the blue ensign to form Tasmania's state flag, which was proclaimed in 1975. The flag originated in a proclamation made by Queen Victoria in 1876 that "the distinguishing flag or ensign of the colony for vessels belonging to or permanently employed by the Government of Tasmania shall be a blue ensign with a red lion 'passant' on a white shield in the fly".

The colour references for the flag are:

- Blue: PANTONE® 286, and
- Red: PANTONE® 485.

The Coat of Arms

King George V granted Tasmania its Coat of Arms in 1917, which was later proclaimed in 1919.

The central shield in Tasmania's Coat of Arms is supported by 2 Tasmanian tigers or thylacines. These carnivorous marsupials were regularly represented in First Nations Australian rock art and Dreaming

Stories. Sadly, they are now believed to have been extinct since 1936 when it was documented that the last known living thylacine died in Hobart Zoo. Unconfirmed sightings have been regularly reported in the decades since.

Within the shield are a branch of hops, a plant whose cones are used for beer-making; a sheaf of wheat (Tasmania was the breadbasket of Australia's early colonies) representing agriculture; a ram illustrating the wool industry; and apples for the then "Apple Isle". A thunderbolt refers to Tasmania's hydro-electric power system.

On the crest, the red lion holds a pick and shovel to represent the state's mining industry.

Motto on Arms

Tasmania's motto is
Ubertas et fidelitas:
"Fruitfulness and faithfulness".



THE SYMBOLS OF TASMANIA



The floral emblem

The Tasmanian blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*)

The Tasmanian blue gum was proclaimed as the state's floral emblem in 1962.

Towering to 60 metres, the Tasmanian blue gum is one of Australia's most valuable native trees and perhaps the world's best-known eucalyptus.

Its upper trunk is smooth and grey-white where the bark peels off in long, red-brown ribbons. The lower bark clings to the tree and is rough, with deep furrows.

When it is seasoned, the wood is prized for heavy construction work such as wharves, bridges and railway sleepers, as it is very durable in the ground and in water.

The tree flowers in early summer when the leaves are abuzz with bees collecting nectar from its large, creamy-white, woody flowers, which can be up to 2 centimetres round.

Fast-growing Tasmanian blue gums are commonly cultivated throughout the Mediterranean region and in the highlands of the tropics in many parts of Africa and India, where it is used to replace areas denuded of their original tree cover. The tree is also grown in plantations in temperate South America, China, Spain and Sub-Saharan Africa, as a source of fast growing straight grained hardwood in lands where all existing timber has been taken or hardwoods are non-existent.

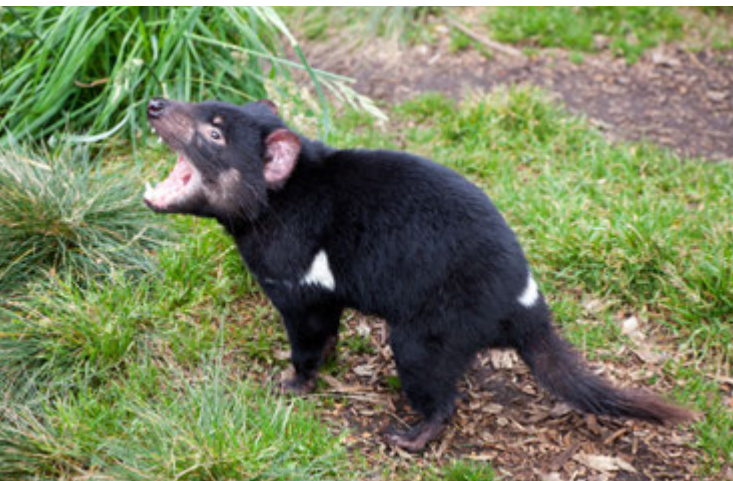


The animal emblem

Tasmanian devil

Tasmania proclaimed the Tasmanian devil (*Sarcophilus harrisi*) as its animal emblem in 2015. It is known as purinina by First Nations Australians. The Tasmanian devil is the world's largest extant marsupial carnivore. Until 2006 they were only found on the island state of Tasmania. At that time they became a threatened species as a result of the Tasmanian Devil Facial Tumour Disease being diagnosed and acknowledged as a serious threat. Since then, a number of Tasmanian devils (small breeding populations) have been moved to wildlife parks and zoos on the Australian mainland as a means of maintaining secure populations offshore. In the meantime, research continues to find a cure for the disease.

The Tasmanian devil is recognised around the world as uniquely Tasmanian and in choosing it as the state's animal emblem it was hoped this would promote awareness and support for the long term conservation and research efforts for this iconic species.



The mineral emblem

Crocoite

Tasmania proclaimed Crocoite as a formal symbol in 2000, due to its close association with Tasmania. Crocoite is composed of lead, chromium and oxygen. It is usually bright orange-red to blood-red and can occur in lustrous crystals. Some of the best examples are found in the Dundas area of Tasmania. While it has only minor value as an ore of lead or chromium, it is rare and highly valued in its natural state, particularly in lapidary circles and much admired worldwide.

For further information on the symbols of Tasmania, and for permission to reproduce Tasmania's insignia, please contact:

Department of Premier and Cabinet

GPO Box 123

Hobart TAS 7000

Telephone: (03) 6270 5667

Email: protxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xxv.au



The symbols of the Australian Capital Territory



The flag

The Australian Capital Territory flag was adopted by the Territory's Legislative Assembly on 25 March 1993, after a public selection process.

The Australian Capital Territory flag is blue and gold, with the 5 stars of the Southern Cross on the left. On the right is the Coat of Arms of the City of Canberra. The blue and white swan symbolise First Nations Australians and European Australians. The castle alludes to Australia's capital city, Canberra, and the Royal Crown (the Crown of St Edward) represents the role of the Sovereign in government. The sword of justice, the parliamentary mace and the white rose of York are depicted on the shield.

From 1927 until this new design became the official flag of the Australian Capital Territory, the city of Canberra's flag had been used as a de facto flag. This flag features the full Coat of Arms of Canberra, including the swans as supporters.

The colour references are:

- Yellow: PANTONE® 123, and
- Blue: PANTONE® 293.

The Coat of Arms

The Coat of Arms were granted by Royal Warrant on 8 October 1928 to the Federal Capital Commissioners and their successors. The City of Canberra was granted its Coat of Arms on 7 November 1928. The Coat of Arms is protected against unauthorised use by the *City of Canberra Arms Act 1932*.

The mace of the Australian Parliament, the sword of justice and the white rose are shown on the shield of Canberra's Coat of Arms, above and below the three-towered "capital" castle. The white rose commemorates the contribution by the Duke of York (later to become King George VI) in opening the Commonwealth Parliament in Canberra on 9 May 1927.



On a wreath above the shield, is a crowned portcullis (gate) representing Canberra's links with Westminster, the British seat of government. A gum tree is seen behind the portcullis and represents the growth of the garden city. The original Latin motto, "*Pro Rege Lege et Grege*" has been altered to "*For the Queen, the Law, and the People*". The supporters are a pair of swans, one black and the other white, symbolising First Nations Australians and European Australians.

There is no Territory badge.

THE SYMBOLS OF THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

The floral emblem

The royal bluebell

The royal bluebell (*Wahlenbergia gloriosa*) was announced as the floral emblem for the Australian Capital Territory on 26 May 1982 by the Federal Minister for the Australian Capital Territory. Following the grant of self-government for the Territory, it was formally endorsed by the Legislative Assembly as the official floral emblem for the Australian Capital Territory on 27 February 1997.

While the royal bluebell occurs only on the tops of the mountain ranges around Canberra, other native bluebells can be seen waving gently on thin stems, pushing up through the lawns, parks, pastures and roadside strips around Canberra.

The royal bluebell is native to the alpine and sub-alpine woodlands of the Australian Capital Territory, south eastern New South Wales and Victoria. It is protected in the wild and should not be picked or collected.

There are no legislative requirements surrounding use of the floral emblem.



The animal emblem

Southern brush-tailed rock-wallaby

The southern brush-tailed rock-wallaby (*Petrogale penicillata*) was adopted as the Australian Capital Territory's mammal emblem in November 2018.

The southern brush-tailed rock-wallaby is endangered and was last seen in the wild in the capital in 1959. In 1996, Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve started a conservation program from a captive population of 3 animals and since then they have successfully bred over 60 animals. The southern brush-tailed rock-wallaby also has a significant cultural importance to the First Nations Australians local Ngunnawal people.

There are no legislative requirements surrounding use of the mammal emblem.

The bird emblem

Gang-gang cockatoo

The gang-gang cockatoo (*Callocephalon fimbriatum*) was endorsed by the Legislative Assembly as the official faunal emblem for the Australian Capital Territory on 27 February 1997.

Gang-gang cockatoos are showy dark grey birds with feathers edged with lighter grey or white. The males have strikingly coloured red heads capped with tousled longer feathers.

Each summer, gang-gang cockatoos flock to the mountain forests around Australia's capital to breed in tree hollows and feed on eucalypt and acacia seeds, as well as the seeds of native pines.



During winter, small flocks make their homes around Canberra gardens to feed on pine cones, firethorn and hawthorn berries. They are creatures of habit, returning to the same tree or bush each day until the food supply is exhausted. Often they become so engrossed in their feeding that you can get close enough to admire their striking plumage.

Canberra residents know when gang-gang cockatoos are around - they have a raucous call like a squeaking gate and they fly in a characteristic undulating pattern. Canberra is the only city in Australia in which these cockatoos live.

There are no legislative requirements surrounding use of the faunal emblem.

For further information on the symbols of the Australian Capital Territory, and for permission to reproduce the state Coat of Arms, please contact:

**Communications and Engagement Division
Chief Minister, Treasury and
Economic Development Directorate**

GPO Box 158

Canberra ACT 2601

Telephone: (02) 6205 3031

Email: govtsupportx@xxx.xxv.au

The symbols of the Northern Territory



The flag

The Northern Territory flag was flown for the first time at a ceremony in Darwin on 1 July 1978 marking the grant of self-government.

It includes the 3 official Northern Territory colours, black, white and red ochre, and a stylised version of the Territory's floral emblem, the Sturt's desert rose.

The desert rose on the red ochre panel has 7 petals with a seven-pointed star in the centre, symbolising the 6 Australian states and the Northern Territory.

The 5 white stars sitting on the black panel on the left of the flag represent the Southern Cross.

The colour references are:

- Red Ochre: PANTONE® 159C, and
- Black: PANTONE® Black C.

The Coat of Arms

The Coat of Arms is symbolic of the people, history and landscape of the Northern Territory. It features the floral and fauna emblems, the Sturt's desert rose, 2 red kangaroos and a wedge-tailed eagle.

The kangaroos hold a shield decorated by Aboriginal people's motifs in one hand and shells found on the Northern Territory's coastline in the other.

In the centre of the shield is an x-ray drawing of a woman as seen in rock art in Arnhem Land. The designs on either side symbolise camp sites joined by path markings of Central Australian Aboriginal peoples.



The eagle holds an Aboriginal Tjurunga stone that rests on a helmet. The helmet is a reminder of the Northern Territory's war history.

There is no Territory badge.



The floral emblem

Sturt's desert rose

Sturt's desert rose was first proclaimed as the territory's floral emblem on 12 July 1961 but it wasn't until 1974 in an Executive Statement in the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory that this was officially confirmed. It is an arid plant which grows best in stony or rocky ground such as dry creek beds.

The desert rose has had many botanical names in the past. It is a member of the cotton family, rather than the rose family. It was named after Charles Sturt who first collected it during his journey to Central Australia from 1844 to 1845.

The plant is found in the southern parts of the Territory, and is cultivated as a garden shrub in Alice Springs. It can also be found in parts of South Australia, New South Wales and Queensland.

It's a small bushy plant which usually grows to 1.5 metres. It has dark green, round to oval shaped leaves. The petals of the flowers are mauve with a deep red marking at the base. The flowers look similar to the hibiscus, which belongs to the same family. The plant's fruit is capsule-shaped and contains small seeds covered in short hair, which is a trait of the cotton family.

The animal emblem

The red kangaroo

The red kangaroo embodies the Northern Territory's unique wildlife. It is the largest living marsupial with adult males standing more than 2 metres tall and weighing as much as 75 kilograms.

Males are a rusty brown colour and females a smoky grey, while both have heat-reflecting paler fur on their under surfaces. They also have striking white marks with a black line on the sides of their muzzles.

Their long, thin limbs allow them to travel large distances through harsh conditions. They are found in the Northern Territory in very dry areas. During droughts they retreat to waterways and open grassy areas where food is available. Sometimes several hundred kangaroos can be found in the same place, although they are independent animals and have no social structure. They prefer to rest under shade during the heat of the day.

When the drought breaks, they move to mulga tree areas where food and shade is available. This is also where they breed. Females normally carry one young in their pouch.



THE SYMBOLS OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY



The bird emblem

The wedge-tailed eagle

The wedge-tailed eagle was proclaimed as one of the 2 Northern Territory faunal emblems on 19 June 1975.

The wedge-tailed eagle is Australia's largest bird of prey with an average wingspan of 2.5 metres. It is dark brown with a chestnut neck.

Their long, wedge-shaped tail and broad wings make it easy to recognise. Their legs are covered in feathers right down to their feet. A hooked beak and strong talons are the hallmarks of a bird that hunts other animals.

Although they are found throughout Australia, in the Northern Territory they are more commonly found in the arid centre than on the coastal plains of the north.

Before cattle and sheep farming in Australia, they ate a range of small mammals that lived in the soft ground cover, as well as other birds and reptiles. Agriculture and fire has destroyed much of the ground cover, so introduced species like rabbits have become a large part of their diet. It is thought the eagle also hunts kangaroos that gather around watering holes.

Eagles form long-lasting pairs who defend their nesting and breeding territory against intruders. They nest in the high trees and build large platform nests that can be reused from year to year.

At sunrise they hunt for food. Later on, as the sun heats up the air close to the ground, strong updrafts allow the eagle to soar and glide up to 2,000 metres high during the middle of the day, warning other eagles to stay out of their territory.

The fish emblem

The barramundi

The barramundi has been the fish emblem of the Northern Territory since 1999. The Northern Territory has the largest numbers of barramundi in Australia. It is a popular target for commercial and recreational anglers because of the quality of its flesh, its fighting ability, size and readiness to take artificial lures.

Barramundi, commonly called 'barra', is also fished by people for its economic, health and cultural importance. Females spawn up to 32 million eggs between September and March. Juvenile barramundi are 5 to 50 millimetres long and move into mangrove and wetland habitats during the wet season. After 3 to 5 years most of the freshwater barramundi migrate back to the ocean to spawn.

Barramundi can grow to be very large, some have been recorded at over 45 kilograms in weight and 150 centimetres long. There have been barramundi recorded at over 35 years of age, though a maximum age of 20 years is more common. Most barramundi are born as males but at about 8 years of age they turn into females. They can grow to 100 centimetres long by the time they are 8 years old. Any barramundi that is over 95 centimetres long is probably a female.

A barramundi's diet consists of about everything that lives in or around water, including insects, spiders, crocodiles, prawns, fish and each other. The diet of a larger barramundi consists of 60 per cent fish and 40 per cent crustaceans, mostly prawns. Smaller barramundi eat mostly prawns. As water temperatures cool during the dry season, barramundi slow down and eat less frequently.



Barramundi activity increases with warmer temperatures and catch rates are generally higher. During the build-up and wet season, water temperatures can be up to 10 degrees Celsius warmer than during the dry season. Tagging studies show recreational and commercial fishers take less than 5 per cent of the barramundi in a river system per year.

For further information on the symbols of the Northern Territory, please contact:

Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet

Level 9

NT House, 22 Mitchell Street

Darwin NT 0800

Telephone: (08) 8999 6238

Email: protocol.dcm@nt.gov.au



The symbols of Norfolk Island



The flag

The Norfolk Island flag was proclaimed on 11 January 1980.

A green Norfolk Island pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*) stands between 2 vertical green bands on the flag of Norfolk Island. Norfolk Island's towering pines were one of the main reasons for the Island's settlement by early colonists from New South Wales (who also turned the Island into one of the cruelest jails on earth). Captain Cook had reported upon his discovery of the island in 1774 that he thought the pines could be harvested as a magnificent resource for ships' masts, but soon discovered the wood snapped like matchsticks.

There is an abundance of mature Norfolk Island pines all over the island producing a green jewel in the glittering blue of the Pacific Ocean, to the delight of many visitors.

The white background on which the Norfolk Island pine appears symbolises peace and harmony between people and the natural world.

The colour reference is:

- Green: PANTONE® 356.

The flag has a height-to-width ratio of 1:2.

The Coat of Arms

The Norfolk Island Coat of Arms was granted by Queen Elizabeth II in 1980.

The shield of Norfolk Island's Coat of Arms has 2 stars, which relate to 3 Coats of Arms: those of Captain James Cook (the Island's European discoverer in 1774), those of New South Wales and those of Australia. These shine on either side of a Norfolk Island pine. Supporters of the shield are Britain's lion and Australia's kangaroo. The lion at the top of the crest holds a cup, which is from the Coat of Arms of Fletcher Christian, the leader of a group of British mutineers and Tahitians from HMS *Bounty* who first settled at Pitcairn Island, a British colony several thousand kilometres eastwards in the central Pacific.

In 1856, because of overpopulation, 194 Pitcairn Islanders were moved to Norfolk Island. Their descendants still live on both islands.



Motto on Arms

"Inasmuch" is the islands motto. It is a reference taken from the Gospel of Matthew in the New Testament (Chapter 25:40) which has special significance for the Pitcairn Islanders: *"...Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my bretheren, ye have done it unto me ..."*

For further information on the symbols of Norfolk Island, please contact:

The Office of the Administrator
The Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development and Communications

GPO Box 594

Canberra ACT 2601

Telephone: +6723 22152

Email: Office.Administrator@infrastructure.gov.au





The symbols of other territories of Australia

Australia's external territories including Heard Island and the McDonald Islands, the Australian Antarctic Territory, Ashmore and Cartier Islands and the Coral Sea Islands, as well as the mainland Territory of Jervis Bay, have no insignia or emblems. Their symbols are the Commonwealth Coat of Arms and the Australian National Flag.

The Christmas Island flag was formally declared on 26 January 2002 by the then Administrator of the territory, Bill Taylor. The flag of Christmas Island was chosen from a flag competition held in 1986 and announced on 14 April 1986. The blue and green triangles represent the sea surrounding the island and the vegetation of the island. The Southern Cross in the blue triangle is the

representation appearing in the Australian National Flag. The image in the green triangle is the golden bosun bird, which is unique to the island. The gold disk in the centre of the flag represents the island's phosphate mining history and was originally included to provide a background for the green map of Christmas Island.

The flag of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands was created in 2003 and formally declared on 6 April 2004 by the then Administrator of the territory, Evan Williams. The flag of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands is green, with a coconut palm tree circled with a yellow colour on the top left side of the flag. There is also a yellow crescent in the centre of the flag and 5 seven-pointed stars on the right side of the flag.



Symbols timeline

- 1770** The Union Jack was first raised in Australia on 29 April 1770 by Captain Cook at Stingray Harbour (later renamed Botany Bay).
- 1788** Governor Phillip hoisted this flag again on 26 January 1788 at Sydney Cove, marking the first European settlement of Australia.
- 1788** From early settlement, the citizens of Australia's colonies flew the flags of the United Kingdom, including (from 1801) the current Union Jack.
- 1830s** The black swan used as the emblem of Western Australia, although there is no record of any early official confirmation.
- 1850s** The Southern Cross appeared on numerous unofficial flags in Australia.
- 1854** Gold miners rallied around the Southern Cross design on the Eureka flag, burned down the Eureka Hotel at Ballarat and set up a stockade in protest at colonial taxes - 30 miners and 6 Government troops killed.
- 1854** Following unofficial use of the black swan design in Western Australia, the black swan was chosen for the first Western Australian postage stamps.
- 1865** The Admiralty in London, and Britain's Secretary of State for the Colonies, advised Australian Governors that colonial vessels of war should fly a flag having their colonial badges on Britain's blue ensign.
- 1865** Victoria developed its own colonial flag.
- 1870** The black swan appeared on the British blue ensign, in the first version of the Western Australian colonial flag.
- 1870** Victoria's Governor proclaimed that the colony's badge design would show the Southern Cross with 5 white stars. The Argus newspaper reported that a flag displaying the badge was flown five days later by Victoria's first colonial warship, HMVS *Nelson*.
- 1875** Queensland's Governor rejected an early colonial badge design featuring Queen Victoria's head. He recommended the Maltese cross and a Crown.
- 1875** Use of the black swan on Western Australia's badge officially confirmed by the colonial Governor.
- 1876** Queen Victoria proclaimed that the distinguishing flag or ensign of Tasmania should be a blue ensign with a lion passant and on a white shield in the fly.
- 1876** Royal Crown on a Maltese cross approved by the Admiralty in London as Queensland's badge - incorporated on the British blue ensign as the flag for Queensland Government vessels.
- 1876** First use of the badge of New South Wales, based on the red cross of St George on the New South Wales state flag.
- 1877** A Royal Crown added to the Victorian badge, to top the Southern Cross.
- 1890s** Australia's international sport teams used the (so far unofficial) national colours of green and gold.
- 1893** Queensland's Coat of Arms, the oldest in Australia, granted to the colony by Queen Victoria.

- 1901** A world-wide competition to find a new Australian flag announced by the Government when the 6 colonies united as the Commonwealth of Australia. The Commonwealth blue ensign (later to become the Australian National Flag), was developed from the winning entries. The same flag design, on a red background, was called the Commonwealth red ensign, and used on Australia's merchant ships.
- 1901** The design for the first Great Seal of Australia was chosen by the Government in another competition.
- 1904** The South Australian flag was proclaimed.
- 1906** The New South Wales Coat of Arms was granted by King Edward VII.
- 1908** Australia's first National Coat of Arms granted by King Edward VII. This showed the kangaroo and the emu supporting the shield and standing on a grassy mound.
- 1908** A seventh point added to Commonwealth Star on the Commonwealth blue ensign.
- 1910** Victoria granted a Coat of Arms by Royal Warrant.
- 1912** Australia's second grant of Arms made by King George V. This changed the original National Coat of Arms to include the symbols of the states on the badge - and the Commonwealth Star is shown with 7 points. Six of the 7 points symbolise the Australian states and the seventh its territories.
- 1912** Then Prime Minister Andrew Fisher suggests golden wattle surround the new Commonwealth Coat of Arms.
- 1917** King George V granted Tasmania its Coat of Arms. It was proclaimed in 1919.
- 1928** Coat of Arms granted to the city of Canberra by Royal Warrant.
- 1953** The Australian National Flag officially declared to be the Commonwealth blue ensign, ending some public confusion.
- 1958** Victoria adopted the common pink heath as the state floral emblem, adding it to the state Coat of Arms.
- 1959** Queenslanders voted the Cooktown orchid their favourite flower in a Government poll during the state's centenary year. Soon after, it was proclaimed Queensland's floral emblem.
- 1960** Western Australia proclaimed its floral emblem as the red and green kangaroo paw.
- 1961** Sturt's desert pea adopted as South Australia's floral emblem.
- 1961** Sturt's desert rose proclaimed as the floral emblem of the Northern Territory.
- 1962** The waratah officially proclaimed as New South Wales's floral emblem.
- 1962** Tasmania proclaimed the blue gum its floral emblem.
- 1964** The Northern Territory adopts the official colours of red ochre, black and white.
- 1969** Western Australia Coat of Arms granted by Queen Elizabeth II.
- 1970** The hairy-nosed wombat adopted as the South Australian faunal emblem.

- 1971** The Australian Aboriginal Flag was first raised on 9 July 1971, National Aborigines' Day, at Victoria Square in Adelaide.
- 1971** The laughing kookaburra proclaimed the bird emblem of New South Wales.
- 1971** Leadbeater's possum proclaimed as one of Victoria's faunal emblems.
- 1971** The platypus proclaimed the faunal emblem for New South Wales.
- 1971** The koala proclaimed as Queensland's faunal emblem.
- 1971** The helmeted honeyeater proclaimed Victoria's bird emblem.
- 1973** Western Australia proclaimed the black swan its state bird emblem.
- 1973** The current version of the Great Seal (which shows the National Coat of Arms) granted to Australia in a Royal Warrant by Queen Elizabeth II.
- 1973** The numbat declared Western Australia's animal emblem.
- 1973** Victoria changed the design of the Royal Crown on its arms from the Imperial Crown to St Edwards Crown.
- 1974** Sturt's desert rose adopted as the floral emblem of the Northern Territory.
- 1975** Tasmania's state flag proclaimed.
- 1975** Blue and gold chosen for the ribbon colours for the Order of Australia.
- 1975** The Northern Territory proclaimed the wedge-tailed eagle and the red kangaroo its faunal emblems.
- 1977** Some 3 million Australians voted for "Advance Australia Fair", which won against 3 other tunes in a referendum to find the national anthem. "Waltzing Matilda" came second with 1.9 million votes, followed by "God Save the Queen" with 1.3 million votes and "Song of Australia" with 700,000 votes.
- 1977** The brolga featured on Queensland's Coat of Arms.
- 1978** The flag of the Northern Territory is proclaimed on 1 July 1978.
- 1978** The Northern Territory Coat of Arms granted by Queen Elizabeth II.
- 1980** A flag proclaimed for Norfolk Island.
- 1980** Queen Elizabeth II granted the Norfolk Island Coat of Arms.
- 1982** Red, blue and gold proclaimed as South Australia's official colours.
- 1982** Royal bluebell announced as floral emblem for the Australian Capital Territory.
- 1984** South Australia's Coat of Arms proclaimed which replaced an earlier Coat of Arms conferred by King Edward VIII in 1936.
- 1984** The Governor-General proclaimed green and gold as Australia's national colours.
- 1984** "Advance Australia Fair" with slightly amended words officially proclaimed the Australian National Anthem.

- 1985** Opal adopted as South Australia's gemstone emblem (shared with Australia as the national gemstone emblem from 1993).
- 1985** Sapphire proclaimed Queensland's gemstone emblem.
- 1986** The brolga proclaimed Queensland's bird emblem.
- 1988** The golden wattle proclaimed as Australia's floral emblem.
- 1992** National Wattle Day proclaimed.
- 1993** Australian Capital Territory flag adopted.
- 1993** Opal proclaimed Australia's national gemstone.
- 1995** Western Australia's fossil emblem, the gogo fish, was proclaimed.
- 1996** Australian National Flag Day (3 September each year) proclaimed.
- 1997** The gang-gang cockatoo adopted as the faunal emblem for the Australian Capital Territory.
- 1997** The royal bluebell formally endorsed as the Australian Capital Territory's floral emblem.
- 1998** The eastern blue groper was proclaimed as the fish emblem of New South Wales.
- 1999** The Northern Territory proclaim the barramundi as its fish emblem.
- 2000** Crocoite proclaimed as the mineral emblem of Tasmania.
- 2002** Christmas Island flag formally declared on 26 January 2002.
- 2003** The Governor in Council proclaimed maroon as the official colour of Queensland.
- 2004** Cocos (Keeling) Islands flag formally declared on 6 April 2004.
- 2005** The Barrier Reef Anemone fish was officially named as Queensland's aquatic emblem.
- 2008** The black opal was proclaimed as the gemstone emblem of New South Wales.
- 2012** Gold declared as Victoria's mineral emblem.
- 2013** The whale shark proclaimed as the marine animal emblem of Western Australia.
- 2015** The Magdageria fairfaxi was proclaimed as the fossil emblem of New South Wales.
- 2015** The Tasmanian devil proclaimed as the animal emblem of Tasmania.
- 2018** Southern brush-tailed rock-wallaby adopted as the Australian Capital Territory's mammal emblem.
- 2021** Lyrics of the Australian National Anthem changed from 'For we are young and free' to 'For we are one and free' on 1 January 2021.
- 2022** Copyright of the Australian Aboriginal Flag transferred to the Commonwealth of Australia on 25 January 2022.
- 2022** Koolasuchus cleelandi declared as Victoria's fossil emblem.





