

Newsletter - August 2005

The Presidents Message

In 2005 Australia has remained a strong and united country despite the threats of drought, war and terrorism. Our Australian National Flag of "Stars and Crosses" has played a vital role in maintaining that unity and national pride.

This year we have seen our Australian National Flag flying proudly in both war and peace. The flag was proudly aloft on many important occasions...

- Federation Day 1st January the birth of Australia as a nation,
- Australia Day 26th January our National Day,
- Commonwealth of Nations Day,
- ANZAC Day 25th April remembering all who served, suffered or died defending our Australian freedom and way of life. This year we commemorated the 90th Anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli,
- The Queen's Birthday,
- On 13th August we will see the VP Day parade in the city celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the end of World War II,
- Recently we saw the Australian Flag flying aloft many times during the World Swimming Championships in Montreal in Canada where our magnificent athletes were so successful on the world stage,
- Continually flying with our brave men and women of the Australian Peace keeping forces who are serving all around the world.

It is of great significance to all Australians that our National Flag is a flag of the people, a result of an open competition and designed by Australians

Les Dudman
PRESIDENT

Editorial 2005

As time marches on towards September 2005 we reflect on that month last year when we all enjoyed another bright and breezy Australian National Flag Day in Martin Place. Just prior to that, in August 2004 our chief national symbol was on continuous display in lounge rooms across the nation with our glorious athletes competing at the Olympic Games in Athens.

Again on Australia Day and Anzac Day this year we were left in no doubt that our flag has won a special place in the hearts and minds of the vast majority of Australians. However those of us who can remember the 1970s and early 80s will know it wasn't always so. At that time there had been a lack of factual education available in schools and many left school with no knowledge of the true history or national heritage of our flag. A few minority groups took advantage of that situation to publish misleading and mythical material to undermine public opinions.

The "Ausflag 1988" (a change the flag group) had promoted a huge "design a new flag" competition offering big prize money. It was open to schools and the general public – the intention being to produce a new Australian Flag for 1988, a year of major national importance – the Australian bi-centenary, our 200 years anniversary.

But the competition was a failure. It failed to produce a winning flag design acceptable to the people. Additionally, however, more factual educational material was gradually being made available to schools. There is no doubt that the battle for our traditional flag was won by 1988 and its position consolidated and further enhanced over time.

So now, what of the Australian National Flag Association? Have we achieved our objective to the point of consideration of disbanding? While such a case could be made – it may be somewhat premature. However, I believe that some degree of reform should be considered to lessen the office work hours. This is a matter requiring urgent attention.

Regarding ANZAC DAY, a special mention should be given to Australia Post. Over the past five years at least, AP has provided and distributed many thousands of Australian waving flags each ANZAC DAY to the general public, as they are lined up on both sides of the street prior to the march. Delivery is by way of postal staff mounted on their postie motorbikes. This is an excellent gesture, which we (ANFA) applauded and acknowledged each year with a letter of sincere appreciation.

Notices to Members

The Annual general Meeting (AGM) is convened for Tuesday 27 September 2005 at 10.30am to be held at level 7 ANZAC House 245 Castlereagh Street Sydney.

An election will be held for a new Council of Management. The ANNUAL REPORT will be presented. Order of Business will be confined to AGM matters only. No general business will be heard except those items advised in writing to the Secretary at least 14 days prior to the meeting.

E.J. EGGINS
HON SECRETARY

Australian National Flag Day (3 September) will fall on a Saturday this year.

As we are supported by a school band and choir our Council has decided to hold the ANNUAL CELEBRATION a day earlier I.E. FRIDAY 2 SEPTEMBER AT MARTIN PLACE near PITT STREET at 12.15PM.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Many thanks to all those members who responded to our donation appeal 2004 or did so during the year according to their own schedule. In fact we would greatly welcome a spread of donations across the year, rather than all at once due to office staff limitations and associated delays in processing receipts and banking procedures.

Birthday Celebrations 2-9-2005

We are pleased to announce our Flag's 104th birthday celebrations will be held (one day early) on Friday 2 September 2005 in Martin Place, Sydney, near Pitt Street, to commence at 12-15pm.

We are also delighted to advise that The Honourable David Clarke MLC has kindly accepted an invitation to be our guest of honour this year. Mr Clarke is a strong supporter of our Australian Flag and highly regarded as an excellent speaker.

We look forward again to some high quality musical entertainment from Mr Ray Avard and his WOOLLOOWARE HIGH SCHOOL BAND and also to those sweet singers from the FIVE DOCK Primary School led by Mrs Toni Field, B.Ed, Dip. Lib.Sc.

Message for National Flag Day 2005

**FROM PROFESSOR GEOFFREY BLAINEY AC
CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE CENTENARY OF FEDERATION**

Australia's flag symbolizes the Commonwealth, the States and the Territories.

It is the flag of the people as well as the nation.

The flag was designed by Australians, acclaimed by the people in 1901, and approved by the first national parliaments.

It is one of the world's older national flags.

It salutes the stars of the Southern Cross which shone above this continent when the first Aboriginal people arrived.

It acknowledged the British influence on Australia's way of life – its language, parliaments, laws, literature, fine arts and sports.

It honours those who fought for their nation in two world wars and in other conflicts.

It remains the first choice of the majority of Australians, despite a long campaign to replace it with other flags.

The flag was first unveiled on this day, 104 years ago. It is a day to be celebrated.

Gwen - A True Patriot

We are already seriously feeling the loss of Mrs Gwen Carruthers OAM who recently resigned for health reasons. Gwen had been a regular ANFA office volunteer since the Association's inception in 1983.

She had accepted the responsibility of maintaining the Association's financial records. She had grown with and fully understood the functions of that office which required on average two to three full days weekly and during September / October five days. It was not a high profile function, but one of essential importance to our successful operations. Due to her part in preparation of our annual Financial Reports, they never failed to receive a tick of acceptance from the Dept. of Consumer Affairs and now the Dept. of Fair Trading. On behalf of all ANFA members Gwen, we acknowledge, record and thank you for your long and patriotic service.

POSITION VACANT

Do we have another dedicated member with some similar experience who will volunteer to replace Gwen, even for a few years? Computer and/or typing experience would be an added benefit. If so, please write to the Hon. Secretary.

Letter to North Shore Times

IT'S YOUR RIGHT TO FLY THE FLAG

EVERY Australian citizen has the right and privilege of flying or displaying the Australian flag in accord with the rules of flag etiquette and protocol.

The Australian flag is Australia's chief national symbol by law, custom and tradition, belonging equally to all Australian citizens.

The Australian flag should be treated with dignity and respect at all times as it identifies and represents our nation and citizens of the Commonwealth of Australia. Australia's youth and new citizens have the right to full and accurate knowledge of the history, heritage and significance of Australia's national flag of stars and crosses.

FEB 16, 2005

John Vaughan, Australian National Flag Association