



**THE HON BILL SHORTEN MP  
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION  
MEMBER FOR MARIBYRNONG**

**Australian National Flag Day 2018**

It gives me great pleasure to join with fellow Australians in celebrating Australian National Flag Day 2018.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> of September is an annual day of commemoration to mark the first flying of the Australian National Flag in 1901 at the Royal Exhibition building, Melbourne.

In the century since that first unveiling, the Australian flag has shared our national journey.

Today, on its 117<sup>th</sup> “birthday” we marvel at the enduring legacy of our national flag throughout the generations – through times of war and peace, struggle and prosperity.

The Australian flag remains the unmistakable visual symbol of our nationhood: flying on the flagpoles of our treasured national institutions, waved among cheering crowds at sporting competitions, or hung proudly on young people’s backpacks as they venture abroad.

Ours is a flag that unites an entire continent, the “stars and crosses” capturing our ideals, our geography, our indigenous heritage and our unity.

This year, on National Flag Day, I encourage Australians to take the opportunity to discover the history of our 117 year old flag and its significance to our shared identity.

**Bill Shorten**  
**Leader of the Opposition**