

**CREATING AND INCREASING FLAG AWARENESS IN THE COMMUNITY
– A CASE STUDY
THE FLAG SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA IN NEWCASTLE, AUSTRALIA**

Prepared by Colin Randall
Member Flag Society of Australia (joined 1999)
June 2009

Abstract

Flags Australia (The Flag Society of Australia) is a resource for reliable and accurate information about Australian and other flags, and seeks to achieve greater awareness and knowledge of flags among Australians.

Over a period of 10 years the Flag Society of Australia (FSA) and its Newcastle convener Colin Randall has sought to create and increase flag awareness in the community of Newcastle in NSW Australia. Newcastle and the adjacent Hunter Valley have a population of 500,000 and Newcastle is its “capital”. Newcastle is the sixth largest city in Australia. While Newcastle is the largest coal export port in the world, the Newcastle/Hunter community is diverse with university, health system, coal mining, services, wine, agriculture, horse breeding and power generation being the major industries and employers. With over 3,000 ship movements in and out of the port of Newcastle flags on ships are a common sight.

To date FSA has undertaken exhibitions, flag flying at our Newcastle base, media attention on historic flags, media promotion of new flags, presentations to community groups, increasing flag awareness in the Port, flying of flags on national days, presentation of flags for flying on community property, and creation of interest for new flags for the City of Newcastle and for the region of the Hunter. Current use of two flag poles in the CBD of Newcastle and a suburban flag pole with a simple chalk board describing the flag flown has created and increased flag awareness in the community of Newcastle.

This paper presents images of the flags flown and describes the various methods that have been used by FSA to date and the current methods that are not only efficient but effective in creating and increasing flag awareness in the community.

INTRODUCTION

Flags Australia (The Flag Society of Australia) is a resource for reliable and accurate information about Australian and other flags, and seeks to achieve greater awareness and knowledge of flags among Australians. Over 10 years the Flag Society of Australia (FSA) and I, as its Newcastle convener, have sought to create and increase flag awareness in the community of Newcastle in NSW Australia.

This paper provides a case study for creating and increasing flag awareness in a community. This paper has an unavoidable personal view on how to create and increase flag awareness. Having met Gerald Naughton of FSA, I joined the Flag Society of Australia in December 1999. My grandfather had been a signaller in the Royal Navy, having joined in 1905, so I claim that my life-long interest in flags comes from the fact that flags must be in my DNA.

Newcastle and Flag Awareness

Newcastle and the adjacent Hunter Valley have a population of 500,000 and Newcastle is its “capital”. Newcastle is the sixth-largest city in Australia. While Newcastle is the largest coal export port in the world, the Newcastle/Hunter community is diverse with university, health facilities, coal mining, services, wine, agriculture, horse breeding, and power generation being the major industries and employers.

With over 3,000 ship movements each year in the port of Newcastle, flags on ships are a common sight. Many of the ships are registered in lower cost registration countries such as Liberia and Panama. As a consequence many of the ships are under “flags of convenience”. Other countries considered under the same category include Cyprus, Marshall Islands, Tonga, Bermuda, and Malta. With coal shipments through Asia/Pacific/Subcontinent, ships’ flags often sighted are China, SAR Hong Kong, Japan, Taiwan, and South Korea.

In Newcastle a number of people, apart from the author, fly flags on a regular basis: Bar Beach resident Roy Duffy, a Glebe Road dentist, a Hillsborough Road resident, and a Dudley resident. The flags are not regularly changed but some are. They are in prominent positions and often cause comment. The main problem for most is that there is no mechanism to let the uninitiated know what country is represented or the reason for flying the flag.

Organisations that fly flags include Port Corporation, United Services Club, Greek Church, Court House, Newcastle City Council, and Newcastle Club. The local Mission to Seaman Stella Maris used to fly the flag of Lesotho since the priest claimed he had become the local Honorary Consul to Lesotho. This eccentric gentleman was removed from his ministry for bizarre behavior and unfortunately his flag no longer flies.

FSA Visit to Newcastle 2004

In October 2004 members of FSA visited Newcastle. The places of vexillological interest visited included flag spotting on vessels at the coal loaders, Merchant Mariners Memorial, pilot station (see photo), Nobby’s Signal Station, Fort Scratchley, Coast Guard centre on Shepherds Hill, Bingle Street (see photo), warriors chapel in Newcastle Cathedral, Newcastle City Hall, Monty Wedd’s Museum, and Regional Museum.

The Lock Up – Hunter Heritage Centre – a base for FSA in the Hunter

In December 2004 FSA obtained a lease on a room inside what had been the old Newcastle Police Station, the Hunter Heritage Centre, once called “The Lock Up” and was the site of the FSA exhibitions in Newcastle (see photo). There were two flag poles out of the first floor and we were permitted to fly flags. Depending on what was flying from the flag poles at the Heritage Centre there was a little card in the window to advise (see illustration). At the same time the City Centre Alliance decided to sponsor flags for seasonal flying (see press article). This had the impact of restricting flying of flags. The coming of the Writers Commune and the need to get their permission to put out flags further restricted access to the flag poles at the Heritage Centre.

Flags for the Mall

The Newcastle CBD and its mall had flagpoles but no flags. The FSA donated a number of ex-Navy flags from countries whose ships frequented the port (i.e. Taiwan, South Korea, etc.). Theft of the flags within one month of installation put a damper on future donations where there was no security.

A New flag for Newcastle and the Hunter?

Following the October 2004 visit by FSA an attempt was made to engender public debate on the current flag for Newcastle City and a possible replacement. A newspaper article (see attached press article) was used to start the debate. However there was little enthusiasm for change considering the letters to the editor and the expressed opinion “City Flag OK, OZ flag not” (referring to the need to change the national flag). (See attached). Subsequently there have been two designs for Hunter/Newcastle flags from Tony Burton (see Image) and John Vaughan (see Images).

EXHIBITIONS

Flags of Heritage Australia Day 2005

Opening on Australia Day, 26th January 2006, Flags Australia presented its first exhibition: Flags of Heritage. Some 20 replica colonial flags used in the 19th century were on display. (Flyer for exhibition and Image) These flags were forerunners of the design ideas of the present Australian national flag, selected from a public competition in 1901, formally gazetted in 1903, further amended in 1908. The blue ensign version was finally adopted as the civil Australian national flag for general use under the Flags Act 1953.

The Bowman flag of 1806 was one on display. Made from a bridal dress, the banner was to celebrate the Battle of Trafalgar, and was the first recorded use of the kangaroo and emu as heraldic emblems for Australia. (See image) The exhibition was opened by Ms Janet Dore, General Manager of Newcastle City Council, with the FSA President Tony Burton (Image). General view of the exhibition (Image) Some 400 people attended the exhibition over the three weeks it was on display. It was a very well received exhibition.

Flags Array for Australia Day 2006

On Australia Day, 26th January 2006, Flags Australia held an exhibition of eight national flags and a proposed Hunter Flag. (Attached is the flyer, brochure and photos of the exhibition Images)

The flags on display were:

- Australia Blue Ensign
- Australia Red Ensign
- Royal Australian Navy White Ensign
- Royal Australian Air Force
- Defence Force Tricolour
- New South Wales State Ensign
- Aboriginal Flag
- Torres Strait Islands Flag
- Tony Burton's proposed Hunter Region Flag

This exhibition was marred by a hooligan element who at one stage sought to steal flags, until persuaded to leave.

State Flags for Australia Day 2007

On Australia Day, 26th January 2007, Flags Australia mounted an exhibition of all the state and territory flags for Australia. The flags on display were:

- New South Wales
- Queensland
- Victoria
- South Australia
- Tasmania
- Western Australia

The flags of the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory were also on display. This exhibition had limited success since it was only for one day.

Flags for Dancing Exhibition, 9th March 2007

This exhibition was timed to coincide with the reopening of the Heritage Centre as “The Lock-Up” and its Education Centre. It was an exhibition of 1940s flags donated to the FSA by the Victoria League of Newcastle. The Victoria League for Commonwealth Friendship was originally founded to promote better understanding between the countries of the British Empire. During WWII the league held entertainments for Allied soldiers, sailors, and airmen stationed or passing through Newcastle. The large flags were those given by ships during the 1940s and used to dress the halls for the dances held for the troops. The exhibition included flags of Australia, the United Kingdom, Netherlands, USA (48-star version), Greece (pale blue), and China (Nationalist). (see flyer Image and photo) The exhibition was for a very limited time but well received.

Presentations to Community groups

Presentations to local service groups and to pensioner groups are a continuing part of the process of education. These are always well received. To date presentations have been made to the Newcastle Chapter of the Master Mariners Association, Adamstown Probus Group, Self-Funded Retirees Association, and the Newcastle Historical Society.

Local media – Radio and Newspaper

Flag awareness amongst the general population, especially young people, sometime comes down to very simple imagery. For young men especially, creating flag awareness is as simple as getting Commonwealth Games high jumper Claire Mallett to wear a Australian Flag bikini. (Image) A new flag always can be used by the local media to try and generate circulation for them.

A good example is the push in 2004 by FSA to engender some feeling for a new flag for Newcastle. (press articles and letters to editor) In a promotion for the 2005 Heritage flag exhibition – flag fanatics was the theme. See press article (image) In advertising for the 2006 Australia Day Exhibition, the media were more interested in what might be proposed for a new Hunter flag than the details of the Australian national flags that it became evident that many people did not know. (Image)

Newcastle Port Corporation 2004 – 2008

The Newcastle Port Corporation provided FSA with access to the Pilot Station and enabled the use of their flag mast. In an attempt to get a closer relationship to create a flag walk a number of approaches were made. Unfortunately all attempts at getting space at the pilot station or a row of flags sponsored by the port Corporation have failed.

Flag Mast - Fort Scratchley, Newcastle East 2009

In 2009 FSA approached Fort Scratchley about the use of their recently restored flag mast for the occasional flying of flags. This fort, on 8th June 1942, returned fire when IJS I-21 shelled the City of Newcastle. The fort was originally designed to repel the Russians. Its guns were then modernized during WWII. Ongoing negotiations are taking place to use the flagmast.

PERSONAL DISPLAYS

Flag Pole - 27 Hatfield Street, Merewether Heights 2003-2007

My home at 27 Hatfield Street, Merewether Heights had a flag pole. Unfortunately I always had to battle with the fact that we were in a valley, surrounded by trees and the wind was always quite variable. I also had to battle with trees that caused any wind to be flukey and inconsistent. Flag flying was not fun and neighbours could never quite see what flag it was. Also they constantly asked what I was flying and they needed a sign giving them the information. I thought this was only a joke on their part. Having moved and taken my flag pole, I hoped that as we are now moving to a hill better flag flying conditions would prevail—and they do.

Two Flag Poles - 7 Newcomen Street, Newcastle 2000- 2008

In 2000 my wife had her family business in one of the Port-side offices in No 7 Newcomen Street Newcastle. The building had two large flagpoles and I agitated for the use of the poles. However on inspection they had no running gear and were badly rusted in the top 300 mm. I suggested to the “body corporate” that I would be pleased to repair the poles at my expense if I could then use them. After considerable discussion and effluxion of time, in 2004 it was finally agreed that the body corporate would lease me the flag poles for an annual rental after I had completed the repairs. To this I agreed.

Unfortunately all my effort to get access was to no avail when the owner of the top floor changed and the new owner prohibited my access to the poles. Reason simple when it was discovered that

she was running a day spa (i.e. illegal brothel). Going once a week to change flags may have been misconstrued. With the sale of the floor and the purchase by a manufacturing jeweler who refurbished the flag poles and included floodlighting I have the opportunity to fly flags at will. The fact the building is opposite the Newcastle Port Corporation is also a bonus. Every fortnight I change the flags. For ANZAC Day I flew the Australian and New Zealand flag. Many different flags in many combinations have been flown. The jeweler says that his new customers identify the building by the one with the flags on it!!! This past week the two flags flown were a large South Korean naval ensign and the New Zealand Merchant Marine flag. Why those two? Because I can!!! Also—the owner of the floor likes them!!! (Images of flags flown)

Flag pole and chalk board - 48 Marshall Street, New Lambton Heights since March 2007

After moving house on 9th March 2007 (yes the same day as the Flags for Dancing Exhibition) it took 9 months to get my flagpole up. Once up I started putting up a different flag every day. My wife, Irene, started to complain that the neighbours and passers-by were asking “what flag is that?”. She said “why not put a board up and write what it is?” so that she does not to remember everyday.

This has proved to be the most important way to achieve an increase in community knowledge of flags. I fly flags on national days but also when things are happening in the world that we should be mindful of, for example:

- Indian flag at half mast during the Mumbai Terrorist attacks
- Georgian flag during the Russian invasion over South Ossetia
- South Ossetian flag (courtesy of Peter Orenski)
- Australian Flag when we drew with Qatar to book place in World Cup in South Africa in 2010. (see image)

All of this has engendered an enormous amount of interest and comment from neighbours and passers-by. Many have been moved to write, while others requested loan flags for a local school mini-Olympics and to ask me to give a talk on flags to the local Montessori school.

Letters of appreciation and encouragement have included:

“Hello, I just wanted to tell you how much my son and I enjoy and appreciate your flags each morning on the way to school. His comment this morning was that it would be good if you had a D.R. Congo one, to fly it now so that we remember the people there! Thank you for providing the stimulus for a comment like that!
Best wishes Julia Coleman (No. 51)”

“Dear Sir/Madam, Thank you for putting out your colourful collection of flags. I enjoy looking at the different flags and discussing their colours and origins with my Daddy and Mummy when we walk or drive past your house. Mummy thanks you for writing their names on your chalk board to help distinguish some of the flags. Thank you again. (signed) Samuel Chappell (2 yrs 5 mths!) PS I hope you enjoy my picture of “The Wiggles”.
[I provided a copy of a flag book, and heard back “Thanks so much for the book, our whole family has found it an interesting read, and its great to know more about the flags you put up. I hope you have a fantastic Christmas and thanks again.”]

“Dear Residents of 48 Marshall Street,

For weeks and weeks now I have been procrastinating, according to my wife Deb, that I was going to drop you a note of thanks but had never made the time to do so. Now before this year draws to its

imminent closure, I am finally compiling this message of thanks. Thank you so much for providing a whole new dimension to the neighbourhood with the wonderful—and seemingly vast—array of national flags you have. Every day as I come out of our street, I look forward to what might be flying on your flagpole.”

And this is even more inspiring... “when I learn of new flags, or have vague memories resurrected of previously known ones, via the little blackboard on your fence, as an educator, I can only applaud your commitment to the lifelong learning of others in your community! I trust you will be motivated to continue this tradition for many years to come.

From a very grateful and now more enlightened neighbour,

Phillip Goldsworthy.

29th December 2008

11A Currawong Steet, Cardiff Heights”

The Internet

The most peculiar request was by phone, as a result of a lady in Newcastle searching the Internet for someone local to talk to who could answer her question: “Before flying a flag what do you do?”

I started to answer her question but she said the answer must only be one word and six letters.

“Unfurl” was my answer. She said “Thanks very much. That fits in the crossword puzzle.” !!!!

CONCLUSION

While websites and the Internet can provide information rapidly, the actual flying of flags remains the simplest means of increasing community awareness of flags. The use of a simple chalk board, giving the name of the flag, is the most efficient way of increasing knowledge once you have the community’s attention.

A globe where the surface is composed of a mosaic of various national flags from different countries, including the United States, United Kingdom, France, Germany, and many others. The globe is centered in the background.

CREATING AND INCREASING FLAG AWARENESS IN THE COMMUNITY

**Prepared by Colin Randall, member
of the Flag Society of Australia in
Newcastle Australia.**



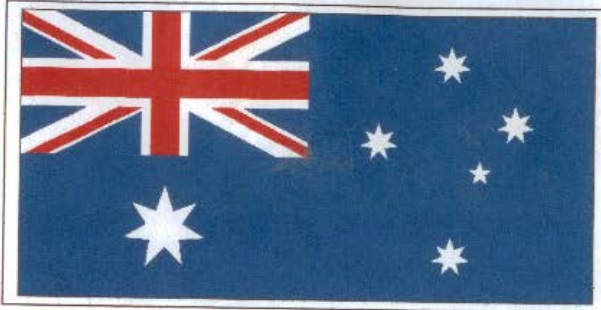






FLAG SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA: Hunter Group

Flags on Display (Look up ↑) Today:

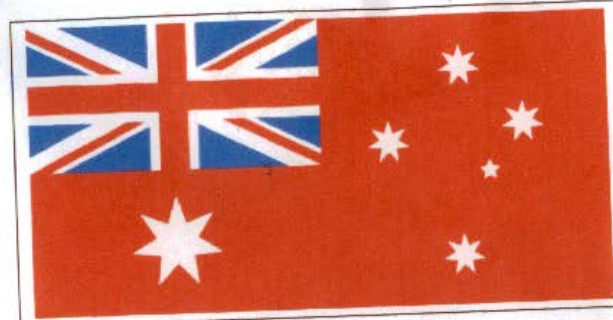


Australian Flag

On September 1901 the winning design was announced from an official competition to design a flag for Australia. To the British blue ensign (for use by the federal government) and British red ensign were added a large Southern Cross badge and federal star.

The flag was officially adopted 20 February 1903 after authorities selected the competition winner.

In 1953, the Flags Act declared the blue version to be the Australian National Flag.



Australian Red Ensign

In 1953, the Flags Act declared the blue version to be the Australian National Flag. Until then, the red version of the Australian flag was used on land as a "Peoples Flag". Australian registered ships fly the red ensign today.

Vexillology (the study of flags) is a comparatively recent addition to the field of knowledge as a separate and distinct discipline. The Flag Society of Australia was established on the 20th. August 1983, in Melbourne, Victoria, as a non-profit and non-political organization devoted to researching, preserving and publicising Australia's flag history and culture, regardless of its symbolism.



HAVING A BALL: Student Katherine Friend with her winning flag design. — Picture by Ruth Hartmann

Designer flags summer in the city

BY MATTHEW KELLY

THE beach is never far from the minds of most 21-year-olds in summer but final-year graphic design student Katherine Friend has taken her love of the surf and sand a step further.

Her winning design for a summer/Christmas flag for the Newcastle central business district will be out at the end of this month.

Ms Friend's beach ball-inspired design was one of 20 submitted by final-year graphic design TAFE students for the CBD flag design competition.

"I haven't done a lot of flag design before but I knew I had to come up with something that would be recognisable when it was upside down or back to front," she said.

"There were a lot of good designs, so I was surprised I won."

Ms Friend said the other helpful factor was living in Newcastle West and seeing the previous CBD flag designs on Hunter Street.

"I remember seeing them all the time ... I didn't really look at them from a design perspective

but I guess it helped on a subconscious level," she said.

Newcastle Alliance executive officer Kath Elliott said the organisation decided to finance the project following the positive response to last year's summer flags.

"The first two seasonal flags, the blue and white snowflakes for winter and the yellow and purple design for spring, were the work of professional designers," she said.

"But we thought it might be fun to challenge our TAFE students to come up with a summer/Christmas flag design."

Flying colours

BRIGHT BANNERS



NEWCASTLE: Cinnamon upper half, green lower half; reproduction of colours of military unit raised in Newcastle in WWI. Features two seagulls supporting city crest of knight's helmet, wheel thought to represent industry, black diamond to represent coal, and a sheep.



NSW: In use since 1876. Includes Union Jack and NSW badge. Badge consists of Cross of St George in red on white disc, with eight-pointed gold star on each arm and lion in centre.



AUSTRALIA: First flown from Exhibition Building, Melbourne, September 3, 1901. Declared national flag under Flags Act 1953. Features Union Jack in upper hoist quadrant. Southern Cross in second and last quarters.



Campaign for bold new flag to grace city skyline

By IAN KIRKWOOD

THE Flag Society of Australia wants Newcastle to have a new flag.

Society committee member Colin Randall believes the present flag – the city crest on a cinnamon and green background – is less than inspiring, especially with a colour scheme that blends in with surrounding buildings and trees.

"In vexillological terms it is somewhat cluttered, and a good flag should stand out boldly," the 57-year-old said yesterday.

Mr Randall, who has been interested in flags since he was 10, suggested holding a compe-

titition to find a replacement.

"What is important is getting elements from the people of Newcastle about what they would want to see in a flag," he said.

"Flags are the basis of providing focus and pride, they are a link to the past and an outward symbol."

Mr Randall led members of the small but enthusiastic society on a guided tour of Newcastle flag sites on Saturday as part of a two-day gathering that also considered the idea of a flag study and storage centre in Newcastle.

The Herald caught up with the society members in Bingle

Street, near King Edward Park – a street named after colonial figure John Bingle.

Captain Bingle first visited Newcastle in 1821 to survey the coastline, and he is fondly remembered by flag enthusiasts as one of two men behind the first recorded attempt to design a national Australian flag.

In 1823, he and Captain John Nicholson designed a "national colonial flag" based on the red cross of St George, with a white star on each of its four arms.

Mr Randall said there were less than a handful of Newcastle flags left flying, but flags themselves were as relevant as ever,

given their prominence in all sorts of events, from football matches to political revolutions.

The Newcastle Knights' red and blue flag had become almost a "de facto" flag for the city in the absence of anything better, he said.

Newcastle's official flag has a pair of seagulls supporting the city's crest of a knight's helmet, a sheep, a black diamond to represent coal and a wheel thought to represent industry.

■ **What would you like to see on a Newcastle flag? Please email your ideas to news@theherald.com.au or phone *The Herald* during business hours on 4979 5999.**

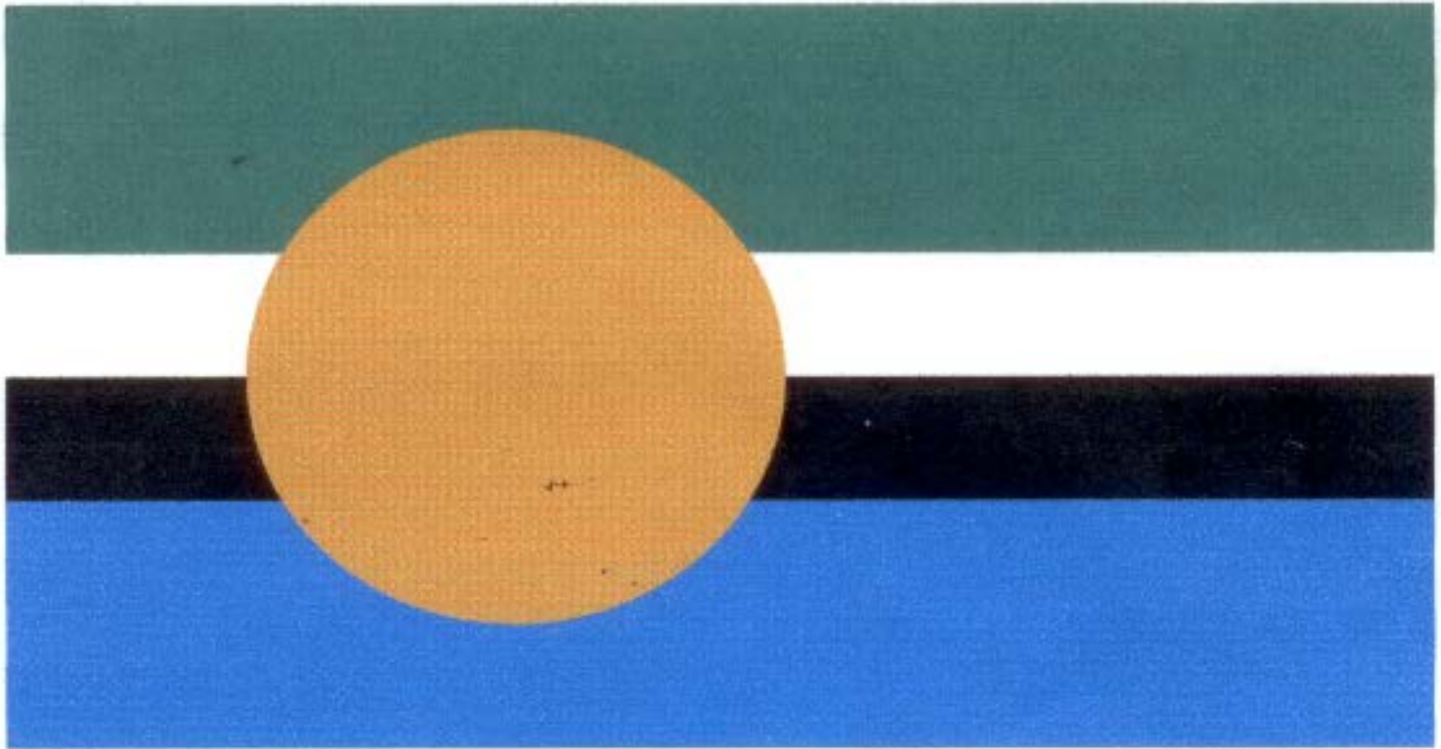


City flag OK, Oz flag not

COLIN Randall ('Flying colours' *Herald* 1/11) is apparently interested in changing Newcastle's flag. I think it is an appropriate symbol of Newcastle, using our official colours and our achievement (coat of arms) and exhibiting our motto "Enterprise". Apparently, the Flag Society has not studied symbolism sufficiently, otherwise they would realise that our national flags, containing symbols of colonialism, are now outdated, we having become an independent Commonwealth of Australia in 1966. We have changed some symbols but not the most important one - our present iconic symbol, the flag.

**Jack Bertram, Hamilton
November 1**

THE HUNTER FLAG







AUSTRALIA'S HERITAGE IN FLAGS

A presentation by the Flag Society of Australia Inc.

John Paynter Gallery
Newcastle Historic Reserve Trust Building
90 Hunter Street Newcastle
26 January to 20 February 2005

The Union Flag of England and Scotland was raised at Sydney Cove on 26 January 1788. Generally known as the "Union Jack" it was adopted in 1606 by combining the English red cross of St. George with the Scottish white on blue saltire of St Andrew.



1801 Union Jack

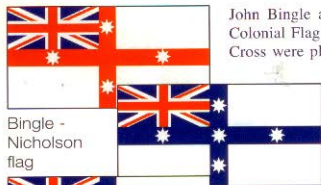
1606 Union

In 1801 the Union Jack was changed to add a diagonal red cross of St. Patrick to represent Ireland. Triangular segments of the Scottish and Irish crosses alternate so that neither is placed on top of the other.



Bowman flag

The first flag designed in Australia was created by John Bowman in 1806 to celebrate Nelson's victory at Trafalgar. It was made from his wife's wedding dress. He painted on the silk a symbol of Australian unity with Britain - a shield of the English rose, Scottish thistle and Irish shamrock supported by the emu and kangaroo - the first known use of these uniquely Australian symbols.



Bingle - Nicholson flag

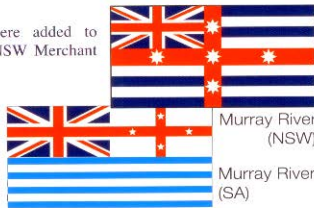
John Bingle and John Nicholson created the first design for a National Colonial Flag for Australia in 1823. Four stars representing the Southern Cross were placed on a Royal Navy white ensign. Nicholson published a flag chart in 1831 which showed a similar flag with a blue cross and 5 stars. This flag was widely used as an unofficial flag for NSW and Australia until about 1920.

Stripes were added to create a NSW Merchant flag.



NSW Merchant

Two variations of the Merchant flag are still used on the Murray River one in NSW and the other type in SA and Victoria, each incorporating 4 stripes.



Murray River (NSW)

Murray River (SA)



Eureka

150 years ago, protesting miners at Ballarat pledged their allegiance under a new flag: blue with a white cross joining five stars, representing the Southern Cross. The Eureka Stockade fell to troopers after only a few days, but the flag has become an iconic relic of the battle of ordinary people for liberty. Earlier, in 1851 another flag with the Southern Cross, as it appears in the sky, was used in a campaign by the Australasian League to stop transportation of convicts.



Anti-Transportation



NSW Ensign

During the 1870's each Australian colony was granted a flag. A badge with Southern Cross and crown was added to the British blue ensign for Victoria. A red ensign with only the Southern Cross was approved for Victorian ships.



Victorian Government



Victorian Merchant

Separate colonial administrations were established from 1825 to 1859, when Queensland's separation from NSW was marked by the raising of a local flag. Gradually a movement developed to unite the 6 colonies into a single nation. The Australian Federation League in 1892 adopted a variation of the NSW ensign to promote federation.



Queensland separation flag



Australian Federation League



Melbourne Herald competition winner

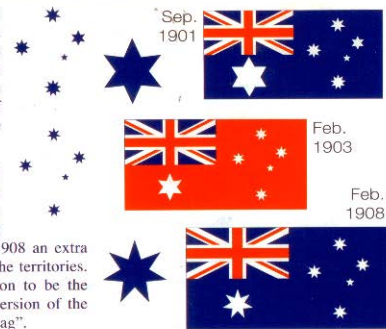
When federation was achieved on 1 January 1901, there was no flag for the new nation. Competitions were held to identify a suitable flag.



Design by H J Hurman

Most designers used the Union Jack with the Southern Cross to represent Australia and six stripes or other device to represent federation. A flag design by H J Hurman from Newcastle is one of the many interesting proposals.

On 3 September 1901 the winning design was announced for an official competition to design a flag for Australia. To the British blue ensign (for use by the federal government) and British red ensign (for Australian registered ships) were added a large Southern Cross badge with different numbers of points to show their relative brightness and a large six pointed star to represent the six states.



The flag was officially adopted 20 February 1903 after British authorities selected the competition winner in preference to the Federation flag. The federal star was reduced in size and the Southern Cross was simplified to the current format. In 1908 an extra point was added to the federal star to represent the territories. In 1953, the Flags Act declared the blue version to be the Australian National Flag. Until then, the red version of the Australian flag was used on land as a "People's Flag".

Victory banner flagged as early inspiration

James Woodford

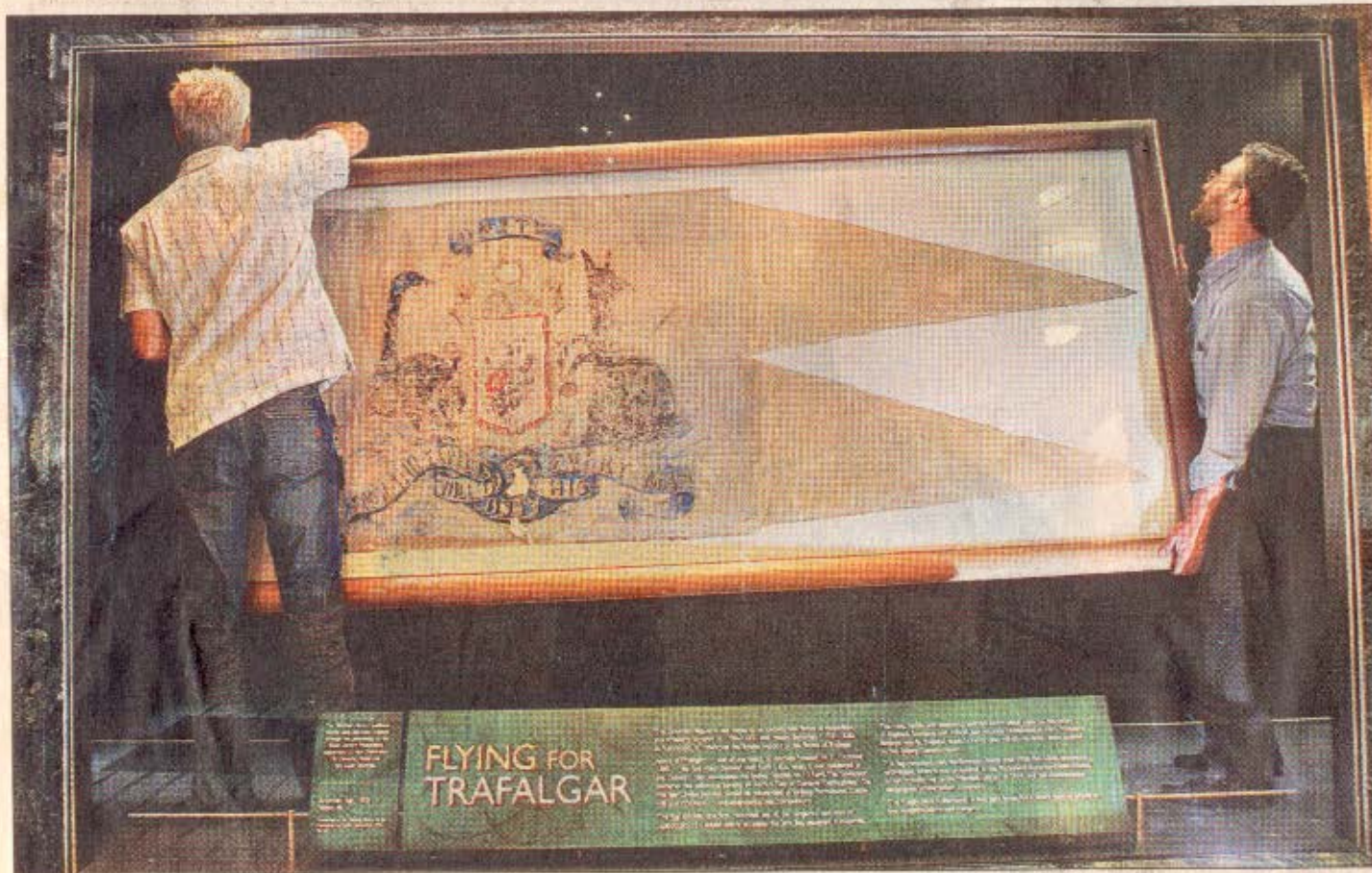
The State Library of NSW wants to solve one of the mysteries of Australian symbolism: the very earliest origins of the national coat of arms.

This week the library has put on display one of its most precious possessions, the Bowman flag. The 2.2-metre-long, 91-centimetre-wide silk flag is the first known depiction of the kangaroo and emu together supporting a shield and is also considered to be the first Australian-made flag.

It was born out of the surge of Empire patriotism at news that the British had defeated the French at Trafalgar and the simultaneous outpouring of grief at the news of the death of Admiral Nelson.

While the victory at Trafalgar took place on October 21, 1805, news of the battle did not reach the colony until April 11, 1806.

No one knows for sure when John Bowman commissioned it, nor what motivated him to employ two of the continent's most famous creatures as central motifs. But it was named after the Bowman family, free settlers who lived on the edge of the colony on the Hawkesbury River.



Raising the standard ... the Bowman flag, on display at the State Library, was made to celebrate Britain's victory at Trafalgar. Photo: Robert Pearce

out about midnight last night and recently, in
found positive? The authorities convincing





A FLAGS ARRAY FOR AUSTRALIA DAY 2006

As part of Australia-Day observance in Newcastle, a special array of flags - free to the public - will be presented in the foyer of the Hunter Heritage Centre, 90 Hunter Street.

Australia has a remarkably rich flag heritage from both the colonial period and the twentieth century. The flags on display at the Hunter Centre include the national flag and other ensigns and flags from the nearly two dozen official flags of Australia display, along with a brief commentary as to their history and purpose.

The display of flags is sponsored by **Flags Australia**, a division of The Flag Society of Australia Inc (FSA). The FSA is a non-profit research and advisory resource on all aspects of vexillology, or the study of flags. This display is the second such initiative by FSA in Newcastle, following an exhibition in February 2005 of colonial flags of Australia.

Australia's national flag is based on the winning design of a public competition in 1901 - an alteration of the 1870 blue ensign of the colony of Victoria. The *Flags Act* under Royal Assent in 1954 established it as the national flag for all Australians to use and hold in respect. One of the other flags on display, adopted formally in 1949, includes the first use of a red kangaroo. Another official flag is very recent - and of unusual pageantry, in combing navy, red, blue and gold.

Flags are a highly visible and simple way of also promoting local pride and identity. They invite reflection on community values. The most effective flags are simple in design, as they are artefacts intended to move in the breeze. Simple symbols are more visible and make for easy memory of meaning. The Hunter Centre display also includes an unofficial but simple and striking proposal, one of several possible, for a flag expressing local pride and identity in the Hunter-Newcastle-Lake Macquarie region.

Where: Foyer, Hunter Heritage Centre, located at 90 Hunter Street, Newcastle 2300
When: The display by Flags Australia opens at 10am and closes at 6pm on Australia Day Thursday, 26 January 2006
Contact: Flags Australia (Newcastle)
90 Hunter St / PO Box 683 NEWCASTLE NSW 2300
0408 969424
Phone: (02) 4925 2644 Fax: (02) 4926 3871
EMAIL: colin@colinrandall.com.au
or
Secretary, Flags Australia
PO Box 233 MILSONS POINT 1565

LEFT TO RIGHT

1. AUSTRALIA BLUE
2. AUSTRALIA RED
3. RAN WHITE
4. RAAF PALE BLUE
5. DEFENCE FORCE TRICOLOR
6. NSW STATE
7. ABORIGINAL
8. TSI
9. HUNTER REGION



FLAGS ARRAY FOR AUSTRALIA DAY 2006



Australia's flag is derived from the winning design for a public competition in 1901, which altered the 1870 blue ensign of the colony of Victoria. The Union Jack emphasises the formative influence of British settlement. The large 7-point star beneath it stands for the Commonwealth of six federated states and other territories. The five stars of the Southern Cross denote our location in the South Pacific.

Reserved from 1903 for Commonwealth Government use, the blue flag was formally gazetted in 1953 under the Flags Act as the national flag for all Australians to use and hold in respect.



The 1901 competition also required a red version for use by the merchant marine, and this remains its primary function. Until 1941 the blue ensign was legally reserved for government use. In consequence the red ensign was used

as the de facto national flag on land, though use of the Union jack was also authorised.

The British White Ensign with its red cross was used by the Royal Australian Navy from its establishment in 1911 until the early part of the Viet Nam war. Within the RAN concerted moves were made to adopt a distinctive Australian ensign and thus avoid confusion and embarrassment with the British navy, which was not party to that conflict. In March 1967 the Royal Navy ensign was replaced by a white field version of the Australian national flag.



From 1922 to 1948 the Royal Australian Air Force used the British RAF ensign with a large blue, white and red roundel in the fly. In 1949 a new ensign was devised, based on the national flag, the Southern Cross tilted to accommodate

a smaller RAF roundel. This design was further amended in 1982: the red dot in the roundel was replaced by a red kangaroo.

The flag of the Australian Defences forces was made an official flag of Australia in 2000. It displays the golden badge of the combined forces, laid over three panels representing, from the mast, the navy, army and air force.



The State flag of NSW, like the national flag, is derived from ensigns used in the colonial period, differentiated from those of other states by a badge in the outer field. The badge - a Cross of St George with gold lion and stars of the Southern Cross dates from 1870.



The design of the Australian Aboriginal flag is attributed to Harold Thomas, an Aranda man from Central Australia. It was first unfurled in Victoria Square, Adelaide, in July 1971. The black band represents Aboriginal people; red the land and the yellow disk the power of the sun and life.

In 1995 the flag was formally gazetted as one of the many official ancillary flags of Australia.

The people of the Torres Strait refer to their island home as *Magani Malu Kes* ("a strong current" in each of the three regional languages) and in 1987 adopted a flag based on a design attributed to Bernard Namok. The blue band stands for the waters surrounding the islands, the green bands the islands themselves, the narrow black stripes the people. The white *dari* or dancer's headdress represents a shared Melanesian culture. The star stands for the five main groups of islands. It also refers to the use of the stars as a navigation aide between islands. In July 1995, the flag was gazetted as an official flag of Australia.



Display sponsored by
Flags Australia







“Flags for Dancing” Exhibition

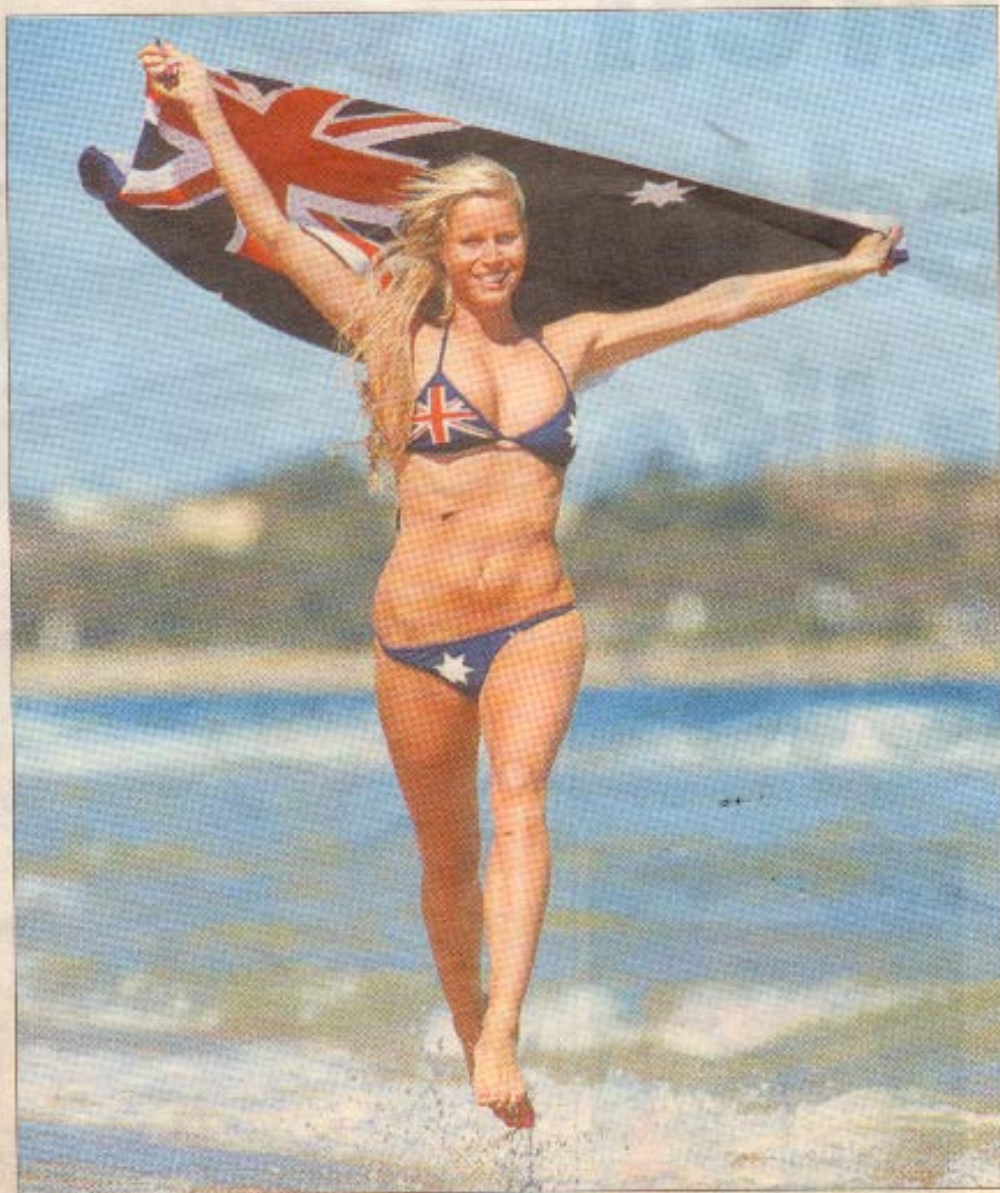
A display of rare 1940’s flags from the flag repository of Flags Australia.



The flags, donated by Newcastle based Victoria League to Flags Australia, are housed in the Lock Up. The flags were used by the League during WWII to decorate the halls where they held dances for Allied servicemen.

**The Allied flags on display are from the Netherlands, Greece, China, USA, Australia and United Kingdom.
The Lock Up Opening - 9th March 2007**





FLYING the flag ... high-jump hope Claire Mallett.

Picture: Craig Borrow

Flagging early colonial history

OK flag fanatics – get excited.

More than 20 flags from the colonial period including Australia's earliest recorded flag using the kangaroo and emu are currently on show in Newcastle.

The early Aussie flag was made from the wedding dress of a Sydney settler.

So before you rip up ya wedding dress, head to the exhibition and see what it would look like as a flag.

The flag exhibition is on until Sunday at the John Paynter Gallery in the Police and Old Gaol Museum, Newcastle.

Pictured are Newie flag gurus Colin Randall and Tony Burton.



☠️ ⌚ ♦️ ⌚ ◻️ ⌚ ⌚

💧 ♦️ ◻️ ⌚ ⌚ ♦️

👉 ● 🌀

⌚ ◻️ ● ⌚























GREAT
BRITAIN