EXHIBITS and EVENTS

ICV 26 REGISTRATION & WELCOME DRINKS

The Sydney ICV began with registration that took place on Sunday 30 August 2015 from 4:00 pm at the Grace Hotel. Participants and companions confirmed their arrival and received a Welcome Pack satchel and a lanyard with their name, which would be necessary to provide ID and access to the venue. The Welcome Packs included the ICV 26 Handbook, a copy of the Australian Government's *Australian Flags* booklet, hand-waver sized ICV 26 and Australian flags, a Sydney tourism guide, an Observatory Hill flagpole signal decoder, note pad and pen, and ICV 26 flag pins (courtesy of Peter Orenski).

Welcome drinks commenced at 5:00 pm with hot and cold canapés served until 7:00 pm. This provided the opportunity for participants to catch-up with other vexillologists and friends, in most cases after two years since the last ICV. For those for whom this was their first ICV, it was a good informal gathering to learn more about flag conferences and what to expect in the coming week. Registration was also possible at the venue from 8:00 am on Monday, 31 August.

36-page ICV 26 Handbook
with program and information

Some photos taken by Ralph Kelly on the night:

ICV 26 FLAG EXHIBITIONS

To coincide with the hosting of ICV 26 in Sydney, three special flag displays occurred. The Congress's Organising Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved, being;

- State Librarian & staff of the State Library of New South Wales, in particularly, Ms. Avryl Whitnall, Exhibitions Program Coordinator Marketing & Business Development, & Ms. Louise Tegart, Manager of Exhibitions Marketing & Business Development.

  and

- Mr. George Burrows of "Black Snake Inn", Granton, Tasmania for the generous display of his personal full-size replica Australasian Anti-Transportation League & Eureka Stockade Flags.

State Library of NSW Flag Display – Amaze Gallery: 24 Aug. – mid-Nov. 2015
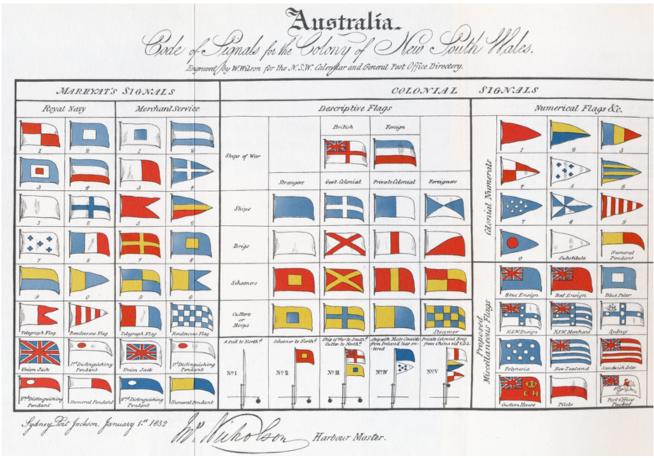
Bowman Flag created by the Bowman family, 1806

This is the oldest locally designed flag in Australia was probably designed by John Bowman and sewn by his daughter, Mary, or wife, Honor, in 1806 to fly at their farm *Archerfield* near Richmond, NSW. It celebrated news of the victory of Lord Horatio Nelson and the British fleet at the Battle of Trafalgar on 21 October 1805. The Bowman Flag is believed to be the first flag designed and made in colonial Australia, and it is also the first known use of the kangaroo and emu as symbols of Australia. The flag is rarely displayed, so it was a privilege for it to be shown during the ICV, and it complemented the lecture by Bruce Baskerville and Stephen Szabo.

Painted cream silk flag with two pennants

Code of Signals for the Colony of New South Wales by John Nicholson, 1 January 1832

John Nicholson, the Harbour Master for Port Jackson (Sydney Harbour) introduced a set of signals for ships entering or leaving the harbour. When a ship entered the harbour entrance a signal flag was raised at South Head signal station to designate the type of vessel, its home port, the port from which the vessel last sailed and its cargo. The signal was received at the Fort Phillip signal station (now the Sydney Observatory) and the same flags were raised to inform the residents of Sydney that a ship would arrive shortly.

Hand coloured print in publication New South Wales Calendar and Post Office Directory, 1832
Dixson Library 83/353

The Nicholson chart included various proposed flags designed by him, including flags for a N.S.W. Ensign, a N.S.W. Ensign and a Sydney flag. The NSW Ensign achieved wide usage and it evolved into the Australian Ensign and the Federation Flag.

Exhibition label: **Picnic at Mrs Macquarie's Chair by an unknown artist, c.1855**

This painting depicts the first Anniversary Day Regatta on Sydney Harbour, held on 26 January 1837 – the 49th anniversary of the landing of the First Fleet. The boat races are the oldest continuously conducted in the world, and are known today as the Australia Day Regatta.

The significance of this painting for experts in the study of flags (vexillologists) is that it includes the NSW Ensign – the unofficial flag for Australia from the mid 19th Century; and that it is being flown on land, rather than on a vessel.

Oil painting   Presented by Sir William Dixson   DG 265

Exhibition label: **Wentworth and Bland election banner, 1843–1849**

This flag is a significant historic artefact from the first political campaign in Australia. At the first election for the newly expanded Legislative Council for NSW in 1843, Wentworth and Bland successfully stood on a joint ticket for election to the two seats in the Sydney electorate. They campaigned using a white embroidered election banner with the slogan 'Australia's Hope and Sydney's Pride'. The basic design of this banner with a Union canton and a design in the fly, was the forerunner format for future British colonial flags here in Australia. It is interesting that the flag included two large eight-pointed stars, presumably to symbolise these two star candidates.

Embroidered silk banner   LR 3a

Flag Displays at Venue – 3 September 2015

Full-size replica **Australasian Anti-Transportation League Flag & Eureka Stockade Flag**

Courtesy of George Burrows' personal collection.

Displayed after Jon Addison's Lecture; "*Looking to the Heavens: Australasian League Flag of 1851*"
Photo: Ralph G.C. Bartlett

Displayed after Anne Platoff's & Steven Knowlton's joint Lecture; "*Old Flags, New Meanings*"
Photo: Ralph G.C. Bartlett

ICV 26 External Events

Observatory Hill Flag Display – Tuesday, 1 September 2015

Flags Australia member and Australian National Flag Association NSW President, John C. Vaughan, hosted Congress participants at Observatory Hill, next to the south side of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, for the raising of his collection of Australian flags and pennants from the restored and historic Observatory Hill Flagstaff. John Vaughan campaigned for 28 years for the restoration of the Fort Phillip Signal Station (built 1848) and flag mast. The new mast was erected in 2008 – it is 30 metres tall with a substantial cross-arm from which ten halyards display an array of national and signal flags. A decoder showing the meaning of the signals that are flown daily was included in the Welcome Pack.

Participants were taken to and from Observatory Hill by coaches, with a light lunch provided. The Congress Organising Committee would like to thank the Staff of Observatory Hill Park and John Vaughan for making this visit and flag display possible for the Congress Participants to visit.

Observatory Hill Flag mast
(Photo: Ralph Kelly)

Greater Sydney & City of Sydney Flags
(Photo: Ted Kaye)

Photo: Ted Kaye

ICV 26 Participant's Photo – Base of Observatory Hill Flag mast

FOTW (Flags of the World) Meeting – Evening Tuesday, 1 September

A short walk from the Congress venue, some of the delegates gathered at the Barracks on Barrack Club, for the biennial Flags of the World website meeting, to discuss any issues and possible improvements to the continued operations of the world's number one website about flags. The event was hosted by Flags Australia including a light supper and an open bar for beer, wine and soft drinks.

Below is Jonathan Dixon's report about this meeting, as posted on FOTW's Mailing List.

From: "Jonathan Dixon jonpdixon@gmail.com [FLAGS]" <FLAGS@yahoogroups.com>
To: "flags" <flags@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: Wed, 2 Sep 2015 23:36:02 +1000
Subject: [Flags] FOTW meeting at ICV26

Hi all,

Last night we had 24 people at our FOTW meeting organised by Ralph Kelly. After some general chat about ourselves and how we found an interest in flags and came to FOTW, we had a lively discussion. There was a lot of talk about the Facebook group, particularly how we can have a more symbiotic relationship between the list and the Facebook group, and also the age old question of moving to a more convenient system for editing.

We all agreed that it would be good to capture more of the parts to Facebook that contain new info on flags. Paul agreed to speak to the admin team about collecting informative posts while they are monitoring them for trouble, and having someone forward them to the list. We also agreed that we should think about more actively sharing information that is currently in the list with the Facebook group, possibly starting with the weekly last of updates to the website. It might also work to use the Facebook group to solicit GIFs where they are missing and/or need improvement, as the group is not short on people who enjoy making flag images. Doing things like this might mean the group better attracts interested people to more focussed vexillological activity, while maintaining the informal environment of a Facebook group.

On the topic of how well editors are coping with the workload, we once again considered the benefits of a CMS system which would allow a better distribution of work. The hardest part of employing a wiki or other system is migrating the current website, a task which is possibly beyond the capability of our current personnel in any reasonable time. Some suggestions were that we could look at involving university IT departments to make some of it a student project, or finding how much it would cost were we to pay for a solution, to consider whether fundraising is feasible.

One important part of the website that was noted as needing an overhaul is the bibliography section. Annie Platoff noted that at some point it may be worth combining efforts with her vexillological index project and making use of that.

Any thoughts?

Jonathan Dixon
Sydney, NSW, Australia
jonpdixon@gmail.com

FOTW participants at the Barracks on Barrack Club, Sydney.

Australian National Flag Day Commemoration – Thursday, 3 September

Flags Australia member, John C. Vaughan, as NSW President of the Australian National Flag Association (ANFA), hosted the annual Australian National Flag Day commemoration in Martin Place, Sydney. The event also commemorates Merchant Navy Day, with the Australian Red Ensign sharing the stage.

3 September is the anniversary date of when the Federal Government announced the winning design for the Federal Flag (now known as the Australian National Flag), in 1901, at the Exhibition Building, Melbourne. The public competition had 32,823 entries, and the winning design was shared amongst five entrants. Whilst the design did not become the official flag of the Federal Government until 20 February 1903 (and the Australian public were not permitted to use the flag until 1941), 3 September is regarded by ANFA as the date of origin of the Australian National Flag. Public celebrations have been held on 3 September since 1984, and Australian National Flag Day was proclaimed by the Governor-General in 1996.

As the annual anniversary occurred during the ICV 26 week, and the public event was located close to the venue and scheduled during an extended lunch break, the ICV participants were invited to join the public event. A Congress participant from each attending country carried their national flag (supplied) to the event and later on to the podium, which added a colourful international display to the 2015 commemoration. FIAV President Michel Lupant made a speech commenting on the design competition (pictured below).

Photos: Ralph G.C. Bartlett and Ralph Kelly