

MEDIA RELEASE



The Hon **David Hawker** MP
Federal Member for Wannon



2 September 2009

CELEBRATE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL FLAG DAY

Tomorrow, September 3, is Australian National Flag Day, which celebrates the first time the flag that was to become our national flag was flown.

“On 3 September 1901, Australia’s first Prime Minister, Edmund Barton, announced the results of a competition to select a national flag for Australia,” Federal Member for Wannon David Hawker said today.

“Since the flag was first designed, 108 years ago, it has been flown around the world as an emblem of our nation and our people.

“On the sporting field, on national days of celebration and mourning, in peace and war time, the Australian National Flag is a symbol that Australians identify with. It is the banner under which we celebrate in times of triumph and unite in times of sorrow,” he said.

Mr Hawker said National Australian Flag Day reminds us to take pride in our rich heritage, democratic traditions and respect for diversity.

“The Southern Cross reminds us of our unique position in the world as it can only be seen in the night skies of the southern hemisphere. The Commonwealth Star represents the federation of the six states and territories,” he said.

“On Australian National Flag Day I encourage all Western Victorians to fly or display the Australian National Flag proudly I their homes, their schools and their communities.”

Merchant Navy Day is also commemorated on 3 September. While the Australian Red Ensign is the official flag flown at sea by Australian registered merchant ships, on this day, organisations and individuals commemorating Merchant Navy Day are free to fly the Australian Red Ensign.

Additional information on the Australian National Flag and the protocols for flying the flag can be found on the website www.itsanhonour.gov.au.

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