



The Randall Report

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A Community newsletter from Don Randall MHR, Federal Member for CANNING

Special Edition Protecting the Australian Flag History of the Flag

ALL Australians are bound to know what our national flag looks like, but most probably don't know the story behind how Australia's national symbol came into existence.

Before Federation in 1901, the colonies of Australia flew the flags of the United Kingdom – the Union Jack and its other flags.

In the 1850s increasing Australian nationalism inspired the use of many unofficial flags – a common feature was the Southern Cross, a constellation unique to the southern skies.

From 1870 each Australian colony adopted as its flag a British blue ensign incorporating a different badge to distinguish it from the other colonies.

Federation and a flag competition

On 1 January 1901 the six colonies united to form the Commonwealth of Australia. The Commonwealth Government announced a worldwide competition in the search for a new flag for the new nation. Entrants were asked to design two flags, one for official and naval purposes and one for merchant ships.

The response was huge – more than 30,000 entries were received. From these, the judges chose 5 almost identical

designs and the £200 prize was divided among the winners.

A national flag is launched

On 3 September 1901 a large flag based on the winning design was unveiled from the Exhibition Building in Melbourne. The canton featured the Union Jack, underneath it was a six-pointed star representing the six States, and the five stars of the Southern Cross occupied the fly. The background was dark blue.

At first this flag was known as the Commonwealth blue ensign; later it became the Australian national flag. The Commonwealth red ensign (merchant flag) was identical except that it had a red background instead of blue.

Changes to the national flag

The design of the Southern Cross was simplified when the flags were formally gazetted in February 1903. The four main stars, which originally had different numbers of points to reflect their varying brilliance, all became seven-pointed stars. The smallest star stayed as a five-pointed star.

In 1908, the six-pointed star representing the six States was replaced by a seven-pointed star - the seventh point

to represent the Territories. At the time Papua was the only Territory of the Commonwealth, but the symbolism was intended to include any Territories created in the future.

For the next few decades there was some confusion about the use of these two flags. On 15 March 1941 Prime Minister Menzies issued a press release recommending the flying of the blue ensign as a national emblem on public buildings and schools and by private citizens, provided it was used with respect. Australian merchant ships would continue to use the red ensign.

The Flags Act

In 1951 King George VI endorsed the Government's recommendation to use the blue ensign as the Australian national flag and the Australian Parliament passed the Flags Act 1953 in December that year, proclaiming the Australian blue ensign as the national flag and the red ensign as the flag for merchant ships registered in Australia.

Today, the Australian national flag is a symbol of the entire nation.

The Federal Government encourages the flying of the Australian national flag by all Australians and is committed to retaining and promoting pride in the flag and actively encourages all Australians to be aware of, and proud of, our country's identity.

You are in the electorate of Canning if you live in one of the following suburbs.....

Armadale, Banksiadale, Barragup, Bedfordale, Birchmont, Blythewood, Bouvard, Bridgewater, Brookdale Greens, Byford, Canning Vale, Carcoola, Cardup, Castle Glen, Challis, Clifton Hills, Coolup, Crestwood, Darling Downs, Dawesville, Dwellingup, Erskine, Etnilyn, Fairbridge, Falcon, Forest Lakes, Forrestdale, Furnissdale, Halls Head, Hamel, Herron, Holyoake, Hopeland, Huntingdale, Inglehope, Jarrahdale, Karragullen, Karrakup, Kelmescott, Keysbrook, Koojerrenup, Lake Clifton, Lake Preston, Livingston, Mardella, Marrinup, Meelon, Miami, Mount Nasura, Mundijong, Murray Lakes, Myara, Nambelup, Nirimba, North Dandalup, North Pinjarra, North Yunderup, Oakford, Oakley, Oldbury, Pinjarra, Point Grey, Preston Beach, Ranford, Ravenswood, Roleyston, Sanctuary Waters, Serpentine, Solus, South Yunderup, Sourthern River, Stake Hill, Teesdale, Thornlie, Tuart Grove, Wagerup, Wannanup, Waratah, Waroona, West Pinjarra, Westfield, Whitb, Whittaker, Wungong, Yunderup.

Don Randall moves to protect our Australian flag

FEDERAL Member for Canning Don Randall has introduced a Private Members Bill into the House of Representatives to protect the Australian flag from wanton desecration.

Mr Randall said, "I have initiated a Bill for an Act to amend the *Flags Act 1953* to provide for the protection of certain Australian flags, entitled *Protection of Australian Flags Bill 2003*.

"I acknowledge this is a Private Members' Bill, not a Liberal Party initiative and that there are varying points

of view on this very emotive issue – even among my own colleagues.

"I am moved to present this Bill because of the huge number of representations from my constituents and others across Australia who are as appalled as I am at recent acts of desecration of our flag.

"The practice of burning national flags is outlawed in other countries such as New Zealand, Italy, Portugal, Hong Kong, Turkey and Austria. I am informed this Bill will not curtail freedom of speech, however it will make it an offence to wantonly

vandalize or burn the Australian flag.

"I am keen to receive feedback from the electorate on this very important issue and intend to incorporate the response when it is expected this Bill will be introduced into the Parliament in the week of 18 August 2003. It is important to remember that only official flags will be protected under this Bill and that while I do not support the introduction of prison sentences for breach of this Bill, I do believe fines are an acceptable form of punishment.

"I believe there is much public support

for this move and hope there will be support on both sides of the Parliament. I expect debate will be robust, given the breadth of opinion on the issue.

"Our flag is our national symbol and represents Australia's achievements, independence and freedom. Vandalism of the Australian flag is not justified in any way. Our flag should be unquestionably treated with dignity and respect. This Bill will ensure this is the case in law."

Please contact my office if you would like a copy of the Bill on 9390 1211.

Don Randall's
Protecting the Australian Flag
Survey

How do you feel when you see the Australian flag being desecrated?

Angry Sad Offended Not worried

Do you support the introduction of my Private Members Bill, *Protection of Australian Flags Bill 2003*?

Yes No

If so, what kind of punishment do you think is appropriate?

\$100 \$500 \$5,000 \$10,000 Community service

Other Comments
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.....
.....
.....

Please fax to 9390 1255
or post to
Reply Paid 465
Kelmscott WA 6991

Good news for Internet users

Mr Randall is delighted Telstra BigPond has introduced new, untimed ISDN plans which will deliver faster internet access.

Mr Randall said, "This is excellent news for those people in areas like Canning Vale, Huntingdale, Falcon and other outer metro and regional areas who have contacted me because they live too far from an exchange to access ADSL or who cannot access the service for other reasons.

"The fast BigPond ISDN plans are untimed, so customers pay for the volume downloaded rather than the time they are connected. Importantly, it will be an alternative to satellite.

"The price is roughly comparable with ADSL once charges are added up and will appeal to people who want a faster, untimed Internet connection speed than they can get with a standard dial-up service."

For more information please call 132 200 or go to <http://www.bigpond.com/broadband/access/bpisdn/>

Centenary Medallists

Mr Paul Richard ASLAN

For service to the community through fundraising for children with cancer

Mr Guenter Alois BEST

For service to the community through youth and seniors in Armadale

Mr Paul Edgar BUDDEE OAM (deceased)

For service to the community, education and literature

Mr Clive CARRINGTON

For service to the community through Rotary

Mr John Graham CHRISTMASS

For service to the community and music

Ms Patricia Margaret CREEVEY

For outstanding service in facilitating community rapport and cohesiveness

Miss Betty CUTHBERT AM MBE

For outstanding service to the sport of athletics

Ms Joan DIAMOND

For service to Neighbourhood Watch and as a member to the Prison Community Liaison Committee

Mr Leonard David DOUGLAS

For service to the community through the Centenary of Federation celebrations

Mr Kim Francis FLETCHER

For service to the community through heritage planning and community participation.

Mr Malcolm David FLETT

For voluntary service to the community

Mr Stuart FLYNN

For outstanding service to providers and clients in the mental health sector

Mrs Edna Emily FRENCH

For service in fostering children and helping disadvantaged people

Mr Eric Mervyn GIBLETT

For long and voluntary service to the welfare of veterans in Western Australia

Mr Lou Alexander GIGLIA

For service to the community as President of the Royal Agricultural Society

Mrs Joan Frances GRAVELLE

For service for the advancement and recognition of the North American Veterans Unit

Mrs Edna Aileen HANNAH

For voluntary service to the community through assisting war widows

Mrs Anna HARRISON

For long service to the community through the settlement of migrants and refugees

Mr Thomas John HUGHES

For service to the community including as councillor with the City of Mandurah

Mrs Joy Christine JEFFES

For service to senior citizens and the environment

Dr Stephen KARGOTICH

For service to the sports of swimming and Australian Rules Football in Western Australia

Mr Frederick Ross KERSLEY

For service to the community through sport

MR James Thomas KING

For service to the community as chair of the Safer WA Victoria Park District Committee

Mr Graeme William LYALL

For service to music, particularly as art director of the West Australia Youth Jazz Orchestra

Mr Glenn Malcolm MARTIN

For service to Australian society and Australian Film production

Ms Danielle Louise MCKIVETT

For service to the National Council Centenary of Federation Youth Envoy program

Mr Daniel Richard MILLER

For service to the community through the promotion of the West Australian horseracing industry

Mrs Lesley Anne MORRISON

For service to the community as facilitator of Murray Districts Battle of Pinjarra Memorial

Ms Denyse Lydia NEEDHAM

For service to the community through local government and as an advocate for foster carers

Dr Janette Maree O'KEEFE

For service to Australian society and rural industries

Mrs Colleen Hazel RANKIN

For service to the community through the aged, hospital services and land care

Mrs Dorothy REUBEN

For service to indigenous education

Mr Linton REYNOLDS

For long service to the community through local government

Mr John Dudley ROULSTON OAM

For service to the pastoral industry of Western Australia

Mr Benjamin Michael SEABROOK

For service to the community

Mr Bob SUTHERLAND

For service to the community through sport

Mr Bruce William TATHAM OAM

For service to the community of Mandurah

Dr Peter Foord WALLACE OAM

For service to medicine and the community of Murray Shire

Mr Ivan Henry WINGATE

For service to the community, particularly through the development of sport in South Australia

Mr Barry YOUNG

For service to the treatment of Meningococcal Septicaemia

Mrs Lorraine Kathleen YOUNG

For service to the treatment of Meningococcal Septicaemia

Ms Angela ZIERSCH

For service to the community through the Parents and Citizens Association



Centenary Medallists Congratulated

IN July Centenary Medal involvement in treating ceremonies were held in meningococcal septicaemia, Armadale and Pinjarra to sporting legend Betty Cuthbert honour our awardees who live in and serve the Canning electorate. and Dr Peter Wallace to those involved at a local community level over many years.

Mr Randall said, "Taking time to recognise this remarkable group of people is very important because it reminds us of the values we as a society hold dear and the examples set by the Centenary Medal recipients.

"Thank you also to the Carey Baptist College Concert Band and Jim Williams for their contribution to the success of the two ceremonies with their musical talent."

"Without singling out any recipients ahead of others, diverse ranges of people were awarded the Centenary Medal in this electorate. They range from racing celebrity Fred Kersley and well-known jockey Danny Miller to Barry and Lorraine Young for their

The Centenary Medal was announced by the Prime Minister on 28 December 2001 to honour the contribution made to Australian society and government by Australians at the start of the new century and these ceremonies were held to celebrate each recipient's personal involvement in our community.



Greens abandon environment principles

FOR some time now there has been the view that the green movement has been motivated by generic 'green' issues such as the environment, protection of natural resources and the sentinel on global degradation issues. "Greens" as an international brand name reinforces these primary goals.



In recent times, particularly with the political wing of the "Greens" in Australia, there has been a dramatic shift from these issues to social issues. In fact, the Green Party's social agenda has moved so far to the left of Australian politics that former Member for Kalgoorlie Graeme Campbell observed that they had filled the vacuum of the now defunct Communist movement. For example, the Member for Cunningham is a member of the Greens Party and is yet to record one vote in favour of the Government in the House of Representatives.

All responsible Australians have an environmental and social conscience, however, to illustrate this commitment it is not necessary to be anti-conservative or Liberal.

This article by Williams Lines printed in *The Australian* newspaper printed on 7/7/03 illustrates how far they have diverged from their primary goals, particularly under the leadership of Senator Bob Brown. Readers will undoubtedly draw their own conclusions.

Green agenda coloured by backflip on the environment

THE Australian Greens no longer speak for conservation in Australia. Why? Because of their increasingly left-wing pose and their rejection of population growth as a cause of environmental decline. Indeed, politics now determines their agenda, and they consort with the other parties in agreeing that the major issues facing Australia are refugees, education, health and increasing the population.

Under Bob Brown's leadership, the Greens embrace international perspectives irrelevant to confronting the savage decline in the conditions of non-human life in Australia.

In 1995, the party called for stabilising Australia's population and reducing immigration. By 2002, the Greens had not only abandoned this guiding principle but had reversed it. Today, they openly encourage immigration.

Between the two positions lie several years of national debate about immigration and refugees, sparked first by Pauline Hanson and then by the Howard

Government's position on illegal immigration. Partly out of concern that their opposition to population growth might be construed as racist, the Greens began fudging and obscuring the connection between growth in human numbers and impacts on the environment. They took refuge in vague and spurious assurances that technology and management would overcome any adverse effects from excessive numbers.

But other influences also precipitated the turnaround. From the time of their founding as a national entity in 1992, the Greens have been a conflicted party. Internationalists and social justice advocates have vied for dominance over conservationists.

For a while, the conflict was subsumed, and the Greens believed everything they held to be worthwhile and good was not only ultimately connected and compatible but, mutually reinforcing.

Such foolishness reflected the self-deception that distinguishes our political culture. The Greens never met a moral dilemma they believed could not be disposed of through wishful thinking.

But the advent of One Nation and the refugee debate exposed the contradictions. Internationalists and human rights advocates accused those seeking limits to population growth of racism. Their self-righteous espousal of the high moral ground enabled refugee and immigration advocates to co-opt the party's policy-making apparatus and rewrite immigration policies.

This suited Brown. After all, the Tasmanian activist was never comfortable with ideas about population limits. Regardless of his party's policy, he consistently opposed controls on immigration, took strong pro-refugee stances and avoided debating population issues.

In 1997, for example, he told the Senate

that he supported current levels of immigration — in clear contradiction of the party's then existing policy.

Today, the party has accommodated Brown's position and realigned itself as a party of the Left: only fragmentally concerned with the environment.

Brown claims the Greens are the only global party in Australia with objectives paralleling those of other global Green parties. As they replaced concern with population and environmental degradation with a social justice platform so the Greens increased their vote — but chiefly among a narrow, elite segment of the electorate: the most highly educated.

Between the 1996 and 2001 federal elections, the total vote for the Greens increased two-and-a-half times — from 2 per cent to 5 per cent. At the same time, according to Australian Electoral Survey figures, the proportion of voters with bachelor or higher degrees voting for the

Greens increased four times, from just 3 per cent of the total of people with such qualifications in 1996 to 12 per cent in 2001. These were mainly voters from inner urban areas.

The party's principles, which focus on rights and justice, eclipse those conservation fundamentals — nature has intrinsic worth, does not exist for human consumption and cannot be compromised — that motivated the movement out of which the Greens formed.

The Greens once described themselves as "neither Left nor Right but in Front". The cause of conservation, they maintained, lies outside the orthodox divisions of contemporary politics. But now the Greens are solidly aligned on the Left and are as irrelevant to the cause of the environment as every other party.

In recent years, a succession of government and non-government reports has highlighted the growing human impact

on nature in Australia. We now know more than ever about the deteriorating conditions across the continent such as declining biodiversity, fading vegetation cover, failing rivers, advancing salinity, collapsing marine ecosystems, and the subversive spread of exotic species.

During this same time — as conditions on the continent worsened and knowledge of human impacts increased — the Greens adopted a passive attitude towards the population-environment debate, increasingly championed human rights and detached themselves from conservation.

Clearly, the Greens' lack of principle on population size and growth makes them an obstacle to clear thinking about the state of the environment in Australia and undermines our capacity for effective action.

William Lines is author of *Open Air* (New Holland, 2001). This is extracted from his article, co-written, with Natalie Sloan, from the present issue of *People and Place*.

(Source: *The Australian*, 7/7/03)

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New Approach • New Opportunities

You'll be amazed where they can take you.

Useful Links

- New Apprenticeships www.newapprenticeships.gov.au
- Australian Jobsearch <http://jobsearch.gov.au>
- Australian Careers Directory <http://www.careers.gov.au>
- Job Guide <http://jobguide.dest.gov.au>
- The Jobs Pathways Program <http://jpp.dest.gov.au>
- Myfuture.edu.au <http://myfuture.edu.au>

For more information call 1800 639 629

