



His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd)
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

Australian National Flag Day 2020

On 3 September 1901, the Australian National Flag was flown for the first time over the dome of the Royal Exhibition Building in Melbourne. Today, 119 years later, our National Flag flies from many buildings in Australia and in other parts of the world, from our Embassies overseas to the homes of ordinary Australians.

Key elements of our history are represented on our National Flag. For Linda and me, especially at this challenging time, the Federation Star evokes a feeling of immense pride. The Federation Star represents the unity of our states and territories. When we look at the Star, we are reminded of how good our nation can be when Australians are united in purpose. We have seen evidence of this recently in our responses to natural disasters and the COVID-19 health pandemic.

Today, on Australian National Flag Day, I encourage all Australians to be proud of our enduring national symbol, to consider what it means to them, and to undertake a personal commitment to be kind and compassionate in their interactions with others.

I commend once again the Australian National Flag Association for its work in encouraging people to identify with our foremost national symbol.