



PRIME MINISTER  
CANBERRA

## MESSAGE: AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL FLAG DAY

Australians take great pride in the Australian National Flag. For more than one hundred years, the Australian flag has represented our nation and our people around the world. Our flag is the unifying symbol of our nation, both at home and abroad.

Australian National Flag Day is an important event that commemorates the first occasion that the flag was flown, on 3 September 1901, when Prime Minister Edmund Barton announced the winning design from the competition to select the new Australian nation's flag.

As Australians we 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 sight of the Australian flag fills us with pride in times of national celebration and sporting triumph, just as it symbolises our unity and shared values in times of national sorrow and tragedy.

On Australian National Flag Day, I encourage all Australians to fly or display the Australian National Flag proudly in their homes, their schools and communities.

The Honourable Kevin Rudd MP  
Prime Minister of Australia