



Australian Flag

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# Symbolism

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The Australian National Flag is Australia's foremost national symbol. It was first flown in 1901 and has become an expression of Australian identity and pride.

The Australian National Flag flies over the federal and state parliaments. The flag is paraded by our defense forces and displayed around the country at sporting events and by service organizations, schools, community groups and private citizens.

The Australian National Flag has three elements on a blue background: the Union Jack, the Commonwealth Star and the Southern Cross.

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# Symbolism

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The Union Jack in the upper left corner (or canton) acknowledges the history of British settlement.

Below the Union Jack is a white Commonwealth or Federation star. It has seven points representing the unity of the six states and the territories of the Commonwealth of Australia. The star is also featured on the Commonwealth Coat of Arms.

The Southern Cross is shown on the fly of the flag in white. This constellation of five stars can be seen only from the southern hemisphere and is a reminder of Australia's geography.

# Australian National Flag Day

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Australian National Flag Day is an opportunity for individuals, community organisations, local authorities, businesses and schools to celebrate with pride the anniversary of the Australian National Flag.

All Australians are encouraged to fly or display the Australian National Flag to celebrate Australian National Flag Day on 3 September each year.

Australian National Flag Day, proclaimed on 28 August 1996 as a national day, celebrates the first time the flag was flown on 3 September 1901. On that day Prime Minister Edmund Barton announced the winners of a competition to find a flag for Australia. It was a large flag, 5.5 metres by 11 metres, and was flown over the dome of the Exhibition Building in Melbourne. At that time the flag was known as the Commonwealth blue ensign; later, the flag became known as the Australian National Flag.

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# Australian National Flag Day

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Here are some ideas to help you celebrate Australian National Flag Day:

- Conduct a flag-raising ceremony.
- Business and organisations which don't have a flagpole may wish to display the Australian National Flag in the public areas of their buildings, such as foyers.
- Read about the history of the Australian National Flag and the protocols for flying the flag.
- Request a copy of the Australian flags booklet

Australian National Flag Day in 2001 marked 100 years since the flag was first raised. A re-enactment ceremony was held at the Royal Exhibition Building in Melbourne. The then Prime Minister was presented with the Centenary Flag at this event.

# Flag of Australia

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**Use:** National flag and state ensign

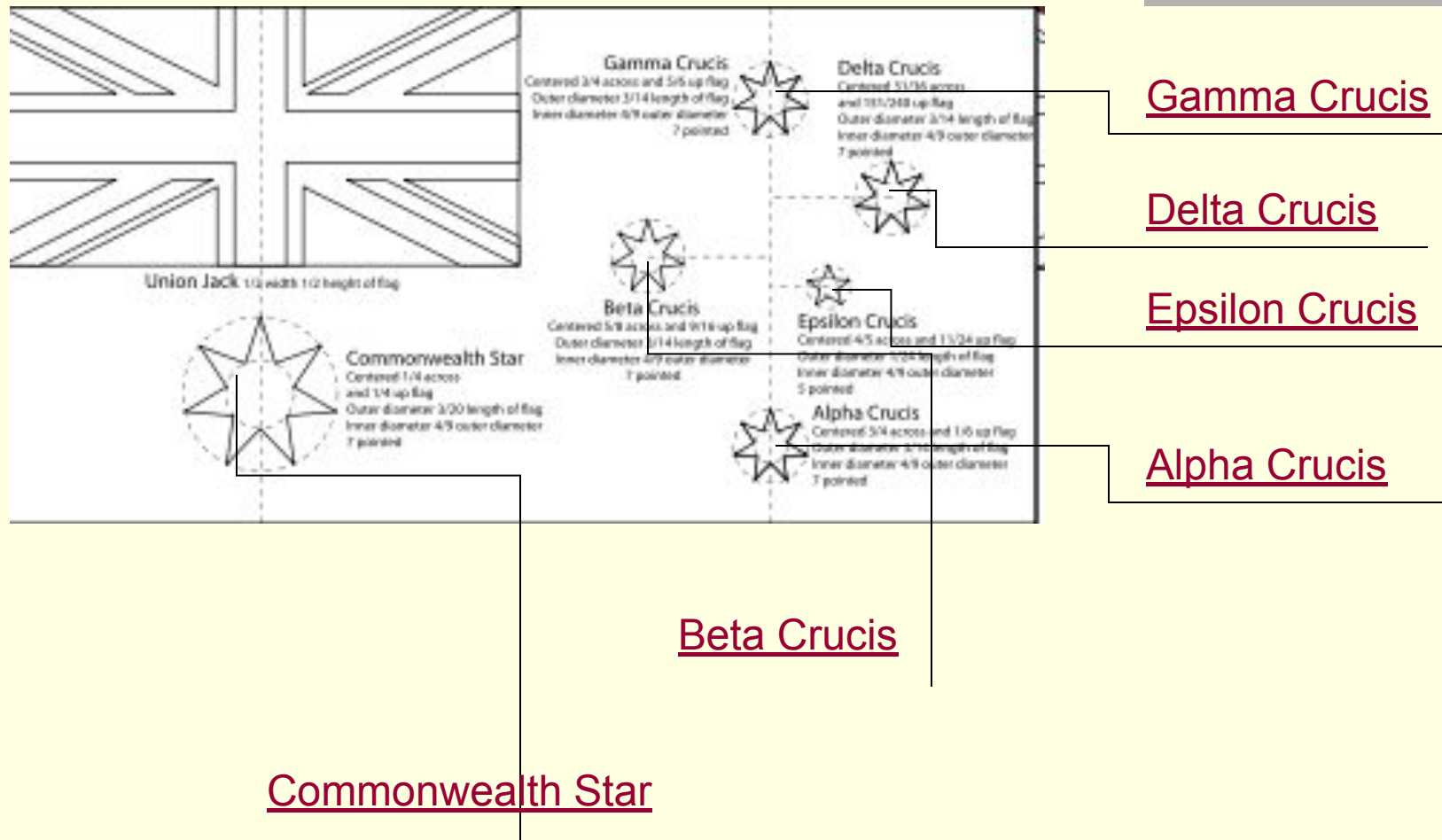


**Name:** Australian Red Ensign  
**Use:** Civil ensign



**Name:** Australian White Ensign  
**Use:** Naval ensign

# Flag of Australia (Construction)



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# Flag of Australia (Construction)

Under the Flags Act, the Australian National Flag must meet the following specifications:

- The Union Flag occupying the upper quarter next the staff;[8]
- A large white star (representing the 6 States of Australia and the Territories) in the centre of the lower quarter next the fly and pointing direct to the centre of St George's Cross in the Union Flag;
- 5 white stars (representing the Southern Cross) in the half of the flag further from the staff.

The outer diameter of the Commonwealth Star is  $\frac{3}{10}$  of the flag's width, while that of the stars in the Southern Cross is  $\frac{1}{7}$  of the flag's width, except for Epsilon, for which the fraction is  $\frac{1}{12}$ . Each star's inner diameter is  $\frac{4}{9}$  of the outer diameter. The flag's width is the measurement of the hoist edge of the flag (the distance from top to bottom).

# Flag of Australia (Construction)

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The location of the stars is as follows:

- **Commonwealth Star** – 7 pointed star, centred in lower hoist.[8]
- **Alpha Crucis** – 7 pointed star, straight below centre fly  $1/6$  up from bottom edge.
- **Beta Crucis** – 7 pointed star,  $1/4$  of the way left and  $1/16$  up from the centre fly.
- **Gamma Crucis** – 7 pointed star, straight above centre fly  $1/6$  down from top edge.
- **Delta Crucis** – 7 pointed star,  $2/9$  of the way right and  $31/240$  up from the centre fly.
- **Epsilon Crucis** – 5 pointed star,  $1/10$  of the way right and  $1/24$  down from the centre fly.

# Reference Material

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- Alpha Crucis (*also* Acrux ) - is the brightest star in constellation Crux, the Southern Cross.
- Beta Crucis (*also* Mimosa or Becrux ) - is the second brightest star in the constellation Crux (after Alpha Crucis or Acrux) and is one of the brightest stars in the night time sky.
- Gamma Crucis (*also* Gacrux) - is a red giant star approximately 88 light-years away in the constellation of Crux.
- Delta Crucis – is a star about 360 light-years from Earth, the faintest of the four bright stars that form the constellation Crux.
- Epsilon Crucis - is an orange giant, located about 385 light-years from Earth.

# Links

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- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag\\_of\\_Australia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_Australia)
- <http://www.itsanhonour.gov.au/symbols/flag.cfm#symbolism>
- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alpha\\_Crucis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alpha_Crucis)
- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beta\\_Crucis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beta_Crucis)
- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gamma\\_Crucis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gamma_Crucis)
- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Delta\\_Crucis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Delta_Crucis)
- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epsilon\\_Crucis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epsilon_Crucis)