



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Flag still flying high at 105

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor is encouraging people of the New England electorate to celebrate the 105th birthday of the Australian National Flag this Sunday, 3 September 2006.

“It was on September 3, 1901 that Australian National Flag flew for the first time with the day now being recognised as Australian National Flag Day.

On that day in 1901, Prime Minister Edmund Barton announced the result of a worldwide competition to select a flag for the newly federated nation.

From over 32,000 entries, equal first place was awarded to five almost identical designs, which were submitted by an artist, an optician’s apprentice, an architect, a ship’s officer and a schoolboy,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor believes the flag is a powerful symbol of our unique Australian identity and of our strong national pride.

“Australian National Flag Day is an ideal opportunity to celebrate the significance and symbolism of our flag.

I encourage people to mark this day by flying or displaying the flag, conducting a flag raising ceremony or just finding out more about the flag, so we can all appreciate its place in our nation’s history.

The three elements in the flag’s design each represent part of our heritage.

The Union Jack acknowledges our historical links with Great Britain, the seven-pointed Commonwealth Star symbolises the unity of our six states and territories and the Southern Cross is a reminder of our location in the world,” Mr Windsor said.

Further information on Australian National Flag Day or our National Flag is available at www.itsanhonour.gov.au.