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Part 1

National Symbols



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The Coat of Arms

The Coat of Arms was first granted by King Edward VII by Royal Warrant on 7 May 1908. Amendments incorporating specific references to the States were approved, on the recommendation of the Commonwealth Government, by King George V by Royal Warrant on 19 September 1912.

The Coat of Arms depicts a shield of six parts with representations of the badges of the six States, with a kangaroo and emu, resting on ornamental supports, on either side of the shield. This is set over small branches of flowering wattle, beneath which is the word 'Australia'. Above the shield is the crest, with the seven-pointed gold star of Federation resting on a blue and gold wreath.



The floral emblem

Australia's national floral emblem, the Golden Wattle, *Acacia pycnantha*, was proclaimed on 1 September 1988. On the advice of the Government, the Governor-General proclaimed on 23 June 1992 that 1 September each year is to be observed as National Wattle Day throughout Australia.



The Australian flag

The Flags Act 1953 formally established the current Australian flag. The flag is described as:

The Australian national flag has a blue field with the 'Union Jack' in the canton (the upper quarter next to the flagpole). The seven-pointed Commonwealth star in the lower hoist represents the six States and the Territories. In the fly are the five stars of the constellation of the Southern Cross. Four of the stars have seven points and the smallest one has five.

For more information on Australian National Symbols, see <https://www.pmc.gov.au/government/australian-national-symbols>.