



•Mr Parbery's proposed new flag.

## We need a flag that speaks for everyone

**EDITOR:** I am responding to Mr Cresser's letter (July 22, 1997), regarding my flag proposal.

I enjoyed the humour, and grateful for his compliment, but I must also answer his criticisms.

The Southern Cross is seen at various angles, due to the Earth's rotation.

My design shows it rising, as you presently see it just before dawn.

The photograph on page 3 of *The Magnet* (July 15, 1997) shows the back of the flag (since the wind was blowing in that direction on the day), so you are seeing the Southern Cross in reverse.

The current flag also shows the Southern Cross on the back in reverse.

Regarding our seafaring heritage, I did not use the word 'great' myself, but ours is an important heritage all the same.

We are one of the few nations in the world completely surrounded by sea and our history is rich with stories of the Portuguese, Dutch and English explorers (et al) who charted our shores.

I wonder where the people of Eden would be without shipping, whaling and fishing.

There is no questioning the impact Britain has had on all aspects of our history and culture, and for this reason I have followed a strong historical link in the composition of the flag (from our first British-inspired emblems).

The first popular Australian flag was

designed in 1831 by Captain John Nicholson, Harbour Master of Sydney, who based his design on the British Naval Ensign.

Other emblems, such as the NSW Coat of Arms (rising sun), various state flags, and the rising sun badge of the Digger's hat, have also influenced me; not to mention our brilliant sunshine, which I am enjoying right now as I write.

There are thousands of Australian flag proposals, many which disregard our history altogether, with the adoption of green and yellow, or koalas and cockatoos; but I have seen it as important to retain a link with our heritage.

I personally hold a great affection for Britain, having an English mother, Scottish ancestors and three years I have lived there.

Despite my own British heritage, however, I consider it wrong to cling to an Imperial emblem which emphasises loyalty to another country above our own.

Our current flag suggests - to the world - that we are still a southern continent of Britain.

I believe we need a flag which speaks for all Australians and says to the world, clearly, "This is Australia".

James Parbery

## Another sad day

**EDITOR:** I find it quite extraordinary that the Councillors haven't been able to come to grips Australia or her past.

No country (or person for that matter) can mat they are unable to see past mistakes, take responsi for them and move on.

Only small minds that can grow no more retu acknowledge the humanity, and lack of it, in all c and that it must be addressed.

Yet another sad day for Bega and all her people, v and black.

Anne Childs  
Wyndham.

## A healing process

**EDITOR:** Last Tuesday was another sad day for al Another opportunity lost for our representative show compassion and regret for past actions takei our government.

Cr Whelan, who wants to "forget the past and lox today and tomorrow".

Shall we also forget our ANZACS? Shall we de Remembrance Day from our calendars? Shall we fo about Port Arthur? Shall we forget about Thredbo.

A tragedy is a tragedy and a part of the healing pro for those suffering is for our community to support th hurting the most.

Only then can these people start to make sense - confusing and tragic predicament and proceed tow; a future with meaning and trust.

To treat Aboriginal people like invisible peopl abhorrent, ignorant and one begins to wonder what ri we have to call ourselves Australian.

I am sorry for all Aboriginal families who have : fered by the policies of the past and I recognise that past has direct bearing on the present day predicamen these people.

I support all measures taken to help reconcile t tragedy and urge all members of the community to s port this human healing process.

Annette Clark  
Yellow Pinch

## Refusal 'appalling'

**EDITOR:** I am writing to vent my disgust at the maje ty of our elected council.

The catalyst of my disgust is the refusal to adopt community expression of regret as proposed by : Reconciliation Project.

I don't know why I was surprised at my disgust as t is the council that has in the past 12 months:

- Refused to allow the formation of an ethics commtee to advise on the ethical behaviour of councillors;
- All too often acted in secret (committee of the who to prohibit ordinary ratepayers being informed;
- Had the arrogance to enter into the recent Twofc Beach Caravan Park mediation and tell the ratepaye that all will be revealed AFTER settlement;
- Allowed a developer to develop land without payi fees and agreeing that the fees would be paid after, and blocks of land were sold;
- Twice before this disgraceful episode, refusing to pa motions concerning Aboriginal reconciliation.

I hope the majority of councillors who are responsib for the above actions use or include them on their poli statements at the next election.

In this way we, ordinary ratepayers, can vote for th type of council that is truly representative of our feelin and values.

To the majority of councillors: You do not represen n views with these actions - they are appalling, .. wrong an disgraceful.

To the minority councillors: Keep up the fight. TH silent majority of ratepayers is having to rely on your ou

## misleading statements

clearly should be reserved from logging.

A further round of integrated harvesting in these areas will push these koala populations over the edge.

Does the industry really want to go down in history as being responsible for the extinction of the koala in the region?

If not, it has to back away from these areas.

They must realise that the inflammatory nonsense we have been seeing recently only damages their case.

This is probably the last chance that we shall have for many years to resolve this conflict.

There is a generous restructuring package on the table and a huge community effort being undertaken to work through the issues