

NIE



Wordy news

GIRT
– to surround, encircle or enclose
'Our home is girt by sea'



Did you know?

BOTH the Aboriginal flag and Torres Strait Island flag were proclaimed a "Flag of Australia" on July 14, 1995.



WE ARE AUSTRALIAN

DO YOU like eating lamingtons? Do you dress up in green and gold whenever you can? Do you fly the Aussie flag on your car?

On January 26 each year we acknowledge all the great things about Australia – the people, the land, the lifestyle and the freedom we enjoy.

It is a day to reflect on the past, recognise the present and look to the future but what does it mean to be Australian?

How do people show that they belong to a particular nation? What are the common beliefs, customs and activities that make us Australian? What are the essential things people need to have in common to belong together as a nation? Is it

language, accent, looks, national symbols or songs? Or are we just groups of people held together by geography?

Australia Day means different things to different people. For many it is a day of celebration, for some it is a day that shouldn't be observed but we should remember what former prime minister Bob Hawke said,

"The commitment to Australia is the one thing needful to be a true Australian."

Uniquely Australian

Diversity is a large part of what makes this nation but there are some significant symbols we commonly use to represent our country.

These symbols such as the flag, the anthem, floral and faunal emblems and national colours provide us with a focus – something that links us together.

Here is a list of 10 Aussie icons associated with our country. Number them in order from 1 (what you think symbolises Australia the best) to 10 (the one that least represents our nation).

- ANZAC Day
- Australian flag
- Australian Rules Football
- Golden wattle
- Kangaroo
- Qantas
- The Southern Cross
- Uluru
- Vegemite
- Waltzing Matilda (song)

Interesting facts

- ★ It wasn't until 1935 that all Australian states and territories used the name Australia Day to mark the date January 26.
- ★ The Australia Day public holiday has been held on the actual day since 1994.
- ★ Over 17,000 people will pledge their allegiance to the nation at about 400 citizenship ceremonies to be staged across Australia on January 26.
- ★ The Australian National Anthem – Advance Australia Fair – was officially adopted in 1984.
- ★ The opal, known for its brilliant colours, is our National Gemstone

IN THE NEWS

Australia Day awards

AN INTEGRAL part of Australia Day are the awards celebrating and recognising the achievements of Australians in our communities.

State and Territory award recipients in the four award categories – Australian of the Year, Senior Australian of the Year, Young Australian of the Year and Australia's Local Hero – are all considered finalists for the national awards.

The National Australia Day Council Board select the winners for each category from the group of 32 State and Territory recipients.

The announcement of the Australian of the Year Awards 2017 will be made on the lawns outside Parliament House, Canberra on Wednesday, January 25.

Find out who the final winners in each category are. www.australianoftheyear.org.au.

CHECK IT OUT

Being an Aussie

THE following have been recommended by the Australian Citizenship Council as a possible set of core civic values which might form the basis of an Australian society.

- A commitment:
 - to the land
 - to the rule of law and to equality under the law.
 - to the basics of a representative liberal democracy including freedom of opinion.
 - to principles of tolerance and fairness.
 - to acceptance of cultural diversity.
 - to the well-being of all Australians.
 - to recognising the unique status of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

NEXT WEEK: The fish are biting

IS YOUR BUSINESS COMMUNITY MINDED?



To find out how your business can help provide an educational resource to your local schools contact at The Chronicle on 4690 9434 and become a part of our community minded program.

