FLAG QUIZ - Test your knowledge about our flag!

You may recall that Australia's flag is the only one to fly over an entire continent, but how much else do you know about our chief national symbol? See how you score!

- (1) Following federation in 1901 the new Commonwealth Government held an open competition calling for public input into the design of a flag the first time in history that a national flag had been chosen in this way. Where were the entries displayed for judging, thus becoming the first place that the Australian flag was flown?
 - a. Parliament House, Canberra
 - b. The Sydney Opera House
 - c. The Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne
 - d. 'The Lodge' (Residence of the Prime Minister)
- (2) The opportunity to design a new flag for the new nation of Australia really captured the public imagination. In proportion with our current population, how many entries would be needed today to replicate the 1901 response?
 - a. 50,000
 - b. 2,000
 - c. 200,000
 - d. 20,000
- (3) The designs submitted featured "every kind of flora and fauna identifiable with Australia sometimes all at once". Which of the following were not included on the would-be flags entered in the competition?
- a. A kangaroo leaping through the constellation of the Southern Cross
- b. Native animals playing cricket with a winged cricket ball
- c. A platypus with six babies representing the six Australian states
- d. A fat kangaroo aiming a gun at the Southern Cross
- (4) Five people tied for the honour of designing our flag, and they shared in the 200 Pounds prize money (which was a substantial sum in 1901, described as equivalent to the annual wage for an average worker). Match the description with the name of the winner below
- a. Ivor Evans
- b. Annie Dorrington
- c. Leslie Hawkins
- d. Egbert Nuttall
- e. William Stevens
- i. First Officer with Union Steamship Company of NZ
- ii. Teenage optician's apprentice from Leichhardt in NSW
- iii. 14 year old schoolboy from Melbourne
- iv. Well-known artist from Perth
- v. Architect with the Melbourne & Metropolitan Board of Works

"FLAG QUIZ" (CONT.)

- (5) The Southern Cross featured of the flag is a constellation that can only be seen in the night skies of the Southern hemisphere, and it also gives acknowledgement to aboriginal Australians because it is so prominent in their mythology. What is the name given to each of the stars in the Southern Cross?
- (6) Which famous Australian wrote the words:

"And with Australia's flag shall fly

A spray of wattle bough

To symbolise our unity -

We're all Australians now"?

- a. Dorothea Mackellar
- b. Sir Robert Menzies
- c. "Banjo" Paterson
- d. Rupert McCall

ANSWERS:

September 3 is our flag's "birthday" – please make a special effort to fly or display our flag. We're all proud to be Australians, and it is on days such as "Flag Day" that we can show it! For more information, or to watch the John Eales tribute video, go to www.australianflag.org.au.

ANSWER 1-c. None of the other place existed in 1901! It took eight weeks to display all the entries, and following judging the winning design was flown from the Royal Exhibition Building on 3 September 1901.

ANSWER 2-c. There were 32,823 entries from an estimated population in 1901 of some 3.765 million ... this would be equivalent to about 200,000 entries today.

ANSWER 3 - c.

ANSWER 5: The formal name of the Southern Cross is "Crux Australis" and the individual stars are named by the first five letters of the Greek alphabet in order of brightness – (clockwise from the bottom star) *Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta* and *Epsilon*.

ANSWER 6 - c. A.B. "Banjo" Paterson, during World War I.

Published by the Australian National Flag Association of Queensland (Inc.)

More information about our flag and its history, and flag protocol, can be found at the "Home Page" for the Australian flag – www.australianflag.org.au.

Contact us by email info@australianflag.net.au.