

COAT OF ARMS

In 1912 King George V brought in the Australian Coat of Arms after alterations to the Commonwealth Government.

The Shield has six parts representing each state. The Border represents the federation of the states. The Shield has a Kangaroo and Emu resting on branches of Wattle, Australia's national Flower.

NATIONAL COLOURS

Green & Gold are Australia's colours used in International Sporting events.

QUICK FACTS

National Floral Emblem:	Wattle
National Animal:	Kangaroo
National Gemstone:	Opal
Location:	Latitude: 10 degrees 41 mins 43 degrees 39 mins South Longitude: 113 degree 9 mins 153 degrees 30 mins East
Area:	7,682,300 square kilometers
Distance:	East to West 3983 kms North to South 3138 kms Coastline: 36,735 kms (Most of it great Beaches)

THE STATES & TERRITORIES

ACT Australian Capital Territory
 Capital City Canberra (The Prime Minister lives there)

NSW New South Wales
 Capital City Sydney.
 Animal emblem Platypus
 Flower emblem Waratah

VIC Victoria
 Capital City Melbourne.
 Animal emblem Leadbeaters Possum
 Flower emblem Pink Heath

QLD Queensland
 Capital City Brisbane
 Animal emblem Koala
 Flower emblem Cooktown Orchid

SA South Australia
 Capital City Adelaide
 Animal emblem Hairy Nosed Wombat
 Flower emblem Sturt Desert Pea

WA Western Australia
 Capital City Perth
 Animal emblem Numbat
 Flower emblem Red & Green Kangaroo Paw

TAS	Tasmania Capital City Hobart Animal emblem Tasmanian Devil Flower emblem Blue Gum
NT	Northern Territory Capital City Darwin (Cyclone Tracey lived there in 1974) Animal emblem Red Kangaroo Flower emblem Sturts Desert Rose

AUSTRALIAN NATIVE ANIMALS

Koala

Koalas are marsupials and have a pouch for their young. They live in Eucalyptus or Gum Trees. They sleep most of the day and move at night. Oil from the gum leaves help the koala to go without water.

Kangaroo

There are 45 different species of kangaroo. All of them have two large legs and a long strong tail which give them their speed. They graze on grass and in the wild can be a nuisance to farmers, eating the cow's and sheep's grass.

Possum

They are a shy nocturnal animal with a pouch and long tail. Live mainly in trees and they eat nuts, berries and fruits. Some possums glide from tree to tree.

Tasmanian Devil

Meat eating marsupial. They are a shy and nocturnal animal. They have a scary growl which is mostly for show and large sharp teeth. They can eat a whole sheep by themselves.

Wombat

Burrowing marsupial that lives in the forests and plains. They like to go through things rather than around them.

Dingo

The dingo is a dog-like stealthy nocturnal hunter. They have a haunting howl at night. They live in packs and are meat eaters, often preying on sheep.

Echidna

Also known as the spiny ant eater. The echidna is an egg laying mammal. They have a small long nose with defensive spines all over them. They don't have any teeth.

Platypus

They have webbed clawed feet and a duck bill and beaver like fur. They lay eggs and burrow into the water to survive. They live in and out of water.

Emu

Flightless bird standing up to 1.5 meters, the emu is Australia's largest bird. The male hatches the eggs after sitting on them for 8 weeks.

Brolga

The brolga is an Australian crane. It is a swamp dweller.

Kookaburra

A large kingfisher, the kookaburra is known for its distinctive territorial laugh call. It eats small reptiles and mammals such as mice as well as insects and some fruits.

Lyrebird

The lyrebird has a gauze like tail. It is a ground dweller and is known for its skill at mimicking sounds.

AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL ANTHEM

Advance Australia Fair is the official national anthem, confirmed again by public vote on 19th April 1984.

It was written by Peter Dodds McCormick and performed by Andrew Fairfax in Sydney on 30th November 1878 for the first time.

The Anthem is sung at sporting events and other major events, usually only the first verse.

The words are here:

Australians all let us rejoice
For we are young and free
We've golden soil and wealth for toil
Our home is girt by sea
Our land abounds in nature's gifts
Of beauty rich and rare
In history's page let every stage
Advance Australia Fair
In joyful strains then let us sing
Advance Australia Fair.

Beneath our radiant Southern Cross
We'll toil wit hearts and hands
To make this Commonwealth of ours
Renowned of all the lands
For those who've come across the seas
We've boundless plains to share
With courage let us all combine
To Advance Australia Fair
In joyful strains then let us sing
Advance Australia Fair

Additional Resources

www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Advance_Australia_Fair

www.pm.gov.au

AUSTRALIA'S MONEY

Who Are Those People?

Queen Elizabeth who is the sovereign of Australia is on one side of all the coins of Australia. Each coin has a distinctive emblem on its reverse side as follows:

Coins

5c	Echidna
10c	Dancing Lyrebird
20c	Platypus
50c	Coat of Arms
\$1 coin	5 Kangaroos
\$2 coin	Bust of Aboriginal with the Southern Cross

Notes

\$5 Mauve in colour.

Sir Henry Parkes 1815 – 1896

Henry Parkes immigrated to Australia in 1839 from England. He won a seat in the Legislative Council in 1854 and made lots of changes to the education system which were not popular at the time. He is mainly known as the Father of Federation for his work leading up to the Federation of the States.

Catherine Helen Spence 1825 – 1910

Known as the Grand Woman of Australia Catherine was one of the first feminists arguing for equal rights and the women's vote and greater services to children. She was Australia's first female political candidate but she didn't win the election.

\$10 Blue in Colour

Banjo Paterson 1864 – 1941

Andrew Barton Paterson was a solicitor as well as a poet. He used to submit poems to the Bulletin and Sydney Mail under "The Banjo". His most famous work is The Man From Snowy River. He was the most popular author of his time aside from Kipling.

Dame Mary Gilmore 1865 – 1962

Mary was a teacher and after asking for a special women's page in The Australian Worker, she became its writer and it was the most popular newspaper column ever! She was awarded the Dame British Empire for her contributions to writing. She campaigned for changes in women's rights, pensions, child endowment and fairer working conditions for all.

\$20 Orange in Colour

Mary Reibey (1777 – 1855)

Mary Reibey was a very good businesswoman. After her husband died so took over running his business and became a woman of considerable wealth. She became the most successful businesswoman of the New South Wales Colony.

Reverend John Flynn (1880 – 1951)

Reverend Flynn is most commonly remembered for establishing the Royal Flying Doctor Service. This service is vital for people who live in remote areas such as in the Northern Territory and anywhere where cars have trouble. He also performed a lot of missionary work.

\$50 Gold/Green in Colour

David Unaipon (1872 – 1967)

David Unaipon was famous for his work in science in literature. He also helped the aboriginal people start up a missionary school. He became a public spokesman for issues relating to the Aboriginal people.

Edith Cowan (1861 – 1932)

Edith Cowan was the first woman member of Australian Parliament. Her husband was a police officer and this gave Edith some knowledge about the problems women were facing. She argued for women's rights and their right to enter parliament and vote.

\$100 Light Green in Colour

Dame Nellie Melba (1861 – 1931)

Helen Porter Mitchell became Dame Nellie Melba when she went overseas to sing opera. She was the first Australian woman to perform in Europe and to be given her own permanent dressing room in Paris. Dame Melba worked hard during the First World War to raise funds and lift the soldier's spirits.

Sir John Monash (1865 – 1931)

Sir Monash was one of the best military commanders of Australia. He was responsible for many battle successes. After returning from World War One, Sir Monash became the manager of the Electricity Commission. Monash University in Melbourne is named after him.

Additional Resources

www.rba.gov.au/currencynotes

POLITICS

Australia's political system is based on the Constitutional Monarchy. That means we have a King or Queen who oversees Parliament.

Australia is independent and looks after its own affairs or in other words is Self Governing. This means that the Monarch, King or Queen, comes out at special occasions or when there is a really bad political problem that cannot be resolved. Most often it is the monarch's representative, The Governor General, that has the final say in any big arguments.

There are six states and two territories in Australia which are each represented in the House of Representatives. The number of seats or members in the House of Representatives changes with the amount of people living in Australia but at the moment there are about 148 seats.

The Senate is also known as the lower house and they check everything that the House of Representatives does. They double check the laws that they want to pass and argue both sides of the case before they decide whether it is a good or bad thing.

THE LEGAL SYSTEM

Again Australia's legal system is based on Britain's but we have our own local laws which are made in the courts of Australia.

There are several levels of court.

The Magistrates Court is the lowest court and this is where you go for parking tickets and other minor offences such as streaking at the cricket.

The District Court is the next court. They hear cases that are more difficult and are of a more violent nature or are worth a lot more money.

The Supreme Court is the next highest court. They hear the bigger cases like murder or business cases that are worth a LOT of money.

The Federal Court deals with issues of the law and also cases worth LOTS AND LOTS of money.

The Family Court is at this level as well. They hear disputes among families who are divorcing. They deal with splitting up the house and who the kids live with.

The High Court is the highest court in the land. If you lose here you can appeal to Britain but you'll probably get the same answer. The High Court deals mostly with issues that relate to the Constitution of Australia and make the really big laws which change the whole system. There are only 5 High Court Judges and they're really smart.