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LETTER

A flag for all Australians

While Australians generally are accustomed to our current national flag, many are not happy with it and it is increasingly more a divisive, than a unifying, symbol. Some find the Union Flag (Jack) in the upper hoist canton offensive as it reminds them of colonialism and many recent migrants do not understand why the British flag should be on the Australian one. Aboriginals have adopted their own flag and our international sporting teams sometimes prefer to use the 'Boxing Kangaroo' flag, which they feel provides greater international recognition. The Southern Cross, as depicted in stars on the two fly cantons, does not assist in this regard, for while it is only observed in the southern hemisphere, it is not unique to the Australian sky.



Personally, I like our current flag, but recognise that the time is fast approaching when a new flag would be in the national interest. I suggest the flag illustrated above as an option. I describe it as having:

- a deep-blue background, symbolising the sea that surrounds our island continent;
- on the two hoist cantons – a kangaroo in gold, standing alert and upright;
- in the upper hoist canton above the kangaroo's back – a large white star similar to the Federation Star on the current flag and with similar symbolic meaning; and
- on the two fly cantons – six smaller white stars in two parallel, downward-sloping lines, each one representing one of the states of the federation and with room for additional stars to be added should other states (such as the Northern Territory) later join it.

Our current flag fails to identify Australia to other nations and should be replaced by a unifying symbol which does.

Major K. D. Myers, RFD, ED (Retd)
Asquith, 22 March 2010