



GOVERNMENT HOUSE
SYDNEY

Message from

**Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC
Governor of New South Wales**

On 3 September 1901, when the Australian flag was raised at the original home of our Commonwealth Parliament, the Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne, it became the symbol of the unity of the six colonies that had federated to form the new Commonwealth of Australia. It recognised then, as it does today, Australia's sovereignty as a nation. When flown in Australia or on Australian territory, the Australian National Flag takes precedence over all other flags.

In both World Wars, our service men and women enlisted and fought under our national flag in the cause of peace. Australia is represented under its banner at international institutions to signify membership, including at the United Nations. In October this year, it will welcome King Charles III to Australia, and be flown at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Samoa.

Recently, our national flag was carried by Australian athletes at the Paris Olympics. As we cheered them as it was raised, so, as we mark this day, we celebrate the success of our Paralympic athletes.

In 1995, the Australian Aboriginal Flag and the Torres Strait Islander Flag were proclaimed as flags of Australia honouring First Nations Australians' unique, continuous history extending back 65,000 years.

On this 123rd anniversary of our National Flag, I convey best wishes to the Australian National Flag Association (NSW) and to all Australians.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Margaret Beazley".

**Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC
Governor of New South Wales**