

Flagpole Etiquette

Flying the national flag

It is customary to display the national flag from sunrise to sunset on all days that weather permits. Especially on national and state holidays.

Always hoist a flag briskly and lower it ceremoniously. When a flag is lowered, no part of it should touch the ground, it should be received by waiting hands then folded neatly to store.

The Australian Flag, as with any flag should always be kept in good repair and not flown if the weather is unsuitable.

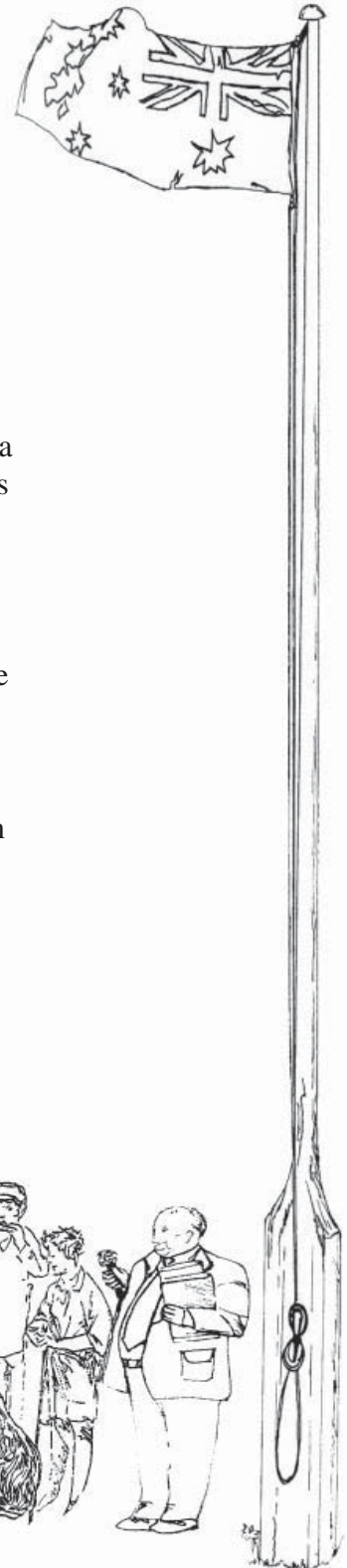
When flown at half mast, the flag should be first hoisted to the peak for a moment, then lowered to half mast.

When the Australian Flag is flown on top of, or in front of a building where there are two flagpoles, it should be flown on the pole to the left of the observer facing the building. If flying the Australian flag on top, or in front of, a building where there are three or more flagpoles, it should be flown as near as possible to the centre.

The yardarm flagpole

The traditional yardarm flagpole displays the national flag at the peak, not the truck. Lands-men could be forgiven for mistaking this practice as a sign of disrespect. This tradition comes from the time of sailing ships, when it was the position most aft not the highest that was most honorable. The gaff of the flagpole should always point inward to land, thus representing the mizzen mast on a full rigged ship standing out to sea. The club burgee or house flag flies at the mast head, the state flag or flag of the senior officer present flies at the starboard yardarm. The port yardarm is reserved for whatever colours best fit the occasion.

On masts with yardarms only, therefore not simulating an outbound ship the national flag flies at the truck, the state flag at the starboard halliard and a house flag or club pennant is flown from the Port halliard.



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