

# RSL PROTOCOL

## *Flag Protocol*

These guidelines apply to the flying of the Australian National flag (ANF) and other proscribed flags at RSL events and ceremonies. The guidelines are consistent with the flag protocol issued by the Australian Government and except for some minor variations accord with Service traditions or requirements.

The Australian National flag is the correct flag to be flown on land by individuals, public, private and commercial organisations. It may also be flown on government ships, fishing vessels, pleasure craft and small craft by virtue of section 30 of the Shipping Registration Act 1981.

The Australian Red Ensign is the proper flag to be flown by Australian registered ships as an alternative to the Australian National flag; it may also be flown by government ships, fishing vessels, pleasure craft and small craft.

### **Dignity of the Flag**

The Australian National flag should be displayed only in a manner befitting the national emblem. It should not be subjected to indignity or displayed in a position inferior to any other flag or ensign. The flag normally takes precedence over all other national flags when flown in Australia. It should always be flown aloft and free and should not be allowed to fall or lie upon the ground.

The Australian National flag should not be used as a covering of a statue, monument or plaque for an unveiling ceremony (a plain cover should be used); as a table or seat cover or as a masking for boxes, barriers or intervening space between floor and ground level on a dais or platform.

When the Australian National flag is raised or lowered or when it is carried past in a parade or review, all present should face the flag, men should remove their hats and all should remain silent. Those in uniform should salute.

### **Defacement**

A flag is said to be 'defaced' when a 'badge of office' or any other object is superimposed upon an authorised flag. Convention is not to deface the Australian National flag.

## Flags

