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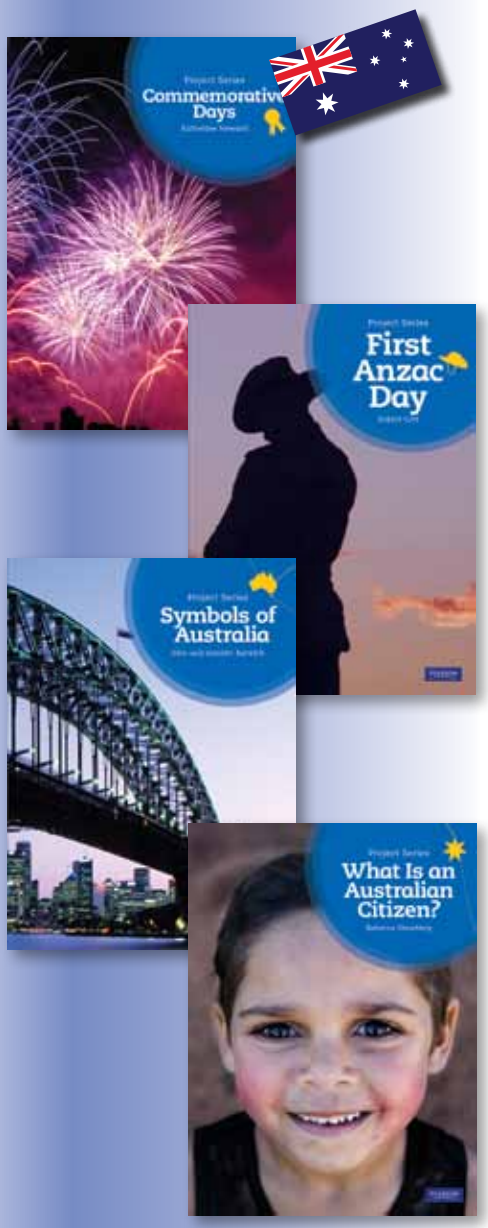

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State and territory emblems

Australian Capital Territory emblems

The **emblems** of the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) are a **flag**, a **coat of arms** and a **floral** and a bird emblem.

Flag

The flag of the ACT is based on a design by Ivo Ostyn, a Canberra artist. The flag is unlike most other state and territory flags because it is not based primarily on the Australian flag, and it does not include the Union Jack.

City of Canberra coat of arms

The coat of arms shown on the ACT flag is actually the City of Canberra coat of arms, which was **granted** in 1928. It was designed to **adorn** a new, heavy

It has deep blue flowers and grows in **alpine** areas of south-eastern Australia, including the ACT.

Bird emblem:
Gang-gang cockatoo

In 1997, the gang-gang cockatoo (*Callocephalon fimbriatum*) was adopted as the bird emblem of the ACT. It is darkish grey and about the size of a galah.

It has a distinctive call,

What it means

The City of Canberra coat of arms features a black and a white swan, symbolising the Aboriginal and European peoples, while the castle, sword and mace represent Canberra as a seat of power. The rose and crown symbolise the link to the Commonwealth. These meanings are emphasised in the **motto**, 'For the Queen, the Law and the People'.

The huge flagpole of Parliament House stands 81 metres above the top of the building.

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Actual text size:

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