



# Territory Day

why do we celebrate Territory Day on 1 July...

Self-government was conferred on the Northern Territory on **1 July 1978** by the *Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act 1978* of the Commonwealth.

This Act is effectively the Northern Territory's "constitution". As an Act of the Commonwealth Parliament it is entrenched and is subject to amendment or repeal by that Parliament.

## Flag

The Northern Territory was founded as a Federal Territory on 1 January 1911, but its first flag was not hoisted until self government was attained on **1 July 1978**.



The flag was designed by Robert Ingpen, a Victorian illustrator, and incorporates both the Territorian colours and floral emblem. In the centre of the flag is a stylised Sturt's Desert Rose with seven petals on an ochre field. On the hoist side of the flag is the Southern Cross in white on a black panel.

## Coat of Arms

The coat of arms was granted by Queen Elizabeth II in 1978. It incorporates a shield depicting an Arhem Land rock painting of an aboriginal woman. The shield is supported by two kangaroos. On either side of the shield is a sprig of Sturt's Desert Rose. The crest consists of a wedge-tailed eagle with wings splayed and it's talons grasping a *tjurunga* (aboriginal ritual stone). This is the only Australian Coat of Arms to contain all the bird, animal and floral emblems for that state/territory.



## Emblems of the Northern Territory

Floral emblem:

Sturt's Desert Rose



Animal emblem:

Red Kangaroo



Bird emblem:

Wedge-tailed Eagle

