



Queensland State Emblems

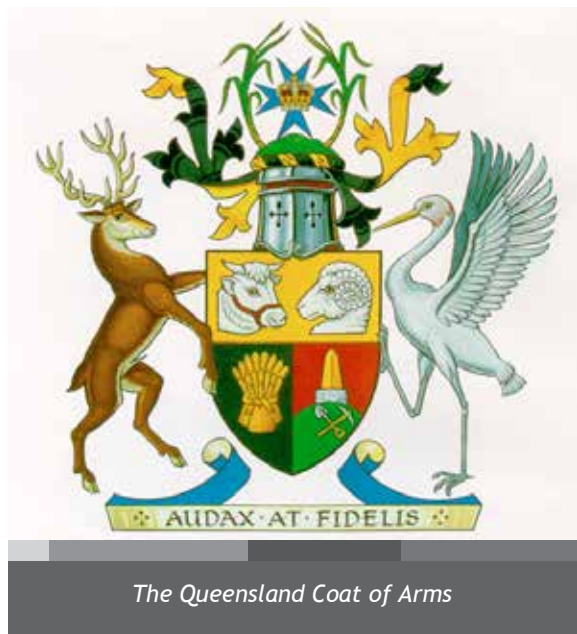
Queensland has a number of official emblems which are used to identify the state. Some of these emblems reflect Queensland's unique natural environment while others, such as our Coat of Arms and state badge, are used on official government documents such as Ministerial correspondence and the writs issued for elections.

Official state emblems are prescribed in the Emblems of Queensland Act 2005.

The Coat of Arms

The Coat of Arms represents the Queen's constitutional authority in Queensland. It was granted by Queen Victoria in 1893, making it the oldest Coat of Arms in Australia. The Coat of Arms showcases the major industrial strengths of Queensland in the 1890s - wheat, cattle, sheep and sugar cane.

The red deer and the brolga "supporters" were added in 1977 to celebrate the Queen's Silver Jubilee Year. The brolga is



The Queensland Coat of Arms

iconic to Queensland and the red deer were gifted to the state from the royal herds in the late 1800s.

The State motto is Audax at Fidelis, which means "bold but faithful".

The State Flag

In 1875, the Governor of Queensland received drawings of a proposed badge that was to represent Queensland on its vessels if they ever went to war. It was comprised of a representation of Queen Victoria's head, facing right, on a blue background, encircled by a white band, with the word Queensland at the top.

The Queensland Government decided it would be too difficult to reproduce the head of the Queen on a flag. An alternative design, a Royal Crown superimposed on a Maltese Cross, was then submitted to London and approved. It was placed on the Blue Ensign to become Queensland's State Flag.

The Queensland Government encourages the flying of our flag. Requests from schools and youth groups for free flags should be made through State Members of Parliament.

The State Badge

Adopted as part of the state flag on 29 November 1876, the state badge is officially described as "On a Roundel Argent a Maltese Cross Azure surmounted with a Royal Crown".



The Queensland State Flag



In 1893, the state badge was added to the Queensland Coat of Arms.

The Cooktown Orchid

The Cooktown Orchid became Queensland's floral emblem in 1959 to mark the state's 100th anniversary.

Its official name is *Dendrobium bigibbum* and is native to Queensland's north tropics - hence the name Cooktown Orchid. The flowers are usually all-purple, although white and white-spotted flowers have been found.

The Koala

The koala was officially announced as the faunal emblem of Queensland in 1971 after a newspaper poll found strong public support for this iconic marsupial.

The scientific name of the koala is *Phascolarctos cinereus*. They are found south of Townsville along the east coast, although they have been found as far north as Cooktown and as far west as Cunnamulla.

The Sapphire

The State gem for Queensland is the sapphire. This was formalised in August 1985.

The sapphire gemstone, a variety of the mineral corundum, was discovered in central Queensland in the early 1870s, near the present-day town of Sapphire.

As found in nature, typical corundum is very dark coloured. With tinges of blue, green or brown, it is very nearly opaque. However, the transparent gem shows a wide range of colours.

The Brolga

The brolga features on the Queensland Coat of Arms and was proclaimed Queensland's bird emblem in 1986.

Brolgas (*Grus rubicunda*) belong to the family of cranes, and are native to the parts of Queensland north of Rockhampton. They are famous for their intricate mating dances, spreading their wings in an elegant, graceful manner and occasionally jumping in unison.

Adult brolgas stand over a metre tall and have a wing-span of over two metres.

The Barrier Reef Anemone Fish

The Barrier Reef Anemone Fish (*Amphiprion akindynos*) is well known for its habit of living with large, tropical sea anemones.

It became Queensland's official aquatic emblem in 2005 after strong public support in a newspaper poll.

For a state with such a close connection with the coastline and the water, it is only fitting that an emblem symbolises this connection.

Maroon - Queensland's State Colour

It is not surprising that maroon - the colour many people associate with Queensland sporting teams - is also the official state colour.

The Pantone Colour Matching System colour 202 is the designated shade of maroon used in official state communications.

It was approved by the Governor in Council on 13 November 2003.

Further information

The Community Engagement Unit of the Queensland Parliamentary Service has created an interactive State Emblem Activity which allows you to explore, discover and learn about all of our state's official emblems. Find it at www.parliament.qld.gov.au/stateEmblems

