Day to honour Australian flag

JUDITH Law, of Gunnedah, writes:

The Australian National Flag Association has informed its members that on Thursday, September 3, the annual celebration of our national flag “Stars and Crosses” will be held from noon to 1.30pm at the Martin Place amphitheatre in Sydney.

Australian National Flag Day on September 3 is an officially recognised anniversary celebrating this “great south land”, Australia.

By law, custom and tradition, the Australian flag is our chief symbol which was first flown on September 3, 1901. This year, the 114th anniversary of our flag will be celebrated Australia-wide, especially in schools.

The internationally renowned Woolloowar High School Band will provide entertainment and the Scots College Honour Guard will be on parade.

I was touched to read a statement by the late Aboriginal leader and MP Neville Bonner, Jagera Elder, quote: “Our flag has served as a beacon of freedom for refugees of a weary world”. It is recognised as a symbol of freedom, justice and friendliness.

It represents a sovereign, independent country where we observe the rule of law, practise parliamentary democracy and believe in equality for all citizens of Australia, Indigenous and non-Indigenous of whatever colour, creed and gender.”

Dr Brendon Nelson, director of the Australian War Memorial, has been a long-time defender of our national flag, more so this year, for extreme wartime sacrifices made by forces in World War I a century ago.

Credit must go to our Prime Minister Tony Abbott, who must be congratulated for establishing a unique flag celebration last year at Parliament House, Canberra, on September 3.

This information is from a four-page commemorative tribute. For more details, go to www.australianflag.org.au