

Symbols of Western Australia

Western Australian Flag

As with each of the original states of the Federation, Western Australia's flag retains the Union Jack and the blue ensign background, but replaces the Southern Cross with its own State emblem.

The black swan was confirmed in a dispatch by Governor William Robinson on 27 November 1875 as the emblem of Western Australia. In the 1830s it had appeared on banknotes when the colony was generally referred to as the Swan River Colony. A design showing the black swan had been selected for Western Australia's first postage stamp in 1854.

It is interesting to note that the direction that the swan faced was changed in 1953 to look towards the Union Jack in accordance with heraldic principles.



Western Australian Coat of Arms

A coat of arms for Western Australia was not recognised until one was granted by Royal Warrant on 17 March 1969. It is used, for instance, on official letters.

Its features include two kangaroos holding two boomerangs, a shield depicting a black swan, the crown and two Mangles' kangaroo paws.



Bird Emblem of Western Australia

The black swan, first recorded by the Dutch navigator Willem De Vlamingh in 1697, was proclaimed as the State's bird emblem on 25 July 1973.

It was already the State's symbol on the flag and was included in the design of the coat of arms.



Floral Emblem of Western Australia

Mangles' kangaroo paw, common in Kings Park, is Western Australia's floral emblem.

This was proclaimed on 9 November 1960.



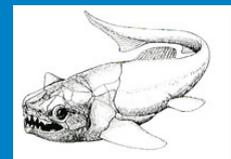
Animal Emblem of Western Australia

The numbat, or banded anteater, one of the State's most attractive marsupials, was proclaimed on 25 July 1973 as the animal emblem of Western Australia.



Fossil Emblem of Western Australia

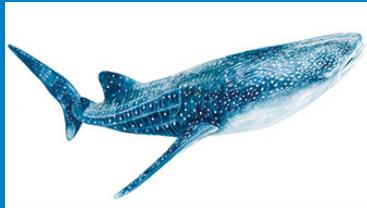
The gogo fish is the State's fossil emblem. It was proclaimed on 5 December 1995.



Symbols of Western Australia

Marine Emblem of Western Australia

The whale shark, rhincodron typus, was selected as the state's marine animal emblem after a state-wide schools competition in December 2013.



Crests of the Western Australian Parliament

Parliament Crest



This depicts the black swan, the mace (the symbol of the Legislative Assembly) and the Black Rod (the symbol of the Legislative Council)¹.

The Australian Flag

The Australian flag includes the Union Jack and Southern Cross on a blue ensign. The large white star with seven points represents the six States and the Territories.



Legislative Council Crest



This depicts the black swan and the coat of arms of the United Kingdom².

The Aboriginal Flag

Designed by Harold Thomas, an Aboriginal artist, in 1971. The black represents the Aboriginal people, red for the earth and spiritual relationship to the land, and yellow for the sun, the giver of life. Proclaimed under the Flags Act 1953 on 14 July 1995.



Legislative Assembly Crest



This depicts the black swan and the mace on a green background.

Governor of Western Australia Flag

The personal flag of the Governor of Western Australia is the blue ensign, including the black swan State emblem surmounted by the Crown of Saint Edward.



1 For more information on the symbols of the Western Australian Parliament, including the Black Rod of the Legislative Council and the Mace of the Legislative Assembly, see About Parliament 27: Sergeant-at-Arms and Usher of the Black Rod.

2 Visit <http://www.royal.gov.uk/MonarchUK/Symbols/Coatsofarms.aspx> for more information on the coat of arms.

