



# The Republican

THE OFFICIAL QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY OF AUSTRALIA

"NIL INTEMPTATUM RELINQUEMUS"  
— "we will not abandon that  
which we attempt"

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA

## AT LAST!

...5 years after commencing Republican political activity in Australia we are publishing a newsletter. It is always satisfying to achieve a long-held objective. Party members have desired something similar to this since January 1982, when a small number of us decided to unite and contest the Lowe by-election upon the retirement from the National Parliament of William McMahon. And now that it is AT LAST a reality we will outline our endeavours: We intend disseminating party news and views, of course. We will discuss party policy openly and print alternative proposals to our own. We will editorialise and invite articles relative to Australian constitutional/electoral/legislative; economic/taxation/financial reform from all sections of the polity.

We will advise executive decisions and accept advertising to help minimise costs. We will publish letters and generally keep those interested in the party's progress as informed as possible. We welcome suggestions and criticisms. Essentially, we will pick up where "CHANGE" left off. ("CHANGE" was the occasional periodical of the

Campaign for Constitutional Change — a movement which had both Victorian and New South Welsh structures but folded in both states during 1983). Unlike the C.C.C. we won't be quitting as a political movement.

Incidentally, the motto we have chosen is an adaptation of that awarded posthumously to Captain James Cook by King George III of Great Britain. It was said of Cook that he was a courageous seafarer/explorer and a visionary — that he abandoned nothing he attempted!

### ADDITIONAL 1986 ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Expansion of our party network — to Canberra and Melbourne.
2. Listings of party contact number in the Capital city white and yellow pages in all states and territories.
3. Reduction of the debts incurred in the 4 previous elections campaigns and
4. A five-fold increase in our membership — although our total membership still falls well short of the "magic 500" and the attendant party registration with the Australian Electoral Commission.

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## EDITORIAL

The new Australian flag debate continues, unabated. The Republican Party of Australia has, for 5 years, believed the most appropriate flag for Australia is a flying gold kangaroo (without boxing gloves) on a green background. It is the unique, international Australian symbol of renown. It simply says it all and has undoubted instant recognition and appeal. It denotes we are a progressive, non-aggressive free and peace-loving people.

The R.P.A. believes 1. we have just got to remove ourselves from the imperial colours of red, white and blue; 2. we have to put paid to stars and moons and suns -- every country in the world has stars, moons and suns above them; 3. we have to recognise the insignificance of stripes and crosses and 4. we clearly should have a green and gold flag: these bright colours really do make a great combination and they are our official colours now.

We deplore the flag chosen by the Ausflag organisation in 1986: it's a "nothing" flag and a poor selection. Equally, we totally disagree with those who advocate the discredited Eureka flag as Australia's flag. But not because we don't believe the miners of the Ballarat diggings in the 19th century didn't have a harsh set of taxes to justifiably rebel against.

The green and gold boxing kangaroo flag of the America's Cup winning syndicate in 1983 brought us closer to the inevitable. The tax revolters' (the Rescue Australia's Collapsed Economy movement) flag (with the white boxing gloves) is also green and gold and an advocate of the concept.

From the April issue of the "REPUBLICAN" we are going to feature green and gold flag flyers around the country. After all, these patriotic establishments may, some day, place one of *our* flags (currently in the design phase) on their flagpoles!



The green and gold flag displayed at the Cairns (far north Queensland, R.A.C.E. - the letters stand for "RESCUE AUSTRALIA'S COLLAPSED ECONOMY") taxation revolt meeting held in late July 1986

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### TOPICS & SPEAKERS (in order of presentation)

'THE PROBLEM OF CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM for AUSTRALIA' ... symposium ... Gough Whitlam, Chris Puplick and Senator Colin Mason.

'HUMAN RIGHTS' ... debate ... Jim Staples and John Dowd.

'PSEUDO-PATRIOTISM' ... Manning Clark

'PATRIALING THE CANADIAN CONSTITUTION from BRITAIN -- THE LESSON for AUSTRALIA' ... Dr. Rowland Torimer.

'PROPOSALS for ELECTORAL REFORM' ... Sen. Arthur Gaetz.

'SHOULD AUSTRALIA BECOME A REPUBLIC IN 1988?' ... John ... Francis ... Robert Kirby and Jock Mac ...

'POPULARISING AUSTRALIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONCEPTS -- THE SCOPE of PEOPLE'S CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTIONS' ... John Fineman.

'THE DECLINE of PARLIAMENTARY GOVERNMENT in AUSTRALIA' ... Senator Alan Mison.

'UPPER HOUSE POWERS' ... symposium ... Senator Gareth Evans, Don Chipp and Richard Alston.

'INCORPORATING A TREATY with the ABORIGINES (MAKARRATA) / INTO AN AMENDED AUSTRALIAN CONSTITUTION' ... H.C. 'Nugget' Coombs.