

Queensland

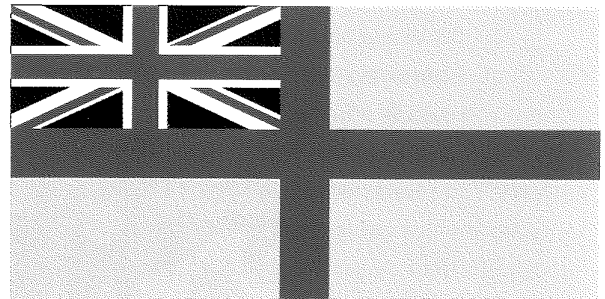
▲ COLONIAL SETTLEMENT 1862



– men and women – were “blackbirded” to work on plantations from 1864 to the early 1900s. Often this was outright kidnapping. By 1908, Islanders were returned home, one of the first acts of the new Federation.

▲ QLD Separation Flag

To celebrate Queensland’s separation from New South Wales in 1859, a flag of the design below was flown.



In 1824, a penal settlement site was chosen near the Brisbane River in northern New South Wales. In 1839, the convict penal system was closed down and free settlement was encouraged in the area then known as the “Northern Districts of New South Wales”. But this area was over 700 kilometres from the government in Sydney. The settlers felt their local needs were not being met by a government so far away and from 1851, they called for independence. Queensland became a separate colony in 1859 and was named in honour of the reigning British monarch, Queen Victoria.

During the 1860s, the settled area of Queensland almost tripled in size. Settlers succeeded at farming wheat and running cattle, but early attempts to grow cotton failed. Sugar cane grew well on Queensland’s tropical coast, but farming sugar cane was a labour-intensive job. More than 50,000 South Sea Islanders

▲ QLD Flag 1870

This flag was adopted on 22 March 1870. The badge, which features a portrait of Queen Victoria, was difficult to replicate, so in 1876 it was replaced with a Royal Crown superimposed on a Maltese cross.

