Official Symbols of Australia

1. Flag
   A blue background with the Union Jack, Southern Cross and the Commonwealth Star.
2. Anthem
   Advance Australia Fair.
3. Coat of Arms
   A kangaroo and emu that are holding a shield with the badges of six Australian states. Above the shield there is a seven pointed star.
4. National Colours
   Green and gold.
5. Floral Emblem
   Golden wattle (akacja australijska).
6. National Gemstone
   Opal.

Unofficial Symbols of Australia

1. Vegemite
   It’s a thick brown paste made from yeast extract. All Australian children spread it on toasted bread with some butter.
2. Swag
   They are bedrolls containing a mattress, a sheet and a pillow. You can carry a swag and lay it out almost everywhere. It is lightweight, compact and waterproof. In the past, swags were carried by farm workers who wandered from job to job around Australia in the 1900s.
3. Uluru (Ayers Rock)
   A world-famous Australian landmark. It has spiritual value for Aborigines.
4. Sydney Opera House
   Was designed by the Danish architect Jorn Utzon, opened in 1973. It has a distinctive roof, which consists of “shells”. Sydney Opera House is a multi-venue arts centre. In 2007 it was put on the World Heritage List.

5. Quandong
   The wild peach is a unique Australian fruit. The fruit is rich in vitamin C. Aborigines valued quandongs for their medical properties. Nowadays, they are grown on plantations.

6. Spinifex
   Spinifex is a tough grass. It covers one-fourth of the continent and grows on the poorest soils. There are 64 species of Spinifex. Their roots grow 3 meters into the ground to rich the ground water.

7. Boomerangs
   Their name probably comes from the Aboriginal language, but first boomerangs were discovered in Europe, not in Australia. The oldest Australian boomerangs are ten thousand years old. Aborigines used them for hunting. Modern sports boomerangs are made of plywood, hardwood, plastic etc. They weigh 70 – 110 grams.

8. Eucalyptus
   Eucalyptus trees are the most common trees in Australia. They are very well adopted to fire. Flames and heat cause new buds to flourish, and hot winds spread their seeds. A lot of species (not only koalas) depend on the trees which play important role in the food chain.

9. Crocodile Dundee
   Crocodile Dundee is a popular comedy about an Australian hunter (Mick Dundee) who spent his life in the Australian Outback but after the incident with a crocodile comes to New York.

10. Mount Kościuszko
    Is 2228 meters high. It was named by the explorer Paul Edmund Strzelecki. It is the main attraction in Australia’s largest national park. Its Aboriginal name is Tar Gan Gil.
background – tło
commonwealth – wspólnota
gemstone – kamień szlachetny
yeast – drożdże
spread – tu: smarować
bedroll – spiwór, zwinięte posłanie
distinctive – charakterystyczny
venue – miejsce spotkania
The World Heritage List – Światowa Lista Zabytków
peach – brzoskwinia
properties – właściwości
tough – wytrzymała
soli – gleba
plywood – sklejka
cause – powodować
bud – pączek
flourish – kwitnąć
food chain – łańcuch pokarmowy.