

# Letter to The Canberra Times

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Dear Editor

Until we find a different date to celebrate Australia Day, it will continue to be a contentious, divisive occasion that causes offence to our first peoples.

Federation Day is an obvious alternative, but its date on January 1 is problematic. May 1 marks the date on which Australians ceased to be British subjects: something worth celebrating?

Independence Day (when we become a republic) would be ideal – sadly, we're not there yet.

Wattle Day, September 1, honours our national floral emblem. Centred on a symbol that comes directly from our land and grows across the whole continent, it therefore has meaning for all Australians and includes all of us.

Wattle Day's timing at the start of spring makes it handy for a long weekend; it offers built-in symbolism; and it's consistent with our national colours.

A date worth considering?

Christine Butterfield

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