

## **Vlag! 30 summeries**

### **Krimpenerwaard**

The municipality of Krimpenerwaard was formed on January 1, 2015 from the municipalities of Bergambacht, Nederlek, Ouderkerk, Schoonhoven and Vlist. On December 22, 2021, the municipality adopted a flag with the emblems from the annexed municipalities.

### **Weesp**

The municipality of Weesp has been annexed by Amsterdam in its entirety. As a result, the old blue-white-blue flag from the 16th century expired.

### **Western Australia**

The organization Ausflag from Sydney aims to get rid of the British blue ensign as they think that Western Australia deserves a new flag. Their proposal retains the swan and is based on the flags of the Northern Territory and the Australian capital Canberra.

### **Southwest Ethiopia**

Southwest Ethiopia, the eleventh regional state in Ethiopia, was created on November 23, 2021. During a ceremony in the capital Bongo, a flag was adopted. The colours of the flag symbolize the land and the cultural values of its population.

### **Navy auxiliary ships of Belgium**

The recently formed Naval Auxiliary Force has adopted a flag based on the British Blue Ensign with the Belgian navy flag in the upper hoist quarter.

### **Honduras**

On January 27, 2022, when the new president Xiomara Castro was installed, the colour of the flag was re-established as it was in 1949: teal.

### **Barbados**

On November 30, 2021, Barbados became a republic. Before that, the head of state was Queen Elizabeth II. The national flag did not change, but two other flags did: the presidential flag and the coast guard flag, both with the coat of arms of Barbados.

### **Chagos Archipelago**

Mauritius' ambassador to the UN has hoisted his country's flag on an island of the Chagos archipelago. The Chagos archipelago is part of the British Indian Ocean Territory, which was created just before Mauritanian independence. The original population was exiled by Britain, to allow the U.S. to build a military base. The original inhabitants want to return to their ancestral lands, which Mauritius claims as its territory. The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea released a verdict appointing the Chagos archipelago to Mauritius.

### **FIAV Flag Congress ICV**

The 29th ICV will take place from 10 to 15 July in the Slovenian capital Ljubljana. The congress flag contains the Slovenian colours in vertical bands and the FIAV emblem, a yellow sheet bend.

### **Ukraine**

The light blue-yellow flag of Ukraine has become the symbol of international solidarity with the Ukrainian people after the Russian invasion of February 2022. This flag, from 1848, was also used in Ukraine in its short period of independence from 1918 to 1920.

### Anti-war Russians (flag)

In several cities, Russians and Belarusians protested against the war in Ukraine. A flag with horizontal stripes of white-blue-white was used, replacing the blood-coloured red of the Russian flag with white, the colour of peace.

### Lion and cross gringolee against a background of brooks and valleys

The new municipality of Beekdaelen was created in 2019 by the merger of Nuth, Onderbanken and Schinnen. The municipality adopted a new coat of arms consisting of the lion of Valkenburg and the cross gringolee of the family Huyn van Amstenrade that appears in the coat of arms of several annexed municipalities. The new flag is based on this coat of arms placed on wavy green and white stripes.

### Landscape of Drenthe in coloured stripes

In the west of Drenthe, the municipality of Westerveld was created on January 1, 1998 by the merger of Diever, Dwingeloo, Havelte and Vledder. 21 years later, Westerveld adopted a flag. The coat of arms and flag are based on the nature reserves within the municipality: green for the forests, yellow for the sandy soils and blue for the heathlands and fens.

### Old Zeeland flag rises again

In 1949, the province of Zeeland adopted a flag with the Zeeland coat of arms placed on a field of white and blue waves. In previous centuries, a flag similar to the coat of arms was often used: the lion of Holland rising from the waves. Not everyone is satisfied with the current flag. The NVvV proposed to establish the centuries-old flag, like the coat of arms, for Zeeland. An official proposal has not yet been made. The provincial motto "Luctor et Emergo" – struggle and overcome – fits better with the old flag.

### Flag tribute for Queen Wilhelmina (II)

In the previous issue of Vlag! the parade flags that were used at the parade for Queen Wilhelmina in 1938 were described. The pictured flag for Lochem was erroneous, it is the flag of Laren. The coat of arms next to the flag is correctly attributed to Lochem.

### Peter the Great looks at the VOC ship he helped build

A painting from the studio of Abraham Stork (1644-1708) shows an imperial yacht from which Tsar Peter looks at the VOC ship he helped build. The yacht carries the Russian flag: white-blue-red with the two-headed eagle.

### Israeli and Palestinian flags in the rivalry between Feyenoord and Ajax

Supporters of the Amsterdam football club Ajax and those of the Rotterdam Feyenoord have been fighting a battle with the Israeli and Palestinian flags for years. It has nothing to do with the Israeli-Palestinian political conflict, but is related purely with the hostility between the two supporter groups.

### Harold Thomas sells copyright Aboriginal flag to Australia

The fiftieth anniversary of the Aboriginal flag was celebrated in the summer of 2021. Harold Thomas originally designed the flag for the march of the *Aboriginal Land Rights* movement in Adelaide on July 12, 1971. The flag became very popular and was hoisted on government buildings since 1995, alongside the flags of Australia and the Torres Strait Islands. During the 50th anniversary, Thomas sold his copyright on the design to the Australian government, so that everyone can use the flag.

### Nagorno-Karabakh flag "points the way" to Armenia

Nagorno-Karabakh, a Christian Armenian enclave inside Islamic Azerbaijan, declared independence in 1992. Since then, both sides have been at war with each other. At the end of 2020 the conflict flared

up again. Nagorno-Karabakh lost territory in this conflict, but its flag still flies in those areas. A flag in the Armenian colours with white blocks forming the outline of a triangle, pointing towards the flagpole and so to the Armenian ground. Inset: cross flags of the historic Artsach, as the area used to be called.

From the 'pennant' of Constantine to the cross flags

The roman emperor Constantine was tolerant towards Christians, due to his mother Helena's influence. His successors made Christianity the state religion. The army used a *vexillum* with the Greek letters *P* (rho) and *X* (chi) as a cross symbol. Willem van Ham's article elaborates on the evidence found on the use of this symbol.