



Willoughby City Council Seal, Crest, Logo, Flag and Regalia

Seal

The Council seal first appeared in Willoughby Council records on 7th May 1867. The impression is quite small and plain, about the size of a 20c piece, containing only the words “Municipality of North Willoughby Common Seal” The Council Minutes record that “the seal whereof an impression in wax is set at the foot hereof be the common seal of the municipality”.

By 1872 the seal had changed slightly although still the same size. The wording on the seal now said “Borough of North Willoughby”. Mr Les Forsyth points out that the wording was apparently changed to comply with the Municipalities Act of 1867. A Borough had to have a population of at least 1000 and an area of less than nine square miles, while a Municipality had to have a population of 500 and an area of less than 50 square miles.

On 16 May 1887 Mayor Fleming, put forward a motion and the “Council decided to provide and adopt an impress seal as a corporate seal for the Borough in lieu of the present seal for sealing wax”. The new seal was still plain and the wording had not changed. However, it was larger, about the size of a 50c piece, and the wording “Borough of North Willoughby” was now running around the outside encasing the words “common seal”.

In 1890 the floral emblem was used in the middle of the seal for the first time with “Borough of Willoughby” (rather than North Willoughby) and “Waroongah our home” written in the circular belt forming the outside of the seal. The seal was now larger than it had been previously.

In 1907 the seal was changed again with the words “Waroongah our home” being deleted. This was about the time that the name for the suburb of Wahroonga was settled on. In the 1907 version “Municipality of Willoughby” replaced “Borough of Willoughby”.



Crest

The first evidence of the Council crest with wildflowers being used on Council stationery was in 1927. The flowers depicted on the crest are all found growing within Willoughby. The crest was then more stylised than the current one, outlined in mid-blue on a white background. The use of wildflowers in crests and letterheads was popular in this period with businesses and other organisations.

Willoughby became a City on 17 November 1989 and the city crest was altered accordingly. The wording "The Council of the City of Willoughby" replaced "The Municipality of Willoughby". The Council crest had the masonry emblem added to symbolise city status. A new City seal was acquired in August 1990.



Flowers on the Willoughby Crest

WARATAH - *Telopea Speciosissima* CHRISTMAS BELL - *Blandfordia Grandiflora*

SYDNEY RED GUM/ APPLE GUM - *Angophora Costata*

FLANNEL FLOWER - *Actinotus Helianthi* NATIVE ROSE - *Boronia Serrulata*

Two significant pioneering industries of the area are represented in the crest; the tanning industry represented by the leather belt; and the brick making industry represented in the city crown.



Logo

Floral emblem has been the traditional element of Willoughby Council logo. Council's current logo is an abstract representation of the waratah flower, which has been adopted since 1999.



In July 1999, Council adopted “a new graphic device to support and enhance the Council’s Crest Logo and form the base of a cohesive branding program for the City”

In the form of a stylised waratah, the colours are dark green for the “leaves” and red for the rising circles. The image also creates a decorative “W” standing for Willoughby. A waratah is also the central element in the Council Crest.



Flag

Council adopted a flag for the first time in 1972. The flag has a grey background and the floral emblem as the centre piece.



The current Willoughby flag was officially "broken-out" by Mayor Noel Reidy during celebrations marking the granting of city status on 12 May 1990. Designed by local resident and vexillologist, John Vaughan in 1989, this flag inherits the council crest with the masonry crown.

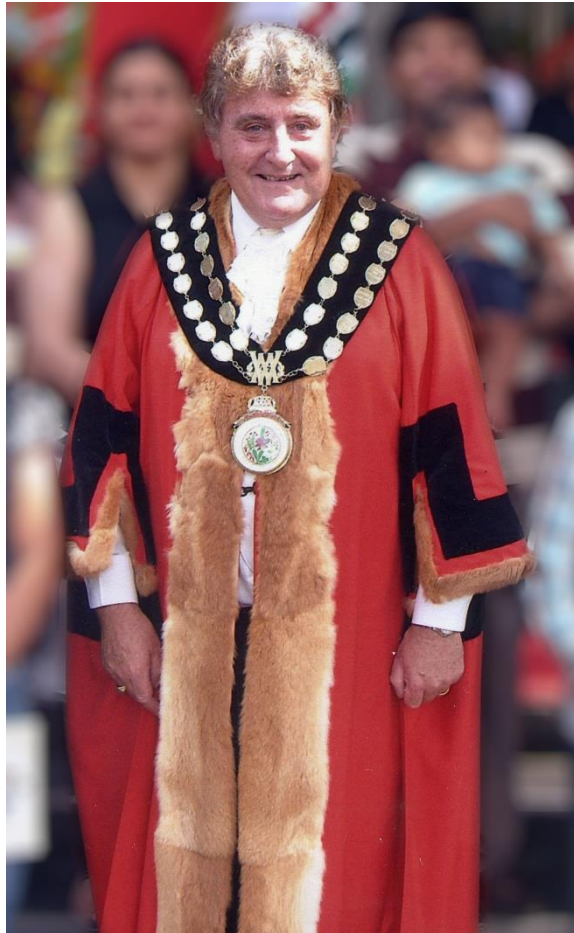


It carries a red crown with a red civic crown. A dark green border encircles the floral design which has been a symbol for Willoughby for long time. The two wide green strips against the white field of the flag serve to highlight the crest.



Mayoral Regalia (robes and chain)

The wearing of mayoral regalia is an English tradition that dates back to at least the 14th Century where head of civic districts assumed the distinctive uniform type of dress. Willoughby Council didn't possess Mayoral robes or chain of office until 1954. Council approved to purchase at the prices not exceeding £120 for the Chain and £27 and £9/15/- respectively for the Robes.



Mayor Pat Reilly (1997 – 2014)

Every link in the chain carries the name of a past mayor and the Council crest hangs as a pendant being in vitreous enamel and mounted on velvet.

The current mayoral robe has faux fur.



