

The name of the design is derived from the old adage, 'red sky at night, sailor's delight'. The hoist depicts a tableau of a leaping dolphin, silhouetted against a setting sun. Surrounding the tableau are eight silver fern fronds, arguably the number of major areas in the full Realm of New Zealand: New Zealand proper, the Cook Islands, Niue, Tokelau, the Ross Dependency, the Chatham Islands, the Kermadec Islands, and the New Zealand Subantarctic Islands. The fly has sixteen red-and-blue stripes, matching the number of official regions in New Zealand proper, and the New Zealand-style Southern Cross completes the design.