

“Dolphin's Delight variant 7”, an alternative New Zealand national flag design
 (with suggested adaptations of the design to the other major flags and ensigns of the nation)



Army



Navy ships



Air Force



RSA



Government ships



Civil & merchant ships



Civil aviation



Yacht Squadron



Police Service



Fire & Emergency



Customs Service



NZ Olympic Committee



Tokelau



Niue



Cook Islands



Ross Dependency



Auckland



Wellington



Christchurch



United Nations



See this flag waving. See it in all wind conditions. See many more alternative New Zealand flag designs at newzealand.flagoptions.com

The silhouette of the leaping dolphin in this design is realistic enough to be identifiable as that of a bottlenose dolphin, or at a stretch that of a short-beaked common dolphin, two of the most common of the nine species that frequent New Zealand waters. Some would argue that the dolphin is, or that it should be, as much a symbol of Aotearoa as the kiwi, and certainly it is imbued with as much positive symbolism, not only for New Zealanders but for everyone. It has also been somewhat little-used on flags, especially on national flags, so why not on the NZ flag? Here it is part of a red sunset (sailor's delight) tableau, set in a medallion with a gold border, the sixteen serrations of which can be taken to numerically symbolise all of New Zealand's official regions. Radiating outwards from the centre of the medallion are two tukutuku 'stair-step' patterns that serve to separate the fly region of the flag, so that it can readily accommodate the various colours and patterns of the remaining flags and ensigns of the nation, as illustrated above. With ferns, tukutuku, a dolphin, and all of NZ's national colours, plus gold and verdant green to boot, this is a richly symbolic and inclusive design.