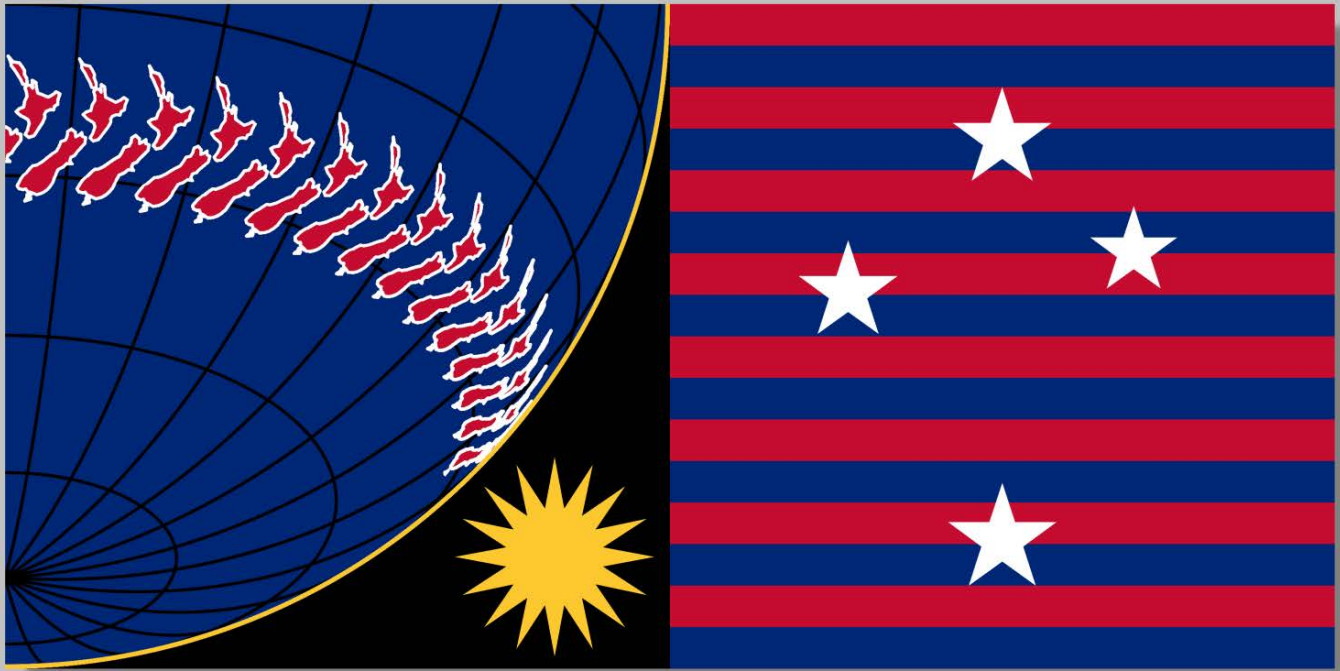


**"First to the Light", a New Zealand national flag design
(suggested derivative flags and ensigns are also depicted)**

Suggested flags for the Ross Dependency and for the South Island are based on previous designs by vexillologist James Dignan



Naval ships ensign



Air Force ensign



Civil ships ensign



Civil aviation ensign



Police Service ensign



Fire Service ensign



Customs Service ensign



Yacht Squadron ensign



RSA ensign



Niue flag



Cook Islands flag



Tokelau flag



Ross Dependency flag



Army ensign



Government ensign



UN ensign



Chatham Islands flag



Stewart Island flag



Otago flag



South Island flag



New Zealand's longitudinal position just west of the International Date Line ensures that it is often the first major nation to see the light of each new day, and this of course is the origin of the well-known expression, 'New Zealand is first to the light'. Depicting the actual shoreline of a nation on its flag is discouraged, but all rules have exceptions, and a chain of New Zealand shorelines seeming to arrow in the direction of Earth's rotation toward sunrise may well be that exception. The sun is depicted with sixteen rays, and the fly has sixteen distinctive red-and-blue stripes, the number of official regions in New Zealand proper.