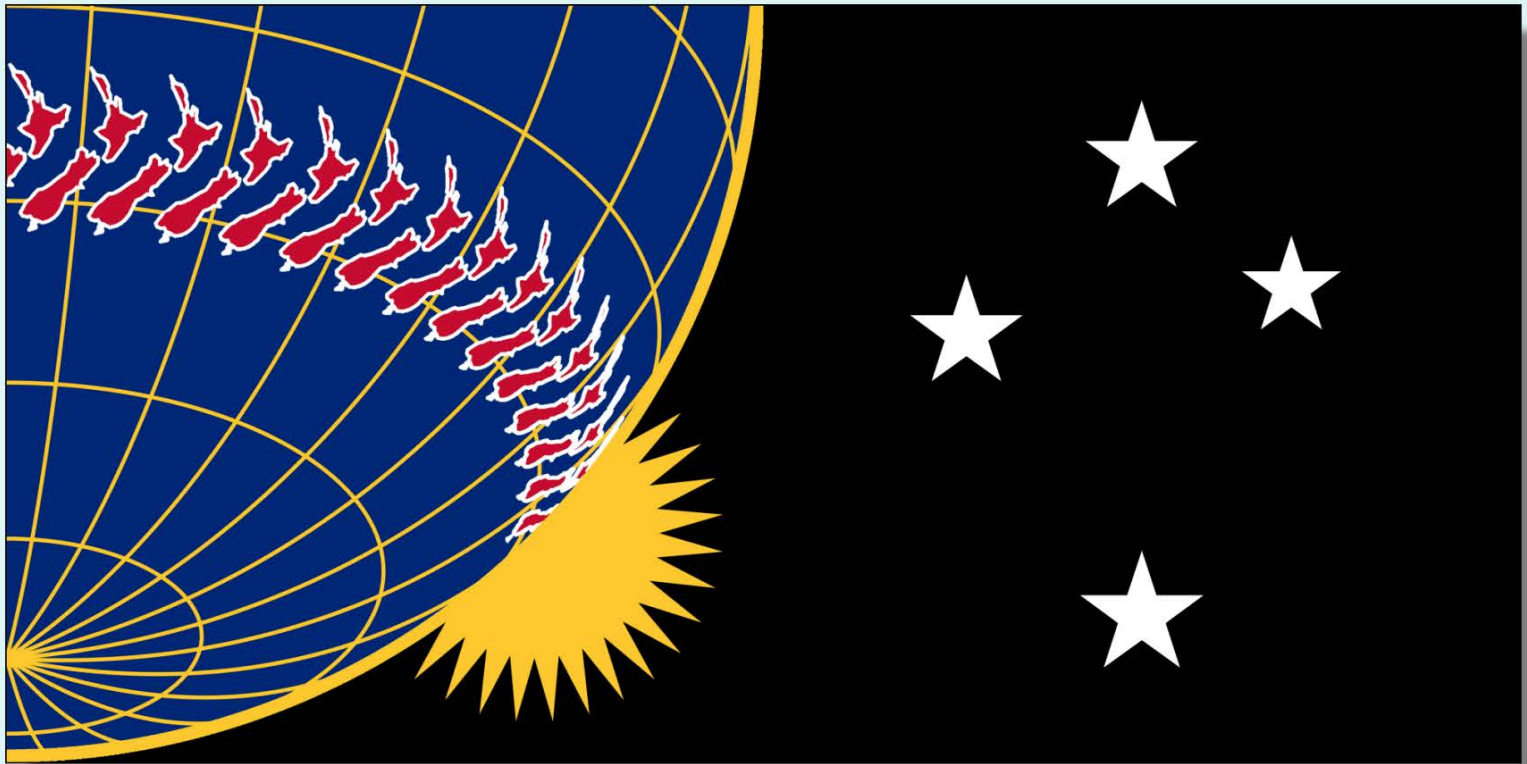


“First to the Light variant 11B”, an alternative New Zealand national flag design
 (with suggested adaptations of the design to the other major flags and ensigns of the nation)



Army



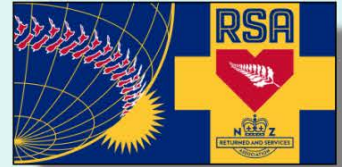
Navy ships



Air Force



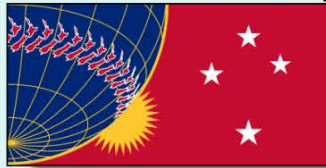
RSA



Government ships



Civil & merchant ships



Civil aviation



Yacht Squadron



Police Service



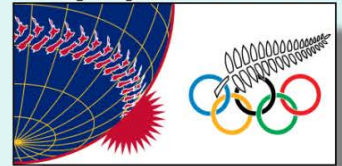
Fire & Emergency



Customs Service



NZ Olympic Committee



Tokelau



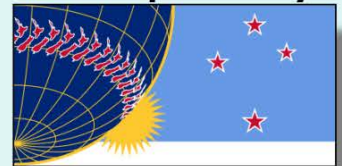
Niue



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

New Zealand's longitudinal position just west of the International Date Line ensures that it is often the first major nation to reach the start of each new Greenwich Meantime day, and this explains the well-known expression, 'New Zealand is first to the light', for which this flag design is a visual allegory. Golden latitude and longitude lines attractively emphasise the spherical shape of the blue globe, and they clarify that it is being viewed from 'down under'. The red-and-white geographical outlines of New Zealand in its actual latitudinal position form an arrow-like sequence to indicate the progression of the nation as the globe spins it eastwards towards the first rays of a golden sun, which is rendered with sixteen rays to numerically symbolise the official regions of New Zealand proper. The glow of dawn is simulated by a wide golden fimbriation along the globe's curvature, which also visually separates the globe from the black field and its white-starred Southern Cross. For lighter fields in other NZ flags and ensigns, the sun and the glow of dawn can be red.