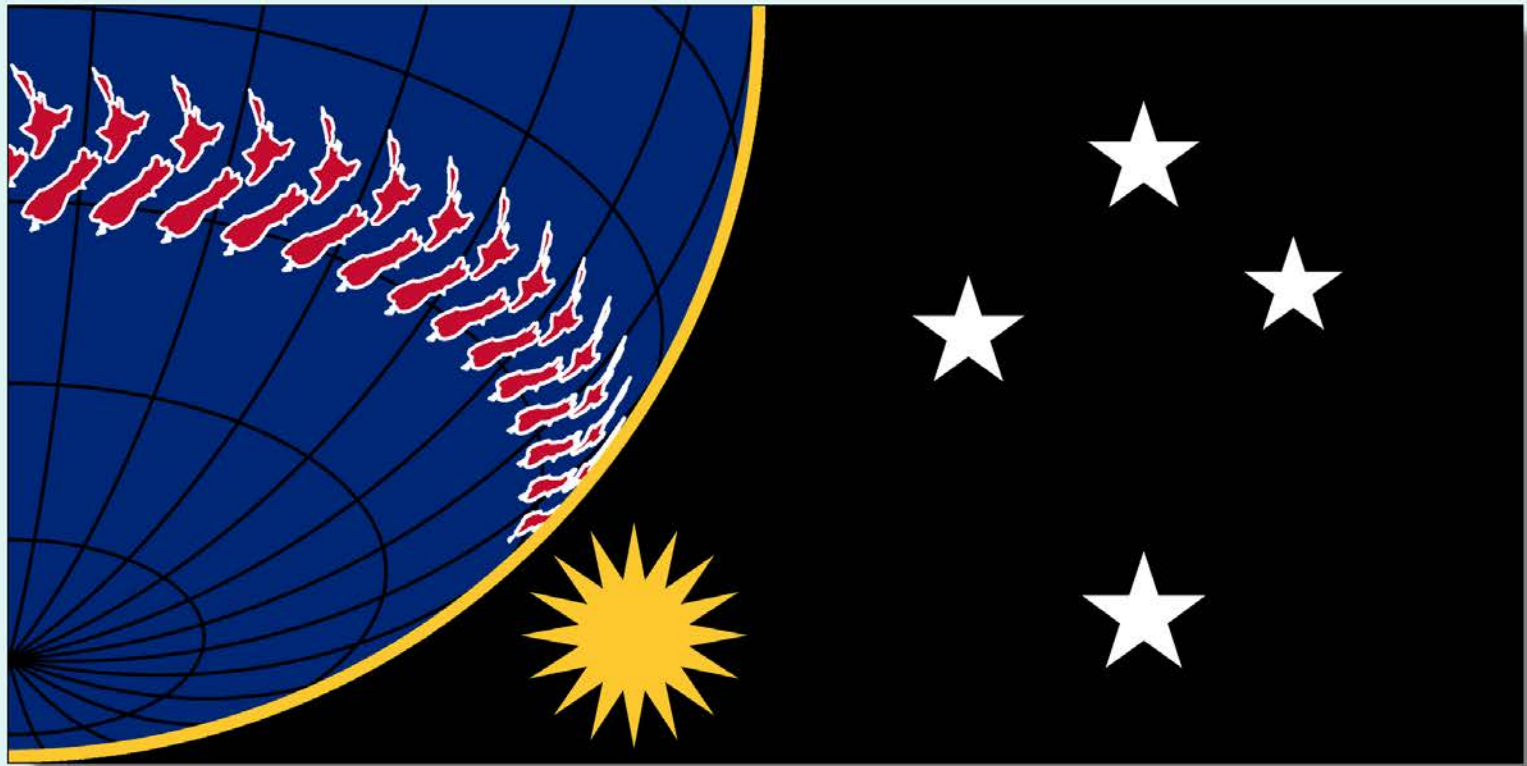


“First to the Light variant 9”, an alternative New Zealand national flag design
 (with suggested adaptations of the design to the other major flags and ensigns of the nation)



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

For this variant, certain information from the original 'First to the Light' flag design will bear repeating: 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 explains the well-known expression, 'New Zealand is first to the light'. Flag design purists generally shun realistic geographical outlines, but here the red-and-white New Zealand outlines may be permitted, since they form a rough sequence of arrowheads to indicate the direction of the spinning globe as it heads towards the first rays of sunrise, sixteen rays in this case, so as to numerically symbolise all of the official regions of New Zealand. The rest of the globe is blue and black, with a gold fimbriation at its circumference, both to indicate the approach of dawn and to visually separate the globe from its black background field. For the national flag, the fly is also black, and it is graced by a white-stars version of the New Zealand-style Southern Cross. For the other flags and ensigns of the nation, the entire hoist design is repeated, but the fly changes as required to accommodate various fields and symbols, as shown above.