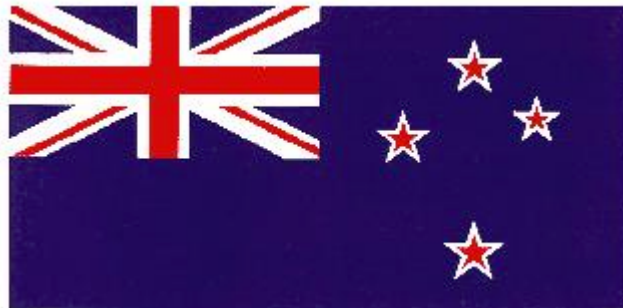


The New Zealand Flag

The New Zealand Flag, or more correctly The New Zealand Ensign, is the symbol of the realm government and people of New Zealand. As a part of our Scout Promise “To do my duty ... to the Queen and my country”, we need to show due respect to the New Zealand Flag which represents Queen and country. Its royal blue background is reminiscent of the blue sea and clear sky surrounding us. The stars of the Southern Cross emphasise this country's location in the South Pacific Ocean. The Union Flag gives recognition to our historical foundations and the fact that New Zealand was once a British colony and dominion.

The New Zealand Flag may be flown on any day of the year. It is particularly appropriate to fly it on days of national commemoration, such as Anzac Day, and on other important occasions.

As New Zealand's national symbol the New Zealand Flag should be treated in a manner worthy of its high status. The Flags, Emblems, and Names Protection Act 1981, administered by the Ministry for Culture and Heritage, defines and protects the Flag. Contained in the Act is the power to prosecute those who misuse it.



Surprisingly, many people are not aware of the special significance attached to the New Zealand Flag. Within certain guidelines, the New Zealand Flag may be used in a number of ways. Similarly, the correct way to display the New Zealand Flag varies from one situation to another.

History of the New Zealand Flag

12 June 2002 marked the centenary of the New Zealand Flag, which became our official flag amidst the pomp and patriotism surrounding the [South African War](#). To mark this occasion, the Ministry delved into the maritime origins of the New Zealand Flag and looked at the history of previous flags used in New Zealand, including that chosen by the United Tribes in 1834 to be the first flag of New Zealand.

From these early beginnings, the New Zealand Flag has gone on to represent New Zealand in almost every arena, perhaps most notably on the battlefield and the sports field. 100 years on, it continues to provide a tangible link to New Zealand across the world, from some of the most remote regions of Antarctica to the September 11 rubble of the World Trade Center towers in New York. The New Zealand Flag is even believed to have been on board the Apollo 11 when Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong made their historic moonwalk in 1969!

A link to the Mother Country: the Union Jack in New Zealand 1840–1902

The Union Jack became the official flag of New Zealand in 1840, and was used for all appropriate occasions on shore. At sea, New Zealand was represented by British naval or maritime flags until the Colonial Naval Defence Act became law in 1865. The Union Jack remained New Zealand's flag until the passing of the New Zealand Ensign Act instituted the current flag in 1902. It continued to be used regularly in New Zealand well into the 1950s, instead of, or in tandem with the New Zealand Flag. Today, the Union Jack is most commonly seen in New Zealand when a member of the Royal Family, or other distinguished British guest, is visiting. It can be difficult to fly correctly due to its non-symmetrical design.

The first Union flag or Union Jack was created by James I in 1606 to represent his new realm of England and Scotland, and was, fittingly, based on the flags of the patron saints of the two countries, St George and St Andrew. The addition of Ireland to the Kingdom of Great Britain in 1801 saw St Patrick's cross incorporated into the design, forming the Union flag which is still used today. Following the creation of the modern Union flag, it was frequently used by the Navy and the name 'Union Jack' is believed to derive from the Navy's use of the flag on the jackstaff of its vessels. In 1908, the British Parliament officially approved the name 'Union Jack' for the flag.

Description and Dimensions of the New Zealand Flag

The New Zealand Flag features, on a royal blue background, a Union Jack in the first quarter and four five-pointed red stars of the Southern Cross on the fly. The stars have white borders.

The notice that appeared in the *New Zealand Gazette* , 27 June 1902, gave the following technical description of the stars and their positions on the New Zealand Flag.

The centres of the stars forming the long limb of the cross shall be on a vertical line on the fly, midway between the Union Jack and the outer edge of the fly, and equidistant from its upper and lower edges; and the distance apart of the centres of the stars shall be equal to thirty-six sixtieths the hoist of the ensign.

The centres of the stars forming the short limb of the cross shall be on a line intersecting the vertical limb at an angle of 82 therewith, and rising from near the lower fly corner of the Union Jack towards the upper fly corner of the ensign, its point of intersection with the vertical line being distant from the centre of the uppermost star of the cross twelve-sixtieths of the hoist of the ensign. The distance of the centre of the star nearest the outer edge of the fly from the point of intersection shall be equal to twelve-sixtieths of the hoist of the ensign, and the distance of the centre of the star nearest the Union Jack from the point of intersection shall be equal to fourteen-sixtieths of the hoist of the ensign

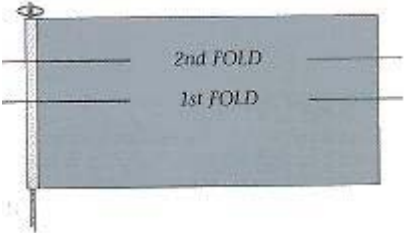




The star nearest the fly edge of the ensign shall measure five-sixtieths, the star at the top of the cross and that nearest to the Union Jack shall each measure six-sixtieths, and the star at the bottom of the cross shall measure seven-sixtieths of the hoist of the ensign across their respective red points, and the width of the white borders to the several stars shall in all cases be equal to one one-hundred-and-twentieth of the hoist of the ensign.

The New Zealand Flag may be made to any size, but in all cases the length should be twice the width.

Folding and Storing the Flag

Flags, which are strung together or hoisted up a flagpole, have a short rope sewn into the edge nearest the pole. On the upper end of the rope is a wooden toggle, while at the lower end there is a spliced eye; it is by means of these that flags are fastened to one another, or to the halyard.

The following diagrams show the correct way to fold the flag.

1. Start like this	
2. Fold lengthwise bottomsides to topside once and then once again.	
3. Bring the ends together.	
4. Now concertina by folding backwards and forwards towards the hoist edge	
5. Keep the Flag bundled by winding the halyard around and under itself.	

Attach the toggle to the upper end of the halyard. Hoist the flag until it reaches the top of the mast, where it is held firmly while the flag is “broken” by giving the halyard a sharp tug. The person who breaks the flag then makes the halyard fast and steps back two paces and salutes. The troop should be at “Alert” during flag break, and all should be facing the flag and salute when the flag is broken.

The flag should only be flown outdoors between 0800 and sunset. At flag down, it should be lowered steadily to the ground, but it must never be allowed to touch the ground. You do not normally salute as the flag is lowered. The breaking of the flag symbolises the start of the day, or hope for the future, and the lowering of the flag is for the end of the day, or in respect for the past.

Flag Protocol

Dignity of the flag

The New Zealand Flag is the national symbol of this country and accordingly it should be honoured and treated with respect. To use, display, destroy, or damage the Flag in or within view of a public place with the intention of dishonouring it is an offence, as is the placement of any letter, emblem, or representation on the Flag.

Advertising and Commercial Use

Any person or organisation may use the New Zealand Flag in advertising. A faithful representation should always be achieved with the flag being reproduced in its true form and colours. Slogans or objects appearing in a different dimension to the Flag, within the context of an advertisement, will not be seen as the placement of unauthorised objects on the Flag. Persons or organisations wishing to use the New Zealand Flag in advertisements or for commercial purposes are welcome to discuss their ideas with the Ministry for Culture and Heritage.

Displaying the Flag

Except when flown with royal or vice-regal flags, the New Zealand Flag should always be given the Position of Honour in New Zealand.

Within New Zealand, the New Zealand Flag takes precedence over all other national flags and house flags. However, international practice forbids the display of the flag of one nation above that of another in time of peace.

When the New Zealand Flag is flown with the flags of other nations, each flag should be the same size and should fly from a separate flagpole of the same height. A house flag may fly beneath the New Zealand Flag on the same flagpole.

The New Zealand Flag may be displayed in a variety of ways:

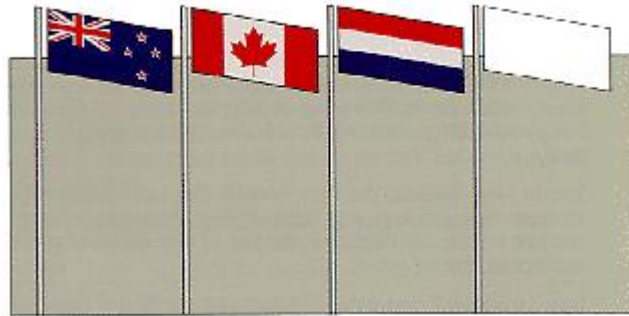
From a Flagpole on a Rope

The first quarter should be placed uppermost and raised as closely as possible to the top of the mast with the flagpole tight.

In a line of national and house flags, the New Zealand Flag should be flown on the left of the observer facing the flags, that is, in the position of honour.

From the observers left to right, the flags should be ranged in this order: the New Zealand Flag, the flags of other nations (in alphabetical order of country), house flags.

In special circumstances, the flags of Commonwealth countries may take precedence over other foreign flags; the Commonwealth flags should also be ranged in alphabetical order.



Times of Mourning

Flags are flown at half-mast as a sign of mourning.



The flag is half-masted by first raising it to the top of the mast and then immediately lowering it slowly to the half-mast position. The half-mast position will depend on the size of the flag and the length of the flagpole. The flag must be lowered to a position recognisably half-mast to avoid the appearance of a flag which has accidentally fallen away from the top of the flagpole. The flag should always be more than its own depth from the top of the flagpole.

On occasions when the New Zealand Flag is flown at half-mast, it is preferable that other flags should not be flown above it. The Flag should be raised again to the peak before being lowered for the day.

A flag flown upside down is a recognised signal of distress.

Flag Glossary

Breaking - A flag is said to be broken when it is allowed to break free at the top of a flagpole after having been furled and hoisted to the top of the pole.

Bunting - A loosely woven coloured fabric, traditionally wool but nowadays often polyester, used for flags and festive decorations.

Canton – A flag is generally divided into cantons or areas for example, on a New Zealand Blue Ensign the Union Jack portion is in the first canton, while the Southern Cross is in the second and fourth cantons.

Colours (maritime) - The flags of a ship

Dipping – Generally a gesture of honour or respect. It is the lowering of the flag then raising again without being stationary.

Ensign - A term that denotes distinctive flags authorised for use by the Navy, the Air Force, merchant ships and pleasure craft. Also the term used for a flag with the Union Flag in the first quarter.

Field – Background colour of the flag

First Quarter - The upper half of the hoist and the place of honour in a flag; also called the canton and sometimes the upper hoist. The three other quarters are the second quarter - the upper half of the fly; third quarter - the lower half of the hoist (also called the lower hoist); and the fourth quarter - the lower half of the fly.

Flagpole - The pole on which a flag is hoisted; sometimes referred to as mast or flagstaff.

Fly - The half of a flag farthest from the halyard.

Gaff - A spar extending out from a flagpole.

Halyard - The rope by which a flag is raised and lowered.

Hoist - The half of the flag nearest to the halyard

House flag - Originally a flag flown from a firm's ship, but now used to describe flags of companies, clubs, and other organisations

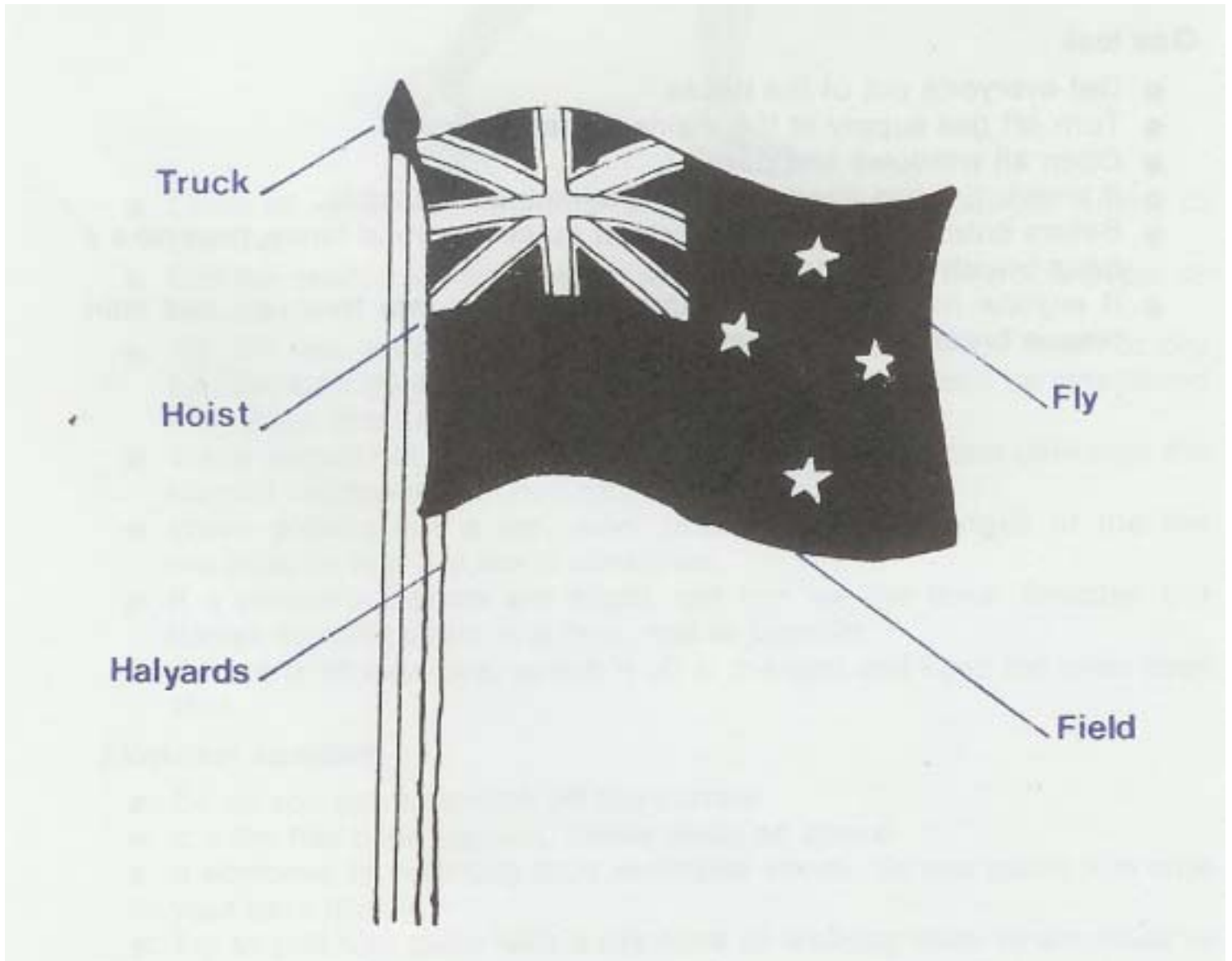
Mast head - The top of the mast or flagpole; also called the peak, or truck.

Pike-staff - A pole with a decorative head to which a ceremonial flag is attached for carrying.

Position of honour - The place given to the highest ranking flag especially when carried.

Staff - The pole used to support a flag especially when carried.

Union Jack - The common name given to the British flag, also known as the Union Flag.



The New Zealand Flag

The New Zealand Flag is more correctly known as the ' _____ ' _____ ' _____ '.

The current design was made law in which year?

The flag of New Zealand has the Union Flag in the top left corner, the flags of which three countries make up the Union Flag or Union Jack?

Why does the New Zealand Flag have the Union Flag on it?

When flying the New Zealand Flag with other, what position should it take if the flagpoles are all the same height, or when they are not?

If the flag is flown upside down this is a sign of what?

What knot should you use to attach the flag-rope to the halyards?

What is the field colour of the New Zealand Flag?

In which canton(s) is the Southern Cross depicted?

Identify these parts of the flag / pole

