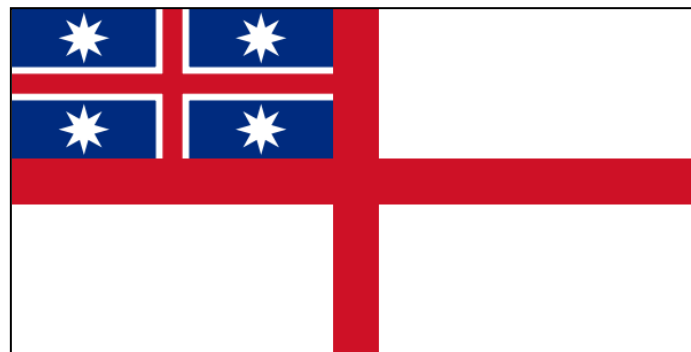


# NEW ZEALAND FLAG DEBATE.



**Introduction:** People all over New Zealand have been debating about our countries flag. Some people feel it should be kept. Others say we should have a change. This debate has not suddenly popped up. People have been disagreeing about our countries flag for decades. It is one of those debates where people are saying they are going to make a change but really they just argue and do absolutely nothing about it. But this time they are doing something about it and having their say.



First New Zealand flag. United Tribes of New Zealand.

**History of our current flag:** Our current flag was adopted in 1902. The Southern Cross stars are on the flag because you can only see them in the Southern hemisphere which is where NZ is located. The Union Jack is on there to recognise we were part of the British Colony. There were many flags before our current one. The Union Jack and blue ensign (blue space) was already part of the flag. In 1902 Premier Richard John Seddon put forth his 'badge' to place on the blue ensign which was the Southern Cross. It passed Parliament and then became New Zealand's flag.

**Arguments for a change in our national flag:** Some people think the flag should be changed because they think it is 'old fashioned' in some ways such as the Union Jack. They think it has been around too long and that New Zealand should have a change. Another reason is people say it is far too similar to the Australian flag because they have the Union Jack, Blue ensign and Southern Cross. But if you look closely we have different coloured stars and Australia's has more stars.



Original NZ flag adopted in 1902.

**Arguments against changing our national flag:** Some people around New Zealand feel the flag should not be changed. Reasons being our soldiers went to World War 1 and 2 with that flag and many died under that flag. People feel it would be disrespectful to change the flag that they went to war with. Another reason is because we have had the flag since 1902 it has been through a lot of things so why change it now?

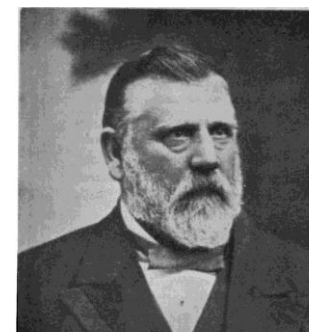
## How does the referendum process work?

In this year's first referendum firstly the panel ask New Zealanders what they stand for and what they want on the flag. New Zealanders then have an opportunity to put flag designs in. The panel then pick 4 designs they think best and New Zealand rank the 4. The one that ranks number 1 gets put up with the original in next year's referendum and New Zealand vote which one. The one with the highest vote will be the New Zealand flag.



One of the many flag designs entered.

**My personal opinion:** My personal opinion on the New Zealand flag debate is that we should change the flag because it is far too similar to the Australian flag and many countries get mixed up with which country is which. I think we should also add some Maori culture into our flag to show we are also a Maori speaking country. The flag should be instantly recognisable and represent all the key aspects of our beautiful country New Zealand. When countries around the world see our flag they will definitely know that's New Zealand.



Premier Richard John Seddon who created the NZ flag we have today.

## Bibliography:

- <https://www.govt.nz/browse/engaging-with-government/the-nz-flag-your-chance-to-decide/>
- <http://www.mch.govt.nz/nz-identity-heritage/flags>
- <http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/politics/flags-of-new-zealand/debates>

