

Children and Young People's Voices Project

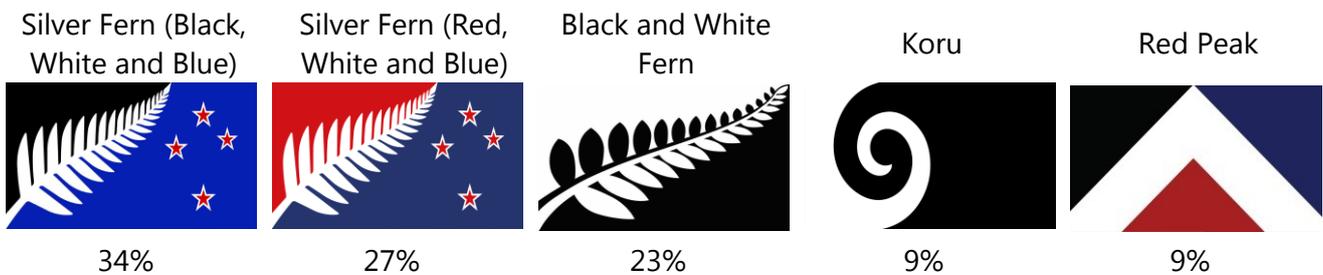
Survey on the National Flag

During 28-Oct – 11 November 2015, 411 children in 5 schools answered questions in a survey on New Zealand's national flag referendum.

Questions were asked to mirror those of the flag referendum.

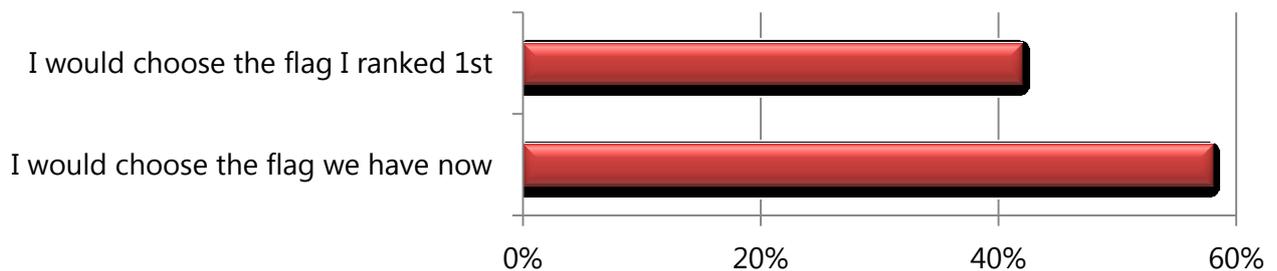
Results

Children were asked to rank their preferred flag. The vast majority of children preferred one of the flags with a fern in the design. The percentages of students ranking each flag first were:

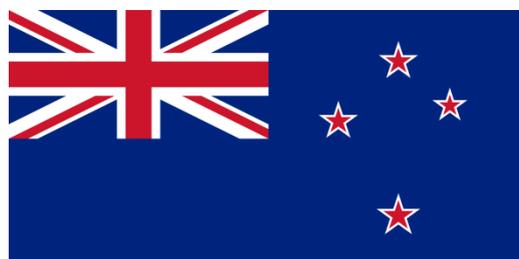


In the second referendum question, students were asked whether they would want to keep the current flag or their preferred flag. About 60% of children indicated they would choose the current New Zealand flag, with the remaining 40% opting for the flag they had ranked first.

What would you choose?



Current New Zealand Flag



Some of the reasons that children chose their preferred flag include:

1.	<p><i>Because it represents New Zealand in my eyes it's different and it is bright and it will be noticed a long way away and it will make us our own country not looking like Australia's flag.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ranked the Silver Fern (Black, White and Blue) as 1st choice• 11-12 years old• Male• Would choose the flag he ranked number 1 over the current flag
2.	<p><i>Because every single one is ugly and I had to pick one. But I prefer the original one that is our flag to this day. We shouldn't change the flag!</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ranked the Silver Fern (Black, White and Blue) as 1st choice• 15-16 years old• Female• Would choose the current flag
3.	<p><i>I like the Silver Fern flag because I think it represents us proudly and it looks like there has been a lot of effort put into the flag that I chose.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ranked the Silver Fern (Red, White and Blue) as 1st choice• 9-10 years old• Male• Would choose the flag he ranked number 1 over the current flag
4.	<p><i>I didn't (rank them) because I don't want to change the flag and a bit of the \$24 M can be used to pay for camp.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Didn't rank the flags• 11-12 years old• Male• Skipped the second referendum question
5.	<p><i>I just think it's quite a good flag and I think it's good that it's much more different to the current flag.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ranked Red Peak as 1st choice• 7-8 years old• Male• Would choose the flag he ranked number 1 over the current flag
6.	<p><i>I HATE ALL OF THEM</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Didn't rank the flags• 11-12 years old• Male• Would choose the current flag

7.	<p><i>Because like there's the leaf of the All Blacks and because it has some black like the All Blacks. The blue represents the sky.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranked the Silver Fern (Black, White and Blue) as 1st choice • 7-8 years old • Male • Would choose the flag he ranked number 1 over the current flag
8.	<p><i>Because I think it represents our country better than the rest only because the fern is native to New Zealand, also the colours are black and white and those are the colours that all sport teams have.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranked the Black and White Fern as 1st choice • 11-12 years old • Female • Would choose the current flag
9.	<p><i>Because all the other flags (apart from red peak) are about supporting sports (I like sport and all that) but shouldn't the flag represent everything that New Zealanders do?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranked the Koru as 1st choice • 11-12 years old • Male • Would choose the current flag
10.	<p><i>Honestly it seems the least worst design out of all of them, if I had to choose one as the best it would be that one, however in general I would still prefer our current flag. If I could vote in the referendum (even though I probably wouldn't be able to) I would vote to keep it.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranked the Silver Fern (Black, White and Blue) as 1st choice • 13-14 years old • Male • Would choose the current flag
11.	<p><i>It has our national icon on it while also keeping our colours of red and blue.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranked the Silver Fern (Red, White and Blue) as 1st choice • 13-14 years old • Male • Skipped the second referendum question
12.	<p><i>Because it has some of the old New Zealand flag in it because some people do not wanna change it and we add a fern because wherever any New Zealand team goes anywhere round the world they go with a silver fern and now they have a silver fern on our flag</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranked the Silver Fern (Red, White and Blue) as 1st choice • 11-12 years old • Skipped gender question • Would choose the flag ranked number 1 over the current flag

13.	<p><i>because even though none of these things are New Zealand related, the Union Jack has been with me all my life and we are proud of the fern but still it isn't really from New Zealand</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranked the Silver Fern (Black, White and Blue) as 1st choice • 13-14 years old • Female • Would choose the current flag
14.	<p><i>I chose that flag because it looks like my Samoan colours</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranked the Silver Fern (Red, White and Blue) as 1st choice • 7-8 years old • Female • Would choose the flag she ranked number 1 over the current flag
15.	<p><i>because it looks like a normal flag and the All Blacks wouldn't be the All Blacks without a black flag (I think)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranked the Black and White Fern as 1st choice • 9-10 years old • Male • Would choose the current flag
16.	<p><i>Because it is my favourite one... it is easy to draw</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranked Red Peak as 1st choice • 7-8 years old • Female • Would choose the flag she ranked number 1 over the current flag
17.	<p><i>I chose this flag because I think it represent us and our whanau it shows the fern to represent the all blacks and the blue to represent the moana and it shows the southern cross to show who we are</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranked the Silver Fern (Black, White and Blue) as 1st choice • 11-12 years old • Male • Would choose the flag he ranked number 1 over the current flag
18.	<p><i>Because it's my favourite flag and it represents the Silver Ferns</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranked the Black and White Fern as 1st choice • 9-10 years old • Female • Would choose the flag she ranked number 1 over the current flag

19.

Because it has got something representing the Maori people

- Ranked the Silver Fern (Black, White and Blue) as 1st choice
- 11-12 years old
- Female
- Would choose the flag she ranked number 1 over the current flag

20.

Because the silver fern is something anyone can associate with New Zealand and every night I look to the sky and see the southern cross and the colours just seem to fit

- Ranked the Silver Fern (Red, White and Blue) as 1st choice
- 13-14 years old
- Female
- Would choose the flag she ranked number 1 over the current flag