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AUSTRALIA

17 August 2013

Rt Hon John Key
Parliament Office
Private Bag 18888
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6160
NEW ZEALAND

Dear Prime Minister

I note that at your last National conference on 10 August 2013 you suggested that you would like to see the Silver Fern on New Zealand's flag.

I would like to put forward for your consideration my own design which has been popular since I won a flag design competition in 2004.

Research suggests that only 30% of people would like to see the colour black appear on New Zealand's national flag – many feel a silver fern on a black background is more suitable to remain as a sporting flag (similar to the Australians with their boxing Kangaroo).

Please find enclosed a silver fern flag patch, and a sheet describing the design in more detail.

I hope this design meets with your approval.

Kind regards.

(Signed)

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Flag Significance

A stylised **Silver Fern**, *kaponga*, a New Zealand icon for well over 100 years, has been worn proudly by many generations of New Zealanders, from sports people, to military personnel and fire-fighters, The silver fern is an element of indigenous flora representing the growth of our nation. The multiple points of the fern leaf represents Aotearoa's peaceful multicultural society, a single fern leaf spreading upwards represents that we are all New Zealanders - one people - growing onward into the future.

The **Southern Cross**, *Māhutonga*, a defining element in the present New Zealand Flag, represents our geographic location in the antipodes. The Southern Cross is visible throughout the year in the southern night skies. It has been used as a navigational aid for centuries and it helped guide early settlers to our islands. Each star is also representative of the major island groups of New Zealand - North Island, South Island, Stewart Island, and the Chatham Islands.

Colours

Red *whero*, is a significant colour to the NZ Maori, and is featured in the present NZ flag. Red also represents the sacrifice made by all New Zealanders during wartime.

White a colour featured in the present New Zealand flag, white *mā* represents Aotearoa, Land of the Long White Cloud, The official Maori name for New Zealand. The colour also represents peace.

Blue a prominent colour in the present New Zealand flag, represents *aumoana* the ocean, that surrounds our island nation, over which all New Zealanders, or their ancestors, crossed to get to New Zealand.

Awards

WINNER	Campbell Live TV3 NZ Flag Poll	2004
WINNER	Fairfax Media Flag Design Competition	2004
WINNER	Pataka Museum Flag Design Poll	2005
WINNER	nzflag.com Change the NZ Flag Poll	2011

