Flags, Symbols and Special Days

Special Days
New Zealand celebrates numerous public holidays throughout the year, including local and regional ones. Some of the more important national holidays include:

- **Waitangi Day** (6 February)
  Commemorates the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi

- **ANZAC Day** (25 April)
  A public holiday in New Zealand and Australia, commemorating those who have served and died in all wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations

Flag of New Zealand
The New Zealand flag has a royal blue background derived from the ensign of the Blue Squadron of the Royal Navy. The stars of the Southern Cross signify New Zealand’s location in the South Pacific Ocean.

In November and December 2015 and March 2016, referendums were held to determine whether the New Zealand people preferred an alternative flag. New Zealanders voted in favour of keeping their current flag.

In 2010 on Waitangi Day, the national Maori flag was officially recognised.

Coat of Arms
The New Zealand coat of arms shows a European female on one side of the shield and Maori chief on the other. The symbols on the central shield represent trade, agriculture and industry. The fern is a popular symbol of nationhood, and the crown is a reminder that the country is a constitutional monarchy.