



## Our Flag Our Story Aotearoa New Zealand

New Zealand, this is our flag, this is our story

Stars of white on red upon bands of white, green and blue

**Blue**, Blue is for the ocean in which our island nation floats

Whether we came here a thousand years ago, a hundred years ago or yesterday

Whether we came here by whaka, by sailing ship, by Ocean liner or by airplane

It is across this great ocean that we journeyed to make this land our new home

**Green**, Green is for the land, it is for our unique natural heritage

It is for forests upon the land and all that lives within them.

It is for all that our land has lost and for all it has gained.

**White**, White is for the mountains, covered in snow,

The mountains that reach into the clouds.

This is our Aotearoa, our land of the long white cloud.

**Stars**, Stars of white on red, Stars of the southern cross,

We are a southern land in the great Pacific Ocean under a southern sky,

It is to the seasons of the south that we build our customs and traditions.

**Red**, red for the blood that has been spilt to build our country

For blood spilt in tribal warfare, in the wars of European arrival.

For Blood spilt on foreign lands, The high velds of southern Africa

The great War, The beaches of Gallipoli, The trenches of Paschendale

The second World War, the Pacific, Greece, Crete, North Africa, the Skies above Europe

The wars in Asia, Korea, Malaya, Vietnam and our peacekeepers in many lands

Red for blood spilt by all those defending our belief in freedom for all people.

**Stars of white**, the colour of peace and hope for we are a peace loving people

We have defended our freedoms we are prepared to defend peace for a better future.

Under this flag, united, our many peoples celebrate that we are one nation.

This is our story, this is our flag, Aotearoa