

Goodies



Time for a flag change?

NEW Zealand is considering changing its national flag. Its government called for new designs in May, and 10,292 entries came in. A panel narrowed them down to five in September. Three of them feature a fern leaf, another a symbol of the Maori (毛利人), New Zealand's indigenous people. Let us see how New Zealanders will fare on this flagging question.

Do you think New Zealand's flag could change?

Only if they can get everyone to agree!



Editor's Note

Hi! I love eating bacon, especially if it is from Denmark. Have you ever had a 'bacon butt' before? It is a sandwich with at least two strips of bacon and lots of ketchup or brown sauce on them. Another sandwich I like is the BLT – a sandwich with bacon, lettuce and tomato. But the WHO recently said that bacon is not good for us and may cause cancer. Oh no! But what they meant was you should not eat too much of it, just like anything else. Read more on G06. On G03 is an article about a charity event to raise money for childhood cancer research. And how did they raise money? By shaving all the hair off people's heads! They are lucky that the weather in Hong Kong is still hot and sunny or else their heads would feel rather chilly!



Simon



Why change flags?

COUNTRIES or places change their flags for different reasons. Hong Kong changed its flag on 1 July 1997, when the city stopped being a colony of Britain and reunited with China.

New Zealand wants to change its flag because it looks too much like the Australian national emblem. That, at least, is what Prime Minister John Key said when he called for the change in May.



A sensitive subject

FLAGS do not affect everyday life, but they can still be **controversial**. Most people would want their flag to be **representative** of their country or city and capture its spirit. But what exactly is 'representative' or 'the spirit' can be difficult to agree on.

Many people could also be emotionally attached to the current flag and be unwilling to change it.

Such modern looking flags!

They are quite pretty choices!



Big debate

TO begin with, not many New Zealanders want to change the national flag. There are huge costs involved in the flag picking process – NZ\$26m (HK\$126 million), to be exact. People are asking whether the money should be put to better use.

Many of the designs submitted cannot be taken seriously either.

"A **kiwi** shooting a green laser beam from its eyes" or "a stick drawing of a **deranged** cat raking its garden" simply is not national flag material.

People are not even happy with the four finalists. Some said the fern designs were too similar to each other; others found the arrangement of the leaves on the fern not "**botanically** correct".



VC



In Hong Kong, we do not call our flag a 'national' flag as that is the People's Republic of China flag. We call ours a 'regional flag' and is "a red flag with a **bauhinia** highlighted by five star-tipped stamens", as described in the Basic Law.



controversial (adj) 具爭議性的
representative (adj) 代表的

kiwi (n) 鸛鴛
deranged (adj) 瘋狂的

botanically (adj) 園藝的
bauhinia (n) 洋紫荊

