



# NZWORDS

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## EDITORIAL

This second issue of *NZWords* follows quickly on the first, which was widely circulated and evidently well received. A correspondent declared a sense of wonder that in the present climate 'something worthwhile' was being offered free. Some readers will be aware that *NZWords* is directly modelled on the Australian National Dictionary Centre's successful publication *Ozwords*, which has been providing a lively forum for discussion of Australian English since its first issue in January 1994. Our indebtedness to *Ozwords* extends here to the adaptation of one of its earlier competition topics to kick off what it is hoped will be a regular *NZWords* Competition feature (see page 6). The main contents of the present newsletter provide discussion of a range of New Zealand English vocabulary, from legal to sporting and Maori terms. Jim Cameron's specialist knowledge of New Zealand legal language informs an article pointing to one field where the lexicographical record is at present less than complete; the editor's sporting piece deals with an area where a good deal of new terminology has appeared of late; and the Director's column takes a fresh look at the use of Maori vocabulary by analysing its occurrence in one of the two recently-compiled NZE corpora or electronic text collections. Readers of the newsletter are once again encouraged to send in

comments and inquiries about these and any other aspects of NZE they have an interest in.

Tony Deverson  
Editor, *NZWords*  
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# New Zealand English at Law

JIM CAMERON

The language of the law has been somewhat neglected by students of New Zealand English. Overseas dictionaries cannot be relied on and our own do not give a full or always accurate picture. The admirable second edition of the *New Zealand Pocket Oxford Dictionary* (NZPOD) (1997) is inconsistent in its selection of legal terms and occasionally does not record different local meanings of English legal words it includes. Some obsolete terms (e.g. **entail**, **foreclosure**, **probation**) are not noted as historical only. Even the *Dictionary of New Zealand English* (DNZE) (1997) is patchy in its coverage of legal terms, having for example no entry for **disputes tribunal**, **family protection**, **incorporated society**, **Maori option**, **protection order**, **resource consent**. The most recent edition of Butterworths *New Zealand Law Dictionary* (1995) is useful but commonly gives specialist definitions taken from the interpretation sections of statutes

The reason for these shortcomings is uncertain. Perhaps there is a supposition that New Zealand law is much the same as English law. Yet just as we inherited the language of the physical and social environment, but adapted it to the new landscape, so the inherited legal language developed in accord with different conditions and perceived needs. While the past policy of copying new English legislation meant a continued adoption of new English legal terms, this policy was never absolute and in some areas (for example land law, family law, and social legislation) did not hold.

Another possible reason is that much legal language is considered too specialised for a general dictionary. Yet many legal terms are encountered and used by non-lawyers. The range of legal terms, and especially compound terms, is wider in the *New Shorter Oxford English Dictionary* (NSOD) and the *Collins English Dictionary* for instance than in DNZE.

New Zealand legal words may have a substantial local history. One instance is **magistrate**. Initially, the term was a synonym for justice of the peace, as it was and largely still is in England. Early **ordinances** (a specific use of this term that has no English counterpart) provided for salaried **police magistrates** and **resident magistrates**. Resident magistrates, especially in frontier districts, were agents of government as well as having judicial functions. Towards the end of the nineteenth century resident magistrates lost their administrative functions and their office was metamorphosed into the purely judicial one of **stipendiary magistrate**. Generally known simply as **magistrates** (or **SMs**) they were legally qualified and exercised increasingly important judicial

functions in **magistrates courts**. These had a general jurisdiction - civil, criminal and domestic - that set them apart from English magistrates courts which mainly dealt with petty crime and were presided over by justices of the peace. Magistrates courts were renamed **district courts** and their presiding judges **district court judges** in 1981, but the term magistrate in New Zealand denoted stipendiary magistrates rather than justices of the peace, who were and are usually referred to simply as **justices** or **JPs**. (**District court** has itself a history. Originally district courts were intermediate courts created in 1858; they were squeezed out between the **Supreme Court** (now the **High Court**) and the magistrates courts and were formally abolished in 1925.) The latest episode of this serial is the creation in 1998 of **community magistrates** to sit in district courts and exercise minor criminal jurisdiction. They are not defined with any reference to JPs.

A proper examination of legal language as part of NZE would require a major study. This article does no more than sample the lexis of four branches - land, resources, criminal justice, and election law. It follows the approach suggested by Tony Deverson in his Introduction to the Orsmans' *New Zealand Dictionary* (NZD) (1994), and treats as distinctive any term or meaning current in New Zealand that is not currently in standard British English, or that has ceased to be current here while remaining current in England.

### LAND LAW

Some New Zealand **land law** terms are uncommon or unknown in England. Conversely the term **title deeds** is not much used here either by lawyers or laymen. Instead we talk of the **title** or **certificate of title**, in the concrete sense of a document which is a copy of the registry entry in the **Land Transfer Office**. The document whose registration confers valid title is not a **deed** nor is it known as such but a **transfer** or **memorandum of transfer**. The **land charge** or **statutory land charge** is very different from the animal of that name in England.

The **land transfer system** and **land transfer title** are at the heart of New Zealand conveyancing law. Their social as well as legal importance is considerable, but the terms do not appear in any general dictionary. They are seldom encountered today, simply because the land transfer system has become to all intents and purposes the sole conveyancing system in New Zealand. In Australia the same system is known as the **Torrens system** after its South Australian originator. The land transfer system contrasted with the older **deeds system**, introduced in



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1841 as a reformed version of traditional English real property law whereby rights to ownership depended on the existence and validity of a chain of documents. The term **title deeds** derives from this.

The shrinking size of residential sections, and the move towards apartment living, has produced several distinctive terms. **Stratum** (or **strata**) **title** and **unit title** are fully defined in DNZE; the common overseas term **condominium** is not NZE. **Cross-lease** may be another distinctive term.

One group of words is of historical interest. Land in **mining districts**, especially Otago, was often held not under orthodox tenures but as **business site**, **residence site** and **special licences** which were subject to the jurisdiction of the **Wardens Court**. These tenures continue to exist but have been brought into the land transfer system by the Mining Tenures Registration Act 1962.

**Blue water title** may be another term that is not used, or little used, outside New Zealand. NSOD does not record it, nor does DNZE. Perhaps a popular rather than a lawyers' term, it refers to a piece of privately owned land that extends below high water mark, an unusual but not unknown occurrence.

As an aside the use of **perch** as a square measure in New Zealand - one fortieth of a rood - may be noted. NSOD gives this as 'rare, except historical'. It became historical here only in 1968 with the advent of metrication, and was until then anything but rare. The area of every piece of land that could not be expressed simply in acres or roods was described in perches. The word occurred in thousands of land titles, and was used to define the size of any section smaller than the quarter-acre 'norm'. Perch as a linear measure on the other hand (as in NZPOD) I have never seen outside the backs of school exercise books!

**Maori land** and the terms relating to it are of course unique to New Zealand. DNZE defines it (in part) as land for which Maori customary or legal title is recognised as valid. This has a circular air and the contrast of customary and legal title is confusing, since customary title is itself a title recognised by the law. At law, Maori land is land owned by Maori under customary or Maori freehold title. **Maori customary land** is land held by Maori in accordance with tikanga Maori. Very little if any of such land has survived the depredations of successive parliaments and land courts. **Maori freehold land** is essentially land which the **Native** (or since 1945 **Maori**) **Land Court** has converted from customary Maori tenure to English freehold tenure and has not been alienated by its Maori possessors. There are a good many specialised terms in this field such as **ahiwenua trust** and **putea trust**.

## THE ENVIRONMENT

**Resource and environment law** has contributed a substantial number of terms to NZE. Some of these have not found their way into dictionaries, for instance **Planning Tribunal**, now the **Environment Court**. **Resource**

**consents**, defined in NZPOD, are of several types - **land use consents**, **subdivision consents**, **coastal permits**, **water permits**, and **discharge permits**. The **building consent**, formerly **building permit**, is familiar to anyone who erects or alters a house. It does not appear in dictionaries. In Britain it is subsumed under the term **planning permission**. Other distinctive NZE terms include **district plan**, **regional plan**, **heritage order**, **access strip**, and **esplanade strip**. There are dictionary entries for **scenic reserve** but not, for example, **historic place**, **maritime park**, or **soil conservation reserve**. Conversely **access agreements**, **ancient monuments**, **listed buildings**, **public pleasure grounds**, **town gardens**, and **village greens** are British English but not NZE.

*There is sometimes speculation on the future of national and regional Englishes in an era when English is becoming a global language.*

## JUDICIAL TERMS

Little linguistic innovation has occurred in criminal law or procedure, three exceptions being **conversion** (of cars etc.), which is defined in DNZE, **Crown solicitor**, and **infringement notice**. On the other hand, the lexis of **criminal justice**, both contemporary and historical, illustrates a long-standing Kiwi inventiveness in devising or adopting (and later discarding) a multiplicity of sanctions against wrongdoers. **Borstal** is English in origin. The sentence and the institution were formally introduced into New Zealand in 1924. It appears to be extant in England but we abolished it in 1975. Nor since 1985 may a New Zealand court release an offender on **probation**. This was then replaced by the sentence of **supervision**. Other non-custodial sentences include **periodic detention (PD)**, which is in NZPOD but not DNZE, and **community care** (recently renamed **community programmes**) which is in neither. Another new sanction is the **non-association order** (1989). The term is not found in NSOD and there seems to be no sanction in England of that name.

At the other end of the scale is the indeterminate sentence of **preventive detention**. A sentence of the same name existed in Britain from 1908 to 1967. Introduced in New Zealand in 1954 to replace the sentence of **reformatory detention** (1910) and declaration as an **habitual offender** and **habitual criminal** (1906), it remains very much alive here.

The **police jail** as a place for the short-term detention of persons charged with or convicted of offences is not recorded in the British dictionaries I have seen. The officer in charge of a prison has since 1954 been known as a **superintendent** (previously the term was **gaoler**). The British English term **governor** has never been used in New Zealand in this context.

**Corrections** (meaning legal penalties and punishments) is a recent import from North America. It is not in NSOD; NZPOD categorises it as archaic. But we now have a **Department of Corrections** and **community corrections**, that is, non-custodial penalties.

Another old word - **habilitation** - was dusted off a few years ago and is used in the compound **habilitation centre**, a residential centre operating programmes for offenders. This may be a distinctive New Zealand term.

## ELECTORAL USAGE

The New Zealand lexis of **parliamentary elections** often departs from the British, quite apart from the vocabulary created by MMP. Dictionaries note the distinctive use of **electorate** in New Zealand (and Australia) to describe the area, legally called **electoral district** here, that corresponds to **constituency** in Britain. They also record **informal vote**. But others have got away. The boundaries of electoral districts are fixed by the **Electoral Commission**, formerly the **Representation Commission** (in Britain the **Boundary Commission**). We have **electoral rolls** where the British term is **electoral register**, although New Zealanders do **register** as electors. The terms **main roll** and **supplementary roll** are not British English; nor naturally are **general** and **Maori rolls** and **electoral districts**. (DNZE has **Maori seats**.) The British terms **electoral area** and **polling card** are unknown to us. We have **polling places** and **polling booths**, although the term **polling booth** is often used loosely to encompass also both polling places and what the Electoral Act calls 'inner compartments' where the voter marks the ballot paper. The British terminology is different and somewhat confusing to the Kiwi - **polling districts**, **polling places** (which do not seem to have the same denotation as ours), **polling stations**. **Polling booth** describes what our law calls **inner compartments**. The **special vote**, loosely a vote cast anywhere except at a polling place in the elector's electorate on election day, was invented in 1956 to replace a variety of terms and procedures - **postal vote**, **absentee vote**, **serviceman's vote**. It appears to be distinctive to New Zealand. The British legislation allows political parties to appoint **polling agents** and **counting agents**, whereas New Zealand law refers to **scrutineers**.

There is sometimes speculation on the future of national and regional Englishes in an era when English is becoming a global language. This is akin to the question how far New Zealand law is a separate system within the common law world. The process of fission and fusion is a subtle and complex one both in language and in law. New Zealand law and its lexis are increasingly influenced by international conventions and fashions in institutions and ideas. But there are counter-currents. Thus British accession to the EC has called into being a substantial legal lexis that is largely alien to New Zealand. Conversely the Maori renaissance has led to the reception of novel terms into our law. Nor has the flow of original legislation ceased. It seems unlikely that a distinctive New Zealand component in our legal English will disappear.

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# From THE OXFORD COMPANION TO NEW ZEALAND LITERATURE

November 1998 saw the publication of another major New Zealand reference work from Oxford University Press, *The Oxford Companion to New Zealand Literature*, edited by Roger Robinson and Nelson Wattie. One of the large number of contributors to this volume is Harry Orsman, who has drawn on his accumulated lexicographical materials to write entries with a literary slant on a good number of quintessential and iconic New Zealand English words. Two sample entries which bridge the 'lit-lang. divide' in this way are reprinted below.

**bach (or batch)** as a noun (NZ 1924, thence to Australia 1929) derives in an indirect way from the intransitive verb 'to bach' (Australia 1882, NZ 1890), to live alone or with others of the same sex doing one's own cooking and housekeeping: 'You would live in a cheap lodging-house or batch with another girl' (Clyde, *Pagan's Love*, 1905). It is probably a familiar shortening of an obsolete, distinctively New Zealand verb, 'to bachelorise' (*Auckland Weekly News*, 20 Dec. 1879). The noun was first applied (1911) to a simple habitation rented cheap: 'And seeing a small hut in a back garden by the road, of the sort called a bach in this country ... I inquired at the house if I might inhabit it' (D'Arcy Cresswell, *Present Without Leave*, 1939). The contrast with the Otago and Southland 'crib' (a hut 1856, a

weekend cottage 1909) is often quoted as one of the few obvious regional differences in New Zealand English. To go baching or live in a bach is often an affirmation of the kind of earthy pragmatic masculine pastoralism expressed in literature by Barry Crump among others and associated with the 'Man Alone' topos. Nigel Cox wrote on this topic in 'At the Bach' in *New Zealand Geographic*, Jan.-Mar. 1995.

**Pom, pommy or pommie** were originally Australian terms, first recorded there 1912, for an immigrant from Britain, especially England. 'Pommy' was first recorded from within New Zealand in the 1920s, 'pom' from 1946. They did not replace the usually non-derogatory New Zealand 'homey' as the common colloquial term for 'Briton' until World War 2. The derogatory 'pongo', originally applied to

British soldiers, also came into general use during that war. The words derive from a wordplay associating 'pomegranate' (also from 1912 in Australia, and pronounced 'pommy' or 'pummy' 'grannit'), a name for a British immigrant, with the Australian rhyming series 'immigrant', 'Jimmygrant' (New Zealand 1845, Australia 1859), 'Pommy Grant' or 'pummy grant' (the last two recorded in Australia from 1912-13 but not in New Zealand); thence to the elliptical or familiar forms 'pom' and 'pommy'. Unlikely derivations (that is, 'not supported by evidence') include: 'Prisoners of Mother England'; 'Permit of Migration Ireland or England'; 'Pompey', naval slang for Portsmouth; rhyming slang for 'Tommy'; and French slang 'paumé', 'lacking in energy'.

Compounds and derivatives include 'whingeing pom' (Australia 1962, New Zealand 1985), for a stereotypically complaining British immigrant, 'Pomland' (1974), 'Pomgolia' (1976), 'Pongolia' (1967), 'pommie-bashing' (1987), 'Pommy bastard' (1940) and 'pommyism' (1920), the assumption of an air of superiority.

Roger Hall's play *Prisoners of Mother England* (1979) is a recent literary use of the term and treatment of immigration from Britain as a central theme.



Roger Robinson and Nelson Wattie  
Editors of *The Oxford Companion to New Zealand Literature*

Both entries by Harry Orsman.

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# From the New Zealand Dictionary Centre

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A news item in the Wellington *Evening Post* on 15 October 1998 illustrated well a feature of contemporary New Zealand English. The item began:

A hui in Taranaki on Saturday will decide whether to take legal action against TVNZ over a news story on preserved heads, mokomokai. Hawera entertainer, Dalvanius, said an item on Sunday's One Network News had been edited so that it appeared he wanted to display publicly the mokomokai...

Visitors from overseas often comment on the extent to which New Zealand English has borrowed words from Maori. Place names and the names of varieties of trees and plants, birds, fish and shellfish, insects and spiders have been familiar examples, along with words referring to aspects of Maori culture. These borrowed words typically appear in print untranslated, with only the less frequently-used words such as **mokomokai** being glossed. At the same time, although the rich and colourful meanings and etymologies of many place names of Maori origin are not yet widely known by many speakers of New Zealand English who use them daily, there have been serious efforts made over the last decade, especially in the media and the education system, to maintain Maori pronunciation in word borrowings into English.

The extent and nature of the Maori contribution to New Zealand English in the 1990s has recently been able to be revealed through analysis of two large representative samples of New Zealand English compiled at Victoria University of Wellington: the Wellington Corpus of Spoken New Zealand English (WSC) and the Wellington Corpus of Written New Zealand English (WWC). Each of these large collections of text samples is about a million words in length and contains about 500 samples of English being used in many situations. The two corpora are now available on a single CD-ROM from the School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies at Victoria University of Wellington. They can be analysed with the help of commercially-available computer software such as *WordSmith* which is able to be purchased via the Internet from Oxford University Press at [www1.oup.co.uk/elt/catalogue/multimed/4589846/4589846.html](http://www1.oup.co.uk/elt/catalogue/multimed/4589846/4589846.html).

The computer software can greatly speed up the analysis of those words which are used in New Zealand English, how often they are used and by whom, as well as the company individual

words are likely to be associated with (for example, which words in the corpus are most likely to precede or follow the words *terribly*, *pretty*, or *tangata*).

Analysis shows that on average, about six words in every thousand spoken or written in New Zealand are of Maori origin. In the millionwords of the spoken corpus there are 25,599 different word forms, of which 777 are of Maori origin. These 777 words are used a total of 5076 times in the corpus. The 50 most frequently occurring Maori words in the corpus are as follows:

<b>Maori</b>	<b>Hemi</b>
<b>Te</b>	<b>Motuhake</b>
<b>Kiwi</b>	<b>Ohakune</b>
<b>Pakeha</b>	<b>Tolaga</b>
<b>Marae</b>	<b>(30) Wairarapa</b>
<b>Porirua</b>	<b>Tapu</b>
<b>Reo</b>	<b>Waka</b>
<b>Wanganui</b>	<b>Tauranga</b>
<b>Ae</b>	<b>Whakapapa</b>
<b>(10) Ngati</b>	<b>Whangarei</b>
<b>Taranaki</b>	<b>Rangi</b>
<b>Mana</b>	<b>Petone</b>
<b>Waitangi</b>	<b>Porou</b>
<b>Kohanga</b>	<b>Aotearoa</b>
<b>Kaupapa</b>	<b>(40) Aroha</b>
<b>Whanau</b>	<b>Tikanga</b>
<b>Waikato</b>	<b>Tino</b>
<b>Kia ora</b>	<b>Iwi</b>
<b>Korero</b>	<b>Ka</b>
<b>(20) Karori</b>	<b>Ruatoria</b>
<b>Rotorua</b>	<b>Tama</b>
<b>Hui</b>	<b>Wha</b>
<b>Nga</b>	<b>Manawatu</b>
<b>Kura</b>	<b>Manuka</b>
<b>Taupo</b>	<b>(50) Toa</b>

Any corpus, however representative it aims to be, can be only a snapshot of a language, influenced subtly by the particular contexts in which the texts have been collected. This list of frequently occurring words of Maori origin in New Zealand English can therefore serve as only a rough guide. By far the most frequently occurring Maori word in New Zealand English is the word **Maori** itself, accounting for about 20 per cent of all the 5076 Maori words in the spoken corpus. It refers of course in different contexts sometimes to people and at other times to language or culture. If we do not take the word **Maori** into account, about 45 per cent of the Maori words in the corpus are place names and other proper

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# Sporting New Labels

TONY DEVERSON

What may have been the shortest-lived New Zealand usage on record hit the headlines in May last year at the time of the women's rugby union World Cup played in the Netherlands. As the Kiwi women rucked and ran their way with stunning ease to the title of world champions, they began to be described, by journalists initially, as the **Gal Blacks**, a name rather cleverly punning on (loosely rhyming with) that of their hitherto more illustrious male counterparts the **All Blacks**, whose classic black uniform they too wear.

No sooner was the women's triumph complete, however, than it was made clear to all and sundry that the name bestowed on them was unacceptable both to the team itself and the New Zealand Rugby Football Union which administers both male and female rugby. NZRFU chief executive David Moffatt was reported as rejecting the name as inappropriate on the grounds that 'gal is an American slang term and certainly not what we want to call our team'. A replacement was promised, and in the meantime most journalists and others accepted the name's red-carding. It was sighted however on the cover of the July 1998 issue of *New Zealand Sport Monthly* ('Where now for the Gal Blacks?'), whose editorial lauding the team's success said the name would have to do until something better came along.

Better or not the officially sanctioned substitute was announced early in August and the **Gal Blacks** of brief notoriety (along with other canvassed names such as **Elle Blacks** and **She Bs** - after **ABs**) were finally history. The team was henceforth to be known as the **Black Ferns**. Here the colour adjective fittingly remains, and the noun echoes the name sported (since the early 1990s) by another black-clad international New Zealand women's team, the netballers or **Silver Ferns**. Since that title itself derives from the famous fernleaf-cum-national symbol of the All Black jersey (**to wear the silver fern** is a common variant of **to be an All Black**), there is an obvious appropriateness in reapplying the fern to the rugby union context. **Black Ferns** is further legitimised by the presence in the natural world of a **black (tree-)fern**, in Maori the **mamaku**.

Hard on the heels of the **Black Ferns** have come the **Kiwi Ferns**, their counterparts in rugby league, the men's international team having long been referred to as the **Kiwis**. (The New Zealand women were pitted against the touring **Lionesses** from Great Britain in recent test matches.) These two rugby coinages will greatly strengthen an association between ferns and New Zealand sportswomen, though the inevitable abbreviation **Ferns** (the union men having already appropriated **Blacks**) will now

be ambiguous out of context. Singular forms **Black Fern** and **Kiwi Fern** are now predictable, with the stress likely to settle on the first element rather than, as in **Silver Fern**, on the second (compare **Black Caps** and others below).

## TEAM BRANDING

In the commercialised, image-conscious sporting world of the late 1990s, it has become almost obligatory for a national team (and many a provincial or regional one) to acquire an appealing and distinctive brand name. A headline such as 'New Zealand hopeful of victory' could refer to any number of teams; administrators now prefer their sporting product to be more uniquely identified. A profusion of new national representative labels has arisen of late as a result, and in several other sports besides the two rugby codes. Thus the men's softball team has become the **Black Sox**, which plays antonymously on the name of the celebrated Chicago **White Sox** baseball team - which name has subsequently been applied in full circle to the New Zealand women's softball team (no concern in this sport about American associations!).

The apt **Tall Blacks** is recorded from 1995 for the men's basketball team, a men's ice hockey team played in 1998 under the name of **Ice Blacks**, and the **Wheel Blacks** travelled to Canada for the second wheelchair rugby World Cup in June 1998. A series of international matches in the short, designed-for-television game of **Cricket Max** featured New Zealand's **Max Blacks**, and in men's test cricket the **Black Caps** (named for that traditional item of their on-field attire) took over to most supporters' relief from the recently less than explosive **Young Guns**.

What is striking about all these current brand names is that without exception they derive directly or indirectly from the prototypical **All Black** name. Even **Gal Blacks**, admittedly Americanised, was paying homage to its mana. The NZRFU chief's argument that **Gal Blacks** if not banned might be followed by other slangy names like **\*Stick Chicks** for the women's hockey team, overlooked the fact that **\*Stick Chicks** (as **\*Bully Boys**, say, or **Young Guns** for that matter) would demonstrate no linguistic connection at all with New Zealand's foremost sporting institution and its widely adopted uniform and emblem, and accordingly would lack all credibility.

The name **All Blacks** was given to the first national rugby representatives to tour Britain, France and Canada, in 1905-06 (subsequently termed the **originals**, or **Original All Blacks**). Though no word could now be more Kiwi, it

was in fact coined by a Brit and used in British newspapers before being adopted back home (the players were named for their strip, and an alternative explanation involving inadvertent alteration of the phrase 'all backs' is flawed; see DNZE s.v. **all black**).

Some of the original All Blacks returned to Britain in 1907-08 as members of an **All Golds** rugby league team, before league got under way in New Zealand itself. Apart from the rather curious term **double All Black**, recorded in *DNZE* from the 1960s and meaning a man who has represented New Zealand at both rugby union and cricket (even though our cricketers have never been called All Blacks), there were no other secondary formations for another 75 years, when the previously overshadowed soccer code in New Zealand enjoyed its finest hour as the national team against huge odds qualified for the 1982 World Cup in Spain.

Since a black strip was especially unsuitable for the warm Asian venues of many of the qualifying games, the team broke with tradition and were kitted out in (virtually) all white, so that the **All Whites** in name were the All Blacks' opposites, being for a time genuine rivals for the public's attention. However in August last year Soccer New Zealand formally dropped this to date most durable of the names modelled on **All Blacks** (not without complaints from some of the stalwart players of the 1980s), citing the risk of adverse reaction overseas, that is to what might be perceived as a racially insensitive label. **New Zealand** has been reinstated as the soccer team's name, though administrators acknowledge that **All Whites** is likely to remain in more informal and unofficial reference.

But other such names are coming thick and fast at present as we have seen. The emergence and higher profile than previously of New Zealand women's sporting teams increases the possibility of new formations. Thus the women's soccer team has adopted the name **Swanz**, neatly combining another 'all white' reference with the initials of the country. There is a follow-my-leader aspect to this process which ensures we have not yet seen the completion of this close-knit set of 'sub-All Black' team-names.

**Postscript:** Readers of *NZWords* are invited to send evidence of any authentic international New Zealand team names they know of that are not referred to in this article. Alternatively let us have your suggestions for other team names, serious or whimsical as you wish.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

nouns. Three per cent are the names of flora and fauna. **Manuka**, **kumara**, and **kea** are the most frequent of these words. It is interesting to note that none of the 103 occurrences of **kiwi** in the corpus refers to the bird. All occurrences of **kiwi** refer to individual persons, national identity, or sports teams. Grammatical words such as **te** and **nga** account for about 13 per cent of the Maori words used in the corpus, sometimes as part of place names, while the remaining 39 per cent of Maori words are those specifically associated with tikanga Maori (e.g. **marae**, **hui**, **iwi**) or more culturally-neutral words such as **rua**, **wai**, or **tino**.

When languages are in contact they can interact in rich and subtle ways. The many ways in which te reo Maori contributes to making New Zealand English distinctive will be one of the areas of continuing research at the New Zealand Dictionary Centre and will be explored further in future issues of *NZWords*.

### Letters to the Editor

Readers to *NZWords* are invited to send in comments and queries about any aspect of New Zealand English they have an interest in. See contact details at right.

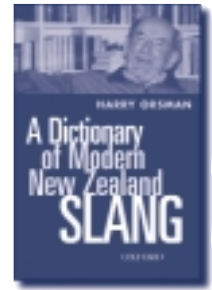
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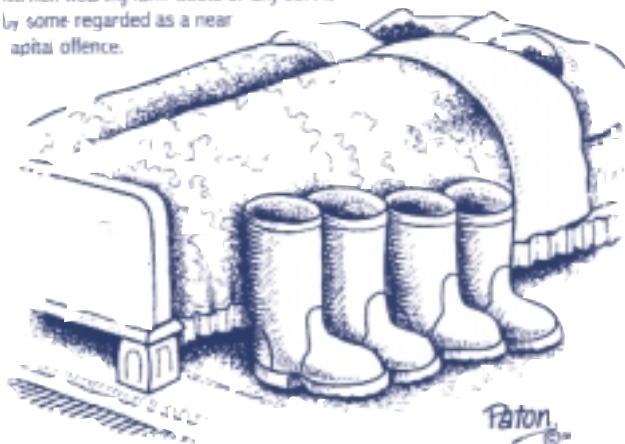
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# THE DICTIONARY OF NEW ZEALAND ENGLISH 1

edited by Harry Orsman

Southland Slippers: A Mainland wellington, otherwise farm gumbot though tailgate might be our gumbot Capital spare thought for the tar with where native hospitality allows these boom companions past the back door in name at least. The reference is to most farm houses especially the south where dogs, gumbots and once upon a time swing from traditionally get no further than the back door. To come into the high wearing farm boots of any sort is by some regarded as a near capital offence.



# WORDZ