

How well do we know our language?

Activity 5: Unravelling New Zealand usage for newcomers.

Imagine that your neighbour is a newcomer to New Zealand from Sweden or Indonesia. How would you explain these sentences to people for whom New Zealand English is unfamiliar:

1. He hit a young horopito and it shot him across into a bunch of lawyer like a dirty great coil of winch-rope. (Crump, Barry (1961) Hang on a Minute, Mate :p 189).
2. They hobnailed into the boozer as soon as they collected their dough.
3. When a female gets you in her grasp, she hangs on like a rata.
4. He wouldn't break it down, even after we had given him a fair go.
5. She was one out of the box when it came to making muffins.
6. Those anklebiters were tuckered out.
7. I told him to get off the grass or he'd soon be up to his neck in it.
8. Get your skates on or the teacher will have your guts for garters.
9. He's a real wowser when it comes to that sort of thing.
10. Things will get a bit iffy if you string him along about pay rates.