




# Auckland Doctors



  
**Waitemata DHB**

**Location:**  
North and West Auckland

**Hospitals:**  
North Shore Hospital  
Waitakere Hospital




  
**Auckland DHB**

**Location:**  
Central Auckland


**Hospitals:**  
Auckland City Hospital  
Starship Children's  
Greenlane Clinical Centre



  
**Counties Manukau DHB**

**Location:**  
South Auckland

**Hospitals:**  
Middlemore Hospital  
Kidz First  
Manukau Super Clinic



**Auckland**  
Big City, Big Opportunities!

[www.aucklanddoctors.co.nz](http://www.aucklanddoctors.co.nz)

# Checklist for New Zealand

*Have you remembered to...?*

- ☐ Book flights to New Zealand
- ☐ Look into accommodation for arrival to NZ
- ☐ Contact a relocation company for shipping any large items
- ☐ Packed the appropriate clothes for the current & future weather in NZ
- ☐ Read about the current exchange rate in NZ
- ☐ Look into public transportation in Auckland – how will I get around?
- ☐ Look into Personal Health Insurance, if required
- ☐ Look into Indemnity Insurance in NZ
- ☐ Look into my salary - how much will I be earning?
- ☐ Nearly complete all MCNZ requirements and bring all required documents
- ☐ Complete all Immigration requirements
- ☐ Complete all ACLS requirements
- ☐ Begin the Pre-Employment Health Screening Process
- ☐ Look into driving and driving license requirements in NZ
- ☐ Look into opening a bank account in NZ
- ☐ Look into sorting out a mobile phone in NZ
- ☐ Look into schools/daycare/etc for my children, if required
- ☐ Look into requirements for relocating my pets

Notes:

## Haere Mai! Welcome!

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A big welcome from all of us at the Northern Regional Alliance Ltd and also welcome on behalf of the Auckland Regional District Health Boards (DHBs) – Waitemata, Auckland, Counties Manukau and Northland! It is great to have you as a part of the hospitals in the Auckland Region and we hope you will enjoy your time with us.

Northern Regional Alliance Ltd is the employment agent and a not-for-profit limited liability company wholly-owned by the three Auckland DHBs. Northern Regional Alliance Ltd manages the recruitment, allocations and facilitation of training for all RMOs across the region.

Resident Medical Officers are a vital part of our healthcare workforce. The staff at Northern Regional Alliance Ltd aim to provide you with information, tools and support so you can get ahead with your medical career in the Auckland region. This pack is designed to give you an overview regarding the “WHO”, “WHAT” and “WHERE” of living and working in Auckland as a RMO.

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## **New Zealand culture**

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The New Zealand culture is a combination of a number of foreign influences including: English, Scottish, Irish, American, Asian, Australian and the original Maori tribes. The country is also experiencing an increase in visitors from southern Asia, giving New Zealand a truly multi-cultural feel. There has been a recent renaissance for the original Maori dialect, which is often used to promote the country.

The overall population of New Zealand is heavily influenced by European descendants, with British and Irish connections by far and away the strongest. There is a small but significant community of Dutch, South Slav and Italians who have settled in New Zealand.

The country itself is well known for its strong Maori background, dance, music and to a lesser extent TV and media. Sport also plays a major part in everyday life with the 2011 Rugby World Cup winners the "All Blacks" and cricketing team well known throughout the sporting world as well as the newly famous football team – The All Whites!



## **Getting here**

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Though New Zealand seems very far away and the flights do take a long time, check with your travel agent for some good options for stopovers – you can see quite a lot on your way here – Asia especially; as most flights will be routed via it.

Here's a quick guide to New Zealand's airports and the airlines that fly into, and around, the country.

<http://www.newzealand.com/int/new-zealand-airlines-and-airports/>

## **Relocation companies**

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Ensure you check with your airlines carrier regarding their baggage allowance. If you want to bring more of your personal belongings you can use a relocation company. Some relocations companies include, but are not limited to:

Useful links:

<http://www.alliedpickfords.co.nz>

<http://www.transworld.co.nz>

## Posting Parcels to New Zealand

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You may need to post a few personal items to Auckland prior to leaving home. You can do this as follows:

There is a "Post Resante" option available via New Zealand Post (<http://www.nzpost.co.nz/home/receiving-mail/poste-restante>) through which you can post a parcel and can collect it within three months from one of the Post Resante locations. Do check the terms and conditions thoroughly before using the service.

Their website suggests that you do not need to register for this but it would be to good to drop a quick email to NZ post just to ensure that the Auckland address remains unchanged for this service. It appears they have only one location in Auckland:

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|          |   |      |             |             |
|----------|---|------|-------------|-------------|
| Auckland | Ground Floor,<br>Bledisloe Bldg,<br>24 Wellesley Street | 1010 | 09 379 6714 | 09 377 4622 |
|----------|---|------|-------------|-------------|

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Visit the link under "Contact us" for an email - <http://www.nzpost.co.nz/contact-support>. You may expect a response by close of business the next working day.

## Guide to Auckland

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Auckland - First City of the Pacific and New Zealand's largest and liveliest city.

### Population

Auckland is New Zealand's largest city. Approximately 1.3 million people reside in the greater Auckland area. This represents over 30% of the population of the whole country.



### Geography

The city, suburbs and gulf islands cover an area of 637km<sup>2</sup>. Auckland is built on a narrow isthmus between two harbours, and is surrounded by extinct volcanoes and picturesque islands. The city is known as the 'City of Sails' because of a great number of yachts that sail in the harbours and the adjoining Hauraki Gulf.



### Language

English is the main written and spoken language. Maori, Polynesian and Asian languages are also spoken.

### Climate

The climate is temperate, with warm summers (averaging over 24 degrees) and cooler winters (averaging 16 degrees). The summer months are between December and March. The prevailing wind is westerly.



## **Economy**

Auckland is the retail and commercial centre of New Zealand. Auckland is also the 'gateway' to New Zealand for tourism and immigration.

For more information regarding Auckland and its suburbs please visit:

<http://www.aucklandnz.com/aucklandguide/>  
[http://www.auckland-suburb-guide.co.nz/#Map\\_of\\_Auckland\\_Suburbs](http://www.auckland-suburb-guide.co.nz/#Map_of_Auckland_Suburbs)  
<http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/EN/Pages/default.aspx>  
[www.guidetoauckland.co.nz](http://www.guidetoauckland.co.nz)  
[www.viewauckland.co.nz](http://www.viewauckland.co.nz)

## Property

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### Short term Accommodation

Temporary accommodation is available on site at the Greenlane Clinical Centre, called the "Greenlane Staff Residence", for those working at Auckland City Hospital or Starship Hospital only. For information on the Greenlane Staff Residence, please email: [GLStaffRes@adhb.govt.nz](mailto:GLStaffRes@adhb.govt.nz)

For those working at Middlemore Hospital, please visit Middlemore apartments which are close to the hospital. <http://middlemoreapartments.co.nz/>. Also feel free to visit the following website for short term accommodation near Auckland Airport: <http://www.vrhotels.co.nz/hotels/manukau-city/proximity-apartments>

There are also a number of serviced apartments, and letting options close to the hospital and in surrounding suburbs.

Useful links

[http://www.questapartments.co.nz/Accommodation/134/new\\_zealand/auckland\\_cbd/quest\\_auckland/welcome.aspx](http://www.questapartments.co.nz/Accommodation/134/new_zealand/auckland_cbd/quest_auckland/welcome.aspx)

<http://www.aptsinakld.co.nz/> (directory of accommodation in Auckland)

<http://www.accommodation.nz.com/auckland/hotel/> (directory of hotels in Auckland)

<http://www.manz.co.nz/> (directory of motels in Auckland)

[www.trademe.co.nz](http://www.trademe.co.nz)

<http://www.finda.co.nz/business/c/accommodation/>

<http://www.auckland-apartments.co.nz/>

### Rental Property

Rental housing prices and quality vary and it is always advisable to visit a property personally before signing a Tenancy Agreement (also known as a lease). First appearances can be deceptive – make sure you check the basics. Parts of New Zealand can be cold and houses that do not get a lot of direct sun may have problems with dampness during the winter months. Factors such as proximity to transport, shops and schools, as well as the general feel of the neighbourhood, also need to be taken into account.

It is a good idea to find out about all your legal rights and responsibilities well before signing a lease. Tenancy services can help you with this.

Most rental properties are unfurnished, apart from an oven, a laundry facility and things like curtains and carpet. In some cases, you may have to provide your own heater.

Demand for good quality rentals is high. It may take some time to find a suitable property and, when you do, you will usually have to make a quick decision. To get a better idea about rental prices in Auckland have a look at the Department of Building and Housing

### Residential Property

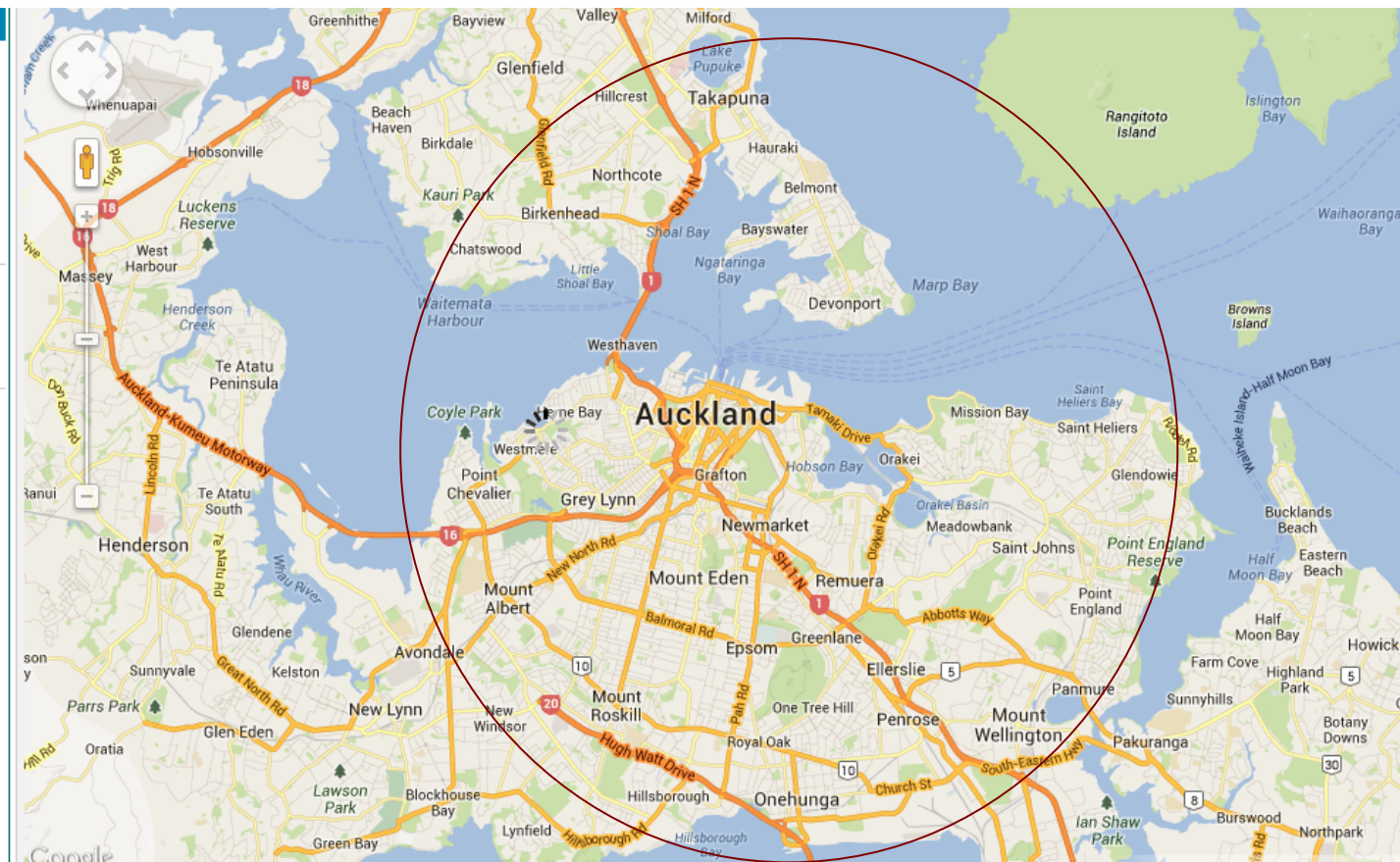
Housing stocks are extensive and provide an unusual range of opportunity for those seeking to match their home to a particular lifestyle. Rural 'lifestyle blocks' comprising custom-built homes with several acres of farmland are particularly popular. Most offer easy access to the main urban centres. City housing ranges from restored villas, dating from the early 1900s, to modern suburban homes with large gardens, or 'sections' as they are termed in New Zealand. Inner city apartments, featuring the latest in metropolitan living, have also become a feature of the major cities.

Most urban homes are stand-alone and are either built of wood or brick. Although many are insulated, most do not have central heating or double-glazed windows. Most have open fires, wood burners, gas or electrical heating.



Prices for homes in New Zealand vary considerably. A lot depends on where they are located - homes in Auckland, for example, are generally more expensive than homes in Wellington. House prices in smaller cities and towns tend to be less expensive. Costs also vary within neighbourhoods and it is important to find out as much as possible about an area before purchasing.

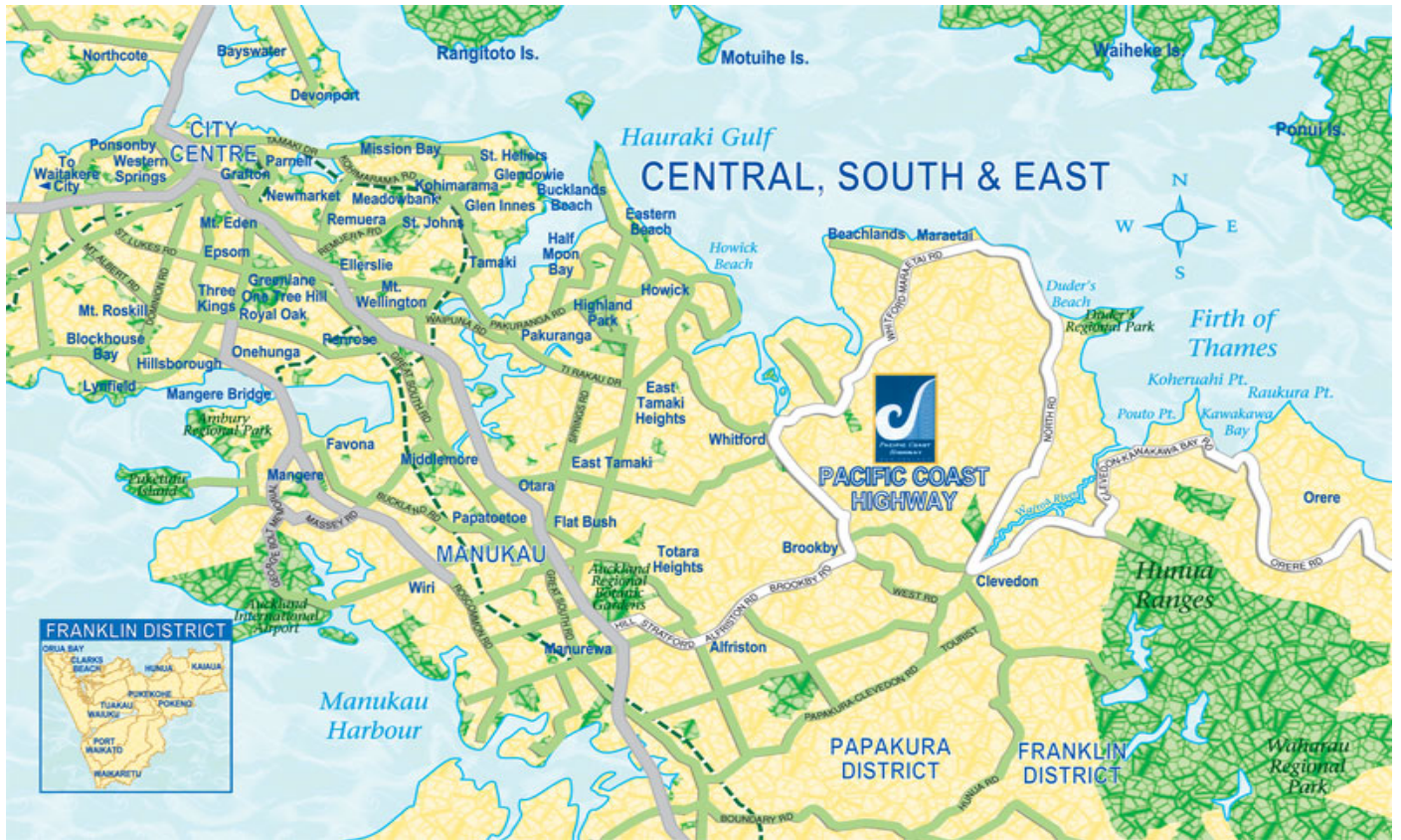
There are many areas in Auckland that are great to live in. We tend to recommend that doctors live more centrally – so anywhere within this circle would be fine. Let our team know if you're looking at a particular suburb outside here and we can let you know about it.











## Education

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### School system

Schooling is available to children from five years old, and is compulsory from ages six to 16.

The Auckland urban area has 340 primary schools, 80 secondary schools, and 29 composite (primary/secondary combined) schools as of February 2012, catering for nearly quarter of a million students. The New Zealand school year usually runs from the end of January to mid-December, and is divided into four terms. Both single-sex and coeducational schooling options are available and state (public) schools are secular.

Primary education starts at Year 1 and continues until Year 8, with Years 7 and 8 mostly offered at either a primary or a separate intermediate school.

Secondary education covers Years 9 to 13, (during which students are generally aged 13 to 17). Most secondary students in New Zealand attend Government-funded schools. These are called secondary schools, high schools, colleges or area schools.

Most schools are taught in English, but some schools teach in Maori.

[Here](#) is some information about the school structure in New Zealand. Schools are divided into state, state-integrated and private schools. State schools are publically funded, state-integrated typically tend to have some individual characteristics they want to keep but gain partial public funding (i.e. a catholic school) and private schools aren't funded by the government.

When looking for a school you should check the school's decile rating. This indicates the extent to which it draws its students from low socio-economic communities. Decile 1 schools are the 10% of schools with the highest proportion of students from low socio-economic communities, whereas decile 10 schools are the 10% of schools with the lowest proportion of these students. A list of schools with their current deciles as well as their contact details is available on the Directory of Educational Institutions (web address: <http://www.minedu.govt.nz/goto/directory>).

Additionally, you should check the Education Review Office (ERO) [report](#) for the school to see how the school rated when most recently reviewed.

Many schools in Auckland are zoned and so you will need to live in a certain area for your children to go to them. You can search for a particular area / school [here](#).

### Tertiary Education

New Zealand's higher education offers a wide range of degree, diploma and certificate courses in many fields.

New Zealand universities are internationally recognized, their qualifications are respected, and students studying here will benefit from full immersion in the English language. There are seven state-funded universities in New Zealand.

Some useful education links for you to look at:

<http://www.teamup.co.nz/> For information on schooling in New Zealand, contains comprehensive information; from Early Childhood to Secondary School.

<http://www.minedu.govt.nz/> New Zealand Ministry of Education

[www.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.auckland.ac.nz) The University of Auckland District Health Board

[www.aut.ac.nz](http://www.aut.ac.nz) Auckland University of Technology



<http://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/home.cfm> Massey University



## Childcare

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You may find that some things in New Zealand early childhood services are different from services you had in your home country. The sorts of things that you may find different are:

- the hours
- holidays
- what is expected from parents
- what children learn/do
- discipline methods
- dress code

Ask questions when you visit early childhood education services. It is important that you understand how your child will be taught. The early childhood teachers will be happy to explain how equipment and activities are used to develop your child's thinking and learning.

## Money matters

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Visit the following website for an up-to-date reflection of the current exchange rate:

<http://www.xe.com/ucc/>

You will need to set up a **bank account** in Auckland so your salary can be paid into it. For a list of registered banks visit the following site:

<http://www.rbnz.govt.nz/nzbanks/0091622.html>



## **Inland Revenue Department - Tax**

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Inland Revenue is the government department that collects taxes – it is popularly referred to as the IRD. The New Zealand tax year is from 1 April to 31 March. Most people pay their taxes as they earn their income. Employers deduct tax on salary and wages. Banks and other financial institutions deduct tax on interest as it is derived. People who do not pay tax on all of their income as it is earned are required to file tax returns at the end of the tax year (31 March). In most cases, Inland Revenue will send you all the material you need to file tax returns and make payment.

For more information on **taxes**, visit the following site for detailed information:

<http://www.ird.govt.nz/how-to/taxrates-codes/>

### **IRD numbers**

An IRD number is a unique identifying number that you use for all your contacts with Inland Revenue (similar to a bank account number). If you do not have an IRD number before you start a job or open a bank account, your employer or bank will deduct the 'no declaration' rate of tax from your salary or interest earned. This rate is much higher than the standard deduction rates and will significantly reduce the net income you receive. Every individual or entity that interacts with IRD needs an IRD number.

To find out how to get an IRD number, visit the IRD website

[www.ird.govt.nz](http://www.ird.govt.nz)

<http://www.ird.govt.nz/how-to/irdnumbers/>

You must also get an **IRD number** before you can get paid your salary in NZ.

You can go into any Post Shop/Office in Auckland and apply for this.

### **Kiwisaver**

Kiwisaver is a voluntary, work-based savings initiative. Please visit the following site to see if you qualify for this scheme:

[www.kiwisaver.govt.nz](http://www.kiwisaver.govt.nz)

**Salaries** are paid according to the RDA (Doctor's Union) and DHB collective agreement. You can view this here under RDA Collative Agreement.

<http://www.aucklanddoctors.co.nz/media/51376/rda%20dhb%20rmo%20meca%201%20april%202012%20-%202031%20august%202013.pdf>



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## State benefits in New Zealand

The New Zealand social benefits system is non-contributory, i.e. employers and employees do not pay into a central benefits scheme (the equivalent of National Insurance in the UK). There is however a compulsory Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC) that all employees and employers must contribute to. It provides compensation payments to those injured at work.

The traditional social security benefits of income support, health care, etc are all available to residents of New Zealand.

For more information on state benefits, please visit:

<http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/>

For more information on ACC, please visit:

[www.acc.co.nz](http://www.acc.co.nz)

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## Healthcare

New Zealand has a very well developed healthcare system and is famous for having an extremely comprehensive healthcare system modelled on the UK National Health Service.

The clinical practice in New Zealand tends to be a mixture of the UK evidence-based healthcare model and the more innovative US style of medicine.

The major provider of healthcare services in New Zealand is the Public Health System but private healthcare facilities are widely available. This is a comprehensive free-of-charge healthcare service for all New Zealand citizens/Residents covering both hospital-based and community-based medical services. If you are arriving to NZ on a Work Visa or Working Holiday Visa, it may be a good idea for you to look into Personal Health Insurance before you arrive.

Some useful links:



[www.southerncross.co.nz](http://www.southerncross.co.nz)  
[www.accuro.co.nz](http://www.accuro.co.nz)  
[www.tower.co.nz](http://www.tower.co.nz)

Due to the fact New Zealand is sparsely populated and has a relatively large land mass area, the role of a Family Practitioner (GP) in many parts of New Zealand is extended beyond that performed by GPs in other parts of the world. It is not uncommon for Family Practitioners to perform minor operations, obstetrics and some may even provide limited anaesthetics services too.

The actual hospitals in New Zealand as a rule tend to be very well equipped with all the latest technology and facilities. With comprehensive healthcare available to all New Zealanders, the standard of healthcare is extremely high. Over the last ten years there has been a large increase in the availability of protocols, clinical guidelines, evidence based methodology and innovative research coming out of New Zealand and now it is widely acknowledged that the clinical practice in New Zealand is as up-to-date as anywhere else in the western world.

Professional groups representing nurses and doctors are very strong here with most of the hospital directors and senior managerial staff being doctors and nurses themselves and so protect the interests of healthcare workers well.

Some useful links

[www.moh.govt.nz](http://www.moh.govt.nz) New Zealand Ministry of Health  
[www.nzma.org.nz](http://www.nzma.org.nz) New Zealand Medical association  
<http://www.acc.co.nz/>  
[www.nzrda.org.nz](http://www.nzrda.org.nz)

### **Job offer, MCNZ, NZIS:**

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If you have secured a job offer you may be in the process of applying for registration with the Medical Council of New Zealand (MCNZ). Once approved, MCNZ will send you via email a "Registration in Principle" letter which most applicants will need in order to for a Work Visa. This letter from MCNZ outlines the next steps in the registration process so make sure you read it carefully. We are not licensed to provide you with advice on your Work Visa application so please visit the Immigration NZ website for more information

<http://www.immigration.govt.nz/>

### **Advanced Cardiac Life Support course**

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Please note that as per the terms and conditions of your employment contract, it is a requirement that you are competent in Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)/Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) and you will be required to provide evidence or certify that you have completed a CPR/ACLS that meets the NZ Resuscitation Council requirements within the last 12 months.

### **If you are working at:**

**Waitemata DHB:** You can contact Stephanie Vos ([stephanie.vos@waitematadhb.govt.nz](mailto:stephanie.vos@waitematadhb.govt.nz)) for further information.

**Auckland DHB** You can contact Arlene De La Cruz ([arlened@adhb.govt.nz](mailto:arlened@adhb.govt.nz)) for further information.

**Counties Manukau DHB:** You can contact the RMO Advisor ([Gail.Brophy@north.co.nz](mailto:Gail.Brophy@north.co.nz)) for further information.

### **Social networking**

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Auckland Doctors have Facebook, Twitter and Linked In pages, so don't forget to join them so you can connect with other doctors in Auckland and New Zealand. *Search words:* Auckland Doctors



## Transport

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Getting around New Zealand is easy, whether you drive, or use public transport, walk or bike! While you might find it's more convenient to have a car, there are plenty of other options including planes, buses, trains and ferries.

### Driving in New Zealand

We drive on the left-hand side of the road, and we give way to cars coming from your right at a roundabout.

At crosswalks you must give way to pedestrians. And New Zealand has pretty strict rules about seatbelts too – if you're caught not wearing one you'll be fined.

Overall, our road rules are similar to Western countries. You can learn more about them at NZ Transport Agency:

<http://www.nzta.govt.nz/>

### Roads in New Zealand

- You'll find that even our biggest "State Highways" linking major cities and towns, are quite small compared to international standards.
- Rural roads wind through our many hills, valleys and gullies, so take your time. But they're usually also the most beautiful drives in the country.
- New Zealand roads have a lot of one-way bridges. Follow directions to see who has to give way.

### Driving licences

To read about the requirements for driving in NZ, please visit:

<http://www.nzta.govt.nz/licence/residents-visitors/driving-nz.html>

### Bringing a car to New Zealand

Whether you choose to ship your car over to New Zealand or purchase one here will often depend on your finances (and how attached you are to your car!)

Check out [www.tauruslogistics.co.nz](http://www.tauruslogistics.co.nz) for details and prices about shipping your car to New Zealand

### Buying a car

- New cars: For a guide on prices and tips on what features to look for go to the [www.consumer.org.nz](http://www.consumer.org.nz) but you will need to pay to access the reports
- For a free guide on safety features, visit [www.rightcar.govt.nz](http://www.rightcar.govt.nz) and [www.aa.co.nz](http://www.aa.co.nz)
- Pre-owned cars: You'll find the best selection of new and used automobiles on offer at [www.trademe.co.nz](http://www.trademe.co.nz).

For more information about car ownership in New Zealand, check out the [Automobile Association](http://www.automobileassociation.co.nz).

Also, check out [www.redbook.co.nz](http://www.redbook.co.nz) for prices of new and used cars but be advised that you will need to pay to access the information on this site.

### **Car Insurance**

Some insurance companies in New Zealand are happy to transfer a no claims bonus with proof of no claims with your current insurance company overseas. Some of these companies are:

[Tower Insurance](#)

[AMI](#)

[AA Insurance](#)

[ASB Bank](#) (you would need to be a customer first)

### **Public Transportation**

Every city and most towns in New Zealand have reliable bus and taxi services, and Wellington and Auckland in the North Island also run train services. People in some places even use ferries to get between work and home, such as from Auckland City to Devonport or Waiheke Island.

Find timetables using these regional transport authorities:

Auckland: [Auckland Regional Transport Authority \(Maxx\)](#), [Auckland's ferry company \(Fullers\)](#)



### **Moving your pet to New Zealand**

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New Zealand is strict when it comes to relocating animals from overseas due to biosecurity controls. For further information you will need to research requirements via:

<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/regs/imports/animals>

There is information here specifically about importing cats and dogs:

<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/enter/personal/pets/cats-and-dogs>

And also a guide on this:

<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/files/ihs/guidance-catdog.gen.pdf>

There are kennels in Auckland that are approved for quarantine as in the below link  
<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/commercial-imports/animal-imports/registered-quarantine-facilities>

Kennels must collect the animal from the airport in a MAF approved vehicle, so you would not need to worry about collecting your pet yourself.

## Communication

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### Internet

Most telecommunication companies have their own Internet Service Provider associated with them and offer packages for phone, internet and where available, digital TV. However you are not obliged to accept any package offered regardless of who is supplying the actual physical connection. There are many independent ISP's easily searchable on the internet.

Useful Links:

[www.telecom.co.nz](http://www.telecom.co.nz)  
[www.vodafone.co.nz](http://www.vodafone.co.nz)  
[www.ihug.co.nz](http://www.ihug.co.nz)  
[www.woosh.co.nz](http://www.woosh.co.nz)  
[www.slingshot.co.nz](http://www.slingshot.co.nz)  
[www.orcon.co.nz](http://www.orcon.co.nz)

### Mobile Phones

There are two major providers of mobile phone services in New Zealand – Telecom and Vodafone. Both companies offer a range of different phone brands and payment plans. These include pre-paid plans (where you pay-as-you-go) or a contract plan (where you pay a set monthly rental fee). Other providers are 2degrees and slingshot.

For more information visit:

[www.telecom.co.nz](http://www.telecom.co.nz)  
[www.vodafone.co.nz](http://www.vodafone.co.nz)  
[www.2degrees.co.nz](http://www.2degrees.co.nz)  
[www.slingshot.co.nz](http://www.slingshot.co.nz)

### Indemnity Insurance

On the final page of your offer of employment letter, you would have been asked to identify if you wish for Northern Regional Alliance Ltd to arrange Indemnity Insurance on your behalf or if you will be providing Northern Regional Alliance Ltd with evidence of your own current Indemnity Insurance. If you opt to join the MPS Group Scheme or join the RDA scheme, Northern Regional Alliance Ltd will pay the cost of the subscription on your behalf; if you opt to provide evidence of your own current insurance, you will need to contact the Allocations Team to query if you are eligible for a reimbursement of this expense.

For more information:

MPS insurance: <http://www.medicalprotection.org/newzealand/>  
RDA insurance: <http://www.nzrda.org.nz/>

### Connecting with other doctors in the Auckland Region

Over the years, the Auckland Region has welcomed countless doctors from overseas to live and work in our hospitals. Each doctor brings with them their own unique experience, advice and information.

If you would like to be connected via email with another Resident Medical Officer (RMO) currently working in the Auckland Region who has also relocated from overseas, please contact a member of the Northern Regional Alliance Ltd Team. This is an opportunity for you to gain some insight into life in Auckland from the perspective of another RMO.

We at Northern Regional Alliance Ltd look forward to your arrival to Auckland, New Zealand!

## New Zealand National Anthem

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### Māori verse: "Aotearoa"

E Ihowā Atua,  
O ngā iwi mātou rā  
Āta whakarangona;  
Me aroha noa  
Kia hua ko te pai;  
Kia tau tō atawhai;  
Manaakitia mai  
Aotearoa

### English verse: "God Defend New Zealand"

God of Nations at Thy feet,  
In the bonds of love we meet,  
Hear our voices, we entreat,  
God defend our free land.  
Guard Pacific's triple star  
From the shafts of strife and war,  
Make her praises heard afar,  
God defend New Zealand.





## New Zealand English

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Even if you are a native English speaker you will find that how we speak English here may be quite different. Here is a dictionary of words and expressions commonly used in New Zealand with their equivalent definition. Many words and phrases listed here are common to both New Zealand, Great Britain and Australia but it is designed as a helpful insight. These words and phrases have been gleaned from many sources.

**ads:** TV commercials, adverts

**A & P Show:** usually a 3 or 4 day event where farmers strut their stuff and win prizes for best cow, largest onion, best pikelet etc. Often has sideshows for the townies, with ferris wheels, dodgems and such like. (A&P = Agricultural & Pastoral)

**arse:** rear end, butt

**banger:** sausage

**bach:** small holiday home, pronounced "batch 11

**beaut:** great; good fun; "that'll be beaut mate"

**bit of a dag: hard case;** comedian; joker

**biscuit:** cookie

**bloke:** usually a man, and often used when referring to a stranger as in; "There's this bloke down the road who sells greasies from his pie-cart for \$1 a bag, which is much cheaper than that bloke who has a shop", or used when referring to someone you like, as in; "That bloke, Joe Blow, is a really nice guy once you get to know him".

**blow me down:** expression of surprise, as in; "Well! Blow me down, I didn't know that."

**bludge:** to sponge off others; as in "dole bludger"

**Bob's your Uncle:** roughly translates to 'there ya go- that's all there is to it!' Just press this big red button that says 'Launch Missile', and "Bob's your uncle".

**bonk:** to have sex with

**bonnet:** car hood

**boohai:** awry; out of the way non-existent place. As in "up the boohai shooting pukeko's with a long-handled shovel": said in response to "Where are you going?" and meaning "Mind your own business" or "I'm just wandering around"

**boot:** car trunk

**box of budgies:** cheerful, happy, very good

**boxing day:** the day after Christmas Day. This word comes from the custom which started in the Middle Ages around 800 years ago: churches would open their 'alms boxe' (boxes in which people had placed gifts of money) and distribute the contents to poor people in the neighbourhood on the day after Christmas. The tradition continues today.

**boy-racer:** Young hoon in fast car with unbelievably loud stereo!

**braces:** suspenders

**brassed off:** disappointed, annoyed

**brekkie:** Short for 'breakfast'

**brickie:** bricklayer. From JI

**brilliant:** excellent; great; wonderful

**bugalugs:** a bit like "11mate" as in "how's it going bugalugs"

**bugger all:** not much, very little; as in "I know bugger

all I buggered: exhausted

**bugger off:** piss off, shove off, get out

**bum:** rear end, butt

**bumper:** fender

**bun-fight:** social gathering with food  
**bun in the oven:** pregnant (also see)  
**bush:** small and large trees and native plants densely packed together - sort of like a small forest.  
**bust a gut:** make an intense effort  
**cackhanded:** left handed, southpaw  
**candyfloss:** cottoncandy  
**capsicum:** green pepper  
**car park:** parking lot  
**caravan:** trailer, mobile home  
**cardy:** woollen button-up-the-front jersey (also cardie)  
**carked it:** died, kicked the bucket  
**chips:** french fries  
**cheers:** goodbye or thanks or good luck. From JT  
**chemist:** pharmacy, drug store. Also a euphemism for druggist.  
**cheque:** check  
**cheerio:** good bye  
**chilly bin:** sealable, usually polystyrene insulated box, for keeping beer & food cold  
**chips:** french fries  
**chippy:** builder, carpenter  
**choc-a-block:** full to overflowing  
**chocolate fish:** a chocolate covered marshmallow fish. Also frequently given (literally or figuratively) as a reward for a job well done; as in "Good on ya, mate. You deserve a chocolate fish". From JT  
**choice:** very good  
**chook:** chicken  
**chrissy:** Christmas  
**chuffed:** pleased; as in "he was dead chuffed"  
**chunder:** to vomit  
**cods wollop:** untrue statement or remark is referred to as a "load of lod cods wollop".  
**colly wobbles:** a feeling of nausea usually associated with nervousness; as in "bungee jumping gave me a dose of the collywobbles"  
**corker:** very good  
**cornflour:** cornstarch  
**cotton buds:** Q-tips  
**courgette:** zucchini  
**cracker:** very good. See also wee cracker  
**crib:** small holiday home  
**crikey dick!:** gosh! wow!  
**crisps:** potato chips  
**crook:** sick, unwell  
**cuppa:** cuppa tea, cuppa coffee, cuppa milo  
**cuz:** as in male or female cousin  
**dag:** hard case; joker; comedian, as in "Joe Blow's a bit of a dag isn't he?" "A bit of a dag mate! - He's the whole sheep's arse!" (Perhaps you have to be a Kiwi to appreciate that one)  
**dairy:** "corner" store originally only selling milk, bread, papers, convenience foods and dairy produce, and until the past decade or so, the only shop allowed to open 7 days a week. Still is the only shop allowed to open on Christmas day and Good Friday, for a few hours, and without a special licence.  
**ding:** a small dent in a vehicle; as in "the prang caused a bit of a ding"  
**dole:** unemployment benefit; income support for the unemployed

**doing the ton:** Driving really, really fast! but corrected by Phil Lyall as "Doing 100mph" (and I agree, although only us "oldies" would remember the thrill of the possibility your car could actually go that fast!)

**dodgy:** bad, unreliable, spoiled; as in "that fish is a bit dodgy". FromJT

**draughts:** checkers

**dreaded lurgy:** alternative name for the flu or a head cold; used as an excuse for not going to work, as in "I can't come in today because I have the dreaded lurgy". Also slang for venereal diseases.

**dressng gown:** bathrobe

**dummy:** pacifier

**dunny:** toilet, bathroom, lavatory

**duvet:** quilt

**entree:** appetizer or hors d'oeuvre. Memories of limp lettuce & shrimp smothered with a disgustingly pink sauce always come to mind here. Thank goodness the Kiwi taste buds have finally "grown up"

**eh:** pronounced as you would the letter "a" and often used at the end of sentences when expecting a response to a statement - it is not spoken as a question. i.e. "This would be a better gift eh", instead of saying "Do you think this would be a better gift"? Using it this way has become an everyday part of our conversation. It is also often used as a substitute for "pardon"? or "what"? i.e. "eh"? - but neither "what"? nor "eh"? are really acceptable and you would probably get a lengthy lecture about polite language if you tried using it too often ©(you would from me anyway!)

Suggested by Marlene

**fagged out:** see knackered

**fancy:** hanker after somebody

**fanny:** A warning to Americans, from an American, Jody Tompson: take care how you use this phrase in New Zealand! A "fanny" refers to female genitalia; fanny is not the same as bottom!

**fizzy:** soda pop

**finger stalls:** back seats at the movie theatre, where adolescents take their girlfriends (not to watch the movie!). Although these days they don't necessarily bother with the back seats!

**flannel:** wash cloth

**flash:** sensational or "that's flash" meaning it looks really good. flat: apartment

**flicks:** movies, picture theatre

**flog:** steal, nick

**footpath:** pavement or sidewalk

**fortnight:** two consecutive weeks, derived from 14 days (nights)

**french letter:** condom frenchie: condom

**fringe:** bangs

**frock tart:** without the persistence of Laura Straub the meaning of this phrase would have remained a mystery. Quote: Its TV/Movie industry slang (and it is Kiwi!) for someone who works on/designs/sews the costumes. The term came from a disclaimer at the end of a rather costume intense version of 'Xena: Warrior Princess'. It read: "No frock tarts were killed during the production of this motion picture, however, many wished they had been" gas guzzler: large car, usually associated with older USA imports

**gawk / gawking:** stare at; take a look at. As in "What are you gawking at!?" or "Take a gawk at this!"

**get off the grass:** exclamation of disbelief; equivalent to "stop pulling my leg", "get outta here", and "no way"

**gimme:** abbreviation for "give me..."

**give your ferret a run:** have sex

**gizza:** abbreviation for "give us a..."

**going bush:** become reclusive. And expanded by Jonathan:- To take off for the bush and live for an extended period to "get away from it all".

**good on ya, mate!** congratulations, well done

**good as gold:** a good job well done; not a problem; an affirmative answer - as in Q: "Do you mind if I pay for this later"? A: "Good as gold mate, good as gold". From John Dahms greasies: common term for fish and chips, probably because they usually are! (greasy that is) gridiron: American football.

**ground floor:** first floor. Very confusing for Kiwi visitors to the States! When using lifts (elevators) we are always one floor out!

**gumboots:** rubber boots, wellingtons, wellies

**gummies:** gumboots

**guts for garters:** in big trouble; as in "I'll have your guts for garters!"

**hard case:** joker; comedian

**hard yakka:** hard work, associated with labouring

**heaps:** general expression to mean a lot, as in "miss you heaps", or try hard; "give it heaps" hissy fit: throwing a tantrum when things you don't get your way or when someone does something to offend you. From Jenni with thanks.

**hokey pokey:** 'sea foam' candy

**home 'n hosed:** safe, completed successfully

**hoon:** usually associated with young adults, fast cars, loud stereos and alcohol

**hooray:** the Kiwi "Goodbye"

**hosing down:** raining heavily

**hottie:** hot water bottle

**hunky dory: or honky dory:** everything's fine, as in "my life is hunky dory"

**ice block:** popsicle

**jandal:** thongs, flip-flops

**jersey:** sweater

**judder bar:** speed bump

**jumper:** woollen sweater

**Kiwi:** New Zealander

**kiwi:** an endangered flightless bird native to New Zealand

**kiwifruit:** hairy skinned fruit with lime green flesh - formerly known as Chinese Gooseberry kick the bucket: die, cark it

**knackered:stuffed;** fagged out; rooted, as in "I am knackered"; "that bike is knackered" and surplus farm animals go to the "Knackers Yard"! (This word has MANY uses- few of them being optimistic!) From PN

**knickers:** underwear

**L&P:** fizzy soda water, Lemon & Paeroa (L&P); originally lemon flavoured spring water from the town of Paeroa, but this is no longer the case.

**lemonade:** 7Up

**lift:** elevator

**lolly:** candy

**long-drop:** outhouse, outdoor lao, shithouse (blushing as I type that)

**loo:** bathroom

**loose metal:** gravel road (see also metal road)

**lorry:** truck

**mad:** crazy

**main:** primary dish of a meal

**Maori:** indigenous people of New Zealand. Phil Lyall also pointed out that this word translates to "The People". I personally wouldn't know, but I'm sure we'll both be corrected if it's wrong:-)

**mate:** budclie (common term, and can be used even with strangers) as in "how's it going mate" for "how are you", but it is NOT used to the same extent as spoken in Australia where every second word seems to be "mate".

**metal road:** a country road (usually) with a gravel or shingle surface (see also loose metal)

**club:** a very exclusive group or club of New Zealand males who call each other "Morris", and in doing so it can cause a great deal of confusion to outsiders when they greet one another by the same name; as in "How's it going Morris?" replied with "Good thanks Morris, and you?" Membership is by invitation only.

motorway: freeway

**Mum:** Mom

**naff off:** get lost!

**nana:** female grandparent or someone who goes to bed early or naps in the afternoons

**nandy:** :MY male grandparent nappy: diaper

**netball:** game somewhat similar to basketball

**nought:** zero

**pack a sad:** become morose, ill-humoured, moody. Also suggested as meaning "broken or died" i.e. the fridge "packed a sad"

**pakeha:** non-Maori person

**panel beater:** auto body shop pavement: sidewalk

**petrol:** gasoline

**pie cart:** affection term for a road-side or side-show food seller's converted mobile caravan, from which you can buy predominantly fast food take-aways such as pies, burgers, hot-dogs, fish and chips and such-like tasty treats.

**piece-of-piss:** easy as in "that was a piece of piss to make".

**pike out:** to give up when the going gets tough

**pikelet:** small pancake often served with jam and whipped cream

**piker:** one who gives up easily (see pike-out)

**pinky:** little finger

**pinky bar:** a chocolate-covered marshmallow confection

**piss:** beer, as in "get on the piss"\*

**pissed:** drunk, inebriated

**pissed-off:** angry, as in "I'm really pissed off!"

**pissing down:** raining heavily

**piss around:** waste time or effort in a futile manner a.k.a. fart about

**piss-up:** social gathering with alcohol

**plaster:** see sticking plaster

**plod:** friendly term for local policeman

**pong:** bad smell

**power cut:** outage postal code: zip code

**pottle:** a small tub (with hot chips in!)\*

**pony tail:** as in hair tied at the back of one's head

**pram:** baby carriage, stroller

**prang:** minor vehicle accident, or a major one as in "that was one hell of a prang"

**pub:** bar, hotel where liquor is served

**puckeroo:** Something that is broken, buggered, rooted or otherwise dysfunctional. From Grant but with this addition from Jeff Law:- As a matter of interest, the correct spelling of 'Puckeroo' is, according to Reed's Maori Dictionary, 'Pakaru' meaning 'Break' or 'Broken'. I pondered over changing the spelling to the correct format, but decided against it, because the correct spelling bares little resemblance to the pronunciation as it stands today and the change could have caused even more confusion ;-)

**push bike:** bicycle

**pushing up daisies:** dead and buried

**quite nice:** a term used when you can't really think of anything better to say ; as in "her hat is quite nice", and you often mean the opposite!

**rack off:** go away (angry), piss off

**raining cats & dogs:** raining heavily!

**randy:** horny, feeling sexy

**rark up:** give somebody a good telling off

**rattle your dags:** hurry up; get a move on. And from Jeff Law...The expression 'Rattle your dags' reputedly refers to a somewhat mucky sheep 'rattling it's dags (dried excretia hanging from the wool)' when running!

**rellies:** family, relatives

**root:** to have sex. A warning to folk from the USA! - A female visitor from the US has this to say...

My first time in NZ I made the unfortunate mistake of listing off my hobbies to a fami!J that had me over for tea.... among my hobbies? "I like to root for the football team!" (one of the bqys said, "What, the WHOLE team??") Credit for this listing is on the page - but I'm not saying where!

**ring:** phone somebody; as in "I'll give him/her/them a ring"

**roadway:** pavement

**rubber:** eraser

**rubbish:** trash or garbage; as in "should I throw this in the rubbish?"

**samie:** sandwich

**scull:** drink beer rapidly

**scarfie:** university student, particularly from Universities of the South Island

**sealed road:** paved road

**serviette:** A napkin made of either fabric or absorbent paper, and used to wipe hands & mouth at tea. From JT

**shandy:** drink made with lemonade and beer

**she'll be right:** not a problem, it'll be O.K.

**shippie:** prostitute "working" the ships docked at our international ports

**shorts:** clips from up-coming movies

**shufti:** as in "Take a Shufti at this, mate", meaning "have a look at this". From Jeff Law with thanks.

**skiting:** bragging; showing off

**sickie:** as in "Throw a sickie":- to take time off work "officially" for illness, but more likely for a fun day! From Peter

**skint:** short of money

**squiz:** as in "Have a squiz":- to take a look at something; "Giza Squiz":- ask for a look at something. Also from Peter

**smoko:** break, rest period

**snarky:** mixture of sarcastic and nasty

**snotty:** snooty, ill-humoured, packing a sad

**sook:** kindly description of someone who is being silly, or behaving like a softy or scaredy cat.

As :- "If you're being a sook"... If J• USt a b1' g sook" and so on... More often than not the phrase m. 1.s

used as a term of endearment. Suggested by Pam.

**sparkie:** electrician



**spew:** to throw up

**sparrow fart:** very early in the morning - the crack of dawn. From Niki

**spinner:** usually used to describe a female who is a little flakey/stupid (an air-head), as in "she's a real spinner!". From Niki. And as suggested by Jonathan:- Someone who tells untrue stories when they're "Spinning a bullshit yarn"

**spit the dummy:** to throw a tantrum or get mad. From Niki

**sprog:** a child

**sticking plaster:** band-aid

**stirrer:** trouble-maker, agitator

**strapped for cash:** short of money

**strewth:** honestly, expletive showing frustration. Expanded upon by J Witherow as follows: "Strewth is an expletive and also slang for honestly. But it's my understanding that it's derived from the old phrase 'God's Truth'. Which, when run together, is ... s'truth!" Makes sense! (I agree)

**strop:** go for a strop, go for a burn, speed with reckless disregard

**stropky:** a fighter; easily provoked to anger; fiercely protective

**stubby:** small bottle of beer

**stuffed:** really tired. From JI

**stupid as a two bob watch:** used to describe a person who behaves irrationally

**suck the kumura:** to die or otherwise cease

**sunday driver:** Driving really, really slow

**sunnies:** sunglasses

**super loo:** massive automated public toilet complex. From JT

**suss:** to figure out

**sweet-as:** a term people say instead of "cool" or "awesome". ("That car over there is sweet-as!")

**ta:** Thanks

**tata:** goodbye, usually when speaking to a child

**take-aways:** New Zealand term for "take-outs" or food "to go".

**take the piss:** to ridicule

**take a hike:** Expression of anger, as in; "Go away!" "Get lost!"

**tasty cheese:** sharp cheddar cheese

**tea:** dinner - generic name for evening meal

**tea towel:** dish rag

**thick:** not too smart

**tights:** pantyhose

**tiki tour:** roundabout way to get somewhere; scenic tour

**tinned goods:** canned goods

**tip:** dump or recycling depot. Submitted by Jan in Canada- thanks Jan! :)

**tracksuit:** sweats

**tramping:** hiking

**togs:** swimsuit, bathing suit

**tomato sauce:** catsup

**torch:** flashlight

**trots:** horse racing with a buggy

**trots:** diaorrhoea as in "having a dose of the trots"

**TT2:** am I the only one who remembers TT2's? (Tip Top Iceblocks)

**twink:** white-out

**two sammies short of a picnic:** used to describe a person who is a "bit thick".

**tyre:** tire

**underpants:** undershorts

**up the duff:** pregnant

**valet:** a person who cleans vehicles... NOT parks them!

**verge:** grassy area on the side of the road, bern

**vest:** undershirt

**vegemite:** spread for toast or bread. Indescribable, but missed by many expat Kiwi's. Bill Tabb describes it as... "A spread the color of dark molasses, the consistency of cold honey and the flavor of yeasty soy sauce. A flavor that is acquired, and quite good on warm soft pretzels here in California." (Actually, it's a good description!)

**walkshorts:** dressy shorts for men

**wally:** clown, loser

**wardrobe:** clothes closet

**wee cracker:** From Keith Goetzman, with thanks. "A Kiwi mystified me with this one morning while I was tramping at Nelson Lakes." "Wee cracker of a dgy, isn't it?"

**wet blanket:** Someone who spoils the fun of others; someone who doesn't get into the "swing" of things, particularly at a social occasion.

**wellies:** gumboots

**what are ya!:** "Are you mad?" or "You're taking the piss!" And it implies doubt about "manhood" when a male shows fear. As in:- "What are ya! ... Pussy?"

**wharfie:** stevedore

**whinge:** complain

**windscreen:** windshield

**wobbly** (pack a wobbly): become angry, get snotty

**wonky:** crooked

**wop-wops:** out of the way location

**yonks:** forever, a long time ago, ages; as in "I haven't seen them in yonks".

**yarn:** spin a "tall story", tell a joke

**yack:** general conversation held between friends; as in "have a yack".

**yank:** An american (yank' is a term I personally would not use)

**yoo-hoo:** Hello, I'm here. Can I come in?

**you ain't wrong:** that's right, yes

**you can't help bad luck:** contrary to the wording, the phrase quite often means **congratulations!**, also a dismissive phrase for "too bad" or "who cares"

**zed:** Z; zee; the last letter of the alphabet.

