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## ***Book of New Zealand Words* by Dr Dianne Bardsley illustrated by John Reynolds**

**Publisher: Te Papa Press**

**RRP \$44.99**

This collection of over 1,500 New Zealand words and phrases will provoke much discussion amongst readers as they discover terms in common use and others that are new to them.

Words are the author's stock-in-trade. The lexicographer is the former Director of the New Zealand Dictionary Centre, and lecturer in the School of Linguistics and Applied Language at Victoria University of Wellington. Her knowledge and meticulous research have resulted in a valuable, entertaining overview of the development of New Zealand English.

Dr Bardsley's introduction is a fascinating historical guide to the effect on our language of whalers, sealers, gumdiggers, politics, sport, food, and a myriad of other influences. Of course, the adaptation and integration of te reo Maori have shaped our communication in a unique way. The inclusion of slang, cliches, and colloquial terms gives an insight into the informal, everyday use of words.

Quotes from the sources where each word or phrase has been used are of particular interest. For example:

### ***grader van n***

a railway van used to plough and level ballast on a rail track.

~ The grader van is a New Zealand invention that has been adopted by many of the world's greatest railroad systems. 1936 NZ RAILWAYS MAGAZINE FEB: 47

### ***Home n***

Britain, so called by New Zealanders until the last half of the twentieth century. (See also **home boat, homie.**)

~ We all spoke of England as 'Home,' liners were 'Home Boats,' an immigrant 'just out from Home.' 1983 HENDERSON NORTH & SOUTH: 219

### ***kutu n & pl n***

an irritating body louse, especially a head louse, also called a cootie or kootie.



~ Wai Tutaki started Creepy Critts Head Lice Removal in December and now has eight workers on board who know all about the frustrations of children coming home with nits or kutu. 2010 DAILY NEWS 19 FEB: A2

The dustjacket and colourful endpapers showcase examples from John Reynold's impressive linguistic artwork, 'The Cloud', which is installed at Te Papa. Additional script art by Reynolds pepper the pages and give a free-flowing effect, indicative of the flow of conversation and the movement of language. Underneath the dustjacket, the hot pink hardback covers are a brilliant design feature.

An enjoyable, useful resource for schools, families, and lovers of language.

**Reviewed by children's book author Jean Bennett**