

## severe weather warnings

always come just as you have something nice planned/  
thunderstorms a house-sized slip heavy rain causing localised  
areas of surface flooding the grounds and soil will be sodden nil  
visibility chains essential care required snow and black ice plus  
low avalanche hazard/ the sheep were loaded into a cargo net and  
flown out by helicopter/ the Desert Road is closed/ showers have  
left the Rimutakas slippery and icy/ there will be a cold snap a  
disturbed westerly flow a sudden southerly change gusts and gales/  
we like our weather in New Zealand gives us something to talk  
about flooding on the West Coast and Aucklanders are likely to  
get drenched later today

## whitebait

Digger and Dotty Deaker always start the first day of the whitebait season the same way/ by five in the morning they are at their special position at the mouth of the Waikawa River/ Dotty prepares bacon sandwiches over a gas ring while Digger puts out the nets/ *all you need is a good pair of waders and a bit of time on your hands* Dotty says/ in true whitebaiting tradition they refuse to reveal any other tips on how to catch the tiny fish

## the intercity

i cannot believe i have slept through Levin/ our bus is like a needle  
as it criss-crosses the pasture/ paddock/ fir/ forest/ foreshore of  
New Zealand/ here comes the rain again the wet sheep stand  
blinking in it/ one passenger wipes the steamed-up window with  
her ugly turquoise window curtain/ i knew those bus curtains  
were good for something

## bach cds

a small holiday structure is called a bach/ in the past they were owner-built/ these holiday homes begin with a love of the place where you have built it/ bachs are great for fishing writing getting away midnight swimming sports like cricket/ and three-legged races parties drinking barbecues getting back to nature and playing music/ bach cds can include *memories are made of this (volume two)*/ *Dean Martin love songs*/ *Prince Tui Teka (selected)* and *Elvis Presley (greatest)*/ *sea of tranquility (music for relaxation)*/ and *boxing's fifteen biggest rounds ever*

## Ngāuruhoe/ on the Desert Road

rubbish and butts at the side of the road where the bus always stops for photographs *it's a good day for it, yes folks, that is the mountain that Peter Jackson used for the lord of the rings/ he had the New Zealand army dress up as orcs/* situated on the volcanic central plateau of the North Island/ Ngāuruhoe is still active/ it exhibited volcanic activity forty-five times during the last century/ perfectly cast as Mount Doom in the lord of the rings but never paid a penny/ although Ngāuruhoe repeatedly performed well and ultimately became a worldwide hit