





Supporting the Arts in New Zealand

Welcome to **Social Climbers**, the final production of the Montana 1997 International Season.

Roger Hall
Social Climbers

Roger Hall needs no introduction to a New Zealand audience and 1997 marks his 21st anniversary of theatrical success. From **Glide Time** to **Market Forces**, **Middle Age Spread** to **Conjugal Rites**, he has delighted audiences nationwide with his uncanny ability to make New Zealanders laugh at themselves. This year's winner of the Katherine Mansfield Memorial Fellowship, Roger has just returned from Menton, France where he has been working on a new play and his autobiography. **Social Climbers** has enjoyed sell-out success throughout the country and we are pleased to celebrate our first full season at Sky City Theatre with this brand-new homegrown comedy from New Zealand's most popular playwright.

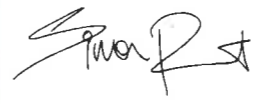
Cathy Downes directed ATC's 1996 smash-hit production of **Market Forces**. Her return to ATC to helm **Social Climbers** completes an extremely busy year, including performing in a London tour of Circa Theatre's **Joyful and Triumphant** and directing **White Baptist Abba Fan** for the recent Festival of Dreaming in Sydney. We welcome Wellington actress Jennifer Ludlam, who makes her ATC debut as Maxine. Jennifer's extensive stage and television credits include stints on **Shark in the Park**, **Gloss**, **Sons and Daughters**, **Prisoner** and she twice won New Zealand Film and Television Awards for Best Performance by an Actress for her work on **Undercover** (1993) and **Cover Story** (1996). We further welcome artists returning to ATC: Judith Gibson (**By Degrees**), Sophia Hawthorne (**The Seagull**), Carmel McGlone (**Dancing at Lughnasa**), Elizabeth McRae (**Uncle Vanya**) and Fiona Samuel (**Dancing at Lughnasa / Molly Sweeney**). Designer John Verryt (**Someone Who'll Watch Over Me/Skylight**) and Lighting Designer Vera Thomas (**Travels With My Aunt**) complete a first-class creative team.

We would like to acknowledge the support of The National Bank in making tonight's performance possible. ATC is grateful for the continuing support of Montana Wines, our Principal Sponsor, and Creative New Zealand, our major funder. For their generous support throughout the year, we are indebted to TVNZ, The Carlton Hotel, Auckland City's Arts Alive, NZI, Albany Toyota, Arthur Andersen, Canon and NewstalkZB. Similarly, we must thank the management and staff of Sky City Theatre for their enormous support and hospitality.

Social Climbers completes a groundbreaking year for ATC, with **Arcadia**, **Molly Sweeney**, **All My Sons**, **Skylight** and **Master Class** enjoying large and appreciative support from Auckland audiences. We take this opportunity to thank you for your patronage and wish you a safe and happy holiday season. See you at the theatre in 1998.

Photo: Latham Gaines



Very best wishes


Simon Prast





Dear Auckland Theatre Company Patron

Welcome to Auckland Theatre Company's production of Roger Hall's exciting new comedy, **Social Climbers**. This play promises to provide you with an entertaining evening as you are taken on an intriguing and revealing journey into the lives and souls of three generations of women trapped together in a tramping hut.

The National Bank is delighted to be associated with this production and I have every confidence, in both the work of one of New Zealand's most successful playwrights and the Auckland Theatre Company, that you will thoroughly enjoy **Social Climbers**.

Kind Regards

John Anderson
Chief Executive



MONTANA

Dear Auckland Theatre Company Patron

As the year winds towards a close, I am delighted to welcome you to the sixth and final play in the Auckland Theatre Company's Montana 1997 International Season.

Roger Hall's work has long been a favourite of New Zealand audiences. **Social Climbers** is strongly in the Hall tradition of commentary on the Kiwi way of life.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Simon, Amy and the rest of the team at ATC for bringing such a wonderfully diverse season of theatre to Auckland audiences this year. The success of their endeavours has been evidenced by your support.

We at Montana wish you all a joyful and safe festive season; we look forward to bringing you more wonderful theatre in 1998.

Kind Regards
Montana Wines Limited

Peter Hubscher
Managing Director



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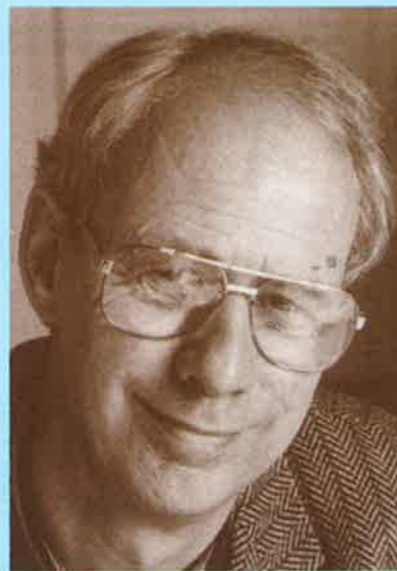
Please consider others and mind that cough; a hand or handkerchief placed over the mouth greatly reduces the volume. Please turn off all watch alarms, paging devices and cellular phones before entering the auditorium. It is strictly prohibited to take photographs or to make visual or audio recordings of any performance.

Born in England in 1939, Roger Hall came to New Zealand in 1958 at the age of 19 to become a public servant. He worked first for State Fire Insurance and eventually went to Australia to assemble Holden cars, but found he missed New Zealand and returned here in 1961 to be a primary school teacher. It was during his years at Wellington Training College that he developed his interests in acting and writing.

After graduating from Victoria University Roger worked as a freelance writer for radio and television. Tired of the lack of a steady income, he took the editor's position at **Education** magazine. In 1977 he won the Burns Fellowship at Otago University. His role as editor provided valuable information for his first play **Glide Time** (1976) which was an immediate success and later, a television series. **Middle Age Spread** (1977) followed and ran in the West End for 18 months. This play won Comedy of the Year from the Society of West End Theatres and the Best British Stage Comedy in 1979.

From 1979 to 1986 Roger had six New Zealand premieres in theatres throughout the country. In 1992 he received a Fullbright Travel Scholarship and in 1983 an Artist in Residency at the New Mexico State University.

1987 proved a momentous year for Roger beginning with the New Year's Honours List and a QSO award and in October he won the Turnovsky Award, the major New Zealand



ROGER HALL

award for Outstanding Achievement in the Arts.

In 1990 he received a Commemorative Medal and in 1996 an Honorary Doctorate of Literature from Victoria University.

Most recently Roger received the 1997 Katherine Mansfield Memorial Fellowship to write in Menton, France. He has just returned from there where he spent six months writing his autobiography and a new play.

Roger is one of New Zealand's most prolific and successful playwrights. Over the last twenty years he has written, and had produced, a play almost every year. In addition to stage, Roger has written three pantomimes, several revues, four television plays, seven radio dramas, four television series, published several scripts and co-

written five musicals. His plays have been performed in 8 countries with Sydney's Marion St Theatre interested in the rights to **Social Climbers**. To top it all off, a sixth series of **Gliding On** is about to commence shooting.

Roger Hall Play Premieres

- 1976** **Glide Time** Circa Theatre
- 1977** **Middle Age Spread** Circa Theatre
- 1978** **State of the Play** Downstage Theatre
- 1979** **Prisoners of Mother England** Downstage Theatre
- 1981** **Fifty Fifty** Mercury Theatre
- 1981** **The Rose** Theatre Corporate
- 1982** **Hot Water** Mercury Theatre
- 1984** **Multiple Choice** New Mexico State University
- 1986** **Dream of Sussex Downs** Mercury Theatre
- 1986** **The Hansard Show** Circa Theatre
- 1987** **The Share Club** Fortune Theatre
- 1988** **After the Crash** Fortune Theatre
- 1989** **Mr Punch** Fortune Theatre
- 1990** **You Must Be Crazy** Parliament Wellington
- 1990** **Conjugal Rites** Centrepoint Theatre
- 1993** **By Degrees** Fortune Theatre
- 1995** **Social Climbers** Fortune Theatre
- 1996** **Market Forces** Circa Theatre
- 1996** **C'Mon Black** Fortune Theatre



River Crossing

Rivers are among the greatest dangers when travelling through backcountry. They should be tackled with caution and respect.

The golden rules to be remembered are: never cross a river that is flooded and discolored; never cross a river in which boulders are rolling or which is carrying trees or logs; when crossing never remove your boots or pack. Boots protect your feet and the weight of the pack assists balance.

The most obvious crossing places to look for are:

- Where the river is wide, shallow and slow moving and the bed is of fine material.
- Where the river drops over a bar, usually near a bend. Often the area is not appealing at first sight as the river usually drops into a pool. However,

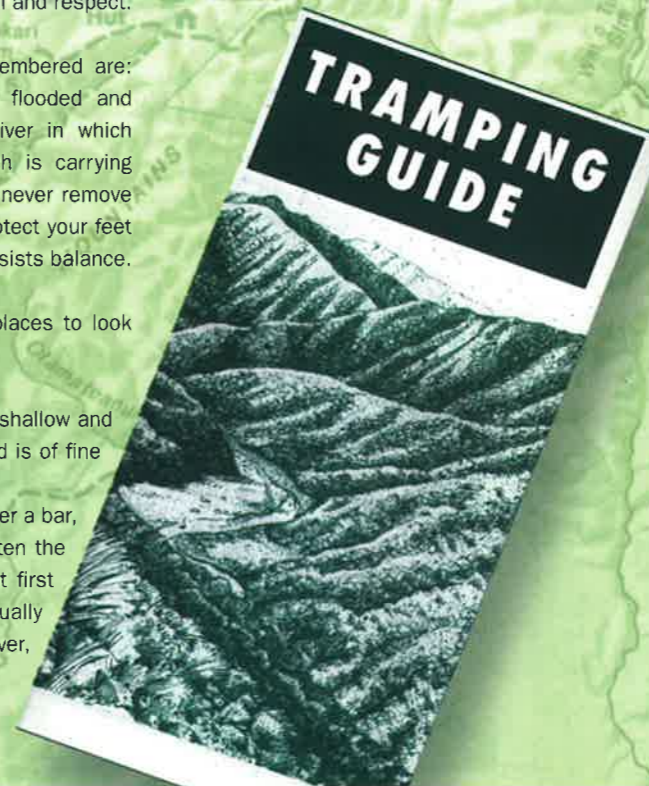
TRAMPING GUIDELINES:

just above the pool, often on the river bend, you will find a bar.

- Where the river is split into channels. However, be warned, one of the channels will probably carry main stream water, and although not wide, it could be rapid.
- Where a river is deep and narrow but slow moving. You could swim the pools.

A number of methods have been devised for crossing rivers. The main ones are:

- Pole Method A - if there are four in the party, a strong pole about three metres long should be cut. Each member of the party should link arms (see image) with the heaviest and tallest member at the top against the current. The entwined group should then shuffle across the river, heading slightly downstream with the current.
- Pole Method B - Group Support Method (the most popular). One can use this when a pole is not available or when the river isn't bad but an inexperienced member of the party needs a helping hand. Your arms should cross your neighbour's shoulder and his far shirt sleeve or pack strap should be gripped tightly. Again, the experienced or heaviest member should be upstream with the inexperienced member in the middle.



From the *Guide to the Great Outdoors* by Roger D. Foley, Southern Press Ltd, 1979, pg.61-62.

CATHY DOWNES - Director



Directing: Auckland Theatre Company: *Market Forces*. Sydney Olympic Games, Sydney Opera House: *White Baptist Abba Fan*. Playbox (Melbourne) & Glen St Theatre (Sydney): *Waking Eve*. NZ Tours: *A Long Undressing, Oracles and Miracles, Eugenia*. Circa Theatre: *Lady Windermere's Fan, Three Tall Women, The Sisters Rozensweig, The Woman in Black*. Downstage Theatre: *Purapurawhetu, Tzigane, Good Works, The Rivers of China*. **Theatre:** International Tours: *The Case of Katherine Mansfield, Joyful and Triumphant, Sweet Corn, The Heartache and Sorrow Show*. Playbox Theatre: *The Glass Mermaid*. Downstage Theatre: *Falling From Grace, MacBeth, Serious Money, Othello*. Circa Theatre: *Farewell Speech, Torch Song Trilogy, The Secret Rapture, Away*. Sydney Theatre Company: *Extremities*. Nimrod Theatre (Sydney): *Three Sisters, Cloud 9, Welcome the Bright World*. **Film:** *The Intruder, Hunger, Monkey Grip, Winter of Our Dreams*. **Television:** *Cover Story, Joyful and Triumphant, Ray Bradbury, Waterloo Station, A Country Practice, Mother and Son, The Case of Katherine Mansfield, Epidemic, Buck House*. **Awards:** 1996 Chapman Tripp Award Best Director and Best Production

for *Tzigane*, Best Circa Production for *Three Tall Women*, 1995 Chapman Tripp Award Best Downstage Production for *Good Works*, 1993 Chapman Tripp Award Best NZ Play for *Farewell Speech*, 1992 Chapman Tripp Award Best Production for *Joyful and Triumphant*, 'Sammy' Australia 1980 Best Supporting Actress for *Winter of Our Dreams*. **Training:** NZ Drama School.

JOHN VERRYT - Designer



Theatre: Auckland Theatre Company: *Skylight, Market Forces, The Learner's Stand, Someone Who'll Watch Over Me*. Theatre At Large: *Gold, King Lear, Cyrano De Bergerac*. Douglas Wright Dance Company: *Forbidden Memories*. Opera New Zealand: *Lucia di Lammermoor*. Auckland Opera: *Carmen*. Mercury Theatre: *The Barber of Seville, The Sex Fiend, Amadeus, Porgy & Bess, Private Lives, The Rose Tattoo*. **Awards:** 1996 Chapman Tripp Award Costume Designer of the Year for *King Lear*, 1987 Fullbright Scholarship.

JUDITH GIBSON as Susan



Theatre: Auckland Theatre Company: *Dead Funny, By Degrees*. Watershed Theatre: *Fanny Business*. Downstage Theatre: *The Taming of The Shrew, Private Lives*. Tantrum Theatre Company: *End of the Golden Weather, The Wedding Party, Comedy of Errors*. Mercury Theatre: *Mrs. Klein, The Cherry Orchard, Night Mother, The Three Musketeers, Ladies Night*. Theatre Corporate: *MacBeth, Hooters Trumpets & Raspberries, The Elephant Man, We Can't Pay, We Won't Pay!, Twelfth Night, Design for Living, Metamorphosis, As You Like It, Female Parts, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Summer of The Seventeenth Doll, Spring Awakening, The Maids, Piaf, Love on the Dole, Fantastiks, Mother Courage, Three Little Girls*. **Film:** *Trial Run, User Friendly*. **Television:** *Shortland St., Plainclothes, Shark in the Park, Hanlon, The Minders, Just Passing Thru*. **Directing:** ATC: *The Learner's Stand*. Watershed Theatre: *Folie a Deux*. Theatre Corporate: *Outside In, Vinegar Tom, Lennon, Shards*.

SOPHIA HAWTHORNE as Sinead



Theatre: Auckland Theatre Company: *The Seagull*. Downstage Theatre: *She Stoops to Conquer*. Watershed Theatre: *Into the Woods*. Maidment Theatre: *Titus Andronicus* (Simon Bennett Production). Herald Theatre: *Romeo & Juliet* (Michael Hurst Production). Mercury Theatre: *The Sound of Music, The Crucible*. **Film:** *Destroying Angel*. **Awards:** 1995 TVNZ Young Achievers Award.

JENNIFER LUDLAM as Maxine



Theatre: Auckland Theatre Company: Debut. Circa Theatre: *Lady Windermere's Fan, Money and Friends, Social Climbers, Via Satellite, Three Tall Women, Unidentified Human Remains & the True Meaning of Love, I Used to Like This Place until they Started Making all those Renovations, Hidden Agenda, Emerald City*. Downstage Theatre: *Lysistrata, After the Crash, The Rivers of China, The Share Club, Jones & Jones, Steaming*. Maidment Theatre: *Titus Andronicus*. Galaxy Theatre: *Shakers*. Mercury Theatre: *Private Lives, Mothers and Fathers, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Uncle Vanya, A Bedroom Farce*. Theatre Corporate: *The Summer of the Seventeenth Doll, The Plough and the Stars, The Song of Johnny Muscle*. Central Theatre: *See How They Run, Bullshot Crummond, Kennedy's Children, Coralie Landsdown says No, The Foursome*. Four Seasons Theatre: *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead, Relatively Speaking, The Importance of Being Earnest, Celebration, Loot, Twelfth Night*. National Tour: *Farewell Speech*. **Film:** *Winter of Our Dreams, Undercover*. **Television:** NZ: *A Going Concern, Gather Your Dreams, Over the Fence, Open House, Shark in the Park, Undercover, Typhons People, Hercules, Radio Waves, Park Terrace Murder, Childs Play, Cuckooland, Gloss III, For the Love of Mike, Cover Story*; AUS: *Prisoner, A Country Practice, Carsons Law, Sons and Daughters, Bellamy, Waterloo Station, Playschool, Prime Time*. **Awards:** 1996 NZ Film & TV Award Best Dramatic Performance TV for *Coverstory*, 1993 NZ Film & TV Award Best Dramatic Performance TV for *Undercover*, 1992 Chapman Tripp Wellington Theatre Award Best Actress for *Lysistrata*. **Training:** NZ Drama School.



CARMEL McGLONE as Annie



Theatre: Auckland Theatre Company: *Dancing at Lughnasa, The Learner's Stand, By Degrees, The Seagull*. Downstage Theatre: *Agamemnon, Hang on A Minute Mate, Hooters Trumpets & Raspberries, I'm not Rappaport*. Circa Theatre/Wellington International Arts Festival: *Hensteeth*. Circa Theatre: *Ophelia Thinks, Renovations, Odd Bods, Stretchmarks*. State Theatre Co/South Australia: *Stiffs, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Julius Caesar, Spring Awakening, A Delicate Balance, Jonah, A Flea in Her Ear, Cabaret, Marat/Sade, Longtime...No See, Quickies, Restoration, Capricornia, Tales from The Decameron*. Taki Rua/Depot Theatre: *Say Thank You To the Lady, Promise Not to Tell, Wild Cabbage*. Centrepoint Theatre: *Steaming, Outside In, Hay Fever, Noel Coward Selections, Bullshot Crummond, Jacques Brel...Paris, Agnes of God, Domestic Tragedy, Tom Foolerey, Cloud Nine, Objection Overruled, Insignificance, Noises Off, The Ginger Bread Man*. Independent Productions: *The Trojan Woman*. **Film:** *Prickle, Lemming Aid, Bread & Roses, Send a Gorilla*.

Television: *The Legend of William Tell, The Mysterious Island, Plainclothes, The Marching Girls, Life in the Fridge Exists, Seekers, Heartline*. **Awards:** South Australia Newspaper Critics Award Best Comic Performer for *Longtime...No See*, Wellington Newspaper Critics Award Best Supporting Actress *Say Thank You to The Lady*. **Training:** Victoria University, Wellington Polytechnic, Diploma in Music.

ELIZABETH McRAE as Kath



Theatre: Auckland Theatre Company: *Uncle Vanya*. Mercury Theatre: *Summer, Setting the Table, Secrets, Bodies, Once A Catholic, Middle Age Spread, Dirty Linen, Marat/Sade, Country Wife, Zorba the Greek, Under Milkwood, The Crucible, Caucasian Chalk Circle, Dark of the Moon, Admirable Crichton*. Theatre Corporate: *Pygmalion, The Plough and the Stars, Happy Days, Not I, Vinegar Tom*. Tantrum Theatre Co: *End of the Golden Weather, Comedy of Errors, Great Expectations, The Wedding Party, Trifecta*. International Festival of the Arts: *Ricordi*. Court Theatre: *Three Tall Women*. **Film:** *Scarecrow, Never Say Die, Angel at My Table, Death in the Family, Return Journey, The Secret, Gordon Bennett, One of Those Blighters, A Dolls' House*. **Television:** *Home Movie, Pio, Shortland St, Growing Rich, Hotshotz, Steel Riders, Country G.P., Radio Times, Pioneer Women, Mortimer's Patch, The Games Affair, A Going Concern*. **Training:** Maria Dronke's Studio.

FIONA SAMUEL as Emily



Theatre: Auckland Theatre Company: *Dancing at Lughnasa*. Watershed Theatre: *Twelfth Night*. Circa Theatre: *Lashings of Whipped Cream - A Session with a Teenage Dominatrix* (national tour), *Crimes of the Heart*. Taki Rua/Depot Theatre: *Three Sisters, Oracles and Miracles* (national tour), *Frontwomen, Coverboy, Accidental Phantasies, Loved Ones*. Downstage Theatre: *Trafford Tanzi, The Pohutukawa Tree*. Fortune Theatre: *Automatic Pilot*. Centrepoint Theatre: *Les Liaisons Dangereuses, Objection Overruled, Abigail's Party*. **Film:** *Lemming Aid, Stroke, Footrot Flats*. **Television:** *The Marching Girls, Seekers, Roche, Over The Wall and Out, Close to Home*. **Writing:** TV: *Home Movie, Overnight, Face Value, A Real Dog, Her New Life, House Rules, The Marching Girls*. Theatre: *One Flesh, Lashings of Whipped Cream - a Session with a Teenage Dominatrix, The Wedding Party*. Radio: *A Short History of Contraception, Don't Touch That Dial, Words of Love, Blonde Bombshell*. **Film:** *Song of The Siren, Bitch*. **Directing:** ATC: *Molly Sweeney*. Taki Rua/Depot Theatre: *The*

Wedding Party. TV: *Home Movie, A Real Dog*. **Film:** *Song of The Siren, Bitch*. **Awards:** 1996 NZ Film & TV Award Best Television Drama, 1994 Mobil Radio Award Best Drama, 1994 Mobil Radio Award Best Entertainment Programme, 1993 National Playwriting Award, 1984 Mobil Radio Award Best Drama. **Training:** NZ Drama School.

AUCKLAND THEATRE COMPANY

P r e s e n t s



This Play premiered at the Fortune Theatre, Dunedin in September 1995.
This is the sixth and final production of the Montana 1997 International Season.

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Designer
Lighting Design
Wardrobe
Stage Manager
Set Construction
Properties
Operator
Fly Operator

Cathy Downes
John Verryt
Vera Thomas
Elizabeth Whiting
Fritha Walker
Third Stage
Teresa Sokolich
Kerry Marinkovich
Neil Fenwick

Susan
Sinead
Maxine
Annie
Kath
Emily

Judith Gibson
Sophia Hawthorne
Jennifer Ludlam
Carmel McGlone
Elizabeth McRae
Fiona Samuel

CAST

There will be a 15 minute intermission

Auckland Theatre Company

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Assoc. Producer
Assoc. Producer
Business Manager
Patron Services Manager
Production Manager

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Teresa Sokolich
Amy Drury
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TRAMPING GUIDELINES CONTINUED

Pioneer explorers accommodated natural hazards in the backcountry in their way of life. They understood the environment and modified their programme and progress according to the weather and terrain. Today, we have a more superficial relationship with the environment; our time is limited and our plans and actions are often circumscribed by length of a weekend. We may be less conscious of the hazards and less flexible to accommodate the vagaries of the elements. Despite the comforts of modern equipment, lightweight food and other facilities, we can easily be 'caught out'.

Forward planning (for instance, having the right gear and knowing the route), alertness (anticipating difficulties) and flexibility (a preparedness to turn back or stop if conditions deteriorate) can all help to minimize risks. However, it is also important to have a plan of action to carry you through a survival threat.

To avoid a survival situation

Plan

- Learn bushcraft. Trusting others to navigate or provide shelter will be of little help if you become separated.
- Gain a little knowledge of the area. Study maps and guidebooks.
- Be sure you can manage a trip. Be sufficiently fit.
- Notify someone of your plans if travelling alone so you will be missed if you don't return.



Be Alert

- Keep in contact with the rest of the group.
- Keep an eye on the weather.
- Study the terrain and follow progress on the map.
- If unsure of the route, check it out - don't blunder on.
- Look back from time to time so you can visualise the surroundings if you have to retreat.

Be Prepared

- Be self-sufficient. Carry adequate food, shelter and clothing.
- Retreat or wait if terrain, weather or river conditions become too difficult or if progress is slow.
- In persistent cold or wet weather don't push on regardless - seek shelter if in doubt.
- Keep all of your gear - you may need it later.

A Survival Crisis in New Zealand backcountry is usually short term. As long as someone knows you have failed to return, a search will be mounted within a day of your being reported overdue. As long as you help yourself to be seen and

the weather is satisfactory for a search, assistance should arrive quickly. Shelter from extreme weather conditions and the will to survive are vital in the New Zealand backcountry.

From *The New Zealand Trumper's Handbook* by Grant Hunter, Heinemann Reed 1981' pg. 139-140.

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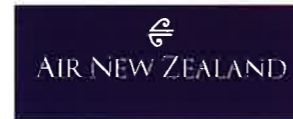
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