BOOBSLANG:
A LEXICOGRAPHICAL STUDY OF THE ARGOT OF NEW ZEALAND
PRISON INMATES, IN THE PERIOD 1996 – 2000

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1 A NOTE ON THE LEXICON

This lexicon consists of an amalgamated list of boobslang taken from a wide variety of inmates in all New Zealand prisons. Therefore, like any dictionary, it aims to give an overview of the language, so not all inmates will use all the words listed; some may even be unfamiliar with terms used by inmates of another gender, in a distant prison, or of a different age-group or ethnicity. Most words, however, are common to a number of prisons. If a term is specific to a single prison, this is noted in brackets at the beginning of the definition. In defining a term with its different senses and range of use, information has been selectively compiled from a number of different interviewee responses to give as broad a representation of the term as possible.

Terms that were recorded as being used only by a single inmate, and were most likely idiosyncrasies or nonce words, have been left out of the lexicon; as a rule, those that recorded two or more responses are included as headwords.

In referring to inmates, ‘he’ has been used as a gender-inclusive pronoun throughout. This is appropriate, as 94% of New Zealand’s inmate population, and 87% of my interviewees, are male; therefore, a study of local prison argot must necessarily take this into account, as most of the terms occur in male-only or male-dominated contexts. Although the use of ‘he’ gives some entries a slightly archaic quality, the terms are largely concerned with actions performed by, attitudes held by, or events experienced by, men. If a term is specific to a women’s prison, it is labelled as such. In referring to prison officers or similar officials, ‘he or she’ is generally used, as there is a more even gender division amongst Department of Corrections employees, and references to them are less frequent.

Although I have tried to keep the lexicon as prison-specific as possible, I have occasionally included some terms that are used in wider criminal subcultures both in New Zealand and overseas; for example, certain terms for drugs, and gang-related terminology. This is because the terms have special currency in prisons, or they provide background information for specific prison usage, and have been included in order to give the lexicon greater clarity and usability.
I have also included officer-related terminology for the following reasons: the terms themselves are used widely by the inmates and have particular currency in prison; some inmates may have devised boobslang equivalents for these procedures; they provide a wealth of information about the background, environment, atmosphere and social context of the prison; and many are previously unrecorded New Zealand terms related to the prison and therefore of interest and relevance.

In addition to listing term and definition, a large number of entries incorporate cultural notes. These notes either give further information about the term, such as prison influences that have given rise to the coining of a specific term or expression, situations in which the term may be used, or more detailed descriptions of the term’s referent; or they discuss a collection of related terms compiled within a single entry. Because of overlexicalisation, there are often several synonymous terms for a single referent. When cultural notes are provided, they are appended after the first alphabetical entry; for example, the information relating to urine tests appears under keg.

Where possible, the term’s origin has also been sourced, with a date and place of first record and a brief etymology.

There are two types of citations contained in the lexicon. The first comprises quotations from the inmate interviewees, which either help illustrate the sense of the headword, or give examples of situations in which the word may be used (normally prefaced with, ‘As one inmate explains:’). The second consists of quotations taken from New Zealand texts, covering a range of genres, such as novels, short stories, plays, poems, theses, biographies and autobiographies, journal, magazine and newspaper articles, dictionaries and glossaries, newsletters, instruction manuals, advertisements, and official government publications. Electronic sources have been consulted for background information, but do not feature in the citations. Because the lexicon is based to a degree upon historical principles, these citations are arranged chronologically, charting the term’s evolution in New Zealand.

The citations have been restricted to New Zealand texts for three reasons. Firstly, the boundaries of the lexicon need to be clearly defined. One could waste a large amount of time wading through a volume of non-New Zealand texts that, ultimately, would be of little use. Secondly, as a significant number of the terms contained in the lexicon are New Zealand-
specific, they do not occur in non-New Zealand texts. Thirdly, the citations’ chief purpose is
to provide further evidence of how words are used in New Zealand (prison) contexts, and to
demonstrate the nature of the prison community in New Zealand. Very occasionally, a
citation has been taken from an Australian text. This is only in the case where an Australian­
derived term has developed particular currency in New Zealand prisons, and no suitable New
Zealand citations are available, and the Australian text contains a useful and appropriate
passage that will add to the reader’s understanding of the headword.
LEXICON OF BOOBSLANG

IN THE PERIOD

1996 – 2000
AA abbr. ascetic anhydride (also acetic anhydride). [used professionally as a photographic developing agent, ascetic anhydride is employed by drug users to turn Class B drugs into Class A, e.g. morphine into heroin.]

Note: There are three main classes of drugs: A, B and C. Class A drugs, e.g. LSD, heroin and cocaine, are considered the most dangerous and addictive and carry the most severe prison sentences (in some cases, the life sentence) for manufacturing, dealing or importing. Class B drugs, e.g. homebake, morphine, MSTs, hashish, Ecstasy and speed, are not generally as strong nor as dangerous, but manufacturing, dealing and possession still carry considerable penalties. Class C drugs, e.g. cannabis and sleeping tablets, although illegal, are considered the least serious, and short sentences may be handed out for possession, dealing or cultivation.

AA v. to add ascetic anhydride (AA) to morphine in order to produce synthetic heroin.

AC abbr. ascetic chloride (also acetyl chloride), a substance similar to ascetic anhydride, a key ingredient used to process morphine into heroin.

ACAC abbr. standing for an expression, ‘All Crims Are Cool’ and ‘All Cops Are Cunts’. [similar to the current British prison expression, ACAB = ‘All Coppers Are Bastards’. ACAC appears frequently as a tattoo, identifying the wearer as an older criminal, an old lagger. More recently superseded by FTW.]

ACDC n. 1 a game similar to draughts, played on a backgammon board. 2 standing for an expression, ‘Anti Christ Devil’s Child’ that may be used by some (usu. Christian) inmates to describe a fellow inmate who displays particularly malicious characteristics. [poss. influenced by the Australian rock band AC/DC (formed 1973): some believe that the group’s name is supposed to stand for this expression.]

ace n. [] on one’s ace on one’s own, by oneself. In prison, this is generally used with reference to one’s sentence, meaning to serve one’s time in prison independently, with no outside interferences (see do your own lag). As one inmate explains: ‘If some guy asks me, “How are you doing your lag?” I’d tell him, “On my ace.”’ It means that I rely on myself, I’m on my own, doing my own lag. I’m a one man army, on my ace, to the death.’

act v. [] act up (of a prison officer) to be temporarily promoted to a higher rank if the officer normally occupying that rank is not on duty; e.g. if he or she is sick, on leave, or attending a training course at another prison.

Adam n. [] Adam and Eve on a raft two eggs on toast. [US tramps’ and waiters’ slang from c.1930.]

agent n. 1 a gang recruit, a young gang-member training for his patch (cf. prospect sense 1). 2 a person, not necessarily a gang-member, employed to oversee the general management of a gang while its key members are in prison. 3 an informer (cf. nark).

ags (also ag) n. aggravated robbery: ‘He’s doing five years for ags.’

ainga (also a’iga or aiga) n. a group of inmates who are very close friends. [from Samoan ainga, a’iga or aiga =
'extended family'; the extended family is a central concept of Samoan society.

**air bubble** *n.* the Control Room, guard house. [women’s prison argot; the control room at Mount Eden Women’s prison (Auckland) is encased in a convex glass shell and resembles a large bubble. This term has added significance because of the merging of the /a/ and /ɔ/ diphthongs that occurs in New Zealand English: inmates may describe the Control Room as an ‘ear bubble’, implying that the officers are always listening to the inmates’ conversations in an attempt to overhear information about any illegal activity.] (cf. bubble; fish bowl.)

**airmail** *n.* send something airmail = go fishing.

**airstrip, the** *n.* the main corridor at Paremoremo Prison (East Division), which is 100m long. All the maximum blocks are entered from this corridor. [from the resemblance to an aircraft runway. 1982 NEWBOLD: ‘He took me past Central and into a massive corridor, a good hundred metres long, with nothing in it at all. It looked really desolate. At intervals down the corridor were sets of steel grilles fixed into the wall. This was the place inmates called the airstrip’ (61). ‘Airstrip (n) Main corridor at Paremoremo Prison’ (244).]

**Al (also Al Bundy)** *n.* an inmate regarded with contempt by his fellow inmates, an inmate with no form, occupying low status within the prison hierarchy. [after the character from the US television sitcom, Married With Children (1987-1997), renowned for his slovenliness and his general lack of intelligence, initiative, and social grace.]

**Albany** *n.* the medium-security section of Paremoremo Prison.

**albatross** *n.* the head officer in a prison or prison unit; the officer in charge of a prison work-party. [rhyming slang for ‘the boss’.]

**album** *n.* a criminal record.

**alby** *n.* a pound of marijuana. [from the pronunciation of lb = pound.]

**Al Capone** *n.* a telephone. [rhyming slang, after the legendary US gangster of the 1920s and 1930s. 1982 NEWBOLD: ‘Al Capone (n) Telephone’ (244).]

**Alcatraz** *n.* 1 Paremoremo Prison. [from the idea that Paremoremo is almost impossible to escape from; after the infamous US Federal penitentiary in San Francisco Bay op. 1934-1963.] Note: with this analogy, inmates are more accurate than they may realise. Paremoremo Prison (1968) was influenced by the design of Marion Prison in Illinois (1963), which, in turn, was modelled upon Alcatraz. 2 (less commonly) Mount Eden Men’s Prison.

**alkie** *n.* a lesbian. [origin uncertain.]

**all up** *n.* life imprisonment.

**almond rocks** *n.* socks. [rhyming slang; British from late 19C, Australian from 1941.]

**alphabet, the** *n.* 1 a life or Preventive Detention sentence. [because the criminal has received the lot.] 2 many different varieties of drugs, e.g. ‘What are you into?’ ‘The alphabet, mate.’
charged for or with the alphabet
arrested for possession of Class A, Class B and Class C drugs: 'What did they charge you with?' 'The alphabet.'

alphabet weekend n. a weekend during which one spends most of one’s time indulging in drugs and alcohol: ‘I had an alphabet weekend: A, B, C, D, E and F.’ i.e. the speaker took a Class A drug (e.g. LSD); a Class B drug (e.g. speed); and a Class C drug (e.g. cannabis); got drunk (D); took Ecstasy (cf. E) and ‘got Fucked’ (he either had sex, or became physically and mentally incapacitated as a result of his overindulgence in drugs and alcohol).

amp up v. to become extremely angry.

anal astronaut n. (also anal avenger) a homosexual.

anal probation prison (also anal prison) n. Paremoremo Prison. [Paremoremo has a reputation for the frequent occurrence of sexual assault between inmates.]

angel dust n. 1 phencyclidine (PCP), a depressant drug used illegally as a hallucinogen (similarly to LSD). 2 heroin, a Class A morphine-based opiate derivative. 3 any drug substance that is snorted (taken by nasal inhalation).

Annex, the n. the minimum-security section of Paremoremo Prison.

anus hole (also asshole) n. an inspection hole in a cell door (cf. crack hole; judas hole).

apple n. courage, nerve, ‘balls’: ‘He’s got a bit of apple, he’ll stand up and fight.’

apprentice, the n. a new prison officer recently completed his or her training.

Ara Ngata (also Ara Ngatas or Henry Ara Ngata) n. money: ‘Show us your Ara Ngatas’ = ‘Show us/give us your money.’ [poss. alludes to Sir Apirana Ngata (1874-1950), the former politician and Māori leader featured on the New Zealand $50 note, or to his son, Henare Ngata; + Māori ara = ‘way’; ara Ngata = ‘way of/to Ngata’, i.e. money (?).]

arm gear n. (also armo gear) 1 a hypodermic syringe, needle, tourniquet, etc.; the equipment used to inject intravenous drugs into the main vein in one’s (left) arm. 2 any kind of drug that is injected into one’s arm, but particularly applied to ‘hard drugs’ (Class A), e.g. heroin. [gear is a common criminal slang term for drugs.]

aro n. 1 an armed robber. 2 an armed or aggravated robbery.

Arnold n. a police officer. [a play on pig = policeman; apparently after one porcine character named Arnold who featured on ‘Pigs in Space,’ a regular skit from The Muppet Show. No evidence, however, can be found to support this etymology.]

Aro (also Arrow) n. Arohata Women’s Prison, Wellington. [abbreviation.]

Arohata Hotel n. Arohata Women’s Prison. [describing prison in this cynically humorous way can be traced as far back as late 18C Britain: the 1811
Lexicon Balatronicum cites Newman’s Hotel as a term for Newgate Prison; see also four star hotel; grey bar hotel; the Ritz.]

arrested adj. [] be arrested to gain a criminal charge while in prison, to be put on report.

arse licker n. 1 (also bumlicker) an inmate who ingratiates himself with prison officials in order to get through his sentence easily. [1980 MacKENZIE: ‘The inmates who attended [the discussion groups] were of course derided by their fellows as arse-lickers’, and by many officers as “con men and nuts” (29).] 2 an informer. 3 a person who is easily conned. 4 a child molester. 5 a general term of abuse.

AS (also A segs or admin segs) abbr. and n. = Administration Segregation (see segregation).

ashtray n. a scavenger, a bludger. [some desperate inmates will even resort to picking up their fellow inmates' discarded cigarette butts to smoke.]

association (also association cell or association slot) n. a cell designed to accommodate several inmates.

Note: at some prisons, new inmates are put into association cells until single cells become available.

[NZ from 1980. 1980 MacKENZIE: ‘In the basement association cells, conditions were worse. From three to sixteen men occupied each of these’ (13). ‘Association more than one occupant of a cell’ (95). 1982 NEWBOLD: ‘[A]fter a couple of days in an association cell I was allocated a slot of my own’ (107). ‘Association (n) A cell designed to accommodate more than two people’ (244). 1989 NEWBOLD: ‘He was moved out of the separates division where he had been housed and into association cell “A”’ (91). ‘Neither MacMillan or Sadaraka was held in the association slots’ (147). 1991 PAYNE: ‘There were also occasions when patrolling guards would deliberately avoid the Nomad “association” – an eight-man prison cell which at the time held two or three Nomads and assorted bikers’ (64).]

Asterix n. see zebra.

ATM n. an informer, a nark. [stands for Automatic Teller Machine, and thus an informer as an ‘automatic teller’. This term is often used in conjunction with the expression: ‘You should work in a bank.’]

A to Z n. every kind of available drug: ‘What drugs should I bring in?’ ‘A to Z, mate.’ (cf. alphabet, the.)

Auckland Mount n. Mt Eden Men’s Prison, Auckland (cf. mount, the, Wellington Mount).

auntie’s bus n. [] get on auntie’s bus to be transferred to another prison: ‘When they [the officers] told you that you were getting on auntie’s bus, you knew that you were gone.’

Auto Trader n. a pornographic magazine. [makes reference to The Auto Trader: New Zealand’s No.1 Car Magazine. Because pornographic magazines are illegal in prison, inmates have to refer to them using the titles of more innocent magazines. In some cases, inmates will disguise a pornographic magazine with the cover of an Auto
Trader or similar publication.] (cf. National Geographic; Woman's Weekly.)

axe n. 1 a firearm. 2 a guitar.
babbling brook n. [] do a babbling brook to cook up morphine sulphate tablets (MSTs) or other pharmaceutical products containing codeine (e.g. panadeine) to extract the morphine so as to process it into heroin. Synthetic heroin is commonly produced by adding acetic anhydride to the morphine mixture (cf. homebake). [rhyming slang for do a cook (see crash v. for information on common ways of doing a cook while in prison). An adaptation of rhyming slang babbling brook for a 'cook' esp. a stock-station, camp or army cook, Australian 1913, British from c.1914, NZ 1918; also extant in the senses 'crook' = professional criminal, British from early 20C, US and Australian from c.1928; and 'crook' = unwell, Australian from early to mid-20C.]

Note: in prison, morphine sulphate tablets (MSTs) are the tablets most commonly cooked up by inmates. An MST is a Class B drug, used medically to relieve the pain of cancer patients, and manufactured in New Zealand by Douglas Pharmaceuticals. By the early 1990s prescription drugs such as MSTs had acquired a widespread usage in criminal subcultures and are very popular in New Zealand (esp. South Island) prisons. MSTs are available in 10mg, 30mg, 60mg, 100mg and 200mg varieties, with the 30mg, 60mg and 100mg tablets being the most popular amongst drug-users. The street value of morphine sulphate varies around New Zealand: e.g. approx $1 per mg in Taupo, $1.50 per mg in Auckland and $2 per mg in Christchurch.

Babe Ruth n. 1 truth: 'Give us the Babe Ruth, mate.' [rhyming slang; after the famous US baseball player (1895-1948). 1982 NEWBOLD: 'Babe Ruth (n) Truth' (244).] 2 Truth, a New Zealand tabloid newspaper (1906-). [rhyming slang.]

baby n. 1 an inmate in prison for the first time. 2 an prison officer new to the prison or recently completed his or her training.

baby G n. one's child. [the child of a G = a gangster.]

babylon n. 1 a police officer. [derogatory; poss. derived from 'Babylon(ia)', the Rastafarian name for the historically white European colonial and imperialist power structure that has oppressed Blacks and other peoples of colour. Popularised by reggae singer Bob Marley in such songs as, ‘Chant Down Babylon’ (1983). Also current British argot.] 2 a prison officer. [poss. from sense 1.]

babysitter n. a paedophile.

back n. [] be or go back to back 1 to look out for one's friend, lit. to 'watch his back'. 2 to fight.

back v. [] back up 1 to get even, to take revenge upon one who has done one wrong, even over reasonably trivial matters (a face-saving exercise): 'If some guy gives you shit, don’t degrade yourself so that you’re lower than him, go and back up on it.' One inmate gives this example: 'Say you’re in the line waiting to have your dinner served and a guy slaps you, and you don’t want to do anything at the time because there’s a screw watching, you might wait 'till later and back up on it, like, beat him up later that evening.' [1978 NEWBOLD: ‘The requirement that a person should “fight like a man” is often ignored when a case of standing over occurs, and the underdog is considered justified in evening the odds by backing-up’ (351).
1992 DUFF: ‘And Joe the Roundabout Tavern regular took his eyes half hopefully, half warily around his bar in case he saw a mug or two he and his pals could beat up on, and just in case yesterday’s madman had returned to **back up**’ (55). Note: backing up is one way for an inmate to stand up for himself, most often displayed by violence rather than negotiation. The reasoning behind this action is the inmate’s desire not to be seen as weak (a sign of weakness is to cop the abuse or attack he is given and not to retaliate). Once an inmate is regarded as weak, he becomes a popular target for other forms of abuse and derision, especially **standovers**.  

2 to look out for one’s friend, to keep an eye on him, to cover for him or to protect him, either in a fight or dangerous situation, or in an argument or protest.  

3 to reoffend, esp. to commit the same crime twice: ‘x backed up on his crime, so now he’s got PD.’

**backdoor** *int.* an expression indicating that the speaker has a packet of contraband (usually drugs) hidden in his rectum (see charge).

**back door bandit** (also **backdoor man**) *n.* a homosexual. [from colloquial reference to the anus as one’s ‘back door’ or ‘back passage.’]

**back-end guy** *n.* an inmate in the final stages of his prison sentence (cf. **front-end guy**).

**backstop** *n.* one who looks out for another, e.g. during a fight or a criminal job. [US since 1920s; ex. rounders and cricket.]

**back-up** *n.* an act of revenge: ‘You want to think twice if you’re going to do a hit on a guy that’s in a gang, because there’s a real risk of back-ups, you know, his guys will come and take out your guys.’

[1982 NEWBOLD: ‘On one occasion Trevor got into another fight down in the workshops (again over gambling) and when he came back to the block it was widely rumoured that there was going to be a **back-up** in the gym that night’ (80).]

**bad blood** *n.* 1 the narcotics detection dog: ‘Bad blood’s coming through.’ [a coded term so that inmates may warn each other of the dog’s approach and get rid of any supplies they have, without the officers realising the cause of the sudden activity and becoming suspicious.] 2 a mentally unbalanced person.

**bad boy** *n.* a firearm.

**bad Brownie camp, the** *n.* a women’s prison.

**bad bus, the** *n.* [] get on the bad bus to be transferred to another prison. [a play on ‘bad buzz’ (unfortunate experience), as often inmates do not want to be transferred.]

**bad company** *n.* 1 an area of the prison that is more run-down than the rest of the prison. 2 a group of rough, dangerous inmates, who usually inhabit a more run-down area of the prison: ‘Don’t go down to that wing; bad company over there, bro.’

**bad kuri** (also **bad dog**) *n.* a Mongrel Mob member. [derogatory; from Māori *kuri* = ‘dog’ (see dog).]

**badge** *n.* a nosey inmate who asks many questions. [by metonymy; the badge stands for a policeman, whose
characteristics the inmate is perceived to display. (cf. policeman.)

**bad mug n.** 1 a sinister or evil character. [1982 NEWBOLD: 'Mug (n) ... 3. e.g. Bad --. Sinister or evil character' (251).] 2 an inmate targeted for an assault.

**bag n.** a package of illegal contraband, e.g. drugs: 'Are you in?' 'Yeah, bro, got a bag.' (i.e. the drop has been picked up and successfully smuggled into the prison). (cf. parcel.)

**Bahamas, the n. pl.** the solitary confinement cell, the secure unit: 'x is down in the Bahamas for the week.' [after the country in the West Indies, from the idea that the inmate is isolated and on holiday when sent to solitary confinement, taking a break from the routine of everyday prison life; also current US.] (cf. Barbados.)

**bail n.** 1 get no bail to be placed in the pound (sense 1). out on bail to have gone up on a charge, but to have been put on open report. [alludes to a similar situation on the outside where a person is arrested, but is freed under certain strict conditions until his trial is held.]

**bail form** n. a criminal charge sheet. [some inmates will rename objects, places, and procedures in the prison using terms that mean the opposite, in an attempt to provide humour or to satirise the administration.]

**baked bean? int.** you know what I mean? [rhyming slang.]

**baked potato** n. a Māori skinhead. [from a transferred or figurative use of a potato to stand for something that is 'brown on the outside', but 'white on the inside'.] (cf. kinder surprise; riwai; spud.)

**baldhead (also bald'ead)** n. 1 a person of European origin, a Pākehā. 2 a Māori who is materialistic and uses the Pākehā system to succeed. 3 a skinhead or a neo-Nazi white supremacist gang-member. [derogatory, referring to the characteristic shaven heads of such gang-members; the term derived from the lyrics to the song, 'Crazy Baldhead' (1976) by reggae singer Bob Marley: 'We gonna chase them crazy Baldheads out of town.']. Note: there is a difference between skinheads and white supremacists, although many skinheads subscribe to a white supremacist ideology and the two groups are commonly portrayed as being identical; for example, one encounters several Māori skinheads, but rarely a Māori white supremacist (cf. skins). 4 any person not affiliated to a gang, esp. to the Mongrel Mob. [poss. from Bob Marley's song 'Crazy Baldheads' (see sense 3). 1991 PAYNE: 'After all, if a bald'ead -- an outsider whom the Mongrel Mob go to great lengths to be different from -- is angered or upset by their lifestyle, then, to a true 'Dog', this is simply an affirmation of the life he has chosen to lead' (19).] 5 a 'straight' person, a law-abiding citizen. From an inmate's point of view, this term is applied more specifically to 'the Head Office crowd', administrative officials within the Department of Corrections. 6 an informer. 7 a person new to, and unfamiliar with, a (criminal) situation, e.g. prison or a gang (cf. fresh meat). 8 a person with no previous criminal record who ends up in prison for a very minor offence, such as the non-payment of a parking fine. 9 an inmate of low status, usually one who has served little prison time. 10 a general
derogatory term used between opposing gangs, e.g. between skinheads and the Black Power.

bald-headed lesbian n. see zebra.

baldy n. a gang-member with a shaven head. [refers mostly to skinheads and/or white supremacists, but may apply to other gang-members of this appearance who are not Pākehā.]

ballie v. 1 ballie up to put on a balaclava with criminal intent, in order to perform a burglary, robbery, daylight murder, rape, or any other crime that requires the wearing of a balaclava to ensure the perpetrator’s anonymity: ‘I’m going to give that cunt the bash.’ ‘He’ll nark on you.’ ‘Oh, well, I’ll ballie up and do it.’ 2 (ballie (someone) up) to put a blanket or pillowcase over a victim’s head so as to beat him up without being identified (cf. blanket).

ballroom, the n. a fight. 1 do a ballroom to fight someone, to assault someone. [from the idea that the aggressor wants to ‘go dance’ with his victim; from ‘dance’ in its street-slang sense = to fight.]

banana cake n. an Asian. [from racial stereotype of Asians as ‘yellow’.]

banana ripple n. = strawberry ripple.

bang n. an injection of, and resultant ‘high’ from, intravenous drugs: ‘Have a bang – hammer yourself.’ (cf. hammer.)

bank, the n. = don, the.

bankcard n. a pound of marijuana. [from the idea that both a bankcard and a supply of marijuana are what one makes use of to acquire money.]

Barbados n. = Bahamas, the.

bar check n. a procedure which involves the prison officers pulling the cell bars or hitting them with pieces of wood or steel to make sure that inmates have not tried to cut through them in an attempt to escape.

barrel n. the round plastic tube of a hypodermic syringe, containing the substance to be injected. [from its resemblance to the barrel on a firearm; a common term for both a hypodermic syringe and a firearm is a shooter.] (cf. spike.)

barricade (also barrication) n. 1 a strike, a refusal to work. 2 a protest.

barricade v. 1 to go on strike. 2 to fasten one’s cell to prevent prison guards from entering. Note: this type of action may be taken if inmates are fighting for, or protesting against, something; in extreme cases, inmates might barricade the whole wing. A common way to barricade a cell is for the inmate to push his bed up against the door. As a result, new prison buildings are designed with the cell doors opening outwards to prevent inmates taking this step.

Bart Simpson n. see zebra.

bar v. 1 bar up 1 to take speed. 2 to have sexual intercourse.

baseballs n. pl. = basketballs.

basement n. (Invercargill Prison) the solitary confinement punishment cell, the pound. [at Invercargill Prison, the pound is underground.]
bash, the n. an assault.

basher n. a Christian. [prob. from 'Bible basher. ']

basketballs n. pl. have basketballs under one's arms describes the way an inmate looks when he strikes a defensive posture of drawing himself up to his full height, rolling his back forward to extend it and simultaneously pushing his shoulders and chest up in an attempt to look bigger and tougher than he is. The basis of this posture is a bodybuilding pose known as a 'front lat spread' due to the latissimus dorsi muscles used, which may increase the chest circumference by at least 25cm. The positions of the back, shoulder and chest muscles cause the arms to jut out and to look as if the inmate is carrying an (invisible) object under each arm, e.g. a basketball: 'He's got basketballs' or: 'Put those basketballs away, buddy.'

Note: This defensive behaviour is most common when an inmate enters a new prison or wing, in order to prevent himself from looking weak and being preyed upon by other inmates. Although it is fairly common practice to adopt this posture at first, inmates almost uniformly scorn this behaviour and the reasoning behind it, condemning the inmate as a tryhard, making fun of the way he looks (as above) and, at worst, taking his contrived 'toughness' as a direct provocation and assaulting him; as one inmate says: 'A guy with basketballs under his arms usually gets bounced at the end of the day.' There are several other terms that describe what such an inmate may be carrying under his arms e.g. baseballs; golf balls; pumpkins; soccer balls; tomatoes and watermelons. (cf. boob walk; mask up.)

bat n. a $100 note.

bat cave n. one's cell. [from the name of the secret hideout belonging to Batman (see below).]

Batman n. see zebra.

Batman and Robin n. 1 = Dad and Dave. 2 (Kaitoke Prison) the prison officers who obtain inmates' urine samples for testing for evidence of drug use. [the overalls and utility belts worn by these officers are reminiscent of the outfits worn by the comic strip, television and film character, Batman, and his sidekick, Robin.]

batteries n. pl. ascetic anhydride, a chemical added to morphine to turn it into heroin. [from the abbreviated form, AA, by association with AA batteries, used to power torches, wall clocks and walkman radios.]

BB n. 1 an inmate who uses standover tactics. [from an abbreviation of the street-slang expression 'Bad Buzz' (a bad reaction or experience), as such inmates cause problems and create tension amongst the prison population.] 2 (also B&B) = brace and bit.

beach n. walk around the beach to wander around the wing, in no particular direction and with no specific purpose: 'What are you girls doing?' 'Oh, we're just walking around the beach.' [women's prison argot.] (cf. K Road it.)

beam up v. to go to church; to practise Christian worship: 'Look at all those guys going to get beamed up.'

beans n. pl. get one's beans to be beaten up, assaulted, given the bash.
beast, the n. = system, the.

beastie boy n. a rapist. [after the name of the contemporary punk/rap group, The Beastie Boys (formed 1981).]

beat v. [] beat the feet to escape, to run away. beat the hoof to escape, to run away. [a variant of 'beat it on the hoof' = to walk on foot, British from c.1698; in current form from c.1788; mostly obsolete in Britain by 1870, surviving only amongst tramps to refer to walking rather than taking the train. NZ from c.1932.]

bed n. [] on a bed ride to be confined to one's cell for medical reasons. [a variant of bed sick, from the idea that inmate is not in fact sick, but is taking the officers 'for a ride'.]

bed and breakfast (also breakfast) n. a very short sentence: 'He's just in for bed and breakfast' or: 'What's he doing?' 'Breakfast' or: 'He's just here for breakfast.'

bed and breakfast adj. short, short-term. [] bed and breakfast inmate or lagger an inmate serving a short period of time; often used by someone serving a long sentence of someone in prison for a minor offence (see lag). [] bed and breakfast lag a very short sentence. 'He's doing a bed and breakfast lag, so he'll be going home, soon.' [at bed and breakfast hotels, guests usually stay only a night or two.]

bed rest n. a medical order for a prisoner to be excused from heavy work or to be locked up sick.

beds n. pl. (Hawke's Bay (Mangaroa) Prison) the low-security compounds situated near the main prison buildings. Usually inmates are sent to these compounds as a reward for good behaviour: 'He’s going down to the beds next week.' (cf. huts.)

bed sick (also bed sick lockup) n. a medical order confining an inmate to his cell for medical reasons.

beef chain, the n. a kangaroo court, an unofficial court convened by prison inmates. [from 'beef chain' (also 'mutton chain'), the overhead moving chain at a freezing works on which carcasses are carried for processing; also any of various workers involved in the killing and dressing, processing and packaging of the meat; NZ from 1951. From the idea that the inmate is like one of these carcasses; as one inmate explains: 'They [the other inmates] cut you up – you’re judged and packaged and they decide what they’re going to do with you.'] (cf. butcher's chain, the; mutton chain, the.)

B eleven (also B11) n. a standard property request form.

Note: when an inmate wishes to have a specific item brought in to him by a visitor, e.g. clothes (if on remand), a TV, hobby gear, etc., he obtains a B11, fills it in with details of the item, and gives the form to either a prison officer, Unit Manager or PCO, who signs it as approved. Half of the form is kept in the Property Office, while the other half is given to the inmate’s visitor. The visitor then purchases or collects the item and brings it back to the prison. When the visitor presents the item, he or she must have the B11 chit, otherwise the item will not be accepted. The visitor gives the item and the chit to the Property Officer who matches the visitor’s half of the form with the half in the Property Office. The officer enters the details of the transaction into the
computer, approves it, and passes the item on to the inmate.

**B eleven** (also B11) v. to authorise an item to be brought into prison for an inmate by following the procedure of the B11 form (see above). The inmate, his visitor and the prison officer all take responsibility for this transaction. [2000 Notice to Visitors, Meads House: ‘All items must be B11ed before they are handed on to inmates.’]

**benny** (also benzo) n. an amphetamine pill; usually speed or Benzedrine. [British from c.1935.]

**Benny Hill** n. a paedophile. [after the British comedian Benny (Alfred) Hill, (1924-1992), known for his comic skits in which he leers after young women.]

**Betsy** n. a firearm. [from the name of the gun belonging to Daniel Boone, US pioneer, trailblazer and folk hero (1734-1820).]

**Beverley Hills** n. pl. see street, the.

**Bible, the** n. a pornographic magazine. [because pornographic magazines are illegal in prison, inmates have to refer to them using the title of more innocent works. Also, as one inmate remarks, ‘Some guys take this sort of thing religiously.’]

**bible page** (also bible paper) n. a cigarette paper. [both cigarette papers and Bible pages are made of rice paper, and inmates who are short of cigarette papers will often tear pages out of their Bibles and roll these up instead.]

**bic** n. a hypodermic needle. [from its resemblance to a Bic (ballpoint) pen.]

**big bird** n. 1 a transfer (usually by aeroplane) from one prison to another [from the term ‘big bird’ = an aeroplane; used commonly in Australian prisons where transfers by aeroplane are more frequent.] 2 an inmate leader, see king pin.

**big bitch, the** n. Preventive Detention (cf. PD).

**big block, the** n. Paremoremo Prison. [specifically applied to the maximum-security section of the prison, constructed mainly from concrete, metal bars and razor wire.]

**big boss, the** n. the Site Manager (formerly the Superintendent), the official in charge of the prison.

**big bus, the** n. [get on the big bus to be transferred to another prison (cf. auntie’s bus; magic bus, the).]

**big diddle, the** n. the Officer In Charge, the head screw: ‘Did you go and see the big diddle?’ ‘Yeah, got charged, I’m going down the pound.’ (cf. IC; OIC.)

**big end bearing** n. [blow a big end bearing to be broken, i.e. mentally and emotionally shattered, usually as a result of the strain of prison life. [from colloquial reference to the connecting rod attached to a piston in a car’s engine; the ‘big end’ of this rod is attached to and rotates around the crankshaft. When a big end blows (or ‘runs’ as it is generally known) it causes extensive damage to the engine, rendering the car ‘broken’.]
big fish n. 1 a white-collar criminal, esp. one whose crime involved a large amount of money, or whose trial was well publicised. 2 = king pin. 3 the General Manager of a prison. 4 the inmate who makes the most money in the prison.

big haul (also long haul) n. 1 a life sentence. 2 Preventive Detention.

big hit, the n. a knockout punch (cf. king hit).

big house, the n. a prison; usually applied to Paremoremo Prison, or (less commonly) Mount Eden Prison. [US from late 1890s, for a State/Federal prison. 1991 GRAY: 'The Auckland maximum security prison moved slowly to its completion, earning itself the nickname "The Big House" and other less respectable titles' (141).]

big Huey, the n. 1 (also the big Huey Long) any long sentence of several years' duration, including life imprisonment and Preventive Detention. [after Huey Pierce Long (1893-1932), US Senator and notoriously corrupt governor of Louisiana. 1982 NEWBOLD: 'Inmates at Paremoremo ... have their own culture, jargon and sets of expressions, and when a long-timer arrives inmates often comment, "This boy's doing a long one; he's doing the big Huey Long"' (7). 'My name's the Old Junk and this here's the Powdered-Dream Dealer. They gave him the Big Huey for selling dreams to schoolkids' (63). 'Big Huey (n) Long prison sentence, life imprisonment' (245).] 2 Paremoremo Prison. 3 = huey.

big L, the n. a life sentence.

big O, the n. a person who is clever, commendable, brave, 'the man'. [from 'the one', an expression with similar meaning (see one, the sense 1).]

big one n. 1 (also biggie) a long sentence, usually life or Preventive Detention. [1991 GRAY: "'I'll do the big one, before he has her," Ally went on, his voice rising. "You'll kill him, Ally, just like that," Lawrie replied, reading him quite clearly' (126).] 2 Paremoremo Prison.

big P, the n. Paremoremo Prison.

big R, the n. 1 rape. 2 a prison sentence given for the crime of rape: 'That guy's doing the big R, the big rape charge.'

big spewey, the n. a long sentence. [from a play on the big Huey and street-slang 'spew' = to be angry, annoyed. An inmate may be said to be doing the big spewey due to his frustration from having to spend such a long time in prison.]

big stoolie, the n. an inmate with an especially bad reputation for being an informer. [from 'stool pigeon'.]

big top, the n. Paremoremo Prison. [from circus usage: just as the Big Top holds the main circus event, so Paremoremo is New Zealand's most secure and most notorious prison; US 1929 = a prison.]

bike n. a cigarette containing tobacco, sent from one inmate to another after lock, or when face-to-face contact is not possible, using the following method.
Note: this method works only in wings where two facing rows of cells open directly on to a single corridor. Take a magazine. Tear out some of the pages. Place the pages in a row on the floor, overlapping them slightly. Take a tube of toothpaste. Use the toothpaste to stick the pages together where they overlap. Eventually, one should have a long line of connected pages, long enough to reach across the corridor from one cell to another. Place a cigarette at one end. Push the line of pages through the gap under one's cell door (as the pages are flat, they should slide through easily), across the corridor, and through the gap under the door of the inmate opposite. This inmate then collects his cigarette. It is important to keep control of the other end of this apparatus, so that one can readjust it if it is lined up incorrectly, or can pull it back in a hurry if an officer approaches: 'The bike's on its way.' (The term bike applies specifically to cigarettes containing tobacco, not marijuana; cf. train.)

on one's bike involved in a prison 'divorce', either as a couple comprising an inmate and his or her spouse on the outside, or as two inmates involved in a homosexual relationship: 'x's missus couldn't hack him being inside for so long; she's taking off to Australia, so x is on his bike.' [a specific use of the well-known phrase.]

billy (also billy boy) n. an illegal water boiling device. [from 'billy' = a cylindrical tin-plate vessel (later aluminium or enamelled) used for boiling water or for general cooking, esp. in the open; NZ from c.1850.] (cf. kettle; tea bomb.)

billy buck n. an act of sexual intercourse. [rhyming slang for 'fuck'.]

billy goat n. a coat. [rhyming slang; variant of Cockney 'billy goat' = throat.]

billy lid n. 1 a child. [rhyming slang for 'kid'.] 2 a hat. 3 an idiot. 4 the head.

bird n. 1 a prison sentence, time served in prison: 'I've done my bird.' [a shortened form of 'bird lime', rhyming slang for 'time'; in the general sense of time, British from 1857, current in the US by 1859; in the specific sense of a prison sentence, South African from late 19C. 1980 MacKENZIE: 'bird imprisonment' (95). 1982 NEWBOLD: 'So I settled back to do my bird' (145.) 2 an informer, a nark. [from a saying in which an informer, 'a person who talks out of place', is described as 'a bird that sings out of key.'] 3 an inmate serving a short sentence: 'Is he in for long?' 'Nah, he's just a bird.' [from the idea that the inmate will soon be 'flying out'.] 4 an inmate who keeps watch for his fellow inmates during an illegal activity, a lookout (cf. cockatoo).

birdcage n. 1 a prison. [US c.1925.] 2 the solitary confinement punishment cell, the pound. 3 = sallyport.

birdie n. an Ecstasy tablet. [from the picture of a bird embossed on the side.]

Note: Ecstasy is a designer drug produced from a combination of LSD and speed. Part of the London dance club scene since the late 1980s, Ecstasy has become popular in New Zealand since the mid-1990s, especially in the rave dance party scene and in the gay community. The average price paid per tab in Christchurch is about $80, but varies depending upon quality and availability. Most Ecstasy tablets feature a small picture which signifies its quality and strength, e.g. see above and crown; dove; Mitsubishi; pound sense 3; smiley sense 1. Currently, tablets featuring motifs of the McDonald's golden arches or tulips are also very popular.

biscuit n. the face.

bitch n. 1 a female visitor or female partner of an inmate [US from c.1920 = a loose woman or catamite.] 2 the wife, girlfriend or daughter of a Mongrel Mob
member (see dog). 3 (also little bitch) an inmate enlisted as a servant or 'runner' for another inmate, e.g. he cleans the inmate's cell, brings him coffee, and performs other menial tasks. 4 a person who is easily conned. 5 an officer not assigned to any particular wing or duties. 6 a female prison officer.

bitch, the n. a life sentence.

bitchkeeper n. 1 the member of the Police Force in charge of the narcotics detection dog. 2 a man going out with a female prison officer (see bitch sense 6).

bitchslap n. an inmate of low status, regarded as inferior; particularly applied to an inmate who has served little time in prison (cf. frip).

bizzo (also bisso) n. contraband.

bizzos n. pl. [] do the bizzos to check an inmate out, to find out about him, to verify his credentials or reputation and the truth of his statements. This may be considered necessary if the inmate is new to the prison or wing, or if one is considering entering into some business deal with him for the first time. [very likely from 'do the business', as if this is a fundamental procedure that must be carried out with every new person an inmate meets.]

black bitch n. 1 Preventive Detention. [Preventive Detention is an indefinite sentence; as one inmate explains: 'There's no light at the end of the tunnel.'] (cf. big bitch.) 2 the police van that transports inmates between court and prison. [poss. a variant of 'Black Maria', the former term for such a vehicle.]

black crew n. a group of Māori or Pacific Island inmates (cf. crew sense 4; white crew).

black toast n. a female Māori prison officer (cf. white toast).

black widow n. a high-ranking, female, Māori prison officer, usually in the role of IC. Often this type of officer is known for her toughness, experience, intelligence and insight into human nature; she knows all the rules and inmates cannot cheat or trick her. [a transferred use of 'Black Widow', a venomous spider; as one inmate says: 'She can bite you at any time.]

blade n. a knife or razor (cf. shiv).

blad v. to stab: 'x got bladed last night.'

blag (also blagging) n. an armed robbery. [from 'blagging' = robbery with violence, British from c.1935.]

blag v. 1 to commit armed robbery: 'He barged the bank.' 2 to shoot someone.

blagger n. an armed robber. [from 'bclave' = a 'smash and grab' robber; British c.1885. This term may have been a corruption of the French bague = 'a ring', a common item taken in this type of theft.]

blanket (also blanket bash or job or party) n. a mode of assault. A blanket or pillowcase is used to blind and confuse the victim and ensure that the attackers remain anonymous. Note: this is a common form of punishment for narks (informers): 'Say they nark on you for
dropping in a stash, you just attack them, but you cover up your evidence, so they don't have shit to moan about.' A more violent form of the blanket job has become more common in some prisons: instead of simply beating the victims up once they have been covered, some inmates throw petrol or turpentine on them and set them alight.

**blanket v.** 1 to assault somebody in the conventional mode described above. [1994 PAYNE: 'While most of the other creeps are regularly blanketed and beaten with iron bars, while their beds are filled with piss and shit and some are scarred for life, Vine remains untouched' (116).] 2 to provide an alibi or excuse for another person, to 'cover up' for him.

**blanket punishment n.** a procedure whereby the entire inmate population of a prison or wing is punished for the offences of a minority; e.g. if four inmates are found taking drugs, then the whole wing may be locked down early.

**blast n.** 1 an injection of intravenous drugs, e.g. heroin, morphine, temgesics. 2 heroin.

**blast (also blast up) v.** 1 to inject intravenous drugs. 2 to smoke marijuana. [US from 1950.]

**Bleat Street n.** see street, the.

**bleep n.** a liar.

**Blenheim n.** go to Blenheim fishing to daydream.

**blind shot (also blind shotter or blind hit) n.** = sucker punch.

**blindside n.** = sucker punch.

**blindside v.** to punch someone when he does not expect it: 'x was sitting down, having a smoke, when all of a sudden that young guy came up and blindsided him.'

**block n.** 1 a wing, a cell block, applied particularly to the different areas where inmates are housed at Paremoremo Prison. There are four main blocks in East Division (the maximum-security section): A, B, C, and D; D is the most secure block, also known as the 'Behaviour Modification Unit'. 2 a wristwatch. [US c.1914 = any kind of watch.] 3 (the block) = pound, the. 4 a firearm. 5 a dirty girl, generally one who is blocked. [] on the block 1 (also over the block) subjected to group sex, rape and/or sodomy (often gang-associated). [1990 DUFF: 'That night Tania announced: "I'm on the block tonight, boys"' (193).] 2 ostracised, excommunicated, ignored by one's fellow inmates (cf. on the coat). put on the block 1 (also put over the block) to subject (a person) to group sex, rape or sodomy (often gang-associated). [1990 DUFF: 'Slurring, with a sway on, and giving Nig Heke this terrible look as if he was ta blame for putting herself on the block for all the fullas to fucker' (193).] 2 to ostracise and ignore a fellow inmate. 3 to subject (a person) to a physical assault. This may take the more organised form of a pack attack (group assault) where the inmate is placed in the middle of the group and must fight his way out, or it may involve a more unfocused and spontaneous assault, e.g. where two or three inmates enter another's cell, ambush him and beat him up.

**block v.** 1 to perform group sex, rape or
group sodomy on a person. [British from c.1890 = to coit with a woman. 1987 JONES: ‘She came around. She was shaking. I gave her a smoke. She looked like she had been blocked. There were 20 or 30 [Mongrel] Mobsters around the stage’ (23). 1990 DUFF: ‘Then she tripped and stumbled over to the table … and any time there was a sheila for blocking it was usually there they did because it was easier just ta flop yaself out, walk up toer and giver one’ (193). 1991 PAYNE: ‘When a sheila came [to the gang pad] she knew what was going to happen, she was going to be blocked, gang raped’ (109).] 2 to physically assault someone. [block up to interfere with the mechanism controlling the electronic cell doors using a block of wood, so that one becomes barricaded into one’s cell. [esp. at Paremoremo; not all prisons have an electronic door system.] (cf. barricade v. sense 2.)

blocker n. a woman who rapes other women, i.e. puts them on the block (see block n.). [women’s prison argot.]

blow n. marijuana, a marijuana cigarette. [blow creates a catchy rhyme with ‘bro’ (mate, friend, brother) in the common expression: ‘Got a blow there, bro?’ Also current British.]

blue n. 1 a criminal charge. [prob. from the expression ‘in the blue’ = in trouble (esp. with the police), NZ from c.1932. 1953 HAMILTON: ‘Bluey had lost his seaman’s ticket over his jail blues, and I don’t suppose he’ll ever get it back’ (127). 1982 NEWBOLD: ‘Blue (n) Criminal charge’ (245).] 2 (also bluey or blue) a court summons. [in the past, a court summons was written on a blue sheet of paper. 1945 BURTON: ‘There are two ways of commencing to go to prison. One is to receive a summons, vulgarly known as a “bluey” and the other is to be arrested and led off by the strong arm of the law’ (9).] 3 a halcyon pill. 4 (also blue or blue V) a 10mg Valium tablet. [Valium is often referred to by the various colours of the tablets.] 5 a 200mg morphine sulphate tablet (MST). [from a reference to its colour. This is a less common usage; the 200 mg MST is most often referred to as a green. However, because the colour of the 200mg tablet is ambiguous, being more of a teal shade, it is sometimes described as being blue.] 6 a member of the Black Power gang. [blue is the Black Power’s gang colour.] (cf. red sense 3.)

Bluebird chips (also blue chips) n. pl. a $10 note. [drug dealer’s slang, after the colour of the NZ $10 note, with a play on ‘Bluebird’, a leading NZ brand of potato chips.]

blue boy n. a policeman. [a variant of the more general ‘boy in blue’.]

blue lady n. 1 (also blue nurse) a 10cc hypodermic syringe with a glass barrel, a glass plunger and a chrome lug nut (the piece that holds the needle). Often these glass syringes were tinted blue, and some had a picture of a woman etched on the side. Blue ladies were often packaged in a box lined with ice-blue velvet, in which the separate pieces of the syringe were laid out. This was the ultimate accessory to have in prison. [from the lyrics to the song ‘Blue Lady’ (1977) by Graham Brazier of the Auckland band, Hello Sailor. Brazier sings about his ‘Blue, blue lady’ as being the only lady he can rely upon. 1994 PAYNE: ‘He reached over and stroked the
**blue lady**, he picked it up and held it to the light, admiring the contours and the markings on the side, marvelling at the tiny .24 gauge needle and the way the plunger slid so smoothly into the barrel' (74.) 2 a drink made from methylated spirits. [alcoholic’s slang; prob. akin to a ‘purple lady’ or a ‘white lady’ mixed from the same substance.]

**blue lagoon** n. halcyon in liquid form for intravenous injection. [from the drug’s appearance; in the syringe it is a blue liquid, resembling seawater.]

**blue Om** n. see zebra.

**blues, the** n. pl. the police.

**bluie** n. 1 = blue sense 3. 2 = blue sense 4. 3 a policeman.

**blunderkrieg** n. a Road Knight prospect.

**board** n. [] on board to be using, or to be a user of, intravenous drugs: ‘Are you on board?’ get on board to use drugs intravenously. [poss. from the verb ‘ride’ = to take as a narcotic; US from c.1915-1920.]

Board, the n. a parole board, esp. the National Parole Board: ‘I’m going up before the Board in May.’

Note: an inmate has his case considered by a parole board to determine whether or not he is eligible for parole, Home Leave, release, etc. An inmate serving Preventive Detention, a life term or any term of more than 7 years, must appear before the National Parole Board, whereas an inmate serving a term of 1 – 7 years may appear before any one of 17 district prisons boards. [the National Parole Board was originally established in 1910 as the Prisons Board; renamed the Parole Board in 1954 after the Criminal Justice Act amended its jurisdiction to conform with changes made in the penal law. 1984]

**BEATON:** ‘Di: You want to stay in here longer than necessary? Christ! Don’t you wanna get out? ... You go up before the board soon. You’ve been acting crazy lately’ (38.)

**board check** n. a muster, head count. [during these counts the officers mark off each inmate’s name on a plastic board.]

**boardwalker** n. an inexperienced prison officer, recently completed his or her training.

**bob** n. see Bob Marley.

**bobby, the** n. the police [from ‘bobby’ = policeman, after Robert Peel, the British Home Secretary who instituted the London metropolitan police force in 1829.]

**Bob Hope** n. 1 marijuana. [rhyming slang for ‘dope’, an underworld adaptation of extant Bob Hope = a dope (i.e. an idiot). After the popular American actor and comedian (b.1903) (cf. Murray cod). 2 soap. [rhyming slang; variant of Cockney ‘band of hope’].

**Bob Marley** n. 1 marijuana; more commonly abbreviated to bob or marley. [Bob Marley (1945-1981) was a Jamaican reggae singer whose cannabis use was legendary.] 2 pubic hair(s), particularly, as one inmate explains: ‘ones which stick out of the sides of your knickers.’ [descriptive: some pubic hairs may be reminiscent of the reggae singer’s trademark dreadlocks.] 3 see
zebra.

bodycount! int. an expression used by inmates after lock to let their fellow inmates know that the officers have finished their evening muster (or body count) and that it is now safe to send contraband to one another. [Once inmates are locked in their cells, contraband is usually sent by attaching the item to a piece of string and flicking it under the cell door to another cell nearby (see go fishing for details).]

bolt n. 1 an escape. [British from 1812.] 2 a firearm.

bolt v. to escape, to ‘do a runner’. [British from 1904 = to leave in haste.]

bomb dog n. the police narcotics detection dog. [Poss. because the police dog is also trained to detect hidden explosive devices in prisons, airports, etc.]

bones n. pl. 1 temgesics. Note: a temgesic is a Class C drug used medically as a painkiller during the treatment of cancer patients. It comes in the form of a small white tablet, which may either be dissolved in warm water and injected, or crushed into a powder and snorted. Temgesics were very popular amongst criminal subcultures during the 1980s, but have now been largely superseded by the morphine sulphate tablet. [This term is the result of a series of modified slang terms. Initially, temgesics were abbreviated as Ts; from this, they became known as T-bones (as in “T-bone steak”), then finally simply as bones.] [Make one’s bones to earn one’s gang patch. Roll the bones as a gang recruit, to omit one’s prospect training to immediately become a full patch member. Note: to achieve this, the candidate must do one of three things: kill someone, rape a child under 12 years of age, or rape a woman over 50 years of age. The reasoning behind this choice of tasks is that someone who will undertake any one of them must be authentic; genuine in his wish to join the gang and to make it his top priority. Such a person is unlikely to be plastic, e.g. a nark, or an undercover policeman. As one inmate explains: ‘It sorts out the real members from the “wannabes”, or the people who could be a danger to the gang. For example, a policeman will do many things, he’ll even become a drug addict with the gang to get information, but he won’t do any of these three things.’

bonesmoker n. an inmate who acts as a sexual bum boy for another inmate.

boob (also the boob) n. prison. [From ‘boob’ or ‘booby hatch’ = a prison cell, US from mid-19C; also Australian ‘booby’ = a prison or police station, from late 19C-20C; used in NZ for a prison or lock-up since early 20C. 1953 HAMILTON: ‘They’re the best, the tankblowers, and the more boob they’ve done the better usually’ (72). ‘How long have you been in the boob? He asked. About sixteen months, I said, and it’s just sixteen months too long’ (224). 1971 SHADBOLT: ‘Saturday night I lay awake, it was my first Saturday night in the boob’ (11). 1973 JUSTIN: ‘It was general knowledge that I knew most of what went on in the boob, legal and illegal’ (55). 1980 BERRY: “‘That’s the knitting shop,” an inmate told him as they sat outside during smoko. “The best lurk in the boob’” (24). 1990 DUFF: ‘Y’been doing some weights in the boob? The fulla frowning at Jake, puzzled at his nerve, but not the slightest bit intimidated’ (72). 1992 DUFF: ‘the tired prison priest steps up to deliver his tired sermon to a bunch of crims who aren’t there to hear his waffling crap, they’re there to get out of their cells, they’re there to play swap and trade and buy and
sell games ... but that's **boob** for you' (147).

**boob** adj. adjectival prefix in the sense of 'prison'. [**boob blue**] alcohol obtained by straining Brasso (metal polish) through bread. **Note:** take one tin of Brasso (this brand is very common and is easily acquired, although most liquid metal polishes will do for this recipe, as they all contain alcohol to make the metal shine). Take a loaf of sliced bread and stand it on its end. Tip the tin of Brasso over the bread and let it drip slowly through the bread. It should take about one hour to seep through completely. This process sifts out the other ingredients in the Brasso, allowing only the alcohol through. One tin of Brasso yields about one teaspoon of alcohol. This residual alcohol is a blue colour (hence **boob blue**). Mix the alcohol with milk or Raro (fruit cordial) and drink. [1984 BEATON: 'Helen: What is it? Di: Old **Boob Blue**. ... Helen: Shit! Christ! What is that stuff? Di: Brasso' (65). **'Boob blue'** alcohol obtained by straining brasso polish (109).]**

**boob blues** an inmate's prison uniform. [1982 STEWART: 'Even while he was being stripped and even while they shore off his yellow hair, gave him a number, a well-pissed mattress, his **boob blues** – he still raved on' (165).]**

**boob camp** a children's home for young offenders, a borstal, a youth prison (e.g. Kingsley Children's Home, near Christchurch). [1953 HAMILTON: 'But when I saw him in **boob clothes** I hardly recognised him. Not that you'd recognise many of your friends in **boob clothes**, but I mean his face' (128).]**

**boob cosh** a weapon made from cakes of soap in a sock. **Note:** take about six cakes of soap, wet them, mould them together into a ball, and leave to dry. When dried, the ball is like a lump of concrete. Instead of soap, batteries or a pool ball may be used (see **dolly** sense 3). [**boob doctor**] a prison medical officer. [**boob dot**] a small tattoo under or at the side of the eye, indicating a stay in a borstal or prison. [1992 DUFF: 'With their obvious histories tattooed all over em, and the rare ones that had none or hardly any, like Sonny here who only had a very old **boob dot** under his right eye from his first borstal lag at age sixteen' (10).]**

**boob gear** = **boob clothes**. [1982 NEWBOLD: 'Back at the jail we ... didn't get our civvies back. Instead, there were three sets of **boob gear** waiting for us to put on – one baggy singlet, one pair of short-legged underpants, one khaki shirt, one pair of blue denim jeans, and a pair of plastic sandals' (45). 1982 STEWART: 'After we'd finished our scoff we stopped by Henry's slot. He was hanging his **boob gear** on the nails behind the door' (165).]**

**boob glove** a heavy tattoo characteristic of prison inmates, covering the whole of the back of the hand as far as the middle joint of each finger, resembling a fingerless glove. [**boob gossip**] the prison grapevine, the gossip that circulates about one's fellow inmates and their activities, both in one's own, and in other, prisons. **Note:** Because the inmates' entire lives revolve within the confines of the prison, people and events inside the prison assume primary importance. Much **boob gossip** takes the form of telling stories about the officers, gleaning information about new inmates and generally checking them out, speculating on an inmate's crime or past reputation, and evaluating the truth of statements made by other inmates (see **bizzos**). [**boob gun**] a tattoo machine. **Note:** a common method of making a **boob gun** is as follows: Take one toothbrush. Shave off the bristles. Bend the toothbrush over at the shaved end to form the handle of the machine. Next, add the motor from an electric shaver or the movement from a tape recorder. (This creates the 'up-and-down' motion needed for the needle to tattoo properly.) Connect this device to the toothbrush with duct-tape. Attach the plastic tube from the interior of a ballpoint pen alongside the toothbrush handle as
a receptacle for the tattooing ink (usually Indian ink). Finally, fit a hollow needle (possibly from a drug syringe) to allow ink to travel from the tube to beneath the skin of the person being tattooed, with each ‘downward’ motion of the machine. **Boob guns** are considered illegal contraband by prison authorities. **Boob issue** any item provided by the prison, e.g. toiletries, clothes, etc. **Boob joint** a tiny marijuana cigarette rolled in prison to eke out an inmate’s cannabis (akin to a *racehorse* or *greyhound*). Three of these joints may be purchased for $20, or for 50g of tobacco. **Boob line** = **Boob gossip**. **Boob message** information passed between inmates in various different prisons, using the *system* to discover or to deliver information. Apparently this method may be quicker than using the telephone. **Boob room** a prison interview room, commonly used by inmates for discussions with the police, lawyers, prison officers, psychiatrists, social workers, researchers, etc. **Boob sandwich** a stock prison sandwich (usually one of a set of four, sealed in clingfilm) that inmates are given for lunch. Note: these sandwiches are made by prison inmates working in the kitchen, and are made to the same specifications every day: a combination of white and wholemeal bread, with simple fillings such as luncheon sausage, cheese and jam. This style of cut lunch does not appear to vary between prisons, and is especially common in low-security prisons where inmates spend the day in work-parties stationed outside the prison compound and must take a packed lunch with them when they leave in the morning. **Boob shampoo** prison shampoo supplied by the Department of Corrections, packaged in a sachet. **Boob smoke** prison tobacco, (not available in NZ prisons since 1992-3). **Boob soap** prison soap supplied by the Department of Corrections. **Boob story** an inmate who has spent most of his life in prison, or an inmate serving a life sentence: ‘I’m doing life.’ ‘Oh, you’re a bit of a **boob story**’. **Boob style** in the style of the prison, usually implying something improvised for want of the ‘real thing’, with the sentiment that ‘beggars cannot be choosers’: ‘I’m doing martial arts.’ ‘Oh, which kind of martial arts do you do?’ ‘Oh, just my own, I’m doing it **boob style**, just picking it up from other guys in here, going hard’ or: ‘How do you like your coffee?’ ‘Oh, just **boob style**, i.e. however it comes. **Boob talk** 1 the ‘gibberish’ language and/or sign language used by inmates (e.g. see *hong kong*). 2 = **boobslang**. Note: amongst some inmates, **boob talk** is seen as being synonymous with **boobslang**; however, other inmates make a distinction between the two terms, reserving **boob talk** to describe a form of language that focuses upon a reordering of existing Standard English words and incorporates non-verbal communication, as opposed to **boobslang**, which describes the argot, the invented lexical items which create a distinct criminal variety of English. [1994 Payne: ‘The scenario is soundtracked by a low hum, whispered *staccato* **boob-talk** fuelled by tales of pig injustice and oaths of bloody revenge’ (123).] **Boob tat** a prison tattoo, a tattoo applied in prison. **Boob tobacco** prison tobacco (not available since 1992-3). **Boob walk** a saunter that inmates adopt (usually in the prison yard) during which the chest, back and shoulder muscles are arranged in a ‘front lat spread’ in an attempt to make the inmate look bigger, tougher and more intimidating (cf. *basketballs; mask up*). [1992 Duff: ‘Sonny watched the unmistakable figure of Jube as he came back along the pavement, with an exercise-yard-style sway to him and wearing his smoky-lensed shades ... **Boob-walkin**, shaded, fat walrus mo and a few days’ stubble not hiding the self-satisfied grin he had on’ (85).] **Boob weed** (also **boobweed**) 1 marijuana. [from ‘weed’ = marijuana, US c.1918.] 2 prison tobacco. [from

**boob and tit n.** a barrel and pick, a hypodermic syringe and needle. [rhyming slang for synonymous fit.]

**boobhead n.** 1 a prison inmate. [1950 HAMILTON: 'A boobhead is a prisoner; a screw is a warder; a topper is a toady or an informer' (14). 1982 NEWBOLD: 'Once [a person] comes to jail he's just an inmate, no different from any other inmate. He may have been a doctor, a lawyer, a burglar, a truck driver, or a university student like myself, but once he's in jail he's just a boobhead, same as everyone else' (221). 'Boothead (n) Prisoner' (245). 1989 NEWBOLD: 'It was pretty close down there, with the boobheads down Waikeria.... I found the boobheads totally different from Mt Eden and Hautu. Down there they seemed to have a sense of unity amongst themselves' (169). 1992 DUFF: 'boobheads, they seize on anything elaborate to justify their stupid existences, it's drama they want more'n not getting caught at illicit and illegal goings-on' (147).] 2 a recidivist. 3 an experienced inmate who has spent a long time in prison, an old lagger. [1953 HAMILTON: 'Or, like the old boobheads who are let out after so many years, burst into tears when you reach the world outside the gate' (66). 1980 MacKENZIE: 'He lived in Mt Eden jail for many years, to become an accepted "boobhead" character' (79). 1996 DUFF: 'he found he had to change the musical references, update 'em as time went by or he'd sound like the old codger boobheads, stuck in the past of when the big gate closed on 'em, specially the ones for murder' (18).] 4 an inmate who has made a career out of prison, e.g. one who from an early age has come up through boys' homes, borstal and corrective training before coming to prison. 5 a person who prefers prison to the outside, an institutionalised person. Note: often this person may have no support from family or friends on the outside and considers prison to be his home. He may even commit a crime in prison in order to postpone his release date, and extend his lag. [1982 NEWBOLD: 'Boothead (n) ... 'prisonised person' (245).] 6 the inmate in the wing currently serving the longest sentence.

**boobslang n.** prison argot, criminal jargon.

**booboo n.** an idiot.

**boofhead n.** 1 a moron, an imbecile. 2 a Pākehā. 3 a person with a very large build. 4 a paedophile.

**boogie fever n.** = gate fever.

**book n.** 1 a criminal record: 'He's got lots of time on the book.' 1 [] *get the book* to receive the maximum sentence for an offence; to receive an unexpectedly large sentence for an offence; or to receive all the charges available for a certain crime, e.g. a person charged with dealing marijuana
might also be charged for possession of the seeds used to grow the plant and for possession of the plant itself, as well as for selling the product. 2 (also get the book thrown at you or get the book chucked at you or get hit with the book or do the book) 1 to receive or to serve a life sentence. [US 1920.] in the book 1 = on report. [in reference to the book in which offences in prison are recorded.] (see charge.) 2 on observation. The officers note any strange behaviour displayed by the inmate that suggests a potential problem, and then watch that inmate closely for any evidence that supports their suspicions. For example, the inmate may be acting strangely, leading officers to believe he is ‘at-risk’ (suicidal); or there may be several inmates continually hanging around the inmate’s cell, leading officers to suspect that he is being stood over. put (someone) in the book to make someone a target for a hit, to mark him for assault or death. throw the book at 1 to award a maximum sentence to a convicted person. [US 1932.] 2 to sentence to life imprisonment.

book of fairy tales n. a fraudster’s chequebook. [] give (one) a book of fairy tales to present a totally fabricated statement to the police in order to deflect their suspicion.

books n. pl. drugs: ‘Bring me out heaps of books in visits this weekend.’

boot n. the rectum. [] bootman an inmate who passes contraband between prison blocks, wings or units by smuggling the goods in his rectum: ‘We’ve got a stash we want delivered to Unit Three. Could you send a runner?’ ‘What kind of runner?’ ‘A bootman.’

boot boy n. 1 a skinhead or a white supremacist gang-member. [poss. from his large boots (often black steel-capped Dr Martens, sometimes tied with white laces), a trademark part of his attire.] 2 a person who wants to be associated with the skinhead movement, but is too frightened to take on a skinhead’s distinctive appearance and face the potentially dangerous consequences; as one inmate explains: ‘Guys who wear the boots but don’t have the balls to shave their heads and be recognised.’ 3 (also boot girl) a bogan, or a person closely involved with the punk or heavy metal scene.

boot hill n. prison: ‘I nodded to my charge, so now I’m off to boot hill.’ [] boot hill inmate an inmate who has been to a prison on a hill, particularly Mount Eden, Mount Crawford, or New Plymouth Prison.

bootlegger n. the police officer in charge of the narcotics detection dog (cf. bitchkeeper).

bootload n. 1 a good-sized charge, a substantial package of contraband concealed in the vagina or rectum (cf. boot; full house; glory box; honey pot). 2 a large amount of drugs.

boot party n. an assault that involves a number of inmates simultaneously attacking a single victim (cf. pack attack; PWK).

booty licker n. an informer, a nark (cf. arse licker sense 2).

bo peep adj. asleep. [rhyming slang; after the nursery-rhyme character, British
from early 20C.]

**boss n.** 1 a prison officer. [from Dutch *baas* = ‘master’, ‘overseer’ (of workers, formerly slaves). Many inmates shy away from using this term sincerely, as it identifies the speaker as a supplicant and those inmates who use the term on a regular basis as condemned as arse lickers. In sarcastic or uncomplimentary usage, **boss** has been creatively interpreted in US prisons as an acronym of sorry son of a bitch, spelt backwards. **NEWBOLD:** ‘This whole [pandering] attitude was epitomised by the term “Boss” which most prisoners used when they addressed a screw. “Hey Boss, can you open my hut?” “The showers aren’t working, Boss.” “Aw, gee Boss, you’re working us too hard.” And so on’ (119).] 2 the **boss** the head prison officer currently on duty. 2 the prison Site Manager (formerly the Superintendent). 3 a visitor or partner of an inmate. 4 someone who is highly respected amongst the inmate population, but is not gang affiliated. 5 = **king pin** senses 1 and 2.

**bottom digger, the n.** see **digger, the.**

**bouncy** (also **bouncy-bouncy**) *n.* a cheque rendered invalid by lack of sufficient funds.

**bounty hunter n.** an informer, a nark.

**bowl of fruit n.** 1 a suit. [rhyming slang: **NEWBOLD:** ‘Bowl of fruit (n) Suit’ (245).] 2 a homosexual. [prob. an extension of US street-slang ‘fruit’, of the same meaning.]

**boy n.** 1 a gang recruit, a young gang-member working to earn his gang **patch** (cf. **prospect** sense 1). 2 (also **new boy**) an officer recently completed his training: ‘Hey, boy, come and open my door!’ 3 = **tea boy** sense 1.

**boys, the n. pl.** 1 one’s fellow inmates in prison, or in one’s particular **crew**. [male inmates, in particular, value solidarity, organising themselves as a group separate from, and against, officers. **NEWBOLD:** ‘I could see Tu had it all going well. The boys were leading the screws on great guns’ (169).] 2 one’s fellow gang-members or associates: ‘The boys are inside doing all right.’

**BP abbr.** a Black Power gang-member. [NZ from 1982. **NEWBOLD:** ‘It wasn’t long before the BPs had more or less taken over the whole visiting area and, as the day progressed, they began to get rowdier and rowdier and to forget to hide the bottles of rum they’d been drinking out of’ (223).]

**brace and bit n.** hypodermic syringe and needle. [rhyming slang for **fit**.]

**braces and bits** *n. pl.* a woman’s breasts. [rhyming slang for ‘tits’; US Pacific Coast, late 19C-20C.]

**bread bag, the n.** a sexual assault carried out upon a fellow prison inmate. [a plastic bread bag is sometimes used as a makeshift condom during such an attack.]

**breakfast in bed n.** = bed and **breakfast**. [less common variant.]

**breakfast, lunch and tea n.** 1 a life sentence (cf. **full course**; smorgasbord; **works burger**). 2 = bed and **breakfast**.
brew (also brewski or homebrew) n. alcohol illegally produced by prison inmates.

Note: there are many recipes for various brews and here are some examples. 

A From Manawatu (Linton) Prison: Take one large container (a 2-litre plastic soft-drink bottle is excellent). Put in 2 tablespoons of Vegemite (the equivalent of 4 small sachets taken from the prison kitchen) or, if this is not available, add a small amount of muesli as a substitute. Add \( \frac{1}{2} \) lb sugar. Add some fruit, e.g. oranges or apples to flavour the mixture. Fill the remainder of the bottle with boiling water. Screw the bottle-top on firmly. Leave the mixture to ferment; the combination of the yeast and the sugar (esp. the fruit sugars) produces alcohol. Release the top gradually at half-hourly intervals so that the pressure built up by the fermenting process does not cause the bottle to explode; eventually the water will become cool enough for mixture to be left. Leave the mixture for a day; it will then be ready. The result should be a sweet-tasting liquid that smells strongly of alcohol and is an orangey-brown colour. This mixture is very potent and has a high alcohol content. Drink.

B From Hawke's Bay (Mangaroa) Prison: This recipe was originally an old Paremoremo brew, made to celebrate special occasions such as Christmas and New Year. It is of better quality than the recipe involving Vegemite, as it involves proper yeast. To make: take one 5-litre plastic container commonly used around the prison to store detergent and other cleaning agents. Wash thoroughly. The container is likely to have a residual chemical smell, so, to get rid of this, fill the container with strong coffee and leave for a while. Wash again. The residual smell should now be of coffee, which is preferable. Take five oranges. Put the rind of the orange and the flesh into the container. Be careful not to include the white zest, as this is bitter. Acquire some yeast (this is best done by getting someone to smuggle in a small bottle during visits) and add about 1-1½ spoonfuls to the mixture. Add 5 cups of sugar, then add 4 litres of warm water. Take the cap of the container and make a small hole in the middle. Screw the cap tightly on to the container. Push a matchstick through the small hole in the cap so that it plugs it firmly, but not too tightly. (As the mixture ferments, pressure builds up inside the container. As this happens, the match will come slowly out of the hole, thus acting as a compression release, and will prevent the container from exploding.) Leave the container for 4-5 days. At the end of that time, taste-test the mixture. If the brew tastes sickly-sweet, leave it for longer. If it does not taste sweet, the brew has fermented as it should and is ready (made properly, the taste of the brew should approximate that of vodka-and-orange). Pour out and drink. Makes approx. 5 litres. 

C From Tongariro/Rangipo Prison: Take 2 potatoes. Dice them into small pieces. Place in a container, and add water until the potato pieces are covered. Add 2 cups of sugar. Leave for 2 weeks to ferment. After this time, strain the mixture. Drain the liquid into a separate large container, as this is the 'bug' (the part that has an alcoholic effect). Throw away the potato. Add warm water to the liquid. Add 2 cups of sugar every week for 3 weeks, then let the mixture sit for one extra week. Mix in 2-3 sachets of Raro (fruit drink powder) for flavour. This brew tastes like a fruit wine, but is as potent as a spirit. When serving, lemon juice may also be added. Makes approx. 4 litres.

1980 MacKENZIE: 'home brew a fermented drink made from a variety of constituents' (97). 1980 BERRY: 'No alcohol, of course, although every so often a cache of homebrew was found on the farm or in the piggery. The ingredients would have offended the pigs, but it had a kick of some kind and that was all that mattered' (46). 1982 NEWBOLD: 'I drank more brews [at Paremoremo] than anywhere else in my sentence. Home-brews are usually made out of a mixture of yeast, sugar and water, with anything fermentable used as a base. Raisins, prunes, fresh fruit, rice, potatoes, and tealeaves are all popular. The screws are constantly on the lookout for brews and it is a serious offence to get caught with one, or even with yeast. The brews are hidden in large containers such as 20-litre buckets, and the boys are always looking for new places to hide their brews where the screws can't find them' (100).

brick n. 1 a $10 note. [1982 NEWBOLD:
"You're on! Ten bucks! Ho! Ho!" he said, rubbing his hands with glee. "Easiest ten bucks I ever made!" Chris and Craig also put a brick each on Bas and we went around the can telling everyone about the big event and taking bets' (219.) 2 a life sentence (10 years). [a transferred use of brick = a $10 note.] 3 a large stack of money, usually $100 notes, sometimes wrapped tightly in clingfilm. 4 $1,000. 5 a pound of marijuana, tightly compressed. [bricks, blocks and bats a house burglary; in this context, a brick is a stack of money, a block is a wristwatch, and a bat is a weapon (e.g. baseball bat). As one inmate explains: 'We use bricks, blocks and bats to refer to a house burglary because you get your bat, get into the place, score yourself some bricks and blocks.' do a brick to serve a life sentence (see sense 2).

bro, the n. = the one sense 2.

broken adj. (of an inmate, esp. male) showing any sign of weakness or of having difficulty with coping confidently with prison life. 

Note: there are several different actions/reactions that may cause an inmate to be described as broken: if he shows emotion, e.g. hurt about being in prison, or anger or hurt over treatment he has received from officers or fellow inmates (this is particularly so if he appears melancholy or depressed, especially if he is seen to cry); if he does not stand up to the prison officers and attempt to resist them and their orders; if he does not cop the bash (take a beating) 'like a man', i.e. if he shouts for help from the officers or later tells them about the incident instead of handling the punishment and keeping quiet about it; if he does not fight when the situation suggests it; if he spends (what is judged to be) too much time in his cell and does not come out and mix with others; if he spends too much time on the telephone to friends or family, or rings them too often; if he writes too frequently to his wife or partner on the outside; if he talks too much to his fellow inmates about his wife or partner, his family, or the outside in general; if falls in love/is clearly in love with his wife or partner; if he does not back up on a wrong done to him; if he spends too much time in the pound; if he wants to escape from the prison; if he suffers pre-release tension; if he is confined to his cell for medical reasons or is restricted to performing light duties for medical reasons; if he does not try to make the most of his sentence, e.g. learn a skill, get some education; if he does not receive visits from friends or family on the outside; if he goes voluntarily into the segregation section of the prison, rather than remaining in the mainstream section; or if he is enlisted as a servant or a drudge for another inmate. An inmate who is genuinely broken suffers from a lack of self esteem and an inability to interact successfully with his fellow inmates. The behaviour of a broken inmate may range from displays of melancholy and a lack of motivation to deep depression, extreme emotional distress and suicidal behaviour. In severe cases, the inmate may need to have prolonged medical treatment (see mask up).

broken arse (also broken cunt) n. an inmate who is broken or shattered, unable to deal with prison life. [1982 NEWBOLD: 'Broken arse (n) Emotionally distressed person' (245). 1991 STEWART: 'Whimple: Crying. Get up you soft bastard! ... HENRY is broken. He weeps uncontrollably. Egg: Fuck! It makes me want to throw up! He leaves holding his stomach. All the time they chant 'Broken arse! Broken arse! Broken arse!' (44).] broken arse fever = gate fever, ridiculing the inmate for being nervous in the days leading up to his release date. do something the broken arse way to do something in a way that suggests a marked lack of courage, competence, or emotional control. This is most frequently applied to one's sentence, i.e. do one's lag the broken arse way. (see broken; shattered.)
broken arsed adj. being a broken arse, displaying the characteristics and behaviour of a broken arse.

Bronx, the n. 1 the solitary confinement punishment cell, the pound. 2 the wing of a prison heavily populated by gang-members. 3 see street, the.

bros, the n. pl. 1 dark-skinned people, esp. Māori or Pacific Islanders. [from the familiar term 'bro' (brother, friend) used commonly amongst people of Polynesian extraction, derived from African-American vernacular.] 2 one’s fellow prison inmates (cf. boys, the; family, the; guys, the).

brother one n. 1 the most highly esteemed inmate in the prison or prison wing. 2 = the one sense 2.

brown n. a 10mg morphine sulphate tablet, coloured yellow-brown. Note: the 10mg morphine sulphate tablet is not popular with drug users as it contains a lot of binding and very little morphine sulphate, and is difficult to cook up.
[a morphine sulphate tablet is often referred to by its colour: see blue sense 5; green; grey; orange; purple sense 1; yellow sense 2.]

brown bread adj. 1 dead. [rhyming slang. 1982 NEWBOLD: ‘Feeling my body so cold (I tell you man, by this time I was freezing) they thought I was brown bread’ (55). ‘Brown bread (adj) Dead’ (245). 1982 STEWART: ‘‘There’s blood all over the place,” he screamed. “Henry’s blood. Hey you guys, Henry’s nearly brown bread!”’ (171).] 2 about to be assaulted. [from metaphorical use of ‘dead’ as used in such threats. 1994 PAYNE: ‘Your number’s up, Vine.

You’re brown bread for what you done to them kiddies’ (115).]

brown rings n. a homosexual.

brown sugar n. heroin. [it has been suggested that this term comes from the song ‘Brown Sugar’ (1984) by The Rolling Stones. Although the song is not about heroin, the connection may be made via the lyrics: ‘Brown Sugar, how come you taste so good’, with a play on ‘taste’ = drug-users slang for a dose of intravenous drug. Also current US.]

brown tongue n. 1 an inmate who curries favour obsequiously with prison authorities in order to get through his sentence easily. This is usually done by way of narking (informing). [Australian, early 1980s (cf. arse licker).] 2 an inmate on minimum security. [from the perception that the inmate must have ingratiated himself with prison authorities in order to get ‘easy jail’ (see sense 1).]

brown tongue v. [] brown tongue it to curry favour with prison authorities in an attempt to get through one’s sentence easily.

Bruce n. an Asian. [after Bruce Lee (1940-1973), film star and martial artist of Chinese descent.]

brush n. a knife, a stabbing weapon. [a common way of making a stabbing weapon in prison is to sharpen a toothbrush handle.]

brush v. to stab someone.

Brutus n. the Assistant Superintendent. [obsolete.]
Note: the Superintendent system has been replaced by a new Management structure, involving a hierarchy of Unit Managers, Site Managers and Regional Managers.

BT abbr. Borstal Training: 'I was fourteen when I started my BT.' [NZ from 1954, as a result of the Criminal Justice Act (1954), formerly 'borstal detention'. Now obsolete; borstals were abolished on 1 April 1981, in accordance with the Bill of Rights.]

bubble, the (also the bubble room) n. the prison officials' office, the Control Room, the guard room. [a standard guard room is encased in transparent glass, reminiscent of a giant bubble.] (cf. air bubble; fish bowl.)

bubblegum n. see skunk.

bubble up v. = do a cook (see cook).

buck, the n. (Mount Eden Women's Prison) a characteristic gesture made by a prison officer as she checks an inmate on 23-hour lockup, during the inmate's exercise hour. [an inmate who has been punished with 23-hour lockup is confined to her cell all day, except for the afternoon, when she is allowed one hour's exercise in the yard. The officer on duty has to come into the yard halfway through the exercise hour to check that inmate is feeling well, behaving herself, etc. Generally, the officer does not come right into the yard, but simply ducks forward, sticks her head around the door to glance quickly into the yard, and ducks back out again. This gesture is known as the buck, poss. from its similarity to the bucking of a horse or like animal.] (cf. three-buck-four.)

Buckingham Palace n. Mount Eden Men's Prison (cf. castle, the).

buckled adj. = broken; shattered.

buddha n. 1 strong marijuana imported from Asia. 2 see zebra.

buddha stick n. potent marijuana tied to a stick and wrapped in cotton. Note: There are several ways to create buddha sticks, and here is one recipe: Take the stalk of a marijuana plant. Cover it in honey until sticky. Roll the stick in powdered opium. Add buds (the heads of the marijuana plant and the best part) to the stick by tying them on with thin cotton. Roll the stick in opium again. The rolled stick may also be compressed by squeezing in a vice. Put the buddha stick in a freezer. A while later, when ready to use, break off a piece of the stick and spot it up (see spot, sense 1). (1982 NEWBOLD: 'I was running short of money, and it was just my luck to run into a guy I knew at varsity who was prepared to give me ten buddha sticks at a time "up front", and charge me ninety bucks for them later' (11). 'Buddha stick (n) Imported marijuana bound to a splinter of bamboo' (146). 1994 PAYNE: "'Anyone fancy a smoke?" he said, producing a buddha stick. "My turn to twist one up" (31).]

bug n. 1 a hidden listening device. [US from c.1890.] 2 a burglar alarm. [US from c.1935.]

bugs bunny adj. and n. 1 funny. 2 money. [rhyming slang, after the Looney Tunes cartoon character.]
crash).

bullet n. a hypodermic syringe. [this term continues the metaphoric connection between a hypodermic syringe and a gun, e.g. see barrel.]

bulletin board, the n. prison gossip, information about the attributes or actions of one’s fellow inmates, of inmates in other prisons around New Zealand, and of their associates on the outside: ‘Say someone does a job on the outside or someone’s being transferred down from up north, it all goes around the bulletin board in jail.’ (cf. boob gossip; boob line.)

bullfrog n. the narcotics detection dog. [poss. rhyming slang for ‘drug-dog’.]

bullhead n. a Pākehā (cf. baldhead sense 1).

bullrush n. an assault in which two or more aggressors attack a single victim, often from several angles.

bullrush v. to assault someone in the mode described above.

bum n. a filter for a tobacco or a marijuana cigarette. [a shortened form of ‘bumper’ poss. from bu(tt + stu)mp + er; Australian from 1899.]

bumborama n. = bum boy sense 1.

bum boy n. 1 (also the bum) an inmate (normally young or new to the prison) enlisted as a servant or runner for another (usually senior or more established) inmate. Note: the work of a bum boy not only involves generally unenviable jobs such as cleaning the senior inmate’s cell, making his bed, or making him cups of tea, but often includes ‘dangerous’ jobs (e.g. see donkey) that involve a high risk of punishment or arrest. Sexual favours may also be involved. An inmate may act as a bum boy because he is a prospect or a ‘supporter’ working for a patch member of a gang, in the hope of promotion; because he is weak and naïve and needs to work for the senior inmate to ensure his protection; or because he owes debts and is paying them off through service/labour. To be in the role of a bum boy, however, is not always a derogatory thing, but may often be a key means of surviving in prison, as a bum boy may receive protection, drugs or P119 goods for his efforts. As one inmate says: ‘As a bum boy, you recognise someone you can live off and get well paid for it.’ 2 a prison officer, because he is employed to see to the inmates’ needs, e.g. to lock and unlock their doors, to escort them to various areas of the prison, to give them toothpaste when they want it, etc. (cf. sense 1). 3 a young officer, new to the prison, recently completed his training. Such an officer is initially in a similar role to an apprentice, and may spend much of his time carrying out various jobs for more experienced officers (cf. sense 1). 4 the Site Manager; formerly, the Assistant Superintendent. [the Site Manager must obey and answer to a higher power at Head Office in Wellington (cf. sense 1).] 5 a homosexual (usually male).

bum girl n. 1 (Christchurch Women’s Prison) the Assistant Superintendent. [obsolete.] 2 = bum boy sense 1.

bump n. a tiny heap of powdered ketamine (see K for full definition) placed either upon one’s fingernail, a key, or other small, ridged object so as to be snorted (taken by nasal inhalation). This term reflects the small amount of ketamine taken, unlike drugs such as cocaine that are measured out for use in a larger ‘line’.
bumphead  
**n.** 1  (also *bumhead*)  a skinhead. 2  a person without a criminal record.

bumphead **v.** = charge **v.** sense 2.

bunga  
**n.** a cigarette:  'Have you got a bunga, mate?'  [Australian.]

bungy  
**n.**  [do the bungy]  to commit suicide by hanging:  'Handle your lag, or do the bungy.'  (see bungy jumping.)

bungy jumper  
**n.**  a suicidal inmate.

bungy jumping  
**n.**  suicide by hanging.  
[from the basic similarity to the extreme-leisure sport where participants leap from a high bridge or building attached to a long elasticised rope, then bounce and swing at its end.]

bunk  
**n.**  [do the bunk]  to escape from prison.  [a prisonised variant of an expression used in more general contexts.]

bunny  
**n.**  1  a person who is an easy mark, easily conned.  [Australian from early 20C = a confidence trickster's victim.]  2  a woman with loose morals, a promiscuous woman.  3  = bum boy sense 1.  4  a person new to the prison, just starting out and bringing in new ideas (applied to both officers and inmates).

bunny hop  
**n.**  a shop.  [rhyming slang.]

burg  

burn (someone) out  
**v.**  to set fire to another inmate’s cell, preferably with that inmate inside it.

bury  
**v.**  to place an inmate in the segregation section of a prison:  ‘x was causing trouble in mainstream, so the screws buried him in segs.’

bus  
**n.**  [on the bus]  in the process of being transferred to another prison.

bus fare  
**n.**  a tinny (marijuana wrapped in tinfoil):  'I'm getting out soon; could you get some bus fares jacked up?'  or:  'Could you bring me in some bus fares?'

bush  
(also *bushweed*)  **n.**  marijuana of poor quality grown outdoors (as opposed to skunk, which is generally grown indoors and is of better quality).

bush joint  
**n.**  a cigarette containing bushweed, sold in prison for about $5.  (cf. skunk joint.)

business, the  
**n.**  1  a firearm.  [Note: to make the meaning clear, this term is often accompanied by a hand gesture indicating a gun.  2  drugs.  [Note: to make the meaning clear, this term is often accompanied by a gesture of touching the nose with a finger.]

bus ride  
**n.**  a transfer to another prison.

bus stop  
**n.**  (in some prisons, e.g. Arohata, Manawatu, Mount Eden)  a small waiting room or alcove where an inmate is put, e.g. while he or she is awaiting an interview; waiting to be escorted somewhere, either within the prison, or outside e.g. to court; waiting to be processed upon first arriving in the
prison; awaiting a **charge**; waiting to go into the Receiving Office; or waiting to be let back into his or her unit from some other area. [so-called because inmates spend their time there waiting until they are moved on, as at a bus stop.]

**bust** *n.* 1 a police raid. 2 an arrest. 3 a burglary. [British from c.1850.]

**bust** *v.* 1 to catch or to arrest a criminal, usually in the act of committing a crime. 2 **bust red hot** to catch a person in the act of committing a crime. 2 to burglarise. [British criminal slang c.1857, current in the US by 1859.]

**buster** *n.* a $100 note. [origin uncertain.]

**bus ticket** *n.* a transfer to another prison: ‘You’d better pack your bags, bro, they’ve got a **bus ticket** for you.’

**butch** *n.* the woman who plays the masculine role in a lesbian relationship. [predominantly women’s prison argot, reflecting the large number of female-female relationships in such prisons (cf. **dolly**).]

**butcher’s chain, the** *n.* = **beef chain, the.**

**butter** *n.* marijuana: ‘I’ve got a pound of **butter** that I’ll get to you this weekend.’

**buttie adj.* big, fat, generous: ‘Hey, man, that’s a **buttie** as joint.’

**buy-up** *n.* groceries and other luxuries ordered regularly on a prison **P119 form**:

‘She’ll sleep around with anyone, just to get more **buy-ups**.’

**buy-up** *v.* to shop for extra groceries or luxuries by filling out a government **P119 form**.

**buy, sell and exchange** *v.* to do deals with inmates in other **wings**, e.g. for drugs, money, or other contraband. [makes reference to the **Buy, Sell and Exchange, New Zealand’s** popular weekly trading magazine.]

**buzz** *v.* = **go fishing**. [from the common way of referring to this method of passing contraband as a **phone**.] (see **phone** sense 1; ring (someone) **up**).
C

cabbage n. marijuana of poorest quality, from the leaf of the plant. Cabbage is usually very harsh and can cause a sore throat and a headache when smoked. [NZ from 1986. 1994 PAYNE: "But babe," Sonny cajoles ... "this is cabbage. No-one buys cabbage, not even in here. People want heads - sticky mind-fuck buds. You should've scored off Spinner, he's got the heads' (87).] (cf. grass; kif.)

cabbage patch kid n. a child conceived while his father is in prison. [from the idea that the parents must have sneaked down to one of the vegetable gardens in the prison grounds (the cabbage patch) to have illegal intercourse; after the brand-name of a popular rag doll manufactured by US company, Mattel.]

Cadillac, the n. 1 a spacious rectum that is well-equipped to conceal a sizeable amount of contraband. 2 an inmate with a spacious rectum: 'I got a drop in through the Cadillac.' (cf. Mini.)

cage up v. to lock all the inmates in a prison or prison wing into their cells as a punishment (cf. lockdown sense 3).

cake n. lies: 'x says he's got a new Harley and four million dollars in his bank account on the outside. Cake, I reckon; it's all cake.'

calaboose, the n. a prison. [US low slang from 1792; from Spanish calabozo = 'a safe place'.]

camp n. 1 the huts situated beyond the main prison buildings, where inmates are housed; generally of lower security than the wings within the main prison buildings. 2 a (minimum-security) prison situated in the countryside, where inmates are employed in work-parties involved with forestry and various other agricultural projects (e.g. growing vegetables, dairy farming, beekeeping). Inmates at these prisons have a relatively large degree of freedom, based on trust. Good examples of prison camps include Tongariro/Rangipo Prison(s) and Ohura Prison.

camp master n. a paedophile. [from the idea that many paedophiles used to be headmasters or Scout leaders before they were convicted.]

can n. a prison. [US from early 20C.]

C and R abbr. 1 Control and Restraint, an immobilisation procedure used by prison officers to control any inmate fighting, or causing trouble, e.g. trashing his cell. Note: developed in Britain, the C and R is generally a preventative manoeuvre, designed to remove the inmate from a harmful situation, with minimal damage to himself and the officers. The C and R is designed as a last resort to resolve the stand-off between the inmate and the officers, following an unsuccessful attempt by the chaplain, Site Manager, or similar authority, to verbally negotiate the inmate out of the situation. Once C and R'd, the inmate is escorted from the area and contained in a punishment cell. 2 Control and Restrain (an inmate). [] C and R crew the group of officers designated to perform the C and R upon an inmate. Note: officially known as a take-out team, the C and R crew is equipped with helmets, shields, and stab vests. No batons are allowed. The C and R crew is almost always made up of four officers. Officer one holds the inmate's head. Generally this officer is in charge and gives instructions to the rest of the crew. Officer two places a lock on the
inmate’s left arm. Officer three places a lock on the inmate’s right arm. Officer four is in a ‘support and search’ capacity; he assists with everything and may replace any member of the crew if required. This officer is responsible for searching the inmate; opening doors as the team escorts the inmate to the punishment cell; providing handcuffs if the inmate needs further restraining; and providing towels to prevent officers’ hands becoming sweaty and slippery and making it possible for the inmate to escape from a lock. Not all prison officers are certified to perform the C and R. Those who are must be re-certified annually, and must attend regular training sessions. C and R hold or C and R technique any of various particular moves used to Control and Restrain an inmate. Note: officers may only use specified Control and Restrainment techniques, such as headlocks, wrist or arm locks, leg locks and pinions. Sometimes new holds or locks will be approved by the Department of Corrections and may be incorporated into the C and R. Martial arts moves (esp. strikes) are not allowed.

candy n. pills of various sorts, esp. largactil.

candyman, the n. the prison psychiatrist. [the psychiatrist prescribes the inmates’ medication; cf. candy; lolly sense 1.]

canteen, the n. = don, the; shop, the: ‘It’s payday today, so I’m just going down to the canteen.’

canteen doll n. a female inmate who has one main sexual partner in the prison, but performs sexual favours for many other inmates in order to procure more food, tobacco and other luxuries. In return for her sexual favours, these other inmates will get her more buy-ups on their P119s or will simply pay her money. The canteen doll may write these inmates scripts, listing several items that she wants them to order for her, or she may meet them at a certain time to pick up her money (cf. CD).

canteen form n. = P119.

cap n. a capsule of marijuana oil.

cape v. = blanket sense 1.

capital n. an inmate in prison for murder. [murderers are officially known as Capital Offenders.]

captain n. a highly-ranked and experienced member of a skinhead gang (or crew), usually the leader.

captain’s hook n. a look. [rhyming slang.]

caretaker n. an inmate who uses standover tactics. [from the idea that, like a caretaker, such an inmate ‘cleans up’ the property of others.]

Carl Lewis n. [] do a Carl Lewis to escape from prison, to ‘do a runner’. [used mainly by Pākehā inmates (for Māori see oma rapiti). After Carl Lewis, US track athlete and winner of the gold medal for the 100-metre sprint at the 1988 Seoul Olympics.]

carpet n. [] on the carpet = on report. [from ‘carpeted’ = on a charge for misbehaviour, British c.1925. 1980 MacKENZIE: ‘carpet to be on report’ (95).]

carpet shag n. a pornographic magazine.

carrier n. = donkey.

casa grande n. Paremoremo Prison. [from Italian = ‘big house’.] (cf. big
**case out** v. to conduct intelligence work prior to committing a crime. [US from 1950, prob. in use earlier.]

**cash converters** n. an inmate in possession of a steady supply of drugs for sale to other inmates: I'm hanging out, bro, so I'm going to cash converters.' [makes reference to Cash Converters, a chain of pawn-shops where people trade their property for ready money; inmates trade their money or possessions for drugs.]

**caster** adj. good, fine, okay. [Caster Master good, fine, okay: ‘How are you going?’ ‘Caster Master.’ Caster McNarster an expression warning an inmate that he is safe at present, but there is an officer watching his activity. [1982 NEWBOLD: ‘Caster (adj) Good, OK, fine’ (246).]

**caster sugar** n. powdered speed (sense 1).

**castle, the** n. Mount Eden Men’s Prison, Auckland. [Mount Eden’s grey stone façade, square towers and high outer wall resemble a medieval fortress.]

**castle grey skull** n. Mount Eden Men’s Prison. [from the similarity between the prison buildings and the castle inhabited by the evil ‘Skeletor’, a character from the 1980s cartoon series Masters of the Universe.]

**casual** n. a detective. [these officers dress in plain clothes, casual wear, rather than in a uniform.]

**Cat A** (also **Category A**) n. the highest security classification available for a convicted criminal. When a criminal is convicted of murder, he is automatically classed as **Category A**, and is kept under close supervision, e.g. everywhere he goes, four officers must accompany him. [also current UK.]

*Note:* in addition to **Category A**, inmates may also be categorised into **Category B**, **Category C**, and **Category D**. These current categories were originally defined in the Mountbatten Report (UK 1966): **Cat A** Prisoners whose escape would be highly dangerous to the public, to the police or the security of the state, no matter how unlikely that escape might be; and for whom the aim must be to make escape impossible. **Cat B** Prisoners for whom the very highest conditions of security are not necessary but for whom escape must be made very difficult. Unsentenced prisoners are automatically categorised B unless provisionally placed in category A. **Cat C** Prisoners who cannot be trusted in open conditions but who do not have the ability or the resources and will to make a determined escape attempt. **Cat D** prisoners who can be reasonably trusted to serve their sentence in open conditions.

**catch** n. keep catch to act as a lookout, to keep watch.

**catch!** int. an expression used to warn one’s fellow inmates that prison officers are approaching. As one inmate explains: ‘Say you’re doing a deal or having a session and your cockatoo sees the screws coming, he’ll yell out, “Catch!” He might throw something to his mate as he yells it out, to divert the screws. Meanwhile all the rest of you in the next room are busily stashing all your gear’ (see **catch n.**).

**catcher** n. a (passive) homosexual. [also current US.]

**catch (one’s) crash** v. to smoke marijuana after taking LSD, to prevent the severity of one’s emotional descent.
once the LSD 'high' is over.

**cat eye** *n.* a wary, watchful, over-inquisitive prison officer: 'Watch out, there's a cat eye over there.'

**cat fight** *n.* 1 an attack from behind. 2 a cowardly assault. 3 a fight between 'drag queens' (transvestite males). [prob. from the street-slang sense of 'cat fight' = a fight between women.]

**catwalker** *n.* = cat eye.

**cave** *n.* a cell. [US from c.1929, originally because of its darkness and its chilliness.]

**cave** *v.* 1 to be in one's cell: 'If you're looking for x, he's caving it at the moment.' 2 to be on isolation, in solitary confinement.

**cave-dweller** *n.* = caveman.

**caveman** (also captain caveman) *n.* an inmate who remains constantly in his cell. [a play on cave = cell, with allusion to Captain Caveman, a character in the US cartoon series *The Flintstones*, which has screened sporadically since the late 1960s.]

**CCs** *abbr.* Cell Confinement.

*Note:* on Cell Confinement, the inmate spends a specified number of days in the solitary confinement cell, the exact number of days being decided according to the severity of the inmate's offence. During this time, the inmate is stripped of his prison uniform and put in pyjamas. He is not allowed cigarettes or a lighter, nor is he allowed to order goods from a P119 or receive visits from friends or family. In his cell, the inmate has a cup and bedding. He is allowed a magazine, but this is searched beforehand. A towel and a razor are also allowed, but these are kept outside the cell door when not in use. The inmate is locked in the cell 23 hours a day; every day he is allowed one hour's exercise in a solitary yard, and he is required to take a shower every second day. The inmate is treated as a maximum-security inmate, and whenever he leaves the cell, he is escorted by three prison officers. If the inmate shares his normal cell with a fellow inmate, the officers hold the inmate's possessions while he is on CCs to prevent the cellmate from using, stealing, selling or trading them. Generally, the punishment of CCs is followed with a period of time on OPs. (cf. pound, the sense 1.)

**CD** *abbr.* canteen doll.

**cell** *n.* 1 cell with the blue light an observation cell for mentally unbalanced or suicidal inmates.

**cell A** *n.* (Dunedin Prison) a strip cell with a camera, for suicidal inmates.

**cell sick** *n.* a medical order for an inmate to be excused from heavy work or to be locked up sick.

**cell sick** *adj.* describes an inmate confined to his cell for medical reasons: 'x isn't going out to work today, he's cell sick.'

**cell standard** *n.* a procedure whereby officers inspect inmates' cells to ensure that general hygiene standards are being upheld.

**cell** *v.* 1 to cell up to confine an inmate to his cell.

**certificate** *n.* a criminal charge or conviction. [a collection of these certificates comprise an inmate's CV.]

**chain** *n.* a group of friends or business associates in prison. As one inmate explains: 'If you've got a weak link, you
“take him out”, then join up your chain again.’

chalk and cheese n. two inmates who are very close friends and spend much of their time together (cf. Dad and Dave). [ironic?]

chalk main n. vein. [rhyming slang.]

chandelier n. 1 ear. [rhyming slang.] 2 a cigarette lighter.

chaps, the n. pl. = boys, the.

charge n. a punishment for an offence against discipline committed in prison. Note: charges are generally heard by the Unit Manager or some higher authority within the prison, e.g. the Site Manager. If the inmate either pleads ‘not guilty’ and no satisfactory judgement can be made within the prison; or the offence is too serious to be dealt with by the Site Manager; or the inmate appeals the sentence given to him, then a VJ (Visiting Justice) may be called in to hear the charge and decide an appropriate punishment. There are two types of charges: Section One and Section Two. Section One charges are dealt with internally, and are heard by a Unit Manager (generally from a different unit than that of the inmate) or a higher prison authority. Examples of Section One offences include: abuse to an officer; offending against good order and discipline; disobeying an officer; or being in possession of illegal property. Section Two charges are more severe, and are dealt with externally, either by the VJ, or by the police through an outside court. Examples of Section Two offences include: using or being in possession of drugs; or assaulting an officer or a fellow inmate. 2 contraband (wrapped in clingfilm or secured in a small plastic container) concealed in the rectum or vagina. [] charged (also charged up) carrying contraband in one’s rectum or vagina.

charger n. a small container, usually made of plastic, that an inmate may use to hold contraband concealed in the rectum or vagina. This is usually a precautionary measure undertaken to ensure that the contraband is not contaminated while in the inmate’s body.

charging n. the act of smuggling drugs into prison.

Charlie Wheeler n. one’s wife, female partner. [rhyming slang for ‘sheila’; NZ from 1941, Australian from 1945.] (cf. cheese and kisses.)

chase v. [] chase the dragon 1 to take heroin by inhalation rather than by injection, using the following method. Place some powdered heroin on a piece of tinfoil. Hold the tinfoil over a cigarette lighter, so that the heat from the flame causes the heroin to emit fumes. Inhale the fumes. This procedure may also be followed with opium or with homebake. [also British criminal slang from mid-1980s.] 2 to attempt to get as good a ‘high’ from a drug as on the first occasion one took it. Traditionally, the first experience of a drug is always the best, as one inmate explains: ‘You’re always chasing that first buzz.’

chat n. a dirty person, a person who does not wash regularly, specifically applied
to tramps. [poss. from ‘chatt’ = louse, British from 1698. 1973 McNEIL: ‘Chat, an old man, usually a vagrant, deadbeat and alcoholic. This term connotes poor hygiene and general slovenliness. The nineteenth century convict James Hardy Vaux recorded chats as meaning lice’ (114). ‘Bulla: All I do know about you, is that yer an old chat: a drunken old deadbeat bum that tells war stories’ (104).]

chats wing n. the wing at Paparua Prison containing incarcerated tramps, vagabonds, drunks, etc. (see chat).

chateau, the n. 1 (Mount Eden Prison) the solitary confinement cell, the secure unit. [ironic, cf. e.g. club med.] 2 a prison.

Cheech and Chong n. marijuana. [after the comedians Cheech (Richard) Marin and Thomas Chong who made several films about marijuana, including Up in Smoke (US 1978) and Still Smokin (US 1983).]

cheek v. to hide contraband by placing it firmly between the cheeks of the buttocks, rather than inserting the contraband into the rectal or vaginal passage.  
Note: this method is usually only used if the charge is a small one; if it is too ‘rich’ (large), it will be fully charged.

cheese and kisses n. one’s wife or partner. [rhyming slang for ‘missus’; US Pacific Coast late 19C-20C = one’s (esp. a crook’s) wife; also used in Britain and Australia.]

cheeseball head n. a skinhead.

chemist n. a person (usu. in one’s crew or group of associates) good at manufacturing drugs.

Chester (also Chester the Molester) n. a paedophile. [US from c.1950.] (cf. Lester.)

cricket coop, the (also the chicken run) n. the segregation, or protection, section of a prison. [from the common perception that this section is for those inmates who are too scared, or ‘chicken’, to handle mainstream prison life.]

Chief, the n. the Chief Officer; the head officer on duty in a prison wing or unit.  
Note: the title of Chief Officer is no longer used, but was part of a former ranking system amongst prison officers that became obsolete in the mid-1990s. The rankings were as follows: Probationary Prison Officer; Junior Prison Officer (an officer of up to 12 months’ standing); Senior Prison Officer; Third Officer; Second Officer; DO (Divisional Officer); First Officer (Chief Officer); Deputy Superintendent; Superintendent. In the mid-1990s this system was replaced by another ranking system: Prison Officer; IC or OIC (Officer In Charge, the head officer on duty during a particular shift); Unit Manager; Custody Manager; Site Manager. Since 2000, a new ranking system has superseded this existing one. Previously, prison officers wore bars on the epaulettes of their uniforms to indicate rank; now these bars have been replaced with the capital letters: CO, SCO and PCO. CO (Corrections Officer) is the title now given to an ordinary prison officer; SCO (Senior Corrections Officer) replaces the IC, so a new SCO comes on with every shift; and PCO (Principal Corrections Officer) is second in command to the Unit Manager. Every unit has a permanent PCO, despite the fact that Unit Managers may have charge of several units.

chihuahua n. see dog sense 2.

child meister n. a paedophile.

china plate n. friend, mate. [rhyming slang; British from 19C = one’s best
chocolate n. see skunk.

chocolate cake n. 1 a person with dark skin (cf. banana cake; sponge cake). 2 an informer, a nark. [the inmate is said to look like he has been eating chocolate cake as a result of his attempts to ingratiate himself with prison officers, due to his newly brown tongue.]

chocolate canal n. the rectum. For an inmate to tell another that he has ‘something in the chocolate canal’ means that he has a charge hidden in his rectum.

chocolate frog n. an informer, a nark. [rhyming slang for dog of the same meaning, Australian from 1971. 1973 McNEIL: ‘In prison jargon, a “chocolate frog” denotes a dog. And a dog is one who violates or has violated in times past the informal “laws” of the prison society. A dog in prison is a criminal in the sight of those termed criminal themselves by ordinary society. And a dog should be judged, has to be punished, deserves to be ostracised and deprived – as criminals are’ (10).]

chocolate log n. a homosexual.

choirboy n. an informer, a nark. [from the idea that: ‘He “sings” and he doesn’t even go to church.’] (see bird sense 2.)

chronic n. marijuana: ‘Hey, bro, got any chronic?’

chur-chur adj. good, fine, okay.

chutney ferret n. a homosexual. [also current British argot.]

Christmas pudding n. a beaten-up skinhead. [after the popular brand of Ernest-Adams Christmas pudding that comes in a bright red, dome-shaped container. Placed upside down, the container resembles a skinhead’s bald head covered in blood.]

circle n. a group of friends or business associates in prison.

citrus n. a 60 mg morphine sulphate tablet (cf. orange).

city, the n. the mainstream section of Mount Eden Prison (cf. country, the).

civvie life n. civilian life, life in general society outside prison.

clan n. a group of friends and/or business associates in prison. [usually applied to a group of Pakeha inmates.]

class adj. cleverness, commendability, personality, bravery, heart.

Class. abbr. 1 Classification Block, the area of a prison to which newly sentenced inmates are sent to be assessed and given a security classification. [1978 NEWBOLD: ‘Transfer to Class. is the severest penalty of all, because conditions are undoubtedly worse than anywhere else in the jail’ (286). 1982 NEWBOLD: ‘Once we’d got our kit, we were taken down a few corridors to the Classification block. The Class. block was sealed off from the rest of the jail by a sort of cage with a sliding grille at either end’ (48). ‘Class (n) Classification block’ (245).] 2 (also Class. form) a Security Classification form, a form filled out by a prison officer to determine
an inmate’s security clearance. Note: the form requires the officer to answer various questions relating to the seriousness of the inmate’s offence, the length of his sentence, his parole eligibility, his history of escapes/attempted escapes, his history of violence, his mental health history, and whether any further charges are pending. For each answer, the inmate scores a certain number of points that, when added up, determine the inmate’s security classification, and decides the unit in which he will be placed. There are two different kinds of Class.: an Initial Security Classification form, filled out when the inmate first comes to prison, and a Review Security Classification form, subsequently filled out every six months for the duration of the inmate’s sentence. The Review Security Classification takes into account the inmate’s progress, attitude and behaviour during his sentence; good progress may mean that the inmate eventually scores less points and may be re-classified with a lower security clearance. Re-classification may mean a transfer to a different unit or prison.

Clayton’s adj. indicating a pretence to or a largely unsuccessful imitation of the ‘real thing’. Although Clayton’s in this sense is frequently applied to people, objects and processes in general usage, many prison-related usages exist. Clayton’s drugs drugs of poor quality. Clayton’s food prison food. Clayton’s friend a false friend, one who does not have the inmate’s interest truly at heart, esp. applied to someone who promises to regularly visit an inmate, but does not: ‘Clayton’s friend came to see you again.’ Clayton’s job (also working for Clayton) a situation in which an inmate is locked down for the day (e.g. when sick, as a punishment) when normally he would be working. Clayton’s lawyer an incompetent lawyer, esp. one who fails to successfully defend an inmate in court. Clayton’s punishment a situation in which an expected punishment is not given. As one inmate explains: ‘If a guy goes up on a charge and expects to receive some sort of punishment, but instead gets off, the guys say, “Oh, that was a bit of a Clayton’s punishment.”’ Clayton’s screw an incompetent prison officer, one who does not do his or her job properly. Clayton’s visit a situation in which an expected visit from an inmate’s friends or family does not eventuate. [NZ from 1983; from the 1980 Australian advertisement for Clayton’s, the proprietary name for a substitute for hard liquor, with the punch-line: ‘It’s the drink I have when I’m not having a drink’.]

clean adj. 1 innocent, naïve. [US from c.1920 = a person free from suspicion.] 2 drug-free: ‘If your house is clean, then there’s no drugs inside.’

cleanskin n. 1 a person without a criminal record. [Australian from 1945 and NZ from 1966 = a man who has not crossed with the police before; poss. a transferred use of ‘cleanskin’ = an unbranded cattle beast.] 2 a white-collar criminal. [from sense 1; often these inmates have no previous criminal convictions.] 3 a ‘good’ inmate, an inmate who does what the Department of Corrections desires of him during his sentence (e.g. he does not construct any illegal devices, does not go on strike, does not bring drugs into the prison, does not get involved in deals with other inmates, etc.). 4 a person without any tattoos. [see poss. origin for sense 1.] 5 a virgin.

cleanslate n. = cleanskin sense 1.

clear light n. see zebra.

clearskin n. = cleanskin sense 1.
client n. an inmate. [euphemistic.] (cf. resident.)

clitty licker n. a lesbian.

clock n. 1 = peg; pegger. 2 the face. [prob. from colloquial ‘dial’. 1982 NEWBOLD: ‘He hit the screw hard in the face and the screw toppled over backwards, sitting there with a surprised look on his clock and blood gushing out of his nose’ (89).]

clock v. = flock. [British c.1925.]

Clockwork Orange Skin n. a skinhead who subscribes to the ideology of, and seeks to emulate the behaviour and lifestyle of, the main characters from Stanley Kubrick’s controversial film, A Clockwork Orange (1971), based upon Anthony Burgess’ novel of the same title (1962).

Note: Burgess’ novel centres around Alex, the leader of a group of young men who frequently commit drug-induced ‘ultraviolence’, including assault, rape and murder. Alex is later imprisoned for his crimes and undergoes a tortuous programme of psychological behaviour modification in order to earn his ‘freedom’. Clockwork Orange Skins seek to identify particularly with Alex and what he represents, apparent in their violent anti-establishment behaviour; in the names of their gangs, e.g. The Droogs (Wellington) is based upon the name Alex gives his gang (lit. ‘friends’); in their use of ‘Nadsat’, the Anglo-Russian patois spoken by Alex’s generation (e.g. use of ‘droog’); and in their personal appearance, most obviously in their tattoos. For example, many Clockwork Orange Skins wear a facial tattoo of the large false eyelash sported by Alex; other tattoos show a head-and-shoulders portrait of Malcolm McDowell (the actor who plays Alex in Kubrick’s film) with the trademark eyelash and wearing a bowler hat.

Close to Home n. see street, the.

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clock n. 1 = peg; pegger. 2 the face. [prob. from colloquial ‘dial’. 1982 NEWBOLD: ‘He hit the screw hard in the face and the screw toppled over backwards, sitting there with a surprised look on his clock and blood gushing out of his nose’ (89).]

clock v. = flock. [British c.1925.]

Clockwork Orange Skin n. a skinhead who subscribes to the ideology of, and seeks to emulate the behaviour and lifestyle of, the main characters from Stanley Kubrick’s controversial film, A Clockwork Orange (1971), based upon Anthony Burgess’ novel of the same title (1962).

Note: Burgess’ novel centres around Alex, the leader of a group of young men who frequently commit drug-induced ‘ultraviolence’, including assault, rape and murder. Alex is later imprisoned for his crimes and undergoes a tortuous programme of psychological behaviour modification in order to earn his ‘freedom’. Clockwork Orange Skins seek to identify particularly with Alex and what he represents, apparent in their violent anti-establishment behaviour; in the names of their gangs, e.g. The Droogs (Wellington) is based upon the name Alex gives his gang (lit. ‘friends’); in their use of ‘Nadsat’, the Anglo-Russian patois spoken by Alex’s generation (e.g. use of ‘droog’); and in their personal appearance, most obviously in their tattoos. For example, many Clockwork Orange Skins wear a facial tattoo of the large false eyelash sported by Alex; other tattoos show a head-and-shoulders portrait of Malcolm McDowell (the actor who plays Alex in Kubrick’s film) with the trademark eyelash and wearing a bowler hat.

Close to Home n. see street, the.

Clown face n. see zebra.

Club Med n. 1 the solitary confinement punishment cell, the pound. 2 a low-minimum or minimum-security section of a prison. [ironic; from an abbreviation of Club Mediterranée, an international holiday organisation that runs a series of luxurious resorts.]

clucker (also klucker) n. an inmate affiliated to a White Power gang, or sympathetic to the White Power movement. [from Ku Klux Klan (KKK), a secret society of White people in the southern States of the US, dedicated to terrorising and persecuting Blacks.]

clunk n. = dolly sense 3.

C note n. a $100 note. [from the Roman numeral ‘C’; US from 1931.]

count n. [] on the coat shunned, ostracised, ignored by other inmates. put (one) on the coat to shun, ignore, ostracise.

Note: an inmate may be put on the coat, or coated, for several reasons, most commonly for narking, tealeafing, conducting an unfair or fraudulent deal with another inmate, or for lying about his crime or gang affiliation. Apart from ignoring him, his fellow inmates may endeavour to make him lag hard in other ways, e.g. the laundry workers might make sure he always has dirty clothes, or the kitchen workers might spit in his food. Inmates will indicate the coated inmate to others with a tug on the left lapel. In some cases, anyone who talks to an inmate who is on the coat is held in similar contempt. There is no set period of time for an inmate to be left on the coat; this decision rests solely with the inmate who puts him in this position.

[Australian from 1940. 1982 NEWBOLD: ‘Anybody who deviates from the required standard of thought or behaviour – the criminal standard – is quickly observed and “put on the coat”']
by the rest of the community' (66.) (cf. on the jacket.)

cocat v. 1 to shun or ignore an inmate who has fallen out of favour. [British from early 20C. 1973 McNEL: ‘[it] always tumbles the mugs, when yer cocat ‘em’ (17).] 2 to inform, to change sides, to ‘fence-jump’. [from a shortened form of ‘turncoat.’] ³ hevily coated to be put on the coat to such an extent that one is never spoken to again (cf. on the heavy jacket).

cocatoo n. a person who keeps watch for another, e.g. during a fight, while gambling, drawing tattoos, or taking drugs. This person whistles to warn his associates of approaching danger (usually prison officers or other authority). [Australian from 1826, after ‘cocatoo gangs’ of convicts, who put a sentinel on guard, following the example of that bird (cocatoos, when feeding, post a sentry to warn of approaching danger); late 19C-20C = a lookout man for a gang or a mob; cf. similar British criminal slang terms for a lookout such as ‘crow’ and ‘raven’.]

cocky n. ³ keep cocky to act as a lookout, to keep watch. [derivative variant of cocatoo; Australian since c.1910.]

cocoa n. a derogatory term for a King Cobra gang-member.

cod R n. a rape.

cod R v. to rape: ‘Did you hear about that woman who got cod R’d last night?’

cod R adj. secret, covert, private: ‘If something’s cod R than it’s supposed to be under wraps, it’s either something bad or illegal, so you don’t want people to know. Usually, you’re organising a job or a hit of some sort.’

coffin, the n. (Paremoremo Prison) a specially-equipped and soundproofed cell for particularly unbalanced or ‘at-risk’ inmates.

codie n. one’s co-offender. [abbreviation.]

collar n. = white-shirt. ³ feel one’s collar to arrest someone. [British from 1928.]

collar v. to arrest: ‘x made it out of town after the robbery, but eventually the police caught up with him and collared him.’

Colonel Sanders n. a paedophile. [after the founder of, and mascot for, the KFC fast-food chain (see KF; KFC).]

colourblind adj. describes a Māori skinhead or a ‘whigger’; an inmate closely affiliated with an ethnic group that is not his own.

comb v. (as an officer) to conduct an extremely thorough search of an inmate’s cell.

commit harihari v. to commit suicide by cutting, usually by slicing the wrists. [poss. from Japanese hari-kari or harakiri, a ritual form of suicide by disembowelment when disgraced or under sentence of death.]

conair n. ³ fly conair to be transferred by aeroplane from one prison to another. [from the film Conair (US 1997) starring
John Malkovich and Nicholas Cage. The plot revolves around a group of inmates en route between prisons who decide to hijack their aeroplane and devise a new destination.

**concrete hole, the** (also the **concrete jungle**) *n.* Paremoremo Prison.

**conehead** *n.* a skinhead.

**control** *n.* the prison officials’ office, guard house, Control Room.

**cook** *n.* [do a cook (also do a bake)] to illicitly prepare morphine and heroin from pharmaceutical products containing codeine or morphine sulphate.

**cook v.** [cook up = do a cook.]

**Cook Street** *n.* see street, the.

**cop v.** 1 to receive or accept without complaint. [British 19C.] 2 to take revenge upon a person who has caused one injury or offence. [cop a lag] to be convicted. cop a plea to plead guilty. cop it (also cop to) to accept, handle, deal with a situation. cop it sweet to accept without complaint. cop out to back down or withdraw. cop that! an expression of astonishment or incredulity. cop the bash to be assaulted, beaten up. cop the book to receive life imprisonment.

**cop on wheels** *n.* a traffic officer. [obsolete.]

**copper** (also cop) *n.* 1 a policeman. [British c.1840-1865.] 2 an inmate informer. [British from 1885. 1978 NEWBOLD: 'Indeed, the ill-consequences of being called a “copper” are so great that the reluctance of inmates to be seen conversing with any member of the prison administration should be easily understood' (322).] (cf. nark.)

**coral reef** *n.* teeth. [rhyming slang.]

**cordless** *n.* a firearm. [poss. descriptive; a cordless drill resembles a handgun in its shape, size, and basic function of putting holes in objects.]

**Coronation Street** *n.* see street, the.

**corridor, the** *n.* 1 the main corridor at Centre Wing, Paparua Prison. 2 the main corridor at Christchurch Women’s prison.

**cosh** *n.* = boob cosh.

**cot, the** *n.* prison. [an attempt to diminish prison and its pressures, expressing the opinion that prison is easy, a place that even babies can handle.]

**counter mounter** *n.* 1 an armed robber. 2 an armed robbery.

**country, the** *n.* the protection or segregation section of Mount Eden Prison. [as in the country, one is separated from the general population.] (cf. wops, the.)

**country club** *n.* a prison. [Kaitoke Country Club Kaitoke (Wanganui) Prison. Whanui Country Club Whanui Unit, a unit at Kaitoke Prison. [prison has been described as a ‘country club’ in the US since the early 20C; orig. applied to Sing Sing Prison, New York, c.1925-1940.] (cf. similar terms incorporating hotel; holiday camp; holiday resort;
motel for a prison.)

coup de grace n. a shot in the head. [poss. from French coup de grace = 'blow of mercy' = a mercy killing, a quick death.]

courier n. = donkey.

cow’s hoof n. a homosexual. [rhyming slang for ‘poof.’] (cf. horse’s hoof.)

(crab (also cell crab) n. an inmate who remains constantly in his cell. [perhaps a play upon hermit of the same meaning (i.e. ref. to ‘hermit crab’).]

crab v. crab it to remain constantly in one’s cell.

(crack n. 1 heroin. 2 cocaine that is refined and processed into chunks or rocks to be smoked in a glass pipe device. [US prison argot c.1992.]

(crack v. to assault.

(crack hole n. = anus hole.

(crank n. 1 heroin of poor quality, ‘poor man’s smack.’ 2 powdered speed (sense 1).

(crank v. to speed, to experience a ‘high’ from taking amphetamines.

(crash n. a game of tackle football, usually played on concrete in the prison yard, or in the prison gym. There are no steadfast rules.

Note: crash is extremely rough, with many inmates suffering severe grazes and broken bones during the course of a game. Because of this, some inmates see their ability to handle the rigours of the game as one way of showing that they have good form; the game is also seen as a reliable way of testing how much form other inmates possess. Many inmates also have taken advantage of the game in order to carry out a premeditated assault on another inmate in the guise of a crash tackle. As a result of such disguised assaults and the injuries generally received by players, crash is in the process of being banned from most prisons.

[1982 NEWBOLD: ‘[T]he main game of the summer season at Paremoremo is crash. Crash is a bit like rugby league except that in Paremoremo the men are still not permitted to go outside on the grass, so the game is played in the gymnasium, on a wooden floor.... As the name suggests, the game is more a test of strength and endurance then one of skill. The boys themselves see their ability on the crashfield as a measure of their machismo, and this explains why, in spite of the many injuries sustained, it remains the most popular summer game in Paremoremo’ (97). 1991 PAYNE: ‘In my experience, gang-members preferred to spend their jail time ... playing “crash” – a lethal form of rugby league, sometimes played on concrete’ (127). 1994 PAYNE: ‘PO Buckmaster stares contemptuously at Dion and some other crims, playing a game of “crash” while awaiting the start of visits. The ball – a bloodstained, tied-together bunch of institution rags – is forever becoming unravelled, and every few minutes a hurt or injured player limps off the concrete tennis court’ (83).] (cf. bulldozer; hold; yard league.)

(crash v. 1 to crudely cook up a tablet, i.e. to break down a tablet containing codeine or morphine sulphate by using chemicals and heat, in order to extract morphine (cf. homebake). In prison, morphine sulphate tablets are most commonly used.

Note: crashing a pill is a popular way of producing morphine and/or heroin in prison, as it
is quick and easy, bypassing the use of unnecessary extra ingredients and complex filtering processes. Although \textit{crashing} a pill involves a basic set procedure, variations of this procedure exist, and here are some examples: A Take a morphine sulphate tablet. Crush it up and put the powder into a steel spoon (steel serving spoons may be stolen from the prison kitchen). Add a small amount of water. Heat up the mixture using a cigarette lighter positioned under the bowl of the spoon. Add a cigarette filter to the mixture. Take a syringe. Put the needle into the cigarette filter and suck the mixture through the filter into the syringe (this strains all the unwanted elements, such as binding, additives and solids). Prepare a vein and inject. B Take a morphine sulphate tablet. Crush it up into a fine powder. Place the powder in the bowl of a steel spoon. Add a small amount of baking powder and a few drops of water. Mix into a paste. Heat the mixture with a cigarette lighter and boil it until the water has evaporated and only crystals are left. AA the mixture (i.e. add ascetic anhydride). Heat again until the smell of the chemical has subsided, and then add some citric acid and a small amount of water. Boil the mixture again. Add a cigarette filter to strain the mixture. Suck the mixture up through the filter into a syringe. Prepare a vein and inject. (cf. babbling brook.) 2 to go on the nod (under the influence of intravenous drugs), esp. to overdose. 3 to experience feelings of depression or general emotional enervation after a drug ‘high’ has ended. 4 to receive a very heavy sentence. [] \textit{crash up} to inject drugs (cf. \textit{ping} (up)).

\textbf{cream} v. [] \textit{cream it} to ingratiating by calculated subservience, to curry favour from prison authorities in an attempt to get through one’s sentence easily. [from colloq. ‘cream’ = semen, implying that the inmate has performed sexual favours (literally ‘sucked up’), in order to gain preference.] (cf. \textit{brown tongue it}.)

\textbf{cream of the crims} n. \textit{pl. mainstream} inmates (as opposed to inmates on \textit{segregation}, who tend to be looked down upon).

\textbf{creamy} n. a Pākehā.

\textbf{creeping Jesus} n. the Officer In Charge. [from the idea that this officer is ‘God’.] (cf. OIC.)

\textbf{crew} n. 1 a group of friends in prison. [from ‘crew’ = a knot or gang, British from late 16C-17C.] 2 a group of business associates in prison, a circle of criminals working together for a purpose on the \textit{inside}. Note: usually this purpose is not the organisation of a specific criminal job (although it may be occasionally), but is the financial organisation of the inmate population. For example, the ‘top man’ in the prison, who makes the most money and is in charge of the business transactions (cf. \textit{big fish} sense 3), will have a \textit{crew}, which usually includes an inmate who acts as his \textit{heavy boy}, who performs \textit{standovers} and other extortion techniques and is the ‘top man’s’ protection; one who is a salesperson who markets goods produced by other inmates; and a \textit{shop} who sells drugs and/or \textit{P119} goods for a good rate of interest. Together, they make a working team. 3 a circle of criminal associates all working together for purpose on the \textit{outside}. Note: this purpose may be the organisation of a specific criminal job, or it may involve the running of a criminal business (e.g. drug dealing) or a gang. 4 a group of inmates from the same ethnic group. Note: one can also refer to a \textit{white crew} or a \textit{black crew}; in South Island prisons especially, ethnic groups are very clearly demarcated; e.g. in many yards, there is a ‘white’ corner and a ‘black’ corner: ‘What’s that guy doing hanging out with the Māoris when he should be in with the \textit{white crew}?’ 5 the skinhead equivalent of a gang. 6 a prison work-party designated to work in a certain area, e.g. the \textit{kitchen crew}, \textit{garden crew}, etc. 7 a group of prison officers working a particular shift. As one inmate explains: ‘It’s really good here when there’s a good \textit{crew} on. If
there’s a good lot of officers on the evening shift, then you’ve all got a cruisy night, there’s less tension in the compound.’

crib n. a cell. [from ‘crib’ = a small habitation, cabin, hovel; in NZ, a holiday home: ironic.]

cricket n. do you play a bit of cricket? asked of an inmate suspected of telling lies. [from the idea that the inmate is a ‘spinner’; a play on ‘spinner’ both as a colloquial term for a liar, and as a term for a spin-bowler in a game of cricket.]

cripple out v. 1 to lose one’s temper. 2 to laugh.

cripster n. an inmate serving a life sentence. [slang used by members of the Crips, a Homie gang; the Crips associate their name with lifers possibly in an attempt to make the gang appear tougher and more intimidating, and to increase its status in criminal circles.]

critter n. a sex offender, applied particularly to paedophiles.

crook n. an inmate who works in the prison kitchen. [a play on ‘cook’. Although most kitchen workers are trustworthy inmates in positions of responsibility, some kitchen workers take advantage of this opportunity to steal food and other items (e.g. metal knives to make shanks or to spot up with, or metal spoons to cook up with) for themselves and their friends.]

cross-dresser n. an informer, a nark (cf. x-dresser).

crotch n. do a crotch to insert a package of contraband into the vagina for the purposes of smuggling or safe-keeping: ‘I’ve got some stuff I want picked up, so could you do a crotch and bring it back in?’ [women’s prison argot; the female version of a charge (sense 2).]

crotch v. do a crotch: ‘I’ve got a stash I don’t want found, so could you crotch it for me until I get back from court?’ [women’s prison argot; the female version of a charge (sense 2).]

crown n. an Ecstasy tablet of high quality. Crowns are not quite as popular as doves (by popular opinion, the best kind of Ecstasy currently available) but are almost as good and are difficult to acquire. [from the picture of a crown embossed on the side; the picture signifies the particular quality and strength of the Ecstasy tablet.]

crunchie n. a person who folds under pressure.

CT abbr. 1 corrective training, a system of punishment and rehabilitation especially designed for youth offenders. Note: CT is intended as a ‘taste of jail’ for young offenders, in an attempt to discourage them from ending up in prison. Corrective trainees spend three months in spartan military conditions, where they are employed in work-parties, closely monitored by officers. [the sentence of corrective training was effective from 1 April 1981, replacing the existing borstal training and Detention Centre training (cf. BT; DC). 1991 PAYNE: ‘[W]hen I met him he was 15 years old and doing his first term of corrective training; when he finished CT he came onto probation, to me’ (92). 2000 NEW ZEALAND OFFICIAL
YEARBOOK: ‘Corrective training – the term fixed by law is three months. The offender must be between 16 and 19 years of age and he or she may be eligible for final release after serving two-thirds of the sentence. After release the offender is subject to supervision by the Community Corrections Service for six months’ (252).] 2 a corrective trainee, a youth offender undergoing corrective training: ‘The CTs are working down near the camps until next week.’

**cubicle n.** a cell.

**cuckoo farm** n. a cell reserved for mentally unbalanced and/or suicidal inmates.

**cue ball** n. a skinhead. [the bald head of a skinhead is reminiscent of the white cue ball used in a game of snooker or pool.]

**cunt castle** n. Mount Eden Women’s Prison (cf. castle, the).

**cup and saucer** n. 1 two inmates who are very good friends and spend much of their time together (cf. Dad and Dave). 2 a short sentence: ‘What are you doing, a cup and saucer or a stretch?’ [poss. a variant of cup of tea.]

**cup of tea** n. 1 a short prison sentence, specifically three months in length. [while some inmates maintain that the term comes from the idea that: ‘the lag is so short that if you make yourself a cup of tea, you’ll just have time to drink it before you’re out again’ (or: ‘you’ll be gone before it’s got time to get cold’), others cite the origin as rhyming slang for ‘three’: ‘How long’s he doing?’ ‘Cup of tea.’ i.e. three months.] 2 any drug that is ‘snorted’ (taken by nasal inhalation), e.g. cocaine, speed. Often an inmate will touch his nose when he asks a fellow inmate whether he wants a cup of tea, to make clear this specific meaning. [] cup of tea and breakfast a very short sentence (cf. bed and breakfast; breakfast).

**cuppa n.** 1 a temgesic. [from a play on T, an abbreviation of ‘temgesic’.] (cf. bones.) 2 a drugs session: ‘My mates and I are coming over for a cuppa.’

**curly mo** n. a big, fat marijuana joint: ‘Make us a decent joint; go for a curly mo.’ (cf. marley.)

**curly mo** (also **curly**) adj. and adv. all right, OK, fine, go ahead: ‘I’m sweet as, bro, everything’s fuckin’ curly.’ [rhyming slang for ‘a great go’; Australian from 1941 in the forms ‘curl the mo’ and ‘kurl a mo’ = good, excellent (also in verbal form = to succeed, win outstandingly); NZ from 1982. Also NZ shoplifter’s jargon, derived from a routine gesture performed by the shoplifter’s accomplice. The shoplifter usually carries out his robbery with the aid of a lookout. The lookout watches the shop assistant, and when the coast is clear, signals to his partner by rubbing his top lip with his index finger in the shape of a moustache (a ‘curly mo’). This means that the coast is clear, and the shoplifter can go ahead with the crime.] (cf. edge!)

**currant cake** adj. and n. 1 awake, aware, informed. [rhyming slang. 1982 NEWBOLD: ‘There was a screw in A Block around that time who’d just arrived from Class. and wasn’t too
currant cake about the way things worked’ (89.) 2 homebake. [rhyming slang.]

currant bun n. 1 the sun. [rhyming slang; British 20C. 1991 STEWART: ‘Whimple: You know what? I can look straight into the currant bun without blinking’ (12.)] 2 one’s son. [rhyming slang; British 20C.] 3 the rectum: ‘Where’d you put the stash?’ ‘Up my currant bun.’

curveball n. a diversion.

cut v. [] cut a track 1 to escape (esp. from prison). 2 to run away (esp. from the police), to avoid arrest. cut it sweet to accept without complaint. cut out 1 (also cut) to serve (time in prison): ‘Have you got long to go?’ ‘Nah, I’ve cut out most of it’. cut out (one’s) lag or cut (one’s) lag out = to serve a sentence. [1982 NEWBOLD: ‘Cut out (v) e.g. — five years. Serve five years in prison’ (247). 1991 PAYNE: ‘This view — that Black Power members cut their lags out following creative pursuits or doing educative or self-improvement courses — may be true for some, but it does not tell the whole story’ (126.)] 2 to escape. cut up to mutilate oneself. [1982 NEWBOLD: ‘Cut up (v) Mutilate oneself’ (248.)]

cut adj. (of a prison sentence) finished, completed: ‘How long have you got to go?’ ‘Oh, just about cut, bro.’

cut-off n. a firearm. [poss. a shortened form of a ‘cut-off’ or ‘sawn-off’ shotgun.]

cuzzie n. the narcotics detection dog: ‘Cuzzie’s sniffing today.’

Note: derived from ‘cousin’, this is a term used specifically by members of the Mongrel Mob gang. The Mongrel Mob revere and identify with the dog, even referring to themselves and each other as dog; therefore, the narcotics detection dog is considered a relation.

CV n. a criminal record. [from ‘Curriculum Vitae’, a record of one’s activities and achievements; ironic.]
D

D (also dee) abbr. 1 a detective (pl. the Ds). [NZ from 1869, Australian from 1877, British from c.1880 = a detective, or a policeman in plain clothes; from initial letter ‘D’ = detective, or an abbreviation of demon. 1941 SARGESON: ‘All over the [cell] walls there were drawings that must have been done by jokers who’d had to wait there, and they were nearly all drawings of jokers being hanged or lying on their backs with knives stuck through them. And underneath it would say, NEVER MAKE A STATEMENT TO A DEE. Or, THIS IS A BLOODY DEE AND THIS IS WHAT HE’S GOING TO GET. And calling the dees for all the names you can think of’ (203). 1992 DUFF: ‘Mind with images of police interrogation, of that look the Ds get of absolute superiority over you, the caught-again dumb-arse criminal’ (61).]

2 a nosey, over-inquisitive inmate. [the inmate displays the characteristics of a detective, cf. sense 1.]

Dad and Dave n. 1 two inmates who are very good friends and spend much of their time together. [after the characters from the Australian radio serial, from 1930s and later.] 2 a shave. [rhyming slang; Australian from 1930s.]

dad and son n. = Dad and Dave sense 1.

dad’s eye n. a pie. [rhyming slang.] (cf. dog’s eye.)

dag n. a dreadlock. [disparaging; from the likeness of the uncombed, twisted lock of hair to a clot of matted wool and excrement found on the hindquarters of a sheep.]

daghead n. a person with dreadlocked hair.

dairy, the n. an inmate in possession of a steady supply of food (P119 goods) for sale to other inmates on a cash, barter, or credit basis.

Note: the dairy sells food only, unlike the shop. (cf. takeaways, the; tank, the.)

daisy roots n. pl. boots. [rhyming slang; British from 1859.]

darkroom n. the waiting room where a new inmate is placed when he first enters the prison, before he is escorted to his wing and cell. [when the new inmate comes into a prison, everything is strange and unfamiliar, rendering him ‘in the dark’.

darl n. an affectionate term of address, esp. applied to one’s lesbian partner. [Australian from 1930, NZ from 1968. 1984 BEATON: ‘Darl: a term of affectionate address in women’s prisons’ (109). 1991 GRAY: ‘Unlike the men, however, many girls had a “crush” or “partner relationship” with each other. They were known as “darls”’ (230).]

data n. a criminal record: ‘What’s your data?’ [today, all information about an inmate may be accessed by computer.]

David Gower n. shower. [rhyming slang, after the England cricketer of the 1980s.]

D Block n. the most secure block in the maximum-security section of Paremoremo Prison. Officially known as the Behaviour Modification Unit, it houses New Zealand’s most violent and
intractable inmates. As such, it has achieved almost legendary status amongst New Zealand’s prison inmates.

Note: some inmates make an arbitrary distinction between D bottom, which is D Block in its capacity as a secure unit for maximum-security offenders; and D top, the Classification block, where inmates are sent for security assessment when they first arrive at the prison. Sometimes, by association, D Block is used to stand for Paremoremo Prison as a whole; however, many inmates who have spent time specifically in D Block regard this experience as one that gives them status, or at least differentiates them from other Paremoremo inmates in the medium and minimum divisions, and are against any inmate using the term for the entire prison if he has not in fact been incarcerated in D Block.

[1982 NEWBOLD: ‘D Block was, and still is, for so-called “intractable” prisoners who, it was considered, would create a security hazard if left in the standard blocks’ (51). 1989 NEWBOLD: ‘Classification and D. blocks are closed areas and their inhabitants are entirely segregated from the rest of the population. They never leave their wings unless under officer escort (three officers per man in the case of D. block) and they spend a great deal of their day − between eighteen and twenty-one hours − in their cells’ (180). 1991 GRAY: ‘D Block with its separate workshops and cells had already been named as the block for “intractables” and that was it, man’ (145). ‘Somebody like me who’s a / D block man is somebody who / it’s been decided would be very / dangerous for the public if he ever / escaped. I have precautions that / are extra-strict taken for me, I can’t / move about so much inside the / prison like the others, there’s a / special careful watch kept on me / day and night. No I don’t know why / it’s called the D block, I don’t / know what the D stands for, / unless perhaps it’s “dog”’ (210).]

D bottom n. see D Block.

DC abbr. Detention Centre; Detention Centre training, a system of punishment designed for youth offenders. The Detention Centres and Detention Centre training were abolished on 1 April 1981, following the Bill of Rights, and were replaced by corrective training (cf. CT).

D car n. an unmarked police car. [such a car is generally driven by a detective = a D.]

DCU abbr. Designated Care Unit.

Note: the DCU is a unit for inmates suffering from psychiatric disorders or head trauma, or at risk of suicide. The DCU contains special cells to lessen the inmate’s risk of self-harm, features soundproofing and carpeted floors to ensure that the inmates are in a quiet environment, is low-stimulus and is staffed 24 hours a day. Inmates in the DCU are observed frequently, and are given time to calm down and adjust to being in prison. In some cases, inmates are enrolled in programmes to help them adjust.

dead horse n. sauce. [rhyming slang; Australian from 1941.]

dead time n. time spent in prison, a prison sentence. [generally, an inmate sees his prison sentence as a waste of time from his life. Time spent in the pound (sense 1) is seen especially as dead time; as one inmate puts it: ‘It’s a waste of the normal waste of time.’]

Dear John n. a situation in which an expected visit from an inmate’s female partner does not eventuate. As one inmate explains: ‘It’s when your missus doesn’t come out to see you when you were expecting her. Like, if a guy says, “I’m going to get a visit, I’m going to get a visit” and he doesn’t get one, then you say, “Oh! Dear John!” it’s a Dear
John.' [from a ‘Dear John’ letter, a letter from a man’s wife or girlfriend informing him that she no longer wishes to be with him.] (cf. Clayton’s visit.)

dead row n. a padded cell for suicidal inmates. [alludes to the area in US prisons where inmates given the death sentence await execution by lethal injection or electrocution.]

deed n. 1 do the deed 1 to smuggle contraband (e.g. money, drugs or alcohol) into a prison, usually during visiting hours. The contraband may also be deposited at an arranged time in or near the prison by an ex-inmate who has recently been released, as part of a promise made to others while in prison: ‘Will you promise to do the deed for me?’ 2 to take revenge upon someone. 3 to kill someone. 4 to mark someone for an attack. 4 to have sexual intercourse during a visit.

depth charge v. to hide a package of contraband by inserting it into the rectum, or in some extreme cases, by inserting it into the lower intestine in order to keep it hidden for a longer period of time (cf. short charge).

depth cover int. a warning to an over-inquisitive inmate to mind his own business. As one inmate explains: ‘Say you’re hiding something and another guy comes along and asks you what you’re doing, you say “Deep cover, bro,” in other words, “Fuck off, it’s nothing to do with you.”’ If the guy gets this response, he usually leaves the matter alone, because, if you get found out, or the thing you’re hiding goes missing, the other guy might get in trouble himself; he might get blamed for narking or for stealing.’

deep sea shark n. an informer. [rhyming slang for nark.]

depth snooker (also heavy snooker) n. a very good hiding place (see snooker). [1982 NEWBOLD: ‘For the best part of a year now my mates and I had been the proud owners of an electric jug. This, like most electric items, was illegal, and we therefore had to keep it in pretty heavy snooker’ (233).]

defective n. a detective. [derogatory.]

demon n. 1 a police officer, esp. a detective. [Australian from c.1880 = a (plain-clothes) policeman, NZ c.1906 = an informer, NZ c.1932 = a detective; prob. a pun on ‘dee-man’ = demon (devil). 1941 SARGESON: ‘[W]hen it was all over they put us back in our cells again. Then when I was beginning to get the dingbats through being there so long on my own I was taken out by the two demons who’d picked me up’ (195). 1950 HAMILTON: ‘When they got to the station a big demon walked into Joe’s cell with his coat off. How’re you feeling, he says? Crook, Joe says, and pretends to start puking in a corner. The demon walks up and down the cell. Pity, he keeps saying, I just feel like a round or two’ (16). 1982 NEWBOLD: ‘Demon (n) Detective’ (247). 1994 PAYNE: ‘Frank would sit there ... explaining us the rules about talking to police. Demons, he always called them’ (11).] 2 an undercover policeman. 3 an unmarked police car. [such a car is generally driven by a detective (see sense 1).] 4 an over-inquisitive person. [such a person displays the characteristics of a detective (see sense 1; detective).]
den n. 1 a cell. [US prison argot from c.1950.] 2 the solitary confinement punishment cell, the pound.

depart n. a transfer to another prison.

deposit box n. a promiscuous woman, often applied to a gang’s dirty girl.

depth charge n. a small package of contraband inserted into the vaginal or anal orifice, so as to be safely smuggled into or out of prison (cf. charge sense 2).

Desert Fox n. the officers who handle the narcotics detection dogs: ‘You’d better stash your gear, mate, here comes Desert Fox.’ [a reference to Operation Desert Fox; the officers’ overalls, radios and specialist tools (e.g. tiny mirrors attached to thin rods to check small, obscure spaces) are reminiscent of those used by US soldiers during the Gulf War.]

detective n. 1 a nosey, inquisitive person (frequently applied to prison officers as well as to inmates). 2 = nark.

detox n. a very short sentence of about three months in length: ‘Don’t worry about getting to know him; he’s doing detox.’ [although three months is the approximate time it takes for an alcoholic to break his alcohol dependency, the term detox refers not only to an inmate in prison for an alcohol-related offence, but to any inmate serving a sentence of about this length.]

deviant (also deviate or devo) n. a sly, devious person, usually a sex offender.

devil dodger n. the prison chaplain.

diaper n. a new prison officer recently completed his or her training.

DIC abbr. and n. 1 Dick in Child, a reference to paedophilia: ‘He’s in prison for being caught DIC.’ [a play on the standard DIC = Drunk in Charge.] 2 a paedophile; ‘Look at that bunch of DICs over there.’

dick n. a detective. [from the name of the comic strip character, detective Dick Tracy. Another suggested origin for this term is that it is a pronunciation of a reversal of the initials CID, Criminal Investigation Department (UK). A DIC, or dick, was the name commonly used within English criminal subcultures to refer to members of the CID, i.e. detectives. 1982 NEWBOLD: “‘Listen here, I know my rights, mate, and we don’t have to go anywhere with you unless we’re under arrest.” “You’ll do as you’re bloody well told,” said the dick…. “Am I under arrest?” I demanded. “If need be,” replied the dick’ (21).]

dickhead n. a male visitor or male partner of a (female) inmate.

Dick Turpin n. an armed robbery. [] do a Dick Turpin to commit an armed robbery.

dig v. [] dig in the grave to shave. [rhyming slang; British from 19C; Australian from c.1902; US c.1920.]

digger, the n. the solitary confinement punishment cell.

Note: formerly, in some prisons, the digger was divided into two cells: the top digger and the
bottom digger. Apparently, the top digger was the better of the two, having a bed that an inmate could sit on during the day and a toilet that could flush, with blankets and pillows provided at night. The bottom digger was the worse of the two, having only a margarine container for a toilet.

[British army slang from c.1909 for a military guardroom and its cells; poss. influenced by 'jigger' = a prison cell, or an alteration of 'dig-out' = orig. an excavation into which prisoners were put for punishment. 1953 HAMILTON: ‘You’re in the dummy, down in the pound, the digger, whatever you like to call it. You’ve started doing three days solitary confinement on bread and water only’ (64). 1971 SHADBOLT: ‘Another feature of prison life of which all men are aware is “the digger”. Solitary confinement. One visit a fortnight, one letter a week, very few blankets’ (10). 1973 JUSTIN: “Who gave you permission to go back to your cell. I could put you in the digger for disobeying an order.” (The “digger” was the punishment cells.)’ (57). 1982 NEWBOLD: ‘In the digger the days go by pretty slowly and not a great deal happens. You’re not allowed a watch. They take your mattress and bedding away from you in the morning when they unlock you, so you have to spend the day sitting on the floor. There’s no furniture in the cell, just a piss pot and a jug of water, thus when your meals arrive you eat them off the floor’ (145). 1984 BEATON: ‘Di: I took the blame, didn’t I? It isn’t a picnic down the digger you know. Four weeks, Ma! (82). ‘Digger: punishment cell for solitary confinement’ (109). 1994 PAYNE: ‘You been in jail too long, Watson. And you can forget talking dirty once [the female officer] starts or you’ll end up in the digger’ (51). 1998 BUNGAY: ‘I was in hell when I first went into prison ... The depression. The drugs. It was a vicious circle. I spent day after day in the digger because of my own behaviour’ (126).]

(cf. hole sense 2; pound, the sense 1.)

dip (also dipper or double dip) n. 1 an LSD tab. [rhyming slang for ‘trip’.] []
take a dip to take LSD.

dip v. (also go dipping) to take LSD. []
dip the wick to have sexual intercourse.

dirt track rider (also mud track rider) n. a homosexual. []
go dirt track riding to engage in homosexual activity.

dirty adj. angry, annoyed. [] be dirty on someone to be opposed to someone, to act so as to make someone else look bad. As one inmate explains: ‘Say you’ve got two inmates and they’re mates, and each night, one gets the other’s pudding at dinner. Then one day, there’s a fresh meat, a dickhead fresh meat, and this one guy offers it to the fresh meat instead. And the other guy, being offended, could ask, “Hey, what’s the matter? Are you dirty on me?”

dirty dog n. a prison officer: ‘The dirty dog’s locked me away again.’

dirty girl n. 1 a prostitute, a woman with loose morals who often belongs to a gang. [poss. from early 20C ‘dirty spot’ = a brothel.] 2 a woman organised to bring something in to an inmate during a visit. This usually involves drugs, but also includes her sexual favours (see sense 1). 3 one’s mistress. 4 a pornographic magazine.

Disneyland n. an LSD tab. [when one takes LSD, one takes a trip and sees all manner of weird and fantastic things,
just like going to Disneyland.] [in Disneyland to be in any situation where one is not in control of one’s faculties, e.g. knocked out, under the influence of drugs, etc.

dizzy (also dizzy lizzie) n. a $20 note. [the New Zealand $20 note features Queen Elizabeth II (sometimes colloquially known as ‘Dizzy Lizzie’) in its main design.]

do v. [do dead to serve all of one’s prison sentence, to complete one’s time in prison: ‘Well, that lag’s done dead, I’m out of here.’ do it easy to have no cares, esp. applied to coping with one’s sentence with confidence and ease. [1980 MacKENZIE: ‘The ones who do it easy and do not care about being in prison quite often seem to do two or three laggings and then never come back again’ (37)]. do it hard 1 to serve one’s sentence with difficulty, to have a hard time in prison; esp. to spend a lot of time in solitary confinement. [1960 BAXTER: ‘In Mother Crawford’s boarding house you’ve time to meditate / Upon the good advice you’ve had from many a magistrate, / And if you stay a year or two, you needn’t do it hard, / The only disadvantage is the fact the door is barred’ (215).] 2 (also do it alone) to receive no visitors during one’s sentence.

doctor n. 1 a paedophile, child molester. [from the root paed- shared with ‘paediatrician’ (a children’s doctor).] 2 an inmate in possession of a steady supply of drugs for sale to other inmates. Usually this inmate gains a reputation for being a drug-dealer and builds up a regular clientele. [from a doctor as a provider of pills and other drugs.]

(amongst intravenous drug users) a person adept at locating a suitable vein in a fellow drug user’s arm (or elsewhere). [in some cases, people partner up when taking drugs intravenously to make the procedure easier.] 4 = chemist.

dog n. 1 a member of the Mongrel Mob gang, one of New Zealand’s most prominent gangs, involved in organised crime. Note: Mongrel Mob members respect and identify with the dog, and consequently, it is very unusual to hear Mongrel Mob members using boobslang terms that incorporate the word ‘dog’ in a derogatory way, such as dog house or dog box. [1991 PAYNE: “We call ourselves Dogs...” “To 99 percent of people that would be an insult. Why do Mobsters revel in it?” “Only, as you’ve just said, because it would be classified as an insult – because you’re an outsider. And Dog, to us within ourselves, is an honourable thing. It’s something to be proud of because that’s what we are” (24).] 2 an informer, a nark. Note: there are several terms used by inmates that refer to different types of dogs, each one describing a kind of informer, e.g. chihuahua ‘a little dog who keeps yelping’ i.e. an informer who is always telling on other inmates over annoying little things, always giving the authorities petty scraps of information – persistent, but not particularly serious; puppy a ‘soft nark’, an informer who is not in the least harmful and is regarded as rather pathetic; rottweiler an informer who may cause harm to other inmates by constantly passing information about serious issues to the authorities, regarded as very dangerous. [Australian prison argot. 1973 McNEIL: ‘Shirker: it ain’t just any sort of maggot who gets to be a dog ... only those that lag other people ... who cooperate with bastards in uniform ... see?’ (32).] 3 a low, contemptible person. [US prison argot from c.1950. 1982 NEWBOLD: ‘He started at me with eyes of hatred. “You’re a dog!” he
4 a policeman, esp. a detective. 5 a prison officer. [] the dogs are in! indicates that the officers have arrived to carry out a thorough search of an inmate’s cell.

dog and bone n. a telephone. [rhyming slang; British, post-WWII. 1992 DUFF: '[o]nly law was the Boss, Mr Reid, Dave Reid, and he was okay, he let things go that would have other publicans on the dog and bone as soon as look at a dope-smoker' (11).]

dog box n. 1 the prison officials’ office. [1982 NEWBOLD: ‘Clarry would often be sitting in his dog-box all lunchtime working the switches which open and close the doors. Dog-boxes are just steel cubicles with Perspex windows and bars, so that the screws inside them were as much prisoners as we were’ (90). ‘Dog box (n) Prison officials’ office’ (247).] 2 the witness stand. 3 the dock. 4 the sentry box, watchtower, lookout. 5 a cell belonging to a member of the Mongrel Mob (cf. dog sense 1). 6 the solitary confinement punishment cell. [a play on the pound (sense 1); apparently dog box dates from WWII = in Prisoner of War camps, a confined space where contrary inmates were put for a short period of time.] [] in the dog box in trouble. put in the dog box to put a person in a position where he will be made fun of or hassled. As one inmate explains: ‘When someone’s not happy with someone else, they’ll do what’s called putting the other person in the dog box, they’ll put them in a position where other people can “put shit” on them.’

dog cart n. [] in the dog cart in trouble.

dog city n. a geographical region, prison or area of a prison that is perceived to be Mongrel Mob territory, predominantly inhabited by the Mongrel Mob: ‘Mangaroa Prison – that’s dog city.’ (see dog sense 1.)

dog collar n. a Home Detention bracelet. [] go on or be put on a dog collar to serve one’s sentence by Home Detention.

Note: Home Detention was instituted by the Department of Corrections on 1 October 1999, as an alternative to prison custody. Home Detention allows an inmate to serve part of his sentence outside prison in an approved residence (including a marae) while under electronic surveillance. The inmate wears an ankle bracelet at all times, which sets off a security alarm if he attempts to pass outside the boundary of his property without authorisation; however, he is able to work or to attend rehabilitative programmes, prescribed as part of his sentence, to address the cause of his offending. The inmate is also under intense supervision by a probation officer, who initially assesses the suitability of the inmate for Home Detention and makes subsequent reports on the inmate’s progress to the Parole Board or the district prisons board.

dog house n. the guard house. [US from 1934 = a watch tower on a prison wall.] [] in the dog house in trouble.

dog kennel (also kennel) n. (Dunedin Prison) the exercise yard. [from its small size and the wire grille that completely covers the area.]

dog pound n. = pound, the sense 1.

dog roll n. a meat pattie, a roll of luncheon sausage, or a meatloaf made from luncheon sausage and mixed vegetables.
dogs n. pl. [dogs and all] an extremely thorough cell check, during which the officers may go so far as to look inside an inmate’s pens to find unauthorised material. dogs get played, hoes get paid lit. ‘customers are sexually gratified, prostitutes are paid.’ [prostitutes’ slang, referring to the services they provide.]

dog’s eye n. a mince pie. [rhyming slang.]

dog shit n. 1 an abusive name for a Member of the Mongrel Mob gang (see dog sense 1). 2 the police officer in charge of the narcotics detection dog, the dog-handler. [from a blend of dog + pigshit = a police officer.]

dogster n. a member of the Mongrel Mob. [a blend of dog + mobster.]

do-it-easy n. a tranquilliser. [1982 NEWBOLD: ‘Do-it-easies (n) Tranquillisers’ (247).]

dollar, the n. the solitary confinement cell: ‘I’m going down the dollar for a while.’ [an updated variant of the pound (sense 1).]

dollars and cents n. pl. see zebra.

dolly n. 1 a female visitor or a female partner of an inmate; in a women’s prison, a dolly usually refers to the woman who plays the feminine role in a lesbian relationship. [NZ 1968.] (cf. butch.) 2 a male visitor or a male partner of an inmate. 3 a weapon made from a pool ball, D-sized batteries, or cakes of soap tied in a sock, a stocking, or a pillowcase. [poss. from colloquial ‘dolly’ = a pool ball.] 4 a knife, a shank. dolly note (also dolly letter) n. 1 an (unauthorised) love letter sent from one female inmate to another. 2 a letter that a male inmate writes to, or receives from, his wife or girlfriend.

dome, the n. 1 (Mount Eden Prison) a central waiting-area with a dome-shaped roof. [1953 HAMILTON: ‘If you go through the double doors and the iron gates past the offices and visitors’ room, then you’re in the Dome. The Dome has iron gates all round it, and on three sides the triple-tiered wings stretch away into the distance. It gets its name from the glass-dome top four stories up. The Dome’s the assembling point for all boobheads’ (102-103). 1980 MacKENZIE: ‘The first and unforgettable impact of the prison came when the welfare officer took me into the “Dome”, the central point from which three of the four wings could be watched’ (13). ‘dome central area of Mt Eden from which the cell wings radiate’ (96). 1991 GRAY: ‘By the time we returned from the chapel I saw that [the inmates] had taken out all the contents of the psychology, welfare and parole offices and were burning them in the dome’ (103.)] 2 the Control Room, guard house. [poss. an extension of sense 1.]

domehead n. a skinhead.

don, the n. an inmate in possession of a steady supply of drugs for sale to other inmates, the drug-dealer: ‘Oh, he’s the don, he’s got all the good woollies.’

Donald Duck n. a fuck. [rhyming slang. 1982 NEWBOLD: ‘Donald Duck (n) Act of sexual intercourse. Rhyming slang’ (247).]
**donkey** *n.* 1 (also *donkey man*) a substitute person who brings contraband to an inmate in place of the person who usually does that job. For example, a *donkey* may be used when an inmate’s wife cannot bring the inmate some goods as she usually does (she may be sick, or have been banned from visiting). In this case, the inmate may instruct his wife to give the package to her friend to bring instead. The inmate has no personal interest in or affection for this person; he is only interested in what she is carrying. [from the idea of a donkey as a beast of burden, kept only for courier work.] (cf. *mule.*) 2 one who is employed to deal drugs or stolen goods. His employer acquires the contraband and gives it to the *donkey* to sell. The employer takes the money from the *donkey’s* sales, and if a deal goes wrong, it is the *donkey* who is either attacked or arrested, leaving the employer unharmed and unsuspected (cf. *mule*). 3 an inmate sent out to help another inmate ferry in a drop that contains too much contraband for one person to smuggle safely into the prison (cf. *truck and trailer*). 4 a weapon made from a pool ball in a sock.

**donkey** *v.* to smuggle contraband into the prison using a substitute carrier, in place of the person who usually does that job. [see *donkey* *n.* sense 1.]

**donkey dick** *n.* a roll of luncheon sausage. [descriptive.] (cf. *elephant cock*.)

**donut puncher** *n.* a homosexual.

**doobie** *n.* a marijuana cigarette (see below).

**Doobie Brothers, the** *n.* marijuana: ‘It’s not a party without the Doobie Brothers.’ [after the country/blues/rock band (begun c.1970). The term *doobie* in the band’s title is derived from Hindi *dub*/Sanskrit *durva* = a kind of pasture grass; *grass* = marijuana.]

**doosh, the** *n.* a knockout punch, *king hit* style.

**dope** *n.* information about one’s criminal past, esp. one’s criminal record: ‘What’s the *dope* on you, mate?’ [1953 HAMILTON: ‘After I’d been in The Hill a few months I was standing next to a tough sort of wharfie who’d just come in, when the Kelly gang procession came past. Who’s that, he said, and I gave him the *dope*’ (104).]

**double** *n.* 1 (also *dub*) a two-ounce packet of prison tobacco, formerly sold in prison canteens. The tobacco came in a blue wrapper sealed with a blob of red wax. Five matches were handed out with every *dub*, and inmates would use a razor blade to slice each match into four to make them last longer. [not available since 1992-3, but still referred to by older inmates. 1982 NEWBOLD: ‘Double (n) Two-ounce packet of prison tobacco’ (248).] 2 (also *double A* or *double trouble*) ascetic anhydride (cf. *AA*).

**double agent** *n.* an informer, *nark*.

**double banger** *n.* a large *drop*, the equivalent of two *visits*’ worth of contraband in one delivery.

**double cell** (also *double man* or *double-up*) *n.* a cell designed to accommodate two or more inmates. [1973 JUSTIN: ‘It had been the practice that all men on work parole had single...
cells. However, because of lack of space, a few cells had been converted into doubles. I was allocated a **double cell** and by the time I had shifted in there was hardly room enough to move around' (71) (cf. association cell.)

**double dip n.** see zebra.

**double line v.** to hide weapons or other contraband in one's double-lined underpants to avoid detection (see double lines).

**double lines n.** underpants with a double layer of lining, stitched on two sides only, to leave a space between the two layers of material. Contraband may be concealed in this space, and inmates wear these underpants in order to smuggle weapons, drugs, etc. in and out of the prison via visits. **Double lines** are particularly useful as the items smuggled inside them are never visible and are rarely detected even if an inmate is strip-searched and his clothes are rifled through.

**double-lined adj.** wearing one's double lines, and consequently, in a position to smuggle contraband: 'Hey bro! Are you double-lined? Can you take this package up to visits for me?'

**double room n.** = double cell.

**double yolker n.** an idiot; a stupid, incompetent person. [1982 NEWBOLD: 'When, after I came in from work, I found out what had happened I was very annoyed and went around referring to Kapua as a weak mug and a double-yolker' (197). 'Double-yolker (n) Stupid person, buffoon' (247)]. (cf. egg; eggroll.)

**dot n.** see zebra.

**dough boy n.** a Pākehā.

**dove n.** an Ecstasy tablet of very high quality; doves are currently the best tablets available (being stronger than pounds) and are very difficult to acquire because of their popularity.

**doves n. pl.** have doves on one's neck to be an old, experienced prison inmate, to have served a prison sentence a long time ago, to be an old lagger. [a dove tattooed on each side of an inmate's neck, near the throat, is a characteristic prison tattoo dating from the 1960s and identifies the inmate as having spent time in prison during this period. Such identification usually earns the inmate the (supposed) respect given to old lagers: 'I don't care if he's got doves on his neck, if he's in for kid fucking, he's a KF like the rest of them.']

**down the line (also up the line) adv.** other prisons up and down New Zealand: 'That idea must have come from down the line' or: 'He's been transferred up the line.' [whether an inmate refers to a prison as being up the line or down the line depends upon whether that prison is located north or south of the inmate's own prison. Because of New Zealand's geography, the positioning of its prisons assumes a linear arrangement.]

**down time n.** time spent in the solitary confinement punishment cell.

**downtown n.** a barbiturate, e.g. heroin; the effect derived from taking a barbiturate: 'I want to go downtown today.' (cf. uptown.)
down under adv. in the pound (sense 1); "x went up on a charge for those pills, so he’ll be down under for a week.'

dragnet v. to conduct a thorough and extensive search of an inmate's cell.

Dr Euphoria n. homebake.

Dr Feelgood n. heroin.

drive-by (also drive-by hit) n. a surprise attack upon another inmate. [most likely a prisonised use of the term 'drive-by' or 'drive-by shooting' = a surprise attack upon someone on the street from a motor vehicle.]

drop (also drop-off) n. an unauthorised package of money or contraband given personally to an inmate during visits, or left in a specific place in or near the prison to be collected by an inmate. [] do a drop to deliver or smuggle such a package.

drop v. 1 to ferry money or contraband into a prison by giving it to an inmate personally through visits, or by leaving it in or near the prison to be collected by an inmate. [British slang from c.1912.] 2 to take a tablet: 'He dropped some jacks.' [] drop the knot (also drop the pilot) to assault a person, to give him the bash.

drop-nuts n. an inmate on segregation. [suggests that the segregated inmate has 'dropped his nuts', i.e. lost his courage, and cannot handle life amongst the mainstream prison population.]

dross n. marijuana of poor quality. [from a gold-mining reference to non-gold-bearing rock, the tailings from a gold mine, the rubbish (cf. mullock).]

dross (also dross up) v. to ruin, to make poor (applied specifically to marijuana): 'When it arrived, the marijuana was all drossed up, just bits of leaf and head.' (cf. mullock.)

drug dog n. 1 the officer who takes inmates’ urine samples to be tested for evidence of drug use. [from dog = a prison officer; with a play on the familiar name for the narcotics detection dog.] 2 a prison officer. [sometimes officers on night duty will walk around the prison taking deep breaths through their noses, trying to detect the scent of marijuana smoke, emulating the behaviour of 'sniffer' narcotics detection dogs.]

drug mutt n. the police narcotics detection dog.

drug pig n. the police officer in charge of the narcotics detection dog, the dog-handler. [from pig = a police officer.]

Dr Valium n. the prison psychiatrist. [from the inmates' general perception that the psychiatrist does not really try and treat them; rather, he is more concerned to prescribe medicines that sedate the prison population to keep them under control.]

D top n. see D Block.

ducks and geese n. the police; prison officers. [rhyming slang.] [] ducks and geese flying ‘Watch out, the screws are coming!' (cf. flock.)

dummy n. a false package containing
non-incriminating material sent into or out of the prison through a certain proposed channel in order to test the suitability of that channel for the smuggling of real contraband.

**dummy shuffle** *n.* a disguised move.

**dummy up** *v.* to lace with drugs or alcohol: ‘**Dummy up** her drink and she won’t remember anything tomorrow.’

**dump** *n.* 1 a prison. [from ‘dump’ = a heap of refuse; in the sense of a prison, US 1904.] 2 the prison yard. 3 an unclean cell.

**dungeon** *n.* 1 the solitary confinement punishment cell (cf. **digger, the; pound, the** sense 1). 2 Mount Eden Prison. [descriptive: Mount Eden’s grey stone walls, barred windows and general castle-like appearance evoke the image of a medieval lockup or dungeon.] 3 a police cell beneath a courtroom. [1945 BURTON: ‘Those who have been convicted but not sentenced are brought down again from the prison and locked up again in the **dungeons**, which are very cold and bleak in the winter, but hot and stuffy in summer’ (28).]

**dunlop** *n.* a cheque rendered invalid by lack of sufficient funds. [after Dunlop, a rubber company and manufacturer of tyres, sports shoes, tennis balls, etc.; from a figurative reference to a false cheque as made of rubber, i.e. ‘bouncy’.] (cf. **rubber**.)

**dust** *n.* = **speed** sense 1.

**dutchie** *n.* a marijuana cigarette. [poss. from ‘Dutch courage’, US drug traffickers’ slang early 20C = narcotics; also poss. from old Jamaican Rasta chant, ‘Pass the Dutchy’, originally titled, ‘Pass the Cootchy’; ‘cootchy’ = a big water bong (a device for smoking marijuana).]

**duties** *n. pl.* the chores that inmates have to do around the prison every morning and night. Each inmate has his particular job worked out on a roster system, e.g. checking and cleaning rooms, working in the kitchen cooking or washing the dishes, gardening, laundry, etc. (cf. **light duties**).
E abbr. Ecstasy. [Ecstasy commonly comes in tablet form with either the manufacturer’s name or a picture embossed on each side (cf. birdie; crown; dove; mitsubishi; pound sense 3). Many slang terms for Ecstasy may be identified by their initial letter ‘E’ (cf. eke (eky); Elizabeth). 27 JAN 2001 THE PRESS: ‘After all, Ecstasy or “E” is the drug of the moment, and the 25,000 tablets seized by the Customs Service in Auckland proved – by the bucketful – how its popularity has risen’ (Weekend, 1).]

eagle n. = drop.

eagle, the n. 1 the Auckland Police helicopter. 2 the head prison officer on duty, the IC. [the eagle’s flying! ‘Watch out! The head officer is on the prowl.’ the eagle has landed 1 an indication that an inmate’s visit has arrived, e.g. the officer will call out on the loudspeaker: ‘x! Visit!’ and the inmate will say to his friends: ‘The eagle has landed.’ 2 an indication that something much anticipated has arrived, e.g. some drugs have been delivered in a drop, it is payday, or (in the past) canteen day. (cf. the fox is in the hole.)

ear trouble n. have ear trouble to deliberately ignore another inmate when he makes an attempt to communicate: ‘Hey, I was talking to you! Have you got ear trouble, or what?’

East Side n. see street, the.

easy touch (also soft touch) n. a person who may be easily persuaded to lend or give away his property, usually an easy target for a con, trick or swindle (cf. easy mark; mark). [prob. from ‘touch’, Australian c.1850-1910 = a robbery, theft; US c.1840, British 1820-1940 = an easy robbery.]

easy lay n. a person who is easily conned. [from the expression used by some inmates: ‘Easy conned, easy fucked’; ‘lay’ = ‘fuck’.

easy street n. the low security wing of a prison.

eat-ass n. a liar.

eau de Cologne n. a telephone. [rhyming slang; British 20C.]

Eden, the n. Mt Eden Men’s Prison, Auckland.

dge! int. wait, hang on, take it easy. [shoplifters’ jargon, derived from a routine gesture performed by a shoplifter’s accomplice. The shoplifter commits his crime with the aid of the lookout, who watches the shop assistant to see if the coast is clear. If the lookout tugs the lapel of his jacket, or says, ‘Edge!’ it means that the shop assistant is watching, and that the shoplifter should not make a move that would attract suspicion.] (cf. curly mo.)

Edna Brit n. shit. [rhyming slang.] (cf. Jack Brit.)

eeyore n. = donkey sense 1: ‘Hey, bro, you going to be my eeyore today?’

egg n. 1 a temazepam capsule. Note: temazepam is a short-acting benzodiazepine, a tranquiliser and hypnotic, e.g. used in the treatment of insomnia. It is available in the form of a gel-like capsule, which may be taken orally or melted and injected; or in the form of a tablet
(although half-tablets are most commonly traded in prison), which may be taken orally or crushed into a powder that may be snorted. [descriptive; also current UK.] 2 (also eggroll) an idiot, a stupid person. [poss. from confidence tricksters' and crooks’ term 'egg' = a 'sucker', someone who is easily fooled, US 1936. 1982 NEWBOLD: 'Egg, eggroll (n) Stupid, incompetent person' (248). 1992 DUFF: 'It’s the beer does it. Oh, and plus the fact these kinda people are eggs, as they call it in the vernacular here. Sonny at the pair with pity and contempt’ (13.).]

eight-pack n. a cell designed to accommodate several people. [prob. originated at Mount Crawford Prison, which had cells that held eight inmates.] (cf. association cell.)

eke (also eeky) n. Ecstasy. [27 JAN 2001 THE PRESS: “They say the ups and downs from Ecstasy are so extreme, that is why the temptation for taking another one to get back up there is so strong,” she says. The slump that comes after a weekend of partying is often referred to as “eeky Tuesday” – probably because the loss of serotonin takes days to replenish’ (Weekend, 1.)] (cf. E; Elizabeth.)

elbow n. a pound of marijuana. [from a pronunciation of lb = pound, i.e. 'el-bie'. Instead of using this term, an inmate may convey his meaning by touching his elbow. [] half-elbow half a pound of marijuana.

elephant cock n. prison meatloaf. [descriptive.] (cf. donkey dick.)

elephant’s trunk (also elephant trunk) adj. drunk. [rhyming slang; elephant’s trunk = British from 1859; elephant trunk = US clipping of elephant’s trunk, Pacific Coast, late 19C-20C.]

elite, the n. a circle of inmates who consider themselves above the boys (i.e. other inmates). Often these inmates are highly respected in the prison, and are usually old lagers.

Elizabeth n. Ecstasy. [from initial letter 'E'.] (cf. E.)

emergency 119 n. a prison canteen form, or P119, ordered in a hurry so that the goods arrive earlier than the normal scheduled date. Such an order may be requested if an inmate is being transferred and needs some urgent supplies so that he will not be caught short once he arrives at the next prison. [a play on Emergency 911, a US television series about emergency rescue operations.]

end n. [] end of the line (also end of the road) Paremoremo Prison. [because Paremoremo is the country’s main maximum-security institution, inmates who end up there may understandably feel that there is no further they can go, things cannot get worse; also applied to Alcatraz (1934-1963) as the US’ most repressive prison.]

endo n. marijuana. [gangster slang; etymology uncertain.]

energiser n. a skinhead. [from the Australian television advertisement for Energiser batteries in which Jacko, the front-man, shouts 'Oi!' as his trademark expression. Oi is a common skinhead greeting, solidarity marker and term of emphasis.]
envelope *n.* a weak person who gives way easily. [from the idea that a weak person 'folds' under pressure.]

envelope licker *n.* a lesbian.

escort *n.* a transfer to another prison.

evil *n.* a male who has his penis pierced right through. [this procedure is a form of bodypiercing, where the shaft of the penis is pierced horizontally to hold a barbell or similar piece of jewellery.]

\textbf{Note:} bodypiercing is popular in prison, especially among male inmates, for whom the penis is the preferred piercing site. The reasons for this are threefold: firstly, it is an effective way of relieving the boredom of prison life; secondly, these particular forms of body-modification may be used to sexually stimulate the inmate's female partner; and thirdly (and perhaps of most immediate importance in prison) it gives the inmate a chance to prove that he is tough and has a high pain tolerance. Inmates are ingenious improvisers when it comes to bodypiercing, making use of conventional jewellery (made from niobium, titanium, stainless steel, gold or silver) as well as more unconventional materials such as marbles, faux pearls, nails and ball-bearings. As inmates do not have access to proper piercing tools, the equipment used tends to be rough and often unsanitary, e.g. razors, toothbrush handles or even darts from the recreation room, and aftercare methods are rudimentary. For further details about specific piercing techniques, see ruby lips and rough rider.

evil eye *n.* see skunk.

eye *n.* ◇ eye in the sky a lookout, a pegger. eye in the sky! 'Watch out! A prison officer [or some threatening person] is coming!'

eyes *n.* pl. 1 one who acts as a lookout for a group of inmates engaged in illegal activity: 'Hey, we're going to pick up a drop, come and be our eyes, bro.' 2 officers who may be on the lookout for inmates' illegal activities: 'Watch out for eyes, bro.'

eye trouble *n.* ◇ have eye trouble to look intently at another inmate or group of inmates, and thus to appear rude or over-inquisitive. As one inmate says: 'If someone's staring at you, you might ask them, “You got fuckin’ eye trouble, cunt?”' [NZ 1984.]
fake n. an officer new to a prison, usually one recently completed his training. [from the idea that the new officer ‘fakes’ his way around the prison yard, trying to give the impression that he is familiar with his surroundings.]

fake-ass nigger n. = plastic gangster.

fairy n. the ‘feminine’ partner in a lesbian relationship. [women’s prison argot.] (cf. dolly sense 1.)

take the fall = take the rap (see rap).

fall-in n. = muster; parade sense 2.

false alarm n. arm. [rhyming slang; British from c.1914; US from early to mid-20C.]

family, the n. 1 two inmates who are very close friends and spend much of their time together (cf. Dad and Dave). 2 (in a women’s prison) ‘the girls in your unit’, the women with whom an inmate spends most of her time and is most familiar.

farm n. a minimum-security prison, usually situated in the countryside, where most of the inmates are employed in work-parties undertaking various forestry and farming projects, e.g. Tongariro/Rangipo Prison, Ohura Prison: ‘Where’s x gone?’ ‘They’ve sent him down south to one of the farms.’

Note: The Department of Corrections owns Corrland, a commercial farming and forestry operation. Approximately 300 inmates work for Corrland on prison farms and forests as part of an inmate employment programme.

Fat Freddie (also Fat Freddie’s cat) n. see zebra.

fat ladies’ arms, the n. pl. female prison officers: ‘Here come the fat ladies’ arms.’ [women’s prison argot; female officers far outnumber male officers employed in women’s prisons. A play on The Fat Ladies’ Arms, a nationwide pub/nightclub chain.]

feather n. a meagre, skinny marijuana cigarette (cf. floater sense 2).

felcher n. a homosexual. [poss. after the (homosexual) act of ‘felling’, of which one version is to ejaculate into another’s anus and then to suck the semen out again through a straw.]

fiddler n. a paedophile.

fiddley n. = fiddley and gun.

fiddley and gun n. a hypodermic syringe and needle; also abbreviated to fiddley or gun. Fiddley is poss. an extension of fit = a hypodermic syringe, but fiddley also refers to the procedure involved in tying a tourniquet on one arm to prepare for injection, as this takes practice (or is rather ‘fiddly’); gun refers to the syringe and the needle which one uses to ‘shoot up’ (inject).

fiddy n. a bag of skunk weed to the value of $50. [tinny house slang; poss. from street-slang ‘fiddy’ = a $50 note.]

fifteen-minute obs n. see obs sense 1.

fifteen watt n. an unintelligent skinhead. [from the idea that he is ‘not a very bright light bulb.’] (see light bulb.)
fifty (also fifty cents) n. an unintelligent inmate: ‘Hey, fifty! Come over here!’

fifty-center n. 1 a person who is only just deemed worthy to talk to. [his personality or mental ability amounts to ‘fifty cents out of the dollar’, i.e. he only just passes in terms of social acceptability. Any person categorised as anything less than fifty cents is not worth associating with.] (cf. sixty-center; ten-center; thirty-center; twenty-five-center.) 2 a prostitute. [because she is ‘cheap’.]

fig n. a one or two-ounce packet of prison tobacco. [a US tobacco-growers’ term from the 1830s; NZ from 1835; prison tobacco has not been available in prisons since 1992-3. 1953 HAMILTON: ‘You weren’t allowed tobacco, of course, and I had decided to try and give it up, which made it a lot tougher. After two days, Mike managed to slip in a whole fig and matches and papers, so I gave up trying to give it up’ (24). 1973 JUSTIN: “A fig?” “A packet of boob – prison, to you – tobacco. Haven’t you learnt that yet?”’ (29). 1978 NEWBOLD: ‘Thus a large bar of chocolate, worth 40c in the canteen, fetches a dollar on the book, and three two-ounce packets of tobacco (known as “figs” or “doubles”) worth 14c each in the canteen, fetches a similar amount’ (343). 1980 BERRY: ‘Fig was a curious word, an Americanism that had somehow filtered into NZ penal institutions and survived. It wasn’t slang in the sense that boob and screw were. There was no other word for the cellophane packet that contained around fifty grammes of offcuts and substandard tobacco supplied by the cigarette companies. Nobody spoke of a packet of tobacco – it was always a fig’ (152-3).

1980 MacKENZIE: ‘fig an ounce of tobacco’ (96).]

file n. 1 a criminal record. 2 a nickname for a paedophile, most commonly added after an inmate’s first name to identify him as a child molester, e.g. Johnfile. [prob. from the similarity of pronunciation between the name ‘Peter’ in this context (i.e. ‘Peterfile’) and ‘paedophile’.] (cf. Peter File.)

file n. 1 (also filer) a child molester, from ‘paedophile’. [] on file = on report.

filing cabinet n. a group of cells belonging to, or the general area of a prison compound commonly occupied by, inmates in prison for child molesting. [from a play on ‘paedophile’.]

filler n. a homosexual.

filly n. a marijuana cigarette.

filth n. 1 a pornographic magazine. 2 (also the filth or the dirty filth) any authority figure, esp. applied to police or prison officers.

finger v. 1 to accuse or blame. [US from 1930 = to inform upon; US from 1933 = to testify in court; also current UK.] 2 to steal. [US from 1925 = to pick pockets.]

fingers n. pl. 1 a thief: ‘You’d better watch out for your gear, fingers is in the room.’ [from ‘fingers’ = a pickpocket, US 1925.] 2 a pornographic magazine: ‘Hey, bro, have you got a fingers?’

fingers freddie n. a thief.

fingers freddie v. to steal.
first class citizen *n.* an inmate treated with great respect, esp. one who has spent a lot of time in prison.

first man *n.* (in an organised criminal job) the person who carries out the actual crime, the perpetrator (cf. second man; third man).

first timer *n.* an innocent, naive person, often serving his first sentence (cf. first lagger).

fish *n.* 1 (also new fish) a prison officer recently completed his training, or new to a prison. 2 (also new fish) an inmate new to a prison; the term may refer to a first lagger or to a more experienced inmate who has just arrived in a new prison. 3 a policeman new on the street, on the beat for the first time. 4 a person who is gullible, easily conned. 5 an informer, a nark. 6 a member of the Headhunters, a North Island gang. [derogatory.]

fish bowl (also fish tank) *n.* 1 the Control Room, prison officials’ office, or guard house. [this room is encased in glass, resembling a giant fish bowl or tank.] 2 an observation cell for mentally unstable and/or ‘at-risk’ inmates. [the room is equipped with large glass windows through which the inmate is observed every 15 minutes, 24 hours a day. In some cases, the inmate in the cell is naked.] (cf. fifteen-minute obs.)

fish box *n.* = fish bowl.

fish head *n.* a member of the Headhunters. [derogatory.] (cf. fish sense 6.)

fishy shark *n.* an informer. [rhyming slang for nark.] (cf. deep sea shark.)

fit *n.* a hypodermic syringe. [a shortened form of outfit; British from late 1940s. 1982 NEWBOLD: 'With the $25 Phil still owed me I bought five more cans of morphine, and he threw in a fit as well so I could hit myself' (13). 1999 CROWN PUBLIC HEALTH: 'IV drug use is the most effective method of transmitting HIV / AIDS and Hepatitis B+C ... Use a new fit every time ... Return used fits to a Needle Exchange for destruction' (33).]

fit *v.* 1 (also fit up or fix up) to find or fabricate evidence to secure a conviction, to frame. [British 1935; NZ 1938.] 2 (fit up) to inject intravenous drugs, e.g. heroin: 'Could you peg for me? I’m just going to fit up.' [from fit = a hypodermic syringe.]

fit and brace *n.* a hypodermic syringe and needle (cf. brace and bit).

fitness centre *n.* a prison. 
Note: an inmate may see his prison sentence as a good chance to improve his health and fitness. Prisons provide inmates with a healthy diet (three good meals a day), no alcohol, frequent showers, free toiletries (shampoo, soap, toothbrush, comb), plenty of sleep (substantial lights out hours), access to a free gym/weights room plus organised sports and recreation activities, medical care, the opportunity to discontinue a drug habit, and programmes for emotional and psychological well-being. (cf. health camp; health centre.)

fit (someone) up *v.* to take revenge upon a fellow inmate, specifically by taking advantage of the rules put in place by the system, rather than using violence. As one inmate explains: 'You might use the Justice Department [sic] in some way, or seek the intervention of officers to get back at someone, rather than, say, stabbing them in the showers. For example, if you don’t like someone and
you want them to leave the jail, you might write a letter to the Site Manager saying the guy was doing standovers and then get all your mates to act as false witnesses in order to get that guy transferred out.'

**five-eight n.** one’s best mate. [rhyming slang; a variant of ‘five-eighth’. In a game of rugby, the five-eighth is one of the two players positioned between the halfback and the centre three-quarters (known individually as the first five-eighth and the second five-eighth), NZ from 1899; i.e. one of a close pair.]

**five minutes n.** a very short sentence: ‘That fella’s a short lagger, he’s only doing five minutes.’ (contrast ten minutes.)

**five-O n.** a police officer, esp. a detective or an undercover officer. [from *Hawaii Five-O*, the longest-running police drama in television history (1968-1980), starring Jack Lord.]

**fix n.** 1 a shot of drugs. 2 a hypodermic syringe and needle. 3 a ‘high’ caused by taking drugs.

**fizzer n.** [] on a fizzer = on a charge. [ex-military slang.]

**flags are going up int.** refers to gang racism among inmates. For example, an inmate who is affiliated to the White Power may pass a racist comment to an inmate involved with the Black Power, who may then reciprocate in kind, and the situation may escalate. Someone watching may then remark, ‘Watch out, flags are going up.’ [women’s prison argot.]

**flank v.** = top and tail.

**flapcracker n.** a lesbian.

**flat n.** a cell (cf. house; pad).

**flatfoot n.** a police officer.

**flavour test n.** a urine test for drugs; as one inmate explains: ‘If you come back the wrong flavour, you’re history.’ (cf. keg.)

**flea n.** 1 a weak, contemptible person, an ingrate. [1978 NEWBOLD: ‘The Staunchie and the man with heart have their antitheses in the nomenclature of the weak mug, the flea; the germ; the wonk; the thing; and numerous other expressly derogatory epithets’ (339).] 2 an informer, a nark. [] flea in the wing a warning to one’s fellow inmates that an officer is approaching.

**fleabag n.** a derogatory term for a member of the Mongrel Mob (cf. dog).

**fleas n. pl.** temgesics. [rhyming slang for Ts, a shortened form of temgesics.]

**flick n.** a knife.

**flick off v.** to sell (esp. drugs or stolen goods).

**Flintstones n. pl.** see zebra.

**flipper n.** = bitchslap.

**floater n.** 1 a prison officer not assigned to any particular wing, with no particular duties. Note: for inmates, such an officer is a threat, as he or she is able to monitor inmates’ activities at any time and without warning. As one inmate explains: ‘Most officers have a routine; for example, every 45 minutes they’ll take a muster, or they’ll patrol a certain place, so you know where they’ll be. But a floater could be anywhere, and could turn up and bust you if you’re doing something illegal. These are
the dangerous ones, because you can't count on them to be in a certain place." 2 a very meagre marijuana joint. [when it is dropped it does not fall straight down, but floats to the floor like a piece of paper.] 3 a police officer who infiltrates the prison disguised as a prison officer. Note: a police officer will not, in fact, enter the prison in this capacity, as such a course of action would be highly impractical. Some inmates, however, believe that a police officer will disguise himself as a prison officer in an attempt to gather information from prison inmates who may have knowledge of a certain crime currently being investigated by police, or in an attempt to gather information about an inmate already in prison.

**flock** v. (as an officer) to watch a suspicious activity being undertaken by inmates, in anticipation of catching them red-handed. One inmate explains: ‘Say you and your mates are having a doobie and you see the screws pegging you and beginning to gather, and it looks like they’re suspicious and planning to bust you, you might say to your mates, “We’re being flocked,” you know, tell the guys to watch out and break it up before we get in trouble.’ (cf. clock.)

**floor** n. 0 new on the floor (of a prison officer) new to the prison or recently completed his or her training. off the floor (of a prison officer) off duty; no longer regularly working in the wing. on the floor (of a prison officer) on duty, working in the wing.

**flour bin** n. a Pākehā.

**flower** n. an opium poppy: ‘How’re your flowers doing this season?’ Note: drug users ‘bleed the heads’ of opium poppies to obtain their milk, which is then used as a base for producing opiate-derived hard drugs such as heroin.

**flowery dell** n. a cell. [rhyming slang; British from late 19C-20C.]

**flunkie** (also flunk) n. 1 an inmate, usually a gang prospect, who acts as a runner or a servant for another inmate, usually a patch member of a gang (cf. bum boy sense 1). 2 a new prison officer during his probationary period in the prison. During this time, he has the duties and authority of any fully-trained officer, but wears civilian clothes to differentiate him from the official staff. [may also make reference to sense 1, in that these new recruits are often given the less exciting jobs and tend to act as runners for more established officers (cf. bum boy sense 3).]

**fly** n. = seagull.

**fly** v. [] fly a kite 1 to commit cheque fraud, to pass a false cheque. [from kite = a false cheque. 1945 BURTON: ‘In Borstal and in prison he learnt a lot of techniques from picking locks, to forging cheques – “flying a kite,” to use the vernacular’ (121).] 2 to pass contraband from one unit to another by flicking it over the dividing fences. Note: there are several ways in which this may be done: A Put the contraband inside a tennis ball and throw the ball over the separating fence/wall into the yard of another unit. B From Hawke’s Bay Prison: Find one surgical rubber glove (this may be acquired from the officers’ supplies under the pretence of having to clean the toilets and requiring sterile protection), a 30cm ruler, a broken cassette-tape with the shiny brown length of tape still intact, a wad of toilet paper, and some sellotape. Take the rubber glove. Cut a hole in the thumb and stuff the wad of toilet paper inside to weight the glove. Untangle the length of tape from the cassette-tape. Take hold of one end of the tape. Put the other end into the hole in the thumb of the glove with the toilet paper, and some sellotape. Take the rubber glove. Cut a hole in the thumb and stuff the wad of toilet paper inside to weight the glove. Untangle the length of tape from the cassette-tape. Take hold of one end of the tape. Put the other end into the hole in the thumb of the glove with the toilet paper, and some sellotape. Take the rubber
glove and stretch it back over the ruler in much
the same way as with a slingshot. Keeping firm
hold of the other end of the length of tape, aim
the glove towards its target (e.g. an inmate out in
the yard, an inmate's cell window) and let it go.
The glove should fly over the fence to the target.
If this is designed as a drop-off operation, the
person at the other end will collect the
contraband. If it is a pick-up operation, the
person at the other end will place contraband
inside the glove. Quickly pull the glove back
over the fence by the length of tape. Collect the
contraband if necessary. (cf. go fishing, throw
(one's) line.) fly the coop to obtain a transfer
to another prison. fly through it
to be found guilty of one's crime during
a court trial, rather than pleading guilty:
'How did it go? Did you plead guilty?'
'Nah, bro, I flew through it.'

foil (also follie) n. a bullet of cannabis,

enough for about two or three cigarettes,
wrapped in tinfoil. Foils usually cost
about $25 (cf. tinny).

football (also footie) n. 1 a temazepam
capsule. Note: a common method of taking
temazepam in prison is to put a small hole in
each end of the capsule, squeeze the gel out, mix
with water in a spoon, filter the mixture, and then
inject it. 2 a halcyon pill.

foreskin sausage n. a homosexual.

forget-me-not n. a halcyon pill. [from its
blue colour and from the idea that one
forgets what one has done while under
its influence.]

fork and knife n. one's wife. [rhyming
slang; variant of Cockney 'fork and
knife' = life, from c.1934.]

form n. 1 courage, honour, bravery,
charisma, status. Note: form relates to an
inmate's overall demeanour, how he presents
himself to others, e.g.: 'If you're in a fight, even
if you lose, if you show form, you've still got
your honour'. Behaviour is usually described
according to the way in which form is shown:
'He showed wicked form' or: 'It was such a
disgusting display of form.' (cf. bad form; good
form; first lagger's form.) [1982 STEWART:
'He'd been with crims so long he was
like one himself. His best mates were
criminals with lots of form' (168).] 2 an
inmate's reputation, his criminal
credentials. Note: these credentials are
established upon the types of crimes the inmate
has committed in the past (see sense 3); upon his
actions and attitude (including a strict adherence
to the 'criminal code of ethics'); upon certain
admirable traits or aspects of his personality; and
upon his status within the prison hierarchy during
his current sentence and during past sentences.
The prison(s) where previous sentences were
served are important in establishing an inmate's
reputation, as is the length of the sentence and
the length of time spent in prison overall (e.g. if
the inmate is classed as an old lagger this further
establishes his form), and the type of sentence (i.e. whether it was served in mainstream or segregation). [Australian, early 1970s = one’s prison credentials, by analogy with racing form. 1973 McNEIL: ‘Shirker: our forms is already established, if yer know what I mean? There’s no-one in the nick here can point the finger of scorn at me and Toss’ (37). 1992 DUFF: ‘Uh, Prez …? Like – like Billy here musta found out, you know, my form? Looking to Billy. Billy? What’d people tell ya, man?’ (105).] 3 a criminal record. [literally, the form upon which the inmate’s criminal past is written. Usually this is the document upon which much of an inmate’s reputation is based, as one inmate explains: ‘It depends on how you’ve been in the past, what kind of previous you have. If you’ve done similar crimes in the past, that gives you form.’ (cf. senses 1 and 2.)] 4 bad form stupidity, deceit, cowardice, malevolence. Note: this is usually applied to an inmate who has a ‘bad’ criminal record, i.e. charges for a despised offence such as child abuse; or to an inmate who performs an action considered unworthy of a ‘good crim’, e.g. smoking marijuana in front of prison officers. first lagger’s form stupidity, naïveté, lack of foresight. First lagger’s form may describe any action that causes the inmate to lose face in the prison, or is not indicative of the time he has spent in prison; literally, to act like a first lagger (see lag). good form stoicism, courage, ingenuity, tenacity. Good form involves an adherence to the ‘criminal code of ethics’, and upon generally admired behaviour in the prison. Note: good form may be manifested in several ways, as one inmate explains: ‘Good form can be to do with your criminal record, for example, if you’re in for manufacturing heroin or for an arm, rather than for beating up your missus; or it can be to do with how you handle yourself amongst other inmates, like if you stand up to a guy who’s using standover tactics on you, or if you take three guys on in a fight and you win. But it’s also about knowing when to walk away, not duking it out all the time, but being able to show control. That’s important, because it keeps harmony in the prison.’ no form cowardice, blandness, indulgence in behaviour universally scorned by the prison community, e.g. narking.

Forrest Gump n. [] do a Forrest Gump to escape from prison, to ‘do a runner.’ [from the film Forrest Gump (US 1994) starring Tom Hanks as the title character, who becomes famous for (amongst other things) his sprinting ability. Whenever Forrest is in a situation from which he must escape, his friends tell him, ‘Run, Forrest, run!’]

four-by-two (also fourby) n. a prison officer. [rhyming slang for screw, from a transferred or figurative use of the common name for a plank of timber, four inches wide by two deep; also current UK. A variant of Cockney ‘four-by-two’ = a Jew, popular during WWI. In this instance, the ‘four-by-two’ referred to a piece of rag, 4x2 inches, issued to troops for the purpose of cleaning the bore of the short Lee-Enfield rifle. 1982 NEWBOLD: ‘We’d managed to get hold of an (illegal) electric jug from somewhere, and while somebody kept a lookout for four-by-twos, we’d boil up water or milk we’d nicked from the fridge and have a drink of coffee or Milo’ (218).]

four star hotel n. a prison. [sarcastic.] (cf. Arohata Hotel; grey bar hotel; Ritz, the.)

fox n. [] the fox is in the hole ‘I’ve got a parcel of contraband concealed in my rectum.’ This expression is usually used after a visit, normally in conjunction
with the expression, the eagle has landed.

fox box n. the Control Room, prison officials’ office, guard house. [women’s prison argot, from street-slang ‘fox’ = (sexy) woman; in women’s prisons, a majority of the officers are female.]

freak n. 1 a paedophile, a sex offender. 2 a protection (segregation) inmate. [an extension of sense 1 in that many protection inmates are sex offenders.] 3 a Devil’s Henchmen gang-member. [derogatory.]

fresh n. = fresh meat sense 1.

fresh bait n. = fresh fish sense 2.

fresh fish n. 1 an inmate new to a prison. [US 1871.] 2 a new, inexperienced officer recently completed his or her training.

fresh fruit n. 1 a Christian. 2 an inmate new to the wing.

freshie n. = fresh fish sense 2.

fresh meat n. 1 (also new meat) an inmate new to the prison, esp. one serving his first sentence. 2 a 16 year-old girl. [a girl of 16 is of legal age for sexual intercourse.] 3 a new (female) prison officer. 4 an expression by gay or lesbian inmates to refer to a potential new conquest who has arrived in the prison. 5 an expression used after one has inflicted a knife wound upon another: ‘Ahh, fresh meat!’ 6 a gang prospect.

fridge n. the rectum, referring to the way it is made use of by some inmates to conceal contraband: ‘Hey, x, have you gone and picked up that drop?’ ‘Yeah, bro, it’s in my fridge.’ (cf. currant bun; safe.)

frip (also fripper) n. = bitchslap.

frippit n. a Christian: ‘Where’re the frippits off to?’ [origin uncertain.]

Note: Christianity is significant in prison because many visiting groups are Christian-based, adhering to the teachings of their faith: ‘I was in prison and you came to me’ (Matthew 25:36), and because many inmates convert to Christianity whilst in prison. This conversion is most probably due to the distinguishing tenet of Christian faith that emphasises the forgiveness of sins over revenge and punishment.

frog n. a Mongrel Mob gang-member. [derogatory; a rhyming play on dog.]

frog and toad n. road. [rhyming slang; British from 1859; US Pacific Coast from late 19C-20C = a highway.] [] hit the frog and toad to escape.

frog in the mud n. prison kitchen workers’ slang for pieces of kiwifruit in chocolate instant pudding. [descriptive.]

front, the n. 1 the prison administration. [1978 NEWBOLD: ‘Inmates assert that “tealeafing” goes on regularly and that classified information almost always finds its way to “the front”’ (382).] 2 the Control Room.

front-end guy n. a recently sentenced inmate, an inmate beginning his prison sentence (cf. back-end guy).

front v. 1 (also front up) to appear, to confront (someone). 2 (front up) to admit responsibility for a crime. 3 (front up) = back up sense 1.

fruit n. 1 a general term for drugs: ‘Have you got the fruit?’ 2 marijuana. 3
morphine sulphate tablets (MSTs). [common names for types of MSTs include grapes and oranges.]

**fruit salad** *n.* a concoction of various MSTs, cooked up (prepared in order to extract the morphine): ‘I’m going to make a fruit salad – got any fruit over there?’

**fruity** *adj.* good, admirable, awesome: ‘Hey, bro, you’ve got a fruity as missus.’

**FTW** *abbr.* an expression (also used in cell graffiti and tattoos) with several meanings. 1 ‘Fuck The World’ an anti-establishment message used commonly amongst skinheads and groups with similar sympathies. [this expression has superseded ACAC, used or worn by older or more experienced inmates. 1994 PAYNE: ‘JUSTICE SUX – FUCK THE WORLD – BORN TO LOOZ – Billy reads the legends on his walls and tries to ignore the noise from the cell next door’ (49).] 2 ‘Forever Two Wheels’ [less common; poss. used amongst motorcycle gang-members.] 3 ‘Fru [Through] These Walls’. [this expression refers to the inmates themselves, with a reminder (possibly to people on the outside?) that real people with thoughts and feelings inhabit the space behind the prison walls. This expression forms part of a longer sentence: ‘Fru These Walls we speak; we live, we lay, we eat.’]

**full charge** *n.* a package of contraband inserted into the rectum, or in some cases, into the lower intestine, for the purposes of smuggling or safe-keeping.

**full charge** *v.* = deep charge.

**full course, the** *n.* a life sentence, life imprisonment.

**full house** *n.* 1 a life sentence: ‘He got a full house, so he’s doing ten years.’ 2 = bootload.

**full quid, the** *n.* a $100 note.

**funk** *n.* an alternative term for skunk (weed): ‘The funk’s in town.’

**furniture** *n.* [] part of the furniture an established inmate. [this specific prison usage derives from the general meaning of the expression, i.e. someone or something familiar enough to be regarded as a permanent feature (and therefore taken for granted).]
G

G abbr. 1 a gangster (in the general sense of a criminal). [from African-American vernacular, used in NZ mainly amongst young Māori or Pacific Island inmates.] (cf. OG.) 2 a capsule of gold marijuana oil. 3 (also G man) $1,000. [from ‘grand’, US from 1928.]

G v. □ G up to get high on marijuana oil (cf. G sense 2).

Gs, the n. pl. one’s fellow gang-members.

game n. □ game over life imprisonment.

gang v. to subject a person to group rape or sodomy: ‘Gang her.’ [from ‘gang rape’.]

gang bash (also gang bang) n. = PWK.

gangster n. 1 a gang-member. 2 any kind of criminal.

Gangster lean n. the lifestyle, attitude and personality traits of a gang-member: ‘I’d kind of like to go straight when I get out, but I know that I’ll get outside, get the gangster lean on – put my leathers on, put my patch back on, get back into that whole life.’

gannet n. 1 a selfish, greedy person. [British, early 20C; after the bird’s voracious eating habits.] 2 one who takes without asking. [from sense 1.] 3 one who bludges food or other goods from another, e.g. a coffee gannet. [from sense 1.]

gap n. □ get the gap to have the opportunity: ‘If I got the gap, I’d give that guy the bash.’

garçon n. a prison officer. [condescending; from the French word for ‘boy’ commonly applied to a waiter in a restaurant. Used in the sense of a person employed to see to the needs of clients, as prison officers are.] (cf. boy.)

garden crew n. see crew sense 6.

Garden of Eden, the n. Mount Eden Men’s Prison, Auckland. [ironic play on ‘Eden’.]

gas, the = go-gas; petrol.


gate fever n. 1 pre-release tension. Note: gate fever stems from the inmate’s fear of facing the outside world after so long in prison. An inmate with gate fever often experiences nervousness, agitation or excitement; obsessional behaviour (e.g. ticking off each day on his calendar as he counts down to his release date); antisocial behaviour (e.g. hermiting in his cell); and sleepless nights. As one inmate explains: ‘For your last couple of months you’re here physically, but your mind is focused on the outside, wondering what you’re going to do when you get out there.’ The inmate’s reaction to his upcoming release depends largely upon the situation awaiting him on the outside (job, family, finances, etc.) and upon his own inner security and resources. With some extreme cases of gate fever, an inmate may even commit another crime while in prison to prolong his sentence and avoid having to cope with life on the outside. [British, early 20C. 1984 BEATON: ‗Ma: What’s with her? Di: Dunno. Gate fever, I guess. Ma: How long? Di: Three months’ (40). 1991 GRAY: ‘The early excitement of release was disappearing fast as the reality of it all came closer, making him tense and
serious. “Gate Fever” enthusiasm urged him along to try himself out once again’ (89.) 2 the desire to escape from prison. Note: this may be because the inmate is sick of prison and wants freedom, or because he is scared of being attacked, e.g. he may have drug debts.

gathering n. the morning work parade (see parade). [at this time, inmates arrive in the yard from all the wings in the prison. This provides the opportunity for inmates to catch up with their friends and/or business associates. Poss. a play on ‘The Gathering’, the popular annual music festival held near Nelson, attended by people from all around New Zealand.]

GBH abbr. a vicious assault. [from Grievous Bodily Harm.]

GBH v. to seriously assault someone. As one inmate explains: ‘Instead of telling someone to go and give a guy a hiding, you’d say, “I want you to go over and GBH that guy.”’ [from Grievous Bodily Harm.]

GD abbr. General Duties; General Duties Officer, applied to an officer not assigned to any particular wing or set of duties. Note: since the period 1996-2000, the title of General Duties Officer no longer exists. Such officers are now known as ‘runners’, and the Security Officer places them wherever they are needed.

G dog (also G Dogg) n. a gangster (in the general sense of a criminal). [‘Homie’ usage; after the African-American actor and rap artist, Snoop Doggy Dogg, a.k.a. Calvin Broadus (b.1972).] (cf. G.)

gear n. any kind of drugs and the devices for taking them. [British from c.1945. 1982 NEWBOLD: ‘Just $1000 for an ounce of 90 per cent pure heroin. (Nowadays they pay three or four times that amount for gear which is seldom more than 20 per cent.)’ (17). 1984 BEATON: ‘Gear: drugs’ (109). 1991 STEWART: ‘Egg: Hey, bro. This is the life. Lying here, everything supplied – clothes, food, even the gear!... Everyday. It’s all the same. Hey, bro. I got in for gear, and now they’re giving me more than I ever had’ (11). 1994 PARRY: ‘Pinkie: The cops come round to my place! ...They found my purse with some gear in it! Cracks: Christ! You fucking carried that crap with you? What are ya? Pinkie: They’re gonna take the kid off me, if they find out it’s my gear!’ (65). 1994 PAYNE: ‘“She a user too?” Nuke shook his head. “Word is she’s an arrow. Won’t touch the gear but she’s so suckered on Harry she puts up with all this bullshit. Staunch, eh?”’ (69.)]

George Raft n. a draught: ‘Shut the door, there’s a George Raft coming through.’ [rhyming slang.]

Georgie Best n. chest. [rhyming slang; after the Irish soccer star George Best (b.1946) who played for Northern Ireland and Manchester United.]

general n. an officer not assigned to any particular wing or set of duties. [the officer performs ‘general’ duties.] (cf. floater sense 1; GD.)

get v. [] get done 1 to be convicted. 2 to be arrested. get it away to experience a ‘high’ from intravenous drugs. get screwed to be convicted. get smoked to be caught in the act of committing a crime.

get-together n. = gathering.
ghetto, the n. 1 a cell block. 2 = the Bronx senses 2 and 3.

ghost n. a watchful, over-inquisitive prison officer with the tendency to 'appear out of nowhere' to catch inmates performing an illegal activity (cf. floater sense 1; spook).

GI Joes n. pl. = C and R crew; goon squad, the. [after the action figure, GI Joe, a toy soldier marketed with the slogan: 'GI Joe, the American Hero. ']

girlfriend n. 1 an inmate who acts as a servant or runner for a more established inmate (cf. bum boy sense 1). 2 (also boyfriend) a prison officer recently completed his or her training.

git n. a member of the Mongrel Mob. [derogatory; a shortened variant of dog shit, with reference to street-slang 'git' = a contemptible person.]

gizmo n. a telephone.

glass painting book n. a pornographic magazine. [because pornographic magazines are illegal in prison, inmates must refer to them using the titles of more innocent works. Glass painting is a common hobby amongst prison inmates.]

glasshouse n. the prison officials' office (cf. fish bowl).

glory n. marijuana.

glory box n. a vagina full of contraband, usually marijuana. Note: when an inmate picks up a drop, she may conceal it in her vagina so as to bring it into the prison undetected. When the inmate refers to having a glory box, she lets her associates know that she has successfully smuggled the drop back into the prison. [women’s prison argot; from 'glory box', Australian and NZ from c.1915 = a box in which a young woman stores clothes and other prized possessions in preparation for marriage, thus glory box as some sort of container full of 'treasures'; poss. also influenced by the colloquial term 'glory box' = a woman's vagina, NZ early 1970s; glory box is also made up of the two terms glory, in prison = marijuana (one of the most common items involved in a drop), and box, also a slang term for female genitalia: hence glory box as a 'box' in which glory is being stored.] (cf. charge; handbag; honey pot.)

glue n. a pornographic magazine: 'Hey, bro! Got a glue for tonight?' [prob. from stick-book.]

goal n. a prison. [from a misreading of the old spelling 'gaol' (jail) = a prison. This has now become the more common pronunciation amongst inmates.]

go v. [] go belly up 1 to betray, inform upon: 'He said he wouldn't nark, but in the end the pigs beat him and he went belly up.' 2 to be knocked unconscious. go down to be convicted, to go to prison. [British from 1906 = to be sent to prison. 1994 PARRY: 'Pinkie: You could go down for two years. Possession an' attempted robbery. You'll have to dob me in! I'll go mad if I go down again!' (66).] go downtown to go for a walk along the cell block (see street, the). go fishing to send (unauthorised) items to another inmate, usually after lock: 'Make a line and go fishing.' Note: there are several ways in which an inmate may go fishing. A Two inmates may fasten a piece of string between their cell windows on the outside of the building. One inmate hangs the object(s) to be sent on a coathanger or a twisted television
aerial, which is hooked on to the string and slides along to the inmate waiting at the other end. B An inmate may sling an item through the gap under his cell door to another inmate across or further along the corridor. He unwinds some wool from his blanket, or cotton from his sheet, and ties the strands together to create a length of string. Once it reaches a suitable length, the inmate weights the string with a knife, fork, comb, pen, phonocard, magazine or similar flat object that fits through the small gap under the cell door. Next, he ties on the item that he wants to send (e.g. a joint, cigarette, lighter) alongside the weight and flicks it under his door to the other inmate, keeping hold of the other end of the string so that he can retrieve the item if he misses his target. Sometimes these contraptions may be flicked in zigzag fashion from cell to cell down an entire wing. In some cases, an inmate may attach an unwelcome object to another inmate’s line, e.g. he may tie on a piece of newspaper and set it on fire. C An inmate takes a flat hollow object such as a cassette tape. He puts the cigarette, joint, etc. inside and slides the tape under his door to another cell. D (Used in wings with two or more storeys, e.g. at Paremoremo.) An inmate on one of the top landings dangles a nylon line down to an inmate on a lower level (e.g. the workshops). The inmate below ties the required item to the nylon line, and the inmate above gathers up the line and retrieves the contraband. (This process may also be used to send contraband to those waiting below). E This approach is taken in multi-storeyed wings. An inmate takes a coffee mug, ties it to a length of string, and swings it down to the inmate below. NB The practice of going fishing is more common in prisons that have a lot of lockdown, where inmates have only limited opportunity to meet face-to-face. It is worth noting that there are different ways of sending contraband that appear very similar to the processes described above, but do not always come under the umbrella of going fishing (e.g. see fly a kite, sling (one’s) hook). [from the idea that, like when going fishing, one puts out a line, or string, in anticipation of retrieving something.] go hard 1 to do something on one’s own. 2 to display radical behaviour (esp. in a fight). 3 to enjoy oneself, to be relaxed, to go at one’s own pace. 4 to make the most effort without worrying about the result, e.g. if one is in a fight and is going to lose: ‘Don’t back down, but go hard anyway.’ go over 1 to commit suicide, esp. from a drug overdose. 2 to die accidentally as the result of a drug overdose. 3 to be assaulted: ‘That guy’s gonna go over’ or: ‘You’re going over.’ 4 to inform upon, to change sides, to become a turncoat. go under 1 to be convicted. [NZ from 1982; orig. from courtroom procedure. After a sentence was passed in the courtroom, the convicted criminal would ‘go under’ to the police cells below.] 2 to be assaulted: ‘You’re going under.’ go with it (also go with the flow) 1 to serve one’s sentence without cares. 2 to accept that one is in prison.

god n. = lord, the.

god squad n. the Riot Squad, the C and R crew, the goon squad. [from the idea that their authority gives them god-like power.]

godzilla n. $1,000 (cf. gorilla).

go-fast n. = speed sense 1: ‘Get on the go-fast.’

go-gas n. largactil juice.

go-go (also goie) n. = speed sense 1. [a shortened form of go-fast.]

golden shower n. the emptying-out of cell chamberpots. [perhaps from the sexual act of the same name where one partner urinates on the other.]
golden wedding n. a $50 note. [a Golden Wedding celebrates 50 years of marriage.]

golden worm, the n. a hypodermic syringe and needle.

goldie n. = G sense 2.

golf balls n. pl. = basketballs.

gonner n. marijuana. [] on the gonner under the influence of marijuana. [as one inmate explains: ‘When you take it, you’re “gonner” get wasted, and once you have taken it, you’re a “gonner”.’]

gonzo n. a homosexual.

goodnight kiss n. a knockout punch in the style of a king hit.

good night out n. a pornographic magazine: ‘Got any good nights out, bro?’

google factory n. a prison psychiatrist.

goony n. a member of the goon squad.
Note: this term may also be applied to other officers who do not belong to the goon squad but are associated with the goon squad because they wear the same type of uniform, e.g. the handler of the narcotics detection dog.
[US c.1920, from ‘goon’ = a strong-arm man.]

goonies n. pl. = the goon squad: ‘The goonies are coming!’ or: ‘The goonies are in town!’ [from the title of the film, The Goonies (US 1985).]

goon squad, the (also the goons) n. 1 a group of 16 officers who act as a protection force for prison officers. Note: the goon squad is highly trained, and adept at performing C and R techniques (see C and R). In most cases, the goon squad is called in to restrain an inmate or group of inmates whose (usually violent) actions are beyond the control of the prison officers. The inmates’ behaviour may be a result of mental instability, anger, or the influence of drugs and/or alcohol, or may be provoked by a riot or a gang war. Although trained prison officers can operate in groups of four to perform C and Rs, the goon squad is often brought in instead because they are an outside force and are unfamiliar to the inmates. This saves the officers in a unit from having to enter into an unpleasant situation with one of their own inmates and run the risk of future criticism or retaliation. 2 the drug squad.

Gordon and Gotch n. a wristwatch. [rhyming slang; after the British firm of book and periodical exporters.]

gorilla n. $1,000 (cf. godzilla; monkey).

go-slow n. 1 the solitary confinement punishment cell, the pound. [1982 NEWBOLD: ‘Jake told the screw to stop picking on the little guy, and when the screw answered back, Jake punched him in the mouth. So they chucked Jake down the go-slow for a week’ (88). ‘Go-slow (n) Detention unit’ (248).] 2 an inmate who is a time-waster; e.g. it may be his job to clean the wing between 8:00 and 8:30am, but he takes until 8:45 to get the work finished. 3 a barbiturate, a tranquilliser, a ‘downer’, e.g. heroin or a sleeping tablet: ‘Got any go-slows?’ 4 prison: ‘He’s in the go-slow.’ [inmates give two reasons for the coining of this term: firstly, time appears to go slowly due to the boredom and monotony of prison life; and secondly, the unchanging routine of the prison means that inmates get a false impression of the way life is progressing on the outside, and tend to retain a world-view that may eventually be years out of date. One inmate gives this exaggerated example to prove his point: ‘Everything stops for
guys in here, you know, some guys are back in the 1960s, or the 1940s – hell, some guys are back in the 1920s running round with pinstripe suits and machine guns and everything’s lovely. Then they get outside and they freak out.’] 5 Home Detention (see dog collar).

GR abbr. a sentence for the crime of gang rape: ‘He’s doing the GR.’

grandma (also grandnan) n. (in a women’s prison) an old inmate.

granny fucker n. an inmate in prison for raping an elderly woman.
Note: within the prison social hierarchy, such an inmate is the equivalent of a kid fucker.

grape n. a 30mg morphine sulphate tablet. [the 30mg tablet is purple.]

grey (also greycoat) n. a 100mg morphine sulphate tablet (MST). [from its colour; an inmate may also identify an MST with a figurative reference to its colour, as one inmate says: ‘If you ask someone, “What’s the weather like?” and he says, “Oh, it’s a bit grey,” he’s telling you he’s got 100 mg of morphine for you.’] (cf. grey day.)

grey bar hotel n. prison. [cynically descriptive.]

grey day n. a 100mg morphine sulphate tablet (MST): ‘What’s the weather like where you are?’ ‘Oh, it’s a bit cloudy, bit of a grey day.’ (cf. grey; greycoat.)

greyhound n. 1 a thin-rolled marijuana joint. [from similarity to a greyhound, a thin, skinny dog; New Zealand slang from c.1970 = a thin rolled tobacco cigarette.] 2 a 100mg MST (cf. greycoat).

gristle and grunt n. vagina. [rhyming slang for ‘cunt’; a variant of Cockney ‘grumble and grunt’, also ‘gasp —’, ‘groan —’, ‘growl —’ and ‘grasp —’, 20C.]

grunt and groan n. a telephone.
[rhyming slang.]

**grunt run, the n. = kangaroo line.**

**guardian n.** A lawyer. [A lawyer’s job is to defend the accused and to look after his or her interests.]

**gun n.** 1 A hypodermic syringe and needle (cf. fiddley and gun). 2 A tattoo machine (cf. boob gun). [**gun of pain** a tattoo machine.]

**gutter rat n.** 1 A street-kid. 2 An inmate who spends much of his time in his cell. [(from sense 1) This term stems from the attitude of some inmates who believe that their cells are substandard and are not proper residences; thus, one who spends much of his time in his cell is seen to resemble a street-kid hanging out under a bridge or in a gutter.]

**guys, the n. pl.** One’s fellow gang-members or associates (cf. boys, the).
H

H abbr. 1 heroin, a Class A drug derived from the milk of the opium poppy. [drug addicts’ and peddlers’ slang since the early 1920s. Many slang terms for heroin may be identified by their initial letter ‘H’ (cf. hammer; Harry; horse; huey).] 2 halcyon.

hack n. a prison officer. [US from c.1934. 1982 NEWBOLD: ‘Hack (n) Prison officer’ (249).]

hairy ape n. rape. [rhyming slang.]

hairy fairy n. an angry prison officer. [# hairy fairies! ‘Watch out! Angry officers are coming!’ [women’s prison argot.]

halcie (also hellie) n. a halcyon pill.

half a dollar n. 1 six months’ imprisonment. [before the advent of decimal currency, this term was known as half a pound; both ‘dollar’ and ‘pound’ = one year.] 2 a person lacking in intelligence and/or social skills (cf. fifty-center).

half-an-hour obs (also half-hourlys) n. = see obs sense 1.

half a pound n. see half a dollar.

half inch v. to steal. [rhyming slang for ‘pinch’, ex-Cockney, late 19C. Some sources suggest that this term was originally ‘half hinch’, modified as a result of h-dropping amongst Cockney speakers.]

half-wit harry n. a male visitor or male partner of an inmate.

ham and eggs n. pl. legs. [rhyming slang; British from before WWI; South African from c.1946.] hamburger, the (also works burger, the) n. a life sentence. [in terms of a prison sentence, the inmate has received a big one, ‘the works’. ‘The works’ is sometimes used to describe a large hamburger containing all available ingredients from the menu; such a burger, known as a works burger, is advertised by KFC (Kentucky Fried Chicken).]

hammer n. heroin. [a shortened form of hammer and tack. 1982 NEWBOLD: ‘Craig was the longest-termer of us, and was doing eight for importing coke and hammer’ (217).]

hammer v. to seriously assault someone.

hammer and tack n. heroin (and the outfit that goes with it: hypodermic syringe, etc.). Commonly abbreviated to hammer or tack. [rhyming slang for smack; NZ from mid-1970s, coinciding with the involvement of the criminal element in the drug trade. A criminalised variant of the extant ‘hammer and tack’ = back (US 1944), and = track (Australian 1944).]

hammer, the n. 1 the toughest, most respected in mate in the prison. 2 an assault, the bash. 3 in a gang, the person whose job it is to do the hits (assaults, killings), esp. using a gun. [from sense 2, or a reference to the hammer on a gun.] 4 a judge. [metonymy: a defining feature of the judge is his or her wooden hammer.]
hammerhead n. 1 a skinhead. [from the similarity between a skinhead’s bald head and the shiny metal ball on the head of a hammer.] 2 an intravenous drug user, esp. one addicted to heroin (cf. hammer).

hand n. an ounce (28.4g) of marijuana.

handbag n. = glory box.

handle v. [] handle the jandal (also handle like a jandal) = handle the lag. As one inmate says: ‘If you can’t wear the jandals, don’t put them on your feet.’

hand solo n. a thief, a tealeafyer. [evokes the image of a lone inmate taking his fellow inmates’ possessions; a play on Han Solo, a character first played by Harrison Ford in the film Star Wars (US 1977).]

hanger n. [] on the hanger = on the coat.

hang v. [] hang around to commit suicide by hanging: ‘Don’t disturb him, he’s just hanging around.’ hang it up to stop coming to prison, to retire from one’s career as a criminal (cf. hang the toothbrush). hang paper to pass false cheques: ‘He’s hanging paper all over town.’ [US 1914.] hang the boots up = hang the toothbrush. hang up (one’s) balaclava (also hang up (one’s) crowbar) = hang the toothbrush (see toothbrush).

hangman’s day n. an inmate’s release date, day of release. [poss. a way of referring to one’s last day in prison, as it would be for an executed prisoner? One inmate also suggests that hangman’s day is so-called because: ‘The choice is up to the inmate whether he succeeds on the outside or whether he “hangs himself” – gets into trouble and ends up back in prison.’]

happening n. a drug-induced ‘high’.

happy face n. see zebra.

happy sack n. a weapon made from batteries in a sock. [a play on ‘hacky sack’; a person hit on the head with such a weapon is rendered ‘happy’ (i.e. silly, dazed). Although a pool ball may be used instead of batteries in a happy sack, batteries are preferable because, if the weapon is confiscated, inmates can still play a proper game of pool.] (cf. boob cosh; dolly; donkey sense 4).

hard gear (also hard stuff) n. heroin. [for drug users, hard may also apply to any other strong (usually Class A) drug. 1982 NEWBOLD: ‘I sometimes held hard, it was difficult ... not to slip into the habit of selling a bit of peth., morph., opium tincture and so on’ (15).]

hard jube n. one who is tough, staunch, resilient, a ‘hard man’. [makes reference to a ‘Hard Jube’, a type of sugar-coated, gelatinous confectionery marketed as a variation upon the traditional and more well-known ‘Fruit Jube’. Hard Jubes are harder, tougher to eat, and more long-lasting than conventional Jubes.]

hard-on n. a pornographic magazine.

hard rock café n. a prison. [after the international restaurant chain, est. London, 1971.] (cf. rock college; rock, the.)
hardware n. a firearm.

Harlem Slums, the n. pl. see street, the.

harmony room n. a suicidal cell for ‘at-risk’ inmates, with walls painted pale pink. Psychologists believe that pink has a calming effect (cf. pink box).

harmony wing n. a wing of the prison in which there are no gang-members, usually containing a peaceable mixture of mainstream and segregation inmates.

harpoon n. a hypodermic syringe and needle.

Harry n. heroin. [from ‘H’ as the initial letter; also known in the US as ‘Harry Jones’. Used as a code in face-to-face conversation, or on the telephone: ‘Guess who’s been around here, lately?’ ‘Who?’ ‘Harry.’ ‘Oh, I’d better come around for a coffee so that we can talk about Harry.’ If a person is under the influence of heroin, he is said to ‘be with Harry.’]

Harry Blows n. nose. [rhyming slang; associated with the drug user’s meaning of ‘blow’ = to inhale powdered drugs through the nostrils.]

Harry Lime n. time: ‘Hey, you’ve got a watch, mate, have you got the Harry Lime?’ [rhyming slang.]

has-been n. an officer not assigned to any particular wing or set of duties, placed wherever in the prison he is needed. [as one inmate explains: ‘He “has been” there and he’s going to be somewhere else, later.’]

Hataitai Tunnel n. a loose, promiscuous woman. [the woman resembles a tunnel because she experiences a lot of ‘traffic’; the Hataitai Tunnel is the main tunnel that connects State Highways 1 and 2 with Wellington’s City Centre.] (cf. TC sense 3.)

haunted house n. Mount Eden Prison. [many executions took place at Mount Eden prison when New Zealand practised capital punishment (finally abolished by the Crimes Act, 1961). Some current inmates believe that the ghosts of these past criminals still haunt the prison.]

head n. 1 (also head pig) a prison guard, esp. the Officer in Charge, or the Site Manager. [a blend of pig = prison officer + head screw = the general term for the Officer in Charge.] 2 largactil. 3 marijuana of good quality taken from the ‘head’ (the bud of the plant).

headlice n. pl. the police. [from pronunciation of (the spelling of) ‘police’ = po-lice.]

head office n. a women’s prison. [a play on the Department of Corrections Head Office (Wellington), with reference to the conventionally female sexual activity of performing fellatio, also known as ‘giving head’.]

health camp (also health centre) n. a prison, particularly applied to a minimum-security prison situated in the countryside (cf. farm; fitness centre).

heart n. courage. [US 1945; NZ 1982; 1982 NEWBOLD: ‘Heart (n) Courage’ (249). 1987 REID: ‘When Redrup first came to Parry ... by gee, he had a ton of
heart. Very much like me earlier on' (25).]

heart of all prisons, the n. Paremoremo Prison.

heat, the n. 1 the police, police activity. [US' from c.1928 = being wanted (and sought for) by the police.] 2 suspicion. [NZ from 1982.] [] feel the heat to be under suspicion, esp. from police or prison officers.

heavy adj. 1 violent, threatening. [from 'heavy' = involving force or violence, US from mid-1920s.] 2 extreme, concentrated. 3 involving intense police scrutiny.

heavy boy n. an inmate who performs standovers and other extortion techniques, and may act as a personal bodyguard for a prestigious inmate.

hedgehog n. a Devil's Henchmen gang-member. [derogatory; a play on 'Henchman', the common term for a member.] (cf. Henchman.)

heel v. to arm oneself: 'You going to go on him? Watch out, he's heeled.' [US 1914.] (cf. tool up.)

heist n. an (armed) robbery, a hold-up. [US from c.1930.]

hell crew n. a particularly close or reliable group of friends in prison: 'If you're going to prison and there are other members of your gang up there or friends who are hard guys, you can say, "I'll be all right, I've got the hell crew up there."' (cf. crew sense 1.)

Hell's Bundies n. pl. the Hell's Angels gang. [derogatory; from a play on 'Hell's Angels' alluding to Al Bundy, the dim-witted character from the US television sitcom, Married With Children.]

Hell's Bundy n. a Hell's Angels gang-member. [a play on 'Al Bundy' (see above).]

help v. [] help thyself to commit rape.

Henchman n. a Devil's Henchmen gang-member. [the Devil's Henchmen is a motorcycle gang, involved in organised crime.]

Henrietta n. a letter. [rhyming slang.]

her majesty's holiday camp n. a prison.

her majesty's hotel (also her majesty's motel) n. = her majesty's holiday camp.

her majesty's tour n. a transfer to another prison.

hermit n. 1 an inmate who shuns the company of his fellow inmates and keeps to his cell most of the time. [the inmate lives alone, away from the 'mob', hence 'hermit'.] (cf. cell crab.) 2 a prison officer who is 'married to his job' with no external interests, spending all his time in an isolated institution.

hermit v. to shun the company of others and remain constantly in one's cell: 'You hardly ever see x in the wing, he's always hermiting.'

hideaway n. a Highway 61 gang-member. [derogatory; a play on 'highway'.] (cf. flyway.)
high knob n. the prison Site Manager (formerly, the Superintendent).

highland fling n. an injection of intravenous drugs. [rhyming slang for a ping; criminalised variant of Cockney ‘highland fling’ = ring.]

high school n. prison; one step up from corrective training (cf. primary school; uni).

highway n. 1 a Highway 61 gang-member. 2 the main corridor at Paparua Prison. 3 the main corridor at Christchurch Women’s Prison.

highway robbery n. an act of assault and theft performed upon a fellow inmate while in his cell. As one inmate explains: ‘If I say I’m going down the road to do a highway robbery, it means I’m going down the wing to some guy’s cell to smash him over and take all his gear.’

hill, the n. 1 New Plymouth Prison. 2 (less commonly) Mount Crawford Prison. 3 Napier Prison; closed since c.1990. 4 Mount Eden Men’s Prison. [NZ from c.1950; not in current use. 1950 HAMILTON: ‘The Hill is just about permanently short of screws, which incidentally shows what sort of place it is’ (15).]

Hillary (also Edmund Hillary or Sir Edmund Hillary) n. a $5 note. [the explorer, Sir Edmund Hillary (b.1919), is featured on the New Zealand $5 note.]

Hilton, the n. a prison, most frequently applied to New Plymouth Prison. [from a cynical reference to prison as a hotel (cf. Arohata Hotel; Ritz, the) and a play on ‘hill’ and its association with New Plymouth Prison (cf. hill, the sense 1).]

him-and-her n. = pound.

hinaki n. 1 the solitary confinement cell, the pound. 2 a prison. [NZ from 1945; a transferred or figurative use of Māori hinaki = ‘eelpot’, a trap to catch eels or tuna.]

history n. one’s criminal record (cf. CV; file; résumé).

hit n. 1 an object or act of burglary or assault. Note: a criminal will usually organise a hit by entering into a financial contract with a hit-man (the person who performs the hit). 2 an intravenous drug injection. [US from early 1990s.] 3 a cell-search: ‘There’s a hit going down at the other end of the wing, so you’d better stash your gear if you don’t want the screws to find it.’ ◊ do a hit to conduct a (contract) killing, assault or theft. do a hit with the golfball eyes to carry out a theft or an assault wearing a balaclava. [when wearing a black balaclava, one’s eye areas appear large and pale, resembling golfballs.] put a hit on someone to mark someone for an attack.

hit v. 1 to assault 2 to burgle. 3 (also hit up) to inject a drug. [NZ 1972; also current US. 1994 PAYNE: “Can you hit me up, Sid?” asked Flynn. “Oh, man,” I said. “Again?” I took the syringe and held it up to the sun, flicking at the bubbles with my forefinger. “I could get fourteen years for administering” (29).] 4 to search an inmate’s cell. ◊ hit one’s room hard (as an officer) to conduct an extremely thorough search of an inmate’s cell: ‘That fuckin’ screw’s a wanker, he hit my room hard.’ hit the
toe n. to escape, esp. from prison. [Australian.]

hit-and-miss n. urine, act of urinating. [rhyming slang for 'piss'. US Pacific Coast, late 19C-20C; also extant Cockney = kiss. 1982 NEWBOLD: 'Hit-and-miss (n) ... Urine' (249).]

hit-and-miss v. to urinate. [rhyming slang for 'piss'. 1982 NEWBOLD: 'Hit-and-miss (v) ... urinate' (249).]

Hitler's office n. the Control Room, prison officials' office, guard house; applied particularly to the office of the Unit Manager.

hit squad n. = goon squad, the.

Ho Chi Minh n. 1 chin. [rhyming slang. 1982 NEWBOLD: 'Ho Chi Minh (n) Chin' (249).] (cf. Murray Flynn.) 2 prison: 'You're off to Ho Chi Minh, bro.'

hoist n. a hold-up, a robbery, a burglary. [British from c.1714 as 'go (up) on the hoist' = to break into a house by climbing through the window at night, current until c.1840; British from 1797 as 'hoist' = shop-lifting, or robbing a shop. Current in the US by the early 20C: 1914 = pickpocketing, 1937 = shoplifting, 1941 = breaking and entering.]

hoist v. to rob, hold up, burgle. [US from c.1859 = to steal as a shoplifter (most likely current in Britain at least a generation earlier); US 1925 = to rob houses by climbing through a window.]

hold n. a game of football, sometimes played on grass. Hold is similar to touch: once the player with the ball is 'held' he must pass the ball on. 'We tell the officers we play hold, but instead we play crash.' Hold is a milder, more humane form of crash: 'With hold, you just tackle the guy, you don't throw him down and try to kill him.'

hold v. to be in possession of drugs or other contraband. [US prison argot from mid-20C, still current. 1994 PAYNE: "Did you go see Spinner?" Sonny persists. "Spinner's always holding, he'll see you right" (87). 1999 KAWANA: 'The drugs ran out on Christmas Eve. Shara ... flicked through her address book, trying to suss out which of her friends would be holding and owed her a favour or three' (87).]

holding n. a store of contraband, usually drugs.

holder n. an inmate in possession of drugs or other contraband, one who is holding.

hole n. 1 a cell. 2 (the hole) the solitary confinement punishment cell. [US early 20C.] 2 (the hole) a prison. [US early 20C. 1992 DUFF: 'But, Benny, we get done with a gun involved, it's a long time in the hole' (14).] 3 (the hole) the boss, the chief officer. [from 'arsehole'.]

holiday n. 1 an LSD tab. [from the association with 'having a trip'. In a script, an inmate might write to another: 'I'll be going on a holiday somewhere.' This will indicate to the reader that the inmate has some LSD for sale or recreational use.] 2 a period of time spent in the solitary confinement cell. 3 a period of time spent living in general
society, released from prison. Note: for institutionalised inmates, prison is a comfortable, known environment where they feel that they belong. In contrast, life on the outside is perceived as alien, and many of these inmates treat their release as a temporary situation that exists until they reoffend and return to prison: ‘My release date’s next week, so I’ll be going on a holiday, but I’ll be coming home soon.’

holiday camp (also holiday resort) n. 1 a prison, esp. a low-medium-security or minimum-security institution. 2 an easy, carefree prison sentence.

holiday home n. a prison. [] Kaitoke Holiday Home Kaitoke (Wanganui) Prison.

hollow log n. a dog, esp. the narcotics detection dog. [rhyming slang.] Note: one inmate tells the story that in the past, when the narcotics detection dog came, the inmate in the first cell in the block would shout, ‘Hollow log!’ This would let the other inmates know that there was going to be a drug search, and toilets all the way down the corridor would flush as the inmates got rid of their illegal parcels. The term hollow log was supposed to be used as a code in order to lessen the authorities’ suspicion about the simultaneously flushing toilets.

holy diver n. an inmate who regularly attends church.

home n. 1 one’s cell. 2 one’s residence on the outside. Note: an inmate may make a distinction between his house and his home: his house being his cell and his home referring to his ‘real home’, where he lives on the outside. 3 (also home sweet home) prison. Note: in contrast to sense 2, a long-term, institutionalised inmate may not identify with life on the outside, prison being the place where he has status, reputation, friends, a familiar environment and lifestyle, and appropriate skills. Thus, prison is the place he legitimately calls home. [] at home or down home in one’s cell. home alone in the pound (sense 1) or on OPs.

homebake n. a characteristic morphine product yielded from commercially available pharmaceutical products containing opioid painkillers such as codeine and morphine sulphate. Note: a large number of small-scale illicit homebake laboratories exist in New Zealand. Very simple laboratory equipment and reagents are required to manufacture homebake, and these can be utilised by people with very little or no chemistry background, following a recipe-like procedure. Several versions of this ‘recipe’ exist. Once prepared, the homebake morphine concoction may be converted into heroin. Although the term homebake is common to drug users outside prison, it has special currency inside prison as several boobslang terms relate to it, and prison inmates have their own specific methods of producing homebake, e.g. see crash v.

home invasion n. a P119, canteen form. [like a home invasion, a P119 is one way for a criminal to acquire goods.]

Homer n. an inmate serving life imprisonment. [after Homer Simpson, a character from the US cartoon show, The Simpsons (1989-), who spends much of his time sitting at home watching television; from the perception of some inmates that an inmate serving a life sentence sits in his house (cell) all day and goes nowhere.]

hone out v. to arrest.

honeymoon suite n. (Dunedin Prison) the biggest cell in the prison, with room for two inmates. [a variant of ‘bridal suite’ (NZ 1980) = a cell containing two inmates.] (cf. penthouse.)

honey pot n. a vagina full of contraband. Note: when an inmate picks up a drop, she may conceal it in her vagina so as to bring it into the
prison undetected. When an inmate refers to having a honey pot, she lets her associates know that she has successfully smuggled a package into the prison.

[women’s prison argot; from street-slang ‘honey pot’ = a vagina.] (cf. glory box.)

hong kong n. a form of ‘gibberish’ used by inmates at Arohata Women’s Prison in order to carry on secret communications.

Note: although there are many differing forms of gibberish used in various prisons, hong kong adds -ong to every letter of the words spoken; e.g. the name ‘Wendy’ would be pronounced WongEongNongDongYong. When spoken fluently, the actual meaning of the message is virtually incomprehensible.

[the name ‘Hong Kong’ indicates the way in which the gibberish is constructed.]

hong kong v. to disguise a spoken message by turning it into hong kong gibberish (see above): ‘If we want to say something to someone without other people knowing, we just hong kong it.’

hood n. [] on the hood to be part of a Māori or Pacific Island-oriented group, e.g. Homies, the Mongrel Mob, or the Black Power.

hood, the n. the cell block, the wing, the prison compound. [used particularly by younger Māori or Pacific Island inmates, from urban African-American vernacular ‘the hood’ = one’s neighbourhood; this accurately describes the way in which inmates see their cell block. Many Māori and Pacific Island inmates identify with African-American culture.]

hook n. [] on the hook = on the coat.

hook up v. to smoke marijuana.

hoopbanger n. an inmate who bullies his fellow inmates, often using physical force.

hope n. [] no hope and they weren’t smart a derogatory expression describing the police as stupid and incompetent. [alludes to the police investigation into the double murder of Olivia Hope and Ben Smart, who went missing from Queen Charlotte Sound on New Year’s Day 1999, presumed murdered. The bodies of the pair have not yet been recovered.]

hoppy n. = brew; homebrew.

horse n. heroin. [drug users’, from initial letter ‘H’, and from the idea that one ‘rides high’ on the drug. US c.1940; also current British.] (cf. white horse.)

horse and cart n. a fart. [rhyming slang; a variant of Cockney ‘horse and cart’ = heart, from c.1909.]

horse’s hoof n. a homosexual. [rhyming slang for ‘poof’; an alternative to ‘iron hoof’, British from 1938.] (cf. cow’s hoof.)

hotel n. 1 prison. 2 (hotels) the different compounds where inmates are housed away from the main prison buildings (cf. huts).

Hotel California n. a prison. [inmates often refer ironically to prison as a hotel, e.g. four star hotel, grey bar hotel, the Ritz; this term also makes specific reference to the song, ‘Hotel California’ (1976) by US band, The Eagles, with the apt lyrics: ‘You can check out anytime you like, / But you can never leave.’]
hound n. 1 the police narcotics detection dog. 2 a watchful and over-inquisitive prison officer. Note: a hound holds his keys to prevent them from rattling so that inmates cannot hear him approaching.

house n. a cell. Note: an inmate's cell is an important aspect of his prison life. A person's house is the place where he achieves privacy, solitude, and also individuality, as this is where personal property is kept: house for 'cell' reflects this sentiment transferred to a prison situation. [US from c.1920.] 1 in the house aware, informed. As one inmate explains: 'If someone's in the house, he's on to it, he's in the know about what's going on, he's "the man".'

house m n. a halcyon pill (usually small, blue and football-shaped).

huey n. heroin. [from initial letter 'H'.] (cf. big huey, the)

hui n. = parley. [from Māori hui = 'meeting' or 'discussion'.]

hundie n. a bag of skunk weed to the value of $100. [tinny house slang; poss. from street-slang 'hundie' = a $100 note.]

hundred (also hundred m) n. a 100mg morphine sulphate tablet. [from the mg amount.]

husband and wife, the n. two inmates who are very close friends. As one inmate explains: 'The husband and wife are two guys who are the best of mates. Anything goes down, they're going to back each other up to the hilt.' (cf. Dad and Dave.)

hut n. 1 a cell. [Australian convicts' slang late 18C = convict living quarters; in NZ, used with greater frequency in prison camps, minimum-security work institutions. 1953 HAMILTON: 'When he saw he wasn't having any effect, he told a screw to take me up to the Red Compound and lock me up in a hut there' (24.)] 2 (huts) the different areas where inmates are housed away from the main prison buildings (cf. unit).

hyena n. = seagull.
IC abbr. In Charge; the chief officer currently on duty in a prison or prison unit.

Note: the IC is now known as an SCO (Senior Corrections Officer); see the chief for an explanation of the current officer ranking system.

ice cream parlour, the n. 1 the solitary confinement punishment cell, the pound. [an inmate may find that his time in solitary confinement gives him a chance to relax and to take a break from his fellow inmates and his daily life in the wing; poss. from 'ice-box' = a solitary confinement cell, US 1931.] 2 (Mount Eden Men's Prison) the staff 'smoko room'. 3 (Mount Eden Men's Prison) the police interview room. 4 (Mount Eden Men's Prison) the room where charges are heard and where 'special visits' (e.g. grievance visits, marriages, conjugal visits) take place. [one inmate gives this possible derivation: 'When you have conjugals, there's cream everywhere.'] 5 a cell for mentally unbalanced or 'at-risk' inmates. 6 the medical area of a prison, the sick-bay. 7 the Control Room, prison officials' office, guard house.

icon n. a highly respected inmate, usually an old lagger (sense 1).

ID card n. [] here's your ID card indicates that the inmate addressed is an idiot. [used specifically in a situation when one inmate hands another a spoon as he says these words, implying that the other inmate is a 'spoon' = an idiot.]

IDU abbr. Identified Drug User (see keg).
for boob gear.

interislander n. a transfer between prisons. [after the name of the ferry that travels between Wellington and Picton.]

iron n. 1 a weapon of some sort, most commonly applied to a firearm, but also applied to an iron bar, a knife, or metal ripped from a prison bed. [British from c.1835 = a pistol; US, 19C = a revolver, an adaptation of Western ‘shooting iron’.] 2 a tattoo machine.

isolation n. [on isolation in the pound (sense 1).

isolation cell n. 1 = the pound sense 1. [1980 MacKENZIE: ‘[the hanging scaffold] was erected in a tiny yard outside the separate division or pound – the “prison’s prison” – the punishment block with isolation cells’ (73).] 2 a padded cell for suicidal inmates.

I suppose n. nose. [rhyming slang; British from 1857, apparently obsolescent in Britain by mid-20C; US Pacific Coast, late 19C-20C, still current. 1982 NEWBOLD: ‘I suppose (n) Nose’ (249).]

it n. a person whose general behaviour is considered so socially unacceptable as to be almost subhuman (cf. thing).

itchy feet n. 1 the desire to escape, either from the prison, or from one area of the prison to another, e.g. from a mainstream wing to a protection or segregation wing. 2 pre-release tension: ‘He’s changed over the last few weeks.’ ‘Yeah, his date’s coming up and he’s got itchy feet.’ (cf. gate fever, sense 1.)
**J**

**J** *n.* a marijuana cigarette. [abbreviation of ‘joint’.]

**jab** *n.* 1 needle (cf. brace and bit). 2 a hypodermic injection. [drug users’; US from c.1914.]

**jab** *v.* 1 to stab somebody. 2 to inject drugs. [US early 20C.]

**jack** *n.* 1 one milligram (esp. indicates the strength of drugs in tablet form): ‘The misties are one dollar a jack.’ 2 a detective, a (plain-clothes) police officer. [British tramps’ and beggars’ slang c.1854 = a policeman, c.1886 = a detective. 1941 SARGESON: ‘We all had to stand there with a crowd of jacks in plain clothes standing round, and one in uniform called out our names and said what we’d been picked up for’ (194). 1982 NEWBOLD: ‘Jack (n) 1. Detective’ (249).] 3 = brew; homebrew. [1982 NEWBOLD: ‘All the queens and some of the boys had been drinking raisin jack and swallowing pills they’d got from somewhere, and were falling around all over the place as plates of peanuts, cups of orange drink, and bits of burnt cake were passed around’ (126). ‘Jack (n) … 2. Prisoners’ home brew’ (249).] 4 a barbiturate (see jack-and-jill).

**jack-and-jill** *n.* a pill: ‘I wouldn’t mind seeing jack-and-jill.’ Commonly abbreviated to jack or jill. Specifically, a jack is a barbiturate that immediately produces a sedating, tranquillising, or depressing effect; also known as a ‘downer’ and, on extreme occasions, a ‘gutter drug’. Examples include Valium, halcyon, oxfam, rivitrol, and MSTs. A jill, on the other hand, is an amphetamine, or ‘upper’, producing a stimulating high that lasts for a while before the user returns to normal. Examples include speed and Ecstasy. [rhyming slang; from the nursery-rhyme: ‘Jack and Jill went up the hill … Jack fell down … and Jill came tumbling after.’ A variant of Cockney ‘Jack-and-Jill’ = birth control pill, till, bill, or hill. 1982 NEWBOLD: ‘Jack-and-jills (n) Pills’ (249).]

**Jack Brit** *n.* shit. [rhyming slang.] (cf. Edna Brit.)

**jacket** *n.* a person who covers for another during or after a hit, e.g. he may provide an alibi, or take the weapon used in the hit and pass it on, or perform any action that deflects suspicion away from the guilty party (cf. blanket). [] on the jacket shunned, ostracised, ignored by one’s fellow inmates. on the heavy jacket shunned or ostracised to an extreme degree. [1982 NEWBOLD: ‘Kapua, in the meantime, was put on the heavy jacket by the Maoris in the can and was sitting at a table all by himself’ (198).] (cf. heavily coated; on the coat.)

**jackhammer** *n.* a hypodermic syringe and needle (cf. brace and bit; harpoon).

**Jack Horner** *n.* corner. [rhyming slang; orig. British, from the nursery-rhyme: ‘Little Jack Horner sat in the corner’; US from c.1920.]

**jack rabbit** *n.* a drug habit. [rhyming slang.]

**jaffa** *n.* a Pākehā who identifies as a Māori. [after a jaffa, a confectionery
item made from chocolate coated in red candy; used in this sense to stand for a person who is 'red [pink] on the outside' but 'brown on the inside'.]

**jailhouse lawyer** *n.* an inmate who knows everything about the rules governing the correct running of the prison, e.g. about the information contained in the Department of Corrections rule books and their implications for both inmates and officers, about codes of conduct, inmates’ rights, and about the laws of the land as far as they pertain to the functioning of prisons.

Note: because a **jailhouse lawyer** is a keen advocate of inmates’ rights, his fellow inmates may consult him over matters to do with their prison sentences, e.g. an inmate may want to lodge an appeal and may need some advice as to how to go about it. Usually a **jailhouse lawyer** is an **old lagger**, simply by virtue of his long-term experience with prison life and the prison system.

**jam** *n.* alcohol illegally brewed by prison inmates. [inmates commonly use fruit in their recipes to help ferment their alcohol and to add flavour.] (cf. **brew**; **marmalade** sense 1.)

**jam jar** *n.* a car: ‘Put the billy lids in the jam jar.’ [rhyming slang; British from late 19C = a tramcar, first decade of 20C = a motor car, in the R.A.F. during WWII = an armoured car. 1982 NEWBOLD: ‘Jam-jar (n) Car’ (250).]

**jam tart** *n.* heart. [rhyming slang; a variant of Cockney ‘jam-tart’ = sweetheart, from 19C.]

**jandal slapper** *n.* a person with dark skin. [derogatory.]

**jar** *n.* person with dark skin. [poss. rhyming slang for ‘tar’; or a reference to ‘Jah’, for Rastafarians, a synonym for Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie as a manifestation of the Godhead (from an archaic form of ‘Jehovah’).]

**jelly** *n.* a temazepam capsule. [from temazepam’s gel-like consistency.]

**jellyfish** *n.* an inmate unable to handle the pressures of prison life. [a transferred use of ‘jellyfish’ to stand for someone ‘spineless’, i.e. cowardly.]

**jelly man** *n.* a safe-opening expert.

Note: one inmate explains that in the past, being a **jelly man** gave an inmate high status in the prison: ‘He was considered the cream of the cream of crimes, a gentleman criminal.’ [from ‘jelly’ = gelignite, an explosive substance commonly used to blow safes; British from c.1925.]

**jelly pud** *adj.* pretty good. [rhyming slang.]

**jill** *n.* an amphetamine (see **jack-and-jill**).

**jimmy** *n.* a firearm, esp. a pistol.

**jingle bells** *n.* a procedure whereby officers hit the bars of inmates’ cells with lengths of wood or metal to ensure that inmates have not tried to cut through the bars in an attempt to escape. [from the ‘ringing’ sound made by the bars when they are struck.]

**job** *n.* a robbery, burglary, hold up, etc.; any situation in which one goes to work to make money illegally. [British, early 18C.]

**Joe Baxi** *n.* a taxi: ‘I’m just going to call for a **Joe Baxi** to pick up my visitors and...
take them home.’ [Cockney rhyming slang; now the name of a British taxi company.]

**John Roach** *n.* rape.

**John Walker** *n.* [do a John Walker] to escape from prison, to ‘do a runner’. [after John Walker, NZ track athlete and winner of the gold medal for the 1500m at the 1976 Montreal Olympics.]

**John Wayne** *n.* brain. [rhyming slang, after the US film actor (1907-1979); variant of Cockney ‘John Wayne’ = train, 20C.]

**Johnny Cash** *n.* money. [after the US country music singer, songwriter and guitarist (1932-).]

**Johnny dip** *n.* LSD. [rhyming slang for trip; a variant of lucky dip.]

**Johnny Hopper** (also **John Hop**) *n.* a policeman. [rhyming slang for ‘copper’ or ‘cop’. NZ c.1905. 1941 BAKER: ‘Children prefer shanghai to catapult, chink to Chinaman, and John Hop to policeman’ (62).]

**Johnny Horner** (also **Johnnie Horner**) *n.* corner. [rhyming slang; a variant of Jack Horner. 1982 NEWBOLD: ‘Johnny (Horner)’ (n) Corner’ (250).]

**Johnny lunchbox** (also **Joe lunchbox**) *n.* a ‘straight’, naive person; a person without a criminal record; an inmate with no previous convictions, a first-time offender. [apparently from the inmates’ schooldays when the possession of a packed lunch in a lunchbox distinguished the ‘straight’, privileged children from the less respectable, underprivileged children, who had nothing.]

**Johnny’s up** *n.* a cup. [rhyming slang.]

**joint** *n.* a prison. [British and US from 19C; poss. from the cant word for a gambling den, where thieves, conartists would congregate; hence a building containing a concentration of thieves, swindlers, criminals etc., as in prison.]

**joint-wise** *adj.* (of an inmate) well-versed in the lifestyle and customs of the prison. [US from 1933.]

**judas hole** *n.* an inspection hole in a cell door. [British from 1865. 1982 NEWBOLD: ‘Judas hole (n) Inspection hole in cell door’ (250). 1989 NEWBOLD: ‘It had been decided that hangings would now take place an hour earlier – at 7.00pm – and that all inmates would be locked up before the event, with their judas holes closed’ (100). ‘[T]he judas hole is the spy-hole set in the steel cell doors (114). 1991 GRAY: [The] “Judas hole” – the sliding shutter through which the warden is able to view the interior of the cell from outside’ (96).]

**juice, the** *n.* 1 = **jungle juice** (senses 1 and 2).

**jungle juice** *n.* 1 largactil in liquid form. 2 methadone, a heroin substitute used chiefly in the treatment of heroin addicts. 3 datura.
K

K n. ketamine.

Note: ketamine is a veterinary and medical anaesthetic, and has dissociative and psychedelic effects at lower doses. It comes in the form of a small white pill; a liquid, which may be swallowed or injected (usually into a muscle rather than a vein); or a powder (produced by boiling the liquid), which may be either swallowed or snorted. Because ketamine is a prescription-only medicine, unauthorised supply is illegal. Currently, ketamine is especially fashionable amongst those in the gay nightclub scene. When discussing anything to do with ketamine, slang terms which incorporate the letter 'K' are popular, as are terms beginning with 'E' for Ecstasy, and 'H' for heroin (cf. Kahlua, Special K).

kackle pants n. a person who mistakenly regards himself as being in a position of power; the opposite of a king pin: 'A person who thinks he's the KP when he's not.'

Kahlua n. ketamine (cf. K). [Kahlua is a coffee liqueur, providing a useful camouflage term.]

kaka fulla n. a false, untruthworthy, deceptive or untruthful person. [from Māori kaka = 'shit' (both in the sense of lies or rubbish, and in the sense of one held in low esteem), and 'fulla' = fellow.] (cf. plastic gangster.)

kakapo n. a $100 note. [the kakapo (native parrot) is featured on this note.] (cf. redback; tomato.)

kangaroo court n. an informal court set up by prison inmates in order to try offences committed by other inmates within the prison.

Note: the kangaroo court devises its own punishments without input from any official authority, and usually involves a small committee of inmates who are established as a judge and jury; however, in some very serious cases, the whole wing or even the whole prison may be involved in this capacity. There are several reasons why an inmate or group of inmates may be made to go before a kangaroo court, but some of the chief offences include: narking (either in prison or on the outside); tealeafing; non-payment of drug debts; bullying other inmates (e.g. an inmate may have been acting like a king pin, or standing over people, and needs to settle down for the general harmony of the wing); or grovelling to prison officers and using them for protection. Inmates may also appear before a kangaroo court to resolve a personal vendetta. In some instances, if there is no direct evidence, the suspected inmate may be set up to commit a crime so that he may be caught red-handed (e.g. for a case against a tealeafer he may be set up to steal a particular item). There are a variety of punishments that may be doled out by the kangaroo court, both non-violent and violent. For a non-violent punishment the inmate may be orally threatened, may be ordered to pay protection money, or may have to clean the wing for six months. For a violent punishment the inmate may be forced to walk between two rows of inmates who punch and kick him as he makes his way through (cf. kangaroo line), or the inmate's hand may be slammed in one of the heavy iron doors (usually reserved only as a punishment for tealeafers), the inmate's arm may be broken, the inmate's left cheek may be cut, or one of his fingers may be chopped off (these last two examples are usually punishments reserved only for narks). [a specific instance of the term well-known in other contexts; US from 1853, NZ from 1978. 1989 NEWBOLD: 'Apart from their regular activities, committees organised "kangaroo courts" to deal with violators of inmate interests' (212).] (cf. beef chain.)

kangaroo court (also kangaroo) v. to subject an inmate to a kangaroo court trial and a subsequent punishment decided by that court: 'x got kangarooed for narking' or: 'x got caught for tealeafing so he got kangaroo courted.' (see kangaroo court n. for information
on such punishments.)

**kangaroo line***  
*n. a punishment given out by a **kangaroo court**: the convicted inmate walks between two rows of his fellow inmates who punch and kick him as he makes his way through (cf. gauntlet; grunt run, the; walk the tunnel).

**karana***  
*n. one's close friend, 'sister', specifically applied to one's co-offender:  
'Come on girl, you're my karana. We gotta stick by each other, no matter what.' [women's prison argot; origin uncertain, poss. Niuean.]

**Kate Sheppard***  
*n. a $10 note. [the women’s rights campaigner, Kate Sheppard (1848-1934), is featured on this note.] (cf. shepherd’s pie.)

**kaupapa***  
*n. what’s the lowdown on the kaupapa?  
'What’s happening? What’s your plan? What’s going down in your crew?' [from Māori kaupapa = ‘strategy’, ‘philosophy’, ‘plan’.]

**KC***  
*abbr. a King Cobra gang-member.  
[1991 PAYNE: ‘The King Cobras were born from all the different families that had made Ponsonby their home. In the late 50s and early 60s the KCs were already well known’ (100).]

**keep***  
*v. see catch; cocky; peg; scarface.

**keg***  
*n. a urine sample; a urine sample container.  
>Note: in 1998 the Department of Corrections introduced a regime of drug-testing by urinalysis in the prisons. Inmates are randomly chosen to provide a urine sample that is analysed for evidence of drug use. An inmate may be **put on a charge** for refusing to give a urine sample. If an inmate returns a positive test, he may also be **charged**, depending on the class and quantity of the drug identified. The inmate is also classed as an **IDU** (Identified Drug User). Because it is during visits that the majority of drugs make their way into the prison, an **IDU** may be denied visits for a certain period of time, or, when in visits, be required to wear a special pair of overalls without pockets that distinguishes him and makes it difficult for any contraband to be passed to him and smuggled. Because of these consequences, an inmate who uses drugs will go to some lengths to prevent a positive test result. The most common way is to drink a lot of water to keep his system flushed, as one inmate says:  
'If you’ve been having a **session** the night before, it’s important to get your first piss of the day away as soon as you wake up, because you'll still have drugs in your system. Then you drink about two litres of water before they unlock you in the morning and you let that go. After that, you're just pissing water.' Another way is to take pectin (a heavy gelatinous substance used in making jellies, jams, etc.) mixed with pure apple juice. Apparently, this is effective in beating drug tests for marijuana, as it reduces the THC reading in an inmate's urine sample.  
[from ‘keg’ = a barrel of beer esp. as the source of supply for a private drinking party (NZ from 1917); as with a keg, the inmate’s sample container is full of ‘piss’.]

**kehua***  
*n. a Pākehā. [from Māori kehua = ‘ghost’; after a Pākehā’s pale appearance.]

**kennel***  
*n. a cell belonging to a member of the Mongrel Mob. [literally, a **house** (cell) for a dog (a Mongrel Mob member).]

**Kermit the Frog***  
*n. an antisocial inmate who spends most of his time alone in his cell. [from ‘Kermit’ as rhyming slang for hermit, after the character from Jim Henson’s Muppet Show.]

**kettle***  
*n. = tea bomb.
key turner n. a prison officer.

KF abbr. a paedophile. [from kid fucker. 1980 BERRY: ‘It was Ned who named it the Kayeff Choir, which was most unfair to the spotless embezzlers, conmen, burglars and – in particular – the child-offenders who made up the choir’ (59).]

KFA abbr. Kid Fucking Adult, an inmate in prison for raping other men (cf. KF; KFC).

KFC n. 1 a paedophile. [an abbreviation of various epithets including: Kid Fucking Cunt, Kid Fucking Children, Kiddie Fucker Child, Kiddie Fucking Chicken (from the idea that paedophiles are scared, or ‘chicken’, when they come to prison because of the stigma associated with their crime), and the original Kentucky Fried (Chicken). Derived from KF (kid fucker) with a play on KFC, the takeaway chain (formerly Kentucky Fried Chicken). Both inmates and officers may allude to KFC in this sense when talking about a paedophile, as one inmate explains: ‘A screw might use KFC to let you know that a child molester’s coming into the wing by asking you, “You like KFC, don’t you, x?”’ Next thing, in walks a new guy, and you know straight away that he’s a child molester.’] (cf. Colonel Sanders; KF.) 2 a group of paedophiles. [an abbreviation of the following: Kid Fucking Club (also Kiddie Fucking’s Club), and Kiddie Fucking Company.]

K fry n. a paedophile (cf. KF; KFC).

KGB, the n. 1 the drug squad, the officers who handle the police narcotics detection dogs. 2 the group of prison officers who obtain inmates’ urine samples for testing for evidence of drug use. [after the former Soviet secret police, founded in 1954.]

K hole n. the disassociative state one falls into after overdosing on ketamine. One loses one’s bearings and feels disorientated for up to two hours.

kick n. a pocket. [gambler’s slang, US from c.1845. 1992 DUFF: ‘Though he weren’t worried. Not really. Not with the dough in his kick and the double-charged rums working away’ (151).]

kiddie toucher n. = kid fucker.

kid fucker (also kiddie fucker or kiddie fiddler) n. a paedophile (cf. KF). [NZ 1973. 1980 BERRY: ‘All child sex-offenders were generally known as kidfuckers by the other inmates and they were fair game for self-appointed magistrates like the standover man’ (27). 1982 STEWART: ‘Well what have we here. Witchdoctor speaks for the kid fucker. Bit of a kid fucker lover are y’? I thought there was sompin’ queer about y’. Not as bad as a genuine kid fucker. Should cut their balls out, I reckon’ (169). 1991 STEWART: ‘Piggy screw: So let’s see what you’re made of. Thump. This is for setting me up. Thump. This is for being a kid-fucker. Thump. ... And so’s this’ (40). 1994 PAYNE: ‘The man hoicks and spits past him at the name-card above the cell door. He points to the phlegm-slicked card. “Kid-fucker’s slot. We’re dosing his bed. Setting him up for a hiding when he narks about it”’ (49).]

kid killer n. an inmate in prison for infanticide. [women’s prison argot; the kid killer in women’s prisons occupies a
similar position to the kid fucker in men’s prisons. 1998 BUNGAY: ‘I am already aware there is a deep divide between women who kill and “kid killers” as they call them in prison’ (108).

kif n. marijuana of poor quality (cf. cabbage).

kinas n. pl. = basketballs.

kindergarten cop n. a paedophile. [after the film Kindergarten Cop (US 1990) starring Arnold Schwarznegger.]

kinder surprise n. 1 a Māori skinhead. [makes reference to the children’s confectionery item, Kinder Surprise, a chocolate egg that is ‘dark on the outside’, but ‘white on the inside’.] (cf. yoghurt-coated raisin.) 2 a visit during which an inmate is given a package of contraband or some other gift to smuggle back into the prison (cf. kura visit). Note: originally from a technique that some visitors would use to pass contraband to an inmate. All Kinder Surprise chocolate eggs come with a little toy inside (the ‘surprise’). Whoever wanted to smuggle something to an inmate would remove the toy and fill the egg with money, pills, marijuana oil, etc. so that it could safely pass through prison security as a confectionery item. As a result, inmates may now refer to any visit during which they receive something as a kinder surprise, regardless of the manner in which the contraband is smuggled.

king billy (also kid billy) n. an idiot; a ridiculous, incompetent person (see following).

king billy adj. silly. [rhyming slang.]

king hit n. 1 an attack from behind. 2 a cowardly assault. 3 a totally unexpected punch (usually directly to the face). 4 a knockout punch, achieved by any of the above. 5 a fighting tactic in which the aggressor knocks his opponent out with a single punch, and then continues to hit him. [Australian from c.1917. 1980 MacKENZIE: ‘One Mt Eden homosexual ... became involved in a homosexual affair. One day he got a “king hit” – a sudden vicious blow in the face – from his rival for beloved’s affections, and was hospitalised’ (70). ‘king hit an unexpected and crushing blow usually causing severe injury’ (97). 1990 DUFF: ‘So Mitch telling Jake and Dool about it, how this dude ... packed a punch like a fuckin elephant, how he took on three and dropped the three ofem: Pow! King-hit on the first one’ (66).] hit someone king hit style to knock someone out (usually with a single punch).

king hit v. to hit a person (usually with a punch to the face) with the intention of knocking him unconscious.

king papa n. = king puller.

king pin n. 1 a leader who has gained his position from violence or force. Note: inmates explain that this power dynamic is changing; rather than a single person taking charge over the inmate population, it is now the largest group with the strongest back-up, or a group containing the most prominent and influential inmates, which has control. [Australian from 1916; poss. from ‘king bolt’, the main or large bolt in a mechanical structure, British from 1825. 1978 NEWBOLD: ‘At the medium security prison he saw himself as one of the ‘King Pins’, that is, one of those whose self appointed task it was to enforce the laws of the prisoner community and a few of his own as well’ (316). 1982 STEWART: ‘He’d always been the Kingpin; no-one could match him. No
screw was a match for Tu' (170). 

1992 DUFF: 'Best scrap I seen in ages. Just lookit Corky. Man, no wonder he was one of the **kingpins** at Parry' (17).] 2 a leader who has gained his position due to his sound judgement and good interpersonal skills, esp. his ability as a negotiator and problem-solver. [US from c.1867, see suggested origin for sense 1.]

**king puller** *n.* a person who believes he holds power when he does not; a satiric derivative of **king pin**. [from 'puller' = wanker (fig. = an idiot).]

**king punch** *n.* = **king hit** sense 3 (cf. **sucker punch**).

**king rat** *n.*

1 a tattoo, drawn on the bicep, of a rat with a large penis. This tattoo indicates that the inmate has spent time in Waikeria Prison. **Note:** although the existence of this tattoo was readily attested to in other prisons, it was not confirmed by any of the inmates interviewed at Waikeria Prison. 2 an inmate who has gained a widespread reputation for constantly informing upon other inmates. [from street-slang 'rat' = an informer.]

**kiss** *v.* 1 **kiss the grilles** *(on the way down)* (Paremoremo Prison) to have one’s head banged systematically against all the iron grilles along a prison corridor while being escorted to the **pound** by the **C and R crew**. **Note:** when a fight or a riot starts in the prison, the **C and R crew** (also known as the **goon squad**) is called in to break it up and to deal with the offenders. One common way of dealing with an offending inmate is to **C and R** him and to carry him off to the **pound** (the solitary confinement cell). In some cases, the inmate is restrained by four or five crew members and carried head-first down the corridor to the **pound**. On their way, they pass through, the **C and R crew** lines the inmate’s head up so that it bumps against the iron grille. Thus, by the time the inmate arrives at the **pound**, he is usually only semi-conscious.

**kit** *n.*

1 prison clothing, sheets, blankets, etc. [British army slang late 19C-20C = belongings.] 2 any equipment needed in order to take drugs intravenously, e.g. a hypodermic syringe, needle, tourniquet, etc. [rhyming slang for fit; poss. an application of sense 1.]

**kit change** *n.* a short sentence (usually slightly longer than a **bed and breakfast lag**). [from the idea that the inmate barely has time to change from his civilian clothes into his **boobgear** before it is time for him to be released.]

**kitchen crew** *n.* see crew sense 6.

**kite** *n.*

1 a cheque rendered invalid by lack of sufficient funds. [US from late 19C; NZ from 1932.] 2 a Christian. [it has been suggested that this may be because of a kite’s ability to reach towards heaven.] 3 a letter, usually unauthorised and uncensored, secretly carried out of the prison with an inmate, e.g. on a Home Leave or upon release. [US 1859 = a letter; US 1931 = a letter smuggled out of prison. Poss. from US tramps’ usage of **kite** = paper (1851), hence a letter written on paper. This usage may stem from the fact that some kites consist of paper.]

**kite flier** *n.* a person who passes false cheques.

**kite flying** *n.* cheque fraud: ‘He’s in for **kite flying**.’ [British from c.1910.]

**knee** *v.* 1 **knee it** to curry favour from prison authorities or respected inmates in
order to get through one's sentence easily. [from being on one's knees to pray, to show awe and adoration and to offer service, with an added sexual connotation of being on one's knees to perform fellatio, lit. to 'suck up' (cf. do one's lag on one's knees).] knee it up to spend most of one's time asleep on one's cell bunk.

**knob polisher** *n.* = **kackle pants.**

**Knob's Hill** *n.* (Ohura Prison) the Self-Maintenance Unit. [the cells in this unit are more like modern flats than prison cells. Each one is more spacious and well-equipped than a standard cell, and the unit has its own separate kitchen, laundry and garden.] (cf. SMU.)

**knuckle dragger** *n.* a dark-skinned person. [derogatory.]

**koro** *n.* an **old lagger.** [from Māori koro = 'old man', 'sir', 'respected elder'.]

**KP** *abbr.* 1 = kackle pants. 2 = king pin. 3 = king puller. 4 = knob polisher.

**Kremlin, the** *n.* the prison officials' office.

**K Road** *n.* see street, the. [K Road it to wander up and down the wing in no particular direction and with no specific destination. [from K Road, the popular name for Karangahape Road in Auckland City, well-known for its multi-cultural day and highly sexed night life. Because of these various attractions, it is common for people to cruise aimlessly up and down K Road, viewing the sights.]

**kumara'd** *adj.* dead. [presumably because, like a kumara, one is in the ground.]

**kupenga** *n.* 1 = **pound,** the sense 1. 2 prison. [a transferred or figurative use of Māori kupenga = 'fishnet'.] (cf. hinaki.)

**kura** *adj.* good, excellent, of high quality. [from the Māori kura = 'treasure'.] 2 **kura gra** good, of high quality, particularly applied to marijuana. One inmate suggests that the gra may be a shortened form of **grass** (marijuana). **kura visit** a prison visit during which an inmate receives a parcel of contraband (usually money or drugs), or a gift of some other kind.

**kuri** *n.* the police narcotics detection dog. [from Māori kuri = 'dog'.]

**kutu catchers** *n. pl.* dreadlocks. [from Māori kutu = '(head) louse'.]
**L**

LA *n.* a type of morphine sulphate tablet manufactured by Western Australian pharmaceutical company, Delta West.

la *n.* a very short sentence. [as one inmate explains, 'it's not even worth calling a lag. ']

lads, the *n.* *pl.* = boys, the sense 1.

lady *n.* a tattoo machine.

lag *n.* 1 (also lagger) a prison inmate. []

baby lagger an inmate serving a short prison sentence (usually his first sentence). bed and breakfast lagger see bed and breakfast. first lagger 1 a person in prison for the first time. Note: often an inmate is referred to according to the amount of times he has been to prison, e.g. second lagger, third lagger, etc. 2 an inmate who is gullible, an easy mark, easily conned. [from sense 1; the inexperienced inmate is not au fait with the pitfalls of prison life.] girl's lag a rapist. jet lagger an inmate serving a very brief sentence. little lagger (also small lagger) an inmate serving a short sentence. long lagger an inmate serving a long sentence (usually over seven years) esp. an inmate who has served a considerable amount of that sentence. old lag (also old lagger) 1 a recidivist, a repeat offender, an inmate who has been in and out of prison for many years, and thus has a comprehensive knowledge of the prison system and the culture that surrounds it. These inmates are often highly respected. [British from 1820 = an artful prisoner. 1982 NEWBOLD: 'A lot of the old lags at Paremoremo will complain that the old rules are breaking down now and not being observed as fastidiously as they were in the early '70s' (74). 1994 PAYNE: “You only been here ten minutes so take a tip from an old lagger. Keep your mouth shut and mind your own business or you’ll do a hard lag’ (50).] 2 an inmate serving a long or life sentence, esp. one who has already served a considerable amount of that sentence. short lagger an inmate serving a short sentence. Tupac lag a rapist. [after Tupac Shakur (1971-1996), actor, hip-hop singer and ‘gangsta rapper’, arrested for sexual assault in 1993.] violent lagger an inmate sentenced for an offence involving violence, e.g. armed robbery, aggravated robbery, assault, or murder. [lag = British from 1811 = a man transported as a convict; from 1903 = a well-known or experienced prisoner; lagger = British from 1844 = a transported convict; from 1874 = a person who has been in prison. Poss. from ‘laggings’ (leggings), the leg irons in use during the 18C-19C to secure prisoners on convict ships or in outside work parties, or those undergoing punishment. 1984 BEATON: ‘Lag: convict’ (110).] 2 (also lagging) a prison sentence. [] beach lag a very short, carefree prison sentence. bed and breakfast lag a very short sentence. big lag 1 a long sentence (cf. decent lag). Note: the length of a big lag is subjective: some consider a big sentence to be anything over two or three years, while other, more long-term inmates, insist that one is only serving a big lag when one 'hits the double digits'. Generally, however, most inmates cite seven years as being the length at which a lag may be deemed to be big or long. This is probably because an inmate serving a sentence of seven years or more must appear before the National Parole Board to be assessed for release, rather than a local prisons board. 2 Preventive Detention (cf. big bitch; black bitch; PD). can't do your lag used of an inmate who is broken, unable to cope with his prison sentence.
cruisy lag a very short, carefree sentence. cushy lag = cruisy lag. decent lag any long sentence, usually anything over seven years, esp. life or Preventive Detention. Note: for an inmate serving a long time in prison, the length of another inmate's sentence is important. A long-termer naturally wishes to befriend those inmates who will be in prison for the duration of his sentence, so as to avoid the hurt of becoming friends with a short-term inmate and losing him when that inmate leaves prison. Thus the long-termer may even go so far as to consciously shun short-term inmates, as this rather extreme response from a long-term inmate indicates: 'If guys in here are doing less than five years, they're ashamed. They get put on the coat because they're not worth getting to know; they're not here long enough. I mean, he might be a good guy, but if he's not doing a decent lag, he's just a waste of space.'

do a lag to serve a prison sentence. do one's lag one-out see one-out. do one's lag on one's knees = kneel. do one's lag the broken arse way see broken arse. do your own lag or your own lagging to cope independently with prison life, to do one's own time with the minimum amount of trouble, to remain uninvolved with problems that are not one's own. This is an important concept in prison life. [1978 NEWBOLD: "doing your own lag" means, minding your own business. It means never violating the privacy, rights, opinions, or individuality of other prisoners. It means never interfering with the property, affairs or interests of a fellow prisoner'] (327). 1982 NEWBOLD: 'Taylor gave me the usual drum on the rules of the block, reminded me of how long I was doing and told me to keep to myself and do my own lagging' (61).] drunk's lagging (also drunk's lag) an extremely short sentence. [this sentence is normally of about 7-10 days' duration, no longer than 2 weeks, likening the sentence to the time it would take for an alcoholic to sober up.] easy lag (also easy lagging) a carefree sentence. [British from 1879.] fly-by lag 1 a very easy sentence that literally 'flies by'. Note: this is dependent to a large degree upon the prison where the lag is spent, and upon the nature of one's fellow inmates. 2 a very short sentence. girl's lag a short sentence. As one inmate says: 'If I was talking to someone who was doing two months, especially if they were moaning about it, you know, "Geez man, I can't handle this, I've got six weeks to go!" then I'd say to them, "Calm down, you're doing a girl's lag, mate."' go slow lag a tedious sentence during which time is dragging and nothing is happening in the prison. gronk's lag a very short sentence. handle the lag to cope confidently with one's sentence, to serve one's time without complaint. hard lag = wicked lag sense 3. hell lag a very long prison sentence, e.g. life. jet lag a very short sentence. kick-back lag an easy, carefree sentence, usually short. kick one's lag off to begin serving one's prison sentence. knock one's lag out to complete one's prison sentence. pussy lag a very short sentence. real lag a long sentence of at least seven years' duration. smoke one's lag to cope with one's prison sentence, to serve one's time without complaint. As one inmate explains: 'If someone's moaning about their time, you say to them, "Stop being skanky, just smoke
your lag.’” sweet-as lag a sentence that is short or easy. [from the street-slang ‘sweet as’ = good, fine, okay.] Tupac lag a sentence for the crime of rape. wicked lag 1 any long sentence, e.g. over seven years, life or PD. 2 an easy sentence that goes extremely well. [from street-slang ‘wicked’ = excellent or awe-inspiring, British from 1920s.] 3 a terrible sentence during which an inmate may do it hard, e.g. be hassled by inmates and officers, have no money, and spend a lot of time in the pound (sense 1). [from ‘wicked’ = nasty, evil, terrible.] 4 a sentence disproportionately long in relation to the severity of the offence for which it is given. [lag = British from 1760 = imprisonment; from 1818 = a sentence of transportation as a convict; lagging = British from 1860 = any term of penal servitude. 1982 NEWBOLD: “‘If you’re convicted on this charge,” Eb warned, “you’re in for a long lagging’” (28). 1984 BEATON: ‘Lag: ... a term in prison’ (110). 1991 PAYNE: ‘All prison officers will tell you there comes a time when [the prisoner] just decides not to come back. It could be after their first lag, [it] could have been enough of a shock so that they won’t come back. But for some it could be the fourth or fifth lag’ (99). 1996 DUFF: ‘Mulla had only two weeks to go, and this was his third prison lag with only a cupla years of freedom in between’ (14).]

lag v. 1 to serve a prison sentence. 2 to serve several prison sentences over a considerable period of time.

laid back adj. in the pound (sense 1).

la kura n. the police narcotics detection dog. [from French article la = ‘the’ + Māori kura = ‘dog’; the common word for ‘dog’ in Māori is kuri, however, some dialects of Māori use the form kura.]

landing n. the area of floor situated alongside a row of cells.

Note: in an open-plan multi-storeyed wing, a landing generally refers to the mezzanine-style catwalk (e.g. Waikeria, Mount Eden). In a compound situation, the landing refers to the area of grass, footpath or veranda outside the cells (e.g. Ohura, Hautu, Rolleston). In a prison where cells open directly on to a corridor, a landing refers to that corridor (e.g. Dunedin, Paremoremo, some units at Invercargill).

Inmates are generally very territorial, regarding the area around their own cells and those of their immediate neighbours as their own. An inmate who strays on to another landing, unless he has good reason, is regarded with suspicion, and in some cases, with hostility. As one inmate explains: ‘If some guy comes on to your landing and you don’t know him, then it’s automatically a problem. Because the only reason he’d come over would be if he was a tealeafer, or if he’d been sent to do a hit on one of our guys. So, you tell him to fuck off, and if he doesn’t, you give him the bash.’

[1996 DUFF: “‘Nutha six months t’go, six months (six years, six fucken lifetimes), who cares, eh, bro? Jimmy Bad Horse nudged shoulder to shoulder with one of the Brown Fist bros on the top landing’ (12).]

landliner n. a transfer to another prison.

landlord n. the Site Manager of a prison.

lands for bags n. a prostitute. [from the television commercial for the company Lands For Bags: ‘Where did you get your bag?’ ‘Lands for Bags, of course’ (NZ late 1980s); a play on street-slang ‘bag’ = an unattractive, undesirable woman, poss. from ‘baggage’ = a slut, a common prostitute, British from 1848.]
laps n. pl. □ do some laps to walk around the prison yard (cf. shuffle, the).

largie n. largactil. □ do the largie shuffle to be under the influence of largactil. [also current US in the form, `thorazine shuffle`; from the trance-like movements of a person affected by the drug.] (cf. do the mellie shuffle.)

largie juice n. largactil in liquid form.

Lassie n. the narcotics detection dog. [after the famous canine character (created 1938), whose adventures were the subject of several short stories, radio plays, television and cartoon series, and films.]

lawyer n. a prison officer. [in an attempt to maintain harmony in the prison, an officer will often stand up for an inmate who is being picked on or attacked. Thus, the officer resembles a lawyer in his efforts to defend those in trouble.]

lazy J n. a marijuana joint bludged from another inmate (cf. J).

lazy smoke n. a marijuana joint or tobacco cigarette bludged from another inmate.

leaf n. 1 (also leafer) a thief. [abbreviation of rhyming slang tealeaf (tealeafer).] 2 a skinhead. 3 a cheque rendered invalid due to lack of sufficient funds, a false cheque.

leaf v. to steal, to rob: `x waited until no-one was looking, then he leafed the pack of tobacco.' `When x came back to his cell after work, he found he'd been leafed.' (cf. tealeaf.)

leaning tower n. a shower. [rhyming slang.]

leather jacket n. a capsule of black marijuana oil.

leech n. 1 = seagull. 2 a policeman. [as one inmate explains: `The police are like bloodsuckers, always on us.]

left hand drop v. to secretly pass information to prison authorities in an attempt to curry favour and get through one's sentence more easily.

left hand dropper n. an inmate who gives the impression that he is a staunch and trustworthy member of the prison community, but secretly passes information to the prison authorities in an attempt to get through his sentence more easily (e.g. to gain perks, or to be considered for early release). As one inmate explains: `On one hand they're making out that they're one of the boys, and on the other, they're quietly talking to the screws, dropping people in it.' [poss. an allusion to the left hand as associated with secrecy, deviousness and dishonesty.]

leg v. □ leg it to escape from prison or from police custody.

lehe (also lele) n. a lesbian.

leeland n. a female prison. [from lesbian association, see prec.]

lemon n. a lesbian.

lemon spread n. the head. [rhyming slang.]
Leroy Brown n. a pound (454g) of marijuana. [rhyming slang; commonly abbreviated to Leroy: ‘Got a Leroy, bro?’ After the character in the song, ‘Bad, Bad Leroy Brown’ by Jim Croce (1973).]

Lester (also Lester the Molester or Lester the Incester) n. a paedophile. An inmate may ask a convicted paedophile: ‘What’s your name?’ and when he answers with his Christian name, reply: ‘No it’s not, your name’s Lester.’] (cf. Chester).

lettuce n. a $20 note. [the NZ $20 note is green; commonly used by people involved with the drug trade. Used among British criminals to refer to paper money, poss. because green appears predominantly on many forms of paper currency.]

levels n. pl. a graded form of punishment used in some prisons (esp. Waikeria) whereby an inmate loses privileges and is required to earn them back by good behaviour. Note: this is a three-level system: level one the inmate is placed on 23-hour lockup and his television and radio are confiscated; level two the inmate is locked up at 5pm each day and his radio is returned; level three the inmate is locked up at 6pm each day, and his TV is returned. (cf. stages.)] On levels undergoing such a form of punishment.

lever n. a firearm.

lice n. pl. the police. [from pronunciation of ‘police’ = police; as one inmate explains: ‘You can’t seem to get them out of your hair.’] (cf. headlice.)

licence n. licence to lick authority to engage in lesbian activity. [used in humour or as an insult, e.g. from an inmate to a female officer: ‘Why don’t you go and get a licence to lick, you mole?’]

lick n. (also licker or licklick) a lesbian (cf. lick boxer).

lick boxer n. a lesbian. [poss. from ‘lickbox’ = a sodomite (homosexual), US from 1942. The term lick boxer refers to ‘licking’ as a lesbian sexual activity and to ‘box’ as a woman’s genitals (those that are licked). Also a rhyming play with ‘kickboxer’, the sport made widely-known by the martial arts action film, Kickboxer (1989), starring Jean-Claude Van Damme.]

lickerland n. a female prison. [refers to the supposed lesbian activities of the inmates (cf. licker; lick boxer), with a play on Liquorland, a chain of bottle stores.]

lid (also led) n. a marijuana foil.

lifer n. an inmate serving a life sentence (in most cases, such a sentence is given for the crime of murder). [British and Australian from 1831 = a convict sentenced to transportation for life. 1942 HARCOURT: ‘That slight fellow with the neat, fair head is a murderer, a “lifer”’ (xv). 1953 HAMILTON: ‘Imprisonment for life. One of the factors at the back of the overwhelming atmosphere of depression in The Hill, is the presence of the lifers’ (142). 1980 MacKENZIE: ‘Visitors to the female division in these years always expressed their enjoyment of the scones and cakes provided at morning and afternoon tea. They were baked by a female lifer whose penchant had been the poisoning of her rivals, using confections of one kind or another’ (68).
1982 NEWBOLD: ‘Hayseed was the only lifer to come to Hautu while I was there; they usually had one lifer at each of the three camps. Unlike most other inmates, lifers aren’t put straight on privileges when they’re transferred to minimum security institutions, but are treated as big security risks from the moment they arrive’ (173).]

life’s little pleasures n. pl. drugs.

light bulb (also light bulb head) n. a skinhead. [descriptive: the shaven head of a European is similar in shape and colour to a (frosted) light bulb.]

light duties n. pl. 1 a medical order issued to an inmate not well enough to undertake heavy work, but not pronounced sick enough to stay in bed. The inmate must do light work, but is not confined to his cell. [1982 NEWBOLD: ‘Light Duties (n) Medical order excusing a prisoner from heavy work on the one hand, and ‘bed sick’ lockup on the other’ (250).] 2 the jobs or duties inmates perform when under such an order. [1982 NEWBOLD: ‘The chief told us that anybody injured playing sport, even if certified for “light duties” (light work in the compound) by the doctor, was to be locked up’ (116).] 2000 ‘Medical Classifications’ Notice, Meads House, Waikeria Prison: ‘[A]s a situation arises, the medical staff can place the inmate on Light Duties for the time period required. These inmates, for various health reasons, cannot do lifting, heavy or normal duties. Therefore, they cannot do sports or weights, unless it is for therapeutic reasons and they have a specific, approved programme to follow. Duties which could be performed include grounds, cleaning or a job cleared by medical.’]

lights out n. 1 bed-time. [1982 NEWBOLD: ‘We couldn’t turn our light out. Only the screws could do that, and “lights out” wasn’t until 11’ (27).] 2 = blanket job.

line n. a length of string, nylon, cassette tape, etc., comprising the chief part of a contraption used by an inmate to pass contraband to his fellow inmate(s).

line v. [] line up to send contraband to one’s fellow inmate(s) using any device that incorporates a line (cf. go fishing).

line-up n. 1 a line of inmates standing in ordered positions, e.g. for a meal; for a head-count and inspection; for work parties; for interviews (e.g. with the Ombudsman), etc. [1950 HAMILTON: ‘The next few days I saw him standing near me in the line-up for counting and searching’ (14).] 2 a line of suspects at a police station, viewed by a crime victim, or by the police, for identification. [US from c.1950 (cf. parade).] 3 a practice whereby several (usually 15) prison officers line up in two rows. An inmate walks through between the officers and they beat the inmate up. [controversial.]

little ninja n. = ninja turtle.

lizard n. = tongue lizard.

lockdown n. 1 imprisonment, time spent in prison. Note: lockdown in this general sense is used commonly in tattoos and cell graffiti, usually with details of the particular prison and the year(s) of imprisonment, e.g.: ‘One of the last inmates, lockdown in Addington 21/11/99’ or: ‘Linton Lockdown 94-97.’ 2 time spent locked in one’s cell. Note: this is general procedure, rather than a punishment, and
usually occurs in high/maximum-security institutions, in keeping with the inmates' security classifications: 'Up in Parry max there's a lot of lockdown so you don't get to see people face-to-face very much.'

3 a punishment whereby an individual inmate is confined to his own cell, or to the solitary confinement cell.

4 a punishment whereby all inmates in a prison or prison wing are locked in their cells and most regularly scheduled institutional activities involving inmates are temporarily curtailed. As one inmate explains: 'Say some shit goes down in the yard, the screws yell, "Lockdown in two minutes, everyone go to their cells!"' (In this case, all inmates would be confined while investigations into the incident were carried out.) [also current US.]

5 a procedure whereby all inmates are locked away for security reasons when officers are not available to supervise them, e.g. during staff meetings or when the prison is short of staff. [also current US.]

6 a procedure whereby an inmate is confined to his cell for medical reasons.

7 bed-time.

**Lockdown** (also lock (one) down) v.

1 to place a person in prison.

2 (esp. in a high/maximum-security institution) to keep inmates locked in their cells as part of general prison procedure.

3 to place an inmate in his own cell, or on solitary confinement, as a punishment.

4 to confine the inmates of a prison or prison wing to their cells for a certain period of time, e.g. as a punishment, or during a criminal investigation or a crisis situation.

5 to confine the inmates of a prison or prison wing to their cells when the prison is short of staff.

6 to confine an inmate to his cell for medical reasons.

7 to lock inmates in their cells for the night.

**Locked report** (also lock report) n.

a preventative procedure whereby an inmate is locked up alone to give him 'time out'; e.g. he may have been fighting with another inmate and may need to be placed separately so as to diffuse the situation and calm him down.

Note: in this kind of situation, the inmate is placed on locked report for a very short period, usually only for the day. During locked report, the inmate is fed in his cell, yared separately, and denied recreation with the other inmates. Although an inmate is not generally placed on locked report for a chargeable offence, there are situations in which an inmate may be placed on locked report either while waiting to have his charge heard, or having been found guilty of his charge and awaiting the punishment for that charge. The inmate has to be informed that he is on a charge within 24 hours of committing the offence, but he may be celled up for up to seven days before his charge is heard. An inmate may remain celled up for several days for a number of reasons: if a higher authority to hear the charge (e.g. the Unit Manager) is away; the paperwork to authorise the charge has not come through; or if there is no room in the pound for the inmate to serve his punishment. (cf. open report.)

**Locks** (poss. also lox) n.

a pound of marijuana: 'I got a locks, so we can have a session tonight.'

**Lock sick** (also sicklock) n. confinement to one's cell for medical reasons: 'X won't be reporting for work this morning, he's on lock sick.'

**Lock up** (also lock) n.

1 bed-time. Note: inmates are locked in their cells overnight, and normal lock up usually occurs from 8:30 p.m. until 7 a.m. [1994 PAYNE: 'At lock-up and last muster they Slam! the steel doors shut, Wrench! the slide-locks home and Scraaape! The peep-hole cover aside' (115).] (cf. lockdown sense 7.)

2 = lockdown senses 1 and 2.

**Lolly** n.

1 a pill. [prob. from the
similarity in appearance between some small sweets and some pills.] 2 a firearm. 3 a paedophile. [from the idea that child molesters entice children with lollies (sweets).] 4 a cigarette filter. [the filter resembles a small white sweet.]

**lolly eater n.** a person who takes a lot of pills (cf. lolly sense 1).

**lone hand n.** the solitary confinement punishment cell. [implied reference to masturbation; the inmate has only a 'lone hand' to comfort him, as while on solitary confinement, he is 'doing it on his own'.]

**loner n.** 1 an inmate who spends his time alone, rather than in a gang or a crew, either through choice or by ostracism (see on the coat). 2 an inmate who does his lag with no outside interference, i.e. no communication with his lawyer, friends, or family.

**lookout n.** a person chosen to keep watch, e.g. during a fight, while gambling, taking drugs, or drawing tattoos (cf. cockatoo).

**looney tunes palace n.** cell(s) for mentally unbalanced or potentially suicidal inmates.

**loop-the-loop n.** 1 soup. [rhyming slang; US from 1928; also extant in Australia and Britain. 1982 NEWBOLD: ‘Loop-the-loop (n) Soup’ (250).]

**loop the loop v.** to commit suicide by hanging: 'Did you hear about that young fella who looped the loop?'

**lord, the n.** an inmate in possession of a steady supply of drugs for sale to other inmates, the drug-dealer. [in prison, inmates will go to great lengths to acquire drugs, thus the lord wields extensive power over the inmate population.] (cf. don, the; god.)

**lord rex n.** sex. [rhyming slang. 1982 NEWBOLD: ‘Lord Rex (n) Sex’ (250).]

**lord rexo n.** a sex offender. [rhyming slang for sexo.]

**Lord Rutherford of Nelson n.** = Rutherford.

**lost-and-found n.** 1 the solitary confinement cell. [rhyming slang for the pound; a prisonised variant of Cockney 'lost and found' = a pound (£), from 19C. It has been suggested that lost-and-found refers to the fact that when an inmate is on solitary confinement, he is isolated from the rest of the inmates. Therefore, he is 'lost' during this period, and then 'found' again when he later returns to mainstream prison life. 1982 NEWBOLD: ‘Lost-and-found (n) Detention unit’ (250).] 2 the cell reserved for mentally unbalanced and/or suicidal inmates. [from the idea that the inmate in the cell has 'lost' himself and his grasp on reality, and will remain in the cell until he 'finds' himself again.]

**lot, the n.** life imprisonment. [] buy or get the lot to receive life imprisonment. do the lot to serve life imprisonment. [1982 NEWBOLD: ‘Whippy was doing the lot and he had been in jail a long time. He’d been in too long in fact, and was one of the most institutionalised people I ever met’ (75).]

**lotto ball n.** a safe. [like a safe, a Lotto ball provides the opportunity for one to
acquire money.]

**lou n. speed** sense 1. on the lou under the influence of speed. [also current Australian.]

**love muscle n.** a vain inmate obsessed with his physical appearance: ‘Oh, there’s love muscle coming across the yard.’

**lower cell n.** (Arohata Prison) a strip cell for suicidal inmates, containing an observation camera.

**lucky dip** (also lucky) n. 1 LSD. [rhyming slang for trip.] 2 a chemical substance soaked into blotting paper in a similar way to LSD, containing a mixture of various unspecified drugs (often stronger than LSD). [the person buying this concoction does not know what it consists of and consequently, what effect it will have.] 3 a false cheque; a chequebook containing false cheques. [such a cheque or chequebook is like a Lotto ‘Lucky Dip’ ticket: with it, one has the opportunity to acquire a large amount of money for very little effort.]
M&M n. 1 a morphine sulphate tablet (MST). [a descriptive reference to an M&M, a candy-covered chocolate confectionery item that resembles an MST in colour(s), size and shape.] 2 a member of the Mongrel Mob.

mack daddy n. 1 an inmate serving a long sentence, esp. life imprisonment. 2 (the mack daddy) = shop. 3 (the mack or the mack daddy) life imprisonment.

Mad comic n. see zebra.

maggot n. 1 a Devil’s Henchmen gang-member. [derogatory.] 2 a Pākehā. [used by members of some ethnic gangs; orig. African-American vernacular.] 3 a moron, an idiot. 4 a term used by white boys for another faction of White Power, e.g. from Skinheads to Epitaph Riders or Road Knights. 5 a person one is angry or annoyed with: ‘He’s a maggot because he didn’t give us any gear.’

magothead n. a person with dreadlocked hair.

magic bus n. the bus used to transfer inmates between prisons. [] take the magic bus to be transferred to another prison. [poss. from The Magic Bus, a service for tourists travelling New Zealand. For an initial fee, the bus service collects tourists and delivers them to various destinations throughout the country.]

magpie n. 1 an inmate who begs food and other possessions from his fellow inmates. [from the bird’s scavenging habits.] (cf. seagull.) 2 the black-and-white car belonging to a policeman or a traffic officer. [from the magpie’s distinctive black-and-white plumage; obsolete since such cars were repainted in the early 1990s.]

maid n. an officer in the act of searching an inmate’s cell. [] the maid’s been in an expression used when an inmate discovers that his cell has been searched.

mainstream n. 1 normal prison life, as experienced by the majority of prison inmates; the general prison society (as opposed to marginalised prison situations such as: segregation (protection), solitary confinement, a specialist unit e.g. a non-gang unit, an ‘at-risk’ unit or a Drug Treatment unit, or participation in a course or programme): ‘Next week, she’s coming back into mainstream from Treatment Assessment.’ Note: mainstream prison life is considered to be ‘harder jail’ and consequently, those who remain in mainstream are seen to be stauncher, more resilient inmates, worthy of greater respect (cf. cream of the crims). 2 the main corridor at Christchurch Women’s Prison.

mainstream v. [] mainstream it to serve one’s sentence as one of the general prison population.

mainstream (also stream) adj. 1 (of an inmate) one of the general prison population. 2 (of a prison) largely composed of mainstream inmates, hence a mainstream prison (as opposed to a segregation prison such as Mount Crawford).

mainstreamer (also mainstream boy) n. an inmate who serves his sentence as one of the general prison population.

make love v. (of officers) to Control and Restrain a troublesome or violent inmate: ‘What happened to x?’ ‘Oh, the
screws made love to him.’ (cf. C and R.)

Mama Cass n. one who lives off the earnings of a prostitute, a pimp. [after the name of the singer (a.k.a. Cass Elliot) from the 1960s band, The Mammas and the Pappas.]

man, the n. 1 the person holding the drugs in the prison: ‘Go and see the man.’ Although there is usually one person almost always in possession of a supply of drugs for sale who gets a permanent reputation as the man, this term may be applied to anyone who happens to have drugs for sale at any one time: ‘You the man today?’ ‘No, me not the man, he’s the man.’ [US from 1942. 1982 NEWBOLD: ‘Man (n) ... 2. Dealer in drugs or stolen goods’ (251).] 2 an inmate held in high esteem due to his mental and physical toughness, his ability to cope confidently with the rigours of prison life, his proficiency in any fighting situation, and his intelligence and extensive knowledge of prison culture. [from street-slang ‘the man’ = a person much admired, held in high esteem.] 3 a police officer. [poss. derived from an early underworld use of man = an official of authority in prison; US from 1929. 1982 NEWBOLD: ‘Man (n) ... 3. Police’ (251).]

mana n. 1 a combination of admirable qualities, including bravery, heart, self-esteem, modesty, perseverance and justice. [from Māori mana = ‘integrity’, ‘charisma’, ‘power’, ‘prestige.’] 2 an inmate’s ranking within the inmate social hierarchy. [prob. from sense 1; the more esteemed the inmate is amongst his peers, the more mana he is said to have.]

map n. a criminal record. [from the idea that it charts a criminal’s life journey.]

Māori Express n. a false cheque. [] put [an item] on Māori Express to steal, or to acquire by illegal or fraudulent means. [a play on ‘American Express’, with a derogatory, belittling application of ‘Māori’ as anything sham or substandard.]


marae n. a cell, esp. one belonging to a sociable inmate who entertains many visitors. [from Māori marae = ‘meeting house’.

mark n. 1 (also easy mark) a person who is easily conned. [British from mid-18C = a likely victim for a thief; US from late 19C = a prospective victim of a passer of counterfeit.] 2 a person targeted for a (contract) killing or assault. [] on the mark reliable or faithful.

mark v. to target a person for a (contract) killing or assault. [British and US c.1886 = to mark a person down as a prospective victim.]

marley (also marley joint) n. a very large marijuana cigarette. As one inmate explains: ‘A marley’s a big, fat, five-paper joint about the size of a ballpoint pen, just like the large ones Bob Marley smoked.’ [after Bob Marley (1945-1981), reggae singer and cannabis smoker.]

marmalade n. 1 = jam. 2 a lesbian or hermaphrodite.

marmite n. a person with dark skin.
Mary Jane n. marijuana. ['Mary' and 'Jane' are the English forms of female names 'Mari' and 'Juana' in Spanish.]

mask n. 1 a full facial tattoo; a fully tattooed face. [refers not only to traditional Māori styles of moko, but to contemporary designs, often gang-related.] 2 an ugly person. [from the suggestion of his fellow inmates that he should 'get a mask'.] 3 mask up (largely amongst male prison inmates) to consciously adopt a defensive emotional wall that provides a barrier between the man's real feelings and the outward façade he presents to the inmate group. Note: this façade takes the form of an extreme kind of masculinity, incorporating stereotypes of impersonality and aggression. One inmate admits that, 'It's hard to mask up every day,' describing this procedure as something inmates 'put on' each morning like an item of clothing, but also revealing that to do this is an effort. Men in prisons are under constant pressure to maintain this mask during all their interpersonal communications. Masking up manifests itself in inmates' speech, their physical movements (cf. boob walk; basketballs; stack it) and in their actions and reactions (cf. back up; no effect). All this is designed to give the impression that the inmate is physically strong and not easily intimidated (to deter other inmates from engaging him in a fight or physically threatening him, e.g. making him a target for standovers); that he is emotionally tough (to show that he can effectively handle the rigours of being in prison and away from his family, and to protect himself from forming too close a friendship with another inmate and possibly being hurt); and that he can handle himself in any situation (to show he has good form). Inmates mask up in front of officers as well as their fellow inmates. An inmate may directly resist an officer's orders, even when the inmate is aware that his efforts may be futile, or that the result may be to his own detriment. The inmate's resistance may take the form of a defiant standoff, or a pre-emptive strike. One inmate gives this example: 'An officer comes up to you and says, "Do this, or I'll put you down the pound." So, before he can say he's only kidding, you have your stuff packed ready to go, and you tell him, "Okay, you'd better put me down the pound like you said you would, or else." So the screw says, "Okay, smartarse, you can go." So he puts you down the pound for a week. You go and do the pound and that shows that they can't get you down; you're turning it around and calling their bluff every time.' This entire set of behaviours is very important, because, if an inmate does not mask up effectively, he may be regarded as a weak mug, or as being shattered or broken (see broken for a list of such behaviours) and may be preyed upon by other inmates, making his time in a prison a misery. Therefore, to mask up is essential for an inmate's survival within the prison environment. However, masking up may be more than a strategy to successfully negotiate a volatile and unpredictable prison existence. It may in fact operate on a higher level of an inmate's hierarchy of needs: that of recognition needs. In many ways, masking up is an inmate's quest for what may be called 'the staunch ideal'. An inmate who is staunch is respected by other inmates. Therefore, masking up may be as much a tactic to earn esteem from one's peers as it is a survival mechanism. This, in turn, gives rise to some rivalry amongst inmates, and goes some way towards explaining the disparaging nature of the terms applied to inmates who are openly seen to be masking up (e.g. see imprisoned senses of wannabe; red bull; wings of death). Inmates - even those who have been inside for a long time - are fully aware of the falsity of the mask and its self-conscious application. Thus, the disparaging terms used deliberately draw attention to the absurdity of the act of masking up, even though these other inmates are also practising it, which suggests that there is subtle competition among inmates as to who can mask up the best.

Mason Clinic n. (Mount Eden Women's Prison) an observation cell for mentally unbalanced and/or suicidal inmates. [from the Auckland-based rehabilitation clinic and psychiatric institution of the same name.]

massage parlour n. 1 go to the massage parlour to be beaten up by prison officers. [during a massage, one gets a 'pummelling'.]
mastador n. the head officer on duty, the IC; the boss of a prison work-party. [derogatory; from Spanish mastador = 'murderer'; poss. implying that such officers are slave-drivers.]

mat n. [on the mat = on report. [in some Site Managers' offices, there is a mat that the inmate must stand on when he goes up on a charge. 1982 NEWBOLD: 'I personally bore Clarry no grudge, but unfortunately for Clarry not everybody felt the same as I did. A lot of guys blamed him for getting us put on the mat' (90).]

matagouri n. a Māori. [rhyming slang; from the Anglicised form of tumatakuru, a thorny shrub also known as (wild) Irishman.]

matchbox n. a cell for suicidal inmates. [such cells are usually very small.]

matchstick (also match) n. a very thin-rolled cigarette containing marijuana (cf. floater; greyhound; racehorse).

Maurice Trapp n. excrement. [rhyming slang for 'crap'; after the former Auckland rugby coach.]

max (also maxi or maximum) n. Paremoremo Prison, esp. applied to East Division, the maximum-security section. [1991 GRAY: 'Although [Paremoremo] offered “everything,” not all officers in the prison service were attracted to the new “maxi”' (141).]

Max Factor n. a person who has received a black eye. [after the international cosmetics company currently promoting eyeliners and mascara designed to make the eyes look darker and more prominent.]

maxi, the n. life imprisonment.

maxi block n. the area of the prison that contains the short-term solitary confinement punishment cells (cf. security block).

maxi seps n. pl. Maximum Separates. Note: an inmate may be placed on Maximum Separates if he is causing considerable trouble within a segregation unit. Inmates on maxi seps get locked down for 23 hours a day, with one hour's exercise.

meal inspection n. the inspection inmates are given before a meal to ensure their general cleanliness and tidiness.

meals on wheels n. pl. (Mount Eden Women’s Prison) 1 prison food. 2 the people who deliver the prison food. [women’s prison argot; inmates’ meals are wheeled into the dining room on large catering trolleys. Alludes to ‘Meals on Wheels’, an organisation that delivers meals to elderly people at home.]

megawatts n. pl. drugs of any kind. [women's prison argot.]

Note: some boobslang terms are created when an inmate looks through a dictionary to find a complicated word to substitute for a term in his or her conversation. Each word then takes on a new meaning that is synonymous with the term it has replaced. The word becomes popular with other inmates and eventually gains a wide usage as a boobslang term.

mellie n. Mellariil. Note: Mellariil is the proprietary name for thioridazine, a phenothiazine antipsychotic drug used medically in the management of manifestations of psychotic disorders. [do the mellie shuffle to be under the influence of Mellariil (cf. do the largie shuffle).]

Melrose Place n. see street, the.
men in blue n. pl. the police. [a variant of the more general 'boys in blue', alluding to the film, *Men in Black* (US 1997), starring Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones who play the roles of two members of a secret division of the FBI employed to police Earth against extraterrestrial criminals. The term also makes self-conscious ironic reference to the line in the title song, where the Men in Black are described as: 'the first, last and only line of defence against the worst scum of the universe.]

merchant n. 1 an inmate in possession of a steady supply of drugs for sale to other inmates. [US 1958.] 2 an inmate's store of drugs and/or other contraband, his *stash*. [from a shortened form of 'merchandise. ']

Mickey (also Mickey Finn or Mickey Flynn) n. 1 a sleeping tablet: 'Slip him the *Mickey.*' [US c.1904 = drugged alcohol (a sleeping tablet may be used to drug alcohol). Poss. derived from Mickey Finn, a notorious Chicago saloon-keeper, 1896-1906; the variant, *Mickey Flynn*, is recorded from c.1920. NZ 1978. 1982 NEWBOLD: 'Mickey Finn (n) Sleeping tablet' (251).] 2 (Mickey Flynn) see *zebra*.

Mickey (also Mickey Finn or Mickey Flynn) v. to spike a drink with drugs or alcohol: 'x couldn't remember anything that happened last night, even through he'd only been drinking beer, so he reckoned his drinks must have been *Mickey Flynned.*'

mickey n. a cigarette containing marijuana.

mickey, the adj. good, excellent, the best (esp. applied to drugs): 'If a drug's good, it's the *mickey.*' [poss. from *Mickey Mouse* = grouse.]

mickey licker n. a lesbian.

Mickey Mouse adj. good, excellent. [rhyming slang for 'grouse', Australian from 1960; formerly London actors' rhyming slang = house (theatre, auditorium), poss. still in use.]

microdot n. see *zebra*.

milk n. tattooing ink.

Note: this term is usually accompanied by a gesture of rubbing the arm with a finger, to make the specific meaning clear.

milkweed n. a skinhead. [derogatory.]

milky bar (also milky bar kid) n. a skinhead. [from the idea that both are 'white'; after the white chocolate bar manufactured by Nestlé. The Milky Bar Kid is the trademark figure in advertisements for the Milky Bar.]
PAYNE: ‘He produces a marijuana cigarette. “I got a big fat millers here, Dee. Me last one”’ (81).]

mimi n. urine. [Māori.] mimi boy (also mimi collector or mimi man or mimi tester) the prison officer who obtains inmates’ urine samples for testing for evidence of drug use. mimi hill a urine test. mimi hoihoi a urine sample, a urine test. [lit. ‘noise of urine’, from Māori mimi = ‘urine’ + hoihoi = ‘noise’.] mimi screw see screw. mimi squad, the the prison officers who obtain inmates’ urine samples for testing for evidence of drug use (cf. piss squad). waka mimi the van driven by the people who test inmates’ urine samples for evidence of drug use. [from Māori waka = ‘vehicle’ + mimi = ‘urine’.] mimi screw see screw. mimi squad, the the prison officers who obtain inmates’ urine samples for testing for evidence of drug use (cf. piss squad). waka mimi the van driven by the people who test inmates’ urine samples for evidence of drug use. [from Māori waka = ‘vehicle’ + mimi = ‘urine’.] mimi screw see screw. mimi squad, the the prison officers who obtain inmates’ urine samples for testing for evidence of drug use (cf. piss squad). waka mimi the van driven by the people who test inmates’ urine samples for evidence of drug use. [from Māori waka = ‘vehicle’ + mimi = ‘urine’.] mince (also go mincing) v. to converse (illegally) with inmates or officers in other wings. mince pies n. pl. 1 eyes. [rhyming slang; from British cant c.1850-1865. Prob. brought to the US by Cockneys in the early 20C where it became cant of the Pacific Coast.] 2 black eyes. 3 (also mincy pies) lies. mincie n. a male-to-female transvestite, a drag queen. Mini, the n. 1 a small rectum able to conceal only a meagre amount of contraband. 2 an inmate with a small rectum: ‘If a big drop needs to be brought in, you tell the guys, “Don’t send up the Mini, send up the Cadillac.”’ minute n. one year’s imprisonment, e.g. ten minutes = ten years. [1982 NEWBOLD: “Hey, how long are you doing, Dream Dealer?” “You know how long I’m fucking doing. Seven-and-a-half minutes”’ (63).] miss n. a common title for a female prison officer, or any female working in the prison, e.g. a psychiatrist, a tutor, a researcher, etc. missile stations n. pl. = basketballs. Miss Palmer n. a homosexual act whereby one man stimulates his partner’s penis with his hand, simulating masturbation (cf. Mrs Palmer). Miss Quickly n. speed in a ‘cut’ state, i.e. broken down with an agent such as glucose to make it stretch further, of poorer quality than pure speed. [a play on ‘quickly’ = ‘speed’, with ‘Miss’ as the subordinate version of ‘Mrs’ (cf. Mrs Quickly).] missus (also Mrs) n. a female inmate’s close friend with whom she spends much of her time (although not necessarily her sexual intimate). [NZ 1968 = a lesbian partner; a reference to the common slang term ‘missus’ = one’s wife or partner.] mister n. a common title for a male prison officer, or any male working in the prison, e.g. a psychiatrist, a social worker, etc. [1982 NEWBOLD: ‘For us, the word boss epitomised everything we hated about being in jail and it was significant that the term was never used in Paremoremo, where screws were always addressed as “Mister”’ (119).] mistie n. a morphine sulphate tablet. [from pronunciation of initials: MST.] mistie script see script.
Mitsubishi n. an Ecstasy tablet. [from the picture of the Mitsubishi logo embossed on the side.]

mix (also go mixing) v. = mince; go mincing.

MJ abbr. = Mary Jane.

mob, the n. the Mongrel Mob gang; Mongrel Mob gang-members. [1982 NEWBOLD: ‘One evening a young Black Power guy was beaten up in the weight room by the Mob for wearing his colours around the can (the Mob always wore red arm sashes, the Blacks, black sashes)’ (221). 1991 PAYNE: ‘The screws hate the Mob, they hate the Mob like nothing else but they still used them to improve their pay conditions and at Pare the Mob caught on to that’ (35).]

mobster n. a member of the Mongrel Mob gang. [from (Mongrel) Mob + gangster, with a play on US ‘mobster’, used from c.1920 = a gangster, a criminal. 1991 PAYNE: ‘[The Stormtroopers] were once allowed to come to a Mongrel Mob convention but it made me sick! The Mobsters who permitted it … found the error of their ways later’ (27).]

modus operandi n. a criminal record.

mogadon (also moggie) n. an idiot. [after the drug Mogadon, a proprietary name for nitrazepam, a sleep-inducing sedative. People on the drug tend to have slow reactions and poor comprehension.]

moggie n. 1 a Mogadon tablet. 2 a member of the Mongrel Mob. [derogatory.]

moggie v. [] moggie up to take sleeping tablets, esp. Mogadon.

Mongie n. a member of the Mongrel Mob. [NZ 1982. 1982 NEWBOLD: ‘The Black Power gang were sworn enemies of both the Heads and the Mongies’ (220).]

Mongrel n. 1 (also Mongreler) n. a member of the Mongrel Mob. [1982 NEWBOLD: ‘[T]he Mongrels used to have rallies in their huts, singing Mongrel Mob ditties, stomping the floor, barking like bulldogs, and yelling out, “Black Power shit!”’ (222). 1991 PAYNE: ‘They could have been someone that everyone else would be impressed by, that everyone else would talk about, but instead they chose the Mongrel Mob. Look at Shane, he could have everything but he gave it all up to be a grotty Mongrel’ (145).] 2 the particular jargon used by Mongrel Mob gang-members: ‘You can tell he’s one of the Mob because he speaks Mongrel’ or: ‘A gang-member is dog in Mongrel.’ Note: most commonly, Mongrel takes the form of relexicalising existing words, using ‘dog’ equivalents; e.g. gang-member = dog; wife, girlfriend or daughter (of a gang-member) = bitch; child = puppy; cell = kennel. It also involves the substitution of ‘red’ (the gang colour) into expressions that conventionally use the word ‘blue’; e.g. once in a red moon; out of the red.

monkey n. 1 $100; a $100 note. 2 a drug habit: ‘I’ve got to feed the monkey.’ [] have a monkey on board to have a drug habit.

monkey mob, the n. the Mongrel Mob. [derogatory. 1991 PAYNE: ‘The public can moan all they like about the monkeys [Mongrel Mob] or the Blacks [Power], but they want to be thankful the
Nomads aren’t as big, ’cause then they’d have real trouble’ (62].

morepork n. an inmate who remains constantly in his cell. [the morepork is rarely seen during the day.] (cf. possum.)

morning sickness n. [] have morning sickness to be confined to one’s cell for medical reasons.

mort n. a moron. [1982 NEWBOLD: ‘Mort (n) Moron’ (251).]

motel Eden n. Mount Eden Prison. [ironic.]

motherload n. a large delivery of contraband, a big drop: ‘Bro, I’ve got a motherload coming up today, could you stash it for us?’

motor n. a tattoo machine (cf. boob gun; lady; pencil).

motorboat n. throat. [rhyming slang; 1982 NEWBOLD: 'Motorboat (n) Throat' (251).]

mount, the n. 1 Mount Eden Men’s Prison. [1942 HARCOURT: ‘The Arch’, as the prisoners called Archbishop Averill, was really loved in “The Mount” (233).] 2 (less commonly) Mount Eden Women’s Prison. 3 (less commonly) Mount Crawford (Wellington Men’s) Prison.

mount rock n. Mount Eden Men’s Prison. [poss. a synthesis of the mount and rock college.]

mouse n. 1 a tampon. [its shape, size and attached string resemble a white mouse with a long tail.] 2 an officer new to the prison, esp. one who has recently completed his training.

mouse tampon n. a cigarette filter. [from its similarity to a miniature version of a women’s sanitary aid.]

mouthpiece n. 1 a lawyer. 2 an inmate chosen as the spokesperson for his fellow inmates; e.g. he takes cases to the Ombudsman or puts complaints or requests forward to the officers.

move n. [] on the move in the process of being transferred to another prison.

movies, the n. pl. 1 LSD. 2 Magic Mushrooms. [] go to the movies to take such drugs.

Mr Asia n. an inmate in possession of a steady supply of drugs for sale to other inmates, the drug-dealer in the wing. [alludes to the Mr Asia drug syndicate that operated in Australasia during the 1970s.]

Mr Brownstone n. heroin, esp. brown heroin. [current US drug users’ slang; from the song ‘Mr Brownstone’ (1987) by Guns N’ Roses, which alludes to a heroin addiction.]

Mr Gadget n. a detective. [after the television cartoon and film character, Inspector Gadget.]

Mr Jailerman n. a policeman. [West Indian/Rastafarian.]

Mr Miggles n. heroin. [it has been suggested that the term derives from US ‘miggles’, a variant of US and British ‘muggles’ = marijuana.]
Mrs Palmer n. an act of masturbation, performed alone: ‘What do you do for sex in here, x?’ ‘I just go and see Mrs Palmer and her five daughters’ or: ‘I go back to my house, jump on Mrs Palmer, and rape her.’ [Australian c.1986; refers to the ‘palm’ of the hand; ‘five daughters’ = five fingers.]

Mrs Quickly n. speed in an ‘uncut’ (i.e. pure) state (cf. Miss Quickly).

muck v. muck out to clean out one’s cell, to empty one’s cell chamberpot. [a specialised prison use of the general term ‘muck out’ = to clean up.]

muck hole n. a loose, promiscuous woman. [Australian, a bowdlerised form of ‘fuck hole’ = vagina; by synecdochic extension = a promiscuous woman. ‘Muck’ has been used as a euphemism for ‘fuck’ since c.1915.]

mudperson n. a person with dark skin.

mug n. 1 a foolish, gullible or naive person. [British from mid-19C = a dupe.] 2 the face. [British from early 19C, e.g. ‘mug shot’ = a photograph of the head, used in police line ups and on criminal records.]

mug and spoon n. two inmates who are close friends and spend much of their time together (cf. cup and saucer; Dad and Dave).

mule n. = donkey senses 1 and 2.

mull n. marijuana of poor quality. [prob. an abbreviation of mullock.]

mullock n. 1 marijuana of poor quality, esp. applied to a batch of dried marijuana where the good-quality bud (or head) of the plant is mixed up with the poor-quality leaf. [from Australian and NZ mid-19C goldmining usage = rock which contains no gold, the rubbish heaped at the top of a mineshaft (cf. dross).] 2 a paedophile. [poss. from a transferred use of ‘rubbish’ = a worthless person.] 3 an idiot. [see sense 2.] 4 lies: ‘Don’t believe him, he’s talking mullock.’ [poss. from a transferred use of ‘rubbish’ = lies, worthless information.]

mullock (also mullock up) v. to ruin, to make poor (applied specifically to marijuana): ‘When it arrived, the marijuana was all mullocked up, just bits of leaf and head.’


mum n. an inmate’s wife or girlfriend (cf. bitch sense 1).

mum-and-dad adj. 1 crazy. [rhyming slang for ‘mad’ (British sense).] 2 angry, annoyed. [rhyming slang for ‘mad’ (US sense).]

Murray Cod n. on the Murray Cod under the influence of intravenous drugs. [rhyming slang for on the nod, an underworld adaptation of Australian usages: have a Murray Cod = have a nod (i.e. to sleep); and on the Murray cod = on the nod (i.e. on credit, 1977). After a Murray Cod, a large, groper-like fish inhabiting the Murray-Darling river system (cf. Bob Hope).]

Murray Flynn n. chin. [rhyming slang.] (cf. Vera Lynn.)
**muscle** *n.* a weapon, e.g. a knife, firearm, etc. (cf. tool).

**muscle** *v.* [ ] **muscle up** to arm oneself (cf. tool up).

**muster** *n.* 1 the total number of inmates in a prison or particular area of a prison. [1978 NEWBOLD: 'Auckland Prison is situated at Paremoremo, west of Albany, in a rural area some 27 km. north of Auckland city. It has, at capacity, residence for 244 inmates, although generally the muster hovers about the 200 mark' (245). 1982 STEWART: 'A screw checked the muster. He whispered to one of the other screws. They looked worried. Checked the muster again. Still one down' (169). 1989 NEWBOLD: 'Prison musters, which in 1949 had dropped to a mean of 1024, had begun thereafter a slow and unremitting climb' (39.)] 2 a head count of inmates to ensure that all are present, a roll-call: 'We're having a muster in five minutes, so could you make sure the garden crew gets back to the compound on time?' [British from c.1400 = the act of assembling for inspection and identification. In a criminal sense, first applied to Australian convicts in the late 18C. 1793 TENCH: "'Are," said I, "your five hundred men [i.e. convicts] still complete?" – "No; this day's muster gave only four hundred and sixty..."' (145).] [ ] **blow the muster** to exceed the prison's maximum capacity, to have charge of more inmates than the prison can hold. **do a muster** or **take a muster** to conduct a head count of inmates: 'In this unit, the screws do a muster every forty-five minutes.' [1982 NEWBOLD: 'One of his annoying habits, while doing a muster, instead of standing outside, was to walk right into a cell and stand there, ticking names off. This disrupted conversation and was a general pain in the neck' (111).]

**muster** *v.* to organise inmates for a head-count and inspection; to conduct a head-count and inspection of inmates. [1945 BURTON: 'About twenty minutes to twelve the gangs knock off and are mustered' (52).]

**mutley** *n.* 1 the police narcotics detection dog. [poss. from the 1960s animated cartoon, Stop the Pigeon, starring characters Dick Dastardly and his green dog, Mutley.] 2 = *mutt* (sense 2).

**mutt** *n.* 1 the police narcotics detection dog. 2 a member of the Mongrel Mob. [derogatory, from 'mutt' as a unflattering term for dog.]

**mutton chain** *n.* = **beef chain**.

**mystery tour** *n.* a transfer from one prison to another. [often the inmate has no idea at which prison he will end up.]
N

NA abbr. 1 (of an inmate) New Arrival. 2 = non-association.

nab v. to arrest.

napp n. a morphine sulphate tablet (MST). [British company Napp Pharmaceuticals is a chief manufacturer of MSTs; MSTs produced by Napp feature NAPP embossed on one side.]

nappy (also nappyhead) n. a new prison officer recently completed his or her training (cf. baby screw; diaper).

nark n. 1 an informer. Note: although this term may also be applied to police or prison officers and civilians, it has particular currency amongst prison inmates. If an inmate is labelled as a nark, he is treated with suspicion and contempt by his fellow inmates, and may be continually harassed, abused, or in some cases, attacked. The inmate’s reputation as a nark remains throughout his sentence, and often follows him to any other prison to which he may be transferred. [from French narguise = ‘sly, slyly cunning’. British from 1859 = one who obtains information under seal of confidence and afterwards breaks faith; from 1860 = any common informer. 1978 NEWBOLD: ‘There were two or three inmates in this prison who were more or less universally recognised as policemen, screws or narks. These isolates were almost universally disliked and held in contempt by the rest of the population, but were seldom directly threatened or beaten. They were, however, subject to perpetual, if petty, harassment, abuse or persecution at fairly regular intervals. Their cells were often pilfered, their property tampered with or destroyed. One inmate had his pet budgie decapitated and hidden under his pillow’ (349). 1992 DUFF: ‘Cos you all the time think-think-think. ... It don’t sit right, ya know? It sounds like – makes you sound like some fucking con ready to turn into a nark cos sumpin inside you is busted’ (31). 1998 BUNGAY: ‘I try ignoring the graffiti, but it doesn’t work: there are girls loving girls, symbols of gangs, remarks on narks, initials everywhere’ (189).] 2 a person who gains another’s trust under false pretences and then turns on him at a later stage. As one inmate explains: ‘A nark’s like a cop who goes undercover and sells you drugs and then busts you for it.’ [cf. sense 1.] [] camp nark (in a prison camp) an inmate who constantly gives information about inmates’ illegal activities to his fellow inmates or to prison officers. do a nark to inform (on). nark in the park! ‘Be careful, there’s an informer nearby.’ prison nark one who informs in prison, e.g. to other inmates or to prison officers (as opposed to a person on the outside who passes information to the police). top nark a particularly frequent or vicious informer (cf. king rat sense 2).

nark (also nark on or nark off) v. 1 to inform (on), to betray, to testify against. [British c.1896 = to be a police spy, to lay information with the police (about). 1978 NEWBOLD: ‘the most rigid and inviolable injunction of the inmate community at Paremoremo is that which prohibits the informing of officials concerning the underground activities of prisoners. In inmate argot this is known as “narking” or “grassing”’ (319). 1992 DUFF: ‘Jube, I wouldn’t nark on – I know ya wouldn’t, but there’s plenty who’re asking questions about you, Mahia’ (31). 1991 PAYNE: ‘Alliances form in prison between the most unlikely partners, the only real requirements being that you can stand up for yourself and can be trusted not to “nark”’ (13).
1994 PAYNE: ‘I’ll tell you what’s extreme. Scum-bags like this destroying some kiddy’s life and getting stuff—all for it. Being fed, clothes, and because they crawl up the screw’s arses and nark everyone off, being given an early release so they can go out and do it all over again’ (50). “‘You remember the rules, tama?’ “Sure. Tell the coppers nothing.” “Right. No ‘Talking and No Narking. Forget that and they’ll bang you up with your old man’” (163).] 2 to blame. 3 to fabricate evidence in order to secure a conviction; to use false evidence against the accused.

National Geographic n. a pornographic magazine (cf. Auto Trader; Bible, the; Woman’s Weekly).

natty n. a person with dreadlocks. [from the title of the album Natty Dread (1974) by Bob Marley and the Wailers.]

nazi n. a nitrazepam tablet. [an arbitrary abbreviation; nitrazepam is a sleep-inducing sedative more commonly known as Mogadon.]

NBL n. an inmate who consistently adopts a boob walk in an attempt to look bigger and more intimidating. [stands for National Basketball League, as an inmate in this stance looks as though he is walking with basketballs under his arms (cf. basketballs).]

neck v. [] neck oneself to commit suicide, esp. by hanging. [British, 19C.]

needle n. a hypodermic syringe. [US from c.1910.]

Nellie Bligh n. 1 a lie. [rhyming slang; Nelly Bligh (also spelt Nelly Bly) was the ‘other woman’ in the US Ballad of Frankie and Johnny; a singular variant of Cockney ‘Nellie Blighs’ = flies, early to mid-20C.] 2 a liar.

Never-Never Land n. Paremoremo Prison; as one inmate explains: ‘You never, never want to go there.’ [a play on the name of the fantasy land from J.M. Barrie’s play, Peter Pan (1904).]

New Age Criminal n. = thug.

new blood n. an inmate recently arrived in the prison.

new egg n. an inmate recently arrived in the prison; an inmate new to prison life (cf. old egg; rotten egg).

new kid on the block n. 1 (also new boy on the block) an inmate or officer new to a prison or prison wing. 2 a homosexual. [from the idea that other inmates will put him on the block (subject him to group sodomy).]

new school adj. of a young inmate from the new generation of criminals, representing different beliefs and attitudes from those of established inmates. Note: older inmates see the presence of new school inmates as changing the dynamics of the prison, creating a ‘softer’ prison life as compared to that which existed in the past. This view may be to some degree ‘jail nostalgia’, but it does take into consideration the fact that many inmates coming to prison for the first time are so much younger than those in previous years, increasing the need for Youth Wings (under 21s) and segregation units (cf. thug; old school).

Niagara Falls n. testicles. [rhyming slang for ‘balls’; British from early 20C, US Pacific Coast from c.1944. 1982 NEWBOLD: ‘Niagaras (Niagara Falls) (n) Testicles’ (251).]
nick (also old nick) n. prison. [Australian from c.1882, poss. British from much earlier; in very occasional use in some US prisons from c.1950. 1989 NEWBOLD: 'Yeah, when we arrived [the Superintendent] took us all over the nick. He was so fucking proud of the place, he was trying to bullshit us that it was part of his planning and all this crap. He was rapt in it, eh. It was his baby' (187).]

nick v. 1 to steal. [British from c.1829 = to rob, to steal; current in the US by 1845.] 2 to arrest. [British from 1622.]

Nigel n. an inmate who never receives a visit from friends or family. [from the street-slang expression, 'Nigel no-mates' = a friendless person.] [] Nigeled up without friends or visitors.

nigger n. a Black Power gang-member. [derogatory. 1991 PAYNE: 'But the biggest gang to come along since us has been the niggers [Black Power]' (27).]

night-night n. a sleeping tablet.

niglet n. a dark-skinned child. [poss. a rhyming play on 'piglet', from derogatory nigger = a dark-skinned person + -let as a diminutive suffix.]

nine-one-one (also 911) n. 1 a potential victim, esp. of a theft. An inmate may see a fellow inmate who appears an easy target and say to his friends, 'Oh, we've got a 911.' In this way, without the victim's knowledge, the other inmates are told that they may take goods or property from him without trouble or reprisal. [from 911, the US telephone number for emergency services, the equivalent of New Zealand's 111.] 2 an inmate who calls for help from prison officers when in a threatening situation, behaving like a victim (cf. sense 1). As one inmate explains: 'Like if he's getting the bash, he jumps for his emergency button [cell alarm] instead of copping it and taking it like a man.' 3 (on the outside) one who rings for police assistance if harassed by criminals.

nine-to-five n. a system person, i.e. a person who works in the prison as a psychiatrist, counsellor, social worker, Ombudsman, etc.; applied particularly to a person unconcerned about the well-being of the inmates, considering his work with the inmates only as a job for which he gets paid; as one inmate remarks: 'They don't care what they say to you so long as they get their money.' [from the working day of 9am – 5pm, reflecting the perception of inmates that their needs and interests are never considered by such employees outside these working hours.]

ninja turtle n. 1 a 200mg morphine sulphate tablet. [the tablet is green (cf. little ninja; turtle).] 2 (also ninja) a member of the Riot Squad. The Riot Squad consists of a group of specially trained officers who are called in to suppress any inmate uprisings. [after the main characters from the cartoon programme, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (1987-), a group of green, biologically mutated turtles skilled in the art of ninjitsu, who fight evil gangsters in the sewers below city streets. The Riot Squad's shell-like shields, weapons and fighting skills resemble those of the cartoon figures.] 3 a prison officer. [in New Zealand, prison officers wear green uniforms.] (cf. green machine, the.)

Noah's ark n. an informer. [rhyming slang for nark; Australian 1898, British
early 20C; also extant Cockney = park, shark.]

**nod n.** heroin. [this drug puts a user on the nod.] 1 give it the nod to plead guilty, to admit responsibility for one’s crime. [1982 NEWBOLD: 'Nod (n) e.g., Give it the —. Plead guilty' (251).] on the nod under the influence of a (morphine-based) intravenous drug. [poss. a variant of ‘play the nod’ = to feel drowsy from over-indulgence in drugs; US drug addicts’ slang from c.1925 (cf. on the Murray Cod).]

**nod v.** (also nod to it) to plead guilty, to admit responsibility for one’s crime.

**no danger int.** = no effect.

**no effect int.** an expression displaying indifference to a given threat or negative situation, conveying emotional security and a lack of concern or upset.

**Note:** this term is used by an inmate from the time he is first sentenced, as one inmate explains: ‘When you’re tried in court they’ll say your name and the sentence you’ve got and you say, “No effect.” This attitude continues in prison when talking to fellow inmates, e.g. ‘How’s your lag, bro?’ ‘No effect, bro,’ and when talking to officers, as one inmate says: ‘A screw might say to you, “We’ve got a place for you, x, down the pound.”’ And you reply, ‘Well, that’s no effect, don’t give me idle threats. Shall I go and pack my house or are you going to do it for me?’’ An inmate may also use this expression at any other point during his sentence when he feels emotionally hurt, frustrated or physically threatened (cf. mask up).

**no fear n.** = no effect.

**no fefe n.** = no effect. [Samoan = ‘no fear’.]

**non-association n.** 1 a punishment procedure whereby an inmate is denied any form of association, e.g. contact with other inmates, visits from the outside, etc. [1953 HAMILTON: ‘[Barney] The hero of the jails, the only man to beat the jails in a battle that lasted nearly three years. Two years and eleven months “non-association,” and that’s over a thousand days’ (106). 1980 MacKENZIE: ‘15.6.76. “I asked inmate Towers to leave the office as there were too many in it. As inmate Towers went out she said, ‘You prick.’ When I cautioned her she said she couldn’t give a stuff.” 3 days non-association’ (65).] 2 (also non-association order) a bail condition decided by the court whereby the accused cannot associate with certain people; e.g. in the case of gang-member he may be forbidden to associate with a particular gang-member, or the whole gang. If the accused breaches the non-association order he is sent to prison.

**nonce n.** 1 a homosexual. [poss. a variant of synonymous ‘nance’ or ‘nancy’, or a rhyme on ‘ponce’.] 2 a paedophile. [British, standing for: ‘Not Of Normal Carnal Experience.’]

**noobie** (also newbie) n. a prison officer recently completed his or her training.

**noose n.** a mentally unbalanced person. [from the idea that he is potentially suicidal.]

**northern lights n.** see skunk.

**not fazable adj.** unperturbed, undaunted, composed. ‘Are you okay? Are you dealing with it [your sentence]?’ ‘I’m not fazable, man; I can handle it.’ (cf. no effect.)

**nude nut n.** a skinhead. [refers to the skinhead’s shaven head; a play on ‘nude’ = bare, and ‘nut’ = ‘head’.]
nuk su khao n. a Pākehā. [from Thai nuk su khao = ‘white warrior’. Made famous from its use in the film, *Kickboxer* (1989) starring Jean-Claude van Damme.]

**number one** n. a marijuana cigarette, a joint.

**number one** n. 1 (also **number one diet** or **number one ration**) Restricted Diet Number One (abolished by the Bill of Rights on 1 April 1981). This punishment diet was usually fed to inmates who were on solitary confinement and consisted of the staples: bread, fat, potatoes, water and milk. After four days, the inmate had to be given a proper meal. [1953 HAMILTON: ‘They’d feed him No. 1 ration for a while, even give him an extra sometimes, like a egg, a thing you never see in the boob unless you fluke it from the screw’s cook-house’ (106). 1971 SHADBOLT: ‘Once some guys tried to organise a petition about the food – they were put into “the digger” on Diet Number One: 8oz. potato, 4oz. fat, five slices bread, ½ pint milk’ (11). 1978 NEWBOLD: ‘For any of the infractions listed in Section 32 of the Act, an inmate may be punished with solitary confinement, and the Superintendent has the authority to sentence the inmate up to 3 days No. 1 diet, which consists of a daily ration of 8 ounces of bread, 2 pounds of potatoes, ½ pints of milk and one ounce of dripping’ (231). 1989 NEWBOLD: ‘1961 saw the abolition of bread and water punishment and its replacement with two grades of restricted diet ... the more extreme of these, no. 1 diet, provided for a daily regimen of bread, potatoes, milk and dripping. Its alternative, no. 2 diet, added to the above a ration of oatmeal, salt, sugar, and cheese. The maximum period a person could be sentenced to a restricted diet was fifteen days. In the case of **no. 1 diet** only, full rations were given on every fourth day... it was not until 1981 that restricted diets were formally done away with’ (126). 1992 DUFF: ‘Number one was cold potatoes, glass of milk, piece of bread for three meals a day three days on end, full normal rations on the fourth, then back to another regime of **number one**. It was assumed to be civilised’ (43).] 2 a tough inmate who controls the wing, a bully. 3 = IC. 4 one’s wife (cf. **number three**; **number two** sense 4).

**number one cell** n. 1 a padded strip cell designed to hold suicidal inmates. 2 the cell belonging to the **number one** (cf. prec. sense 2).

**number one comb** n. an extremely thorough cell-check.

**number one skunk** n. see skunk.

**number seven** n. a complete idiot. [after No. 7, the biggest kind of egg there is (cf. egg; eggroll).]

**number three** n. a promiscuous woman with whom a man may have casual sex, or a one-night-stand at a party or gang gathering; akin to a **dirty girl**. (cf. **number one** sense 4; **number two** sense 4).

**number two** n. 1 (also **number two diet** or **number two ration**) Restricted Diet Number Two (abolished 1 April 1981). This punishment diet was usually fed to inmates on solitary confinement and consisted of bread, potatoes, milk, porridge and dripping (sometimes supplemented with other ingredients,
depending on the prison and period). According to some inmates, this Restricted Diet had to be given once a day, but the time of day was never specified, i.e. an inmate could be fed at 8am one day, but not until 5pm the next day, making it difficult for the inmate to know how long to eke out the food. [1953 HAMILTON: 'I suppose, after a while, they began to think they were defending the rights of man when they put recalcitrants on No. 2 ration instead of bread and water' (196). 1992 DUFF: 'Insolence to an officer, that's what the charge was. Seven days in the Digger on number two diet.... Number two was dripping to spread on the bread, and porridge for breakfast, soup and bread and dripping spread for lunch, spuds, bread and milk for tea' (43).] 2 the sidekick or bum boy of an inmate who controls a prison wing (cf. number one sense 2). 3 the officer second in command to the IC. 4 one's regular mistress (cf. number one sense 4; number three).

nuthouse n. the cell or unit for mentally unbalanced or potentially suicidal inmates. [originally tramps' slang from c.1905 = an asylum for the insane; a variant of 'nut factory' (US 1929), 'nut foundry' (US 1932), and 'nut college' (US 1934) = an insane ward in a prison.]

nut roll n. a homosexual.

nutter's medo n. largactil, a largactil pill.
O

O n. 1 (also Oie) an ounce of marijuana. [US from 1942; an abbreviation of OZ.] 2 opium.

obs n. 1 = observation (sense 1). 2 (also obs cell or obs room) = observation cell. 3 half-an-hour obs a procedure whereby an inmate is placed on observation and checked every 30 minutes, usually through the inspection hole in his own cell door (cf. half hourlys). fifteen-minute obs a procedure whereby an inmate is placed on observation and checked every 15 minutes. This procedure is carried out in severe cases where it is not safe to leave the inmate unmonitored for any sustained length of time. Usually, the inmate on fifteen-minute obs is monitored by a surveillance camera, and is placed in an observation cell (cf. quarter hourlys).

observation n. 1 a procedure whereby an inmate is confined and checked at regular intervals, usually in cases where there is substantial concern for his emotional state and it is likely that he may try to harm himself (e.g. he may have just received a long sentence, or his partner may have left him). The inmate may be put on observation in his own cell, or he may be placed in a special observation cell. 2 a less formal procedure whereby prison officers note any strange behaviour displayed by an inmate that suggests a potential problem, and then watch that inmate closely for any evidence that supports their suspicions before acting, e.g. the inmate may be acting strangely, leading officers to believe he is ‘at-risk’ (suicidal); or there may be several inmates continuously hanging around his cell, leading officers to suspect that he is being stood over. During this preliminary period, the inmate is unaware that he is being observed, and is free to move around the prison and undertake normal duties.

observation cell n. a cell equipped with a surveillance camera, used for strip-searching or for monitoring ‘at-risk’ inmates.

OG abbr. Original Gangster (in the general sense of a criminal), a common term of address between inmates. [African-American street-gang slang; used in NZ mainly amongst younger Māori or Pacific Island inmates.] (cf. G sense 1.)

Oi adv. very, especially: ‘That was an Oi good-looking girl.’ [skinhead usage.]

Oi n. 1 (also Oi Oi) a skinhead. 2 skinhead culture, values and ideology, esp. as in on Oi. Using on Oi is an emphatic way of swearing on a skinhead’s gang and gives a statement loaded meaning, implying that it carries the speaker’s word of honour, e.g. ‘Is that on Oi?’ = ‘Is that honestly true?’ (cf. is that a Yo?). 3 straight up on Oi a skinhead expression emphasising that the speaker is telling the absolute truth, that he is direct and trustworthy.

OIC abbr. Officer In Charge (cf. Chief, the; IC).

Oi Oi int. 1 a familiar skinhead term of greeting, acknowledgement, emphasis and solidarity, used particularly amongst a skinhead’s own crew. [British from the 1970s; the youngest member of the punk band Cockney Rejects popularised the expression, ‘Oi Oi Oi!’ which he used to
get attention, e.g. in a pub or during a conversation. Thus, much punk music has also become known as ‘Oi Music’ and is the popular choice of music amongst skinhead and other white supremacist groups.]

**oink oink** *n.* 1 a skinhead. [derogatory; from Oi Oi.] 2 a police officer (cf. pig).

**old egg** *n.* a well-established inmate who has been in prison for some time (cf. new egg; rotten egg).

**old fulla** *n.* a 100mg morphine sulphate tablet. [100mg MSTs are grey.] (cf. grey.)

**old hand** *n.* = old lagger.

**old indica** *n.* any marijuana grown outdoors, esp. in the bush (as opposed to being grown hydroponically as is most skunk weed). [Cannabis indica is a common strain of marijuana botanically identical to Cannabis sativa.]

**old married couple, the** *n.* = husband and wife.

**old maxi boy** *n.* an inmate who has come to another prison from big Parry, the maximum-security section of Paremoremo Prison.

*Note:* this background implies that the inmate has been a problem in the past and will most likely become violent or dangerous if provoked. Inmates such as these are treated with caution and a high degree of respect by other inmates (cf. maxi).

**old ned** *n.* head. [rhyming slang.]

**old school** *adj.* (of an inmate) who has spent a lot of time in prison over many years and is fully familiar with the culture, codes of practice and history of prison life.

*Note:* to describe an inmate as old school is also a warning to fresher inmates that the inmate is not to be provoked or treated with disrespect because he is likely to retaliate, and will not hesitate to use violence if he deems it necessary. **Old school** inmates tend to be treated with deference as they are seen by inmates to be representative of a tougher, stauncher or more honourable class of inmate that existed in the past, the product of a harder prison life that inmates nostalgically recollect. As one inmate explains: ‘Old school also describes a way of doing things, based on different morals. For example, you don’t nark on people; you don’t talk to the screws and only go to their office if you’re called. The line in the sand between us and them was much more defined in the past than it is now. Now you’ve got guys crossing that line all the time. Back then, there were harsher punishments for guys who broke the rules.’ It is true that New Zealand’s prison conditions have improved greatly over time, due to government decisions such as the Criminal Justice Act (1954), the Crimes Act (1961) the Bill of Rights (1981) and other penal reform measures, as well as general advances in architecture, hygiene, and information technology; thus inmates today may be doing ‘easier time’ than their predecessors. Much of this current ‘jail nostalgia’ has also been accentuated by the fact that, in recent years, inmates who would once have been on segregation and separated from the main prison population are now being integrated with mainstreamers in many units in prisons around New Zealand, causing inmates to view contemporary prison life and the type of inmates it produces as ‘soft’. However, despite the impact these recent policy changes have had upon the prison’s social dynamic, this ‘jail nostalgia’, or the auraticisation of the ‘good old days’, may be found in New Zealand prison-related texts dating back over several years (e.g. Newbold 1978; Hamilton 1953), suggesting that this view is largely subjective.

**Olympic Committee, the** *n.* the people who test samples of inmates’ urine for evidence of drug use. [after the Olympic Games Committee, who oversee stringent drug tests for all competing athletes.]
oma rapiti v. to escape or run away: ‘It’s no good up here, bro; if you get the chance, you should oma rapiti.’ [from the Māori-language version of the children’s song, ‘Run Rabbit’, with the lyrics: Oma rapiti, oma rapiti, oma, oma, oma = Run rabbit, run rabbit, run, run, run.]

one, the n. 1 a long sentence. 2 a person held in awe or high esteem. [from the film, Highlander (US 1986), starring Christopher Lambert and Sean Connery. In some cases, two inmates may use the term as quoted directly from the film; one inmate will say: ‘I’m the one,’ and the other will answer: ‘Yeah, but I’m the ultimate one.’] 3 a magnanimous, selfless person, with others’ interests at heart. As one inmate says: ‘It’s a guy with a positive result, someone who looks out for you; like, he gives you a smoke when you’re hanging out for one.’ [] you’re the one 1 an expression of gratitude. 2 an expression of close friendship. 3 a remark directed at a contemptuous person who displays weakness or greed. [sarcastic.] 4 indicates that the addressee is the person to go and see for certain items, e.g. drugs.

one, the adj. (of an object, event or person) excellent, awesome. [] not the one 1 (of an object, event or person, esp. an inmate’s personality or behaviour) offensive or substandard: ‘Come on, man, get your act together, that’s not the one.’ 2 (of a person) ostracised, unfavoured, despised. 3 untrue.

one another n. 1 mother. 2 brother. [rhyming slang; a variant of Cockney ‘one and t’other’, early 20C. 1982

NEWBOLD: ‘One another (n) Mother or brother’ (252).]

onebar n. a junior prison officer. Note: a junior prison officer of about one year’s standing wore a single bar on the epaulettes of his uniform. The more senior he became, the more bars he would wear. During 2000, these bars were replaced with the letters CO, SCO, or PCO, denoting the officer’s rank (see Chief, the).

one dollar n. $10. [when inmates negotiate a deal or discuss money, a common strategy is to diminish by 10 the amount being discussed, e.g. an ounce of skunk weed may be referred to as costing $60, rather than $600. Therefore, for anyone overhearing the conversation, the deal will sound much less significant than it is.]

one-eight-nine (also 189) n. a serious violent offence. [from the code applied to the crime in the current Crimes Act.]

one hundred percent soli (also one hundred percent uso) n. someone totally loyal and supportive to his friend. [from Samoan soli = ‘the boys’, and uso = ‘brother’.]

one night stand n. a marijuana foil, a tinny. [the amount of marijuana in a foil is enough to last a person for only one night.]

one-one diet (also 1 1 Diet) n. a punishment diet formerly handed out to inmates that involved one day of the Restricted Diet Number One (see number one) followed by one day of the Standard Ration. This pattern was repeated for the duration of the punishment period.

one-one-one (also 111) n. an inmate who calls for help from prison officers
when in a threatening situation, behaving like a victim. [from 111, the New Zealand emergency services telephone number.] (cf. nine-one-one sense 2.)

one-out n. 1 a one-on-one fight between two inmates with an existing disagreement. 2 a fight where a single opponent is spontaneously and randomly picked out of a crowd of inmates. A variation upon this type of one-out may also occur when there is a disagreement between two gangs or crews. Rather than everyone joining in for a free-for-all and causing widespread injury, one person may be picked to represent each crew in a one-on-one fight to sort out the matter. [hence 'one out' of a crowd.] 3 a loner: 'He's a one-out; he doesn't rely on others, he looks after himself, he does his own lag. He don't want to do no deals, don't want to get in no shit.' 4 a heart-to-heart talk.

one-out adv. [] do one's lag one-out to serve one's sentence while remaining neutral, i.e. resisting involvement or affiliation with, or recruitment into, any gang.

one toke silly n. indica, a strong strain of marijuana. [from the idea that it takes only one 'toke' (inhalation) to have an effect.] Note: the strength of a given variety of marijuana is often described in terms of the number of 'tokes' a smoker must take before he feels the effect, e.g.: 'This stuff's really good, it's two toke material.'

one way ticket out n. a transfer to another prison.[]

o-one (also 01) n. a skinhead. [from Oi Oi.]

opal n. 1 a 100mg morphine sulphate tablet. 2 a Mogadon capsule.

open report n. a procedure whereby an inmate has been informed that he is on a charge and is waiting to have his charge heard, but is not confined to his cell during this period (cf. locked report).

OPs abbr. Off Privileges, a punishment whereby an inmate is denied certain privileges to which he would normally have access: 'He's OPs' or: 'He's been put on OPs.' Note: the inmate may lose his TV, his stereo, and other electrical appliances; he may lose his hobby material (e.g. carving supplies); he may lose his games (e.g. monopoly set); he may be locked up early (e.g. 5:30pm instead of 8:30pm); he may not be allowed to attend any sporting or cultural events, or Family Days; and he may either be denied visits completely, or granted only a booth visit rather than a normal, open visit. In some prisons his canteen privileges may be limited, and his access to books and mail may be restricted. Generally the punishment of OPs is given in conjunction with CCs; after serving time in CCs, the inmate may spend a period of time on OPs once he returns to his unit. [] OPs cell (in some prisons) the cell in which an inmate is placed while he is on OPs (as opposed to the inmate remaining in his own cell and having his belongings confiscated).

optic nerve n. a look around: 'Get out there and have an optic nerve.' [rhyming slang for 'perv'.]

orange n. a 60 mg morphine sulphate tablet (MST). [from its colour.] (cf. citrus; vitamin C.)

orange juice n. a concoction of 60 mg MSTs (oranges) cooked up to extract the morphine: 'I'm feeling a bit crook – I've got some oranges for the vitamin C and I'm making myself some orange juice.'
orange roughy *n.* see skunk.

**oscar** *n.* 1 an ounce of marijuana. 2 a rubbish bin. [after Oscar the Grouch, a character from the US children's television programme *Sesame Street*, who lives in a rubbish bin.]

**Otara** (also **Otara Street**) *n.* see street, the.

**OTL** *abbr.* Only The Lonely, an antisocial inmate who spends much of her time in her cell. [women's prison argot.]

**outdoor** *n.* marijuana grown out-of-doors (cf. *indoor*).

**outer, the** *n.* the world beyond prison confines, mainstream society. [1953 HAMILTON: 'It's a funny thing; you'd think that a spell in the boob would make you far more capable of putting up with setbacks on the outer, but it doesn't' (227). 1994 PAYNE: "'Don't worry about it," says Bill. "They're all broken arses on the outer anyway''' (56.).] (cf. *outside*.)

**outfit** *n.* the necessary equipment for injecting intravenous drugs, i.e. a hypodermic syringe, hypodermic needle, tourniquet, etc.

**outters, the** *n.* = outer, the; outside.

**outside, (the)** *n.* the world beyond prison confines, civilian life, mainstream society. [US from c.1903.] (cf. *inside*.)

**ouzo** *n.* an ounce of marijuana. [from *oz* = ounce. Ouzo is a Greek drink made from aniseed, providing a useful camouflage term.]
P

P abbr. and n. 1 = prospect sense 1. 2 = prospect sense 2.

P abbr. and v. P it 1 to work as a gang prospect. 2 to patch up, to become a full member of a gang.

P119 n. a prison shopping form, a canteen form.
Note: using this form, an inmate may obtain groceries and other items not directly supplied by the prison. (P119 is the official government code given to the form, the initial P derived from 'prison'.) The P119 system was introduced c.1990 when the prison canteen, which previously provided goods for inmates, was shut down. The form contains an extensive list of available items, e.g. fruit, cereal, cigarettes, chocolate bars, pens and pencils, approved hobby gear, newspapers/TV Guides, and toiletries, which are all supplied at normal retail prices. Inmates fill in the form with the items they require, and are able to list further items not printed on the form, although these must be approved; e.g. perishables, pornographic material and aerosols are not allowed. There is no set limit for a P119 order, and the inmate may list as much as he can afford, depending upon the amount in his Trust Account. The inmate may accrue money in his Trust Account either by working in the prison, selling artwork or furniture that he has made, or by receiving deposits from his visitors. P119 orders are taken once a week, usually on a Sunday night, and the goods are delivered the following Wednesday.

[1999 FIRST DAYS: ‘You can buy approved items such as shampoo, sweets, phone cards, and cigarettes and tobacco (if you’re over 18) through the weekly shopping system with your own money. This system is called P119 system, or “canteen”’ (9).]

pack v. 1 to arm oneself. 2 to carry a weapon: ‘Watch out, he’s packing.’ e.g. pack a shiv to carry a knife: ’I pack a shiv wherever I go in the jail.’ [1978 NEWBOLD: ‘The knowledge that an inmate is “packing a shiv”, or going to “back up with a shiv”, is often enough to prompt a reopening of negotiations during which a mood of diplomacy usually prevails’ (336).] pack heat to carry a firearm or some related weapon, such as a pump water bottle filled with a mixture of sugar and boiling water, or a pump bottle filled with polystyrene balls dissolved in turpentine or petrol. These concoctions may be squirted out of the pump bottle at a victim, and they stick to the victim’s skin and burn. (This type of assault is one of the reasons why pump water bottles have been made illegal in some prisons.) pack your snow gears used toward an Auckland prison inmate about to be transferred to another prison. [as there are no prisons north of Auckland, the inmate must travel south, to a colder climate.]

packhorse n. = donkey.

pad n. cell (cf. house).

padded room (also padded wall) n. a strip cell with a camera, for ‘at-risk’ inmates.

pakalolo n. marijuana. [Hawaiian.]

palace n. a cell. [ironic.]

panty n. a cigarette filter, a filter tip.


paper n. a cowardly informer, a nark. As one inmate explains: ‘They don’t even go down to the screws and tell them face-to-face, they write their information on paper and slip it in the dog box.’ □ on paper 1 to have narked.
[the officers have the inmate’s complaint or piece of information down ‘on paper’.] 2 = on report. [after an inmate commits a crime in prison, his name is written down as having a charge against him.]

paper v. 1 (also paper up or paper (someone) up) to charge an inmate with an offence, to put him on report: ‘x got caught picking up a drop, so he got papered up’ or: ‘Be careful bro, if the screws catch you with that shit in here, they’ll paper you up.’ [the inmate’s charge goes down ‘on paper’.] 2 to pass false cheques: ‘What’s he doing for a living?’ ‘He’s papering the town.’ (cf. hang paper.)

paper doll n. a pornographic magazine: ‘Hey, you seen my paper dolls?’

parade n. 1 the display of a person in front of the police at the police station on the first night he is arrested. This is so the police will recognise him in the future as a (potential) criminal. [US 1929-1931 = being reviewed in a police line-up; poss. ex-army.] (cf. line up sense 2.) 2 a procedure whereby inmates are required to form an ordered line or to take regular positions in groups before participating in a certain activity, to ensure that the activity is performed in a disciplined and well-organised way. [poss. ex-army. 1980 MacKENZIE: ‘One day Angelo was missing from parade – and the hue and cry was on again’ (58). 1982 NEWBOLD: ‘At 8 the next morning the siren blew, which signalled everybody to fall in on parade’ (108). 1991 STEWART: ‘Speaker: Attention! Attention! All inmates on parade before going out on work parties. I repeat. All inmates on parade…’ (47). 1994 PAYNE: ‘The prisoners stand on morning parade, insulting each other and stamping their feet to keep warm’ (50).] meal parade a procedure whereby inmates line up and file past the kitchen to be accounted for and to have their meals dished out. [also divided into the more specific breakfast parade, lunch parade and tea parade. 1980 MacKENZIE: ‘On 7.7.76 I was assisting with the meal parade. During the parade I spoke to Watene about his repeated talking on parade’ (64). 1994 PAYNE: ‘Buckmaster colours, gropes for words. “All inmates must attend meal parades,” he says finally’ (77). ‘He’s just relaxing back into it, back into his dreams of a torrid three-way sexfest with Lana Coc-Kroft and Anita McNaught, when the public address system starts blaring: “FIVE MINUTES TO BREAKFAST PARADE! BREAKFAST PARADE IN FIVE MINUTES!” (77).] medical parade a procedure whereby all inmates who require medical attention line up to be checked individually by the prison nurse. [1989 NEWBOLD: ‘A former officer who served at Mt. Eden during this period [the late 1940s] described medical parade to me in these terms: “They fell out into the big yard. There was a medical officer out there with a bottle of aspirins and a bottle of cough mixture and they marched off to work. If a bloke wanted an aspirin he got one and if he wanted cough mixture they’d give him some, but he kept on walking”’ (24). 2000 ‘Medical Classifications’ Notice, Meads House, Waikeria Prison: ‘[sick] inmates are seen twice a day at medical parades or as required.’] pisspot parade (also potty parade) the systematic emptying-out of inmates’ cell chamberpots. [Note: not in all prisons. 1980 MacKENZIE: ‘Morning, midday, and afternoon, human pieces moved like ill-clad grey and white pawns, each to his allotted place. Early unlock at 6.30 a.m.,
piss pot parade, breakfast lockup, unlock, parade for muster count, march to work' (48). 1982 NEWBOLD: 'Pisspot parade Morning ritual in most New Zealand prisons, the emptying of chamberpots' (252). work parade a procedure whereby inmates either line up or form their regular work parties before starting work in the morning so that they move out in an orderly fashion.

paradise island n. prison. [ironic.]

parcel n. a package of illegal contraband, e.g. drugs. Note: a parcel is often smuggled into prison by being hidden inside an inmate's rectum or vagina. Some inmates have a saying: 'Bend over and touch your toes, and I'll show you where this parcel goes.' (cf. bag; charge.)

parcel v. to hide contraband, esp. in the rectum or vagina.

park v. I park up 1 to finish work for the day. 2 to take time out alone, to relax (usually in one's cell). 3 to be locked up sick in one's cell.

parley n. a discussion between an inmate and the powerful, influential inmates in a wing, or a discussion between two opposing factions, held in order to sort out a potentially problematic situation. For example, two rival gangs may discuss their differences over an issue rather than fighting, or two inmates from different crews may organise some sort of business negotiation. I big parley a discussion on a topic of importance conducted by the leaders, or vices of particular crews. business parley a discussion to sort out the general running of a business or to organise a business deal or enterprise. drug parley a drug deal, or a negotiation over the dealing of drugs as part of a business. [a prisonised sense of the term well-known in other contexts; from 16C French parler = to talk.]

parley v. to hold a discussion in order to effect a peaceful settlement between opposing factions, or to negotiate a business arrangement.

Parry (also Pare) n. Paremoremo (Auckland) Prison, New Zealand's main maximum-security institution, opened in 1968. Paremoremo has almost legendary status amongst New Zealand prison inmates. [abbreviation. 1982 NEWBOLD: 'At that time, anybody sentenced to two years or more went to Pare for Classification, where they'd stay for a couple of months before being transferred to another institution' (51). 'Parry (Pare) (n) Paremoremo Prison' (252). 1987 REID: 'When Redrup first came to Parry ... by golly, he had a ton of heart. Very much like me earlier on' (25). 1991 PAYNE: 'I went to Pare to meet the first officer and he's a classic case of a street-sweeper complaining because the streets are dirty' (35.) I big Parry the maximum-security section of Paremoremo Prison (East Division). gay Parry Paremoremo Prison. [an ironic play on the expression, 'Gay Paris.']. little Parry the medium or minimum-security sections of Paremoremo Prison (esp. West Division). Parry attitude a style of behaviour commonly adopted (either consciously or unconsciously) by those who have been inmates at Paremoremo Prison, particularly in the maximum-security section. Note: because of the severe nature of the prison, inmates who have been transferred to other prisons from Paremoremo may appear (at least for some time) hard, upright, obstinate, violent, and staunch. Such an inmate may shut out other inmates, turn violent at the slightest provocation, refuse to back down in any situation, and assume a stubborn attitude with prison officers, refusing to
compromise with them and attempting to dominate them. This attitude may be mirrored in the inmate’s physical posture and in his speech (cf. old maxi boy). Parry Comrade one of a fraternity of inmates from the maximum-security section of Paremoremo Prison, esp. D Block. Note: an inmate who is chosen to become a Parry Comrade has usually been sentenced to, or has served, a long time in prison, and tends to be a well-known inmate of considerable status within the prison hierarchy, e.g. a high-ranking gang-member. In addition to this, during his time in prison, the inmate must have adhered to the ‘inmate code of ethics’, a moral code of conduct that is apparently stricter at Paremoremo than at other prisons, involving showing form, staunchness and respect for one’s fellow inmates (e.g. no narking or tealeafing). An inmate joins this group for life; if he is transferred to another prison he continues to be a Parry Comrade and, in some cases, members will still meet after they have left prison. To enable Parry Comrades to recognise one another, each wears a tattoo of two fists that have just broken the chains that bound them. There are variations to this tattoo: in some tattoos, bars appear in the background, and the words D BLOCK, PARRY MAX or MAXIMUM SECURITY may also be included. The whole design may also be encircled by barbed wire. [1982 NEWBOLD: ‘Another friend of mine wanted PARRY COMRADE tattooed on his back. This would have looked pretty neat except the guy he asked to do the tattoo couldn’t spell too well and wrote PARRY COMADE instead’ (56).] Parry max the maximum-security section of Paremoremo Prison (cf. maxi).

pat v. □ pat the hoof to hurry up, to make haste.

patch n. 1 the insignia of a gang, sewn onto the back of a gang-member’s jacket (also known as one’s ‘colours’), representative of full membership of a gang. [NZ 1975.] 2 a person with one black eye. □ patch member a full member of a gang. [by synecdoche, having earned and being entitled to wear a patch. 1990 DUFF: ‘Even yesterday, when Jimmy Bad Horse’d turned up and tole Nig he could be in, but that don’t mean a patch member, just, you know, takin the first step through them big black-painted gates’ (136). 1991 PAYNE: ‘Police and politicians are saying that we’re sending prospects out to do jobs, and do the time, for patch members and that’ (26). 1992 MEEK: ‘Once worthy of sporting the gang’s “colours”, a “patch” member has command of “prospects” and “supporters”, and, therefore, has an important leadership role within the gang’ (260).]

patch v. □ patch up to become a full member of a gang, by receiving, or being able to wear, a gang patch. [NZ 1990. 1991 PAYNE: ‘I first patched up in 1972 and I’ve been part of one chapter ever since then’ (123).]

pawn shop, the n. Mount Eden Prison. [Mount Eden is largely a transit prison designed to hold remand inmates. After sentencing, most of the inmates are transferred, or ‘pawned off’, to appropriate prisons throughout New Zealand.]

PD abbr. 1 Preventive Detention, an indefinite sentence of at least 10 years, usually given for extreme sexual or violent repeat offending. PD is the
longest sentence available in New Zealand prisons. Note: if inmates refer to PD in prison, it almost always refers to this sentence, rather than to Periodic Detention (see sense 2). [NZ from 1954, as a result of the Criminal Justice Act (1954). 1980 MacKENZIE: 'P.D. Preventive Detention' (98). 2000 NEW ZEALAND OFFICIAL YEARBOOK: 'Preventive detention – detention in prison for an indefinite term of at least 10 years, to be decided by the Parole Board. This sentence may be imposed when an offender is convicted for certain sexual or violent offences. The offender must be 21 years of age or over. If released, he or she will be subject to parole conditions for life’ (253).] 2 Periodic Detention, a short-term, non-custodial sentence involving community service. [NZ from 1962, as a result of the Criminal Justice Amendment Act (1962). 26 NOV 1999 THE CHRISTCHURCH STAR: “Corrections denies claims over early PD sign off.” Claims Christchurch people sentenced to periodic detention are being sent home early in a cost-cutting measure are being denied by the Department of Corrections’ (A3). 2000 NEW ZEALAND OFFICIAL YEARBOOK: 'Periodic Detention (PD). This sentence, which ... offers service to the community ... requires people to attend a PD work centre on at least one specified day per week, for up to a year. The detainees are sent out from the centre in groups of up to 10, supervised by a staff member, to perform a day’s work for a community organization or occasionally an individual. The type of work can include clearing land, building walkways and fences, mowing lawns, cleaning, painting and building play areas for kōhanga reo or schools’ (251).]

PDer (also PD guy) n. an inmate serving Preventive Detention.

peak (also peak out) v. to hit the height of one’s drug-induced ‘high’.

peaking adj. excellent, fantastic, great.

peasant n. 1 an inmate who is gullible, an easy mark, easily conned. 2 = seagull. 3 an inmate who has not spent much time in prison and therefore occupies a low position within the prison social hierarchy.

peddie n. a child molester. [from ‘paedophile’.]

pedigree n. a Mongrel Mob Member. [derogatory, used by rival gangs; the dog featured on the Mongrel Mob gang insignia is a bulldog: a pedigree breed, not a mongrel.]

peephole n. an inspection hole in a cell door (cf. judas hole). 0 peeping tom an officer who peers frequently through inmates’ peepholes.

pees police n. = piss squad.

peg n. 1 a look, a stare. [1992 DUFF: '[N]odding to the different gang dudes who came to the bar for refills – of beer, most of em. Not one gave him a return greeting and a couple of em gave him really heavy pegs’ (151).] 2 (also pegger) a lookout. 0 keep peg (also keep the peg) to act as a lookout, to keep watch.

peg (also peg out) v. 1 to act as a lookout; to notice or to (keep) watch: ‘You’re getting pegged to fuck by that screw over there.’ [1982 NEWBOLD: ‘While a number of us pegged for screws, Bob sneaked into the detention area, opened Chris’s cell door, and
delivered the parcel’ (137). ‘Peg (v) Notice, watch, survey’ (252). 1994 PAYNE: ‘My shampoo’s gone and you were pegged in my slot, you ugly bastard’ (55).] 2 to conduct intelligence work prior to committing a crime. [US thieves’ slang, from early 1920s. Partridge (1949) cites this useful passage from 1926: ‘The expression “I have him pegged” which has crept into common usage, is thieves’ slang pure and simple, and has nothing to do with the game of cribbage as many suppose. The thief, to save himself the trouble of staying up all night watching a place to make sure no one enters it after closing hours, puts a small wooden peg in the door jamb after the place is locked up. At five or six o’clock in the morning he takes a look. If the peg is in place the door has not been opened. If it is found lying in the doorway, that means somebody has opened the door in the night. If he finds the place is visited in the night he must then stay out and learn why and at what time and how often. He now has the place “pegged” and plans accordingly or passes it up as too tough’ (503).]

pen and ink n. 1 a stink. [rhyming slang; British from 1859, Western US c.1920; prob. formed on the children’s rhyme: ‘Inkie pinkie pen and inkie, / Who made that awful stinkie?’] 2 two inmates who are very close friends and spend much of their time together (cf. Dad and Dave; husband and wife; mug and spoon).

pen and ink adj. smelly: ‘Your mate, he’s a bit pen and ink.’

pencil n. a tattoo machine (cf. boob gun; lady; motor).

penetration book (also penetration mag) n. a pornographic magazine.

penguin n. see zebra.

penthouse n. 1 a cell, esp. belonging to a lifer, as it may contain more possessions than other inmates’ cells (e.g. an aquarium, a bird in a cage, general furnishings) given that its occupant is a long-term resident of the prison. 2 the top landing of a multi-storeyed wing; a cell on this landing. [ironic use of ‘penthouse’ = luxury suite at the top of an apartment block.]

peon n. = peasant sense 3. [from Spanish and French peon = ‘peasant’, ‘day labourer’, ‘servant on foot’.]

Pepsi n. cocaine. [from street-slang ‘Coke’ = cocaine; Coke (Coca-Cola) and Pepsi are the world’s two leading soft-drink manufacturers.]

peter n. 1 a cell. [British and Australian from c.1890; South African early 20C; NZ 1945; prob. from ‘peter’, British thieves’ cant c.1688 = a portmanteau or an iron chest or box. Several other suggested origins exist and are interesting to note: some believe that the term originated from the word ‘peter’ for a glass half-gallon or gallon beer jar (NZ 1914); therefore, to be in one’s peter was to be as if in a glass jar, in a small, confined space with no privacy. Others believe that the term alludes to the Biblical character Saint Peter, imprisoned by the Romans. Another suggestion is that peter is an abbreviation of the rhyming slang term Peter Snell for a cell (incorrect folk etymology: the 1945 citation for peter pre-dates Snell’s career, although the use of peter = cell may have given rise to
the rhyming slang term). 1945 BURTON: ‘A cell or “peter” at Mt. Crawford is, I should think, somewhere about nine feet long by seven wide and ten or eleven in height’ (38). 1982 NEWBOLD: “All right,” he said, “those not working, go to your cells.” Slowly we all ambled off to our peters’ (154). 1989 NEWBOLD: “[M]en in the security block were now locked in their “peters”, virtually unoccupied, for twenty-two hours of every day’ (149). 1991 GRAY: ‘The cell was known as “my peter,” the New Testament reference to the disciple Peter’s escape from prison’ (96). 1999 Private Letter to the Author: “[O]ne of the expressions we used was a “Peter” as in “he’s in his Peter” for cell, rhyming slang for Peter Snell. A combination of popular culture and indigenous Kiwi sporting hero” (1).] 2 a toilet. 3 a thief. 4 a child molester. [from ‘paedo [peter] philé’.] 5 a safe. [British from 1869; prob. orig. from ‘peter’ = an iron chest or box, British c.1688.] â

does not exist in the dictionary.

Peter File n. a name given to a child molester. [from ‘paedophile’.]

Peter Snell n. a cell. [rhyming slang; after the NZ track athlete Peter George Snell (b.1938), winner of 3 Olympic gold medals.]

petrol n. largactil juice. [from the idea that largactil ‘gets you shuffling’.] (cf. largie shuffle.)

phominator, the n. an inmate who spends much of his time on the telephone. [a play on the name of the title character from the film The Terminator (US 1984) starring Arnold Schwarzenegger.] (cf. urinator, the.)

phone n. 1 the equipment and process employed by inmates to pass contraband between different cells, landings or wings when face-to-face contact is not possible (cf. buzz; fly a kite; go fishing; ring (someone) up; send a line; send the mail). 2 the socket on the wall of a cell where the inmate’s television (aerial) plugs in. A pipe runs from the box up the wall of the cell and through the wall to the neighbouring cell. This pipe carries sound well, and inmates in adjoining cells may unplug their televisions and hold conversations with each other through the pipe after lock. 3 see zebra. 

phone card n. a Māori prison officer seen by Māori inmates to have internalised Pākehā values and to privilege the system over his own culture; esp. applied to a Māori officer perceived to treat Pākehā inmates more fairly and generously than Māori inmates. [a phone card is plastic.]

physique n. â the one with the fucked physique a physically deformed person.

piano n. $1,000. [from street-slang ‘grand’.]
**Piccadilly** *adj.* chilly. [rhyming slang; variant of Cockney 'Piccadilly' = silly.]

**pick** *n.* a hypodermic needle. [also current US; poss. from the needle's relation to a sharp stabbing object, e.g. 'ice pick'.]

**pick** *v.* [] *pick the mail up* to receive items of contraband sent from one cell window to another by sliding the items along lengths of string suspended between the two windows, or sent between cells by attaching the items to pieces of elastic or string and slinging them under one's cell door to an inmate across or further along the corridor (cf. **go fishing**; **send the mail**).

**piddles** *n.* the officer who conducts inmates' urine tests. [from colloquial 'piddle' = to urinate.] (cf. **mimi boy**; **piss tester**.)

**piece** *n.* a weapon, esp. a handgun.

**pig** *n.* 1 (also **pigshit**) a police officer. [pig = British from 1811, US from 1845. Towards the end of 19C, used almost exclusively for plain-clothes detectives, but now used for all police.] (cf. **poakatatuae**.) 2 a prison officer. [British and US from early 20C = a fat prison guard; now, any prison guard.] 3 (also **pig dog**) the police narcotics detection dog. [in the sense of a dog belonging to the **pigs** (police); a play on 'pig-dog', a dog used for hunting wild pigs.] 4 an over-inquisitive person: 'Where's your badge? You a fucking **pig** or something?' [hence, one who displays the characteristics of a police officer; see sense 1.]

**pigeon** *n.* = donkey. [British from 1937.]

**piggery, the** *n.* Paremoremo Prison. [when the prison is viewed from a distance, it resembles the type of building in which pigs are bred and kept.]

**pig pen** *n.* the prison officials' office, the guard house. [cf. pig sense 2.]

**pig's ear** *n.* 1 beer. [rhyming slang; British 20C.] 2 a year. [rhyming slang.]

**pin cushion** *n.* 1 a person who has been (repeatedly) stabbed. [transferred use of 'pin cushion' as something constantly stuck with sharp pieces of metal.] 2 an intravenous drug user, one who is 'stuck with needles'.

**pineapple chunk** *n.* a cell bunk: 'I'm parked up on my pineapple chunk.' [rhyming slang; British from before 1914, orig. used by merchant seamen (esp. Cockneys on the P&O Line) to refer to a bunk in a ship's cabin.]

**ping** *n.* 1 an injection of intravenous drugs. [1982 NEWBOLD: 'Ping (n) 1. Dose of narcotic in a syringe' (252).] (cf. **highland fling**.) 2 an Asian person. [derogatory. 1982 NEWBOLD: 'Ping (n) ... 2. Oriental person' (252).]

**ping** *v.* 1 (also **ping over**) to smash, to beat up, to assault. [1982 NEWBOLD: 'The Horse had already been pinged-over a couple of times by the Stormtroopers for failing to honour another debt' (224).] 2 (also **ping up**) to inject an intravenous drug. [NZ 1986.]

**pin head** *n.* a skinhead. [rhyming play on 'skinhead,' taking advantage of the derogatory 'pin head' = a stupid or idiotic person.]
pink box (also pink cell or pink room) n. a suicide cell. [descriptive; these small, relatively bare rooms are painted pink, considered by psychologists to be a calming colour.]

pink dragon n. see zebra.

pinkfinger n. a skinhead.

Pink Floyd n. watch Pink Floyd to be without a television; used esp. by an inmate in the pound or on OPs who has had his television confiscated. [after the English band, Pink Floyd, who produced a film called The Wall (1979); inmates with no television have nothing to watch but the wall: ‘What did you watch last night?’ ‘Pink Floyd, mate.’]

pinkie n. = pink box.

Pink Panther n. see zebra.

pink pussy n. a cell. [women’s prison argot.] (cf. whorehouse sense 1.)

pink rock (also brown rock) n. heroin in rock form.
Note: heroin in this form may be coloured pink or brown and is broken down for use with the addition of weak acid e.g. lemon juice.

pinner n. a very meagre marijuana cigarette. [descriptive, transferred use of ‘pin’ for a figure of anything extremely thin.] (cf. greyhound; matchstick.)

pin pusher n. 1 a homosexual. [prob. from a transferred use of ‘pin’ = penis.] 2 a drug user. [after the way an intravenous drug user pushes a ‘pin’ (hypodermic needle) into his vein.]

piranha n. an inmate who bludges food or belongings from his fellow inmates and never pays them back. [after the small, meat-eating fish notorious for completely stripping the flesh of its victims.]

pirate n. see zebra.

piss n. take the piss (of an officer) to obtain a urine sample from an inmate; to conduct a urine test: ‘What are you guys doing today?’ ‘Oh, just taking the piss out of someone.’ [a play on ‘take the piss’ in its street-slang sense = to make fun of someone.]

piss house n. = pub.

piss pig n. = piss tester.

pisspot n. a cell chamberpot; in some prisons, inmates do not have flush toilets in their cells. [1953 HAMILTON: ‘You bend down, seize your pisspot and a tin dipper for water, and walk across the yard. Your pisspot’s nearly always full, the cold weather and the stuff called cocoa you get at night, are great kidney stimulators’ (35-36). 1982 NEWBOLD: ‘At 8.30 every morning they unlocked us. We’d put our dirty dishes on to a trolley and empty our piss pots down the slopping-out basins in the ablutions rooms’ (28). 1994 PAYNE: ‘A man with “Animal” tattooed on his forehead is emptying a piss-pot into Billy’s neighbour’s bed and rubbing it into the sheets’ (49). 1999 (cell graffiti): ‘Fuck Addington. Goodbye piss pots. 21 November 99.’] (cf. potty.) do it on the pisspot to serve one’s sentence with ease (usually applied to a short sentence).

piss squad (also piss test crew) n. the prison officers who obtain inmates’
urine samples for testing for evidence of drug use.

**piss tester** (also **piss test officer** or **man** or **piss boy**) *n.* a member of the **piss squad** (cf. **mimi boy**).

**pit** *n.* 1 a cell. 2 = *pound, the sense 1.*

**pitiful one** *n.* a very short prison sentence (cf. **big one**).

**planet** *n.* see **zebra**.

**plastic** *adj.* sham, false, deceptive, substandard. [] **plastic chaplain** a prison chaplain who does not have the interest of the inmates truly at heart; e.g. he only preaches, and never takes the time to talk to the inmates or to give them support. **plastic fantastic** (also **plastic fulla**) = **plastic gangster**; **plastic Māori**. **plastic gangster** an inmate attempting to appear tougher than he is and/or to claim more prison experience and status than he has. **plastic Māori** a Māori inmate or officer perceived to scorn his cultural background and to be disloyal to his fellow Māori; most frequently applied to a prison officer seen either to abuse his power, or to disadvantage inmates who are of his ethnic group: ‘A Māori **screw** who does more for the **white boys** than for the Māoris.’ [a prisonised sense of a term also used in wider contexts.] **plastic Saa** a Samoan who displays similar behaviour as described under **plastic Māori**. **plastic screw** an officer who does not do his job properly, e.g. lacks integrity, gives contradictory orders to inmates, etc.

**plates of meat** *n.* pl. feet. [rhyming slang; British from 1859.]

**plague** *n.* lies: ‘Don’t listen to him, what he says is all **plague**.’

**play** *v.* [] **play God** to deal drugs.

**player** *n.* = **canteen doll**.

**players** *n.* pl. 1 a group of powerful, influential inmates in a prison or prison **wing** who manage the affairs of the inmate group. 2 a group of people all in the same game, related to the same scene, e.g. drug dealing, the organisation of a specific criminal job, etc.

**plebe** *n.* a new prison officer recently completed his or her training. [from the US army term for a new recruit.]

**plug** *n.* a cigarette filter.

**poakatutae** *n.* a police officer. [from Māori **poaka** = ‘pig’ + **tutae** = ‘shit’, ‘turd.’] (cf. **pigshit**.)

**pod** *n.* one of five **units** making up the Paparua Remand Centre, Christchurch. **Note:** each pod is a triangular shape, with capacity for 56 inmates. Some pods are divided into two separate areas, with 28 inmates on each side. The pods are based on a design from Silverwater Prison, Sydney. [] **pod person** an officer designated to work at the pods.

**pohara** *n.* [] **pohara up** *v.* to be without a television in one's cell. [from Māori **pohara** = ‘a pauper’, ‘poor’, ‘impoverished’.]

**point** *n.* a knife.

**poison tongue** *n.* a lesbian.

**poke** *v.* to stab.

**pokey** *n.* 1 an annoying inmate who repeatedly walks past inmates' cell doors and 'pokes his nose' inside, causing the other inmates to regard him suspiciously
as a potential tealeafer. 2 (the pokey) prison. [poss. from US ‘pokey’ or ‘pogey’ from late 19C = a house of correction for minor offences; from c.1904 = a county jail.] □ in the pokey in trouble, esp. placed in solitary confinement.

POLICE n. the police, standing for: Pack Of Lice-Infested Cannabis Eaters. [derogatory; acronym.]

policeman n. 1 an inmate informer. [British prison argot from early 20C. 1978 NEWBOLD: ‘[I]t is often difficult to prove a single instance of informing upon a policeman. Evidence which accumulates is often highly circumstantial and inconclusive, and may involve activities such as over-friendliness with staff – which are vague, but suggestive nonetheless’ (350). 1989 NEWBOLD: ‘Those who seemed to be on amicable terms with staff which could be suspected of informing and called “policemen”. The “policeman” (“copper”/“grasshopper”/“grass” in the prison’s rhyming slang) is still the basest pariah in the security prison environment’ (168).] 2 a nosey person who asks many questions. [the inmate’s behaviour is similar to that of a police officer or of an informant gathering information (see sense 1).] 3 see zebra.

polish v. □ polish the knob (also polish the tool) to perform fellatio.

Ponsonby Road n. see street, the.

Pontius Pilate n. the Assistant Superintendent.

pooch n. the police narcotics detection dog.

poo-hole pirate n. a homosexual.

poo-lice n. pl. the police. [derogatory; from po-lice.]

pool officer n. = floater sense 1.

poor boy n. one who acts as a servant or drudge for another inmate, performing mostly menial, and occasionally dangerous, tasks. [from the idea that an inmate in this position is broken; in general colloquial usage, if one is ‘broke’, one is poor.]

pop v. to stab.

population n. = mainstream. [also current Australian.]

pork pie n. a lookout, a peg. [rhyming slang for ‘spy’.]

porky n. □ in the porky in trouble, esp. placed in solitary confinement. [a variant of in the pokey.]

porridge n. prison; imprisonment. [from the early prisons, in which porridge was served daily. 1982 NEWBOLD: ‘Porridge (n) Imprisonment. From the staple diet of early prisons’ (252). 1991 GRAY: ‘Something for the chaplain also – a new language. Jail, stir, can, boob, jug, porridge – it’s all the same place’ (71).]

POs abbr. Off Privileges. [from a reversal of OPs. Deprecating humour; the initials ‘PO’ are generally used to stand for the expression, ‘piss off’.]

posse, the n. = the bros sense 2. [used mainly by Māori or Pacific Island inmates, those who subscribe to ‘Homie’ culture.]
possie n. a prostitute.

possum n. a inmate who sleeps in his cell all day and then stays up all night after lights out, resembling the nocturnal opossum.

potato n. 1 a Māori skinhead. [a figurative or transferred use of ‘potato’ as anything that is ‘brown on the outside’ but ‘white on the inside’.] 2 a Māori prison officer who has internalised aspects of the Pākehā system. [cf. sense 1.] (cf. plastic Māori; riwai; spud.)

potty n. a cell chamberpot.

pound n. 1 (commonly the pound) a short-term solitary confinement punishment cell, or the detention unit of a prison. Note: each inmate has a card that sits in a slot on the front of his cell door. When an inmate went to the pound, it used to be common practice (and still is, in some prisons) for officers to lock up the inmate’s standard cell, turn his cell card over and to write a ‘pound’ sign (£) on the back to indicate that the inmate had been sent to the solitary confinement cell. [an extended use of ‘pound’ = an enclosure detaining stray stock; NZ 1953. 1953 HAMILTON: ‘My first three days solitary were a hell, literally…. It was September and the first night there was a snowstorm. The pound is a real punishment at all times and there are few crimmos who go looking for it’ (62). ‘Some of them will go short of rations or tobacco, they’ll steal, they’ll run the risk of pound themselves, in order to help the animal that’s caged up a bit closer than they are’ (72). 1971 SHADBOLT: ‘Danny spent a few days in the pound on bread and potatoes for threatening a screw who’d been picking on him’ (22). 1978 NEWBOLD: ‘a sentence of solitary confinement is almost invariably served in a special area of the prison known as the “detention” unit, or the “security” section (in local jargon, the “pound” or the “digger”)’ (232). 1980 MacKENZIE: ‘The punishment block, known as the “pound” or the “dummy”, was a prison within the prison’ (14). 1982 NEWBOLD: ‘Routine in the pound was pretty simple: breakfast came at 6.30 and they took your mattress and bedding away. Then came lunch at 11.30 and dinner was at 4.30. All meals were eaten from the floor. Lights out was at 7.30. Every day we were allowed out for one hour’s exercise’ (34). 1991 PAYNE: ‘A week later she came back and she wasn’t allowed to visit me; they told her I was down in the pound [punishment cells]’ (140.)] (cf. CCs; digger, the.) 2 (the pound) a cell for mentally unbalanced or ‘at-risk’ inmates. 3 a type of Ecstasy tablet. Pounds are fairly good quality, but are not as strong or as sought-after as doves. [from the ‘pound’ symbol (£) embossed on the side of the tablet.] [] do (one’s) pound to serve a period of time in the solitary confinement cell.

powder n. = speed sense 1.

PP abbr. = protection from protection.

PPP abbr. = protection from protection from protection.

practise v. [] need to practise an expression inviting fellow drug users to take heroin (cf. violin, the).

president of the gizza club, the n. an inmate who bludges from other inmates. [from the inmate’s recurrent use of the term ‘gizza’ (‘give us a...’), e.g. ‘Gizza smoke’, ‘Gizza phonecard’, etc.]
**previous n.** a criminal record. [a shortened form of ‘previous convictions’.]  

**prickles n.** heroin. [refers to the prickling feeling caused by the drug as it courses through a user’s veins.]  

**primary school n.** Corrective Training, for youth offenders. [Corrective Training is supposed to deter young criminals from prison, but for many it is simply the first occupational hazard of their careers, the beginning of their criminal education.] (cf. **high school**; uni.)  

**priority n.** an inmate serving a life sentence. [these inmates have their needs attended to before those of short laggers.]  

**prison-wise adj. = joint-wise** (cf. joint).  

**private n.** 1 an inmate, usually new and in the role of an underdog, who acts as a ‘runner’ or a servant for another inmate. [ex-army terminology; ‘private’ is the lowest rank available for a soldier.] 2 a skinhead **prospect.**  

**private v.** to carry out certain crimes or chores for a skinhead crew while ‘in training’ to become an full member of that crew: ‘He’s privating for those skinheads.’  

**privs n. pl.** privileges. [] **off privs** Off Privileges (cf. **OPs**). [NZ 1982. 1994 PAYNE: “‘Hey Sonny!” says Dion. “When dja get out of the digger?” “Just now,” says Sonny, soaking himself. “They gimme two weeks off privs and supervised visits’” (79).] **on privs** On Privileges; the inmate is entitled to certain possessions, activities and liberties not available to all inmates. [1982 NEWBOLD: ‘When I was there, Mount Crawford Prison held about 140 prisoners. About forty of these were “on privs”, while the other 100 or so were “off privs”. After you’d been in the jail for two or three months you could ask the superintendent to be put on privileges, which consisted of one movie a week, and rec four times a week’ (205).]  

**pro n.** 1 = **prospect** (sense 2). 2 a thief.  

**probation n.** the period of training and work experience undertaken by a new prison officer.  

**probation** period; he or she is given a permanent posting.  

**probe v. = private.**  

**probie n.** 1 a familiar short name for a Probation Officer or Parole Officer, of the Community Corrections Service. [1982 NEWBOLD: ‘Probie (n) Probation or parole officer’ (252).] 2 (amongst European-led, esp. white supremacist or skinhead gangs) short for ‘probationary member’, a junior member of a gang, training to be a full member (cf. **private** sense 2; **prospect** sense 1). Note: within some gangs, the probie may even be ranked below a prospect, being on probation until he has earned enough trust and/or respect to be taken on as a prospect. 3 a prison officer recently completed his or her training.
[short for probationary screw.] 4 the Probationary Wing of a prison: ‘He’s from probie.’

professor n. (within some gangs) the member chosen to sit all day in his cell and read. The point behind this activity is for the member to gain knowledge and thus to come up with various ideas to aid gang projects and to improve the general running of that gang or gang chapter.

profile n. a criminal record.

prop n. a strike, which may take several forms; from a peaceful protest, e.g. a group refusal to obey officers' orders, or a sit-down strike, to a protest incorporating extreme action of some kind, e.g. a riot, a hunger strike, or a flood strike (i.e. breaking out the emergency fire hoses, letting basins and baths run over, etc.). [prob. from 'prop' = to stop suddenly. 1978 NEWBOLD: “Well look what happened in '72. We all propped in the gym because of what was going on in D Block, and we demanded a full enquiry into why the boys over there were getting batoned” (341).]

prophet n. an experienced inmate well-versed in prison culture, with a wide-ranging knowledge of the criminal justice system (cf. wise man).

pros (also proz) n. = prospect. [1990 DUFF: ‘Bad Horse chucklin away in his evil style. Tellin Nig he had a dude arranged to rumble with. It was outta him and this other pros from town sumwhere’ (136).]

prospect n. 1 a junior member of a gang working to earn his gang patch. Note: often these young gang initiates have no family association, hence their gang affiliation. Part of the prospect's training may be to commit a crime, and/or do a lag (sentence) for that gang, and to run around after patch members in prison so that those members may test the prospect's loyalty. In other cases, more established members may deliberately place a prospect in a dangerous situation, e.g. a fight, to assess his form. A person may spend several years as a prospect and, depending upon the gang, time spent in prison during this period may or may not be counted. As one senior gang-member says: ‘You've got to have this much time to really get to know a guy, I mean, you can't get to know someone in six months, 'cos you've got to be able to trust them with your life. During that time you suss the prospect out, but it's also important to suss out his family, like, see what he's like at home, does his missus rule him, or what? Are there going to be ructions within the family if her husband’s away a lot of the time? Stuff like that. Because the prospect's main job nowadays is to do shifts at the gang pad, and to hang around looking after other patch members.’ (cf. agent;
flunkie.) [short for ‘prospective member’].

1990 DUFF: ‘Nig, he was mostly not at home, spent all his time hanging out with the other Brown Fist prospects, fighting, building up his reputation, his credentials for entry to that terrible gang’ (48).

1991 PAYNE: ‘Prospects have a hard time of it in jail. They are expected to clean out patch members’ cells, fight who and when they are told to, stand over other, usually weaker, inmates for drugs, chocs, and other booty, which they must then hand straight to the patch member, and generally act as the serrated edge for most underhand gang activity inside. Prison, for the prospect, is an apprenticeship under fire and the place where the majority earn their patches’ (76).

1992 MEEK: ‘A “prospect” was being sounded out as a possible candidate [for membership] and was, therefore, more important to the gang than a “supporter” who simply sided with the gang when required. A “prospect” was required to “work” for a patch member .... Once worthy of sporting the gang’s “colours”, a “patch” member has command of “prospects” and “supporters”, and, therefore, has an important leadership role within the gang’ (260].

2 a new prison officer undergoing or recently completed his or her training. Note: when an officer finally completes his or her initial training, a common question asked by inmates is: ‘Got your patch now, have you?’ corresponding to the gang meaning of the term.

prospect v. to carry out crimes or general chores for full members of a gang, in order to also become a full member of that gang (hence the verbal noun prospecting). [1991 PAYNE: ‘[H]e went into corrective training a second time and I have my suspicions that the prospecting started there, the recruiting started there. Once he came out he came back to me again and then he began prospecting for the Mongrel Mob’ (93).] (cf. private; probe.)

prospector n. 1 = prospect sense 1. 2 an inmate who acts as a servant or drudge for another inmate, carrying out menial tasks. [prob. from sense 1, although such an inmate is not necessarily gang-affiliated.] (cf. bum boy sense 1.)

protection n. 1 a procedure whereby an inmate is removed from the mainstream prison population for his own safety. 2 an area of the prison separate from the mainstream prison area, where an inmate may be placed for his own safety. Note: an inmate may be put on protection because the nature of his crime may anger other inmates (e.g. serious child molesting, murder of a rival gang-member, narking); or because his personal connections may make him a target (e.g. his affiliation to an openly racist gang). Alternatively, the inmate may owe drug debts to inmates in mainstream and may fear for his life; he may want a better chance of being rehabilitated; or he may simply be unable to handle the rigours of prison life and may want an easy lag. Movement to protection is almost always voluntary, and these inmates are usually regarded with less respect (cf. segregation).

[1984 BEATON: ‘Di: I’ve never been scared of you girls and you know it. Me? Ask to go on protection? Never! I copped the lot’ (82). ‘Protection, to go on: to request solitary confinement as a protection against other inmates’ (110).]

O protection from protection (also PP) an extreme course of action whereby an inmate already on protection is segregated from his fellow protection inmates, chiefly because his crime, or his actions once in prison, mean that he is still in danger of being assaulted or killed; for example, he may anger his fellow protection inmates, or an inmate from mainstream may sign himself on to protection to do a hit on him. An inmate who chooses to go on protection
from protection is usually celled up alone, often on 23-hour lockup. Some inmates even cite instances of people being put on protection from protection from protection (also PPP) a highly extreme course of action which results in the inmate spending virtually all his time in prison in solitary confinement.

protection adj. 1 (of an inmate) segregated from the general prison population for their own safety. 2 (of a prison, wing or unit) largely composed of protection inmates.

prozzie n. = prospect sense 1.

PS (also pre segs) abbr. and n. = Precautionary Segregation (see segregation).

psych n. 1 an inmate in prison for murder. [variation of ‘psycho’ = a killer (from ‘psychotic’).] 2 a mentally unbalanced or ‘at-risk’ inmate. [poss. from ‘psychiatric’.] [] psych cell a cell for mentally unbalanced or ‘at-risk’ inmates.

psycho n. a firearm. [from the idea that it kills people.]

pub n. the room in which urine tests are conducted. [inmates consider this room the piss house.]

pumpkins n. pl. = basketballs.

puppy n. 1 (also pup) the child of a Mongrel Mob member: ‘Heard your missus had a puppy the other day. What did she have? A bitch or a dog?’ (i.e. a boy or a girl?). [from association with dog (sense 1).] 2 an inmate on transfer between prisons, because, as one inmate explains: ‘They drag you around like a puppy on a leash.’ 3 an informer (cf. dog sense 2).

purple n. 1 a 30mg morphine sulphate tablet. [descriptive; an MST is often referred to by its colour in conversation, esp. when on the telephone: ‘You should wear that purple dress’ = ‘You should bring me out some 30mg MSTs.’] (cf. grape.) 2 a halcyon pill. [the next strongest after a blue.]

purple dragon n. see zebra.

purple Om n. see zebra.

push, the n. [] have the push to have high status amongst the prison population, to have good form, based upon the nature of one’s criminal record and one’s actions while in prison.

push v. [] push the recall button to reoffend and return to prison, esp. to be recalled after serving a life sentence. Note: although a life sentence comprises ten years in prison, the shadow of that sentence follows the inmate for the rest of his life, e.g. he may be recalled back to prison for any offence committed in the future, even for something so minor as a traffic infringement.

putea n. a gullible, naive inmate, easily conned into giving away his money or possessions. [from Māori putea = ‘fund’, ‘hoard’, ‘bank account’.]

put v. [] put down to lock an inmate away: ‘You’d better settle, mate, or else the screws will put you down.’ put one’s hand up to plead guilty. put under to inform upon.

puzzle, the n. prison.
PWK *abbr.* Public Wing Kicking, a group assault upon a single victim.

**pyramid** *n.* see *zebra.*
Q

QP abbr. Queen’s Pleasure.

quad (also quod) n. a prison. [in the form quad, British from 1752, US from 1794, also in forms ‘que’ from 1791 and ‘qua’ from 1807 (prob. from ‘quadrangle’; the inmate is surrounded by four walls). In the form quod, British from 1698, US from 1791 (prob. from ‘quadrangle’). 1980 MacKENZIE: ‘quod prison’ (98).]

quarter-hourlys n. = fifteen-minute obs (cf. obs).

Queen n. [] compliments of the Queen anything that an inmate receives that he does not have to pay for out of his own pocket, by virtue of being in prison.
Note: this includes anything handled or paid for by the Government or the Crown via the Department of Corrections, e.g. free accommodation, meals, toiletries, heating, lighting, hot water, phone calls and use of the gym; and may also include items an inmate acquires, or money he makes, through deals that he does while in prison. As one inmate explains: ‘You might have scored some extra cigarettes, and you give some to your mate, and he says, “Oh, that’s enough, bro” but you say “Nah, don’t worry bro, compliments of the Queen.”’

queen n. = tea boy sense 1.

queen bee n. a female inmate who is highly respected, a strong woman that inmates look up to as a leader. [women’s prison argot.]

Queen Elizabeth n. any denomination of NZ paper money, esp. a $20 note. [each denomination of NZ paper money carries a watermark of the Queen, and the $20 note features a picture of Queen Elizabeth in its main design.] (cf. dizzy lizzie; Hillary; Kate Sheppard; Rutherford.)

Queen Elizabeth’s motel n. a prison (cf. her majesty’s motel).

Queen’s arse, the n. a prison: ‘The day’s over and it’s time to get locked up in the Queen’s arse.’

Queen’s Pleasure n. [] detained at the Queen’s Pleasure serving Preventive Detention. In this case, the final date of release is decided by the Governor General (cf. PD sense 1).

Queenstown dropout n. a person physically deformed or intellectually handicapped, usually as the result of an accident. [from the idea that the inmate’s condition may be due to an injury received while participating in one of the extreme sports for which Queenstown is renowned.]

Queen Street n. see street, the.

quiet cell, the n. an observation cell for mentally unbalanced or ‘at-risk’ inmates.
R

racehorse n. a thin-rolled marijuana joint. [an ironic transferred use of ‘racehorse’ as a figure of anything lean and racy; NZ, from c.1940 = a thinly-rolled, roll-your-own (tobacco) cigarette.]

race trader n. one who seeks to identify with, or pass as a member of, an ethnic group different from his own (cf. transformer).

Radio Windy n. a talkative, indiscreet inmate, who gives away the good ideas and secret plans of his fellow inmates. [after the Wellington pirate radio station of the 1970s.]

ragweed n. see skunk.

raid n. 1 an object or act of burglary or assault. 2 a police invasion. 3 a (group) arrest.

raid v. 1 to burglarise or assault. 2 (as police officers) to invade a place inhabited by criminals. 3 to arrest people involved in criminal activity.

ramp n. 1 (Mt. Crawford) a new prison officer recently completed his or her training. [at this prison, the new officers begin their work up in the watchtowers, rather than in the wings; therefore, they do not walk the floors, but walk the ‘ramps’.] (cf. boardwalker.) 2 an extremely thorough and concentrated cell-check. □ do a ramp to conduct a thorough search of an inmate’s cell: ‘You’d better make sure your room’s clear, because they’re doing a ramp today.’ [poss. from ‘rampage’.] ramp v. to search an inmate’s cell: ‘The screws are ramping the rooms today.’

ramrod n. a male-male rape.

R and R n. a pill. [from the idea that in prison, pills are an inmate’s ‘rest and relaxation’.]

rangatahi n. a group of friends or associates in prison, one’s crew. [from Māori rangatahi = ‘(modern) youth’, poss. a description of themselves.]

rap n. a criminal charge. [US from 1904.] □ rap sheet a criminal charge sheet. take the rap to take the blame for another, or to accept sole responsibility in a group offence. One inmate explains that: ‘This is to do with the criminal code of ethics; you don’t nark on your mates. Even so, the other guys all owe you one, so they should look after you while you’re in jail, bring you out money or dope or whatever.’

raspberry ripple (also raspberry rippler) n. = strawberry ripple. [rhyming slang.]

rat pack, the n. the Riot Squad.

reach around n. a sexual act between two males. One man anally penetrates his partner, while at the same time reaching around in front to manually stimulate his partner’s genitals.

recluser n. an antisocial inmate who remains constantly in his cell. [from ‘recluse’.]

rectal ranger n. a homosexual.

recycle n. a mixture of various drugs, (usually including LSD), soaked into
red n. 1 (also red one) a $100 note. [refers to its colour (cf. tomato.)] 2 a Seconal capsule. Note: Seconal is the proprietary name for secobarbital, a barbiturate used medically as a pre-operative sedative. 3 a member of the Mongrel Mob. [] once in a red moon a Mongrel Mob member’s version of the common expression ‘once in a blue moon’ = occasionally, very infrequently. [] out of the red a Mongrel Mob member’s version of the common expression, ‘out of the blue’ = unexpectedly. [red is the Mongrel Mob’s gang colour, whereas blue is the colour associated with the rival Black Power.] (cf. blue sense 6; Mongrel sense 2.)

redback n. = red sense 1.

red boy n. 1 a Māori skinhead. 2 a member of the Mongrel Mob. [red is the Mongrel Mob’s gang colour.]

Red Bull n. refers to the boob walk an inmate adopts in the prison yard, a simultaneously defensive and defiant posture where the inmate draws himself up to his full height and performs a ‘front lat spread’ so that his arms jut out and sway as he walks. Because of this, an inmate with this posture is said to have ‘wings’: ‘He drinks Red Bull!’ or: ‘Put in a P119 for that Red Bull!’ [from Red Bull, the proprietary name for an energy drink containing caffeine and taurine, marketed with the slogan: ‘Red Bull gives you wings’.] (cf. wing it: wings of death.)

red dog n. a Devil’s Henchman Gang-member.

red dragon (also red dragon trip) n. see zebra.

red dwarf n. see skunk.

redrum n. a murderer, a lifer. [see following.]

redrum v. to kill. [from ‘murder’ spelt backwards; poss. from the film The Shining (US 1980) starring Jack Nicholson, based on the novel by Stephen King (1977).]

reefer n. a marijuana cigarette. [US from c.1925.]

reject n. 1 a paedophile. 2 an inmate who has been ostracised from his wing.

relationship n. [] have a relationship with someone’s pocket to bludge money or goods from a fellow inmate. As one inmate explains: ‘In jail, don’t start anything with bludgers, it’s just a hassle. You don’t give anything to anyone; I mean, you give them advice and support, but no material things like smokes or coffee. If you do, then you’ve got a problem; they won’t leave you alone. So, you have to say, “Hey, bro, we need to have a chat; you’re building a relationship here, and it’s not with me, it’s with my pocket.”’

Remuera n. see street, the.

report n. [] on report having gained a criminal charge while in prison. [1945 BURTON: ‘Certainly at all times [the officer] seemed keen to make trouble, put a man on report or get his tobacco stopped’ (109). 1982 NEWBOLD: ‘The following day I went up on report. It was the usual story. Trodd sat at his desk, the chief read out the charge, and a
screw stood guard behind me’ (177).

1991 GRAY: ‘Girls attending chapel at Arohata could lose points if they misbehaved during the service, and were placed on “report”’ (230). 1994 PAYNE: ‘Okay, Watson. You were warned.’ The Chief turns to the male screw beside him. ‘This man’s on report, Mr McCarton. Put him in the separates immediately’ (52).

represent v. to remain true to one’s gang if one is transferred to a prison dominated by an opposing gang: ‘If one of the Black Power brothers is going down to Mangaroa, we’ll tell him, “Bro, represent us.”’

resident n. an inmate. [euphemistic.]

rest home n. = pound, the sense 1.

résumé n. a criminal record (cf. CV).

rhino piss n. urn tea produced in large quantities for inmates’ consumption at mealtimes. [descriptive.]

ride n. [] come for a ride to be the recipient of a cigarette or a marijuana joint sent to one after lockup, specifically by being slid under one’s cell door on a magazine page: ‘Do you want to come for a ride? Just wait by your door.’ (cf. bike; train.) go for a ride to be transferred to another prison.

ride v. 1 to harass, to persecute, to continually take advantage of another’s fear and emotions. [US 1931.] 2 to trick a person by pretending to be his friend, building up his confidence, and then suddenly destroying it. [poss. from the expression, ‘take (someone) for a ride’ = to con, to string along, to lie (to).]

ring v. [] ring (someone) up to send contraband from one inmate to another by sliding the items along a length of string suspended between two or more cell windows, or by attaching the items to elastic or string and slinging them under one’s cell door to an inmate across or further along the corridor. (cf. go fishing; phone; sling (one’s) hook.)

ringbolt n. a clandestine sea voyage used by escapees. [NZ from 1965 = a clandestine passage by sea hidden by members of the crew often in their quarters. 1982 NEWBOLD: ‘We discussed his escape plan, and worked out a fairly good scheme.... Because Mata was a seaman he knew he’d have no trouble getting a ringbolt or a stowaway back to the Islands’ (192).]

ringbolt (also ringbolt it) v. to escape from prison and to head overseas, usually by sea.

rip v. to steal. [] rip off (of an officer) to conduct an extremely thorough search of an inmate’s cell. As one inmate explains: ‘You come back and the guys tell you the screws have been through your cell and you say, “Oh, yeah, my cell’s been ripped off again.” Because the screws rip you off, you know, they take your stuff away, they confiscate items that aren’t supposed to be there. They also rip your cell to bits and leave everything in a pile on the floor.’

ripples n. pl. a mentally deficient or physically deformed person. [a variant of rhyming slang strawberry ripple = cripple, but with reference to ETA Ripples, a type of potato chip, after the inmates’ way of describing such a person as ‘a few Ripples short of a pack’.] (cf. Queenstown dropout.)
Ritz, The n. a prison. [sarcastic; after the luxury London hotel.] (cf. grey bar hotel; penthouse.)

rivvie n. Rivitrol.
Note: Rivitrol is the proprietary name for clonazepam, a benzo-anti-convulsant tranquilliser.

riwai n. 1 a Māori skinhead. 2 a Māori prison officer considered by Māori inmates to have internalised Pākehā values. [from Māori riwai = 'potato'; a figurative or transferred use of 'potato' as anything that is 'brown on the outside' but 'white on the inside'.] (cf. plastic Māori; potato; spud.)

RK abbr. a Road Knight gang-member.

RO abbr. 1 Receiving Office. Note: The RO is the reception area of a prison where an inmate is processed when he first arrives. His clothes and other personal belongings are documented in the RO and are held there for the duration of his sentence. In the case of a remand inmate, who does not wear a prison uniform, his civilian clothes are documented in the RO and sent through to him until he is sentenced and issued with a uniform. On arrival in the RO an inmate is allowed his one phone call. Various forms are also filled out with the inmate, such as an Immediate Needs Checklist (A06), which establishes information about any medical problems or conditions that the inmate may have; determines what childcare or property care measures need to be taken in the event that the inmate may not have expected to be found guilty and has not made arrangements to go to prison; and names a person for the officer to contact to let him/her know where the inmate is. An At Risk Assessment Form (B14) may also be completed, which determines the inmate's psychological condition, esp. whether or not he is suicidal. Possibly an Induction Interview may be carried out at this time, informing the inmate of the roles of the prison authorities; advising him how to contact various people, e.g. Kaumatua, PARS, doctor or nurse; and outlining the rules and regulations of the institution. It is also in the RO that the decision is made as to whether the inmate will be placed in mainstream or segregation. 2 Receiving Officer, the officer designated to work in the Receiving Office. 3 Repeat Offender.

road n. [] up the road (Paremoremo Prison) the expression used by inmates in West Division and in the minimum-security compounds to refer to the maximum-security section of the prison (East Division): 'If you're looking for x, you're out of luck; he's up the road in D Block.'

road nit n. a Road Knight gang-member. [derogatory, substituting 'knight' with colloquial 'nit' = a headlouse; an idiot.]

rock, the n. 1 Paremoremo Prison. 2 Mount Eden Prison. [until Paremoremo Prison was opened in 1968, Mount Eden (1882) was the country's most secure prison, housing the most dangerous inmates and administering the heaviest forms of enforced labour.] 3 the toughest inmate in the prison or prison wing.

rock college n. 1 prison. Most frequently applied to Mount Eden Men's Prison, Auckland, but also used less commonly to refer to a variety of other prisons, including Waikeria Prison, Kaitoke Prison, Invercargill Prison, Mount Crawford Prison and the old Napier Hill Prison. [from the idea that inmates have a hard education in prison, learning not only to negotiate a tough and dangerous environment, but to conduct crimes more effectively, on the way to becoming a better criminal. 'College' in this context is British, and dates from 1552 = a school wherein novices learnt the arts of crime; from c.1677 'The College' applied to Newgate prison; from c.1770 applied to any large London prison. NZ from 1942. 1942 HARCOURT: 'I found
that some of the alumni of "Rock College" – as the inmates call His Majesty's Prison, Mount Eden – had battered the back door with a jemmy in an attempt to burgle the house' (164). 1988 McGill: 'rock college prison' (93.) 2 (from sense 1) a borstal: 'What college did you go to?' 'Rock College.'

rocket $n.$ = speed sense 1.

rock lobster $n.$ a member of the Mongrel Mob. [rhyming slang for mobster.]

rock monkey (also rock ape) $n.$ a person with dark skin, esp. applied to a Pacific Islander.

rocks in socks $n.$ pl. a weapon made from a rock, a pool ball or some batteries in a sock.

rock spider $n.$ a paedophile. [Australian from 1986; poss. from an earlier sense of 'rock spider' = a petty thief who preys on couples by the seashore and in parks (Australian from 1939); hence, a predator.]

rod $n.$ 1 a firearm. [US from 1904 = a (long-barrelled) revolver; British from 1933.] 2 a weapon made by taking a felt-tipped pen with an opaque plastic shaft, removing the ink cartridge and replacing it with a nail. This makes an effective stabbing weapon that may be successfully disguised as an innocent object.

roll $v.$ [] roll over to betray, to inform (upon), particularly in a police interrogation situation (cf. nark). [poss. from the idea of 'rolling over' as turning from one side to the other; NZ 1993.] 2 to perform a standover. roll (someone) over 1 (of the police) to interrogate a criminal: 'The cops took him in and rolled him over for information.' 2 to assault, to attack, to beat up.

rollie $n.$ 1 (also rolie) a shortened altered form of Rohypnol, a proprietary name for flunitrazepam, a sleeping tablet. [NZ 1989. 1998 BUNGAY: 'I took a couple of digesics and a couple of pills from the receptionist hoping they would calm me down but they didn't so she gave me a rollie. I put it in my bag' (44.)] 2 a marijuana joint. [poss. from 'roll-your-own'.]

rollers $n.$ pl. = players sense 1.

roll-on $n.$ a skinhead. [from the similarity between a skinhead’s pale, shaven head and the ball on a roll-on deodorant bottle.]

Rolly $n.$ Rolleston Men’s Prison, Canterbury. [abbreviation.]

rookie $n.$ a police or prison officer recently completed his or her training. [current US street-slang = a police officer new to the force.]

room $n.$ a cell. [US from 1924.] [] room service! a call to attract attention from a prison officer whenever an inmate wants something in his cell, e.g. his cell door opened in the morning, his meal delivered to him if he is to be fed in his cell, a cup of tea brought to him, etc.

ropehead $n.$ 1 a person with dark skin. 2 a person with dreadlocked hair, i.e. matted into long, thick strands and decorated with beads. [descriptive: a dreadlock has the appearance of a length of rope.] Note: dreadlocks may be used as a weapon; the beads at the end of the dreadlocks act as a kind of whiplash. Dreadlocks are also
useful for ferrying items in and out of the prison, as the bigger, thicker dreadlocks may be hollowed out, filled with all sorts of contraband and fastened at the top with a hair tie. (The latter is important because, when the officer asks the visitor to shake his head to dislodge anything being carried in his hair, nothing falls out.) Later, in visits, the dreadlocks are unloaded and may be filled with other items to smuggle to people on the outside.

ropes, the n. pl. = kangaroo line.

roscoc n. a firearm. [US from 1914 = a revolver.]

rotten egg n. an inmate who has stayed too long in prison (cf. new egg; old egg).

rottweiler n. see dog sense 2.

rough rider n. an inmate who has performed a bodypiercing procedure whereby marbles (or small faux pearls) are inserted into his penis, in order to create a bumpy ridge under the skin for purposes of sexual stimulation. Note: this is usually done by taking a razor, cutting a slit in the penis and inserting a marble into the slit. This marble can then be moved along under the skin (a common way is to push it along with the handle of a toothbrush) creating a channel into which more marbles may be inserted. When three or four marbles have been inserted, the slit is stitched over, and apparently heals without leaving a scar. The marbles sitting under the skin create a line of raised bumps. This is supposed to enhance the pleasure response of the inmate's female partner (cf. evil; ruby lips).

roundie (also roundy) n. a factory-made cigarette. [from the cylindrical shape of a factory-made cigarette compared with that of a roll-your-own; NZ 1948. 1982 NEWBOLD: 'Roundie (n) Factory-made cigarette' (253). 1991 STEWART: 'Piggy-screw: Have a roundy. He offers him a tailor-made. ... Look, here's a small tin of coffee and a packet of roundies. I know you're not supposed to have them, but keep them out of sight, OK?' (42-43).]

round room (also roundhouse) n. = strip cell. [although these cells are square, each of the four corners of the room is smoothed and rounded for the inmate's safety.]

round-up n. = muster.

rouseabout n. an officer not assigned to any particular wing or duties. [from 'rouseabout' = person roaming from place to place; British from 1778.] (cf. floater sense 1; pool officer.)

roving commission n. [] have a roving commission (of an officer) to have no fixed duties in any particular part of the prison. [ex-military slang.]

R-sole n. a nickname used by a Mongrel Mob member towards a Black Power member. [derogatory; pronounced as 'arsehole'.]

rub-de-dub (also rub-a-dub) n. 1 ascetic anhydride. [poss. from double = 'dub' (cf. double sense 2).] 2 the pub. [rhyming slang. 1982 NEWBOLD: 'Rub-de-dub (n) Pub' (253).]

rubber (also piece of rubber) n. a cheque rendered invalid by lack of sufficient funds. [US from c.1920; such a cheque 'bounces'.]

rubber v. [] rubber up to pass an invalid cheque, to ‘bounce’ a cheque.

rubber and rocks n. bacon and eggs.

rubberhead n. a skinhead.

rubber room n. = strip cell.
ruby lips n. pl. a form of body modification whereby one or more marbles are inserted into the penis to change its surface texture. Note: this procedure is commonly performed by taking a razor and making a cut in the penis, holding the cut open, pressing in a marble, closing the two sides of the cut over the top of the marble and then taping the skin together with sellotape. The sellotape is removed after the cut has healed sufficiently. After it has healed, a bump is left in the penis. This procedure may be repeated in other areas of the penis and is supposed to provide extra stimulation for the inmate’s female partner during an act of sexual intercourse. [have ruby lips or be ruby lipped to have undergone the procedure described above: ‘Quite a lot of us fellas are ruby lipped.’] (cf. evil; rough rider.)

rude boy n. = red boy sense 1.

rumble v. [rumble (someone) out to assault someone. [orig. US ‘rumble’ = a fight; NZ from c.1958.]

run v. [run the gauntlet = walk the gauntlet (see walk).

run-by n. = drive-by.

runner n. an inmate who works for other inmates, smuggling contraband between prison blocks (see particular types of runners, e.g. bootman).

run-ups n. pl. [on run-ups = on report: ‘Don’t forget, you’re on run-ups this afternoon, you have to go up before the authorities on that charge.’

runway, the n. = the airstrip.

rush n. = drive-by.
**safe** *n.* the rectum. [a secure place where contraband may be **charged** and stored.]

**safe cell** (also **safehouse**) *n.* a specially-equipped observation cell for suicidal inmates (cf. **scaredy cats**).

**saint, the** *n.* 1 Mount Eden Men’s Prison. **Note:** during the 1970s, inmates who came to Mount Eden often acquired a tattoo of the figure of a ‘saint’ (a simple stick figure with a halo) so that in future years they would recognise one another. This tattoo was later replaced by one of a similar theme: a small cross, drawn near the inmate’s eye. [from the series of books by Ian Charteris about The Saint, a thief who left a card bearing such a figure at the scene of each of his crimes.] 2 a tattoo formerly characteristic of inmates from Mount Eden Men’s Prison (cf. sense 1). 3 an exceptionally good thief (cf. sense 1).

**sallyport** *n.* a small doubly-enclosed containment area encased in wire mesh, placed at key locations within the prison, and used to temporarily retain inmates and/or prison personnel moving from one **wing** to another; the strategic value of the **sallyport** is that, in the event of an incursion, it prevents inmates from rushing *en masse* through the prison. [1982 NEWBOLD: ‘The Class. block was sealed off from the rest of the jail by a sort of cage with a sliding grille at either end. This arrangement, known as a **sallyport,** was monitored by intercom and closed-circuit television, and the grilles were operated electronically from the central control office’ (48).]

**sand bin** *n.* = **pound,** the sense 1.

**sandwich** *v.* 1 to assault a person by literally ‘sandwiching’ him between two assailants; one grabs the victim, the other stabs the victim and then passes the weapon on, so that when the authorities arrive to investigate, all is clear. This attack is usually fatal (cf. **snooker**). 2 to sentence a criminal to life imprisonment (cf. **full course; hamburger; smorgasbord**).

**sas** *v.* to assault a person in the severest manner possible: ‘x got **sassed** last night and the **screws** had to call an ambulance.’ [from SAS (Special Air Service) an elite corps of soldiers with expert fighting skills.]

**Satan’s box** *n.* a cell for suicidal inmates.

**scab** *n.* 1 a prison officer who has changed to another union because he dislikes the principles of the union with which he was formerly affiliated. **Note:** originally, the PSA (Public Service Association) was the union for all government departments and prison officers belonged to this union. Later, the POA (Prison Officer’s Association) was established to look after the specific needs of prison officers. The POA has now been replaced by CANZ (Corrections Association of New Zealand). About 90% of prison officers are members of CANZ; the PSA has limited prison staff membership, although it still exists as an alternative union. 2 an inmate who ingratiates himself (esp. with officers) in order to get an easy time in prison (cf. **knee it**). 4 (also **festering scab**) an inmate who begs food, cigarettes, coffee, drugs, etc. from his fellow inmates.

**scanless** *n.* a watchful, over-inquisitive prison officer. [from the idea that he is constantly ‘scanning’ inmates and their activities.]

**scaredregation** (also **seeds**) *n.* a derogatory play on segregation (segs). [from the common perception that
inmates who are segregated from mainstream prison life are frightened of their fellow inmates: ‘You on sceds, bro? You running scared?’

scaredy cats n. pl. (Invercargill Prison) a block of four cells for ‘at-risk’ inmates. [poss. a derogatory play on the initials S C for safe cells; the inmates in these cells are generally perceived as scared, broken, unable to handle prison life.]

scarface n. [] keep scarface to act as a lookout, to keep watch. [Scarface was the nickname of the gangster, Al Capone (1899-1947), popularised in the film Scarface (US 1983) starring Al Pacino and Michelle Pfeiffer.]

scarpo v. to escape. [a variant of ‘scarper’ = to run away.]

scavenger block n. (Paremoremo Prison) an area of the prison with a reputation for housing dirty, rough, ill-mannered inmates.

scholar n. a person without a criminal record.

schoolboy n. an inmate serving a short sentence.

school for wayward women n. a women’s prison.

scobie (also scopie) n. a newly-trained prison officer on probation (work experience). [scobie from a synthesis of screw (prison officer) and probie (a newly-trained prison officer, also a junior gang-member in training for full membership); scopie from street-slang ‘scope out’ = investigate, assess a new situation.]

scoff n. prison food, prison meals. [poss. from tramps’ slang, US 1899. 1982 STEWART: ‘He lined up for scoff, tall; you could hear him even when his mouth was full of tucker’ (165).]

scooby n. a less-common variant of scobie (see above).

scope v. to assess as prospective prison officer: ‘I’ve seen you walking round the prison with Mr x; are you here scoping?’ [from street-slang ‘scope out’ = investigate, assess a new situation.]

scrag n. (esp. at Waikeria Prison) a game involving two teams and a ball. Note: some inmates describe scrag as a game similar to football or touch that may be played in the prison gym, on grass, or on concrete (cf. crash; hold; yard league). Another version of scrag has the same basic objective, and is played in the gym. Two teams arrange themselves at opposite ends of the gym. A medicine ball is dropped in the centre of the floor and, as soon as it falls, each team runs to the centre to try to get possession of the medicine ball and bring it back to their end of the gym.

screw n. a prison officer. [British from 1821 = a gaoler; poss. from the late 18C sense of ‘screw’ = a skeleton or picklock key (later, any kind of key) with which one ‘screws’ open a door. 1945 BURTON: ‘If what I have said is true, and if the warder or “screw” is something of an outcaste, who are these men, and why is it that they will join such a service?’ (135). 1953 HAMILTON: ‘Imagine anyone taking a job as a screw in a detention camp in New Zealand. It used to beat me how they found them’ (24). 1973 JUSTIN: ‘Hours before, a warder – ‘screw’ – had put his head in the door’ (24). 1982 NEWBOLD: ‘And everywhere screws were walking about busily in blue-black uniforms and peaked caps, with gleaming silver buttons and shiny black
boots’ (24). 1991 STEWART: ‘Henry: What ... what’s it really like in here ... that is ... how do the officers treat you? Tama: We call them screws. They are sad. This place brings out the worst in them’ (16). 1991 PAYNE: ‘Until recently, screws (prison officers) have done little more than turn keys and manhandle rough inmates’ (88.).]

baby screw a prison officer recently completed his or her training. bad screw an unfair, authoritarian, dishonest and cruel prison officer. good screw a fair, direct, sympathetic and honourable prison officer. [1991 PAYNE: ‘I thought this would be a good time to see if she was destined to be, in prison parlance, a "good" screw or a "bad" screw’ (90.).]

head screw the Officer in Charge (cf. OIC). [British from late 19C = the chief warder in a prison.] mimi screw the prison officer who obtains inmates’ urine samples for testing for evidence of drug use (cf. mimi boy). new screw an officer either new to the prison or recently completed his or her training. old school screw a very experienced prison officer, almost always male (given the fact that women did not enter the prison service as officers until the mid-1980s) and often characterised by what is perceived as a harder and more ‘straight up’ attitude towards inmates than that shown by his more recent colleagues. Note: in many ways, the ‘jail nostalgia’ operates with officers in much the same way as it does with old school inmates; both are seen to be products of the harder training and tougher prisons that existed in the past (cf. old school). pig dog screw the officer who handles the narcotics detection dog (cf. pig dog). piss screw (also piss test screw) = mimi screw. plastic screw (cf. plastic). probationary screw a newly-trained prison officer on probation (work experience) in the prison. prospect screw = prospect sense 2. schoolboy screw (also schoolgirl screw) a prison officer recently completed his or her training. screw’s house the prison officials’ office, the Control Room. screw’s pet an inmate who acts as the orderly for the prison officials’ office, because he is seen by the other inmates to be the officers’ favourite. screw’s office the prison officials’ office. screw with no stripes an inexperienced prison officer. [from the lack of stripes indicating rank on the epaulettes of the officer’s uniform (now obsolete; the stripes have been replaced with the letters CO, SCO and PCO; see Chief, the.).]

screwbox the prison officials’ office, the guardhouse.

screwdriver the Site Manager. [lit. the one who ‘drives’ the screws; British 1920-1930 = the Governor of, or Principal Officer in, a prison.]

screwwing a prison officer recently completed his or her training.

script n. 1 a note passed by one inmate to another, often written in boobslang; more common in women’s prisons. [poss. from ‘scrip’ = a piece of paper, British cant from c.1676.] 2 a prescription. [abbreviation; also current British slang.] Note: in prison, inmates with medical disorders are supplied with the necessary medication that they need by way of a recurrent prescription for that medication. The inmate displays his prescription regularly to have his medication administered. An inmate who is a drug-user may sometimes get on to a prescription of his own to ensure a constant supply of drugs for personal use or for dealing. [] mistie script a prescription for morphine sulphate tablets.
scrub-up  

n. (Arohata Prison) a cell-clean. Every Friday, inmates must pull out everything from their cells, strip their beds, change their bedding and give the room a general tidy-up.

scummy-scum  

n. a skinny, meagre marijuana joint of the worst quality, sometimes filled with reused marijuana scrapings (the remaining scraps not smoked in the previous joint).

seagull  

n. a person who bludges from his fellow inmates or borrows money or other goods without repaying. [from the seagull’s scavenging characteristics.]

second class citizen  

n. an inmate poorly regarded in the prison, esp. applied to an inmate with little prison experience (cf. first class citizen).

second man  

n. (in a criminal job) the lookout (cf. first man; third man).

security block  

n. = maxi block.

seeker  

n. 1 = cockatoo. 2 one’s ‘back-up’, one’s support in a fight or other dangerous situation.

seek help  

int. a satiric derivative of the Mongrel Mob greeting, Sieg Heil. [women’s prison argot, used by those who think these men are misled.]

seg  

v. to place in segregation, to segregate an inmate from the mainstream prison population. segged up on segregation.

seggie  

n. an inmate on segregation.

seg order  

n. an order from Head Office, Wellington, giving permission for an inmate to be placed on Administration Segregation.

segregation  

n. 1 = protection. 2 a punishment whereby an inmate is placed in solitary confinement on 23-hour lock-up, without a television, stereo, etc. Note: there are various types of segregation, relating to its capacity as both a protection and punishment procedure. If an inmate is segregated from the mainstream population for his own protection, he serves his sentence with other similar inmates in a segregation wing or unit. If an inmate is segregated for punishment reasons, he serves a period of time in one of several solitary confinement punishment cells comprising a segregation area (cf. CCs; pound, the; security block). Voluntary Segregation is a protection procedure, designed for an inmate who feels that he cannot cope with mainstream prison life, or fears for his safety in the mainstream environment; e.g. he may be a nark, he may have debts, he/she may be a transvestite, etc. The inmate signs himself on to segregation and remains there until he signs himself off again. To sign off, however, is rare; inmates who choose to move to segregation units normally stay there for the remainder of their sentences. There are also two types of non-voluntary segregation, which are punishment procedures: Precautionary Segregation and Administration Segregation. A inmate may be placed on Precautionary Segregation for the safety of staff and other inmates because he is causing trouble either through his own actions, or simply by his presence (e.g. a gang-member, a sex offender). In this case, the inmate is placed in the segregation area on 23-hour lock-up for 14 days. This is authorised by the prison only. If the prison authorities wish the inmate to remain on segregation for a further period, the Unit Manager must apply to Head Office during the initial 14 days to have the segregation period extended for up to three months. Once this order (known as a seg order) has been approved and has come through, the inmate ceases to be on Precautionary Segregation and is on Administration Segregation for the rest of the three-month sentence. If at the end of the first three months it is deemed necessary to keep the inmate on Administration Segregation, the Unit Manager applies for a further three months.

3 an inmate who serves his sentence on segregation (sense 1): ‘Watch out when
you're organising the exercise yard roster; you don't want to put the segregations in with the mainstreamers." A loner, an inmate who remains constantly in his cell, segregating himself from other inmates.

**segregation adj.** 1 (of an inmate) segregated from the general prison population. 2 (of a prison, wing or unit) largely composed of segregation inmates, hence a segregation prison, e.g. Mount Crawford.

**segs n. = segregation.** [] seg segs a procedure whereby an inmate on segregation is segregated from his fellow segregation inmates. As one inmate explains: 'You might have a guy who's a KF or a nark and he gets beaten up by other people in segs because those people have maybe got debts or can't handle their lags, but they still adhere to the inmate code of ethics. So, the guy goes on seg segs.' (cf. PP; superseg sense 2.)

**send v.** [] send a fax 1 = go fishing. 2 to give an item (usually a letter) to an inmate about to be transferred, to ensure that the item reaches someone in another prison (cf. kite sense 3). send a line (also pass down a line or send a fishing line) = go fishing. send a telegram = go fishing. send the mail = go fishing (cf. pick the mail up).

**sentry box n.** the guard house.

**separates (also seps) n. pl.** = punishment segregation.

**septic tank n.** 1 the bank. [1982 NEWBOLD: 'Septic tank (n) Bank' (253).] 2 a liar. [like a septic tank, a liar is 'full of shit'.] 3 = pound, the sense 1.

**seweant of arms n.** the person in a gang who recruits new members.

**serial n.** a serial rapist.

**session n.** a meeting of a group of people, devoted to the activity of taking drugs.

**servant n.** a prison guard (cf. garçon).

**Sesame Street n.** see street, the.

**seven, seven, twenty-eight** (also 7 7 28) n. a punishment given to an inmate for repeat offending while in prison (e.g. if he goes up on the same charge more than three times). The punishment involves seven days in the solitary confinement cell, seven days' Loss of Remission (i.e. seven days added on to the length of an inmate's sentence) and 28 days Off Privileges (cf. OPs).

Note: this process of solitary confinement, Loss of Remission and OPs is a standard punishment, e.g. cf. 3 3 21.

**sew v.** [] sew up to secure a conviction using fabricated evidence. [a variant of well-known 'set up'.]

**sexo n.** a sex offender. [1945 BURTON: 'The thieves were divided amongst themselves as to whether they ought to be put in gaol or not, but they were quite emphatic that there was nothing else to be done with the “sexos” and murderers. The “sexos” thought that while they were a special and rather superior class needing quite different treatment, common thieves deserved what was coming to them' (146).] (cf. lord rexo.)

**SFI abbr.** = sick feed in (see sick).

**shady adj.** [] the staff are being shady used to warn one's fellow inmate that
prison officers have conducted a secret search of her cell. [women’s prison argot; poss. from street-slang ‘shady’ = dubious or substandard.]

**shady language** *n.* criminal jargon, prison argot, boobslang.

**shag n.** a prison officer. [from screw; both ‘shag’ and ‘screw’ are street-slang terms for the act of sexual intercourse.]

**shake n.** the last scrapings or loose remains from a bag of dried marijuana. Note: this is the type of marijuana used to fill a scummy-scum.

**shaker n.** a Duromine tablet. Note: Duromine is the proprietary name for phentermine, a stimulant and adrenaline derivative. Duromine is used medically to aid weight loss, but may be used recreationally for the excitement and euphoria it induces.

**shank n.** 1 *a knife or blade (cf. shiv).* [from ‘shank’ = the tang of a knife, chisel, etc., or part which is inserted in the handle; British from 1688.] 2 heroin of poor quality.

**shank (also shank up)** v. to stab. [US late 1940s.]

**shanghai n.** 1 *a transfer to another prison, usually unexpected, and the inmate unwilling.* [from ‘shanghai’ = a kidnapping or press-ganging, US 19C-20C.] 2 a betrayal.

**shanghai v.** 1 to transfer an inmate to another prison: ‘x is causing too many problems, so we’re going to shanghai him out of here and send him back up to Parry.’ [from ‘shanghai’ = to drug, to press-gang, US from 1871; = to transfer forcibly or to abduct, to constrain or compel, US from 1919.] 2 to betray a confidence; to spread malicious gossip.

**shark n.** 1 heroin of poor quality, as one inmate explains: ‘It’s got a bite on it you don’t need.’ 2 an informer, a nark. [rhyming slang; cf. deep sea shark; fishy shark; shark in the park.] 3 an inmate who swindles and betrays his fellow inmates to his own financial advantage. As one inmate explains: ‘A shark’s someone who’s a bit dodgy. For example, the shark will have many possessions and he’ll wheel and deal them all for money. Then, he’ll go and put himself in separates, and get transferred out of the prison. When he gets to the new prison, he tells the screws there that he was stood over for all his stuff and that he wants it all back again. So, the old prison gets contacted, and the screws go around with a description of all the stuff to all the guys who bought it and take it all off them. The guys can’t say that they bought it fair and square, because then they’ll get charged for dealing things. The shark ends up with all the money, plus his stuff back, as well.’

**shark in the park n.** an informer. [rhyming slang for nark; poss. from the NZ police drama Shark in the Park, which screened in the 1980s.]

**shark’s head v.** to kill a person and feed his body to the sharks. [hit-man’s jargon.]

**shattered adj.** = broken.

**shattered cunt n.** an inmate having serious difficulty coping with the stress of prison life (cf. broken, broken arse).

**sheet change n.** a very short sentence: ‘Don’t worry about getting to know him, he’s only in for a sheet change.’
[inmates have to change their bed-sheets every week.]

**sheet jumper** *n.* an inmate who commits suicide by hanging. [a suicide by hanging usually occurs in the inmate's cell after lock, and bed-sheets are often used to make a noose.]

**shelf** (also **shelfer**). *n.* an informer, a nark. [Australian from c.1920; NZ from c.1925. 1941 BAKER: 'shelfer, a police informer' (53). 1989 NEWBOLD: 'So along with he other privileges, life was made easier for the inmates Haywood favoured. Not all of them were "shelves"; some were just trusties or persons essential to the running of the gaol' (75-76).]

**shelf** *v.* 1 to inform upon. 2 to convict a person by means of fabricated evidence.

**shepherd's pie** *n.* a $10 note. [a play on Kate Sheppard, the woman featured on the note.]

**sheriff** *n.* 1 a gang-member who falls in love with the gang's dirty girl (a woman whom all the gang-members sleep with) and tries to keep her for himself, denying the other men sexual access to her. This term may also be applied to a gang-member who brings his own girlfriend to the gang quarters and refuses to let the other men sleep with her, or simply to a member who brings women to the quarters and refuses to introduce them to his fellow members. Note: if he is caught doing these things, the sheriff must wear a large badge to show that he has been seen breaking the rules. This badge must be worn at all times until he catches another person sheriffing, at which point he takes off his badge and gives it to the new sheriff. [such a person must act like a policeman (sheriff) wearing a badge and searching for signs of 'law-breaking'.] 2 the president or captain of a gang. 3 the person in a gang who holds the keys to the guns, the drugs, the money, and the alcohol, and is responsible to the president or captain for the safe-keeping of these items. 4 the police narcotics detection dog.

**sheriff** *v.* 1 to indulge in behaviour characteristic of a sheriff (sense 1). 2 (from sense 1) to hide something away.

**Sherlock Holmes** *n.* a watchful, over-inquisitive prison officer. [after the famous private detective who figures in a number of works by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (published from 1887).]

**shield** *n.* see zebra.

**shift** *n.* [] on the shift in the process of being transferred between prisons.

**shift** *v.* to stab.

**shine** *n.* [] get a shine on to lose one's temper. [used esp. by the older generation of Mongrel Mob members.]

**shit** *n.* any item, but most frequently applied to drugs: 'Pass that shit over here before the screws catch you.' [1982 NEWBOLD: 'Shit (n) Drugs' (253).]

**shit digger** (also **shit pusher**). *n.* a homosexual.

**shithead** *n.* 1 a skinhead gang-member. [a derisive play on 'skinhead'.] 2 a motorcycle gang-member, esp. a member of the Road Knights or the Southern Vikings, a Dunedin-based group affiliated to the Road Knights.
shitlicker n. an inmate who ingratiates by calculated subservience, esp. applied to an informer (cf. brown tongue).

shitlocks n. pl. dreadlocks.

shit paper n. a member of the Black Power. [derogatory.]

shit skin n. 1 a person with dark skin. 2 a Māori skinhead. [from 'shit' = excrement (transferred use = brown) + skin = skinhead.] Note: implicit in the term shit skin is a sense of contempt: many Māori inmates find the largely white supremacist ideology of skinheads hard to accept; therefore Māori inmates who subscribe to skinhead beliefs appear strange and disloyal. Pākehā inmates, too, find Māori skinheads laughable.

shiv (also shivvy) n. a knife, a stabbing or slashing weapon.  
Note: a shiv may be manufactured in a variety of ways. Some examples include: a piece of glass or Perspex, which may be stuck into the victim's body and snapped off to leave half inside the victim; a knife of sharpened metal (either a conventional knife or metal cutlery); a melted cigarette butt that is sharpened; razor blades hidden in a bar of soap (because the blades are so thin, the victim may be cut badly before he realises what has happened. When he finally feels the pain, it is made worse by the soap, which causes the cuts to sting); a plastic knife sharpened on concrete, with a handle made from Sellotape wrapped repeatedly around the base of the knife; a plastic toothbrush sharpened to a point, often with barbs carved into it; a plastic comb sharpened to a point on concrete; a tin lid or empty soft-drink can folded to a point and hammered flat; a piece of metal smuggled into one of the workrooms and fashioned into a blade by the bone-carvers; a metal toilet roll holder; a piece of metal ripped from a sink or bench-top and sharpened; a piece of wood with nails banged through it; a plastic phonecard scissored to a point or sharpened on one side; or a toothbrush, razor handle, or similar piece of plastic melted with razor blades stuck into it (this latter shiv is better for slashing than for stabbing, but was useful in the past for labelling informers; a scar on an inmate's left cheek meant that he was a prison nark). [from 16C Romany chib or chiv = 'a blade'; British from late 17C in the form 'chive' and late 18C in the form 'chive'; US from late 18C-19C in the forms 'chive' and 'chiv' and late 19C in the forms 'shive' and 'shiv'; NZ from the 1860s. 1978 NEWBOLD: 'That night, however, seconds after the fight began, the tables were turned as the would-be underdog produced a "shiv" from his sleeve and finished the fight with a few short thrusts' (336). 1982 NEWBOLD: '"You want to carry on with it?" he asked Mat. "Yeah, fucking oath I do!" replied Mat, jumping up all keen. "Right, well cop this," said the bloke from our side, and he pulled a shiv from his pocket and shoved it into Mat's guts' (109). "Shiv (n) Knife or stabbing weapon" (253). 1991 STEWART: '[stage directions] They stand up and support one another. DOC checks out the guardroom, pulls a shiv from his socks and draws blood on his thumb' (14). 1994 PAYNE: 'Do us all a favour and do yourself in, molester'er. I'll even lend you me shiv' (116).]

shiv (also shivvy or shiv up) v. to stab. [US 1933; much earlier in the form 'chiv' (cf. prec.) from Romany chive = 'to stab'.]

shoot up v. to inject a narcotic. [US drug addicts' slang from 1926.]

shooter n. 1 a hypodermic syringe. 2 a firearm.

shop (also shop owner) n. the inmate in the prison or prison wing in possession of a steady supply of negotiable material for other inmates to purchase on credit: 'Go and see x, he's a good shop.' []

shop's open an expression indicating
that this inmate is available to receive customers.

Note: depending on the prison, the shop may also stock drugs of various sorts; however, the stock most commonly carried by the shop includes P119 goods, e.g. phonecards, cigarettes or tobacco, biscuits, chocolate, magazines, etc. An inmate usually makes use of the shop when he has used up all of the goods from his last P119 order and still has several days to wait before the arrival of his next order. Although goods may be purchased directly, the shop often prefers to give items on credit, operating on a 2-for-1 deal (e.g. one packet of biscuits acquired on credit must be replaced by two packets once the inmate's P119 order comes in; or a 30g packet of tobacco must be replaced by a 100g packet, plus cigarette papers, when the inmate's order arrives) thus ensuring that the shop maintains a constant supply of stock. In order to make sure his customers honour this deal, the shop incorporates a policy of compounding interest, e.g. if the customer does not pay back the 2 packets of biscuits, he owes 4 the next week, then 8 the week after, and so on. Eventually, once the amount owed is big enough, it transfers to an item of more direct value that the customer owns, e.g. instead of 256 packets of biscuits, the customer might owe the shop his television, and a debt of 2048 packets might lose the inmate his car (cf. merchant).

shop v. to inform (upon). [British from 1887.]

shopper n. an informer. [British from c.1880.]

short charge v. to hide contraband by cheeking it, rather than inserting it into the rectum (cf. deep charge).

shorthand n. a thief. [one form of prison punishment for a thief, or a tealeafer, is to chop off one or more of his fingers.]

Shortland Street n. see street, the.

shorty n. a knife or stabbing weapon. [from the idea that the weapon is short so as to be easily concealed.] ♦ get shorty to take or to use a knife. [alludes to the film Get Shorty (US 1995).]

shot n. 1 any kind of intravenous drug, e.g. heroin. 2 an injection of drugs.

shotski n. heroin (cf. shot sense 1).

shotty n. a firearm.

shuffle, the n. ♦ do the shuffle 1 to line up in the compound each morning to undergo inspection and to prepare to move out to work in an orderly manner. 2 to walk repeatedly backwards and forwards across the grassed area of the prison compound. Note: sometimes this is done for exercise; at other times it takes the form of a casual stroll while the inmate is engaged in conversation. To do laps in this way is preferred to walking in circles around the compound.

shutdown n. 1 = lockdown sense 1. 2 a strike. 3 bed-time.

Siberia n. 1 = pound, the sense 1. [US 1934; poss. from 'ice-box' = a solitary confinement cell, US 1931.] (cf. ice-cream parlour sense 1.) 2 (from sense 1) the segregation area of a prison.

sick adj. ♦ sick feed in (also SFI) a medical order confining an inmate to his cell for a certain period, and instructing that, during this period, all his meals be brought to him in his cell. [2000 'Medical Classifications' Notice, Meads House, Waikeria Prison: 'Sick Feed In: This is when the inmates are locked in their cells. Meals are delivered and eaten in their cells. These inmates are seen twice a day at medical parades or as required.'] (cf. medical parade.) sick in cell confined to one's cell for medical reasons.
Sieg Heil (also Sieg Heil Dog or Sieg Dog) int. a Mongrel Mob expression of acknowledgement and solidarity. [derived from Nazi Germans. 1991 PAYNE: 'I tried to ask (above the tacit threats, “Sieg Heils” and tales of past carnage) the kind of question that needed to be asked' (21). 'Instead of using a brother's name when we're out of town, or even at our own dos, our own rages, we say Bro! Dog! Mongrel! Sieg!' (24).]

sieve n. a person who has been stabbed.

sign v. [] sign an autograph to pass a false cheque.

silverbeet n. marijuana. [camouflage term. Poss. influenced by the common term grass = marijuana; 'grass' is also a term given to green vegetables served in institutions (e.g. 1982 NEWBOLD: 'Grass (n) ... 3. Cabbage, lettuce, or silverbeet' (249)), thus this term may be a reversal: silverbeet = 'grass', i.e. marijuana.]

silver pearl (also pearlsies) n. see skunk.

silvery moon n. a person with dark skin. [rhyming slang for 'coon'.]

single n. a one-ounce packet of prison tobacco. [obsolete since about 1975, when the prison canteen dropped it in favour of stocking only two-ounce packets.] (cf. double; dub.)

sisterhood, the n. one's fellow prison inmates. [women's prison argot; a female variant of the boys.]

sixty n. a 60mg morphine sulphate tablet.

sixty-center n. a person deemed worthy to converse with, better than average in terms of his character and behaviour (cf. fifty-center).

skag n. heroin. [1982 NEWBOLD: 'Skag (n) Heroin' (253).]

skank n. a less common variant of skunk. [prob. popularised by the song 'Easy Skanking' (1978) by Bob Marley: 'Easy skanking, skanking it easy / Easy skanking, skanking it slow / Excuse me while I light my spliff / Good God I gotta take a lift / From reality I just can't drift / That's why I am staying with this riff.' 1996 KAWANA: 'Prof suggested “The Ganja Foundation” but Uncle John said it would just get them harassed by the cops. Eventually it was Chantelle who suggested Skankadelica.... Hemi was officially appointed as being in charge of the music, Rogue and Prof in charge of the gear ... and Charlie was given the most important job: ensuring a constant supply of marijuana. Skankadelica Inc was born' (28).] (cf. skunk.)

skankie n. 1 an inmate willing to perform a variety of menial and/or potentially dangerous tasks for another inmate, in return for an amount of skunk weed. 2 = skunk joint (see skunk).

skid n. a child. [rhyming slang for 'kid'. 'Motorhead' jargon, from the idea that kids are what one leaves behind, just as skids are left behind one’s car.]

skiddie bum n. a member of the Highway 61 gang. [derogatory.]

skin-and-blister n. sister. [rhyming slang. 1982 NEWBOLD: 'Skin-and-blister (n) Sister' (253).]
skinhead collar n. a skinhead’s gang patch, in the form of a tattoo. As one inmate explains: ‘Skinheads wear their gang patch on their skin, not on their back’ (referring to the way that most other gangs wear their patches in the form of the gang insignia sewn on to the back of a member’s leather jacket). Here, the word ‘SKINHEAD’ is tattooed in large capital letters across the upper chest in Gothic script.

skins n. pl. 1 cigarette papers. [NZ 1982, for much earlier.] 2 leather jackets, leather clothes. 3 (also skinz) a shortened form of ‘skinheads’ = shaven-headed gang-members, often, but not exclusively, with neo-Nazi or white supremacist sympathies. Note: the majority of members are Pākehā, but Māori skinheads do exist (cf. kinder surprise sense 1; shit skin sense 2; spud sense 2). There are many different skinhead factions throughout New Zealand, e.g. KKK (Timaru), The Droogs (Wellington), Satan’s Slaves (Wellington), Sein Fein (Upper Hutt), Tyrants (Pahiutaua), Kaos Kin (Wanganui), New Plymouth Skins (New Plymouth), Sin Skin (a skinhead group affiliated to the Road Knights), Outcasts (Hamilton), AK Skins (Auckland) and Unit 88 (Auckland; this group is more of a political faction, interested in fascist ideology rather than violence).

skin scratcher n. a tattoo machine.

skinwork (also skinart) n. tattoos.

SKP n. an ‘escapee’. [written by an officer beside the escaped inmate’s name on the board in the Unit Manager’s office; poss. also used in graffiti.]

skunk (also skunk weed) n. potent marijuana of exceptionally high quality, which may be sold at (NZ) $400 – $700 an ounce. Skunk is aromatic sinsemilla (the flowering tops of seedless marijuana plants) usually cultivated from the Afghani variety of marijuana. [1999 KAWANA: ‘THIS IS ALBERTO’S FAIRY TALE. Woman Man Dragon Death Sex. End. It had made perfect sense to Alberto at the time, though he had been smoking some skunk grown by a mate in Motueka’ (131).] Note: skunk is so-called because of its distinctive pungent aroma; as one inmate says: ‘It stinks when you uncover it and it stinks when you smoke it, so it’s dangerous to have in jail.’ There are many different types of skunk, including cross-clones. These include strains indigenous to New Zealand as well as overseas strains (a common way of smuggling overseas strains into New Zealand is to disguise the seeds in jars of fruit jam). Examples of skunk include: bubblegum a strain with a very tight, sticky bud. Because of its density and tackiness, it must be cut up with scissors if it is to be smoked in a joint, and thus is best used for spotting. It costs $450 – $550 per ounce at the beginning of the harvest season, poss. more expensive mid-season. chocolate a strain grown outdoors, unlike most skunk weed. The bud is a dark brown colour, with orange flecks, and is good for both smoking in a joint, and for spotting. It costs $350 – $400 per ounce. evil eye a cross-clone of silver pearl and western lights. It has a very sticky bud, and thus is only good for spotting. It costs $600 per ounce, if sold. northern lights usually green with white flowers, sometimes dark brown, good for spotting and for use in a joint. number one skunk the strongest type of skunk weed, with the highest THC content. This has a light green, almost yellow bud. orange roughy a strain characterised by bright orange hairs growing through a dark green bud. The bud has a fairly sticky consistency, and is good for spotting, or for smoking in a bong. ragweed, a cross-clone with white pearl, very smelly and potent. red dwarf a Auckland strain, with red-tinged leaves and red hairs growing through the bud. silver pearl (also white pearl or pearlsies) the second strongest type of skunk weed. It has a light green bud (sometimes white) with pale, creamy-green hairs growing through it. When the bud is held up to the light, it sparkles from the THC crystals. Silver pearl buds are difficult to manicure (i.e. to cut off the leaves and the tips, the cabbage, to leave only the bud) as the leaf grows through the bud. It is good for spotting and for smoking in a joint, costing $500 per ounce. western lights a strain with a brown,
bushy bud and a loose consistency. This makes it good for smoking in a joint, but no good for spotting, as it disintegrates too easily to be compressed successfully into a joint. It originated in Massey, West Auckland, and costs $350 per ounce. \[ \text{skunk joint} \] (also \text{skunkie} or \text{skankie}) a cigarette containing \text{skunk weed}. [a small \text{skunk joint} sells for $10 in prison, i.e. twice as much as a \text{bush joint}.]

\text{skunk} \ (\text{also skank}) \ \text{adj.} \ \text{describes marijuana of high quality.}

\text{sky pilot} \ n. \ \text{a prison chaplain; esp. one perceived to be 'more warden than chaplain, not down to earth'. [poss. from the idea that the chaplain conveys one to heaven. British, ex-military services, from early 19C; US from 1877 = a clergyman, a chaplain; among US tramps of the early 20C = a high-brow preacher. 1982 NEWBOLD: 'Sky pilot (n) Chaplain' (253).]}

\text{sky rocket} \ n. \ 1 \ \text{pocket. [rhyming slang; British from c.1879, used mostly by thieves until c.1885; US Pacific Coast from early 20C. 1982 NEWBOLD: 'Sky rocket (n) pocket' (253).]} \ 2 \ \text{a hypodermic syringe. [because it 'shoots up' (cf. shoot up).]}

\text{slab} \ n. \ \text{a pound of marijuana.}

\text{slag} \ n. \ = \text{bum boy sense 1; tea boy sense 1.}

\text{slammer, the} \ n. \ 1 \ \text{prison. [prob. from the haunting sound of the steel cell doors slamming shut. 1992 DUFF: 'Cos your kind is in and out of the slammer, more in than out, so ya lose touch, son. With reality. With what's going on in the world' (139).]} \ 2 = \text{pound, the sense 1.} \ 3 \ \text{(also slam, the) an assault. [the victim is 'slammed' with blows from his assailants.]}\]

\text{slapper} \ n. \ \text{a small, sticky rubber hand sold in novelty toy stores.}

\text{Note: these are popular in prison because inmates may attach an item of contraband (e.g. a cigarette or a joint) to the slapper and throw it across the yard to stick to the cell window of a fellow inmate. This is useful if an inmate is in the pound, on OPs, or confined to his cell, and does not have access to his cigarettes or to other luxuries: 'I'm going to be down the pound for a few days, and I'm going to miss my smokes.' 'Don't worry, bro, I'll send you a slapper.'}

\text{slasher} \ n. \ \text{a suicide by cutting.}

\text{sleaze} \ n. \ 1 \ \text{a bribe.} \ 2 \ \text{a scab, a bludger.}

\text{sleepover} \ n. \ \text{a very short sentence.}

\text{sling} \ v. \ [sling (one's) hook to pass contraband to another inmate on a different \text{landing} or in a different \text{wing} by means of \text{throwing a line.}

\text{Note: this practice is used if: a) the two inmates are physically separated all of the time, e.g. they may be housed in different areas and may not be authorised to meet or converse; or b) if they are normally allowed to mix but are unable to meet at the particular time the item is required, e.g. it is after the inmates have been locked up for the night, or the inmates are in a \text{lockdown} situation, or one of the two inmates is on CCs; or c) the items being passed are illegal and cannot be given under normal circumstances. This practice is more common at prisons that have multi-storeyed \text{wings} (e.g. Mount Eden, Paremoremo, Waikeria) or at prisons that have many \text{units} arranged closely together (e.g. Hawke's Bay). If an inmate wants to collect an item from another inmate on a separate storey, he may unravel his line down to the \text{landing} below. The inmate below then attaches cigarettes, marijuana or other contraband. The inmate above then pulls his line up again and unties the goods. If an inmate wants to collect an item from another inmate further away or in a separate \text{wing}, he gets a long line, holds one end, weights the other (e.g. with a bar of soap) and then throws it as far as he possibly can. Meanwhile, the inmate at the other end does the same thing. With any luck, the}
two weighted lines will collide and tangle, creating one big line that connects the two inmates. The inmate on the far end then ties various items to the line, and the other inmate drags the entire line back and collects the goods (cf. go fishing; throw (one’s) line).

**slip v.** to reoffend.

**slop out v.** to clean one’s cell, to empty one’s cell chamberpot. [1982 NEWBOLD: ‘The stink of forty-odd men slopping-out at the same time each morning was terrible ... After slopping out we’d go back to our cells and clean up a bit’ (28-29).]

**sloppy chopper n.** a policeman. [rhyming slang for ‘copper’.] (cf. Johnny Hopper.)

**slot (also slot room) n.** a cell. [the cell’s small space is like the slot cut into a machine or game in order to take a coin. Australian from 1947; NZ from 1973. 1973 JUSTIN: ‘“Yeah! Here’s my slot. Twenty-two. Come on in.” ... So, a slot was a cell’ (23). 1982 NEWBOLD: ‘“Ha! You reckon this [wing] looks bad,” Lugs replied. “Wait’ll you see the slots!”’ (26). 1989 NEWBOLD: ‘Inmates, lined up beside a number corresponding to that of their cell, would be given a dixie and a cup of tea as they filed back to their “slots” for lock-up’ (23). 1991 STEWART: ‘Tama: Look. I told Piggy screw you were in my slot. He deliberately sent the nurse to your slot. He’s reported you missing’ (39).]

**sluice n.** the emptying-out of cell chamberpots (cf. pisspot parade; potty parade).

**slutty n.** a female inmate: ‘Here come all the slutties, going to bonk together.’ [refers to the large number of lesbian relationships that develop between female inmates.]

**smack n.** heroin. [also current British; poss. from German schmecken = ‘to taste’ (a ‘taste’ is drug users’ slang for a dose of an intravenous drug). 1982 NEWBOLD: ‘Smack wasn’t economical. It wasn’t until early 1975 that heroin started appearing on the streets of Auckland’ (14). ‘Smack (n) heroin’ (253).]

**smack v.** [smack over to serve time out of one’s prison sentence: ‘What did you do in jail?’ ‘I just smacked over nine years.’] (cf. cut out.)

**smackhead (also smackie) n.** a heroin addict (cf. smack).

**smash n.** heroin.

**smartie n.** a morphine sulphate tablet. [a descriptive reference to a Smartie, a candy-covered chocolate confectionery item that resembles an MST in colour(s), size, and shape.] (cf. M&M sense 1.)

**smiley n.** 1 an Ecstasy tablet, coloured yellow, with a smiley face embossed on its sides. 2 (also smiley face) a Mogadon tablet. [some Mogadon tablets have a smiley face embossed on their sides.] 3 (also smiley face) see zebra.

**Smith n.** 1 a nark. 2 a paedophile. [it is usual for inmates who have either testified in court or molested children to change their names under police protection before coming to prison. As Smith is a common surname, many such inmates choose it for themselves. Consequently, several inmates by the name of Smith turn out to have been narks or paedophiles. Therefore, by
association, all narks and paedophiles are nicknamed 'Smith'. As one inmate says: 'If you come in and your name's Smith, you're not going to have a very nice lag.'

smoke n. = cake.

smorgasbord n. any prison sentence exceeding 10 years. [in terms of a prison sentence, one has been given everything.] (cf. full course, the.)

SMU abbr. Self-Maintenance Unit.  
Note: Self-Maintenance Units (also known as Self-Care Units) are designed as part of a re-integration scheme for long-term inmates completing their prison sentences. The idea of the SMU is to provide an experience of life on the outside, equipping inmates with the necessary skills to survive on their own after years of being looked after in prison. SMUs vary slightly between prisons, but the programme is generally as follows. The inmates eligible for the SMU are usually lifers, or those serving a sentence of over seven years. Inmates are housed in proper houses, rather than cells, with four inmates to each house, living as flatmates. The house is equipped with modern conveniences and conventional furniture, and inmates may decorate the house with their own possessions, artwork, plants, etc. Each inmate has his own bedroom, and it is here that he has the greatest personal freedom to decorate. Inmates are allowed to wear either their own civilian clothes, or a less formal version of the prison uniform. They do their own laundry, and cook their own meals; those inmates who go out to work pack their own lunches. As part of their household management skills, inmates are taken to local shops and supermarkets to do their own shopping, working on a given budget. Aside from work around the prison, residents of the SMU have the option of voluntary community service 3 days a week, e.g. painting or redecorating, gardening or landscaping. In addition, the inmates have one reintegration day per week, e.g. op-shopping, a visit to the museum, fishing, etc. Inmates are also allowed out to play sport, e.g. a game of league once a week. SMU residents also attend courses, which include courses they have enrolled while still in mainstream, such as Straight Thinking, and practical courses specific to the SMU, such as Cookery. While in the SMU, the inmate's behaviour and progress is monitored; although he has greater freedom than his fellow inmates, he must abide by the prison rules. Drugs and alcohol are not allowed in the SMU, and if an inmate is found with these items, he is expelled from the unit. (cf. Knob's Hill).

smut book n. a pornographic magazine.

snake n. a traffic officer. [obsolete.]

snake v. to hide something: 'Hey bro, can you snake this stash for me?'

snakehead n. = ropehead sense 2.

snap v. 1 to escape. 2 to catch or arrest. [] snapped out caught, found out, arrested. [British from c.1785.]

sniffer n. marijuana of very high quality, akin to skunk (weed).

snooper n. a hiding place.  
Note: there are many ingenious hiding places that inmates devise, e.g. in the inmate's mattress, in the frames of mirrors, in holders for cigarette lighters, or in a space carved out of a piece of 3x2 wood used as a handrail. An officer may dislodge a handrail to look for hidden contraband, therefore, the inmate carves out two spaces, one under the handrail, and one in the actual piece of wood that makes up the handrail. When the officer dislodges the wooden handrail and looks underneath, he sees only the 'dummy' space, which, of course, is empty. Meanwhile, the contraband remains safely hidden inside the piece of wood. [1982 NEWBOLD: 'Every smoko time, at about 10, Junk or Baine would pull their bombs out of snooper and brew up a cup of tea or cocoa' (85).] (cf. deep snooper; heavy snooper.)

snooper v. 1 to hide. 'He snookered his stash in the hobbies room.' [prob. from Australian 'snooker' = to stymie, bewilder (1967).] 2 to assault a person
by sandwiching him between two assailants; one assailant holds the victim and the other hits him or attacks him with a weapon. This second assailant then passes the weapon on, so that when authorities arrive to investigate, all is clear. [from the game of snooker. A 'snooker' occurs when three balls end up in a line: the cue ball, the target ball, and a ball in the middle, which obstructs the direct line between the cue and the target. Thus the middle ball is a problem, something to be 'got out of the way'.] (cf. sandwich sense 1.)

snoop dog n. an extremely thorough cell-check. [a play on ‘snoop’ = to pry, with an allusion to Snoop Doggy Dogg, African-American actor and rap artist (b.1972)].

snoop kuri kuri n. the narcotics detection dog. [from ‘snoop’ = to pry, and Māori kuri = ‘dog’, with an allusion to Snoop Doggy Dogg, US actor and rap artist.]

Snoopy n. see zebra.

Snow White (also snowflake) n. a Pākehā.

SNU abbr. Special Needs Unit, designed for mentally unbalanced or potentially suicidal inmates. [SNU material an idiot; a mentally unbalanced person.

snuff n. any drug that is ‘snorted’ (inhaled nasally).

soapy water n. daughter. [rhyming slang; a variant of Cockney ‘soap and water’, recorded from 1925, apparently obsolescent in Britain by 1960.]

sock, the n. a weapon made from a pool ball in a sock: ‘That fella’s gonna get the sock if he don’t watch it.’ (cf. dolly sense 3.)

socks on! int. used by a criminal putting on a balaclava or a stocking in order to do a hit.

softballs n. pl. = basketballs.

soft cell n. a cell for suicidal inmates. [the cell is literally soft (padded); a play on the name of the British synth-pop band, formed in 1980.]

softcock n. an inmate who has difficulty coping with any aspect of his prison sentence (cf. broken; broken arse). Note: in men's prisons particularly, many derogatory terms deliberately attack the inmate's manhood.

soldiers bold n. and adj. 1 a cold. 2 cold. [rhyming slang; a variant of Cockney ‘soldier bold’ = a cold, 19C, apparently obsolescent in Britain by 1960; and ‘warrior(s) bold’ = cold, a cold, c.1955.]

solid adj. faithful, reliable, stoic, dependable, staunch, possessing good form. As one inmate explains: 'If he's solid, he's a guy you can rely on to back you up, or not to crack up if he gets busted.'

solis n. pl. a group of inmates who are very close. [from Samoan soli = 'the boys'.]

songbird n. an informer, a nark (cf. bird sense 2).

Sonic (also Sonic the Hedgehog) n. see zebra.
soot farmer n. a person with dark skin.

sooty n. 1 a Mongrel Mob term for a Black Power gang-member. 2 a person with dark skin. [NZ 1989 = a Māori.]

sour grape n. 1 rape. [rhyming slang. 1982 NEWBOLD: ‘Sour grape ... (n) Rape’ (254). 1987 JONES: ‘Sour grape is prison slang for rape. Sour grape is what fills a prison warden of 17 years’ experience with what he calls “gender shame”’ (22).] 2 a protest.

sour grape v. to rape. [1982 NEWBOLD: ‘Sour grape (v) ... Rape’ (254). 1994 PAYNE: ‘The tarts [female officers]’ll be everywhere soon and then it’s just a matter of time before one gets sour-graped and we’re all in the shit’ (51).]

sour graper (also sour grapist) n. a rapist (rapist). [rhyming slang. 1994 PAYNE: ‘As the young woman on-screen opens her legs for an older man a multiple sour-grapist called Gilliam jumps to his feet’ (57).] (cf. rusty draper.)

sours n. pl. rape: ‘He got done for sours.’ [abbr. of sour grape.]

South Eden n. the Women’s Division of Mount Eden Prison.

South Side n. see street, the.

sow n. a female police officer (cf. pig).

spaghetti v. to collect, to receive, to get hold of: ‘There’s a drop come in, bro, and I’m going to spaghetti it.’ [concealing elaboration of ‘get’.

spaghetti? int. an expression meaning: ‘What are you getting at?’ [concealing elaboration.]

spanker n. 1 (also spankie) a prison officer recently completed his training (cf. new screw; scobie). 2 an inmate new to a prison or (formerly) a borstal. [from the idea that these people are ‘spanking new’; in sense 1 at least, a derogatory implication: street-slang ‘spanker’ = wanker.]

spare tyre n. a prison officer in the process of completing his training, undertaking work experience. [the new officer begins his work in the prison partnered with a more experienced officer. As he has no duties of his own, he is literally a ‘spare’.

spark v. []spark up to smoke marijuana.

sparrow n. an informer, a nark (cf. bird sense 2; songbird).

special n. 1 a visit during which an inmate receives contraband to smuggle back into the prison. For an inmate to tell his fellow inmate that he ‘got a special’ indicates that he has a charge or a stash (cf. kinder surprise sense 2; kura visit). 2 (the special) a firearm.

special K n. Ketamine. [slang terms for Ketamine that incorporate ‘K’ are popular. Special K is a brand of breakfast cereal, providing a useful camouflage term, esp. if talking on a telephone line that may be bugged.] (cf. K.)

speed n. 1 a methamphetamine drug, which may appear in crystal form, in the form of an artificially-produced white powder, or in herbal varieties, also
powdered (cf. **crank**; **go-fast**). 2 one’s reputation. 3 one’s unique style, way of doing things. [1982 **NEWBOLD**: ‘**Speed** (n) Class, reputation, way of doing things’ (254).]

**speed** v. to be under the influence of **speed** or a similar amphetamine.

**spike** n. a hypodermic needle. [] **barrel and spike** a hypodermic syringe and needle.

**spike** v. to stab.

**spiker** n. an intravenous drug user (cf. **spike**).

**sponge cake** n. a European person. [from the idea that both are pale in colour.] (cf. **banana cake**; **chocolate cake**.)

**spook** n. = **ghost**.

**spoon** n. a new prison officer recently completed his or her training. [prob. from ‘spoon’ (also ‘spoony’) = an idiot, British from 1812.]

**spot** n. 1 (also **one spot**) $100. [formerly £100; Australian 1945, NZ 1963. 1982 **NEWBOLD**: ‘He counted the money ... $481 in total. A convicted heroin dealer and I’m sprung with nearly five **spot** in cash and a hypodermic syringe. Bloody lovely’ (144).] 2 a year in prison, e.g. ‘three **spot**’ = three years’ imprisonment. [US from c.1901; from ‘spot’ = a place: one spot or dot for each year there. 1980 **MacKENZIE**: ‘[the young inmates] can be seen strutting around the remand yard, boasting of their deeds and bored to hell with the whole silly business of the law, police courts and prison. They contemplate a “two-**spot”’ (a two-year) or a “three-**spot**” sentence with equanimity’ (84). 1982 **NEWBOLD**: ‘He was just an old junkie, he said, doing a three-**spot** for trying to make a buck’ (62).] 3 (also **spotty**) an inmate who spends much of his time on the telephone. [after **Spot**, the black-and-white dog featured on the Telecom television advertisements, widely acknowledged as being Telecom’s mascot (d.2000).] (cf. **Telecom**.) 4 a drop of marijuana oil, or a small ball of compressed marijuana bud. Heat is applied to the **spot**, and the fumes may be inhaled.

**spot** v. 1 (also **spot up**) to take marijuana by inhaling the fumes from a **spot** (see **spot** n. sense 4). Note: there are various methods of spotting marijuana, and here are some examples. A Heat two knives on a stove element. Place a drop of marijuana oil between the hot knives and inhale the resultant smoke through a milk bottle, a Coca-Cola bottle, a ½G, or similar. Instead of marijuana oil, the same may be done with a small ball of marijuana bud, or a piece of **buddha stick**. B This method is useful when metal knives and stove elements are not available. Take a piece of tinfoil. Put a spot of marijuana oil on one side of the tinfoil and provide heat from the other side using a cigarette lighter. Inhale the fumes. C If tinfoil is unavailable or one does not want to risk inhaling toxic tinfoil fumes, cut up an empty toothpaste tube or a Raro (fruit drink powder) sachet. Put a spot of marijuana oil on the ‘metallic’ side. Use a cigarette lighter to heat, and inhale the fumes. D Take two large safety pins and the spring from the inside of a ballpoint pen. Attach one safety pin to each end of the spring. Position the spring over the edge of a table, so that one half of the spring is lying on the table and the other half is off the table-edge. Take the safety pin attached to the end of the spring lying on the table and stick it into the table to secure the spring in position. Smear marijuana oil over the safety pin at the other end. Hold a cigarette lighter underneath this pin and heat it up so that the oil begins to smoke. Inhale. E This method involves the construction of a device to prevent marijuana smoke contaminating an inmate’s cell. Because of marijuana’s distinctive smell (esp. **skunk**
strains) an inmate must find ways of hiding or disguising the fumes so that he does not get caught. For this method, take one towel. Take one tube of toothpaste. Empty out the toothpaste. Blow into the empty tube to 'pop it out'. Rinse with water to remove all toothpaste traces. Make a small hole near the opposite end of the tube (there should now be two holes, one at each end). Put some marijuana (e.g. dried, a spot of bud, some oil) on the new hole, and light it. Place one's lips around the other hole. As the marijuana starts to smoke, inhale. This way, all the smoke becomes trapped inside the tube, rather than wafting out into the cell. If possible, inhale all the smoke in one breath and then exhale into the towel. (Note: in prison, marijuana oil is commonly sold by placing the required amount on a phonecard. This way it is not easily detected, and it wipes off easily so that none is lost.)

spot out to keep watch for another while he carries out an illegal activity.

spotter n. a person who keeps watch, e.g. during a fight, while gambling, taking drugs, or drawing tattoos (cf. cockatoo).

spread v. spread comes to spread information, to inform upon, to nark: 'Don't tell her, she'll go spreading comes.' [women's prison argot, with the sexual implication that the woman has a mouthful of 'come' (semen, from performing fellatio, lit. 'sucking up') and spreads it when she talks.]

spread it v. 1 to boast or exaggerate, to make events sound bigger or more exciting than they are. As one inmate explains: 'You're talking to your mates, transferred or figurative use of spud (potato) to stand for something that is 'brown on the outside' but 'white on the inside'.]

square v. square off 1 to apologise, to make excuses: 'Don't square off to me! I know you've been tealeafing from my slot!' [Australian 1943; NZ 1968 = to apologise, to produce a glib explanation for a lapse.] 2 to conduct intelligence work prior to committing a crime. [NZ 1982.] []

spot out to keep watch for another while he carries out an illegal activity.

squeak snail int. a satiric play on the Mongrel Mob expression of acknowledgement and solidarity, Sieg Heil. [used by the Black Power.]

squeal v. to inform upon, to betray. [British from 1821, US from 1859 = to give information to the police; poss. from the idea of squealing like a rat, i.e. making noise.] (cf. nark.)

squealer n. 1 = nark. [British from 1864.] 2 (the squealer) the prison officials' office, the guardhouse. [poss. from the idea that this is where a squealer (sense 1) goes to pass on his information.]

squirrel n. = cat eye.

SR, the n. a sentence for the crime of serial rape: 'He's doing the SR.'
describing this fight you had, and you might’ve actually punched this guy a couple of times, but if you say, “Yeah, I punched him about eight times, then I kneed him and then I put in the boot…” well, that’s stacking it.’ 

2 to walk around attempting to look big and tough (cf. boob walk; mask up).

stages n. pl. a graded form of punishment used in some prisons (esp. Paparua) whereby an inmate loses privileges and is required to earn them back by good behaviour. Note: this is a two-stage system: stage one is the most severe stage, generally given to an inmate who has either been disruptive, or has been informed that he is on a charge and is waiting to have the charge heard, or is waiting to serve the punishment for that charge. Occasionally, an inmate may be placed on stage one for a non-punishable offence, e.g. refusing to go to work. On stage one, the inmate is on 23-hour lock-up, with one hour’s exercise each afternoon. His meals are eaten in his cell, and his television and radio are confiscated. He is allowed three books, six magazines, and basic writing material. If he is doing a recognised education course, he is allowed educational material. He is allowed three showers per week, and two 10-minute phone calls a week, but these must be booked. The inmate is placed on stage one for a week; on Friday his classification is reviewed by the officers in the wing and a decision is made whether or not to keep the inmate on stage one for a further week. Stage two is much the same as stage one; however, the inmate is now allowed five showers per week, and his radio and television are returned. He may also be allowed an extra hour’s exercise in the yard. The inmate is on stage two for a month. At the end of the month the inmate’s classification is reviewed, and he may return to a normal wing, depending on space availability. (cf. levels.) 

stake v. stake out to conduct intelligence work prior to committing a crime.

stalag n. a prison. [from the German WWII term for a camp detaining prisoners of war.]

stand v. stand over to threaten someone in order to take something from him, officially termed, ‘demanding with menace.’ Note: originally used in a wider sense, standing over now normally refers to forcing another person to hand over a piece of his property. One inmate describes the sentiment as: ‘He’s got something, I want it, it’s mine.’ Standing over does not always take the form of overt extortion or bullying, but may be done by more subtle means, as one inmate explains: ‘There are a lot of mind games that go on in prison. For example, there might be a child molester in the unit, and another guy goes into his cell to beat him up. You might see this happening, so you come over and stop the guy. When that guy is gone, you say to the child molester, “Now, see, I’ve helped you out. If you want to stop that from happening again, get me such-and-such on your P119 form.” You know, just using that whole good cop/bad cop effect.’

[British and Australian since c.1910 = to manhandle, bully, intimidate. From when a criminal ‘stands over’ his victim and threatens him. 1978 NEWBOLD: ‘Standing Over is a broad term which is used to describe any individual or group bullying tactics, and includes such activities as extortion, the enforcement of will by one upon another, or simply aggressiveness in general’ (325). 1992 DUFF: ‘I wanna fight if some arsehole’s gonna stand over me. Shit, I thought you woulda learnt that from all your spells inside, surely?’ (9).]

standover n. an act of theft or extortion: ‘If the new guy’s a bit weak, the screws will watch to see if he’s becoming a target for standovers.’ [Australian from early 20C = a criminal intimidation or imposition.] standover cunt (also standover dude) = standover merchant. standover merchant an inmate who uses standover tactics on a
regular basis. [from the idea the he 'deals out' standovers. 1978 NEWBOLD: 'But Z was no standover merchant, nor was he particularly concerned with financial aggrandizement. For this, in fact, he gained further respect, which was reinforced by his reputation for fairness, his compassion for the weak or exploited, his modesty, his generosity and his athletic prowess' (340). 1992 DUFF: 'You’re the fucking problem. Givin that standover merchant five bucks like that; whyn’t you leave it to me?' (9.)]

standunder n. an inmate considered soft or timid, who often takes the role of a flunkie or an errand boy for other inmates; thus someone easily stood over.

star behind bars n. a white collar criminal, esp. one in prison on a huge fraud charge, e.g. the embezzlement of millions of dollars: ‘Hey, check out that guy, he’s a star behind bars.’

stars behind bars n. pl. prison. [from the inmate’s point of view: when he looks out at night, the stars can be seen behind the bars of his cell window.]

stash n. 1 a secret hoard of contraband, e.g. a parcel of drugs, alcohol, chocolates, cigarettes, pornographic magazines, or other negotiable material. [US from c.1930 = concealed equipment for taking narcotics.] 2 a hiding place. [US early 20C, from ‘cache’ = a hiding place.]

stash v. 1 to retain or conceal drugs and other contraband. [US from c.1914 = to hide.] 2 to arm oneself.

staunch adj. 1 reliable, true, solid, honest, faithful. 2 brave, tough, resilient. 3 clever, commendable. 4 violent, threatening. [British from c.1750 = retentive of information. 1978 NEWBOLD: ‘One of the basic prescriptive qualities defined by the inmate normative system is that which refers to the ability to make judicious, rational and non-emotional decisions in the face of trauma and fear; the ability to retain dignity, composure or moral principles in the many stressful situations which living in a prison inevitably produces. A person who conforms highly to this ideal is described as being “staunch” or “solid”’ (326). 1987 JONES: ‘The unquestioning allegiance any army strives to cultivate, within the [Mongrel] Mob is defined as staunch. Staunch is to be a dog beyond doubt’ (25). 1996 DUFF: ‘In the gang he was a ledge for legend, all that time he’d done and being staunch throughout it, not one falter in his (external) demeanour, his swagger, his walking the talk’ (18). (cf. mask up; solid; staunchie; stick staunch.)

staunch v. [] staunch it = stack it.

staunchie n. an inmate who is staunch.

steak pie n. a black eye. [rhyming slang.]

steel n. 1 a knife or blade. 2 (also cold steel) a firearm.

steel budgie n. [] take the steel budgie to be transferred by aeroplane between prisons.

Steptoe and Son n. two inmates who are very close friends and spend most of their time together. [after the two characters from the British comedy

stick n. 1 a knife or razor. 2 a marijuana foil, a cannabis bullet. [US drug addicts’ slang, late 1920s.]

stick v. (also stick (someone) up) to stab someone. \[stick fat to be absolutely loyal and supportive to one’s friend; to hold unwaveringly to one’s beliefs. Note: sticking fat also includes looking after an inmate’s interests from the outside: ‘He’s stuck fat with me; he’s looking after the business while the boss is on the inside.’ Sticking fat entails a serious adherence to the inmate code of ethics (no narking, no tealeafing, and no lying about the nature of one’s crime). \[1978 NEWBOLD: ‘The Real Staunchie always “sticks fat”, he never compromises his honour to the compulsions of formal authority’ (326).\] stick hard (also stick staunch) = stick fat.

stick-book (also sticky or stickster) n. a pornographic magazine. [Australian, early 1980s; from 19C ‘stick’ = the erect penis. 1994 PAYNE: ‘‘Any ciggies, Cam?’ he asked, grabbing my comics and stick-books, taking his time over the letters page’ (162).] (cf. glue.)

sticker v. to stab.

sticky fingers n. pl. a thief.

stiff-arm v. to stab.

sting n. a tattoo machine.

stinging lady, the n. a tattoo machine.

stink finger n. 1 a prison officer who conducts internal searches of inmates. [from the smell of the inmate’s rectum on the fingers of the officer’s rubber gloves.] 2 a fondle with one’s partner during visits. [from the smell of the woman’s vaginal secretion on the man’s finger after digital penetration.]

stir n. a prison. [British from c.1851 and US from c.1870; poss. from Romany stariben = ‘to confine’.] \[stir craziness prison psychosis. stir crazy rendered mentally unbalanced by confinement in prison. [US c.1925, a variant of ‘stir-bugs’, ‘stir-goofy’ and ‘stir-daffy’ = a mind deranged by the strain of prison life.\]

stitch v. \[stitch up to secure a conviction using fabricated evidence: ‘Fuckin’ cops stitched me up!’\]

stitch gear n. a short-sleeved, round necked gown made of stitched, quilted fabric that cannot be torn. The gown is designed for ‘at-risk’ inmates, who may destroy their normal clothes.

stitch blanket n. a blanket designed for ‘at-risk’ inmates, made of stitched, quilted fabric that cannot be torn. This prevents the inmate from continually destroying his bedding and, more importantly, from making the sheet into a noose and hanging himself.

stomping n. an assault.

stomping ground n. one’s cell block.

stone n. a cigarette containing marijuana: ‘Hey, bro, get any stones?’ [marijuana causes the smoker to become ‘stoned’ (high.).]

stone lodge, the n. Invercargill Prison.

stormtroopers n. pl. = goon squad, the.
straight (also straighty) n. a well-behaved, innocent inmate, esp. one who does not use drugs or alcohol, and has no previous criminal convictions.

straight adj. 1 true, honest. [British 19C?] 2 innocent, naive, virtuous.

straight ten n. a life sentence.

straight up adj. honest, true. Gang members may swear straight up on their gang name, gang colours, gang symbol, or gang values as an expression of honesty. \(\text{straight up on Oi (skinheads) see } \text{Oi. straight up on the Fist (Black Power). straight up on the Mob (Mongrel Mob). straight up on White Power (white supremacist factions).} \)

strapped adj. carrying a firearm.

strawberry n. see zebra.

strawberry ripple (also ripple) n. a physically deformed or mentally deficient person. [rhyming slang for ‘cripple’. Newbold (1982) refers to this term in his glossary, but instead uses the other half of the term, strawb.]

street, the (also road, the) n. a wing, a cell block, an area of a compound. \(\text{cruise the streets} \) to walk up and down a prison wing.

Note: often, inmates will name a wing, a row of cells, or an area of a cell block after a certain road, street or suburb. The names are related to the condition of the area, where it is located, and the type of inmates who live there, e.g. Beverley Hills (Dunedin) the more attractive area of the prison, where inmates have more privileges and better amenities. [after the exclusive Hollywood suburb.] Bleat Street (Mount Eden) the area or row of cells inhabited by inmates who constantly complain. Bronx, the (Dunedin, Ohura, Waikeria, Paremoremo) the more Spartan area of a prison, where inmates have fewer privileges and amenities. Often, this area is rougher and dirtier than the rest of the prison, and is believed to house nastier inmates. [after the tough, poor, working-class area of New York.] Close to Home see Coronation Street. Cook Street (Ohura) the row of cells inhabited by kitchen workers and/or Pacific Island inmates (esp. Cook Islanders). [after the street in central Auckland.] Coronation Street a row of cells at the Detention Centre at the Tongariro/Rangipo camp. [after the famous British soap opera. In the past, the Detention Centre huts were arranged in a ‘U’ shape, making up three sides of a square. The number of huts equalled exactly the number of days in a two-month lag. Young inmates at the camp would count down the days of their sentence along the rows of huts, starting from the left side of the ‘U’. This first side, marking the first days, was known as Coronation Street, the second row, marking off the middle days, was known as Sesame Street and the last row, marking off the last days, was known as Close to Home.] Eastside 1 (Hawke’s Bay) the cells on the east side of the prison. [this style of naming is influenced by the areas into which some large US cities (esp. New York) are informally divided, and is particularly common amongst Māori or Pacific Island ‘Homie’ inmates: ‘Where are you from?’ ‘I’m from the Eastside, bro.’ (cf. South Side; West Side.) 2 (Paremoremo) an area rougher than the rest of the prison. Harlem Slums, the = the Bronx. K Road (Hautu (Tongariro/Rangipo), Ohura and Mount Eden) the row of cells inhabited by homosexual or transsexual inmates. [from the colloquial name for Auckland’s Karangahape Road, renowned for its highly-sexed night life.] Melrose Place the cleaner, tidier area of the compound, inhabited by inmates who are more educated (e.g. white collar), have trades, or have had jobs on the outside. [after the high-class area of Beverley Hills, featured in the television programme, Melrose Place.] Otara (Paremoremo) an area rougher than the rest of the prison. [after the poor area of South Auckland.] Otara Street (Ohura) the row inhabited mainly by drug addicts. Ponsonby Road the landing inhabited mainly by Pacific Islanders. [after one of Auckland’s major streets.] Queen Street 1 (Ohura) the longest row of cells in the compound, the ‘main street’. 2 (Mount Eden) the main cell block. [from the main street in central Auckland.] Remuera (Ohura) the Self-Maintenance Units (cf. Knob’s Hill; SMU). [after the exclusive Auckland
Sesame Street 1 see Coronation Street. 2 (Mount Eden) the South Wing of the prison, a segregation wing inhabited mainly by child molesters. [after the famous New Zealand soap opera.] South Side (Hawke's Bay) the cells on the south side of the compound (cf. East Side; West Side). Sunset Boulevard (also Sunset Strip) (Tongariro/Rangipo) a row of cells at Hautu camp. [after the famous street in Los Angeles.] West Side 1 (Hawke's Bay) the cells on the west side of the compound (cf. East Side; South Side). 2 (Mount Eden) the landing or row of cells inhabited by rougher inmates. [refers to 'westies' ('bogans') from West Auckland.]

streetwalker n. a prison officer recently completed his or her training. [a common job for new prison officers is to walk up and down the wing or cell block (the street) performing a general inspection; poss. derogatory, streetwalker is a street-slang term applied to the lowest class of prostitute.]

stretch n. a prison sentence (usually a long one): 'He's doing a five year stretch for armed robbery.' [British from 1903; US from 1914.]

strike v. [] strike it to refuse to eat in order to prove a point, mount a protest, or effect some change in prison policy or procedure. [from 'hunger strike'.]

strip n. 1 a 'body search', a thorough search of an inmate for drugs or other contraband, which involves the inmate removing all his clothes. 2 (the strip) the main corridor at Paparua Men's Prison (cf. airstrip). 3 (the strip) = landing.

strip v. to remove an inmate's clothes to ensure a more thorough search for drugs and other contraband.

strip cell n. a bare cell for suicidal inmates.

Note: the strip cell is literally stripped of anything that could be potentially harmful to an inmate, e.g. lights or hard surfaces. Furniture may be bolted down, and the bed may have a fire-retardant mattress. Sometimes the inmate is not even allowed to wear his prison uniform, and is given a gown of extra-thick material to prevent him tearing it up into a rope and hanging himself with it (cf. stitch gear; stitch blanket). This cell is monitored with a security camera.

stripe n. [] who gave you stripes? 'Who made you a screw? How do you suddenly know all there is to know about how the rules work?' Used between inmates, e.g. if an inmate goes up on a charge and another inmate starts telling him exactly what he is going to get and for how long, etc. [from a reference to the stripes on the epaulettes of prison officers' uniforms.]

Note: stripes are now obsolete; see Chief, the.

striper n. (Waikeria Prison) a high-medium-security inmate, who is not allowed out of the main prison building. [from the distinguishing stripes on the trousers of the inmate’s prison uniform.]

strip search n. an extremely thorough cell-search.

submarine n. a small package of contraband smuggled in the rectum or vagina (cf. charge).

submarine v. to charge an item, to insert contraband into the rectum or vagina to smuggle it into, or out of, prison.

suck v. [] suck it in to cope with a negative situation by sucking in all of one's fear and unwanted emotions so as to present a brave façade (cf. mask up).

suck the kumara to die.
sucker punch n. 1 an unexpected punch, e.g. an inmate may be sitting down resting and another inmate walks up and punches him on the jaw. This term may also be applied to other unforeseen attacks, such as a stabbing. 2 (from sense 1) any action that takes one by surprise, e.g. if officers come to an inmate one or two days before his proposed release date and ruin his chances of getting out of prison by bringing up an offence he committed years before.

suckster n. an inmate who seeks an easy sentence by ingratiating himself with prison authorities (cf. knee it).

sugar baby (also sugar daddy or sugar mummy) n. a visitor, partner or pimp of an inmate, who brings the inmate a supply of drugs, money, or other goods. [US from before 1925; from ‘sugar daddy’ = a (usually older) man supporting, or contributing to the support of, a ‘gold digger’ or other loose girl or woman.]

suicidal college n. Mount Eden Prison. Note: The November 2000 Newsletter of the Howard League for Penal Reform (NZ) states that: ‘Mount Eden remains the place where a prisoner is most likely to die.’ Because Mount Eden is a remand prison, an inmate sent there is at the beginning of his time in prison, and is likely to be facing a long sentence. It is during this initial period that the sentence looms in its entirety, the reality of the inmate’s situation sets in, and he feels at his most hopeless. Thus, this is the time at which he is most prone to suicide (cf. rock college).

suit n. 1 = white-shirt. 2 a detective (cf. casual).

suite n. 1 a cell. 2 the prison officials’ office.

sunglasses n. pl. an inmate with two black eyes (cf. patch).

Sunset Boulevard (also Sunset Strip) n. see street, the.

Super n. Superintendent. Formerly, the official in charge of the running of a prison, now termed the ‘Site Manager’. [abbreviation. 1971 SHADBOLT: ‘In the afternoon I was called into the Super’s office – he’d got a letter from my mum’ (12). 1973 JUSTIN: ‘[G]o and see the super tonight. It’s his interview night’ (60). 1980 BERRY: ‘“Mr New Superintendent – in front of our old Superintendent – I’d like to say that if you do half as good a job as he’s done you’ll be bloody marvellous.” The new super managed the glassiest of smiles and Ben knew instantly he’d be a marked man from now on’ (166). 1982 STEWART: ‘The Super himself was called in. “Bligh’s escaped, sir,” said Piggy Screw’ (170).]

Superman n. see zebra.

superscrew a particularly watchful and conscientious prison officer. 2 a prying, over-inquisitive person. [an extension of sense 1; his behaviour resembles that of an officer.]

supergrass n. 1 an informer, a nark. [from a play on grass = an informer, with an allusion to the contemporary British punk-pop band, Supergrass.] 2 very potent marijuana, marijuana of very high quality (cf. grass sense 2; skunk).

superseg n. 1 a paedophile. [most paedophiles are on segregation (or segs).] 2 a segregation inmate who has been segregated from his fellow segregation inmates.
surf n. a women’s sanitary pad (also used in men’s prisons by some transsexuals or active homosexuals). [descriptive: the shape of the pad resembles that of a surfboard.]

swallow n. an informer, a nark. [one of several terms that describe informers as ‘birds that sing (out of key)’ or as ‘birds that never stop singing’ (cf. songbird; sparrow; tweety-bird), but with sexual connotations in the sense of performing fellatio: the inmate ‘sucks up’ and swallows.]

swarm v. to swarm on to arrest (usually in the form of a police raid).

sweep n. 1 a cell-check. 2 = swoop senses 1 and 2. § big sweep an extremely thorough cell-check. little sweep a minor, superficial cell-check.

sweep v. 1 to search thoroughly. Note: this term is most often used with reference to a cell (e.g. sweep a house to search an inmate’s cell) but may also be applied to other situations, as one inmate explains: ‘If you’re insecure about whether your house [on the outside] has been bugged, you might ask someone to sweep it for you, to look through all the nooks and crannies to find anything. Also, after someone has done a stabbing, his mates might sweep the landing or sweep the wing to make sure that the shank’s not lying about so that no-one can do him for the crime.’ 2 (also sweep (on)) = swoop (on).

sweet jane n. heroin. [poss. by association: Lou Reed, as a member of US band Velvet Underground, wrote the song ‘Sweet Jane’ (1968). The song appears along with his song, ‘Heroin’ (1967) on the 1989 album: Best of: The Words and Music of Lou Reed.]

swoop n. 1 an arrest. 2 an invasion by police or prison officers: ‘The fullas got the big swoop last night.’

swoop (on) v. 1 to steal or take. Note: this usually takes the form of a standover or, as one inmate explains: ‘If an inmate gets dragged out of his cell and taken away, all the vultures swoop on his cell and take his gear.’ It is interesting to note that this latter practice is widely accepted in prisons and is not condemned as tealeafing, possibly because the theft involves several inmates and occurs in full view of others. [1982 NEWBOLD: ‘Swoop (on) (v) 1. Steal, take, appropriate’ (254).] 2 to arrest. [1982 NEWBOLD: ‘[W]hen the police were looking for a person answering Bob French’s description in relation to Bob’s payroll robbery, the police swooped on Charlie, mistaking him for Bob’ (217-218). ‘Swoop (on) (v) … 2. Arrest’ (254).] 3 to assault. 4 to conduct a raid: ‘Like you’re having a session in your cell and the screws swooped on you.’ [1982 NEWBOLD: ‘He had a secret compartment in his slot where he hid all his goods, and a few days after they busted me a couple of screws swooped on Ralph’s place and sprung his snoofer’ (148).]

sword-fighter n. a homosexual.

syndicate n. a group of friends or business associates in prison who provide mutual support for one another. As one inmate explains: ‘We’ve got a syndicate in here, where all the fullas hang out together; there’s about six of us. So, if someone’s behind in their payments to you, you say, “You know not to mess with the syndicate.” It sounds more intimidating, because you’re referring to a group who’ll give you back up, not just to one guy.’

system, the n. an umbrella term for the Government, the Criminal Justice
System, the Department of Corrections/Public Prisons Service, and associated forces, ideas, procedures and people; essentially, the whole mechanism in place to make the rules that control the lives of prison inmates. The system is invariably seen by inmates in Orwellian terms as large, inescapable, alien and oppressive; something to be resisted at all costs and manipulated or taken advantage of if possible. 

system person a person employed by the system in any capacity, e.g. Regional Manager, Site Manager, prison officer, doctor, counsellor, social worker, psychiatrist, or researcher (cf. nine-to-five).
T

Tabbr. a temgesic (cf. temmie).

tables and chairs n. pl. see zebra.

tack n. heroin. [an abbreviation of hammer and tack.]

tadpole n. an inmate new to the prison, serving his first sentence. [from the idea that such an inexperienced inmate is like 'a tadpole thrown in with a tank full of sharks'.]

tail gunner (also tail gater) n. a homosexual.

take v. [take out] 1 to assault severely. 2 to kill. 3 to challenge to a fight. 4 to place in the segregation section of a prison: 'Where's x?' 'He couldn't handle it in mainstream; the screws have taken him out.' take-out team = C and R crew.

takeaways, the n. pl. the inmate in possession of a steady supply of drugs for sale to other inmates: 'I feel like a bit of a session tonight, so I'm going down to the takeaways.' (cf. don, the; shop.)

tammie n. 1 temazepam; a temazepam tablet or capsule. 2 (also dwarf-sized tammie) a cigarette filter (cf. tampax; tampon sense 1).

tampax n. a cigarette filter. [descriptive: the white, cylindrical cigarette filter is reminiscent of a tampon; Tampax is one of the most well-known brands of women's sanitary supplies.] (cf. tampon sense 1.)

tamperer n. a paedophile.

tampon n. 1 a cigarette filter (cf. tampax). 2 a menthol cigarette.

tank n. 1 a safe. [NZ c.1920; Australian 1935. From the safe's resemblance to a small water tank. 1941 BAKER: 'We have also acquired some underworld slang of our own: blow a tank, to break open a safe with explosive' (52). 1982 NEWBOLD: 'Tank (n) A safe. Derives from British rhyming slang 'septic tank' (bank)' (255).] 2 a burglary involving a safe. 3 an unsuccessful safe-blower (cf. tank man). 4 a prison. 5 a small cabinet that an inmate has in his cell, containing any special personal items and other coveted 'goodies' such as his tobacco and chocolates. The tank is locked with a padlock so that only the inmate (and the officers, on certain occasions) have access to its contents. This allows the inmate some extra protection against tealeafers. [from sense 1.] 6 (the tank) the prison officials' office, guard house (cf. fish bowl or fish tank sense 1). 7 (the tank) an observation cell for 'at-risk' inmates (cf. fish bowl or fish tank sense 2). 8 (the tank) an inmate with a steady supply of drugs, hypodermic needles, phonecards, magazines, money etc., available for sale to other inmates on a cash, barter or credit basis. Note: the tank does not stock food (cf. dairy, the). [] tank man a safe-opening expert. Note: originally, the term tank man was applied simply to a criminal who specialised in opening safes. According to some inmates, however, the use of man has become increasingly important in defining the status of a safe-blower. As the African-American vernacular use of 'the man' (someone worthy of admiration, respect or esteem) has gained popularity, the term 'man' has acquired loaded meaning in some contexts. Therefore, if the safe-blower is unsuccessful (he either fails to open the safe or blows up the goods in the process of opening the safe) he is not considered to be 'the man' and is simply known as a tank (cf. tank sense 3). [Australian 1967; NZ 1978. 1982]
NEWBOLD: ‘Tank man (n) Safe-blowing expert’ (255).]

tapper n. an inmate informer, a nark.

tapu tapu adj. on OPs. [on OPs the inmate loses all his privileges; prob. from Māori tapu = ‘forbidden’.]

tattoo v. to stab.

tauira n. a gang prospect. [from Māori tauira = ‘student’, ‘apprentice’].

tax v. to steal: ‘You kitchen workers stop taxing the sugar!’

taxi n. = donkey.

taxi cab n. a ‘smash and grab’ robbery. [rhyming slang.]

taxi driver n. a prison officer, esp. one not assigned to any particular wing or set of duties. [such an officer is available to escort inmates to various locations throughout the prison.] [] ring us a taxi ‘Get an officer to take us somewhere in the prison.’

TB abbr. = tennis ball.

T-bone n. a temgesic tablet (cf. bone).

TC abbr. 1 a dark-skinned (esp. Māori) woman. 3 an unfaithful or promiscuous woman. [stands for ‘tunnel cunt’: like a tunnel, she experiences a lot of ‘traffic’ (cf. Hataitai Tunnel). 1982 NEWBOLD: ‘TC (n) Unfaithful woman, harlot’ (255).] 3 a person who is strong, tough and brave, a ‘hard man’. [stands for ‘tough cunt’.] 4 the top man, the most powerful and influential inmate in a wing. [stands for ‘top cat’.] 5 a miserly inmate who will not share or give away any of his possessions or contraband. [stands for ‘tight cunt’.]

teabag n. 1 a cigarette containing marijuana (cf. sense 2). 2 (teabags) marijuana. [a useful camouflage term. From US slang ‘tea’ = marijuana. ‘Texas Tea’ is prob. the original form of ‘tea’ in this sense (US c.1920), as ‘tea pads’ = places where people gathered to smoke marijuana, were associated with Texas. Associated words include: ‘tea’d up’ or ‘teed up’ = under the influence of marijuana, 1930; ‘tea hound’ = a marijuana addict, 1935; ‘stick of tea’ = a marijuana joint; and ‘tea-man’ = a purveyor or smoker of marijuana, c.1950. In Britain since c.1945. Some inmates suggest that teabags has come into use because certain desperate inmates who cannot afford to buy marijuana smoke tealeaves instead because it gives them a high and the smell of the burning tealeaves resembles that of marijuana smoke (poss. influential in the original coining of the term ‘tea’ for marijuana).] [] teabag king an inmate with no marijuana or tobacco, reduced to smoking tealeaves instead. Note: a teabag king is considered to be in a rather desperate situation, as not only is he without marijuana, he is without tobacco, and cigarettes are one measure of an inmate’s wealth.

teabags v. to steal. [a variant of tealeaf with a play on ‘bags’ = to lay claim (to).]

tea bomb (also bomb or tea bong) n. an illegal water boiling device. Note: there are several ways of making a tea bomb, all of which follow a similar technique. The following are some examples. A Take a piece of electric wire. Take two nails. Wind the wire around each of the nails separately. Connect the wire to an electric socket. It is important that the two nails do not make contact once an electric current flows through them, otherwise they will cause the device to short-circuit. Put this device, which acts like a small element, in a
mug of water. The heat from the electric current boils the water in about one minute. B Take a new twin-blade razor. Remove the clear plastic protective cap that covers the blades. Break the razor and, using a cigarette lighter, melt the two razor blades into the plastic cap about 5-10mm apart. Take some wire (this is most easily acquired by taking one's radio cord, cutting off the part that goes into the radio so that the plug is still intact, stripping off some of the insulation, and separating the wires into two) and connect the separate wires, one to each razor blade. Switch on the power to start the electric current. Place the device in a mug of water; it boils in approx. 3 minutes. Some variations exist for this method: a) if the razor does not come with a protective cap or one only has access to an old razor, the cap from a toothpaste tube will suffice. b) if one is in a room where there are no power sockets, or the wire used does not have a plug connection (e.g. a length of copper wire), attach the wire to both ends of a long fluorescent light bulb (it is highly likely that there will be one in the room). One can regulate the light by turning the bulb back and forth, providing an effective on-off switch. c) because the razor blades heat up when they receive the electric current, one can drop marijuana oil on to them and spot up. C Acquire one wooden peg. Take a thin, flat piece of copper or aluminium about 0.7cm wide, and about 25cm long – long enough to go down one side of the peg and loop back up the other side, leaving a small lip at each end. Secure this metal strip by clipping it with the peg. Make one small hole in each lip. Take a radio cord (plug intact) and divide the wires in two. Attach the wires to the metal strip by threading one through each hole in the protruding lips. Plug the cord into the electric socket (be careful to hold the wooden peg and not any metal). Drop the tea bomb into a mug of water, making sure that it does not become completely submerged, as this will cause the device to short-circuit. This tea bomb boils the water more quickly than an electric jug, as 240 volts of electricity are channelled straight into the water. D Take a radio cord, making sure that the end that plugs into the radio has two prongs, positive and negative. Break two ballpoint pens and remove the springs. Put one spring into each socket, around each prong. Make sure that the two springs do not touch each other. Take two razor blades, each with a small hole at one end. Attach the springs to the razor blades, hooking each spring through one razor blade. Take the other end of the radio cord and plug it into the wall. Switch on. The mug of water boils in about 15 minutes. E Take a bedspring from under one's cell bunk. Take two razor blades, the type with a small hole at one end. Hook each end of the bedspring through a razor blade. Attach a wire to the device and run it up to a fluorescent light to get an electricity source. The tea made with this type of tea bomb often tastes horrible because the bedsprings are covered in a metallic paint. (Note that different types of tea bombs have different boiling times. This is due to the size of the metal used to make the device. As the electrical current flows through the device, the metal heats up, causing the water to boil; thus, the larger the piece of metal in the mug, the faster the boiling time, e.g. a bedspring or large metal plates will cause water to boil faster than a razor blade). A tea bomb is so-called because these devices have a tendency to short circuit or to explode; as one inmate explains: 'It's like a little bomb, if you get it wrong, you get the mean kick.' In some cases a defective tea bomb can knock out the power in an entire wing. Although the need for homemade water-boiling devices is not so great as it was in the past, with inmates having electric jugs in their cells and zip water heaters at their disposal, tea bombs still come in useful when an inmate is either confined in the pound where hot water is not readily available, or is on OPs and has had his jug confiscated.

[NZ, in use from the 1960s. 1978 NEWBOLD: 'One night in March 1977, for the second day running an illegal tea-bomb short-circuited, fusing all the lights on the upper landing of A Block' (341). 1982 NEWBOLD: 'every night Junk used to pull out his water-boiling gadget, called a tea bomb, and make up a brew of illegal tea or Milo’ (77). ‘Bomb (n) Illegal water-boiling device’ (245).]

teaboy n. 1 (also teabum) an inmate who acts as a runner or a servant for another senior inmate, and whose main role is to make cups of tea for him (cf. bum boy sense 1). 2 the member of a prison work-party whose job it is to organise the lunches and mugs of tea for the rest of the work-party when they come in for their breaks. This is considered an important responsibility.
teacher n. a prison officer. [informed by a ‘schoolboy’ mentality, i.e. the officer is the one who punishes the inmates.]

tealeaf (also tealeafeer) n. a thief.
Note: there are many punishments doled out to a tealeafeer if he is caught, e.g. he may have his hand smashed in an iron grille (cf. kangaroo court) or he may have razor blades secretly put in his soap, or battery acid mixed into his toothpaste or shampoo.
[rhyming slang; British from 1890. 1982 NEWBOLD: ‘A tealeaf is just a cunt in my eyes, and you’d be about the lowest cunt I’ve ever had the misfortune to come across. You’re a peter thief and you’re a dog. I ought to knock your fucking head off’ (180). 1989 NEWBOLD: ‘The story is told of one man, a known “tealeaf”, who stole a bottle of shampoo, which had been deliberately left out where he could see it. Unknown to the thief, the soap in the bottle had been laced with battery acid and when he used it to wash with, all his hair fell out’ (169). 1992 DUFF: ‘Trouble with you local-yocal tealeafs, son, is you lack what we in the trade call, uh, discernment. You either grab the obvious, like tvs and stereos and video players, even microwaves, but ya don’t think to follow the marketplace trends in these things’ (139).]

tealeaf v. to steal, esp. from a fellow inmate. [British from 1890. 1982 NEWBOLD: ‘Wearing an oversized coat (summer or winter), with huge pockets sewn into its lining, Ralphie used to tealeaf anything that wasn’t tied down in the store and re-sell it in the compound at very cheap rates’ (148). ‘You know you [stole] it as well as I do. You’re just a filthy, low arsehole. Tealeafing is about the worst thing you can do in a jail, and tealeafing off a mate is about as low as you can get. Almost as bad as narking’ (180).]

team, the n. = husband and wife, the.

team leader n. the person in charge of a prison work-party, usually an officer.

teeny bopper n. an inmate serving a short sentence.

Telecom n. an inmate constantly on the telephone: ‘Oh, there’s Telecom on the phone again.’ [after the telecommunications company.] (cf. Telstra; voda.)

telephone n. 1 a line sent from one inmate to another in order to pass illegal contraband; usually made from a surgical glove and a length of (cassette) tape (cf. fly a kite; ring (someone) up). 2 = yell phone.

telling phone n. a telephone.

Telstra n. = Telecom. [after the telecommunications company.]

temmie (also tem) n. = T; T-bone.

ten n. a 10mg morphine sulphate tablet (cf. hundred).

ten-center n. a person deemed wholly unworthy to associate with, as his character and behaviour are so repugnant, crazy or dangerous that he borders on mental instability; as one inmate explains: ‘A ten-center’s totally not there. You’d better watch this guy, he’s in whites anytime.’ (cf. fifty-center.)
tennis ball n. 1 a false cheque. [a false cheque ‘bounces’.] 2 (tennis balls) = basketballs.

ten pin alley v. to kill a person and dispose of his body completely (e.g. dissolve it in acid). [hit-man’s jargon.]

ten skin bowling n. □ go ten skin bowling to beat up skinheads. [a play on ‘ten pin bowling’, where the object of the game is to knock over as many skittles as possible.]

testie boy n. a prison officer who obtains inmates’ urine samples for testing for evidence of drug use, [a play on ‘Frosty Boy’, the mascot for a popular brand of frozen confectionery. The television advertisement jingle for Frosty Boy products begins: ‘Frosty Boy, Frosty Boy, the things he brings are such a joy!’], and some inmates recite a humorous adaptation: ‘Testie Boy, Testie Boy, kiss his arse and jump for joy!’ (i.e. as one inmate suggests: ‘If you suck up to the screws, you might get off your drug charge’).

thai stick n. a small amount of ‘thai grass’ (strong marijuana, usually the bud of the plant), tied to a stick, and sometimes dipped in marijuana oil. The thai stick has cotton wrapped around it and is covered in gladwrap. Users undo the gladrap, peel off the cotton and cut off a small amount of the marijuana to use. In some cases thai sticks are also laced with opium. [NZ; common during the 1980s.] (cf. buddha stick.)

thing n. a person displaying socially unacceptable or ‘subhuman’ behaviour. [insulting. 1978 NEWBOLD: ‘The Staunche and the man with heart have their antitheses in the nomenclature of the weak mug, the flea; the germ; the wonk; the thing; and numerous other expressly derogatory epithets’ (339). 1992 DUFF: ‘[H]e, this leader, he sums up any given situation for these thickheads to understand. He says, this is a Thing, and we don’t like Things, says I your leader. Then he orders the Thing to be attacked. So Jube didn’t hardly hear the Prez calling out his summarisation of Jube, Jube the Thing’ (155).] (cf. it.)

third man n. (in a criminal job) the person who drives the ‘getaway car’ (cf. first man; second man.)

thirty n. a 30mg morphine sulphate tablet (cf. hundred).

thirty-center n. a person deemed unworthy to converse with, substandard in terms of character and behaviour (cf. fifty-center).

thirty-forty (also 30/40) n. marijuana oil. [after 30/40, a viscous, heavy-grade motor oil.]

TH Lowry (also Tom Lowry) n. a Māori. [rhyming slang; after Thomas Henry Lowry, Hawke’s Bay sheepfarmer, horse breeder, and father of famous NZ cricketer Thomas Coleman Lowry.]

three bags full n. a pull. [rhyming slang.]

three-buck-four n. (Mount Eden Women’s Prison) 23-hour lockup. [an inmate punished with 23-hour lock-up is allowed only one hour of exercise each day, between three and four in the afternoon. The officer collects the inmate from her cell and takes her to the yard at three; midway through, the
officer ducks her head around the yard
door to check on the inmate (a gesture
known as the buck); and at four, the
officer locks the inmate back in her cell.]

three commandments, the n. pl. the
three main rules in prison life that
govern an inmate 'code of ethics': 1 Do
not nark (inform upon other inmates); 2
Do not lie about the nature of one's
crime (e.g. do not say one is in prison for
armed robbery if one is in for child
molesting); 3 Do not tealeaf (steal from
other inmates).

three, three, twenty-one (also 3 3 21) n.
a punishment for the possession of
drugs. The punishment consists of three
days in solitary confinement, three days'
Loss of Remission and 21 days OPs.

throw v. throw the log to shut the
door. throw (one's) line (also line up) =
go fishing; sling (one's) hook.

thug (also outlaw thug) n. an inmate
aged 17 – 25 years, commonly of Māori
or Pacific Island ethnicity, who identifies
strongly with African-American street
culture.

Note: this identification is apparent in the
inmate's fondness for rap music, his vernacular,
and his dress (baseball cap, basketball jacket,
loose, baggy trousers and big sneakers), all of
which seek to emulate that of African-American
rap artists, sporting heroes and film stars.
Particularly, this identification is centred around
the figure of Tupac Shakur (1971-1996) (referred
to in graffiti as '2PAC') the actor and pioneer of
'gangsta rap', who was arrested for sexual
assault and finally assassinated by unknown
gunmen. Many thugs support his philosophies.
Colloquially named New Age Criminals by
their fellow inmates, thugs are acknowledged as
the most recent generation of inmate becoming
increasingly widespread in New Zealand's
prisons. Usually these young criminals hang
around in 'Homie' street gangs such as the
'Bloods' and the 'Crips'. These factions will
often group themselves according to an area of a
city or suburb, e.g. 'East Side Thug', modelling
themselves on the behaviour of African-
American street gangs in some large US cities.
This example of cell graffiti from Addington
Prison displays these various attitudes and
influences: '2PAC / R.I.P. / Life go' on / Thug
Life / Outlaws / Forever / West Side.'
[a prisonised use of a more general
term.]

thuglife n. the lifestyle or ideology of a
thug (cf. prec.).

ticket n. pull one up and give one a
ticket (of an officer) to catch an inmate
engaging in an illegal activity and to put
him on a charge: 'The screw saw me
smoking a joint in the yard, so he pulled
me up and gave me a ticket.'

tick v. tick up to procure P119 goods
on an IOU basis, usually from a fellow
inmate who keeps various items 'in
stock' (cf. dairy, the; shop).

tie v. tie a string = go fishing. tie up
to prepare a tourniquet around one's arm
so as to raise a vein into which to inject
drugs.

tier n. the mezzanine catwalk situated
alongside a row of cells in an open-plan
wing (e.g. Mount Eden, Waikeria). (cf.
landing).

tiger tank n. an act of masturbation.
[rhyming slang for 'wank'.]

Tiki Tour n. a transfer between prisons.
[after the NZ tourist transport
organisation.]

time out n. 1 a period of time spent in
prison. 2 a period of time spent in
solitary confinement, in the secure unit.
3 a period of time spent in the medical
unit. 4 time taken by oneself, either
signed into one's cell, or in the hobby
room, in order to relax and to get away from one’s fellow inmates. This is so that one does not hurt others out of frustration from having to spend so much time in the same space. [] time out place the solitary confinement punishment cell, the pound.

tin n. money.

tinny n. a cannabis bullet, enough for about three cigarettes, wrapped in tinfoil. A tinny has a street value of about $25. [from tinfoil; NZ 1995.] [] tinny house a house where tinnies are dealt to customers, often gang-owned and operated. [NZ 1995.]

tin thin n. [] do a tin thin to drug alcohol, esp. to drop a tablet into a drink (commonly chloral hydrate). [poss. rhyming slang for Mickey Finn.]

tip n. 1 a pill. 2 a cigarette filter. 3 (also tip off) information regarding a crime passed to police or other authority. [US from c.1901 = a laying of information.]

tip v. [] tip off to inform upon. tip over (of a prison officer) to conduct a methodical and painstaking search of an inmate’s cell.

tipped adj. awake, aware, informed.


tissue n. 1 a Zig-Zag brand cigarette paper. [descriptive: the thin, white, rectangular papers are similar to tissues.] 2 a skinhead. [from a transferral of prison argot terms: skins = skinheads; cigarette papers. A tissue = a cigarette paper; thus, tissue may also = a skinhead.]

tit n. a hypodermic syringe and needle. [rhyming slang for fit.] (cf. boob and tit.)

tockley n. a penis.

toe n. [] take it on the toe to escape from prison or police custody.

toe v. [] toe up 1 to prepare for a fight, to have a fight: ‘x and that Black Power guy toed up in the yard.’ 2 (toes up) to go to sleep: ‘I’m going back to my cell to toes up.’ 3 (toes (someone) up) to kill someone.

toes up (also toes’d up) adj. 1 asleep; ‘Don’t disturb x, he’s toes’d up in his cell.’ 2 assaulted, beaten up. 3 knocked unconscious. 4 dead. [US 1872; one origin (prob. folk etymology) explains toes up as an old cowboy term referring to a practice of burying a criminal upside down (‘toes up’) so that he would not rest in peace.]

toilet paper n. an informer, a nark. [from the idea that the inmate is an ‘arse-wipe’ = a person who seeks to find favour with his superiors at the expense of his reputation amongst his peers.]

tomato n. 1 a $100 note. [drug users’ and drug-dealers’ slang; from the red colour of the NZ $100 note.] 2 (tomatoes) = basketballs.

ton n. a 100mg morphine sulphate tablet. [from the common ‘ton’ = one hundred.]

tongue fu n. a lesbian. [] practice the art of tongue fu to engage in lesbian sexual activity. [a play on Kung Fu, a type of martial art, and on the sexual act of cunnilingus, popular between lesbian couples.]
tongue lizard (also tonguer) n. a lesbian (cf. tongue fu).

tongue teaser n. LSD.

tongue v. tongue the bum to ingratiate oneself with prison officers by means of calculated subservience (esp. by informing) in an attempt to gain favour and improve one’s time in prison (cf. arse licker; brown tongue; shitlicker). tongue the bum, swish the fish an expression of approval: good, fine, okay.

tooie n. a Tuinal capsule.
Note: Tuinal is the proprietary name for a combination of the two barbiturates quinalbarbitone and amylobarbitone, and is used medically as a sedative-hypnotic.

tool n. any type of weapon, e.g. a knife, firearm, etc. [US mid-20C = a pistol, revolver.]

tool v. tool up to arm oneself. [1990 DUFF: ‘[T]hey did their best but too many of the cunts, man. And the hawk cunts were fooled up too: iron bars, blades, the fuckin works’ (193).] (cf. heel.)

toolbox n. the prison officials’ office, Control Room, guard room. [the place where the screws are found.]

toot n. any of various drugs, e.g. marijuana, pills, speed, and snuff.

toot v. to ‘snort’ drugs, to nasally inhale drugs in powdered form.

tooth n. a person who eats greedily and voraciously.

tooth and nail n. an extremely thorough cell-check.

toothbrush n. hang the toothbrush to stop coming to prison, to retire from one’s career as a criminal. [see take the toothbrush for one possible origin; also, one of the first things an inmate is given when he enters the prison is a toothbrush and toothpaste (along with a comb, a razor and a pen). Thus, to hang the toothbrush is to put these (and consequently, prison life) away.] take the toothbrush to go to prison. [when a criminal enters the courthouse as the defendant for a trial, it is common for his friends and/or associated bystanders to call out the expression: ‘Take your toothbrush!’ = ‘Be prepared, you’re going to prison.’ For a defendant to take his toothbrush to court is also advice commonly given by his fellow criminals, or his lawyer: ‘What are my chances?’ ‘Oh, you might as well pack your toothbrush and toothpaste.’ From the idea that the criminal must prepare for a stay overnight (and longer).]

toothpick n. a thin-rolled marijuana joint.

top v. 1 (also top off) to inform (upon). [Australian from c.1920; NZ from 1953. 1973 JUSTIN: “One thing about our librarian friend, he’s improved. He doesn’t top on us all so everyone can hear’ (33). 1982 NEWBOLD: ‘Top off (v) Inform against’ (255).] 2 (also top off) to kill someone, esp. by hanging. [British from 1718 ‘top’ = to hang; Australian and US from c.1925 ‘top off’ = to kill, murder.] 3 (top off) to commit suicide. [Australian from 1931.] 4 (top off) to prepare for a fight.

top, the (also the top house) n. Paremoremo Prison (cf. up top).
top and tail n. a mode of assault whereby two assailants attack a single victim. One assailant attacks the victim from the front, while simultaneously, the other attacks the victim from behind.

top and tail v. to assault someone in the mode described above.

top digger, the n. see digger, the.

top man n. a $100 note; $100.

top notch n. the Officer in Charge, or other high-ranking prison official, e.g. the Site Manager.

topper n. an informer. [NZ 1950; from the verb to top off. 1953 HAMILTON: 'Some screw had been earwigging, I like to think, though there were quite a fewoppers and crawlers at that camp' (22). 'Toppers are what used to be called copper’s narks in England and there’s always about thirty per cent of them in jails' (53). 1973 JUSTIN: “Do you know what a topper is?” “No.” “He tells the screws everything he hears”’ (23). 1980 MacKENZIE: ‘Prisoners who did converse [with officers] were accused of “sucking up” to officers, and were held in contempt by their fellows. They were known as “brown noses”, “toppers” or “canaries”’ (15-16). 1982 NEWBOLD: ‘Topper (n) Informer’ (255).] (cf. nark.)

tosh n. a weapon made from a pool ball or a cake of soap in a sock. [a variant of cosh.]

toss v. (of an officer) to conduct a thorough search of an inmate’s cell: ‘The screws tossed my cell while I was at work.’

touch v. to steal. [British from 1746 = to commit highway robbery.]

tour n. □ on tour on a transfer to another prison. [ironic.]

towel n. □ throw the towel in to stop coming to jail, to retire from one’s career as a criminal (cf. toothbrush).

towel v. to assault a victim using a towel to blind and confuse him, and to ensure the anonymity of his attacker(s) (cf. blanket; cape).

tower house, the n. Paremoremo Prison. [refers to the watchtowers, one of the high security measures taken at the prison.]

towropes n. dreadlocks. [descriptive.]

toy soldier n. a prison officer.

TP abbr. Tirohanga-Paeroa Unit, Paparua Prison, Christchurch.

TR abbr. a promiscuous woman. [stands for ‘tunnel ram’; a tunnel ram is an aluminium high-performance manifold, designed for race-cars, that sits atop a V8 engine. The term plays on the idea of a promiscuous woman as a ‘tunnel’ (cf. TC sense 3) with a reference to ‘ram’ as an act of sexual intercourse.]

track n. 1 a criminal record. 2 the race track. [of importance in prison because of the existence of gambling rings.]

track v. to smuggle goods in and out of prison. [poss. a corruption of British early 16C ‘truck’ = dubious trafficking in goods.]
tracker n. a person who smuggles goods in and out of prison.

trader n. an inmate with a steady supply of drugs for sale to other inmates (cf. mack daddy, the sense 2; man, the sense 1; shop; takeaways, the).

traffic light n. 1 see zebra. 2 (traffic lights) a C and R hold, an immobilisation procedure performed by prison officers upon violent or disruptive inmates. [so-called because the offender is temporarily halted.]

train n. 1 an inmate whose job it is to smuggle goods in and out of prison. 2 a marijuana joint sent from one inmate to another after lockup, by being slid along the floor from one cell to another on a length of connected magazine pages. Note: the term train refers specifically to a marijuana joint sent in this fashion, as opposed to a bike, which refers to a tobacco cigarette.

transformer n. 1 one who seeks to identify with, or pass as a member of, an ethnic group different from his own (cf. race trader). 2 an inmate who regularly changes his gang affiliation so as to be in accordance with the gang currently in majority in the prison. As one inmate explains: ‘If he’s in a wing full of Mongrel Mob, he becomes a Mobster; if Black Power are the majority, he becomes a BP. Eventually these guys get found out and given the bash.’ [after a Transformer, a type of children’s toy that may be manipulated so that it changes its entire shape to turn from a vehicle into a robot; marketed with the slogan: ‘More than meets the eye.’]

trapdoor n. a scab caused by an intravenous drug user repeatedly injecting the same place in his arm. When he wants to shoot up again, he simply lifts the scab, injects beneath it and then puts the scab back down again.

trick-or-treat n. a P119 form.

trip n. 1 LSD; an LSD tab. [one story (prob. folk etymology) tells how Albert Hoffman, Swiss chemist and the inventor of LSD, ingested 25mcg of LSD as an experiment. Owing to the drug’s hallucinogenic quality, during his bike-ride home, Hoffman was confronted with weird and fantastic visions, and is reported to have said upon his arrival, ‘Wow! That was the best trip I’ve ever had!’] 2 any of various drugs. [from their mind-altering effects, see sense 1.]

troops, the n. pl. = the boys.

tropicana adj. very cold. [women’s prison argot; with reference to Tropicana, a type of drink and frozen confectionery.]

trouble n. ascetic anhydride (AA), a substance added to a Class B drug to turn it into Class A, e.g. morphine into heroin (cf. rub-a-dub; double sense 2).

trouble-and-strife n. partner or wife. [rhyming slang.]

truck and trailer n. 1 two inmates sent out to collect a large packet of contraband because it is too big for one inmate to successfully charge or carry on his person: ‘We’ve got a big drop in – we’ll have to send out a truck and trailer.’ 2 two packets of contraband deposited in a single drop: one packet is the truck and the other is the trailer. 3 a situation that occurs when an inmate collects a drop containing two parcels of contraband and must charge both the
loads to smuggle them back into the prison.

**truck and trailer** v. = sandwich.

**trustie** (also **trustee** or **trusty**) n. a trusted inmate in a position of responsibility, e.g. a truck driver or kitchen worker. [from ‘trusty’ = a convict trusted by the warders; US late 19C. 1980 MacKENZIE: ‘Trusted male prisoners were escorted to the female division bearing meals from the cookhouse in the male division. One of these trusties was often paid to act as postman with mail to and from lovers, sight unseen, or old-time criminal acquaintances’ (67). ‘trustie a prisoner who is trusted by the administration’ (99). 1982 STEWART: ‘He was a Trustee and drove the Can’s pig truck’ (167). 1989 NEWBOLD: ‘Most inmates still wore brown or white moleskins but trusties, known as “Blues”, wore blue denim trousers’ (76).]

**tucker fucker** n. an inmate who works in the prison kitchen.

**tucky** n. a problem, a difficult situation, a sensitive issue: ‘Let’s call a meeting and sort the tucky out.’

**Tupperware** (also **Tupperware container**) n. a person who is plastic, i.e. false, deceptive, not what he appears to be; esp. applied to a plastic gangster, plastic Māori, plastic screw, etc. [after the popular brand of plastic kitchenware.]

**turd bender** n. a homosexual.

**turd burglar** n. a homosexual; a homosexual rapist.

**turn** v. [] **turn it on** to take an injection of heroin or other intravenous drug. **turn it up!** ‘Give it to me!’ **turn on Sky** = watch Sky sense 2. **turn over** (of an officer) to conduct an extremely thorough cell-search: ‘x is spewing ’cos his slot was turned over when he was at work.’

**turnkey** n. a prison officer. [US from c.1950, British from much earlier; from the officer’s job of turning keys in locks.]

**turnover** n. an extremely thorough cell-search. [from ‘turn-over’ = a search of cell and person; British early 20C.]

**turtle** n. a 200mg morphine sulphate tablet. [the tablet is green; amongst NZ drug users the 200mg tablet is also known as a ‘frog’.] (cf. green.)

**turtledove** adj. in love: ‘x has got a new missus and he’s turtledove.’ [rhyming slang; turtledoves are a traditional symbol of fidelity.]

**tutti fruit** v. to mix drugs together, e.g. cocaine and morphine.

**tutti frutti** n. any type of drug that is ‘snorted’ (inhaled nasally), e.g. powdered speed, Ketamine, or temgesics.

**twack** n. an assault. [NZ 1993; from Mangaroa (Hawke’s Bay) Prison = the beating or violent illegal punishment of prisoners. In other prisons, applied more generally.]

**twack** v. to assault.

**tweed** n. marijuana. [from colloq. ‘weed’ and from the idea that one sees
‘tweety birds’ when one smokes the drug.

tweeter n. a knockout punch. [from the idea that the victim sees ‘tweety birds’ and hears a singing in his ears.]

tweety-bird n. an informer, a nark (cf. bird sense 2).

twenty cents n. an idiot, a naive gullible person who is easily conned. [from the idea that such a person is ‘short of the other eighty cents’.] (cf. twenty-five-center.)

twenty-five-center n. a person considered an idiot, not worth associating with (cf. fifty-center).

twin n. 1 one’s co-offender (cf. coie). 2 (the twins) two inmates who are very close friends and spend much of their time together (cf. cup and saucer; Dad-and-Dave; mug and spoon; pen and ink sense 2).

twist v. 1 twist the knife 1 to betray. 2 to cause emotional hurt by means of calculated and repeated cruelty.

two and from n. an English person. [rhyming slang for ‘Porn.’]

twoface n. a person with a full facial tattoo. [he has his own face and a second, patterned one.]

two hundred n. a 200mg morphine sulphate tablet (cf. hundred).

two minute noodle n. an inmate serving a very short sentence.

two-three n. 23-hour lockup; the inmate is placed in the solitary confinement cell.

two-up n. 1 a cell designed to accommodate two or more people (cf. association cell). 2 a fight between two people (as opposed to an ‘all out’ where everyone gets involved). 3 a mode of assault whereby two assailants attack a single victim. One assailant grabs the victim, the other stabs the victim and then passes the weapon on so that when the authorities arrive to investigate, all is clear.
ugly brick wall, the n. Mount Eden Prison.

Uncle Bob n. marijuana. [alludes to Bob Marley, reggae singer and cannabis-smoker.]

Uncle Cain n. cocaine: 'Could you tell Uncle Cain to come out and see me?'

undercover n. an informer (cf. nark).

undercover hit n. a mode of assault. A blanket or pillowcase is thrown over the victim's head to blind him, a belt is tied around his arms to restrict him, and then he is beaten up (cf. blanket job).

under the thumb adj. in love.

undone (also unstuck) adj. [] come undone (also come unstuck) to be arrested or caught committing a crime. [1982 NEWBOLD: 'After I'd been in the pound a few days our mate Ralphie came into the cell opposite me. He'd had a pretty good run, but finally he'd come unstuck' (148). 'Undone/unstuck (v) e.g., Come —. Get arrested or caught committing a crime' (255).]

uni (also university or university of crime) n. Paremoremo Prison. As New Zealand’s maximum-security institution, a sentence at Paremoremo (particularly in East Division) marks the pinnacle of an inmate’s criminal education. [in this sense, major prisons have been described as universities since c.1770, orig. the University’ = any large London prison; (similarly ‘college’).] (cf. high school; primary school; rock college.)

uniform n. a prison guard, a security guard, or a police officer. [by metonymy.]

unit n. 1 a cell. 2 a compound separate from the main prison buildings (mostly lower security) where inmates are housed. Note: the general design of these latter prison units is standard throughout most New Zealand prisons. A central grassed quad and asphalted tennis court are surrounded on three sides by about 60 connected hut-like cells (occasionally 120, as at Hautu) with a single veranda. The fourth side usually includes the main entrance and the Control Room, the laundry, the kitchen, the interview rooms, the school room, the recreation room/visiting room, the visiting yard and the gardens. [NZ 1974, from ‘unit’ = an accommodation ‘unit’ as part of a larger building or block or cluster of buildings, one of a block or cluster built around central facilities.] (cf. huts.) 3 (occasionally) a wing.

unitised adj. (of inmates) collectively grouped, providing mutual support. As one inmate explains: 'It’s about sticking together; for example, the screws might see a group of six inmates and get one of them in to try to get him to nark on the rest, but he won’t, because they’re unitised.’ (cf. boys, the.)

unwanted n. a segregation inmate: 'It's a pain having to share this yard; you look out every morning and all you see are the unwanteds doing their exercise.'

uphill gardener n. a homosexual.

up top n. 1 a prison's main buildings, usually incorporating the offices of the administrative staff and the highest security wings, such as at Paremoremo, Waikeria, New Plymouth, Rimutaka, Paparua. 2 the Control Room, prison officials’ office, guard house. 3 Paremoremo Prison, New Zealand's
northernmost prison. 4 the Head Office of the Department of Corrections, Wellington.

**uptown** *n.* an amphetamine, e.g. *speed*; the effect derived from taking an amphetamine: ‘I want to go **uptown** tonight, bro.’ (cf. **downtown**.)

**up-up** *adj.* true, reliable, honest. [from the expression ‘on the up and up’, US 1928.] [] **up-up guy** a true, honest and supportive person, whom one may trust with one’s life.

**urinato``r, the** *n.* a prison officer who obtains inmates’ urine samples for testing for evidence of drug use. [a play on the name of the title character from the film, *The Terminator* (US 1984).] (cf. **phominator, the**.)

**urine** *n.* a drug test. [urine samples are taken randomly from inmates to test for traces of illegal substances (see **keg**).]

**user** *n.* a person who uses intravenous drugs. [US from c.1950 = an addict and purchaser of narcotics.]

**usos** *n. pl.* a group of inmates who are very close. [from Samoan *uso* = ‘brother’.]

**UT** *abbr.* Urine Test, a urine sample taken randomly from inmates to test for evidence of drug use: ‘Where’re the guys gone?’ ‘They’ve gone to get their **UTs**.’ (cf. **keg**.)
V

V abbr. a Valium pill.

V8 n. = speed sense 1. [a transferred use of a V8 engine as anything fast (cf. go-fast).]

vengabus, the n. the van driven by the people who test inmates’ urine samples for evidence of drug use. [from the lyrics to the 1998 single ‘We Like To Party! (The Vengabus)’ by the Spanish band, The Vengaboys: ‘The Vengabus is coming / And everybody’s jumping’, i.e. the inmates are nervous.]

Vera Lynn n. chin. [rhyming slang; variant of Cockney ‘Vera Lynn’ = gin, skin (cigarette paper). After the famous British WWII singer (b.1917).]

verbal n. 1 a loud-mouthed inmate who gives away all of his fellow inmates’ plans and good ideas. 2 a final warning given to a person before he is beaten up. 3 the use of false or uncorroborated evidence against the accused.

verbal v. to use false evidence against the accused, esp. to attribute incriminating statements to him, in order to secure a conviction.

vid cam n. an over-inquisitive prison officer who constantly watches inmates for signs of misconduct or illegal activity. [from ‘video camera’.]

violin, the n. a hypodermic syringe. [NZ 1997.]

Note: the creation of this term was motivated by the need to disguise discussion regarding the use of intravenous drugs. Previously, fellow addicts had used the gesture of injecting a hypodermic needle into the main vein in the (left) arm, to prevent speaking the suggestion aloud. This, however, became too easy for other inmates and officers to understand, and so was changed to the similar, but more obscure gesture of playing the violin. This gesture also gave rise to a spoken expression: ‘We need to practise’, an invitation between addicts to come and inject drugs.

virgin n. an inexperienced officer new to a prison.

Visa n. an inmate or prison officer who is false and deceptive. [a Visa (credit card) is plastic.]

visit n. 1 (also prison visit) a (regular) call paid to an inmate by his friends, family, lawyer, etc. Note: visits are an integral part of prison culture; not only is this the time when the inmate has a chance to meet with his loved ones, make personal contact with the outside, or discuss his case, but it is during visits that the majority of illegal contraband enters and leaves the prison. [1994 PAYNE: ‘Billy goes for a visit. He can see his wife and baby son through the guardroom windows’ (53).] 2 a visitor. [i.e. an inmate will say that his visit has arrived, not his ‘visitor’.]

vitamin C n. a 60mg morphine sulphate tablet (cf. citrus; orange).

VJ abbr. Visiting Justice.

Note: the Visiting Justice is a judge who visits and inspects prisons, and deals with cases of offence against discipline. The VJ’s powers of punishment are wider than the Site Manager’s; therefore the VJ deals specifically with offences that are outside the jurisdiction of the Site Manager, unless he thinks a case should be brought before the Court. The VJ also deals with appeals. If an inmate is charged with an offence against discipline and has been dealt with by the Site Manager but is dissatisfied with either the finding or the penalty imposed upon him, he may appeal to the VJ. If the inmate’s appeal relates to the finding of the Site Manager (e.g. whether the inmate is guilty or not guilty) the VJ rears the whole case, reverses or confirms the finding, and either confirms the penalty or imposes another in substitution. If the inmate’s appeal relates to the
penalty imposed by the Site Manager, the VJ considers only the question of the penalty, and either confirms the existing penalty or imposes another in substitution.

[NZ from 1908, appointed under the Prisons Act (1908). 1953 HAMILTON: ‘He even stood to attention behind the chair of the local high erup, when he came to the jail vested in the power of the Visiting Justice. But his attitude when they left was thoroughly sceptical. ... And when the V.J. told us on a Friday, he’d have us in irons on the Monday if we didn’t give up, Obie spent a long part of the weekend making cracks about it’ (55).]

VNR abbr. Victim Notification Register. Note: VNR is written on the files of certain inmates, esp. sex offenders. If any of these inmates are released for any reason, e.g. a day parole, a hospital visit, a family funeral, or an appearance before the Board, the victim and/or the victim’s family is notified.

VO abbr. Violent Offender, e.g. an armed robber.

voda n. an inmate constantly talking on the telephone. [after Vodafone, the telecommunications company.] (cf. Telecom; Telstra.)

VS (also voluntary segs) abbr. and n. = Voluntary Segregation (see segregation).

vulture n. = seagull.
wahine toa n. pl. female prison inmates. [Māori = ‘strong women’.]

waipiro n. alcohol brewed illegally by prison inmates. [Māori = ‘alcohol’.] (cf. brew; jack.)

waiting game, the n. a head count, a muster. [an inmate must wait in line while an officer inspects him, marks off his name on a list, and then proceeds to check every other inmate in the line in the same way, all of which is time-consuming.]

waka n. 1 can I row your waka? or can I steer your waka? or am I on your waka today? ‘Can I take part in your activity?’ ‘Can I share whatever you’ve got?’ (e.g. drugs, cigarettes, food, pornographic magazines, etc.) [from Māori waka = ‘canoe’.]

waka v. 1 waka up to transfer to another prison.

walk n. 1 walk in the park an easy, carefree prison sentence, usually brief.

walk v. 1 walk the gauntlet or walk the line or walk the tunnel or walk the wing (of an inmate) to walk by oneself between two lines of inmates or gang-members as one is attacked. Note: this is usually either a form of initiation or punishment (e.g. for tealeafing). One inmate stands at the end of the wing to make sure no officers enter, and the other inmates stand at their cell doors. The culprit/initiate must walk down the corridor while everyone else punches and kicks him until he gets to the end (if he makes it). If the inmate has walked the gauntlet as a punishment, some inmates will still be wary of him and treat him guardedly; however, others feel more forgiving, as one inmate puts it: ‘Once he’s done this [received the punishment] he’s paid his dues and he gets his respect back because he copped it and didn’t nark to the screws and stayed in mainstream.’ (cf. kangaroo court.)

walking sick n. a medical order preventing an inmate from working, but allowing him to walk freely around the prison compound. [as opposed to being locked up or confined to his cell as he would be if he was on bed sick.]

wall n. 1 go over the wall to escape from prison. [US 1934. 1982 STEWART: “Bligh’s must’ve gone over the wall.” “Yeah, he had a toothache. He probably jumped over the wall.” ... Piggy Screw ... asked the two screws where Bligh was. They said he’d gone over the wall’ (170).]

wallpaper v. to pass false cheques.

wang bang n. 1 sexual intercourse. [poss. an extended (rhyming) variant of colloq. ‘bang’ = sexual intercourse.] 2 a pub, a nightclub, specifically a striptease. [sexual overtones, cf. sense 1.]

wank strip n. a pornographic magazine.

wannabe n. 1 a skinhead gang-member. [derogatory.] 2 a Māori skinhead. 3 an inmate new to the wing, who attempts to look muscular and staunch by adopting a boob walk. 4 a gang prospect building up his credentials in order to become a full gang-member.

wardle dawdle n. a warden, a screw.

warship stinking n. gang racism. [women’s prison argot; origin uncertain.]

Warwick Farm n. arm. [rhyming slang; Australian from 1945.]
watchdog n. = cockatoo.

watch v. [] watch four corners to be in one’s cell without a television: ‘What did you watch last night?’ ‘Four corners, mate.’ (cf. watch Sky.) watch four walls to be in one’s cell without a television: ‘What did you watch last night?’ ‘Four walls, mate.’ (cf. watch Sky.) watch Sky (also watch Sky TV) 1 to be in solitary confinement, in the pound, on OPs, or anywhere one is without a television: ‘What did you watch last night, mate?’ ‘I watched Sky.’ [an inmate can watch the sky through the mesh ceiling of the solitary confinement cell, or through the window of his own cell; a play on Sky TV, the pay television channel.] (cf. Pink Floyd.) 2 to take drugs, to have a session: ‘We’re going to watch Sky.’ [alcoholics’ and drug users’ jargon; poss. from the escapism available through watching Sky TV (cf. sense 1).]

watch-house n. the Control Room, the guard house.

water bomb n. = tea bomb.

watermelons n. pl. = basketballs.

wazoo n. a hypodermic syringe and needle.

weak mug n. 1 a contemptible person, an ingrate. [1978 NEWBOLD: ‘The Staunchie and the man with heart have their antitheses in the nomenclature of the weak mug, the flea; the germ; the wonk; the thing; and numerous other expressly derogatory epithets’ (339). 1982 NEWBOLD: ‘When, after I came in from work, I found out what had happened I was very annoyed and went around referring to Kapua as a weak mug and a double-yolker’ (197).] 2 a person who is an easy mark, easily conned.

weasel n. a sly or devious person, esp. a nark. [British from early 1930s = an informer; NZ 1968.]

weed n. prison tobacco. [colloq. British from c.1840; prison tobacco has not been available in New Zealand since c.1992-3.]

wees cop n. a member of the wees police.

wees police n. the prison officers who obtain inmates’ urine samples for testing for evidence of drug use.

Weiss Kraft int. a White Power gang slogan. [German = ‘White Power’. When written, the ‘ss’ at the end of Weiss is realised as a double lightning bolt, reminiscent of the logo of the SS, Hitler’s paramilitary security force during WWII, thus displaying the gang’s neo-Nazi sympathies.]

welcoming committee n. a group of inmates who arrange an assault upon a new arrival to a prison or prison wing. As one inmate explains: ‘If it became known that there was a nark being transferred to your unit or prison, then some people might get together and arrange a welcoming committee to beat him up as soon as he arrived.’

wench n. a female visitor or partner of an inmate.

western lights n. see skunk.

westpac v. 1 to transport to hospital in the WestpacTrust emergency helicopter: 'A couple of guys did a hit on x last night; he got stabbed and he had to be westpaced.' [often prisons are situated a long distance from city hospitals.] 2 to beat someone up so badly that emergency hospitalisation is necessary. [from sense 1.]

West Side n. see street, the.

West Winger n. an inmate from the West Protection Wing at Paparua Prison, Christchurch.

wet v. [] wet one's wick to have sexual intercourse with one's female visitor during a visit. [from street-slang 'wick' = penis.]

wet one n. a sentence given for an alcohol-related offence, e.g. drink-driving, being drunk and disorderly.

whack v. [] whack up to hand over property or contraband (usu. on demand); to give up one's share of goods or money. [from 'wack' = a share of money, plunder; British c.1789. 1972 McNEIL: 'Whack (collog). ration, share; to get one's whack, to receive one's share of the spoils; whack up, to share' (115). Now with more violent connotations, esp. associated with standovers.]

whakawhetai v. to smoke marijuana. [Māori = 'to give thanks', 'to be grateful'; implies that the inmates give thanks for their marijuana, poss. also religious Rastafarian connotations.]

whare n. 1 a cell, esp. one designed to accommodate two or more people. [from Māori whare = 'house', reflecting the Māori custom of many people sharing the one room.] (cf. association cell; house.) 2 a wing or unit. [this term is most appropriately applied if the unit actually performs the function of a whare, e.g. if Māori carvings are displayed, or if inmates do their Kapa Haka or hold meetings there. Used with particular reference to Māori Focus Units.]

wharekuri n. a cell inhabited by a Mongrel Mob gang-member. [from Māori wharekuri = 'kennel'; literally, a house (cell) for a dog (Mongrel Mob member).]

wheels on the bus n. pl. a transfer to another prison.

white n. 1 a 2.5mg Valium pill. [from its colour.] (cf. blue sense 4; yellow.) 2 a halcyon pill. [containing a weaker dose than a blue or a purple.]

whiteboard marker n. a knife, a stabbing weapon, a shank. [from their similarity in shape, and from the idea that both are used to mark their target objects.]

white box n. 1 a telephone. [from the idea that it is a Pākehā invention.] 2 an observation cell. [descriptive.]

white boy n. 1 a Pākehā. 2 a White Pride member; a skinhead.

white collar n. a fraudster, an embezzler; a white collar criminal.
white crew n. a group of Pākehā inmates (cf. crew; black crew).

white gold n. sugar.

white horse n. heroin. [also current British and US.] (cf. horse.)

white lady n. = white horse. [US from 1980s.]

white lighter n. a knockout punch. [from the ‘white light’ the victim sees when he is hit.]

white on! int. a familiar white supremacist greeting. [a play on the expression, ‘right on’.]

white pearl n. see skunk.

whites n. pl. the special white uniform worn by a mentally unbalanced or ‘at-risk’ inmate.

white-shirt n. a high-ranking member of the Department of Corrections, e.g. one of the management personnel. [by metonymy.]

white snow n. 1 cocaine. [poss. from US late 19C-20C ‘snow’ = cocaine; ‘snowbird’ = a cocaine user.] 2 heroin. [US from c.1926.]

white toast n. a female, Pākehā prison officer (cf. black toast).

whorehouse n. 1 a prison. [women’s prison argot; from the perception that most brothels are like Mount Eden Women’s Prison, ‘with a lot of concrete, and not a lot of lights.’] (cf. pink pussy.) 2 = pound, the sense 1.

wife n. = girlfriend.

wind-up n. /waind/ = speed sense 1.

wine n. liquid morphine. [a popular way of taking the drug in this form is to drink it mixed with wine.]

wing n. the cell block, the different areas where inmates are housed within the prison. Usually, unlike most units, a wing is not stand-alone, but is part of a larger prison building. Note: an inmate’s eligibility for any particular wing or unit is decided according to his security classification, his gang affiliation (if any), his need for special treatment (e.g. drug rehabilitation), and his status as either a mainstream or segregation inmate. [] walk the wing (see walk).

wing v. [] wing it (of an inmate) to adopt a saunter (usually in the prison yard) during which the chest, back and shoulder muscles are arranged in a ‘front lat spread’ in an attempt to make one look bigger, tougher and more intimidating. [the flared back muscles and jutting arms resemble a pair of wings; in this pose, the latissimus dorsi muscles are colloquially known in bodybuilding circles as ‘the wings of man’.] (cf. basketballs; boob walk; wings of death.)

wings n. pl. a nickname given to an inmate who wings it.

wings of death n. pl. the ‘wings’ caused by an inmate’s flared back muscles and jutting arms as he boob walks. [sarcastic.] (cf. Red Bull; wing it.)

wire n. 1 a hidden listening device (cf. bug). 2 a burglar alarm.

wise man n. an inmate who has served many lags and has gained a wide-
ranging knowledge of inmate culture and the prison system (cf. prophet).

Woman's Weekly n. a pornographic magazine (cf. Auto Trader; Bible, the; National Geographic).

woolly rugs (also woollies) n. pl. drugs: 'I'm in the woolly rugs business.' [rhyming slang.]

woolly woofter (also woolly woof) n. a (passive) homosexual. [rhyming slang for 'poofter' or 'poof'. 1982 NEWBOLD: "They're especially out to get you! They're going to get everyone who's going with the poofters and they especially want you. Just stay away from them and don't say anything." This didn't sound right either. Mata was going with one of the woolly woofs himself, so I didn't see how he could be involved' (132). 'Woolly woofter (n) Passive homosexual' (255).]

wops, the n. = country, the.

working girl n. a prostitute.

working man n. a burglar.

works n. pl. a hypodermic syringe, needle and associated equipment for injecting drugs: 'Got any works, bro? I want to shoot up.' [British from 1953. 1999 CROWN PUBLIC HEALTH: 'IV drug use is the most effective method of transmitting HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis B+C. Don't share your needle, syringe, or works (spoons, tourniquets, benchtops, filters, water)' (33).]

worm n. = shitlicker.

worms n. pl. dreadlocks.
X

x-dresser n. an informer, a nark (cf. cross-dresser).

Y

ya bear int. yes. [poss. rhyming slang for 'yeah.]

yard league n. a game of football played on concrete in the prison compound (cf. crash).

yellow n. 1 a 5mg Valium pill. [from its colour.] 2 a 10mg morphine sulphate tablet. [from its colour.]

yell phone n. a cell toilet.

Note: at some prisons with multi-storeyed wings (e.g. Paremoremo, Mount Eden, Waikeria) the cells are constructed directly on top of one another and the cell toilets are constructed back-to-back against each wall. The plumbing pipes connected to the cell toilets run up and down the full height of the building. Inmates can speak through these pipes to inmates in neighbouring cells on the same level, or on landings above or below, when they do not have the opportunity to talk to each other face-to-face, e.g. after lock. An inmate taps on the wall, the floor, or the ceiling to alert the person with whom he wants to speak, then both inmates empty the water out of their toilets (e.g. with a cup, or by using their toilet brushes to splash it away) and hold a conversation. [a play on ‘cellphone’.

Yo int. a Black Power gang greeting and solidarity marker (cf. Oi Oi). [is that a Yo? a Black Power gang-member’s way of asking, ‘Is that true?’

yoghurt-coated raisin n. a Pākehā who identifies strongly with, or attempts to pass as, Māori. [from a yoghurt-coated raisin, a type of confectionery that is ‘white on the outside’ and ‘dark on the inside’.] (cf. kinder surprise).

Yuk int. a Mongrel Mob member’s variant of the Black Power’s Yo. [because the Mongrel Mob and the Black Power are rivals, Mongrel Mob members do not wish to speak a word that is so inherently related to the Black Power.] (cf. Mongrel Mob substitution of red for ‘blue.’) Yuk it a Mongrel Mob member’s way of describing the Black Power’s practice of using the term Yo.

yuppie n. a cellphone.
zebra n. an LSD tab.
Note: when LSD is being processed for street use, the lysergic acid is produced as a crystal, then dissolved in alcohol. With some methods, a small amount of the LSD mixture is dropped on to little pieces of blotting paper, but with other methods, a larger sheet of gelatine or blotting paper is dipped straight into the mixture. These larger sheets are processed and covered with many identical individual motifs, each one perforated for easy tear-off, the final result resembling a full sheet of tiny postage stamps. Each of these individual 'stamps' is known as a 'tab' and has a street value of anything between $25 and $50, but generally about $35. Because of this process, there are a multitude of names for LSD depending on the design on the paper. Some reported examples include: Asterix; bald-headed lesbian; Bart Simpson; Batman, blue Om (an Arabic symbol); Bob Marley; buddha (a tab produced in several different colours); clear light; clown face; dollars and cents; double dip (where the blotting paper is dipped twice in the LSD mixture); dot; Fat Freddie or Fat Freddie's Cat (this takes several tabs to form a complete picture); Flintstones (character); flying saucer; green dragon (the picture of the dragon is made up from four tabs; aside from green, the dragon may be red, purple or pink, red being the strongest); happy face; Mad comic; Mickey Finn; microdot; millennium (these are supposed to be very powerful); penguin; phone; pink dragon; Pink Panther; pirate; planet; policeman; purple dragon; purple Om; pyramid; red dragon (trip); shield; smiley; smiley face; Snoopy; Sonic (also Sonic the Hedgehog); strawberry; Superman; tables and chairs; traffic light and zebra.

ziggy n. a cigarette paper. [an abbreviation of Zig-Zag, a popular brand of cigarette paper.]

zilch n. a game played with dice. [elsewhere, slang for 'nought' or 'nothing'; poss. from the idea that the object of the game is to end up with nothing.]
CONSENT FORM

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

1. Date of Interview: ........................................
2. First Name: ............................................
3. Age: ....................................................
4. MALE ☐ FEMALE ☐ (tick box)
5. NZ MAORI ☐ NZ EUROPEAN ☐ OTHER ☐ (say which)

AGREEMENT:

I agree that the information given in this interview and any accompanying material be:

1. used in my doctoral thesis.
2. held in the University of Canterbury Linguistics archives.
3. made available to genuine researchers.
4. quoted in published work or broadcast or used in public performance in full or in part. (If you are quoted in the thesis or in published work, you will only be known by the letter appearing in the top right-hand corner of the interview sheet).

Person interviewed: ........................................
Date: .....................................................

Interviewer: ............................................
Date: .....................................................
STIMULUS MATERIAL PART A

PLACES AND PROCEDURES

BED SICK
Confinement to cell for medical reasons.

BIG BIRD
Plane ticket, transfer to another prison.

BOOB
Prison. BOOB can prefix most words, makes them "prison (issue)...."
eg. BOOBGEAR, BOOBGLOVE, BOOB BLUE, etc.

BRONX
An area of the prison that is a bit rougher than the rest.

BURY
To put someone in segregation; "The screws BURIED him in
SEGS."

CAMP
The huts outside the main jail, where inmates are housed. Lower
security.

CARPET
To be on the CARPET = to be on report.

CAVE
Cell. To CAVE IT is to be in one's cell - "at home."

C 'n' R'd
Controlled and Restrained. Used when someone is causing trouble,
and the officers immobilise them.

DIGGER
Detention unit, solitary confinement.

DOG BOX
Prison official's office.

(Down in the) Bahamas
Solitary confinement, secure unit.

Dungeon
Solitary confinement.

Downunder
In the POUND.

Dragnetted
When your cell's been DRAGNETTED, the screws have done a
close search of it.

Fish bowl, fish tank
Control Room, prison official's office / guard house.

Form
Criminal record.

Gate fever
Pre-release tension.

Go slow
Detention unit, solitary confinement.

Her Majesty's Motel
Prison.

Head office
Women's Prison (from female sexual activity of "giving head").

Hinaki
1. POUND - solitary confinement.
2. Jail.

Hollow log
Dog (rhyming slang). Especially refers to the drug sniffer dog.

House
Cell.

Itchy feet
Want to escape - either from the prison, or from one area to another.

Judas hole
An inspection hole in a cell door.

Kupenga
1. The POUND.
2. Jail.

Line up
Ordered positions for meals, head count, or work parties.

Lock down
1. Confinement to cell for medical reasons.
2. Punishment - everybody is locked up and not allowed out.
3. General lockup, e.g. when SCREWS are having a meeting.

Lickerland
Female prison. (Reference to lesbian activities of inmates.)

Lost-and-found
Pound - solitary confinement.

Muster
Head count.

Mutley
The drug dog.

Mystery tour
A transfer to another prison, because often you don't know where
you're going to end up.

OBS
Observation cell - STRIP CELL with camera.
OPs
Off Privileges. (As a punishment - not allowed certain advantages that the other inmates have - examples?)

PENTHOUSE
Cell.

PETER
Cell.

PINK BOX
Suicide cell with pink walls - pink is considered a calming colour.

ROCK COLLEGE
(Mt. Eden) Prison.

SEPTIC TANK
Bank.

SHANGHAI
A transfer to another prison (usually unexpected).

SLOT
Cell.

SNOOKER
Hiding place. DEEP SNOOKER or HEAVY SNOOKER is a very good hiding place.

PARRY (PARE)
Paremoremo Prison. PARRY can be used to describe aspects of Paremoremo life; e.g. PARRY COMRADE, PARRY ATTITUDE (any others??)

THE CASTLE
Mt Eden Men's Prison.

(THE) MOUNT
1. Mount Eden Prison, Auckland. (Men's and Women's.)

THE ROAD, THE STREET,
THE HOOD
Cruising the streets = walking up and down the wing.

TWO THREE
Solitary confinement - because you are on 23-hour lockup.

WATCHING SKY
To be in the pound or on OPs and to be without a television.

WHERE
Cell (Maori for "house"). Ordered positions before starting work in the morning so inmates move out in an orderly fashion.

SENTENCES AND CRIMES
Armed robbery.

ARMO
Reoffend, repeat.

BACK UP
To do a burglary (putting on your balaclava).

BALLIE UP
P.D. (Preventive Detention).

BIG BITCH
Life imprisonment.

BIG HAUL
Long sentence or life imprisonment.

BIG HUEY (LONG)
Sentence, time serving in prison.

BIRD
Armed robbery. "Blagged the bank."

BLAG
Mode of assault. A blanket or pillowcase is used to blind and confuse the victim and to ensure that they cannot identify their attackers.

BLANKET (JOB)
Criminal charge.

BLUE
Chequebook (when passing false cheques).

BOOK OF FAIRY TALES
Someone who is an easy mark, easily conned.

BUNNY
Criminal record. (A play on "Curriculum Vitae," record of one's activities and achievements.)

CHARGE
Put on a charge - punishment for misconduct/criminal offence whilst in prison: "Go up before the SUPER."

CUPPA TEA
A very short sentence - usually about three months in length.

CUT OUT
eg "Cut out six years" = serve six years in prison, "cut out a big lag"

C.V.
Criminal Record. (A play on "Curriculum Vitae," record of one's activities and achievements.)

DOLLY
Weapon made from a pool ball in a sock.

DRUNK'S LAGGING
A very short sentence (as if you were a drunk person just put in the police cells overnight to sober up).

DUNLOP
A false cheque, cheque that bounces.

FINGER
Accuse, blame.
FIT UP
FLOCK
FLY-BY LAG
GAT
GET THE BOOK
GO DOWN, GO UNDER
HAIRY APE
HALF A DOLLAR
HANDLE THE JANDAL
HANG THE TOOTHBRUSH
HIT
IN THE BOOK
IRON
JOHN ROACH
KANGAROO LINE
KING HIT
KITE FLYING
KNock YOUR LAG OUT
LAG
LEAF
LOT
NOD
OLD LAGGER
OLD SCHOOL
ON PAPER
ONE-OUT
PIN CUSHION
PROP
P.W.K.
RAP (SHEET)
ROD
SEND A FAX
SEWN UP, STITCHED UP
SHANK

Fabricated evidence used to secure a conviction.

To be FLOCKED = to be watched by screws when inmates are doing something illegal, eg if you're all smoking a joint, you might say to your mate; "Watch out, we're being FLOCKED."

A really easy sentence that "flies by."

Receive life imprisonment.

Be convicted.

Rape.

Six months' imprisonment.

Handle the lag - cope with doing one's sentence.

Stop going to jail, give up your career as a criminal.

Object or act of burglary or assault.

To be on report.

Firearm.

Rape.

15 officers (or can be inmates) line up, an inmate walks through between them and they beat the inmate up.

1. Knockout punch. (Often the single punch that begins and ends a fight.)
2. A cowardly assault.
3. An attack from behind.
4. Direct punch to the face - (unexpected.)

Cheque fraud - KITE is a cheque that bounces, has no back-up funds.

Serve your time in prison.

Sentence. (can be a suffix - LONG LAG, LIFE LAG)

Short for TEALEAFING. "A leaf" (thief) - "been LEAFED."

Doing the lot - life imprisonment.

Plead guilty - "give it the nod" = "nodding to it" - yes, I did it.

1. Inmate serving a long stretch/sentence or a LIFER.
2. Repeat offender e.g. someone in and out of prison for a long time.

An older inmate, part of the establishment for years - knows all about jail life, and how it used to be.

To be ON REPORT; to PAPER someone - put them on report.

A one-on-one fight.

Someone who gets / has been stabbed.

Sit down strike. When you sit down physically won't move from the area. Also when you disobey a screw, won't do what he/she tells you = "propping." e.g. group refusal to be locked up.

Public Wing Kicking - where a whole lot of people get together and bash one inmate.

Criminal charge (sheet)

Firearm, pistol.

To send things from one cell window to another along pieces of string, or to attach items to elastic or string and sling them under your cell doors to other people; "Send us a fax."

A case is sewn up or stitched up when fabricated evidence is used to secure the conviction. (Similarly, 'Fuckin' cops stitched me up!')

1. Knife, blade.
2. To stab - e.g. to shank someone.
SHIV
1. n. Stabbing weapon - usually one can be broken off to leave the object inside the victim e.g. glass, Perspex.
2. v. The act of stabbing.

SIEVE
Person who has been stabbed.

SOUR GRAPE
Rape.

SPOT
1. One year's imprisonment. An alternative term for LAG: e.g. TWO
SPOT = two years' imprisonment.
2. To conduct intelligence work prior to committing a crime.
To threaten someone in order to take something from them:
"demanding with menace."

STANDOVER
1. Arrest.
2. Steal, take.

STANDOVER MERCHANT
An inmate who uses standover tactics.

STRETCH
Sentence, time serving in prison.

SWEEP (ON), SWOOP (ON)
1. Any long sentence - over seven years, life or P.D.
2. A terrible sentence where you get shit from inmates and wardens, do it hard, get heaps of pound, etc.

TANK
Burglary involving a safe. (TANK = a safe.)

TANK MAN
Safe blowing expert.

THE HAMBURGER
Life imprisonment - because you've got everything, "the works."

THE MACK DADDY
Life imprisonment.

THUG
The New Age criminal, aged normally between 17-25, lifestyle based on American influences, music, "homey" culture.

TOOL
Any arms (weapons) - knife, firearm etc.

TOOL UP
To arm oneself.

TOP AND TAIL
A mode of assault where one person attacks someone from the front and another attacks them from behind. They then pass the weapon on, so that when any authorities arrive, all's clear.

WICKED LAG
1. Any long sentence - over seven years, life or P.D.
2. A terrible sentence where you get shit from inmates and wardens, do it hard, get heaps of pound, etc.

AUTHORITY FIGURES
ALBATROSS
The boss - rhyming slang.

BABYLON
Police officer.

BABY SCREW
Prison guard/warden just finished training. (SCREW = warden.)

BITCHKEEPER
Member of the Police Force in charge of the dogs that search the prison for drugs.

BOARDWALKER
A screw new to the prison.

Ducks AND GEESE
The police - rhyming slang. Might use the expression DUCKS AND GEESE FLYING if a few people were having a joint and the person watching out saw the screws coming.

FISH
Warden new to the prison or just finished training.

FLOATER
Officer who is not assigned to any particular wing or duties.

FOUR-BY-TWO
Prison guard - "screw".

G.I. JOES
Riot Squad or C 'n' R crew - see GOON SQUAD.

GOON SQUAD, GOONIES
The C 'n' R crew - called in to control people if things get out of hand.

HACK
A prison officer.

JACK
A detective.

LICE
The Police, "because you can't seem to get them out of your hair."

MIMI SCREW
The officer who takes inmates' urine samples to test for signs of drug usage.

MOUTHPIECE
A lawyer.
| NINJA TURTLES | The Riot Squad (because of their weapons, their fighting skills and their shell-like shields). |
| PROBIE | Probation or parole officer. |
| PROSPECT | Officer who has just finished training; say to them "got your patch now, have you?" - (corresponds to the gang meaning.) |
| SCHOOLBOY SCREW | Officer who is new to the prison or has just finished training. |
| SPANKER | Prison officer just finished training. |
| THE EAGLE | The boss, head screw. The expression THE EAGLE'S FLYING means, "The boss is on the prowl." |
| VID CAM | A nosey screw who is always snooping around, watching what you're doing. |

### INMATE RELATIONS / TYPES

| ARMO | Armed robber. |
| A.T.M. | A NARK - informer (because they are an Automatic Teller Machine). |
| BACK UP | 1. To look out for one's friend. |
| | 2. Revenge - often retaliation - "go and back up on it." |
| BED-AND-BREAKFAST | Person serving a short period of time. Used by someone doing a long lag towards a short lagger. |
| BIRD | A NARK - "a bird that sings out of key." |
| BOOBHEAD | 1. Person who keeps coming back to prison all the time. |
| | 2. Someone who prefers to be in jail than on the "outside". |
| BOOT HILL | A BOOT HILL person - someone who's been to prison on a hill - e.g. Mt Eden, Mt Crawford. |
| BROKEN ARSE | To be "a broken arse" - name for someone who is depressed, stressed, shattered, broken = BROKEN ARSED. |
| BUM BOY | An inmate who acts as a slave for another inmate, does all their work. |
| (CAPTAIN) CAVEMAN | A person who stays in their cell all of the time. |
| CELL CRAB | Someone who stays in their cell all the time, always CRABBING IT. |
| CHESTER | Rhyming expression: "Chester the Molester" - paedophile. |
| CLAYTON'S VISIT | No visit. |
| CLEAN SKIN | Person without a criminal record. |
| COIE | One's co-offender. |
| COPPER | Inmate informer. |
| CREW | A group of mates in prison. |
| CUP-AND SAUCER | Two inmates who are very good friends, always hang out together. |
| Currant (Cake) | Awake, aware, informed. |
| DETECTIVE | A nosey person who asks a lot of questions. |
| DOCTOR | PAEDophile - from - PEDIATRICIAN, children's doctor. |
| DOLLY NOTE, DOLLY LETTER | 1. (Illegal) love letter from one female inmate to another. |
| | 2. A love letter that you write out to your "missus." |
| DRIVE BY | Surprise attack on another inmate (e.g. run in and beat them up in their cell) - from the idea of drive-by shooting? |
| EASY (TOUCH) | Someone who is an easy mark, easily conned. |
| ENVELOPE | Person who folds under pressure. |
| FILING CABINET | Area of a prison where all the child molesters live / hang out; from "paedoPHILE." |
| FINGER | A finger = a NARK. |
FINGERS FREDDIE
Thief.

FISHY SHARK
Nark - rhyming slang. (A variant of this = DEEP SEA SHARK.)

FLOUR BIN
Pakeha.

FORM
2. Reputation.

FREAK
Paedophile / sex offenders in general.

FRESH MEAT
First timers in prison.

FRIP, FRIPPER
Anyone you don't regard in the same class as you - especially someone who hasn't done a lot of jail.

FRONT (UP)
v. Solve your problem - like a BACK UP - make sure your problem with someone is solved.

G, OG
Inmate (gangster) - "Hey, G." Also OG, standing for "Original Gangster."

GANNET
1. One who takes without asking.
2. Selfish, greedy person.
3. Bludger - e.g. "coffee gannet".

GIRL'S LAG
1. Rapist.
2. A short sentence.

GRASS
To NARK. To GRASS on somebody is to tell on them, inform upon them, give them up to the police.

HERMIT
Person who stays in their cell all of the time.

JET LAGGER
An inmate who is only in prison for a very short time.

JOINT-WISE
An inmate who is JOINT-WISE is one who knows all about the ways and life of the prison.

K.F. (KID[DIE] Fucker)
Paedophile.

KING BILLY
Idiot, nutter, silly.

KING PIN / K.P.
1. Leader who has gained his / her position from violence.
2. Leader who has gained his / her position from being in control, solving the problems.

KITE
Christian "Jesus Lover".

KNEE IT
Someone who KNEES IT is an inmate who "does their lag on their knees" - sucks up to get through their sentence easily.

LAG, LAGGER
Prisoner.

LICK (BOXER)
Lesbian.

MAINSTREAM
This refers to inmates who are not on PROTECTION. They are in with the general prison population - a normal inmate, with a mixture of races/gangs.

MINCING, MIXING
Conversation (sometimes illegal) with other wings, inmates, screws.

MOGADON (MOGGIE)
Idiot.

MUG
e.g. "Bad Mug". = Sinister or evil character.
1. Idiot.
2. Paedophile.

NARK
1. Inform, to inform upon. (verb).
2. Inmate informer. (noun) also people outside, police informers.
3. To blame. (verb)

NEW KID ON THE BLOCK
New arrival.

NO EFFECT
Expression meaning: "I'm okay, not a problem", "Sweet as."

NOAH'S ARK
Nark - Informant, etc.

NONE
Paedophile: Stands for "Not Of Normal Carnal Experience."

NOOSE
Idiot, nutter - especially suicidal.

911
A (potential) victim, especially someone in line to be stolen from.
ON THE COAT, ON THE HOOK

Put on the coat = shunned, ostracised, gets nothing. Other inmates don't talk to you.

P.P. Protection from protection - the inmate is celled up by himself or herself in the main jail.

PACKING HEAT To be carrying a firearm.
PARLEY To talk with the "big guys" in the wing about something that's going down - talk about a potential problem so that it's sorted out.

PIRANHA Someone who scabs stuff off you, or borrows and doesn't pay back.
PLASTIC GANGSTER An inmate who is a real tryhard, trying to be something they are not.
POLICEMAN

1. A nosey person who asks lots of questions.
2. Inmate informer.

PROTECTION Not in the main jail, in a safe place where the inmate is not going to be assaulted, killed, etc. Usually an inmate who has committed a particularly dangerous crime - e.g. killed a rival gang member, or has done something especially abhorrent.

RIPPLE Deformed person, person who is not all there.
ROCK SPIDER Paedophile.
ROLL OVER NARK - to betray, inform upon.
ROPEHEAD Person with dreadlocked hair.
ROUGH RIDER An inmate who has performed a type of body piercing where marbles are inserted into his penis in order to change its shape. (!!)

SEAGULL An inmate who scabs stuff off you, a scavenger.
SEGS Segregation. Like PROTECTION, a SEGGIE is an inmate on SEGS.
SEPTIC TANK A liar - Full of Shit.
SHOP The guy who's holding the drugs, food or other goods in the jail: "he's a good SHOP."

SOLID Faithful, reliable.
SOOT FARMER Person with dark skin.
SPEED Class, reputation, way of doing things.
SPOT Name for someone on the telephone all the time - (from Spot, the Telecom dog.)
STACK IT To boast, exaggerate, walk around like you're really tough, make yourself look big.

STAUNCH

1. Someone who can "talk it and walk it" - actually go through with what they promise/say/threaten.
2. To be true to / stand by one's friends. Reliable, faithful.
3. Violent, threatening.

(STICKING STAUNCH.)

STICK FAT To be behind your friend or your beliefs one-hundred percent.
SUCKER PUNCH Unexpected punch, get someone when they don't expect it - e.g. someone's sitting down and you hit them on the jaw.

T.H. LOWRY, TOM LOWRY Maori.
TEA BOY Someone who is a "slave" for another inmate, main role is to make their cups of tea for them.
TEALEAF To steal from another inmate whilst in prison. Also rhyming slang for "thief."
THE BOYS Other inmates. See themselves as all together. They're officers, we're not: "It's us versus them when it comes down to it."
THE HAMMER Top dog, the top guy in the prison.
THE ONE

An object or thing which is good, or a person who's really good to you - e.g. gives you a smoke when you're hanging out for one - someone with a positive result.

THING

Insult. Person displaying socially unacceptable/subhuman behaviour.

TOES UP, TOES'D UP

Knocked unconscious.

TONGUE FU

Lesbian.

TUCKER FUZZER

Humorous term for an inmate who works in the kitchen.

STINK FINGER

A fondle during visits.

WING IT

When an inmate walks around trying to look big and staunch, with his chest and arms all pumped up.

(W)OOLLY WOOFER

(Passive) homosexual.

GANG-RELATED WORDS

AGENT

Gang recruit - young gang member training to get their patch.

BALDHEAD

White person - in particular, Skinheads.

CUE BALL

Skinhead.

DIRTY GIRL

Prostitue, woman with loose morals, often belongs to gang.

DOG

Member of the Mongrel Mob Gang - (patch member.)

ENERGISER

A Skinhead - from the TV advertisement for Energiser batteries where the character, Jacko, goes "Oi!"

FLUNKIE

1. Gang prospect.

2. Someone who acts as a runner/slave for gang member/inmate.

FLYWAY

Derogatory name which other gangs give Highway 61s - they do a runner, run away, "fly away", don't stay and fight.

KENNEL

Mongrel Mob Member Cell.

PROBIE

Road Knights, White Power gangs - training to be a full member. See PROSPECT.

SHERIFF

Some gangs have women whom all the men "know" sexually. A SHERIFF is someone who tries to keep her for himself, away from all the other men - falls in love with the gang's DIRTY GIRLS.

SPUD

A Maori Skinhead, because they are dark on the outside and white on the inside.

TAUIRA

(lit. disciple, apprentice) A gang prospect, one who is learning from another, more experienced, person.

TEN SKIN BOWLING

Beating up skinheads.

THE BOYS

Gang members/associates: "The Boys are inside doing all right."

WAREKURI

Mongrel Mob Member's cell. From Maori for "Dog House" - Dog (MM Member) / House (cell).

YOGHURT-COATED-RAISIN

A white person trying to be a Maori - white on the outside, dark on the inside - eg WHIGGER.

DRUGS

BABBLING BROOK

To "do a BABBLING BROOK" = rhyming slang with "to do a cook" i.e. process morphine into heroin.

BLUE LADY, BLUE NURSE

Glass syringe.

BLUE LAGOONS

Halcyon. In the syringe it is a blue liquid.

BLUE

1. Halcyon pills.

2. 10 mg Valium Pill - this drug is often known by the pills' various colours. [see other colours]

BOB HOPE

"Dope" - marijuana.

BOB MARLEY

Marijuana. More often referred to separately as BOB or MARLEY.
Hypodermic syringe and needle - rhymes with "fit."  
Hypodermic syringe and needle - "fit".  
A pound of marijuana.  
2. Speed. Amphetamine drug.  
1. To "ping up" - inject drugs - CRASH UP.  
2. To "crash" a pill - a fast way of cooking up a MST in prison.  
Temgesics - from "T"  
Homebake (morphine) - rhyming slang.  
An LSD tab - because you go on a "trip" and see all sorts of freaky things - just like going to Disneyland.  
A pound of marijuana. From "lb" - "el-bie",  
Temgesics - rhymes with "Ts."  
A very meagre joint - because when you drop it, it doesn't fall straight, but swishes to the ground like a piece of paper.  
Largactil pill.  
Short for FOOTBALLS - Temazepam - little green capsules.  
Halcyon pills (because they are blue.)  
Morphine Sulphate Tablets. So-called because MSTs also known as GRAPES, ORANGES etc.; a FRUIT SALAD is the term given to a concoction of MSTs - different ones cooked up.  
Speed. Amphetamine drug.  
30 mg morphine sulphate tablet. [see terms for other amounts]  
Heroin (and the outfit that goes with it.) Rhyming slang with SMACK.  
Hypodermic syringe and needle.  
Halcyon pills - little blue football shaped pills.  
Morphine Sulphate Tablets. (100 mgs) - some people just refer to the milligram amount, e.g. THIRTIES, SIXTIES, etc.  
Pills. (Also referred to separately) JACKS = downers: valium, oxfam, blues, halcyon, rivvies - gutter drugs. JILLS = uppers.  
LSD - rhyming slang for "trip."  
Ketamine (Class D - used by vets as a horse tranquilliser, but can be dried and taken by people in powder form).  
Marijuana (foil).  
1. LSD - rhyming slang for "trip."  
2. A substance that comes in the same blotting paper form as LSD, but is actually a mixture of different (often stronger) things. Like a Lucky Dip, you don't know what you're going to get.  
Morphine Sulphate Tablets.  
1. Sleeping Pill.  
2. To spike one's drink with drugs or alcohol: "Slip them the Mickey."  
Marijuana cigarette - rhyming slang with "joint."  
The guy who's holding the drugs in the jail.  
Heroin.  
"On the Murray Cod" - rhyming slang for "on the nod" - under the influence of intravenous drugs.  
A marijuana joint; "Got any NUMBERS, bro?"  
100 milligram morphine sulphate tablets.
OSCAR
SHARK
SKUNK
SKUNKIE
SMILIES
TEABAGS
THE ALPHABET
TURTLE
TUTTI FRUITTI
TROUBLE
WOOLLY RUGS

An ounce of marijuana.
Bad quality heroin, "because its got a bite on it you don't need."
Skunk weed - highest quality marijuana - about $500- an ounce.
Joint.
Mogadon Sleeping Pills - so-called because of the smily face embossed on the side.
Marijuana (foil).
All kinds of drugs: e.g. "What are you into?" "The ALPHABET, mate."
200mg Morphine Sulphate Tablet - little green pill.
Any drug that you snort, or TOOT.
Ascetic anhydride: A.A. (Used to turn Class B drugs [e.g. morphine] into Class A drugs [e.g. heroin].)
Drugs - rhyming slang: "I'm in the WOOLLY RUGS business."

BUSINESS
BAT
BRICK
C-NOTE
BOOTLOAD
BUGS BUNNY
CHARGE

One-hundred-dollar note.
Ten-dollar note.
One hundred dollar bill.
To say you have a BOOTLOAD means that you have a good CHARGE up you.
Money.
1. Contraband (wrapped in gladwrap) hidden inside oneself (eg. vagina / rectum.)
2. The act of putting the contraband away.

CHEEK
v. To cheek something is to hide contraband by placing it between "cheeks" of bottom - still squat, but opposed to charging, where contraband is actually inserted

DONKEY
Used when a person who usually brings out contraband to an inmate can't make it (eg sick, banned etc) so they give the package to someone else to bring out instead. This person (known as a DONKEY) just does the pack-work, is a courier (like a donkey) and the inmate has no personal interest in them, only in their package.

DROP
A package of contraband (usually drugs) left in or near the prison for inmate pickup.

GORILLA

A thousand dollars.

KEEP CATCH
To act as a lookout when doing illegal things.

KURA VISIT
A visit when someone brings you a parcel, you get a gift.

OPTIC NERVE
To have an OPTIC NERVE = to have a look around. Rhyming slang for "perv."

MONKEY
One hundred dollars.

PARCEL
Illegal contraband e.g. package of drugs. (Sometimes smuggled by hiding inside oneself - see CHARGE.)

PEG, KEEP PEG
v. Notice, watch. e.g. Screws peg you. PEGGER = lookout.

SHEPHERD'S PIE
A ten-dollar note. (A play on Kate Sheppard, who appears on the note).

SUBMARINE
A CHARGE - because it's "diving", "going under."

TRACK
To smuggle goods in and out of prison.
"Send out a TRUCK AND TRAILER" - when a big DROP arrives and there is too much for one person to carry back, another person gets sent out as well to help ferry in the DROP.
A game of football played on concrete in the prison yard, like CRASH.

Cigarette papers.

Pocket.

2. A person that won't share his gear - from Tight Cunt.
3. Unfaithful woman, harlot (lit. Tunnel Cunt)
4. Top Cat - the top guy in the wing.

Illegal water boiling device.

Zig Zag cigarette papers.

In love.

Your cell toilet, because, in some wings of Paremoremo, you can empty the water out of your toilets and speak up the pipe to your mate in another cell after LOCK.
STIMULUS MATERIAL PART B

Please answer these questions as fully as you can. If you need more space, please use the back of the paper.

1. Why do you think inmates have prison slang?

2. When would you use prison slang – (in which situations)?

3. When would you not use it?
   Why not?

4. Are there different sets of words you would use when talking to different people or when in different situations around the prison?
   Why / why not? (Can you give examples?)

5. Where do you think a lot of prison slang words come from? (Do you know the origins of any particular expressions?)

6. How long did it take you to learn the prison slang you know?

7. Has learning prison slang made it easier for you to get along in jail?
   Why / why not?
8. Have there been changes in prison slang words since you have been in prison?
   If yes, why do you think this is?
   .............................................................................................................................
   .............................................................................................................................
   .............................................................................................................................

9. Have you noticed any particular words which are used by certain groups of people in prison?
   If yes, which groups and why do you think this is?
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   .............................................................................................................................
   .............................................................................................................................

10. If you have been transferred between prisons, did you notice a difference in the type of words used amongst inmates in other places? (Can you give some examples?)
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    ............................................................................................................................
    ............................................................................................................................

11. How similar/different is prison slang from the slang used amongst the people you associated with ‘outside’?
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    .............................................................................................................................
    .............................................................................................................................

12. Do you think that there are people in the prison who are more respected or less respected than others?
    If yes, do you think using prison slang helps to show this? Why/why not?
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    .............................................................................................................................
    .............................................................................................................................

13. Do you think that prison slang has a positive and/or negative effect upon inmates and prison life? Why?
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    .............................................................................................................................

14. Have you got any other ideas about prison slang? If so, please feel free to note them here.
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    .............................................................................................................................
    .............................................................................................................................

15. If there are any other terms you hear/remember during the next couple of days, please list them here or on the back of the page.

   Thankyou!
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