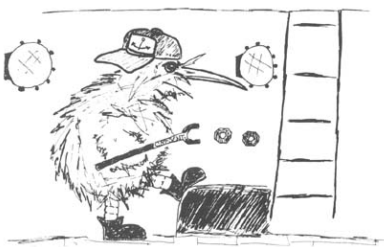


WELLINGTON



Any port would have looked good around mid-February but Wellington was an added delight. With the entire country having a population only a couple of million more than New York City, foreigners are easily visible and fortunately so. The courtesy shown us by the Kiwi's was first class all the way.

Unfortunately the weather followed us up from Antarctica and ended one of the driest summers New Zealand had seen in a century. But after a month and a half at the bottom of the world blizzards and hurricanes couldn't have dampened our spirits.

Taxis were cheap and cabbies reaped fortunes from pubcrawling coasties. But alas Saturday arrived and it was time to store the foul weather in lower cargo until we could unleash it on Australia's sunny skies. So with heavy hearts and throbbing heads we waved goodbye to well wishers on the pier and headed for yet another paradise... Sydney.

