

Opening the Australia-New Zealand border

Business and political leaders from both sides of the Tasman converged on Wellington this month to find ways to deepen New Zealand's most important and one of Australia's most important bilateral relationships. Proposals under discussion included:

- **They'll stop calling us drunks** if we stop calling them sheep-fuckers
- **Adoption of a new common currency**, like the US Dollar
- **Construction of metaphorical bridge** across the Tasman, to be financed by toll revenues
- **Final-status negotiations** on ownership of Russell Crowe, Neil Finn, Sam Neill and Phar Lap; Australia to scrap planned claim of *Lord of the Rings*
- **NZ Prime Minister Helen Clark** to be subscribed to premiers_conference@yahoo.com.au mailing list
- **Australia and NZ** to share sovereignty over Cook Islands, Nauru
- **NZ's firebrand anti-immigrant MP** Winston Peters to stop being indigenous and join One Nation
- **Australia to abandon talks** on closer relations with neighbouring Western Australia
- **New motorway** to link *E Street* with *Shortland Street*, subject to impact on *Neighbours*, *Holmes*
- **Fast-track approval** for Qantas-New Zealand merger



A Kiwi border guard asks 'Where are your papers?'
Photo: NZ Customs Service