

NEW ZEALANDER MARY HOBBS published the award-winning *New Zealand Outside* magazine for 10 years. She is the author of *Kiwi Tucker for the Soul*, a best-selling collection of inspirational stories about New Zealanders; *Letters to New York and America, from New Zealand with Love*, a non-political book of letters gifted to the American people and the President of the United States following the events of 9/11; and *The Spirit of Mountaineering, Volume I*, about the early history of mountain guiding at Aoraki-Mount Cook. Mary and her husband Charlie live at Aoraki-Mount Cook, where they own a guiding company and *The Old Mountaineers*, an historical mountaineering-themed restaurant and gallery. The couple have two treasured daughters. They divide their time between *The Old Mountaineers*, adventures in the Southern Alps, expeditions to remote areas and publishing and writing books of inspiration.

For more information on Mary Hobbs' books and publishing, visit her website at www.spirit-publishing.com. For more information on mountain and ski guide Charlie Hobbs, and *The Old Mountaineers*, visit Charlie's website at www.mtcook.com.

INSIDE BACK COVER: Looking over the Fox Neve towards the Tasman Sea. PHOTO: Charlie Hobbs
BACK COVER: Aoraki-Mount Cook. PHOTO: Mary Hobbs

MATAGOURI AND OTHER PRICKS is a rollicking read that will take you from Tibet to Antarctica; to Nepal with Sir Edmund Hillary; and to New York, Washington and the White House in the aftermath of 9/11. It includes the thrills and spills of a nursing profession; the excitement of launching a new career as a writer and publisher; the challenges of running a guiding business; and also the story of *The Old Mountaineers' Cafe, Bar, Restaurant and Gallery* in Aoraki-Mount Cook National Park – the only business ever opened by Sir Edmund Hillary in the village.

It recounts a rip-roaring battle with the Department of Conservation, yet it is also a love story, and an overview of the principles held by a New Zealand family, chief among them the refusal to give up, and how this and other factors helped to make the dream of *The Old Mountaineers* finally come true.

'It is my hope that this book will keep you turning the pages as you journey with us through some wild adventures that eventually led us to one of the most stunning and special places in New Zealand.

It is also my hope that this story will be a catalyst for New Zealand politicians to create positive changes in policy for the small business person. Policies that will remove onerous levies and restrictions, allow them to compete on a level playing field, without unnecessary obstruction, and give them a fair go.' – MARY HOBBS

MATAGOURI: A hardy, prickly bush that forms thickets in open areas of New Zealand, especially the South Island. It has learned how to survive in a very harsh climate. It also nurtures and provides protection for other native plants as they grow. It has a sweet-smelling blossom in spring and summer. PRICK: 1: A sharp point. 2: An obstructive person, or array of circumstances, that stops positive forward progress.

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