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EDITORIAL

Are the New Zealand drivers really the worst in the world? Maybe not, but they are certainly pretty bad if you compare them with yourself according to a little known but very ingenious formula which goes like this:

ANY SLOW DRIVER THAT HOLDS YOU UP ON THE ROAD IS OBVIOUSLY AN IDIOT AND EVERY FAST DRIVER THAT PASSES YOU MUST BE A MANIAC.

This means that the only driver with any common sense on the road is of course YOU. This makes you some sort of an expert in driving and as such you are entitled to voice your opinion about your fellow drivers and to look critically at their deficiencies.

No doubt that, in your mind, you will have put your fellow drivers into various categories. So let us have a quick look at some of them. (Note from the Editor: To simplify this exposé, only the masculine gender has been used, not because we are sexist, but simply because it takes less space to write "he" than "she". So throughout the text please read "she" for "he" and "her" for "him" if you are a female driver).

The SPEEDSTER and the SNAIL. Strangely enough, they have much in common. They are both egoists, think-

ing that the road should only be there for them and no one else. Neither can stand to see a car in front of them. The Speedster reacts by trying to pass as quickly as possible anyone in sight, often with complete disregard to any traffic regulations, whilst the Snail keeps slowing down so as to leave a huge gap between himself and the car ahead of him. Both are a pest.

Beware of the MAN WITH HAT driver (the urban type, not the farmer). He is invariably a very slow driver. He is most likely a bald-headed pensioner with plenty of time on his hands, a man who has probably already forgotten what he is doing on the road, where he is going and why. So he is obviously not in a hurry to get wherever he is supposed to go.

The LOST driver is a dangerous species because you have no idea (and neither has he) what he is going to do next. He has lost his way, he is desperately looking for a road sign, a street name or perhaps just a house number. He is likely to stop at any time in the middle of the road, turn right when his left indicator is blinking or even reverse in the face of oncoming traffic if he has overshot a turn off or a house number. While he is trying to find what he is looking for, he has totally forgotten about other traffic on the road.

A master of confusion is the WEEK-END driver. He tries unsuccessfully to combine the driving of a car with sight-seeing, but achieves neither. But he is a master in creating chaos on the road wherever he goes. Let a few hesitant and wavering Weekend drivers loose in the centre of a city and they will soon create bigger traffic jams, mayhems and commotion than thousands of week-day commuters could ever produce.

The JACK-IN-THE-BOX driver is an upsetting element in city traffic. First you do not see him, next second he sits right in front of you. His unnerving trick is to sit in a parking spot or by a side street, waiting nervously to slip into the main traffic stream. He is unable to judge distances and so he is more likely than not ready to make his move when you are almost on top of him. The sudden realisation that you almost rammed him because of his erratic move, robs him of all his energy and while he is trying to regain his composure, he will sit in front of you for the next few hundred meters at a maximum speed of 20 km per hour, leaving you hot and frustrated in his wake.

A peculiar driver is the SLOW TO FAST driver. He drives along quite contentedly at 80 km on the motorway until you pass him at a 100. The next thing you know, he sits on your tail and then accelerates to pass you at 150 km per hour. The smaller your car is compared to his, the more aggressive his manoeuvre will be. Now, please ban the nasty thought from your mind that

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