

# for words



Journal of the New Zealand Scrabble Association of Scrabble® Players

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*Scrabbling* *Scrabble*  
~~Scrumming~~ for the ~~Rugby~~ World Cup  
in ~~New Zealand~~  
*Poland*

*also in this issue...*

EYES ON THE WORLD CUP – IN POLAND \* A FRONT HOOKS \* MORE NEW WORDS \* WORDS TO BE DELETED \* "SYNOGRAMS" \* WEPSA WEBSITE \* COCKNEY ALPHABET \* ASK LIZ \* SCRABBLE FOR FUN

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## From the editor

Jennifer Smith

*As we prepare this issue of Forwards, the Rugby World Cup is in full swing. I felt my editorial should be topical, so here's my tongue-in-cheek offering:*

### 10 reasons why I'm glad I play Scrabble, not rugby

1. For most tournaments you don't have to face a selection process; you simply decide to enter. And if you're playing badly, you don't get subbed off. (Though, come to think of it, it could be quite nice to have someone else take over your horrible rack sometimes!)
2. No blood is spilled in the playing of the Scrabble. Scrabble injuries are rare. No black eyes, cuts and bruises. The only time you risk pulling a muscle is when you are carrying your Scrabble board to a tournament, or (if you're lucky!) prizes home from a tournament.
3. The chance of being groped or mauled by other players is remote. You won't get your eyes gouged, ears bitten, or testicles twisted – at least, not in my Club!
4. We play in clean and pleasant conditions. It may be a little cold if the heating system has failed, but we don't have to scrimmage around in rain, mud and slush. The tile bag may get a little smelly sometimes, but it can't be as bad as the smell in a ruck.
5. Except in international games, there are no spectators to impress or disappoint.



All criticism tends to be self-criticism (mind you, that can be pretty harsh!) If you bend down to pick up a tile off the

floor, sixty thousand people aren't looking at your butt.

6. Unless you're a world class player, your mistakes aren't public – only your opponent sees them, and they're not likely to mind! Embarrassing moves are

not recorded and replayed for all the world to mock forever.

7. The referee leaves you alone unless you ask for a ruling. And there's no offside rule – the only way you can get offside is by displaying poor sportsmanship or actually cheating.
8. No matter how good (or poor) your opponent is, you still get your share of turns. I've watched rugby games when the entire game has been played in one half – it can't be a lot of fun when you don't get your boot or hands near the ball.
9. You get to eat, drink and wear what you want. No ugly mouthguards, support bandages, helmets and sponsors' gear. No strict diets before or during tournaments – which is just as well, considering the high standard of catering at Scrabble tournaments.
10. Best of all, you don't get puffed or sweaty. This means you can play heaps of games in any one day, no matter how unfit or out-of-shape you are. Suits me fine!



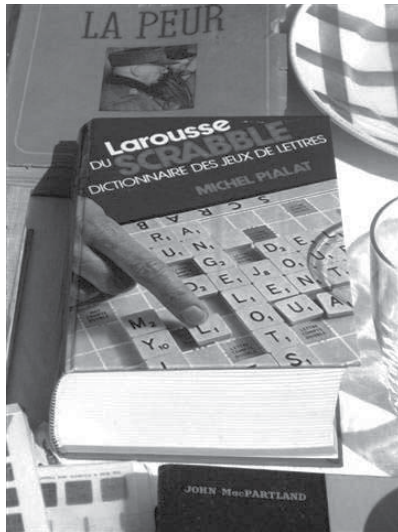
## From our president

Val Mills

*I'm sure there must be a some word or 'law' that describes how the therapeutic effects of a holiday rapidly diminish the minute your life gets back to normal again – but that's just how it is, and I find myself already really having to think about how good it was to have spent a month in a little village in mid-west France...*

One thing I love about travelling is finding out the meaning of words that we use in Scrabble and seeing that they are part of the normal vocabulary in other countries. This seemed especially true in the United Arab Emirates where we spent a day seeing my sister in Fujairah and then a few days in Dubai.

Visiting a traditional Arab house that had been done up for tourists, I found out the meaning of MAJLIS (main court of a traditional house), KHANJAR (Persian dagger) ZARIBA (cattle pen, also ZAREBA, ZAREEBA, ZEREBA, and ZERIBA). But the funniest thing in France was going to a "vide grenier" (literally 'empty attic' – ie village garage sale) in a village 5k from where we were staying and seeing a French Scrabble dictionary for



sale! (See my photo.) Anyway enough of travels...

Great tournaments have been held at Waikato and Tauranga since my return. Thanks again to Jennifer Smith for another fantastic quiz night in Hamilton.

We have the special general meeting coming up at the Mt Albert tourney at

which we will be voting on the adoption of the latest Collins Scrabble word list, and I encourage those of you who can't be at that tourney to put your proxy votes in if you feel strongly about this matter either way.

The way I look at it is that we will now have 2000 odd new possibilities of combination of letters to play, which

means that any dud words I play have a better chance of being right! No seriously, the thought of learning new words is a bit daunting, but on the other hand, it's good to know our dictionary is keeping up with our ever changing language.

Happy scrabbling.

*[See page 40 for more about MAJLISES and ZARIBAS.]*



## Message from

Paul Lister

Hi all.

In all the hurly-burly of the Nationals and my hurried exit therefrom to be at Roslyn's bedside on the Saturday, I never really got to acknowledge or thank you all for all your efforts both to the Association and to myself/my family over the three years when I was vice-president then president of the NZASP.

I realise I had several shortfalls over this time, exacerbated firstly by Roslyn's chronic bad health and then almost concurrently catastrophic earthquakes in my city and also the unexpectedly short tenure I had in these NZASP offices.

I'm going to spend the next five years off Scrabble admin and concentrate on the resurrection of Real Finance (my firm has taken a \$350,000 hit from this earthquake and is barely viable), and administration-wise will be doing athletics coaching/admin (track and field is one of my loves of life and it has taken a hit – especially QEII Stadium). I will certainly resume as a Scrabble player next year and intend re-engaging with Scrabble admin when I retire at 65.

Thanks for all your kind messages. Val said "Scrabble sabbatical doesn't mean hibernation", and I certainly will be re-engaging with you all further down the road, and especially with Shirley Hol and members of the Christchurch club who have been fantastic to myself, Roslyn and my family throughout.

With the utmost appreciation.

*Yours, Paul L and family*

## Rugby World Cup and MIB words

Anon Nimious

Before the Rugby World Cup, I had probably only ever said the word "Namibia" a couple of times, but I'd always had trouble with it. If I forgot to take a deep breath before launching into the word, it invariably took me 2-3 attempts before I got it right.

As the World Cup drew closer, and I found myself saying it more often (and no more easily), I got to wondering why it was so difficult. Then it dawned on me. The -MIB-combination in English is very unusual.

Zyzyva lists only 11 words in this format – just 5 if you don't count plurals. And apart from MIB(S) itself, which is a type of playing marble, they all have a demi- or semi- format, which naturally makes for a different emphasis and therefore easier pronunciation:

DEMIBASTION(S), SEMIBALD, SEMIBOLD(S), SEMIBREVE(S), SEMIBULL(S) – all easy to say.

A quick survey of friends and family revealed that I'm not the only one who finds Namibia difficult to pronounce. Do you have the same problem? Or is it just ANAESTHETIST and STATISTICS that trip you up?





# Club News

## Tauranga

Congratulations to Margaret Bullen from the Tauranga Club on her achievement at our recent tournament. She won the Noel Maisey trophy which is awarded to the highest placed novice. Margaret played well in the E Grade, placing 4th.

We wish you all the best, Margaret, and hope that you enjoy playing Scrabble for the rest of your life.

## Christchurch

Many thanks to Margaret Lyall for producing our Christchurch Scrabble Club Newsletter for the last 20 years.

Margaret has always worked hard for the Scrabble Club, first as treasurer and then treasurer/secretary. In 1991, with an increasing number of players joining the Scrabble Club, she saw the need for a newsletter to facilitate better communication between members, and in 1992 the first copy of the Christchurch newsletter was circulated.

This latest issue was numbered 120. That's a marvellous record. However, with health problems and some damage to her house with the quakes, she has reluctantly had to put the newsletter aside. Margaret will remain as the secretary still.

## Hamilton

Bet you couldn't achieve this trick if you tried! At Club night, Nick Cavanagh and Jennifer Smith were removing tiles from the board and putting them in the tile bag, when Nick accidentally flicked one off the board, sending it flying. For a couple of minutes

they searched everywhere but couldn't find where it had gone.

They had just got to the stage of thinking they had imagined it, and were contemplating doing a count of the tiles, when the errant tile reappeared.

It fell out of Jennifer's jacket sleeve!

## Hastings



Hastings people marked a special occasion recently when former Hastings Club Scrabblers, Elsie Tucker, celebrated her 100th birthday.

Here she is with Jeff Grant. The tiles convey our congratulations

## "Pub Club"

As you probably know several Scrabble players, meet on a Wednesday night at the De Post pub in Mt Eden to play Scrabble. Su Walker (left) and Liz Fagerlund introduce the newest addition to the pub club, Bronwyn Ruth McLean, Anderina's daughter.



## EYES ON THE WORLD CUP – IN POLAND

### Blue

Has played previously in 1993, 1995 and 2009

### Howard

Has played in the WSC previously, in 1999, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007 and 2009

### Nigel

Has played previously in 1999\* then in 2005; 2007 and 2009

### Joanne

Has played previously in 2007 and 2009

### Lynne

Has played previously in 1991 (the first WSC), 1993, 1997 and 2007

*\*(where he got 8th) and didn't get in a team again due to living in "no man's WSC selection land" for a while, until NZ 's rules allowed us to select him to represent us.*



*Thanks to Photoshop our New Zealand representatives look stunningly match fit, from left: Blue Thorogood, Howard Warner, Nigel Richards, Joanne Craig and Lynne Butler. We wish them well for all their games in the World Scrabble Championships (WSC) in Poland in October.*

Our NZ allocation is four players, but, of course, Nigel Richards is also automatically in the WSC as the 2009 runner up, rather than part of the NZ team. Naturally, we consider him to be part of our NZ contingent as well!

We will follow the progress of all five with interest and pride.

(Philip Nelkon has advised the committee that Nigel's finishing place will also count in the calculation for NZ team allocation numbers for the next tournament).

# Mailbox

The tenth Causeway Scrabble Challenge will be held 30 November to 4 December. There will be three divisions, namely the Premier, the Masters, and the Open. All divisions will play 45 games.

This will be the last year that enthusiasts will be able to participate at this event, as this is to be the final Causeway Challenge.

I'll certainly be there, and would recommend it to other players.

You can find further details on the Causeway website.

**Betty Eriksen, Wanganui**

Dear Editor

Re "Supermarket Scrabble" in the last issue of *Forwards*:

**Mr Bunnings**

A big "thank you" to Howard and Liz for their time and effort in organising the Auckland Match Play Championship, (and Consolation Knockout) events. Congratulations to Howard on winning the Championship!

This annual event is a great idea, especially more so now with the introduction of the Consolation Plate giving more Scrabblers the opportunity to continue on in that part of the competition.

I thoroughly enjoyed taking part and was quite chuffed to be presented with the new trophy on winning this Consolation event. (Thank you Howard for this surprise presentation!) It is a lovely trophy and will be played for each year in the future.

**Pam Robson, Independent**

## Brave or foolhardy?

In the Singapore newsletter, *SA News*, Eden Choo relates his 2010 Causeway experience against Yoeh Sue Ann of Malaysia, he recounts this interesting play:

"Trailing by 58, I was holding a rack of AIIRT?? and there was an open T. I believed that even if I played my bingo, my chances of winning will not be that high with the tiles that she was holding. So I decided to take the craziest gamble, that any Scrabble player will not even consider, which was to change one blank in the hope of getting it back for a better chance of victory. As

long as she did not get the blank, I will be assured of victory. I played LI(T)ERATI for 58 and got back the blank after playing VEG the next turn. She fished and opened up the board and I did the same thing as well,

eventually playing ANTIAIRs for 78 to out. Win 413-362."

Lucky? Or a carefully calculated risk?

## Overheard at tournaments

Vicky Robertson [when her opponent front-hooked in a prime spot]:

"I was hanging out for a P!"

\* \* \*

Dianne Cole-Baker [commenting on the adjacent game, where June Mackwell challenged Hazel Purdie's bogus ORGIASM\*]:

"That's what happens when you get excited folding paper."

## Scrabble for Fun 2011

**Tracie Leckie, Dunedin**

Eighty-eight children competed in 22 teams, from 12 Dunedin schools, over two days at the Dunedin Public Library, each team playing 8 games. The top three teams from each day competed in the final, played on Thursday 8 September.

### Results Day 1

1. Mornington Wonderous Wordsmiths
2. Opoho Team 1
3. Arthur Street Team 2

Mornington Wonderous Wordsmiths and Opoho Team 1 finished on 7 wins each. Placings were established by the large difference in spread.

### Results Day 2

1. Tahuna Intermediate Team 2
2. Waikouaiti Scabbadoodles
3. Tahuna Intermediate Team 1
4. George Street NS Infernos

Tahuna Intermediate teams placed first and third on Day 2. As only one team from each school can be represented in the finals, the fourth placed George Street Normal School Infernos took the last slot in the finals competition.

Some great new talent was spotted and hopefully some junior Scrabble converts made!

### Final results

1. Mornington Wonderous Wordsmiths (8 wins, 831 spread)
2. Tahuna Intermediate Team 2 (6 wins, 209 spread)
3. George Street NS Infernos (4 wins, 134 spread)
4. Opoho Team 1 (2 wins)
5. Wakouaiti Scabbadoodles (2 wins)
6. Arthur Street Team 2 (2 wins)



*The Final competition, with 24 young Scrabble players searching for that winning word!*



*The winning team, The Wonderous Wordsmiths, from Mornington Primary School, is pictured receiving the Otago Daily Times Scrabble for Fun Shield and a new Scrabble set. From left: Ruth Groffman, Tim Barham (11), Lucy Pollock (11), Alex Leckie-Zaharic (10) and Laura Whelan (11).*

## AHINT ABOUT AFRONT A

Anon

*APIECE featuring nearly 200 common smallish words formed by hooking A onto the front of ANOTHER word:*

This story is not ABOUT ABEAR, ACOCK, AMICE, AHIND, AMOLE or the venomous lizard called AGILA, but about AHORSE.

Racing is ASPORT of kings, they say. I was once ABLEST subject and APAID servant of my king, as ALANG-standing keeper of AMOUNT in the king's stables. He was ACUTE horse with ABLAZE on his head, and was normally AGENT of AHORSE – in fact, ASHIER horse you could never imagine – but he did have AGAS problem.

I've been ARIDER of horses for ALONG time, but it brought ABLUSH to my cheeks the day my horse gave ABRAY and did APOOP just as my lord, AHIS Majesty, was passing by. ABURST of wind accompanied AVAST AMOUNT of the poop, and ASLOSH fell at the king's feet. I was AGAST, and ADREAD filled me. But although I uttered AYELP, I had the presence of mind to keep AHOLD of my horse.

ADRIFT of ALANT rose from ADUST pile at the king's feet. (ALANT and stale urine smell ALIKE.) AHEAP beside AREAR leg of the horse was emitting ASCENT similar

to AHING, which is AFOUL-smelling gum resin. What an AFRONT to his majesty! As ASCENT of AURIC smell reached the king's sensitive nostrils, AWAVE of horror passed over his face and he fell into ASWOON.

APAGE-boy accompanying the king, ASLANT-eyed chap, took APEEK at my face, which was ARED colour. He gave me APERT smirk as he revived his master. AGRIN curving his lips and AGLEAM of malice in his eye showed AGLEE – he was glad I had figuratively fallen off AHIGH

horse of mine!

AWHILE later, ARILED king summoned me to his presence. (He's not AZOIC sufferer, and AGOUTY toe does not make for AGOOD temperament!)

As I stood before ACROSS king, he threw me ASTERN look. After maintaining ASTONY glare for several seconds – AGLARE and

ASTARE so terrifying that ACOLD sweat broke out on my brow – he announced that ATRIAL for my offence was to be held in ADAYS time. I was ASCARED man.

I didn't have much time. I found ALIST of lawyers, and searched ANEAR and AFAR, AHIGH and ALOWE, but could find no-one with enough of ASPINE to represent me for AGOING rate. APSIS representative, ABASE fellow, offered me the services of ASCRIBE with legal knowledge for APAYment that was exorbitant, but AREAD of ALINE of the contract convinced me his offer was ARUM



deal. He was APHONY rep motivated by AGREED for money.

In court the next day, I immediately got AGIST of the seriousness of my offence. AMAIN charge was that I had shown ALACK of respect for the king by not following ASTRIC royal protocol. This was ADOWN-right lie for ASTART, APART from ABLOW to my reputation. I tried to defend myself, and suggested that AGENE, or perhaps AGEIST or evil spirit, could have caused my charge's misdemeanour, but to no AVAIL. AWRONG had been done to the king, and I now had AFEAR that I would take ASWING for it.

When the jury was asked if they found me guilty, they gave AYAH, ALOUD "yes!" I was to be banished to ALAND far AWAYS. ATRIP via ALINER was AMOVE I didn't fancy. I took ALEFT look, and ARIGHT look, but there was no escape.

AMASS of people, ASWARM of them, came to farewell me. ARIOT broke out AMONG ABAND of my enemies, while ALONE supporter gave me AMITY cheer. AMATE (actually, AMISS of my acquaintance who's just ATWEEN) even sent me ABLOOM of AROSE.

I was put off the ship somewhere at APORT in AVAST African country, AVENUE ALONG way from my home and AYONT from civilisation. ATOM-tom drum was beating in the distance, sounding ATONE of welcome. ATAATA, or "father", gave me ATAP on the shoulder, and handed me ATOKE, which I inhaled thankfully. This kind gesture gave me ATHROB of hope when I learned that I was to be AWARD of his. In return, I was to converse with him on ATOPIC of his choosing. (I often enjoy ASOCIAL session with him – especially

when we have ASTONED conversation!)

My taata must be AREAL rich man, as he has given me ABLING necklace made with ABORT from AMINE nearby.

He also employs ACATER firm to look after me. They mix me ATONIC, which tastes like ACIDER drink, made with fruit from AVINE that grows here, and they put on ASPREAD that's impressive. My favourite snack is ABLET sandwich. (Yes, they have bacon, lettuce, egg and tomato, even in ALAND as primitive as this one). I'm never AHUNGRY man.

But it's primitive here, all right! I'm housed in ASHED and live APACE of life that's slow. I can't make ATOLL call home, and it's impossible to get medical treatment from ACLINIC, even for something as simple as ACORN or ABOIL. No transport – there's not AWHEEL of vehicles or AWING of aircraft to be seen. Neither is there ABROAD-band (to play online Scrabble) let ALONE AZINE (to check the Wespa website!). I am provided with anything that's AVITAL necessity, but it's ALONELY existence.

On ATYPICAL day, I have AWASH and ASWIM in the morning, followed by ABASK and ADOZE in the sun, and I take ANANA nap after lunch most days. It sounds idyllic, but AWAIT like this is tedious, especially without AWATCH to keep track of the passing days. The hours of ANIGHT can be ABORE, too.

There's AVOID in my life that I'm trying to fill by taking ABAC course – I've already got ACRED towards that university degree. I have become AMUSE,





devoting my non-leisure time to AWORK of great literary merit. I've made AVOV to write AVERSE or two every day. My book begins with AMORAL of my story:

**If you ALOW ASHET-load of AMUCK to land on AFOOT of AKING, you won't get APAY rise.**

Still, my fate could have been worse – imagine if APOOP had landed on ALAP or ABREAST of the king!



## Where are the blanks?



Alfred Butts, the inventor of Scrabble, examines letter tiles at the Scrabble plant in Fairfax, Vermont in 1985.

## Brain power

### 1ST CHALLENGE

#### Scrabble contest no. 104

The 9-letter word STRENGTHS has only one syllable. What is the longest 2-syllable word you can find that is allowed in Scrabble?

The winner will receive a book prize. Send entries by mail or email to: Jeff Grant, 'Ardra', 1109 Allenby St, Hastings 4122  
Or: ardra@clear.net.nz  
Closing date is 26 November 2011.

#### Solution: contest no. 103

The challenge was to score well with three consecutive three-letter plays at the beginning of a game.

Jethro Snafflerod got 114 points for RAJ (20), QUA/RAJA (43), ZAX/AQUA (51).

This was surpassed by Ron Bunny who cleverly extended QUA (24) to QUARTZ (34) and then to QUARTZIER (81) on the triple word square for 139 points.

Joan Thomas (Hastings) beat this with 157 for AZO (24), WOX/AW/ZO/OX (62), JAB/JAW/AZO/BOX (71).

However, the highest score of 166 was achieved by Lyn Toka (Kiwi) and Michael Vnuk (Australia), who both came up with a 3x3 square using WOX (26), AZO (57) on top, and JAW (83) on top again. First name out of the hat was Michael – well done!

## HOW TO SPEAK NEW ZILLUND AT THE RUGBY



Ruck  
Bull  
Tickle  
Sickened Five  
And Thumb  
Peck  
Backs  
Pash Nut  
Skulls  
Maul  
Gull  
Rough  
Troy  
Ketch

Abbrev. of Richard, a popular boys name  
What you play the game with  
Bringing another player to the ground  
Positioned after the 1st 5  
National song sung before match  
The eight forwards involved in a scrum  
Abbrev. of Rebecca, popular gills name  
Love of the game  
Ball handling ability  
Where you go shopping  
Points scored by kicking  
Umpire  
Worth 5 points  
Receiving the ball

About 1.4 million\* Kiwis listen to us every week, probably because we know the lingo.



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RADIO



\*Research International Commercial National Survey T1/2011. Cumulative Audience, All People 10+, Mon - Sun, 5am - 12am.

## Clever play

At Hamilton Club night, Peter Jones was trailing Val Flint, and needed a bonus to go out and win. He had B | I | R and V on his rack, and the last two tiles out of the bag were the two blanks. Yuk, you'd think! And

the only spots for a bonus were through a C or onto an A. Even yukkier!

But all those years of learning words with two high-scoring letters in them paid off – after a challenged bogus word, he eventually went out with VIBRISSA to win.

# New word list

New words we'll be using next year (assuming we adopt the new word list at our Special Meeting on 1 October) from Scrabble Club News UK.

## From the digital world

The new words from the field of computing include WIKI, BLOOK (a book serialised on a blog roll), BADWARE, FANSITE, WEBZINE and DARKNET, while the already valid BLOG is now accompanied by SPLOG and VLOG. New verbs include PHARM, SCROBBLE, FACEBOOK and MYSPACE.

## From overseas

The star of the show is undoubtedly QIN, a kind of Chinese zither, which according to computer simulation is likely to become one of the most played words in Scrabble, alongside the already allowed QI (one's life force).

Japanese gives us WAGYU, a breed of beef cattle, and KOGAL, a young woman noted for her busy social life and purchase of expensive designer clothing.

New words from Indian cookery include KEEMA, ALU or ALOO (a potato), and GOBI (a cauliflower). Previously, many Scrabble players would have been caught out attempting to play such words familiar from their local Indian takeaway menu.

Kenya contributes BENGA, a kind of popular music, while the increasing role of Islam in world affairs is reflected in many new words related to that religion: UMMA, UMRA, MEDRESA, IBADAH, SHAHID, TASBIH, NIKAH.

## Another U-less Q-word!

Although it's nice to have another U-less Q word, players may well find that FIQH refuses to make frequent appearances on the board because of the low probability

of having the QFH together and the fact that over-familiarity with QI may cause a superior FIQH play to be overlooked.

## Straight from the street

Those who pride themselves on being up-to-date with the word on the street will be pleased to know that the lexicon now includes THANG, INNIT, NANG, PUNAANY, BREDREN, BIACH, BLINGY, GRRL and GRRRL, and several words for various kinds of drug – TIK, GAK, TINA.

## Finally allowed ...

Those who in the past may have fallen foul of certain well-known 'phoneys' – words which seem entirely reasonable but which are not in fact acceptable according to the official list – will rejoice to learn that it will now be acceptable to play AIRGUN, BEESTING, CATFLAP, COSTINGS, FLOB, HEATWAVE, INBOX, PUSHBIKE, STRIM, TEABAGS, TEENAGES, TWIGLET and UMS.

## I've been reading

**Val Mills, Pakuranga**

### Wolf Hall by Hilary Mantel

This is set in 1500 - 1535 and is about Thomas Cromwell. It gives fascinating insights into life in those times.

CHOUGH	a crow-like bird
LEGATINE	pertaining to an official envoy
CALUMNY	false and malicious accusation
ANNATES	first year's revenue of a bishop paid to the pope (has to have the S)
ARRAS	a rich tapestry (also has to have the S)
ORDURE	manure
GALLIARD	a lively dance
PLANGENT	resounding loudly



# Ask Liz

Liz Fagerlund (Mt Albert)



Members have experienced two interesting incidents in friendly games recently, and have asked how tournament rules would deal with them:

**Q1.** My opponent played the opening move on the row below the centre square. After she had pressed her clock, I jokingly said, "Challenge!", and even though she looked at it for ages, she couldn't see what was wrong with it. Of course, once I pointed it out, she picked it up and played it in the right place, and I allowed her to. But what would happen in a tournament if her opponent was being pedantic/anal/unsporting? Could you win a challenge on the grounds that the word was played in the wrong position?

**A.** We seem to have nothing in our rules that covers this, or in fact, even indicates that the first turn must cover the centre square!! Perhaps you could actually challenge that off, but it would be an unusual occurrence and perhaps most opponents would allow repositioning. The only problem is, if neither notice and you continue, the game is all wrong – what if then, on say turn 3 or 4 the centre square is covered – how then to score it? I have had a look through WESPA rules and it is covered there – as we belong to WESPA perhaps it is time for us to consider adopting those rules as many WESPA country members have already done.

## Here is the WESPA rule dealing with incorrect placement:

### 3.10.16 Challenging Word Placement

(a) A player may challenge a turn on the grounds that a word has been placed illegally.

Illegal word placements include, but are not limited to:

- (i) failure to cover the centre square on the opening play;
- (ii) placing tiles such that the tiles do not all form part of one word;
- (iii) playing a diagonal word;
- (iv) playing a word that extends beyond the 15x15 grid;
- (v) playing a misoriented word (see Rule 3.1.3 (Establishing Orientation))

\* \* \*

**Q2.** The scores were neck and neck. I had to go out to win. I played a dud word, using up all my tiles. My opponent deliberated for ages, then said, "I won't challenge, because I can go out". She played her word which took her score beyond mine, we stopped the clocks, and we were writing up the scoring before the penny dropped with me [remember, we were socialising a bit, so concentration was not absolute!] that I had no take-off to give her – of course, I had no tiles on my rack because I had already played out! We decided that I was the winner because I had played out first. But was I? By letting her play, and writing down her score, had I accepted her move, and had she won?

**A.** The game was finished once you went out using all your tiles; the opponent's turn should be null and void – tricky though! If you had completed and



...Ask Liz continued

signed the results sheet and you had an opponent in a tourney who then refused to allow it to be changed as they would then (albeit rightfully) be the loser, there could be a problem!

## WESPA rules covering result sheets:

### 5.4.1 Result Sheets Final Once Signed

A game result sheet signed by both players is final, and binds the players and the Tournament Director, unless:

- before submitting the sheet, both players agree to correct an error on it;
- after submitting the sheet, but before the start of the next game, both players petition the Tournament Director to correct an error on it.

## Last Causeway Challenge

*Michael Tang has made the following announcement:*

Dear Fellow Scrabblers,

Due to personal reasons, it is with deep regrets that I hereby announce the cancellation of the proposed Causeway Grand Slam 2012. I would like to sincerely apologize for any inconvenience caused.

I would also like to announce that Causeway 2011 shall be the 10th and FINAL edition of Causeway Scrabble Challenge. I would like to thank players from all over the world for making Causeway such a memorable experience for me for the last 10 years.

I look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible to the Final Causeway Scrabble Challenge.

*Michael Tang, Organising Chairman*

## 6-letter words

*from Scrabble Club News, UK, June 2011*

One of the least-studied areas, even amongst many highly rated players, are 6-letter words. That's because all of the other areas like hooks, bonus plays, high scoring tiles etc. seem more important.

However, some judicious knowledge of unusual 6-letter words can come in useful. Their usefulness revolves around four aspects:

- A 6-letter play that can't be extended by a hook has less chance of relinquishing control of the board and more chance of scoring well.
- They achieve good turnover of tiles which can increase your chance of picking the really good tiles – blank, S etc.
- If you have an imbalance of vowels and consonants or duplicates, then you will want to play as many letters as possible to try to sort that out.
- Even leaving aside the high-scoring letters, there are some great words which contain at least three tiles that are worth 4 points or more.

Here are some useful words broken up by category. None of these words takes a hook:

**Vowel dumps** ALULAE, ARIOSI, EOLIAN, IDEATA, LAURAE, MANAIA, OUTATE, TAIHOA, TALEAE, UNRUDE

**Consonant dumps** GYLDEN, PLONGED, SPRENT, TSKING, YPLAST, YTTTRIC

**Duplicate dumps** LIMULI, MATATA, NAIANT, SBIRRI, UNSPUN

High-scoring words  
ACKNEW, FEHMIC, FLANCH, FYKING, GYMNIC, KLOOCH, KNITCH, MYTHOI, PHYLAR, YPIGHT

## Twenty years ago

*John Foster, Independent*

### 2ND CHALLENGE

*This time my selection is an article on Scrabblers whose forenames and surnames are both allowable Scrabble words, which appeared in Forwards 24, September 91.*

A quick shufti through our current alphabetical rating list, not just the ranking list, has turned up well over a dozen more such names and I will award a copy of the *Scrabble Quiz Game Book* to the player who provides the longest list with definitions.

(Do not provide definitions for players whose names appear on the 1991 list.)

In the event of a tie the prize will go to the entry with what I deem to be the most apt definitions.

Entries to 87B Sunset Rd, Totara Vale, Auckland 0632 or jethrosnaf@internet.co.nz

## What could Obama do better

Barack Obama's sister Maya Soetoro-Ng was on *Piers Morgan Tonight* (CNN), where she unsurprisingly only had nice things to say about Obama as both the President and an older brother. So Morgan tried to throw her off her script, asking whether there was something Obama could improve.

"If you were being critical, if you were giving him a halftime report," Morgan

As you are probably aware there are a great many given names that are allowable in Scrabble because they have other meanings in general English, for example :

DAWN, BILL, ALAN, CHARLIE, JENNY, ROBIN, JANE, HENRY, GLEN, MIKE, SUE, GRACE, PAUL, BETTY, JEAN, ROSEMARY

There are lots of surnames as well, such as :

BUTLER, HALE, PINNER, WOODS, JAMES, BRIGHT, GILBERT, ROSS, LEACH, BARKER, FLOWER, SKINNER, HAY, HUNT, COLE

Some lucky people have both their names available for use in Scrabble, and when that happens a little phrase is formed, often with an interesting interpretation. For instance BOB HOPE could be described as 'in anticipation of receiving a shilling', and MICK JAGGER as 'an Irish pedlar'.

Taking the June computer ratings list, here are the names of some NZ players, defined in terms of Scrabble words, with a little poetic licence.

JEFF GRANT the gift of a circus rope  
PATRICK CARTER a conveyor of old halfpennies  
JOHN FOSTER toilet promotion  
JOY HUNTER a seeker of happiness  
ANN CANDLER one who examines a Scots stipend in front of a light, believing it to be an egg  
ROGER COATES screw the Shakesperian quotes  
JOHN BAILEY the outer wall of a feudal lavatory  
DAPHNE PARKER one who parks a car on a particular flowering shrub  
DAPHNE CURL the curled-up part of this shrub under the car  
OLIVE HEATH a brownish-green stretch of open country  
NORMAN WHEELER a nautical bar cyclist  
BERYL MACE a pale-greenish metal war club with spikes  
DAISY MADDEN making the flowers angry  
JO BURNSIDE the side of a stream where sweethearts meet  
MAY BACON a maid's pig flesh  
JEANETTE OWLER a smuggler of coarse twilled-cotton cloth  
HAZEL PECK a light-brown kiss  
JILL MOON baring one's buttocks at a female ferret  
LULU HOLT a remarkable orchard  
PAT WARING storing up small lumps of butter  
MAY GALE an outburst of hawthorn flowers  
-From an idea suggested by Stuart Bunker (MTA Club)

wondered. "what would you say, 'Go on, you could do better here'?"

"Well, I would say that he needs to be more cheerful when he loses to me in Scrabble," Soteoro-Ng answered.

"That was beautifully deflected," Morgan conceded.

Looks like political instincts run in the family.

# Hall of Fame (or infamy)

*Allow me to introduce myself, Ambrose Burnside, Union Army General of the American Civil war, United States Senator and 30th Governor of Rhode Island. Now, I know how you Scrabble people think, and you're probably saying to yourselves: "Well, BURNSIDE is a Scrabble word, as is its plural BURNSIDES, but it means 'beside a burn, or stream' so Ambrose can't take any credit for that word."*

That's true. (My ancestors must have lived alongside a burn somewhere.) I have had a bridge, and carbine rifle that I invented, named Burnside after me, but they are both spelt with a capital letter. AMBROSIA has nothing to do with me, either.

I conducted successful campaigns in North Carolina and East Tennessee during the war. I prefer to forget that I also conducted a couple of disastrous campaigns – the Battle of Fredericksburg was one of them. After one particular disaster I was "relieved" of command, and I eventually resigned when I failed to be recalled to duty. Some say I committed so many military errors that the war would have been lost had I not been

replaced before resigning my commission.

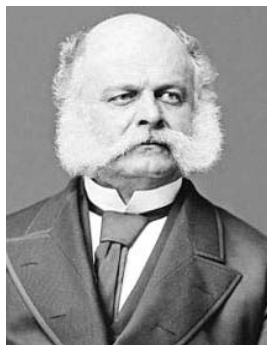
Anyway, I won't bore you with military details, as I know you like the juicier bits of biographies. I was a likeable chap, always very popular – in the army and in politics. I made friends easily, smiled a lot, and remembered everyone's name. There's one name I'd like to forget, though.



General Burnside

Gossips of the time will tell you that my first wife-to-be (wife-not-to-be, as it happened) left me at the altar. When the minister asked her if she would take me as her husband, she took a quick look at me, shrieked a resounding "no", and ran out of the church.

I still can't understand it. I'm a modest man, but take a look at my pictures. People thought I looked every bit a general, with my striking figure, my bushy side whiskers and smooth chin. Astride a horse, with whiskers flowing and bands playing, I was a dashing sight.



Burnside later in life

I'm glad to say that the woman I eventually married appreciated me – we were married for nearly 30 years. Even though we had no children, my name has lived on. Why? Men, particularly young men, found my unusual facial hair (where strips of hair in front of my ears joined to my moustache but left my chin clean-shaven) artistic and awe-inspiring. Thus, a luxuriant growth of mutton-chop whiskers called BURNSIDES became the fashion. A sensible semantic

shift quickly turned the word around to SIDEBURNS, a logical generic term since such whiskers grow on the sides of the face.

Scrabblers, remember that although BURNSIDE and BURNSIDES are both acceptable, and BURNSIDES and SIDEBURNS are anagrams, SIDEBURN\* is not acceptable. (No-one would ever sport just one, would they!) Think of me when you see any of those words on the Scrabble board.

## What's a 710?

*A mechanic friend of mine reckons all Scrabble payers are geeks who know nothing else except words. To support his argument, he told me this story about a Scrabble player who bought his car into the garage, and asked for a seven hundred and ten.*

My mechanic friend asked the client, "What's a seven hundred and ten?"

The Scrabbler replied, "You know, the little piece in the middle of the engine, I have lost it and need a new one." He said he didn't know exactly what it was, but this piece had always been there. My friend gave him a piece of paper and a pen and asked him to draw what the piece looked like.

He drew a circle and in the middle of it wrote 710. My friend then took the Scrabbler over to a car just like his which had its hood up and asked, "Is there a 710 on this car?"

He pointed and said, "Of course, it's right there."

See page 40 for a picture of a seven hundred and ten.

## Book recommendation

*Shirley Hol, Christchurch*

*Recently I came across a fascinating book revealed after my bookcase crashed down after one of the quakes.*

I guess it is a bit "old hat", first published in 1998. Maybe someone like Jeff Grant wrote about it in *Forwards* once? Sort of rings a bell.

The *Surgeon of Crowthorne* by Simon Winchester is about the making of the *Oxford English Dictionary* in 1897. The editor was a Dr James Murray and one of the keenest advocates was a Dr William Minor, a madman and convicted murderer who submitted thousands of contributions from his room in Broadmoor Asylum. James Murray predicted that the book would take ten years to complete, but when he died he was only up to the letter T, and the work was not completed until 1927.

The explanations of the derivation of words in the book are quite fascinating, eg. Sri Lanka, formerly Ceylon, is apparently regarded as the place where Adam and Eve were exiled after their fall from grace and where the human race was propagated.

Arab traders once called Sri Lanka Serendib, and the 18th century writer Horace Walpole created a fanciful story about three princes who reigned there and who had the enchanting habit of stumbling across wonderful things quite by chance. Thus was the English language enriched with the word serendipity without its inventor, who never travelled to the east, really knowing why.

## Literacy and computers

*I had a problem with my computer yesterday, so I called Eric, the 11 year old next door, whose bedroom looks like Mission Control, and asked him to come over.*

Eric clicked a couple of buttons and solved the problem.

As he was walking away, I called after him, "So, what was wrong?"

He replied, "It was an ID ten T error."

I didn't want to appear stupid, but nonetheless enquired, "An ID ten T error? What's that? In case I need to fix it again."

Eric grinned .... "Haven't you ever heard of an ID ten T error before?"

"No," I replied.

"Write it down," he said, "and I think you'll figure it out."

See page 40 for the cause of my computer problem.

## Never mix work and play

*Carole Coates, Kiwi*

*A very tired nurse turns up to play in a Scrabble tournament, totally exhausted after an 18-hour shift.*

Preparing to write up the first scoresheet, she pulls a rectal thermometer out of her purse and tries to write with it.

When she realises her mistake, she looks at her flabbergasted opponent, and without missing a beat, she says: "Well, that's great.... that's just great. Some asshole's got my pen!"



## Novel centred around a Scrabble game

*The idea for author Dawn Tripp's latest novel, Game of Secrets was almost as happenstance as a skull with a bullet hole rolling out of a pile of gravel. That skull, a real-life mystery that endures from the days when Route 88 was constructed, sparked the author's third book, a literary mystery in which secrets unfold over Scrabble games.*

The novel weaves back and forth over time as the two women, now seniors, play weekly Scrabble games. The mystery surrounding the death simmers beneath the chatty, purposeful games. "A lot of the way I work is like a game of Scrabble. I start with little scattered pieces that I build into a larger whole.

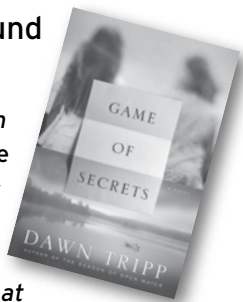
"I thought about a few different games, but at the end of the day, it had to be a Scrabble game. In the book, how two women play Scrabble is a metaphor for how they live their lives," said Tripp.

## Quarrel

*Quarrel is a strategy word game that blends elements of Risk and Scrabble and even uses the official Scrabble dictionary as a basis for the title.*

In Quarrel, players capture territories by making bigger words than their opponents from the random letters given. The first player to capture all the territories on the given map is the winner, and with 12 maps and numerous AI opponents there are plenty of challenges for players of all levels.

Quarrel is available on iPhone and iPad.



## Synograms spell double trouble

*Howard Warner, Mt Albert*

I keep coming across anagram pairs (or even triplets) that seem to be made for each other. At the Nationals prize-giving dinner, I was talking about these with Jennifer. And she coined the term 'synograms'.

Here are a few of my favourite synograms\*, grouped in topics:

### Employment, occupations:

Unemployment breeds criminals – they go from OVERIDLE to EVILDOER.

The undertaker's job was never done: he BEAVERED away for the BEREAVED.

A DEMONIC (or DAEMONIC) COMEDIAN is devilishly funny.

A SITARIST plucks at the heart-strings; a SATIRIST tickles the funny bone.

Professional sportspeople who drink MARTINIS MISTRAIN.

### The family:

Wife is PRENATAL, husband is feeling PATERNAL, and both are (looking forward to being) PARENTAL.

When my child SPROUTED, I was the PROUDEST parent. How I preened and POSTURED!

The new mother's lament: DESPAIR over DIAPERS. (She hopes they'll remain UNSOILED, but that's just a DELUSION.)

### Religion:

An AGNOSTIC is just COASTING, waiting for some momentous event that will test his belief.

In South Africa, DOMINEES (Afrikaner church ministers) DEMONISE unbelievers.

Maori churches – HANGOUTS for TOHUNGAS.

### Customs:

At weddings, the bride acts BRIDALLY, the best man RIBALDLY.

Jewish bridge-builders celebrate PASSOVER at an OVERPASS.

INCENSES are all kinds of NICENESS.

### Diversity:

I've got a Chinese cousin, my ORIENTAL RELATION. But she's not one of my NEAREST and dearest – I find the EASTERN temperament rather too EARNEST.

SIAMESE twins provoke MISEASE in many people.

Israel is STEELING itself for visits by GENTILES.

TRIBADES often make the RABIDEST feminists.

### Famous people:

High IQ and longevity must go together – EINSTEIN lived well into his NINETIES.

The Bard's last words – his ENDNOTES were SONNETED.

Traditionally, Middle Eastern rulers were a bunch of SULTANIC LUNATICS.

Che Guevara no longer gets COMPARED with his COMPADRE, whose name is largely forgotten today.

### Sport:

A cautious ALPINIST would never set off without ANTISLIP equipment. Otherwise – just imagine – he CLAMBERS up the mountain, only to SCRAMBLE down.

We Kiwis are delighted with silver or bronze. But in Australia, you are MALIGNED for MEDALING unless it's gold.

### Entertainment:

The director finds a new leading lady – he RECASTS the main ACTRESS. Of course, his CASTING of the leads is dependent on their ACTINGS.



...Synograms Spell Double Trouble  
continued

My abiding memory of Jack Palance in the classic movie Ben Hur: an ACTORISH chap, full of beans (HARICOTS?) and riding CHARIOTS.

Any CHOIRMAN is a devotee of the HARMONIC arts.

### Food:

CODLING and LINGCOD are both edible – one's a fish, the other a fruit.

I love a plateful of PIKELETS, piled up STEPLIKE.

DANISHES and SHANDIES go together nicely for a mid-afternoon snack.

### Animals:

Anti-hunting protesters want to see the HOUNDERS UNHORSED.

PRIMATES are not held back by their APTERISM (lack of wings), because they can swing from branches.

### In the bedroom:

The BEDROOM is no place for BOREDOME.

A NEUROTIC in the bedroom is decidedly UNEROTIC.

You could tell, by her DEMEANO(U)R, that she was ENAMO(U)RED,.

The old man LECHERED as the pretty pompom-twirling girls CHEERLED.

### Modern life:

Every SEATBELT fitted to a new vehicle should be TESTABLE for safety.

Due to increased security at airports, the smuggling of COCAINE has gone OCEANIC.

All dressed up with nowhere to go – or TASSELED and DATELESS.

High-speed broadband HASTENED the arrival of genuine NETHEADS.

## 3RD CHALLENGE

### Can Scrabble solve the mystery?

*The I-35W Mississippi River bridge (officially known as Bridge 9340) was an eight-lane, steel truss arch bridge that carried Interstate 35W across the Mississippi River in Minneapolis, Minnesota, United States. During the evening rush hour on August 1, 2007, it suddenly collapsed, killing 13 people and injuring 145.*



A remembrance garden was recently dedicated to the people killed in the bridge collapse, but two days after it was opened to the public, vandals defaced it by stealing some of the brass letters used to name the victims. The vandal has not been caught, or the letters recovered.

Some people believe that the theft of letters is not random; that letters ripped from the memorial criticize the monument itself. The theft set off a minor puzzle-solving frenzy after the *Star Tribune* published a list of the missing letters.

Certain that the letters spelled something, Liam Flahive ran down his alley to a neighbor's house to borrow a Scrabble board. He never took seriously the idea that the letters were stolen at random.

"It didn't make sense," he said. "If you're going to steal letters and sell them for scrap, you would just start prying off one after another." The stolen letters were taken from words across the entire message. "Some of the pieces stolen, like the dot above an 'l', were among the smallest things on the wall and wouldn't have much scrap value."

He took 30 minutes to settle on a meaning from the 22 stainless steel letters pried from the I-35W Memorial last week.

Only Flahive's solution used every letter and punctuation mark and appeared to offer some relevance to the crime. By arranging and rearranging the Scrabble tiles, Flahive came up with the phrase, completed with a stolen comma and substituting the stolen dot above an 'i' as a period in what could be the thief's initials.

### Damn your metal signage, W.W

Has he cracked the code? Can you do better? (Let us know if you do.)

### Inappropriate name

*From the "inappropriate logos" file!*

Pat Grant, Independent, spotted this logo on a linen tea towel that came from Ireland.



[But perhaps it's not so inappropriate, Pat – surely, it's exactly the word your husband or son might say if you handed them the tea towel and asked them to dry the dishes? – Ed. 😊]

### Puns and other things

I saw a dyslexic Yorkshireman today.  
*He was wearing his cat flap*

\* \* \*

A friend of mine recently admitted to being addicted to brake fluid.

*When I quizzed him on it he reckoned he could stop any time.*

\* \* \*

I had a mate who was suicidal. He was really depressed, and threw himself in front of a train.

*He was chuffed to bits.*

\* \* \*

I went to the cemetery yesterday to lay some flowers on a grave. As I was standing there I noticed 4 grave diggers walking about with a coffin... 3 hours later and they're still walking about with it...

*I thought to myself, these blokes have lost the plot!!*

\* \* \*

A new Middle East crisis erupted last night as Dubai Television was refused permission to broadcast *The Flintstones*.

*A spokesman for the channel said.... "A claim was made that people in Dubai would not understand the humour, but we know for a fact that people in Abu Dhabi Do."*

\* \* \*

My son's been asking me for a pet spider for his birthday, so I went to our local pet shop and they were £70!!!

*Blow this, I thought, I can get one cheaper off the web.*

\* \* \*

I was driving this morning when I saw an AA van parked up. The driver was sobbing uncontrollably and looked very miserable. I thought to myself, "That guy's heading for a breakdown."



## Canada

### *Canadian National Scrabble Championship, Toronto*

52 players competed in a four-day tournament, which included a best-of-five-finale.

1. Joel Wapnick, Montreal
2. Adam Logan, Ottawa

New Zealanders will be amused by this comment in the *Ottawa Citizen*:

"Perhaps it was Joel Wapnick's multiple seven-letter dumps in the first round that sealed Ottawan Adam Logan's fate. Or perhaps it was the obscure word FEIJOAS . . ."

## Cuba

Competitive Scrabble is spreading in Cuba, where for years it was virtually impossible to obtain the US-made game because of Washington's long-standing trade embargo against Cuba. For years, the game simply was not available. Fidel Babani, president of the Cuban Scrabble Association, says he and his friends improvised, making little letter-pieces out of plastic or wood and fashioning their own game boards. The occasional visitor would bring a new set, and the players would cannibalise them to make Spanish-language versions, until they eventually obtained those, as well, from friendly donors.

Babani says, "Scrabble players are carving out a presence they never had. The game wasn't widely known in Cuba, beyond an intellectual, artistic elite, until the mid-2000s, when a senior government official went visiting abroad and brought back an

English-language Scrabble game."

Cuban competitive players soared in number from a dozen a decade ago to more than 100 now who are good enough to qualify for international rankings.

## France

Christian Coustillas is the French Champion for *Classique Scrabble* (which is the sort of Scrabble we play, as opposed to Duplicate).

## Germany

### *First German Scrabble Open*

1. Evan Cohen, Israel
2. Terry Kirk, England
3. Mihai Pantis, Romania

## Israel

### *8th Sam Orbaum Memorial Tournament, Dead Sea, March*

**Winner:** David Spolter

## Kenya

### *East African Open Championships*

**Winner:** Manase Otieno, Kenya

## Malaysia

### *National Junior Championship*

1. Cheong Yi Wei, 16, Penang
2. Vinnith Ramamurti
3. William Kang
4. Jagan Narayanan
5. Ignatius Wong

### *Penang Open Scrabble Championship*

The *Malaysian Star* reported: "New Zealand-born Nigel Richards, official world No.1 player, stamped his mark as champ of this year's ICT Penang Open Scrabble Championship. . . A first-timer in the ICT Penang Open was Liz Fagerlund from New Zealand. Despite some rerouting due to the Chilean ash that had drifted to New Zealand, Fagerlund made her way to Singapore and hopped on a bus to Penang.

The cheerful Fagerlund came in high spirits to finish a commendable 17th place."

1. Nigel Richards, New Zealand
2. Sam Kantimathi, USA
3. Yeo Kien Hung, Malaysia
4. Shim Yen Nee, Singapore
5. Liew Kian Boon, Singapore

## Malta

### *European Open*

1. Theresa Brousson, Malta
2. Chinedu Okwelogu, Nigeria
3. Mikki Nicholson, UK

## Malta Open

1. Helen Gipson, UK
2. Evan Cohen, Israel
3. Mikki Nicholson, UK

## Nigeria

### *Oyo Scrabble Open, July*

**Winner:** James Ewruje, Lagos State

## Pakistan

### *23rd National Scrabble Championship*

400 players took part in this tournament.

**Novice category** Hammad Hadi Khan

**11 to 17 category** Talal Amjad

**Teacher category** Rafiq Daud

**18-25 category** Taha M Sheikh

**Senior category** Safdar Ali Naqvi

## Thailand

### *King's Cup 2011, Bangkok*

1. Nigel Richards, New Zealand
2. Komol Panyasophonlert, Thailand
3. Cheah Siu Hean, Singapore
4. Alastair Richards, Australia
5. Thacha Koowirat, Thailand

"In the final game, Richards made it look easy when he played a nine-timer with the floating D on the board and with 2 blanks at hand to play PLODDING for 131 points to stay ahead before extending his lead by playing RETHINKS to seal the title along

with the US\$10,000 (RM30,000) prize money. Richards became an immediate megastar, inspiring many with his cool manner, word power and techniques. He has taken Scrabble to a new level, challenging other players to stretch themselves and aim for the stars." (*Malaysian Star*)

## United Arab Emirates

### *Gulf Scrabble Championships*

Thirty-six players, aged between 13 and 65 years, took part in the Gulf Scrabble Championships in June.

1. Mohammed Sulaiman, defending champion, UAE
2. Salah Salih, Saudi Arabia
3. Wone Mamadou, Kuwait
4. Irfan Siddiqui, Bahrain

Sulaiman played PEYOTLS as his winning move. [*Sounds exotic to us, but may not be in that part of the world – it's a cactus in arid regions.*] He was given a crystal Scrabble board in addition to the Gulf cup, and won Dh25,000 (about NZ\$8000).



## UK

### *English Scrabble Open*

1. Theresa Brousson, Malta
2. Nigel Richards, New Zealand

Coryse Borg of the Malta Scrabble Club reported on their website: "Brousson managed the feat against a daunting field

...Overseas news continued

of players, which included the former World champion Nigel Richards, considered by many to be the most brilliant Scrabble player currently in activity, whom Brousson beat three times in as many encounters in the course of the tournament thus forcing the New Zealander to settle for second place."



Nigel playing in Dallas

## USA

### National Scrabble Championships, Dallas

1. Nigel Richards. New Zealand, defending champion
2. Kenji Matsumoto, Hawaii
3. Brian Bowman, Kentucky

On *NewsWire*, Patricia Hocker wrote: "Nigel Richards successfully defended his National Scrabble Championship title in Dallas, winning a \$10,000 first prize. The king of American Scrabble has kept his crown, as Nigel Richards spelled his way to the 2011 National Scrabble Championship title and a \$10,000 prize. After five days of play, he finished with a 22-9 record, and a score differential of +1532."

Nigel has won this event 3 times in the last 4 years – 2008, 2010, 2011 (and was 2nd in 2009).

## Nigeria

### A scandal has been rocking Nigerian Scrabble over the last year.

**Background:** In the African Championship in Ghana last year, Nigerian players took all the top 10 positions at the tournament. The Nigerian President was so impressed with their performance that he made a gift of N1.5 million (about NZ\$12,000) to Jigere, while the other players each got a share of N750,000. The Nigeria Scrabble Federation (NSF) took 30% of the gift.

**February:** A group of players [*five, eight or nine – accounts vary*] players of the NSF, including the current African Scrabble champion, Jigere Wellington, filed a petition with Economic and Financial Crimes Commission against the president of NSF, Toke Aka, for fraud, claiming the deductions were illegal. Though NSF has a policy of deducting 10 per cent and 30 per cent of prize money won by their players in local and foreign tournaments involving the players, the players alleged other deductions were made – that 40% rather than 10% was taken from their earnings from a tournament in 2009, for example.

**June:** The players tried to oust Toke Aka from the presidency of NSF on the grounds that the NSF acted in bad faith by removing their names from the Nigerian Rating on the federation's website. They claimed they had been suspended from playing representing Nigeria because they refused to comply with the deductions policy of NSF. They accused Aka of issuing dud cheques as well as excluding six players from the N6 million handout given by former President Olusegun Obasanjo for the team winning a fifth African Scrabble title in 2004. Jigere claimed that over N2 million has been illegally deducted from his earnings since

2006, and that since 2008, players have been under duress to sign a deduction agreement before they are taken overseas.

**August:** The National Sports Commission (NSC) asked the NSF to lift the ban on the nine affected players and restore their rating on its website, to allow them resume to competitive activities. However, the request was ignored, and the players were excluded from the World Championships Qualifier.

**September:** President Aka and vice president Suleman Gora have now been removed from their posts. The new president is the former chairman of the board, Allen Egbe.

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## A word from our members

*Shirley Hol, Christchurch*

It's 16 August, and we in Christchurch are snowed in for the second day. Did you have some GRAUPEL, as perhaps our Aucklanders did? Interesting word that, with two anagrams EARPLUGS and PLAGUERS.

After our first introduction of snow a week or two ago some clever person described the snowfall then as: "The icing on the quake!"

Looking out the window now it is really beautiful with these huge flakes of swirling snow, Very peaceful.



*Jennifer Smith, Hamilton*

In a pub quiz recently, we were asked: OCELLI is the word for the white spots where on what animal?

They're the marks on the back of a tiger's ear.

As soon as I got home, I checked that it was an OK Scrabble word. The singular, OCELLUS is a minute simple eye. Presumably the word is used for the marking on a tiger's ear because it looks like an eye. (See the picture.)



*Oops! Not, not this picture, that Google Search found me when I asked for "tiger ears"! This one:*



What a fabulous word to be made from hooking an O to the front of CELLI, the plural of CELLO!

I also thought it could be handy to know if I was being attacked by a wild cat – I could check the markings on the back of its ear to find out if it was a tiger mauling me!



# Research on word recognition

*Word recognition behavior can be fine-tuned by experience and practice, according to a new study by Ian Hargreaves and colleagues from the University of Calgary in Canada. Their work shows, for the first time, that it is possible to develop visual word recognition ability in adulthood, beyond what researchers thought was achievable. Competitive Scrabble players provide the proof.*

The three-year-study compared the skills of Scrabble players to those of non-Scrabble players and found some interesting differences.

- The word-gamers could differentiate between English words and nonsense words 20% faster than their counterparts.
- As well, Scrabble players could read words arranged vertically instead of horizontally quicker than non-Scrabble players.
- PhD candidate Ian Hargreaves said one of the most surprising results was the fact Scrabble players recognize words mainly by their appearances, not their meanings.

*[Wow! They PAID for a research project to reach those conclusions?!]*

These findings indicate that Scrabble players are less reliant on the meaning of words to judge whether or not they are real, and more flexible at word recognition using orthographic information.

Competitive Scrabble players' visual word recognition behavior differed significantly from non-experts' for letter-prompted verbal fluency (coming up with words beginning with a specific letter) and anagramming accuracy, two Scrabble-specific skills. *[Is anyone surprised by that?]*

The authors conclude: "Our results suggest that visual word recognition is

shaped by experience and, that with experience, there are efficiencies to be had even in the adult world recognition system. Competitive Scrabble players are visual word recognition experts and their skill pushes the bounds of what we previously considered the end-point of development of the word recognition system."

Various publications have interpreted the results of the research, and come to their own conclusions:

- Competitive Scrabble players good with words (*The Mark Newsroom*, [marknews.com](http://marknews.com))
- Scrabble players read differently, researchers say (*CBC News*)
- Older Scrabble players' brains can outperform college kids, study finds (Colin McConnell, *Toronto Star*)
- Scrabble players' brains are much q-u-i-c-k-e-r. (72 points. At least.) (Lesley Ciarula Taylor on [healthzone.ca](http://healthzone.ca))

The most thoughtful comments probably come from Susan Perry writing on [minnpost.com](http://minnpost.com). She said (in part), "Scrabble players 'know' more words, but that doesn't mean they know what they mean, study finds. The study, published in the August issue of the journal *Memory and Cognition*, shows (apparently for the first time, according to the study's authors) that adults can improve their visual word recognition skills more than was previously

thought to be achievable – in this case, by playing Scrabble. One way they've changed that process is by honing their "vertical fluency" word recognition skills. Scrabble players took a lot less time to recognize a word as real when it was presented vertically than did the non-Scrabble players, the study found. That's not surprising. After all, how often do non-Scrabble players get chances to practice their vertical fluency? . . ."

## Cake for Scrabble



*We in the Hamilton Scrabble Club are fortunate to have Leighton Gelling (we call him Sandy) as a fellow member.*

*Not only is he a mine of trivia, he's a rare breed among Scrabblers in that if he knows a word, he also knows its meaning – no matter how obscure.*

Another of his hobbies is baking, and barely a Club night goes by without a plate of Sandy's home baking arriving for us to enjoy for supper.

Pictured above is his first effort, a prototype he produced for Club night, the second (pictured below) is the revised version he made for our Hamilton Scrabble tournament.

Sandy's cakes certainly create a Scrabble for cake!



## A 'yes' in any language

*Peter Jones, Hamilton*

*Peter Jones sent this article that appeared on [BBC.co.uk](http://BBC.co.uk)*

"OK" is one of the most frequently recognised words in the world. It's an odd expression and looks like an abbreviation of an acronym, rather than a real word. But this oddity may be why it's so popular, says the author of a book on the subject, Allan Metcalf.

"We generally spell it OK – the spelling okay is relatively recent, and still relatively rare – and we pronounce it not "ock" but by sounding the names of the letters O and K. Visually, OK pairs the completely round O with the completely straight lines of K. So both in speech and in writing, OK stands out clearly, easily distinguished from other words, and yet uses simple sounds familiar to a multitude of languages.

"Ordinarily a word so odd, so distinctive from others, wouldn't be allowed in a language to begin with. As a general rule, a language allows new words only when they resemble familiar ones. Clever coinages may be laughed at and enjoyed, but hardly ever adopted by users of the language."

It will be interesting to see if ever ok appears as a word in our official Scrabble list.

## 4TH CHALLENGE

### Punctuation marks

There are 14 punctuation marks in English grammar. Can you name them all? (See page 40 for names.)

## Wordox

**Leighton (Sandy) Walker, Hamilton**

*I was chatting with a friend in the US recently, and he said, "Be thankful that you don't play Wordox."*

Curiosity compelled me to check it out, and I found that he was probably right. I get frustrated enough with Scrabble, but Wordox is a challenging twist on an old favourite.

As in Scrabble, there's a rack of tiles and a board, and tiles are played to score points. That's where the similarity ends, however. The tiles are worth only one point; there is only one rack, which everyone plays from; and players have one minute to make a move. Certain squares add an extra point, and others will clear the board (useful in tight situations). There is also a minimum score to reach – 50 points for two players, 40 for three and 30 for four.

The real twist is that your opponents can steal your points with the well-placed addition of a couple of letters. Of course, you can do the same. For example, say you play the word ICE across the middle. That gives you 3 points. The next person could play THE directly underneath and score 6 minus 3 for their word, thus stealing 3 from you. Revenge could be had by playing SNIDE down the right side for 12. Entire words can be stolen by playing off either end, e.g. Player 1 plays SHAME, but Player 2 makes ASHAME and ACID.

Overall it's a fun, challenging, and oft-times frustrating game. At time of writing I've lost about 90% of my games, but it doesn't bother me much. The majority of players are German-speaking, but there is a (usually empty) English room. A smatter-

ing of other nationalities also play. (I've so far played a Slovene, Croatian, Australian, Finn and a couple of Americans).

See <http://www.gametwist.com/Board-Games/Wordox/> (requires registration for proper enjoyment).



## Oz humour

**from Roger Cole-Baker**

The following are results from an Aussie words competition where entrants were asked to take an Australian word, alter it by one letter only, and supply a witty definition.

BILLABONK	to make passionate love beside a waterhole
BLUDGIE	a partner who doesn't work, but is kept as a pet
DODGERIDOO	a fake indigenous artefact
FAIR DRINKUM	good-quality Aussie wine
FLATYPUS	a cat that has been run over by a vehicle
MATESHIT	all your flatmate's belongings, lying strewn around the floor
SHAGMAN	an unemployed male, roaming the Australian bush in search of sexual activity

## Who's playing Scrabble?



### Super-centenarian, Ruth Anderson, Minnesota

Ruth Anderson, who is believed to be the oldest Minnesotan, turned 112 recently, and her family started a two-day celebration Saturday at her nursing home with a party – and another of her favourite game, Scrabble. "We try not to have real big parties because it can get overwhelming for Ruth," her daughter-in-law said. "She does better with small groups – especially if they want to play Scrabble."

Ruth was born on July 24, 1899, and is the 11th oldest American and 32nd oldest person in the world, according to the Gerontology Research Group in Los Angeles, which tracks "super-centenarians", people who are 110 or older. She is also believed to be the only Minnesotan who has lived in three centuries: the 1800s, 1900s and 2000s

### Tom Felton and Daniel Radcliffe, Harry Potter stars

Harry Potter's Tom Felton has revealed that the cast marked the end of the franchise by playing a game of Scrabble.

He says that he and co-star Daniel Radcliffe got "heated" over the board game after the wrap party until about two in the morning. "It's one of the best games invented. I loved it."

### Anne Hathaway, movie star

As a guest of *The Daily Show* with Jon Stewart, Anne told Jon of her love of Scrabble and all the different ways she plays: board game, iPhone and of course against her computer.



And, on a more sombre note . . .

### Royanne Darr, neglectful mother, Pennsylvania

Royanne, 23, will spend 21-43 years in prison for the death of her two-month-old son who was malnourished and left on a porch in near-freezing temperatures while she played Scrabble and forgot about putting him there. A coroner ruled he had died of malnutrition and dehydration. He had been fed only two ounces of formula each day, although fifteen dogs and fish were well cared for and the family had welfare checks waiting for them. "There were steaks in the refrigerator and you were playing Scrabble while your child died," the judge said.

## It's not E-sy!

*Saturday 23 April was a red-letter day for the Los Angeles Times and the Tribune.*

That day the crossword carried a note: "Can you spot the unusual feature in today's clues and answers?"

The answer was not in what the puzzle contained, but what it didn't. The entire puzzle was created without the letter E.

Crossword editor for the *Tribune*, Rich Norris, wrote:

"If you were to ask crossword writers what letters they think are the most fun to put into a puzzle grid, most of them would mention the high-scoring Scrabble letters X, Z, J and Q. However, rarely does the opposite happen. That is, we don't often ask ourselves what letters would be the most fun to avoid putting in a crossword puzzle. Yet longtime constructor Michael Wiesenberg of Calgary, Alberta, did just that. A few months ago, he proposed a puzzle devoid of the letter E. Such puzzle grids had been constructed before, but Wiesenberg went one step further: Not only would the answer grid lack Es, so would the clues."

Is this a first? Wiesenberg had actually done an E-less puzzle before, in 2003, for *The Everything Crossword Challenge Book*, in which all of the entries and clues lacked Es.

Randolph (1978) composed a crossword puzzle without the letter E, and followed this up (1978) with a crossword puzzle in which every vowel was E. In 1999 a themed puzzle by Gayle Dean had no Es in the clues or answers. A remarkable achievement, but in this puzzle, Wiesenberg has achieved the same thing in a themeless puzzle.

Themed puzzles tend to have many more short answers, which are easier to interlock without using Es. The themeless construction is more difficult because of the number of longer entries, and especially because of those along the bottom and right-side edges, where all of the letters need to end other words. Wiesenberg's "no E" restriction forced him to find a number of longish answers with less common ending letters, such as O and A. He also had to avoid any words ending in -ER or -ED. That's no simple task, as constructors commonly use such words, particularly in wide-open areas, to facilitate completing a themeless grid.

Wiesenberg uses *Crossword Compiler* (a popular crossword-constructing software package created by Antony Lewis) to compose puzzles, but he had to construct a special word list that had no Es for this puzzle. He says he found sometimes tricky to come up with clues that were clever and to the point without using E. PUSSYCAT, PIANO BAR, NOT SO HOT, NO PICNIC, CHIP SHOT, ASHTRAYS, SOLO ACTS, GLADIOLI and AS OF NOW were among his favourites.

*[Find the crossword on the internet if you'd like to try it.]*

## Tournament coincidence

Nick Cavanagh, self-confessed maths nerd, was impressed at this coincidence:

In round 5 of the Hamilton Tourney in Grade D, Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell beat Julia Schiller (376 to 369). Meanwhile Anthea Jones beat Janni Henneveld (376 to 369) in the same round of the same grade.

## 5TH CHALLENGE

### Cockney alphabet

*The Cockney alphabet, also known as the Surrealist alphabet, is a humorous recital of the alphabet, parodying the way the alphabet is taught to small children. The humour comes from forming unexpected words and phrases from the names of the various letters of the alphabet.*

There are variations of the Cockney alphabet, but the best-known version is the one recorded in the 1930s by the comedy double act Clapham and Dwyer:

- A** for 'orses (hay for horses)
  - B** for mutton (beef or mutton)
  - C** for 'th highlanders (Seaforth Highlanders)
  - D** for 'ential (deferential)
  - E** for Adam (Eve or Adam)
  - F** for 'vescence (effervescence)
  - G** for police (chief of police)
  - H** for respect (age for respect)
  - I** for Novello (Ivor Novello)
  - J** for oranges (Jaffa oranges)
  - K** for 'ancis, (Kay Francis)
  - L** for leather (hell for leather)
  - M** for sis (emphasis)
  - N** for 'adig (in for a dig, or infradig)
  - O** for the garden wall (over the garden wall)
  - P** for a penny (pee for a penny)
  - Q** for billiards (cue for billiards)
  - R** for mo' (half a mo')
  - S** for you (it's for you)
  - T** for two (tea for two)
  - U** for 'mism (euphemism)
  - V** for La France (Vive La France)
  - W** for a bob (double you for a bob)
  - X** for breakfast (eggs for breakfast)
  - Y** for Gawd's sake (why, for God's sake)
  - Z** for breezes (zephyr breezes)
- Other versions for some letters:*
- D** for dumb (deaf or dumb)
  - E** for brick ('eave a brick)
  - Q** for tickets

Here's a challenge. Invent funnier or more modern alternatives for some of the letters. Send any (no matter how few) new inventions to the editor. If we get a good response, we will print a composite effort of a new complete alphabet, using the best submission for each letter.

Get to it, you creative people who like a word challenge!

## Example of sportsmanship

In a Scrabble tournament at Charleston (USA) organised by a local publishing company to raise money for a local arts book, two men faced each other over a Scrabble board. Five \$20 bills fanned out under a Coke can beside them. That was the winner's pot.

With just a few wooden tiles left in the bag in the last game, Darby Long held a substantial lead. The blue sand in the three-minute move timer was running out as Justin Swilling looked for a way to score. He gave up and offered his resignation.

Long refused to accept it and offered a draw. They shook hands and split the pot.

Long said he couldn't accept the win because he had scored 78 points early in the game with a non-existent word, WARANTS. He said he thought he was spelling WARRANTS.

Swilling said he didn't challenge it because he wasn't sure WARANTS wasn't also a word.

"I wasn't going to win," Swilling said later. "I conceded."

"In my opinion, I was unfairly ahead," Long said. "I couldn't accept it."

Those watching the game applauded their sportsmanship.

*from [postandcourier.com](http://postandcourier.com)*



## Controversy at the World Scrabble Championships

*lainB, as written for [thespoof.com](http://thespoof.com)*

*[A fictitious story, as the website name would indicate.]*

Controversy has rocked the World Scrabble Championships in Milton Keynes this week. In the final game between Gary O'Lean and Petra Olium, Olium thought she was on a winner, knowing her opponent was left with a K, W and F, and she was a little over sixty points in front.

"I figured I could take it easy," said Olium. "I didn't see any way he could play out with the letters he had left. Not in one go anyway. I had two words to play, and places to put them both. I thought I'd won. I should have won. Gaz's word shouldn't have been allowed, he's only fourteen."

Olium played a tactical word, ensuring O'Lean could not easily play his K, without realising that she had left a C unchaperoned down the right hand side of the board. After a moment's thought, O'Lean triumphantly played FUCKWITS across two

triple words, with the K on a double letter, making FRIGGING onto the word RIGGING and TWATS onto the word WATS. This was worth three hundred and twenty-five points, winning not only the game, but the highest scoring word of the tournament, beating QUARTZ played by Olium in the first round.

"I don't see what her problem is," said O'Lean. "They're all allowable words. It was a bit fortuitous that the letters were available. It's not like I was playing my gran. My gran won't play me. She reckons I cheat because I make sure we use my OSW. I mean, like, her dictionary don't have TELEVISION in it, it's that old. Petra shouldn't have left the C open, she knew I had a K. Duh."

O'Lean's gran was in the audience to see her grandson lift the title of World Scrabble Player of the Year. She seemed unfazed by his choice of winning word.

"He's great at Scrabble, isn't he?" said grandmother, Pauline O'Lean, "I've got no \*#@&ing clue where he's picked up all the sodding language though."

## Quizzing after Scrabbling

*Leighton (Sandy) Gelling*

*After the first day of games at the Hamilton tournament we had a quiz, compiled by the talented Jennifer Smith. Like a pub quiz, it had ten rounds, with a 'ponderous puzzle' that offered bonus points through multiple rounds until all teams had answered it.*

The questions were many and varied, ranging from royalty, water, 'how many?', apples and pears, moons, the alphabet, a selection of Jennifer's favourites, rebuses and

matching songs to their respective musicals.

There were only four teams participating (perhaps in part because of the All Black game the same night), of four to six people – my team, the Careless Whisperers, had Nick Cavenagh, Olivia Godfrey, Julia Schiller and myself. Together we romped to first place with a comfortable lead, and managed to score a few spot prizes of mini chocolate bars along the way.

We were all well finished and out of the building by 10pm. It was a very enjoyable night, and a great way to wind down (or wind up?) after a hard day's Scrabbling.

## I've been reading

*Anderina McLean, Mt Albert*

When we moved house recently, I reorganised all our fiction, which meant actually looking at my husband's books! This one, by one of his favourite fantasy authors, caught my attention as a retelling of a folktale I dimly remember from my childhood, but I became fascinated by how many words were used in the story that I wasn't familiar with – largely to do with court life and falconry.

### **Black Swan by Mercedes Lackey**

PALFREY	a riding horse
LEMAN	a lover
RAKEHELL	a man lacking in moral restraint
SAMITE	a silk fabric
FUSTIAN	a cotton fabric
COCKADE	a rosette worn on a hat
MANIKIN	an anatomical model of the human body, also MANNIKIN
CELLARER	the steward of a monastery
BELDAM	an old woman
PENNON	a long, narrow flag, also PENNANT
SIGIL	an official seal
RAREE	a street show or carnival (no S)
GYRFALCON	a large Arctic falcon
BRANCHER	a young hawk
TIERCEL	a male falcon, also TERCEL, TERCELET
CHATELAINE	the mistress of a castle
GIGUE	a lively dance, also GIGA
BRANSLÉ	an old French dance, also BRANLE, BRANTLE
GRIMOIRE	a book of magical lore
ATTAR	a fragrant oil



*Pennon*

I am only about halfway through reading this one, but it, too, is full of new vocabulary. This book is about a doctor and his daughter, and the impact that World War II has on their life on the island of Cephallonia. Many of the words used are Greek or dialectal, but I found plenty of others that are allowable in Scrabble.

### **Captain Corelli's Mandolin by Louis de Bernières**

IATRIC	pertaining to medicine, also IATRICAL
VIRIDIAN	a greenish-blue pigment
AUTARKY	self-sufficiency
PLANGENT	resounding loudly
CULVERIN	a medieval musket
SPAVIN	a disease of horses
CUPIDITY	greed
BIBULOUS	addicted to strong drink
VENTURI	a device for measuring the flow of a fluid
HORARY	hourly
REREDOS	an ornamental screen behind an altar
TRUCKLE	to yield weakly
PANEGYRY	a great assembly
DEMOTIC	pertaining to a form of Egyptian writing
BESTRODE	past tense of BESTRIDE, to straddle
PHLEGMON	an inflammation with pus
PUTTEE, PUTTIE	a legging formed from a cloth wound around the leg
ECROTIC	pertaining to necrosis (the death of living tissue)
FAVUS	a skin disease
RAKI	a Turkish liqueur, also RAKEE



*Culverin*



*Demotic*



## Wespa website

### wespa.org – wonderful words and wisdom

*If you haven't yet visited the WESPA website, you're missing a treat! It's a mine of information, all presented in a very readable style.*

You can find plenty of information about the words in the new list (CSW12) to be introduced next year: a list of the 396 current words that will be deleted, and a complete analysis of the impact of CSW12 changes on existing related CSW7 words, as well as lists of the new words.

Included in the information are the following general points:

- a large number of Maori words that were added in CSW7 and which (rather tiresomely) did not take an -S now do take an -S
- a number of adjectives, mainly ones ending in -Y, that previously did not have comparative and superlative forms now do
- a number of interjections which previously took an -S no longer do
- a number of -ING words that were previously participles only have now acquired nounal status and so take -S (so e.g. COSTINGS and GRADINGS are good at last!)

Those of you who are avid followers of world-class players are probably already logging on to this website to check the latest news and results.

But the website is also fun! You can test yourself on your anagramming ability (lists are graded from common to unusual), and some of these "Anagram Power" puzzles are themed, eg. words relating to alcoholic drinks or underwear.

The anagram puzzles are added to frequently, while a new "Word of the Week", as the name suggests, is posted every week.

"Word of the Week", written by David Sutton, is my favourite section. I thought I'd choose 3-4 examples to whet your appetite for more, but I didn't need to select, because every one was fascinating – and I was unable to stop at four! So here are six for your edification and entertainment.

### POETLESS (probability 18529)

In a posting some time ago back on world-scrabble, Albert Hahn commented on POETLESS as one of the oddest words he had met in Scrabble. I'm not sure I agree – it seems quite reasonable to say, for example, that Stratford-upon-Avon was poetless before Shakespeare came along, though it's probably untrue. But it set me thinking about -LESS words, and realising that the vocabulary of deprivation is really very extensive, with over a thousand examples.



*This graveyard is certainly not POETLESS*

Some are not entirely obvious in meaning: CHAPLESS, for example, does not refer to the condition of a spinster but



means 'having no lower jaw' – Shakespeare in *Romeo and Juliet* speaks of 'reeky shanks and yellow chapless skulls'. BASHLESS does not refer to an exhausted pugilist, but means 'unashamed'. FINELESS does not refer to a clean motoring record, but means 'endless' – 'But riches fineless is as poor as winter/To him that ever fears he shall be poor' [Shakespeare: *Othello*]. SACKLESS does not mean 'without a sack', but 'innocent, guileless'. (It has variants SACLESS and SAIKLESS). But my favourite word of deprivation has to be TOADLESS, which does actually mean 'having no toads'. For some reason there is no FROGLESS\*. I have no idea why the absence of one species of amphibian rather than another should merit lexicographical commemoration.

### SHEUGH (probability 21052)

A SHEUGH or SHEUCH is a Scots word for a ditch or drain; it can also be used as a verb, to plant temporarily. It is not to be confused with HEUGH or HEUCH, which is a crag or steep-sided valley.

I first came across SHEUGH in the magnificent Child ballad *The Wife of Usher's Well*. The story concerns a wise woman whose three sons are drowned at sea; in her grief and anger she puts a spell on the elements that sea shall never be at rest till her three sons come home to her 'in earthly flesh and blood'. And one night she gets her wish...

It fell about the Martinmas,  
When nights are lang and mirk,  
The carline wife's three sons came  
hame,

And their hats were o'  
the birk.

It neither grew in syke  
nor ditch,

Nor yet in ony sheugh;  
But at the gates o'  
Paradise

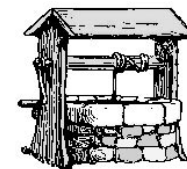
That birk grew fair enough.

CARLINE is a Scots word for an old woman or witch; SYKE is a small rill; MIRK means dark, murky and BIRK is Scottish for birch.

I cannot recommend enough the Child ballads; apart from their superb literary qualities they are about the only place you will now meet in the wild, as it were, many of the older words in our lexicon. Fortunately many of the best have been adopted by folk-singers as part of their repertoire – for example, Steeleye Span have done rousing versions of *The Wife of Usher's Well* and *Tam Lin* – but less fortunately, there is a tendency to replace the more unusual words with modern substitutes for the benefit of less Scrabble-orientated audiences.

### HOCKLE (probability 18309)

HOCKLE is an English dialect word meaning to spit. It is clearly onomatopoeic in origin; one can almost hear the phlegm bubbling in the throat. We are quite well off for words relating to expectoration, or spitting if you prefer to call a spade a spade. You can GOB, GOSS, SPAWL, SPET and (if you are a cat) FUFF, and you can also GOLLY as a verb. Furthermore, as from January



*Do not HOCKLE!*

2012 you will be able to FLOB\*, and to YOKER as a verb (YOKER is already valid as a noun). If your spitting has a personal target you can BESPIT or BESLOBBER the unfortunate; note that BESPIT has past tense BESPAT or BESPATE.

As far as the matter ejected goes, we have SPITTLE, SPUTUM, SALIVA and SLOBBER, to which can be added the New Zealand word GOOBY. There is also the archaic term PITUITA (or PITUIITE) deriving from the Latin word for gum or slime; hence of course the PITUITARY gland.

In this context it is worth mentioning the medical term EMPTYSIS (plural EMPTYSES), though this relates particularly to the spitting of blood. And the root sial-, from Greek sialon, saliva, gives us a number of technical words relating to saliva: for example, SIALOID, resembling saliva, SIALIC, relating to saliva, and SIALAGOGIC, stimulating the flow of saliva. Next time you play JABORANDI, don't forget to mention that it has SIALAGOGIC properties; that should impress everyone except possibly Nigel Richards.

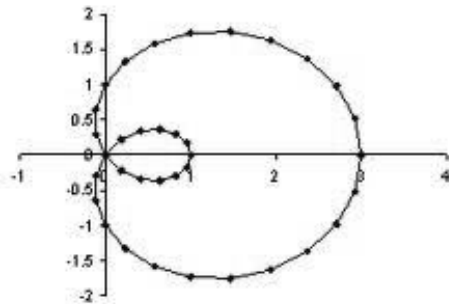
### LIMACON (probability 9386)

LIMACON is a type of mathematical curve, to be precise a curve whose polar equation is  $r = a \cos \theta + b$ . It has the form of a snail, hence its name, from the Latin limax, snail or slug. The C is soft and is properly written with a cedilla. It is sometimes called the limaçon of Pascal, the Pascal in this case being not Blaise but his dad Etienne, though the artist Durer had discovered it before that.

There are quite a few names for mathematical curves, which will be old hat to you if you are a mathematician but pretty recherche if you are not. Congratulations if you know the difference between, and can give the mathematical formulae for, AXOID, CISSOID, CONCHOID, CYCLOID, CARDIOID, HELICOID, SINUSOID and TROCHOID.



The rest of us will just have to file them mentally under 'some sort of mathematical thingy', and resolve that given another lifetime we really will get to grips with that mathematical stuff...



*LIMACON curve. You can see why the curve was named for the shape of a snail's shell*

### CABOC (probability 11387)

CABOC is a Scots word for a double cream cheese rolled in oatmeal. It has variants KEBBOCK or KEBBUCK, which come



*CABOC – looks tasty!*

pretty much at the bottom of the probability list, but you never know...

TUROPHILES, or cheese-lovers, have a useful enthusiasm as far as Scrabble goes, as there are quite a number of words for kinds of cheese that are much higher probability than KEBBOCK. Care must be exercised though: I still remember with some bitterness having EDAM\* challenged off in one of my early games. You can have CHEDDAR, GRUYERE, MUNSTER or MUENSTER, even, for God's sake, WENSLEYDALE, so why does EDAM\* stubbornly keep its capital? Ah well...

The vocabulary of cheese is also very cosmopolitan. Italian gives us, among others, ASIAGO, FONTINA, PARMESAN, PECORINO, RICOTTA, ROMANO and TALEGGIO. French gives us BOURSIN, CANTAL, CHEVRET, GRUYERE and, of course, FROMAGE. From Danish comes HAVARTI and MYCELLA. Norwegian contributes GJETOST, MYSOST and JARLSBERG. Modern Greek gives us HALOUMI (or HALLOUMI) and FETA (or FETTA). German gets in the act with SAPSAGO and SMEARCASE (or SMIERCASE). Even Hindi is not to be left out, with PANEER. But I still say you can't beat a good bit of CHEDDAR, which has the added distinction of being the only cheese with its own dedicated adjective: CHEDDARY.

### WARISON (probability 2149)

The primary meaning of WARISON is wealth, goods, and as such it is a variant of GARRISON, which used to have the same meaning: the root sense is of something guarded, cf. French guerir, to defend, preserve.

Sir Walter Scott got the wrong idea about it, probably from misunderstanding a line in the old ballad *The Battle of*

*Otterburn* – 'Minstrels, play up for your warison' – and thought it meant a battle-cry, or note of assault.

Another example of poets getting things wrong is SLUGHORN, a variant of SLOGAN, which Chatterton, and then Browning after him, took to be a kind of trumpet, whereas this time the word does actually mean a battle-cry, from the Gaelic sluagh host + gairm cry, shout. This explains Browning's line in his poem *Childe Roland*: 'Dauntless the slughorn to my lips I set'.

Browning made another rather more embarrassing mistake when for some reason he formed the idea that TWAT, a vulgar term for the female genitalia, meant 'part of a nun's habit', and duly used it as such in his poem *Pippa Passes*, a favourite set-piece of his at the recitations he would give to Victorian ladies at their afternoon tea-parties. Such was the awe the great man was held in that nobody ever dared to put him right. Ah, those were the days when people had a proper respect for their poets...

\* \* \*

Now, doesn't that leave you longing for more?

*Show your appreciation for David Sutton's (and many others') hard work and thorough research by logging onto the WESPA website regularly.*

*The Scrabble community here in New Zealand is fortunate to have such a valuable resource available to us.*



## Going, going, nearly gone!

*Jennifer Smith, editor*

The WESPA website tells us that 396 of our current words will be deleted from the official Scrabble list. Some of you have been anxious to find out what words are going.

I checked the list, and was pleased to see that hardly any of the longer words were ones that I knew. (Well, actually, I would have been more pleased if I had known them all, because that would have indicated I have a pretty extensive Scrabble vocab!)

You've heard about JANDAL(S) and

CARPARK(S) – nothing else took my eye, but you should check for yourself which words in your personal vocab words are going.

Among the smaller words, I noted CHONS (plural now CHOU), FIFI, TABIS (TABI still OK, as this is a plural itself) and RETES (the plural of RETE is RETIA).

As mentioned in the previous article about the WESPA website, a number of interjections which previously took an -S no longer do. And these are the words that I will miss most:

CIAOS	FOHS	GADSOS
GODSOS	JAMBOS	ODSOS
OHOS	PHOHS	RIVOS
RIGHTOS	TOHOS	

## The last word

### MAJLIS

The main court in the traditional house is called the MAJLIS which is considered one of the most important aspects of the Arab society since the dawn of its history, and a symbol of the Arab heritage standing for hospitality and generosity. It is normally located at the main entrance facing the outer surroundings. In consideration of the privacy of the family and the Islamic traditions and habits, the MAJLIS is completely separated from other parts of the houses, having its main door always open as a symbol of welcoming and generous hospitality.

### ZARIBA (ZAREBA, ZAREEBA, ZEREBA, ZERIBA)

Raising of cattle in the past used to represent an important element, providing meat, milk, and milk products for the family. Therefore the ZARIBA is an important and main part of the traditional house where cows, sheeps\* [sic – not a Scrabble word],

poultry, even young camels in some houses, in addition to horses and donkeys are kept. The ZARIBA is usually located in the centre of the courtyard or at the corners or outside the house. It has a store for animal fodder which is served in a long half rounded container with wooden or metal legs.

*from Val Mills' photos of information boards*

### Solutions

#### Literacy and computers (on page 20)

ID ten T error - IDIOT

#### 710 (on page 19)

#### Punctuation marks (on page 29)

The fourteen punctuation marks in English grammar are period, comma, colon, semicolon, dash, hyphen, apostrophe, question mark, exclamation point, quotation mark, brackets, parenthesis, braces, and ellipses.



## Rankings

NZASP Rankings  
as at 1 September 2011

Rank	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%
1	Howard Warner	2053	1494	2029	74%
2	Patrick Carter	1939	676	1075	63%
3	Kristian Saether	1937	107	168	64%
4	Blue Thorogood	1930	441	645	68%
5	Joanne Craig	1919	263	397	66%
6	Peter Sinton	1897	559.5	774	72%
7	John Foster	1896	1309	2291	57%
8	Glennis Hale	1875	1306.5	2338	56%
9	Lynne Butler	1867	826.5	1342	62%
10	Jeff Grant	1861	1477	1948	76%
11	Nick Cavenagh	1855	149	251	59%
12	Mike Sigley	1851	876	1249	70%
13	Steven Brown	1835	815	1497	54%
14	Andrew Bradley	1821	734	1403	52%
15	Rogelio Talosig	1819	395	665	59%
16	Debbie Raphael	1802	523	851	61%
17	Glenda Foster	1794	869.5	1722	50%
18	Rosemary Cleary	1793	623	1340	46%
19	Chris Hooks	1760	880	1810	49%
20	Liz Fagerlund	1748	847.5	1642	52%
21	Val Mills	1746	895	1905	47%
22	Lawson Sue	1721	405.5	793	51%
23	Murray Rogers	1703	551	1058	52%
24	Anderina McLean	1697	394.5	717	55%
25	John Baird	1695	135	229	59%
26	Glenyss Buchanan	1688	583.5	1237	47%
27	Denise Gordon	1686	649	1342	48%
28	Paul Lister	1679	732.5	1299	56%
29	Allie Quinn	1675	908.5	1881	48%
30	Lynne Powell	1673	852.5	1699	50%
31	Marianne Bentley	1658	274	617	44%
32	Amelia Carrington	1648	272	490	56%
33	Jennifer Smith	1640	808	1652	49%
34	Margie Hurly	1638	291	559	52%
35	Tim Anglin	1637	30	55	55%
36	Peter Jones	1635	734	1512	49%
37	Helen Sillis	1633	663	1321	50%
38	Shirley van Essen	1626	345.5	668	52%
39	Olivia Godfrey	1624	477	863	55%
40	Janice Cherry	1622	344	657	52%
41	Lynn Wood	1615	1351	2845	47%
42	Joan Thomas	1602	796.5	1597	50%
43	Frank Robinson	1589	173.5	333	52%
44	Selena Chan	1570	228	423	54%
45	Yvette Hewlett	1540	387.5	812	48%
46	Cicely Bruce	1539	183.5	292	63%
47	Karyn McDougall	1535	611	1164	52%
48	Ian Patterson	1525	196	370	53%
49	Leila Thomson	1519	484.5	1088	45%
50	Scott Thiemann	1514	34	73	47%
51	Katy Yiakmis	1503	77	169	46%
52	Vicky Robertson	1502	179	346	52%
53	Clare Wall	1494	218	415	53%
54	Pam Robson	1485	494.5	1076	46%
55	Scott Chaput	1476	125.5	207	61%
56	David Gunn	1469	1081.5	2181	50%
57	Herb Ramsay	1457	105	157	67%
58	Jean O'Brien	1451	889.5	1739	51%
59	Shirley Hol	1442	520.5	1153	45%
60	Su Walker	1431	795.5	1559	51%
61	Shirley Martin	1424	708.5	1352	52%
62	Pam Barlow	1417	538	1067	50%
63	Irene Smith	1415	105	210	50%
64	Maureen Holliday	1411	585	1142	51%
65	Mary Gray	1404	367.5	713	52%
66	Anna Hough	1403	483	997	48%
67	Hazel Purdie	1394	843.5	1722	49%
68	Glenda Geard	1385	881	1796	49%
69	Lorraine Van Veen	1384	748.5	1468	51%
70	Peter Johnstone	1375	80	145	55%
71	Lyn Toka	1375	452.5	866	52%
72	Faye Cronhelm	1369	722	1453	50%
73	Karen Gray	1363	193	353	55%
74	Yoon Kim Fong	1358	447	855	52%
75	Roger Coates	1354	597.5	1278	47%
76	Rosalind Phillips	1352	411.5	778	53%
77	Kaite Hansen	1347	261	469	56%
78	Allison Torrance	1321	297.5	565	53%
79	Ray Goodyear	1315	195	393	50%
80	Pat Bryan	1287	151	262	58%
81	Lyn Dawson	1286	346	636	54%
82	June Mackwell	1275	670.5	1516	44%

83	Dianne Cole-Baker	1264	305	575	53%	127	Judy Driscoll	829	57	175	33%
85	Ernie Gidman	1263	342	679	50%	128	Joan Pratt	827	597	1166	51%
84	Lynn Carter	1263	469.5	898	52%	129	Karen Miller	824	428.5	867	49%
86	Rhoda Cashman	1254	744.5	1533	49%	130	Suzanne Harding	812	192	379	51%
87	Ruth Groffman	1253	376.5	776	49%	131	Richard Cornelius	805	46.5	86	54%
88	Karen Rodgers	1234	99	256	39%	132	Alex Leckie-Zaharic	797	27	42	64%
89	Andree Prentice	1233	819	1605	51%	133	Valma Gidman	759	609.5	1210	50%
90	Margaret Cherry	1213	422	852	50%	134	Alison Holmes	753	152	284	54%
91	Delcie Macbeth	1177	702.5	1346	52%	135	Ruth Godwin	737	132	336	39%
92	Bev Edwards	1153	153.5	272	56%	136	Jaqueline Coldham-Fussell	704	508	1063	48%
93	Marian Ross	1133	454	901	50%	137	Kathleen Mori-Barker	701	300.5	612	49%
94	Roto Mitchell	1131	568	1119	51%	138	Thelma Chisholm	699	264.5	568	47%
95	Elaine Moltzen	1129	518	1029	50%	139	Fran Lowe	699	39.5	86	46%
96	Shirley Wyatt	1113	430.5	918	47%	140	Lynn Thompson	674	153	360	43%
97	Betty Eriksen	1102	1045	2056	51%	141	Maria Clinton	663	185	383	48%
98	Colleen Cook	1102	234	482	49%	142	Janny Henneveld	651	291.5	617	47%
99	Jean Boyle	1084	405.5	770	53%	143	Leighton Gelling	644	36	83	43%
100	Heather Landon	1074	300	576	52%	144	Philippa Medlock	621	47.5	92	52%
101	Jena Yousif	1063	313.5	621	50%	145	Pat Wood	618	83	152	55%
102	Roger Cole-Baker	1056	326	627	52%	146	Marc Van Hoecke	616	95	182	52%
103	Carolyn Kyle	1053	557.5	1106	50%	147	Kaye Hubner	589	32	74	43%
104	Catherine Henry	1052	368.5	692	53%	148	Madeleine Green	585	33.5	73	46%
105	Malcolm Graham	1049	289	584	49%	149	Anne-Louise Milne	582	71	280	25%
106	Gabrielle Bolt	1047	311.5	601	52%	150	Noelene Bettjeman	577	197	436	45%
107	Barbara Dunn	1026	185.5	327	57%	151	Sue Mayn	573	153	373	41%
108	Nola Borrell	1012	204.5	367	56%	152	Pauline Smeaton	560	297.5	572	52%
109	Judith Thomas	983	141.5	264	54%	153	Joan Beale	544	54	107	50%
110	Shirley Morrison	982	102.5	224	46%	154	Anne Scatchard	532	178	350	51%
111	Sheila Reed	976	164.5	333	49%	155	Anthea Jones	527	156.5	320	49%
112	Annette Coombes	968	564	1259	45%	156	Antonia Aarts	525	72	167	43%
113	Sandra Stacey	966	136	265	51%	158	Betty Don	522	4	43	9%
114	Pam Muirhead	963	74.5	129	58%	157	Jean Craib	522	326	698	47%
115	Tony Charlton	957	152.5	320	48%	159	Julia Schiller	500	36	113	32%
116	Ann Candler	940	636.5	1359	47%	160	Jean Wacker	491	218	436	50%
117	Jo Ann Ingram	935	156	322	48%	161	Christina Linwood	462	84.5	183	46%
118	Carole Coates	934	526.5	1076	49%	162	Stephanie Pluck	436	32	85	38%
119	Veronica Zilinskas	909	172.5	318	54%	163	Shirley Brake	386	32	80	40%
120	Athena Mafile'o	907	25	41	61%	164	Penny Irvine	323	82.5	206	40%
121	Yvonne McLaughlan	876	405.5	868	47%	165	Di Barritt	277	55.5	167	33%
122	Tim Henneveld	874	269.5	621	43%	166	Amy Tiopira	266	7.5	44	17%
123	Rosemary Wauters	869	121	240	50%	167	Frances Higham	257	25	97	26%
124	Mary Curtis	865	131	256	51%	168	Trish Fox	235	20	121	17%
125	Chris Handley	859	327	621	53%						
126	Michael Groffman	832	201.5	434	46%						



## Whangarei Tournament 9 - 10 July 2011

GRADE A	CLUB	WINS	SPREAD	AVE
1	Howard Warner	MTA	11	1485 481
2	Andrew Bradley	MTA	11	867 461
3	Debbie Raphael	IND	8	547 427
4	Liz Fagerland	MTA	7	550 417
5	Joan Thomas	HAS	7	53 387
6	Lawson Sue	PAK	6	434 419
7	Lynne Powell	HBC	6	4 425
8	Margie Hurly	WRE	6	-237 387
9	Olivia Godfrey	WEL	6	-330 377
10	Lorraine Van Veen	IND	6	-589 370
11	Allie Quinn	WRE	5	-507 385
12	Cicely Bruce	WRE	5	-621 387
13	David Gunn	WKP	4	-906 366
14	Lynn Wood	WEL	3	-770 366



GRADE B	CLUB	WINS	SPREAD	AVE
1	Shirley Martin	HAM	10	452 400
2	Glenda Geard	IND	9	618 399
3	Andree Prentice	WAN	8	356 393
4	Hazel Purdie	MTA	8	145 384
5	Delcie Macbeth	IND	7	179 389
6	Ernie Gidman	ROD	7	-82 368
7	Betty Eriksen	WAN	6	195 381
8	June Mackwell	NSB	6	80 370
9	Dianne Cole-Baker	MTA	6	-62 354
10	Jean Boyle	WAN	6	-437 353
11	Lynn Carter	IND	5	-132 379

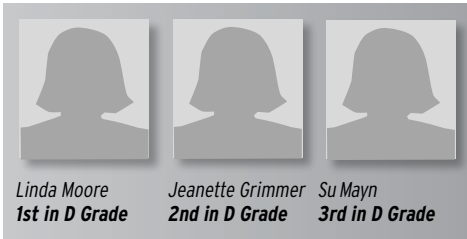
12	Faye Cronhelm	IND	5	-395 369
13	Roger Cole-Baker	MTA	4	-433 360
14	Bev Edwards	WRE	4	-484 350



GRADE C	CLUB	WINS	SPREAD	AVE
1	Annette Coombes	WKP	11	454 373
2	Tim Henneveld	ROT	10	506 360
3	Suzanne Harding	WRE	9	456 382
4	Heather Landon	TGA	8	353 370
5	Mary Curtis	MTA	7	396 382
6	Thelma Chisolm	WEL	6	-312 351
7	Valma Gidman	ROD	5	-59 356
8	Anne Scatchard	WRE	4	-363 333
9	Janny Henneveld	ROT	4	-416 334
10	Doroth Haining	HBC	1	-1015 317

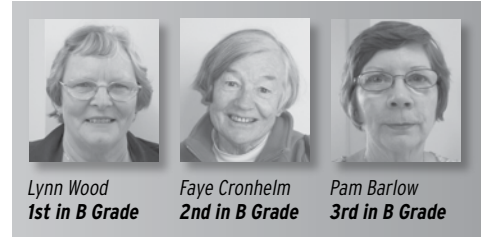


GRADE D	CLUB	WINS	SPREAD	AVE
1	Linda Moore	ROD	13	997 408
2	Jeanette Grimmer	ROD	10	768 433
3	Sue Mayn	ROD	8	365 389
4	David Kerr	WRE	7	104 377
5	Antonia Aarts	MTA	7	42 379
6	Lynn Thompson	ROD	6	-21 364
7	Alan Henley	NSB	6	-493 334
8	Julia Schiller	IND	5	-214 373
9	Frances Higham	PHC	3	-578 330
10	Margaret Toso	WRE	0	-970 279



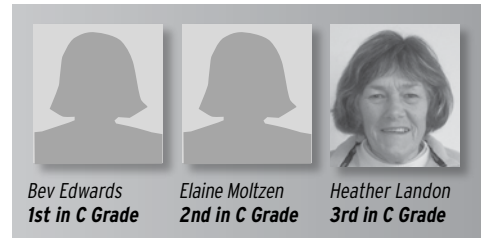
Linda Moore 1st in D Grade  
Jeanette Grimmer 2nd in D Grade  
Su Mayn 3rd in D Grade

9	Lorraine Van Veen	IND	6	301	426
10	Roger Coates	KIW	6	-173	371
11	Shirley Martin	HAM	5.5	-502	399
12	Su Walker	MTA	5	167	398
13	Anna Hough	CHC	5	-153	379
14	Glenda Geard	IND	3	-551	361



Lynn Wood 1st in B Grade  
Faye Cronhelm 2nd in B Grade  
Pam Barlow 3rd in B Grade

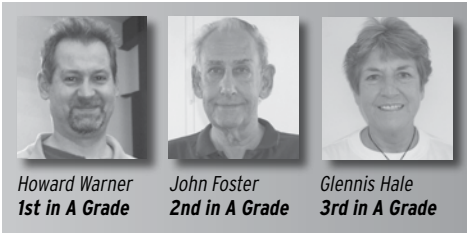
GRADE C		CLUB	WINS	SPRD	AVE
1	Bev Edwards	WRE	9.5	123	367
2	Elaine Moltzen	KIW	9	604	394
3	Heather Landon	TGA	8	618	402
4	Carole Coates	KIW	8	346	378
5	Catherine Henry	TGA	8	329	369
6	Delcie Macbeth	IND	7.5	329	381
7	Betty Eriksen	WAN	7	447	384
8	Jean Boyle	WAN	7	54	373
9	Jena Yousif	KIW	7	-16	361
10	Annette Coombes	WKP	5	-537	353
11	Tim Henneveld	ROT	5	-767	338
12	Rosemary Wauters	TGA	4.5	17	358
13	Suzanne Harding	WRE	3.5	-445	349
14	Thelma Chilsolm	WEL	2	-1102	322



Bev Edwards 1st in C Grade  
Elaine Moltzen 2nd in C Grade  
Heather Landon 3rd in C Grade

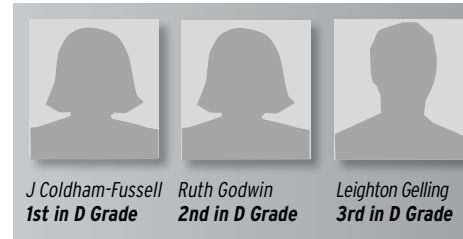
## Hamilton Tournament 6 - 7 August 2011

GRADE A	CLUB	WINS	SPRD	AVE	
1	Howard Warner	MTA	10	670	427
2	John Foster	IND	9	574	408
3	Glennis Hale	IND	9	530	409
4	Val Mills	PAK	9	529	408
5	Nic Cavenagh	HAM	9	415	424
6	Jeff Grant	IND	7	229	401
7	Chris Hooks	MTA	6	-44	393
8	Lawson Sue	MTA	5	-106	382
9	Jennifer Smith	HAM	5	-225	384
10	Joan Thomas	HAS	5	-471	373
11	Olivia Godfrey	WEL	5	-493	369
12	Margie Hurly	WRE	5	-494	378
13	Allie Quinn	WRE	4	-552	369
14	Helen Sillis	KIW	3	-562	371



Howard Warner 1st in A Grade  
John Foster 2nd in A Grade  
Glennis Hale 3rd in A Grade

GRADE B	CLUB	WINS	SPRD	AVE	
1	Lynn Wood	WEL	10	323	396
2	Faye Cronhelm	WAN	8	244	402
3	Pam Barlow	PAK	8	92	389
4	Cicely Bruce	WRE	8	-66	391
5	Mary Gray	MTA	7	178	393
6	David Gunn	WKP	6.5	95	407
7	Hazel Purdie	MTA	6.5	45	392
8	Lyn Toka	KIW	6.5	0	390

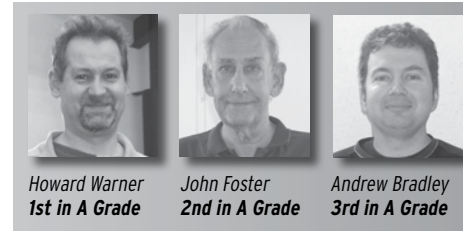


J Coldham-Fussell 1st in D Grade  
Ruth Godwin 2nd in D Grade  
Leighton Gelling 3rd in D Grade

GRADE D	CLUB	WINS	SPRD	AVE	
1	Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell	KIW	10	508	389
2	Ruth Godwin	ROT	8	325	351
3	Leighton Gelling	HAM	7	747	384
4	Lynn Thompson	WRE	6	-268	349
5	Anne Scatchard	WRE	6	-295	333
6	Janny Henneveld	ROT	5	-132	346
7	Anthea Jones	KIW	5	-375	354
8	Julia Schiller	IND	5	-510	337

## Tauranga Tournament 27 - 28 August 2011

GRADE A	CLUB	WINS	SPRD	AVE	
1	Howard Warner	MTA	13	1130	449
2	John Foster	IND	11	510	417
3	Andrew Bradley	MTA	7	187	405
4	Lawson Sue	PAK	7	144	386
5	Allie Quinn	WRE	7	-431	358
6	Val Mills	PAK	6	230	398
7	Marianne Bentley	TGA	6	44	398
8	Lynne Powell	HBC	6	8	406
9	Anderina McLean	MTA	6	-47	381
10	Margie Hurly	WRE	5	-204	378
11	Jennifer Smith	HAM	5	-238	389
12	Lynn Wood	WEL	5	-312	372
13	Olivia Godfrey	WEL	4	30	408
14	Joan Thomas	HAS	3	-1051	359



Howard Warner 1st in A Grade  
John Foster 2nd in A Grade  
Andrew Bradley 3rd in A Grade

GRADE B	CLUB	WINS	SPRD	AVE	
1	Vicky Robertson	WEL	9	492	413
2	Su Walker	MTA	9	205	398
3	Shirley Martin	HAM	8	215	384
4	Glenda Geard	IND	8	-50	376
5	Pam Robson	IND	7	456	413
6	Hazel Purdie	MTA	7	209	403
7	Mary Gray	MTA	7	-82	374
8	Roger Coates	KIW	6	25	386
9	Faye Cronhelm	IND	6	-200	380
10	Rosalind Phillips	MTA	5	-89	368
11	Lynn Carter	IND	5	-202	384
12	Lorraine Van Veen	IND	5	-215	361
13	Dianne Cole-Baker	MTA	5	-491	350
14	June Mackwell	NSB	4	-273	368



Vicky Robertson 1st in B Grade  
Su Walker 2nd in B Grade  
Shirley Martin 3rd in B Grade

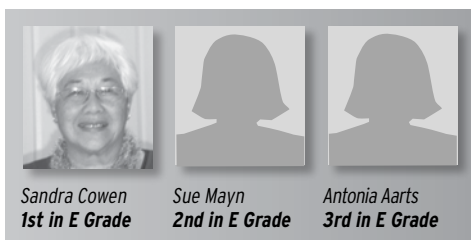
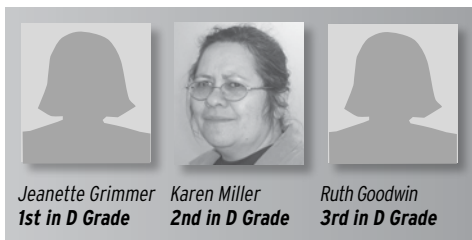
GRADE C	CLUB	WINS	SPRD	AVE	
1	Delcie Macbeth	IND	10	660	415
2	Barbara Dunn	TGA	8	472	388
3	Betty Eriksen	WAN	8	278	386
4	Heather Landon	TGA	8	270	380
5	Nola Borrell	WEL	7	337	381
6	Catherine Henry	TGA	7	264	380
7	Roger Cole-Baker	MTA	7	101	371
8	Shirley Morrison	TGA	7	-426	345
9	Chris Day	TGA	5	-302	367
10	Carole Coates	KIW	4	-388	344
11	Tim Henneveld	ROT	4	-686	318
12	Suzanne Harding	WRE	3	-580	348



Delcie Macbeth 1st in C Grade  
Barbara Dunn 2nd in C Grade  
Betty Eriksen 3rd in C Grade



GRADE D				GRADE E			
	CLUB	WINS	SPRD AVE		CLUB	WINS	SPRD AVE
1	Jeanette Grimmer	ROD	10 870 405	1	Sandra Cowen	TGA	11 508 343
2	Karen Miller	IND	9 769 391	2	Sue Mayn	ROD	11 506 347
3	Ruth Godwin	ROT	8 -9 348	3	Antonia Aarts	MTA	10 432 355
4	Thelma Chisholm	WEL	7 205 349	4	Margaret Bullen	TGA	8 429 362
5	Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell	KIW	7 34 367	5	Shirley Brake	ROT	8 397 336
6	Lynn Thompson	WRE	7 4 345	6	Audrey Bree	TGA	7 46 321
7	Janny Henneveld	ROT	7 -285 329	7	Valerie Scott	TGA	6 203 339
8	Geoff Bonser	TGA	6 -262 335	8	Connie Dixon	TGA	6 -183 311
9	Pauline Smeaton	TGA	5 -319 330	9	Margaret Toso	WRE	5 -177 311
10	Julia Schiller	IND	4 -2 344	10	Bev Griffin	TGA	4 -425 295
11	Anne Scatchard	WRE	4 -484 329	11	Merilyn Anderson	TGA	2 -793 286
12	Noelene Bettjeman	HBC	4 -521 315	12	Chris Guthrey	IND	0 -943 253



### Missing persons

Please help us complete our files. If you have a head photo of yourself, please send it to Vicky.

Or perhaps there's a keen South Island photographer who could photograph individuals during the next tournament in the South Island? Send your photos through to vickyrobnz@gmail.com.

### Tournament dates

#### Attention Club Secretaries

Please let us know as soon as you have finalised the dates of your tournaments for 2012. Advertising early will give players plenty of time to plan their attendance.



### TOURNAMENT CALENDAR (FOR THE REST OF 2011)

\*entry restricted to qualifiers

Tournament	Place	Dates
Mt Albert	Auckland	1-2 October
World Scrabble Championship*	Warsaw, Poland	12-16 October
Norfolk Island Scrabble Festival	Norfolk Island	15-22 October
Wanganui	Wanganui	22-23 October
Canturbury Open	Christchurch	29-30 October
Otago Lion Open	Dunedin	12-13 November
Causeway Challenge*	Johor Bahru, Malaysia	30 Nov - 4 Dec

### NZ Scrabble Records

Record	Tournament Score	Player (Club)	Club Level Score	Player (Club)
Highest Game Score	717	Mike Sigley (WAN)	763	John Foster (MTA)
Highest Losing Score	514	Pam Barlow (PAK)	521	June Mackwell (MTA)
Highest Drawn Score	487	Lynne Wood (WEL) & Debbie Caldwell (NEL)	482	Magaret Warren (HAS) & Jeff Grant (HAS)
Highest Single Score	221	Sheryl Davidson (PAK) Lisa McLean (IND) Jeff Grant (IND)	347	Neil Talbot (WEL)
Highest Single Turn Non-bonus	135	Ruth O'Neil (NPL)	261	John Foster (MTA)
Highest Combined Score	1078	Howard Warner (CAP) David Lloyd (MTA)	1106	Dawn Kitzen (PHC) & Chris Hooks (MTA)
Largest Winning Margin	493	Mike Sigley (WAN)	590	Paul Lister (CHC)
Highest Take-off	54	Lisa McLean (IND)	68	Andrew Bradley (MTA)
Most Bonus Words (3 game session)			14	Jeff Grant (IND)
Highest 3 Game Aggregate	-	-	1805	Nigel Richards (CHC)
Most Consecutive Bonus Words	5	Allie Quinn (NSB)	5	John Foster (MTA) Patrick Carter (MTA) Paul Lister (CHC)
Most Bonus Words in Game (1 person)	6	Nigel Richards (CHC) Yvette Hewlett (IND) Paul Lister (CHC)	7	Jeff Grant (IND)
Most Bonus Words in Game (2 people)	8	Mike Sigley (WAN) & Glenyss Buchanan (LOH) Nigel Richards (CHC) & John Foster (IND)	8	Dawn Kitzen (PHC) Chis Hooks (MTA)
Highest Average Single Tournament (any grade)	584	Nigel Richards (CHC)	-	-

### NEW ZEALAND MASTERS (23 GAMES)

Most Games Won	Jeff Grant (HAS) 21 (1993, 1997), Mike Sigley (WAN) 21 (2002)
Highest Aggregate	Nigel Richards (CHC) 11,103 (1999)
Most Bonus Words	Nigel Richards (CHC) 61 (1998)
Highest Spread	Howard Warner (MTA) +2428 (2011)



## Contact Information

Clubs (north to south)	Contact Person	Phone	Email	Meeting day/time
PLEASE CONTACT THE CONTACT PERSON TO FIND OUT THE MEETING VENUE				
Whangarei (WRE)	Bev Edwards	09 430 2832	bevhol@xtra.co.nz	Thurs 1pm
Rodney (ROD)	Linda Moore	09 425 4959	colin.linda@wave.co.nz	Mon 1pm
Hibiscus Coast (HBC)	Joan Pratt	09 426 4521	jopra@xtra.co.nz	Mon 12.45pm
Nth Shore Bays (NSB)	Ann Candler	09 444 8411	anncan@clear.net.nz	Tues 10am
Mt Albert (MTA)	Dianne Cole-Baker	09 309 5865	drcb@xtra.co.nz	Fri 7pm
Pakuranga/Howick (PAK)	Jean Owler	09 534 4435	cliffordo@xtra.co.nz	Tues 12.30 Thurs 7pm
Papatoe/Holy Cross (PHC)	Frances Higham	09 278 4595	jambo@actrix.co.nz	Mon 1pm
Hamilton (HAM)	Jillian Greening	07 843 7652	jillian.greening@yahoo.co.nz	Tues 7pm
Kiwi (KIWI)	Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell	07 846 7422	scrabifuss@xtra.co.nz	Thurs 7pm/1pm alt
Waikato Phoenix (WKP)	Annette Coombes	07 855 9970		Alt Weds 7pm
Tauranga (TGA)	Barbara Dunn	07 544 8372	dunnz@kinect.co.nz	Tues 9am
Rotorua	Ruth Godwin	07 349 6954	rgodwin@xtra.co.nz	
Tokoroa (TOK)	Lesley Edgeler	07 886 8374		
Waitara (WTA)	Ngairé Kemp	06 754 4017		Wed 1pm
New Plymouth (NPL)	Lynne Butler	06 755 2134	scrabblyn@clear.net.nz	Saturday
Pukekura (PUK)	Mary Waite	06 757 8654		Thurs 9.45am
Stratford (STR)	Sharon Clarke	06 765 5653	sharontc@xtra.co.nz	
Hastings (HAS)	Yvonne Wilson	06 878 8229	wilsonpad@paradise.net.nz	Tues 1pm
Wanganui (WAN)	Rosemary Cleary	06 347 1837	rosecleary@hotmail.com	Mon 7pm
Masterton (MAS)	Hilda Scott	06 378 2663		
Lower Hutt (LOH)	Glenyss Buchanan	04 569 5433	glenyss.buchanan@xtra.co.nz	Tues 7.30pm
Kapiti (KAP)	Graeme Brown	04 297 0720	geb@clear.net.nz	Wed 7pm
Wellington (WEL)	Lynn Wood	04 387 2581	lynnwood@paradise.net.nz	Tues 7pm
Nelson (NEL)	Tony Charlton	03 548 0635	tony.charlton@yahoo.co.uk	4th Wed 7pm
Christchurch (CHC)	Margaret Lyall	03 332 5963	noelrealest@hotmail.com	Fri 6.45pm Wed 12.45pm
Dunedin (DUN)	Chris Handley	03 464 0199	ruthgroffman@hotmail.com	Tues 7pm
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