

# for words



Journal of the New Zealand Association of Scrabble® Players

No. 105  
Summer 2011



“I know we had so many injuries in the ABs that we had to call on relative unknowns, but who the hell does Nigel Richards play rugby for?”

## *in this issue...*

REPORTS FROM WSC 2011 \* ALEX DOES US PROUD \* WE REMEMBER  
THELMA CHISHOLM \* NEW FOURS \* ERRANT TILES \* ANOTHER STORY  
ABOUT AFRONT A \* NEW COCKNEY ALPHABETS \* PLAYING WITH WORDS  
THROUGH SCRABBLE \* FAVOURITE ZYZZYVA DEFINITIONS

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## From the editor

Jennifer Smith

### Don't you love the cartoon that Vicky has created for the front of this issue?

However, the humour in the cartoon has a wistful tone. While we in Scrabble circles welcomed and rejoiced in the news of Nigel's impressive achievement, it went largely unnoticed throughout the rest of World-Cup-fevered New Zealand.

I have a "Google alert" set up to receive via email notification of any mention of Scrabble on the internet. I wish now that I had kept a record of the various alerts, but from memory, I can recall only one newspaper in New Zealand, *The New Zealand Herald*, mentioning Nigel's win, although there was a mention in stuff.co.nz. 3News recorded the win on its website, and National Radio also mentioned it during a daytime panel discussion – but only as an afterthought to the "missing G" story (more later).

Throughout the rest of the world Nigel's win was acknowledged gracefully, with some media making the effort to write a decent story with the news.

For example, the Aussie *news.com.au* reported "Aw nu! Kiwis rob us again – at Scrabble", while The Telegraph (UK) wrote:

"Nigel Richards, a New Zealander, took the overall title after scoring 95 points with the word OMNIFIED. He was awarded the £12,700 prize. Mr Richards would have scored little for his acceptance speech, when he just responded: 'Nice'. It was the second time Mr Richards has claimed the title. He also won in 2007. He beat 116 competitors from 44 countries to be named champion. The runner up was Andrew Fisher from Australia, who

lost 3-2 in the final."

On its website, *The Times* (also UK) tied the win nicely to the Rugby World Cup thus:

"A world away from the humiliation of losing the Rugby World Cup semi-final, and Australia was trumped again – on the Scrabble board. The Kiwis, often the subject of brotherly banter for their pronunciation of English words, chalked up another one on their trans-Tasman foes and proved they've got that whole language thing down-pat by winning the World Scrabble Championships in Poland. Aussie Andrew Fisher tried to outplay his rival with POTAE – the Maori word for hat – but that cheeky move backfired like a Quade Cooper kick out on the full when he set up Nigel Richards for an Eden Park-sized win. Richards played off POTAE with REGRANTS in an epic 61-pointer that set up victory and made him \$20,000 richer."

In general, though, it seems like a Scrabble Champion is nowhere near as interesting as a trumped-up storm in a teacup. National Radio wasn't the only culprit – I read dozens and dozens of alerts about world-wide media treatment of the "missing G" story (see page 21), where Nigel's win was usually relegated to the last line of the story.

I blame Nigel for the lack of coverage. He's just too nice to be newsworthy. He doesn't say or do anything controversial. He doesn't accuse somebody of cheating; shout or swear; behave immodestly; be a sore loser or an arrogant winner; exhibit eccentric behaviour ...

But hang on! Isn't this precisely **why** we are all so proud of him?





## From our president

Val Mills



*Over the past few months we have been receiving weekly emails from Craig Beevers, the Wespa publicity person. If you haven't been opening these and reading them I would strongly encourage you to do so, at least every now and then! David Sutton comments on a word each week and his commentary is always interesting and informative and it's an easy way to absorb new words without too much effort.*

Talking about -LESS words he noted how TOADLESS is allowed and means having no toads – but FROGLESS\* isn't! No rhyme or reason for this but I will now remember TOADLESS, which I would have never even tried (not having learnt my -LESS words).

Recently I made the trip to Dunedin for the Otago Lion Open tournament. I have to say, what a thrill it was to see so many children playing – the fruit of many hours of work by Ruth Groffman. (The fact they were playing, not the children, themselves!!). It certainly makes for a different feel to a tourney to hear children's voices, listen to them playing and seeing how they play. It may not be as quiet as the tournaments we are used to, but if we are at all concerned about the growth of Scrabble in New Zealand then we will have to adjust to having children in tournaments. Isn't it exciting to see how Alex is going in his first overseas Scrabble foray? It's great to see.

Coming up to the end of the year I want to thank all the members of the committee, lots of others not on the committee and all you who take the time to run tournaments and clubs, for all the work put into making Scrabble happen in New Zealand. We have a great choice of tournaments to attend, a fabulous magazine, an up-to-date and helpful website and, best of all, there's the people.

As Julia Schiller, one of our more recent converts noted on Facebook recently – "This year I want to express my gratitude to the New Zealand Scrabble community, an amazingly kind and generous bunch of people I am proud to be part of. As well as expanding my vocabulary, my circle of friends has grown to include wonderful people....."

So it's all about you....hope you all have a good Christmas time, get some r & r, learn some words and start the new year all enthused for the game we love to play.

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If all the SCRABBLE tiles ever produced were placed end to end they would reach the equivalent of 8 times around the earth.

**– from a tea-towel owned by Jo Ann Ingram, Tauranga**

"Santa Claus has the right idea. Visit people only once a year."

**– Victor Borge**

## Mailbox

### Re: Ahint about afront A

Such a clever, creative and humorous story in the Spring edition of *Forwards*, written by "Anon". No prizes for guessing that the clever author was Jennifer, our very talented and competent editor!

I'm sure everyone had a laugh reading this witty story, and what a great way to learn and remember those words that take an "A" hook. I'm hoping there will be a sequel to the story.

Well done Jennifer, and thanks again for doing such a great job with the mag!

**– Pam Robson, Independent**

[Your wish is granted on page 24-25, Pam -Ed]

Another Scrabble Festival came to a close after great week, fine weather and a lot fun. Thank you to the sponsors, The Travel Centre, and also a big thank you to Glennis Hale and Jeff Grant from NZ for organising and running the event.

Congratulations to the Australians who won the shield back this year. [Results on page 46.] The Aussies managed to get an extra day on the island waiting on a spare part to arrive to fix the aircraft. I didn't hear any complaints!

**Another errant tile:** I was given a tile that was found in one of the net bags some players used for collecting the tiles off the boards. If you know of someone who attended Norfolk this year and is missing a tile (it is one of the cream colour tiles), please contact me and I will post it to them.

**– Wayne Willis, Australia**

On the same day that New Zealand won the Rugby World Cup New Zealander

Nigel Richards became the Scrabble World Champion – both for the second time. What a contrast in styles!

On the one hand the rugby players – bold, brash and aggressive, all over the news, and loudly cheered and worshipped throughout the country. On the other hand Nigel – to the press elusive, reclusive, non-effusive. His win was briefly mentioned on TV3 news in NZ and was joyfully celebrated by those of us who follow his success.

My first encounter with Nigel was in the late 1990s when he came to a Hastings tournament while he was forging his way up the ratings and rankings lists. His word knowledge blew his opponents away. Several of his words were unsuccessfully challenged and, with the old rules in place, many of his opponents' next turns of play were forfeited.

My second encounter with Nigel was at a Wellington tournament. To my surprise I was in the lead in B grade. He overheard me exclaim – "I don't believe it." He turned around, looked me straight in the eye and said, "Believe, believe." End of conversation.

I think that sums Nigel up – to the point, dedicated and determined, no fuss..

I went on to win the B grade and that was a turning point for me – I decided to take a more active role in the Association and to play in as many tournaments as possible.

I predict that when all of the current rugby players have hung up their boots, Nigel will still be winging his way around the world winning a majority of the international Scrabble tournaments.

Go Nigel go. You will have the entire band of New Zealand Scrabble players cheering you on.

**– Joan Thomas, Hastings**

# The Worlds 2011



## ***Congratulations to our team for their performance at the World Scrabble Championships:***

**Nigel Richards** 2011 World Champion, for the second consecutive tournament 25 wins, spread +2008

**Howard Warner** 26<sup>th</sup> 19/34 wins, spread +619

**Joanne Craig** 34<sup>th</sup> 18.5 wins, spread +765

**Blue Thorogood** 47<sup>th</sup> 18 wins, spread -465

**Lynne Butler** 88<sup>th</sup> 15.5 wins, spread -798

In the team standings, NZ (Blue, Lynne, Joanne and Howard) came third out of all countries (just behind England and Australia). This will earn us an extra place for WSC 2013, whereas great Scrabbling countries such as the US, Canada and Thailand ended up losing a place.

## **Lynne Butler reports:**

Regarding the WSC, after a verrry long trip,

Howard, Blue and I were delighted to arrive in Warsaw on the Sunday evening. My first impressions of the city through a foggy, sleep-deprived brain were very favourable. Our hotel was excellent - the rooms were quiet, clean and comfortable and were fully serviced every day. This was a far cry from my last WSC experience in Mumbai!

On the Monday morning, Howard, Blue and I wandered up the street to have a look around. We discovered many "ALKOHOLE" shops, pharmacies and dairies along the way. Two blocks along from the Ibis we saw, much to our delight, some advertising for the WSC, in Polish, on the sides of large, round pillar boxes. Blue and I left Howard to have breakfast in a little café while we went in search of an electric kettle for Blue (no tea/coffee facilities in our rooms). We found some elderly street hawkers selling second-hand gear and we immediately spotted a kettle. I'd learned a bare smattering of

Polish from one of my workmates, and Blue left with the kettle for 5 zloty (about NZ\$2.50). I don't know if that was a bargain or not, but there were smiles all round.

We returned to the cafe where Howard was looking crest-fallen - his meal had arrived. It looked quite delicious to me - pancakes with fruit and cream. But Howard thought he'd ordered savoury pierogi! Joanne arrived later that day and we continued to rest up and meet with various other Scrabblers staying at our hotel.

On the Tuesday we went for a three hour bus tour of Warsaw. It's a very pretty town and has been almost completely rebuilt since WWII when 85-90% of it was destroyed. It's been largely restored to a pre-WWII state - buildings not much over six storeys and cobblestoned streets. There were many trees and flowers and the whole place had a very friendly feel. We visited the second largest park in the northern hemisphere and the Warsaw ghetto and memorial. We also saw many of the foreign consulates. A nice tour but a very annoying and garrulous tour guide.



Tuesday night was registration. Always a fun time, receiving our IDs, bags and other goodies, meeting up with old friends and making new ones.

Wednesday and it's time to get into the play. After the opening ceremony, the tile bags were rattled and Game 1 commenced.

I was interviewed after that game and saw myself on Polish TV that night. I couldn't understand a word I was saying

as the piece was dubbed over in Polish. We played 34 games in four days, quite gruelling at times but it seemed to go very quickly. The tournament was very well run, except that Liz Fagerlund, the world's best annotator, was missing.

**Huge congratulations to Nigel for being the first multiple world champion title holder. Congratulations to our team too, as they earned NZ an extra place for the next WSC.**

For me personally I was very disappointed with my results, but not with how I played. I know exactly how Andrew Fisher felt during those finals games with Nigel when Andrew drew one blank out of ten. On the last day's play for me I got only two blanks out of eighteen. Very disheartening but that's Scrabble! I'm just grateful for having had the opportunity to represent NZ again. Thanks to everyone for making it possible.

## **Results**

1. Nigel Richards (New Zealand)
2. Andrew Fisher (Australia)
3. Pakorn Nemitrmansuk (Thailand)



*Second place Andrew Fisher (Australia)*

## Plays of a champ

I loved Nigel's play in game 29 against Dave Wiegand, when Nigel's rack was KLLRTIO – no 7s there, no 8s either – no problem to Nigel – he uses an unconnected I and E to play KILOLITER – wow.

– **Liz Fagerlund, Mt Albert**

One of Nigel's best plays was a round or two from the end against Nathan Benedict. His rack was a relatively uninspiring: AEELNOT.

Now if it was me I am sure I would be silently cursing the lack of a P on the board for ANTELOPE or a G for ELONGATE, but no, not Nigel. There was an LI on the board which he extended to LINEOLATE. Interestingly he could also have made LINOLEATE, but Nigel chose the one that put the L next to the triple word score rather than the E. Much safer.

How many of us could say that with a rack as humdrum as AEELNOT that we routinely choose the safer 9 letter word?

– **Patrick Carter, Mt Albert**

\* \* \*

## Non words

**Alison Holmes, Christchurch**

**The scene:** Grandmother doing the Codecracker, Grandfather resting, Grandson (16) playing a tactile game on the floor (he doesn't read willingly).

**Grandmother:** "Is there such as word as "bieve" cos it would fit?"

**Grandfather:** "No there isn't."

**Grandson:** "Grandad, do you know all the words that aren't in the dictionary as well as the ones that are?"

\* \* \*

## How bizarre

**John Foster, Independent**

The game played between Suzanne Dundas and Mohammad Sulaiman in round 7 of the WSC must surely be the sort of thing Pauly Fuemana had on his mind when he wrote the song, *How Bizarre*. Suzanne won with a score of -6 after the game was terminated under the rules of the championship because six consecutive zero scores had been recorded, as detailed below.

**Suzanne:** Rack ?CQSVWY Play: xch CQVWY

A reasonable play under the circumstances and indeed Quackle's top 10 plays are various combinations of xch. Appropriate rack for Warsaw though, probably heaps of good plays if the game were played in Polish.

**Mohammad:** Rack AEIORSY Play: xch AOY

Not so reasonable. The highest available play is AIERY for 24, but Quackle's best plays are OY or YO for 10 leaving the very high percentage rack AEIRS

**Suzanne:** Rack ?AIINRS Play: xch I

You gotta be kidding. Nine possible bingos in that rack, all scoring 64 to kick the game off.

**Mohammad:** Rack EEGIRSU Play: xch EGU

But why not play GUE for same rack leave and score 8 points as well?

**Suzanne** Rack ?AAINRS Play: pass

Probably not a bad play at this stage, in spite of having 22 possible bingo plays. She now knows that if Mohammad passes or changes, the very worst result she can get is a draw, and that if he plays her probability of a bingo play is still very high.

**Mohammad** Rack EIMRSTW Play: xch MW

Obviously hoping to pick up low score tiles. But must have known the odds were not in his favour.

Final racks Suzanne: ?AAINRS -6,  
Mohammad BEIORST -9

The game generated the following comments:

**From Glenda Foster, Wellington**

Under the WESPA rules (version 1) rule 5.2 covers the situation when there are 6 consecutive zero scores. It provides that the game must end after 6 zero scores and that the value of the tiles on each player's rack shall be deducted from each player's cumulative score. Zero scores can arise from lost challenges or passes. In the case of the game in question, neither player had scored and hence both players had a negative score after subtracting the value of their tiles.

The interesting thing to do would be to trace the origin of such a rule which, to my knowledge, was never a part of the box top rules. I assume that some countries have felt the need to bring in such a rule to prevent a stalemate in situations such as blocked boards. Currently, Australia has a similar rule but the North American Scrabble Players Association does not. The UK has agreed to adopt the WESPA rules from next year.

**From Howard Warner, Mt Albert**

I think it's a stupid rule. Surely the intent was to halt a stalemate after six successive passes. An exchange of tiles is not the same thing as a pass at all. It's a deliberate choice to forgo a turn in order to get better tiles. I've noticed that programs such

as Quackle use the two terms interchangeably – which may confuse others as it's done me.

If only Australia applies this rule to exchanges as well as passes, then I assume (Aussie player) Chris May merely copied his domestic rules when drafting WESPA's rules. Surprising that no one noticed this anomaly before the rules were published. Instead, it took a high-profile World Champs game to expose how ridiculous this is.

Also surprising that someone as experienced as Mohammed Sulaiman didn't know what he was letting himself in for.

**From Kris Saether, Independent**

I suspect that, even though he's a seasoned player and should've known better, Muhammad may actually not have known the rule, or had forgotten about it in the heat of a big tournament. I highly doubt that a top player worth his salt would deliberately try to end the game before a word is played in anger, in the hope that their opponent simply has more points on their rack.

It would be a dangerous and foolish tactic, because you'd think that after a few changes the opponent must be getting close to a very high-prob word with low-scoring tiles, and probably with a blank to boot. They're not going to be keeping back "biggies" in this instance. The only time it might be feasible (if a little "off" as a tactic anyway, in my opinion), would be if you were holding both blanks and some small tiles. Muhammad didn't even have one blank. I just don't see it being a deliberate ploy.

## Alex does us proud



*Alex in action at the Causeway.*

*In the Singapore Open at the end of November, Alex Leckie-Zaharic from the Dunedin Club was entered in the C Division, an 8-game, one-day event.*

He finished third in that Division, with 5 wins from 8 and a spread of 318. The C grade had 19 participants and a wide variety of ages. Alex was the youngest, with two 11/12 yr old girls, several teenagers and the rest adults. He was awarded a medal and Singapore \$50 as prize money.

The only other New Zealander at the tournament was Nigel Richards, competing in the A Division, where he was placed fifth.

A few days later, Alex with his mother Tracie headed to Johor Bahru to take part in the five-day, 45-game Causeway Challenge. While competing there, Alex celebrated his 11<sup>th</sup> birthday. He had more NZ support at this tournament, with Shirley Martin, Yoon Kim Fong and Betty Eriksen in the same grade, Jennifer Smith in the next grade, and Nigel Richards and Joanne Craig in the top grade.

Alex was 59<sup>th</sup> on 21 wins (out of 45

games). He had some amazing wins – a 620, 519, 506 and several scores in the 400s against older and more seasoned tournament players.

A few days later, and Alex was again competing, this time in the World Youth Championships, with 83 other participants. He was sitting as high up as 36<sup>th</sup> after 23 games, but lost his last and finally came to rest on the 42<sup>nd</sup> rung-precisely halfway up or down the ladder depending on your perspective, with 12 wins out of 24.

He took the trophy for best player from a new country as well as the next best under 12-year old player, (way) behind Anand, but ahead of the other 11-year-olds in the competition

That made a total for Alex of 38 international wins over the three tournaments. Tracie reports that “to have won those games, been coached by world top 10 player, met Nigel Richards, met other people as devoted to Scrabble as he is, and score personal best high game of 620 and high

word of 135 at an international tournament, was way more than Alex could have hoped for.”

Afterwards, he headed back to NZ to see out his final week at primary school.

The Singapore Open ended up not being internationally rated – much to the annoyance of many. However, after the Causeway Challenge Alex has an international rating of 1181. This is a wonderful achievement for a boy just turned 11 who has been playing competitive Scrabble for less than 16 months.

Those of us who witnessed Alex at the Causeway, were impressed with his maturity, chirpy demeanour and attitude. He played superbly at times, coped with the pressure well, was always smiling and was a gracious loser. We were so proud of him.



*NZ's Current World Scrabble Champion Nigel Richards and New Zealand's Youth representative (2011), Alex Leckie-Zaharic.*



*Alex receives his prize in the Singapore Open.*

## World Youth Championships results

1. Anand Bharadwaj (Australia) 19 wins
2. Victor Gwee (Singapore) 17 wins
3. Michael McKenna (Australia) 17 wins

A note from Tracie on some of the other competitors in the WYC:

**Anand from Australia** is a wonder to behold! A lovely boy who is not yet 12, whipped his opposition to take the title and 19 wins. He began training with Karen Richards at age seven years, and had been trained the past couple of years by Australia's Andrew Fisher.

We have special admiration for a 15-year-old young man called **Amir from Trinidad and Tobago**, who competed for the first time, but who is completely deaf and mute. He has found that Scrabble is a world where he can achieve and be acknowledged for his abilities. He is a great young man.

Special mention also to **Pang Rickson** who is the cutest little **Malaysian** 9-year-old boy who was brought in as reserve. He had beaten secondary schoolers to earn his place, so I understand. He never won a single game and had a negative spread in the 4000s. But he stole all our hearts with his never-ending smile and bounce in his step as he challenged opponent after opponent. What a cutie! And an inspiration to others on how to take losses on the chin and smile through them!



*Alex with Karen Richards and his awards at the World Youth Championships.*

## The (last ?) Causeway Challenge 2011

Competing in the Premier Division for New Zealand were Nigel Richards and Joanne Craig; in the Masters Division, Jennifer Smith (Hamilton); and in the Open Division, Betty Eriksen (Wanganui), Yoon Kim Fong (Hamilton), Shirley Martin (Hamilton) and Alex Leckie-Zaharic (Dunedin).

In the **Premier Division** (48 players), Pakorn Nemitrmansuk was the clear winner with 31 wins.

Nigel finished 2<sup>nd</sup> with 29 wins, and Joanne was 25<sup>th</sup> with 22 wins.

In the **Masters Division** (56 players), Jennifer was 51<sup>st</sup> with 17 wins.

In the **Open Division** (84 players),

Shirley was 32<sup>nd</sup> on 24 wins

Kim was 45<sup>th</sup> on 22 wins

Alex was 59<sup>th</sup> on 21 wins

Betty was 60<sup>th</sup> on 21 wins



*The NZ contingent at the Causeway Challenge: (from left) Nigel, Jennifer, Betty, Shirley, Alex, Joanne, Kim.*

## Club News



### Christchurch

The photo shows Margaret Lyall and Shirley Hol holding the two lovely engraved Scrabble sets that were bought with funds raised for us by the Balmain Club (Bugs) Scrabble Club in Sydney, of which Joanne Craig is a member. We were really touched by this thoughtful gesture and will never forget their kindness – especially as Queensland was experiencing its own problems with awful flooding at the time.

An update on the Christchurch situation from Shirley Hol: “A few days ago as I sat in my little courtyard garden I felt really peaceful and thought to myself, this was what it was like before the onset of the earthquakes. The dratted things are decreasing considerably. (It is ok, as I have my fingers crossed on one hand as I type this!) Some weeks ago Gabrielle Bolt was despairing that when she had a few friends around to dinner it was impossible to steer the conversation away from earthquakes,

but we are managing to talk about other topics than earthquakes these days.”

### Mt Albert

Mt. Albert Scrabble Club held a successful tournament at the beginning of October 2011. This coincided with the excitement of the build up to the Rugby World Cup, and on the Saturday the Remuera Business Association also held a Street Parade and Market Day to show support for the Scottish team. During the lunch break the Scrabble competitors showed their mettle at hunting down bargains at the market day and one or two also showed strong support for the Scottish team. Despite our worries about the RWC impinging on attendance, entry numbers were higher than last year.

Spot prizes throughout the tournament related to the 13 letters in the words RUGBY WORLD CUP, and we also included a bonus overall prize for the “best rugby word” played in the entire tournament. This prize category was enthusiastically contended, with entrants requiring a second and then a third piece of paper to record their increasingly far-fetched nominations. The winning word, after much deliberation, was the laterally-thinking ABS.

The Saturday lunch break also featured a well-attended National Association meeting.

This was a “no frills” tournament and players were given the option of bringing their own lunch, buying a lunch from the Remuera shops, or pre-ordering a packed lunch – supplied by the Auckland East Inner Wheel Club – all options worked well and this format will likely be followed next year.

A further diversion from the norm that

we instituted this year was in the matter of the stickers used to record numbers of wins. Instead of just sticky dots, we provided an array of brightly-coloured options including flowers, fruit, fish, faces, and farm animals (and no doubt some that did not begin with F, too!) A number of tournament participants commented on how much fun they had choosing a sticker each time, and it was interesting to observe the emergence of overall patterns and themes that reflected the choices and experiences of each player.

Unfortunately, due to an input error, at the end of play incorrect placings were announced and awarded for Grade C. We were glad to have the opportunity at the recent Hamilton tournament to correct these. We apologise again to our C grade players for the confusion, and for the delay in allocating the correct prize money.

[See page 45 for the full results of the Mt Albert tournament 2011]

And finally a special note regarding our tournament for 2012:

We have been asked to alter the date of this tournament as our usual slot in the first weekend of October clashed with the week-long Norfolk Island competition.

We have been able to make this change, and have now set the date for **29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> September 2012**. Please note the amended date. We look forward to hosting a good number for this tournament, including all the players en route to Norfolk Island the following week!

– Anderina McLean

### Whangarei

Three of us recently flew to Dunedin to take part in their Otago Lion Open

Scrabble tournament. Everything went like clockwork for us, from go to whoa! Managed to get cheap air fares down and back, and great flights both ways.

Ruth Groffman had very kindly phoned us earlier in the month and offered to pick us up on our arrival at the Dunedin airport. This was very much appreciated, thank you, Ruth.

The Otago Lion Open Tournament, we found, was very well organised. We were very warmly welcomed by everyone and thanked for travelling so far to attend. There were a number of children playing in this tournament, a first for us. The young ones did very well too.

The home made food, soups, stews, salads, desserts, etc. were simply delicious, the icecream and fruit crumbles to die for!!

Tuesday was their club night and we were invited to come along. As we arrived, the local choir folk were gathering for their meeting at the same venue, a lovely old church. How exciting – they thought they had three new members! They laughed when we said we were Scrabblers. We again were warmly welcomed to their club night – children present there also. Nice to see these youngsters playing and enjoying their games too.

We had a great time overall, met a number of Scrabble players we don't see a lot of due to distance, so it was great to catch up with them again.

We had a lovely few days free to look around Dunedin and Oamaru before departing for home again..

Our thanks to Dunedin Scrabble Club for such a warm welcome. We enjoyed your Southern hospitality very much.

– Cicely, Sue and Lynn, Whangarei  
Scrabble Club members.

## Norfolk 2011

*Rita Humphrey, Queensland*

We hit the shores of Norfolk  
Scrabble boards in tow.  
We'll show those Kiwis how to play,  
Show off the words we know.  
We took in Cyclorama  
Could not believe our eyes.  
A spectacle to die for  
A journey back in time.  
We did a half-day Island tour,  
'cause that was on our list,  
The afternoon tea was scrumptious,  
A tour not to be missed.  
The Progressive Dinner was a must,  
To sample the local fare.  
Dished up with a bit of history,  
And done with lots of flair.  
Our relaxing day at Bedrock,  
With fish feast and Scrabble too,  
Just finished off our holiday,  
With that breathtaking view.  
Of course it's all in friendly fun,  
And we'll come back for more.  
In future years they'll try again  
To even up the score.  
Our thanks again to Glennis and Jeff  
Who organize it all,  
Leaving not a thing to chance,  
And we've just had a Ball.

## Looking for a 2012 Scrabble holiday?

**Glennis Hale, Independent**

2011 has been a tough year for many. Hunt out your piggy bank and start saving for a week of fun, sun and Scrabble on Norfolk Island next year. [See page 50.]

Feel free to contact me (g.hale@clear.net.nz), Jeff Grant (ardra@clear.net.nz) or Debbie Steven (debbie@travelcentre.nf) for anything you might want to know.

## Brief Encounter Revisited (part two): The New Fours

*This is a little story to help you remember the new four-letter root words in CSW12. It excludes inflections of threes, but for completeness these are listed in a supplement. The new words are capitalised.*

So here I am on the train again on my way to yet another rehearsal with this new experimental orchestra specialising in Chinese music, but this time I'm carrying my ERHU, which is a two-stringed instrument played with a bow. And imagine my delight when the same pretty girl gets on the train.

"Hi," I say, "How are you doing?"

"Oh, hi," she says, "nice to see you again. You off to music practice? I'm just off to my MAHA yoga class."

"Ah, is that like hatha yoga?" I say.

"Similar, but it incorporates all eight of the classic yoga disciplines. Have you ever done yoga?"

"No, my thing's judo," I say. "Had a good bout at club last night, went on for a quarter of an hour and at the end I won

by just one KOKA, that's three points, the lowest score awarded for a hold or throw."

My stop is approaching and this time I manage to pluck up courage. "Look, I don't suppose you'd like to come round to my place for a meal tonight, I mean if you're not doing anything. I cook a pretty good Indian."

"I'd like that," she says. "About eight suit you?"

"DEFO," I say, and then add, "NANG!" which is not like me because I'm not into street slang, but I'm feeling a bit flustered.

"I take it that means cool," she smiles. "See you then."

After practice I make the mistake of telling my Scots friend and fellow musician Hamish about the date and my meal plans. "Och, you want to cook her a bit of HASS," he says. "That's a kind of oatmeal pudding made with sheep's gullet. AWFY tasty. It has this wonderful OATY flavour."

"No, no," joins in Enrico, another of my orchestra friends, who comes from Naples (we're a very cosmopolitan lot). "You want a good-a Italian dish, with a nice-a meat sauce like RAGU or SUGO."

"Don't make me want to FLOB with your PUKY Scots and Italian dishes," says



Vladimir, another musical colleague. "Why not a beautiful chicken KIEV, that is named after my home town?"

## New Words

*Reminder to you all that the new word list will be used in all our Scrabble games from 1 January.*

- An article featuring some of the new words was published on page 14 of the Spring issue of *Forwards* (No 104).
- An article featuring all the new 3-letter words was published on page 17 of the Winter issue of *Forwards* (No 103).
- This issue, we publish a story from the WESPA website that features all the new 3-letter words.



“Non, non, if you want to impress this girl with your cuisine it must be French,” says another friend Jean-Claude. “What about a TIAN, a vegetable gratin baked in an earthenware dish, like my old Provençal grandmother used to make?”



But as I say, I've already made up my mind that it's going to be an Indian evening, and on the way home I call on my good friend Deepak, who runs the *Ye OLDE Indian Corner-shop*; it doubles as an OFFY or off-licence, so I can pick up some wine there as well.

“Let's see,” I say, I need cauliflower, potato, pigeon pea and spinach, so that's some of your GOBI, ALOO, DAAL and SAAG. Oh, and some betel leaf, that's PAAN isn't it, and do you have any of those GOJI berries?”

Deepak calls his BAHU to deal with the order; it's quite handy having a daughter-in-law who lives with the family, especially when you're trying to run a shop. “Preparing a feast, are we, BHA!” says Deepak (I like the way he addresses me as brother).



“Who could be coming round, some MILF perhaps?” Deepak prides

himself on his command of English slang, so much that he sometimes leaves me behind.

“What's a MILF?” I say.

“Why, a sexually attractive middle-aged female,” he says.

“She's not in the least middle-aged,” I say indignantly, “and neither am I.” But I

realise when I get home that I am in fact a bit out of practice with these situations. How did young women expect to be entertained these days? What sort of music might she like? She didn't strike me as any kind of GRRL, into punk rock and that sort of CACK. More likely to have classical or operatic leanings; perhaps she'd be a fan of some DIVO like Pavarotti. We hardly wanted to spend the time watching television, even if it hadn't been the usual load of KACK on that evening, a long documentary about some so-called showbiz SLEB. I put some wine-glasses out; after the derogatory remarks she'd made at our last meeting, about her colleagues being on tik or TINA – that's crystal meth – I knew she wouldn't be expecting anything in that line.

I prepare the table and for a touch of atmosphere add a DIYA, a small oil lamp used in Hindu devotions, that Deepak gave me for Christmas. I'm not sure that this is a good idea, because I manage to spill hot oil on my hand. “ARGH,” I say. An oil lamp can be a tricky thing, what my Irish grandmother would call a HOOR. Lucky I didn't set the place on fire, as I only rent the flat and might have found myself saddled with a large bill for BOTE, or compensation for damage to property.

All is ready and I even have time to do a bit of work on the computer. I'm an experienced programmer, though a bit of a NOOB when it comes to the Internet, and I add a few lines of code to the program I'm currently working on, knocking up a quick routine to BLIT some data, that is, to transfer a large array of bits between different locations in the computer memory. Next I look up a few things I wanted to know on Wikipedia. I'd been reading a book about a naturalist's

travels and had run into a few unfamiliar words; a dictionary's OK but the advantage of a WIKI is that it often gives you an image. Ah, so that's what a WELS looks like, a sort of giant catfish, originally American but introduced into European rivers. And that's a SUNI, a small S. African antelope. And a CRIA is apparently the offspring of a llama, while a DEGU is a small rodent native to Chile, also known as the brush-tailed rat. And what was that other word I didn't know? Ah yes, TEIN, a monetary unit of Kazakhstan, one hundredth of a tenge.

Finally I have a quick look at my Maori friend Tairongo's VLOG, or video log; we had been in touch by VOIP the evening before – it's so handy now that you have this system for converting analogue signals to digital so you can make very cheap telephone calls over the Internet. It showed him at a celebration with his NGAI, his tribe, after his rugby team – he plays for Auckland – had won a match against RONZ, or the rest of New Zealand.

“Great show,” I'd told him.

“CHUR,” he said, which is how these taciturn New Zealanders express informal agreement.

Then there is a knock at the door and there she is. She looks stunning in an Indian-style dress; I think the material is AIDA, a finely meshed cotton fabric nearly as soft as FLOX or floss silk, and it's decorated in the traditional style with ZARI, a kind of thread made of fine gold or silver wire.

We eat and get to talking. She tells me about her holiday in North Africa, where she had stayed in a RIAD, a traditional Moroccan house with an interior garden. I wondered if she had encountered any prej-

udice, being Jewish in a Muslim country, but she said not at all, that the UMMA, or body of Muslim believers, set great store by hospitality and had been very kind, though the man of the house had had to leave after a few days as he was making an UMRA, a lesser pilgrimage to Mecca made at the same time as the greater pilgrimage or hajj. She had missed his company, as he had been a very educated man and they had had some interesting discussions about FIQH, or Islamic jurisprudence, an expansion of sharia law.

The evening goes all too quickly. I see her home. She doesn't ask me in, saying she has a very early start tomorrow, which dashes my spirits a little, but then she says, “Next time!” which raises them again, and kisses my cheek with a big MWAH. I walk home, feeling that kiss burn on my cheek like a big XRAY or letter X. Next time!

### Supplement:

The new fours also include plural or third person singular forms of the new threes, and also a number of new plurals for existing threes that did not take -S before.

Plurals for new threes: ALUS AMES AWKS GAKS GAWS GERS INGS PELS QINS RAVS SUGS TIKS

New plurals for existing threes: AKAS AUAS CUMS FEWS HAOS UMUS

I also regret that I found it impossible to incorporate the new four-letter word CLIT, colloquial for an intimate part of the female anatomy, without jeopardising what I felt to be the delicate romantic nature of the piece. Readers are welcome to remedy this deficiency according to their own imaginations....

David Sutton, WESPA

## We remember Thelma

New Zealand Scrabblers were sad to hear that Thelma Chisolm, Lynn Wood's mother, had died at the end of November. We send Lynn our love and sympathy for the loss of a lovely mother. We will all miss her vibrant presence at Scrabble tournaments.



### Lyn writes

My beautiful Mother Thelma has left a gaping hole in the lives of many, the largest being the Scrabble fraternity we encompass. She had a fantastic year tripping around the country with me, with tournaments in Whangarei, Hamilton and Tauranga and topped with a Norfolk Island pearler. 20 wins out of 21 games is a wonderful achievement for an 85-year-old lady, who just happened to be feeling unwell at the time. The winning trophy, a large cow, will be displayed at the Wellington club along with other trophies Mum won over the ten visits to Norfolk. Well done Thellie.

Sundays seem so different already as Ross would give Mum a drive and a spot of lunch before a Scrabble workout at Tully Street. Her happiest games were when she

beat me, and this happened frequently. We would have a bite of tea and then drive her home to Queens Drive where she lived for 57 years. Not far in distance, but it was up five zig zags and 18 steps that this wee dot staggered when Ross dropped her off. How she managed it some nights, I just can't imagine.

Mum gave me words of advice that I accepted, and some that I didn't. It was my pleasure to look after her when Dad died 16 years ago, and I feel proud that she had plenty of fun over the years. You are at peace now Mum and with my precious Dad.

Till we meet again, happy scrabbling at the big club in the sky. Watch out for all my wonderful friends up there and tell them I won't be coming for a while yet. Lucky me.

I love you Mum.

Lynn

### Letter to Thelma

Dear Thelma,

I have enjoyed writing to you over the years and will find it hard not to look at all the \$2 Shop stickers that I bought to adorn your envelopes. The mailman will miss our colourful letters too.

Jeff and I enjoyed many visits to your home on the hill at Kilbirnie and will miss the exercise of the five zigzag ramps and 18 steps to get to your door. Our times spent with you and Lynn on Norfolk Island were



Photo by Elaine Moltzen, Kiwi

Thelma at the Nationals 2011



Thelma cleans up at Norfolk 2011

always precious, but none more so than the last. Happy memories of you with the 'cow' trophy after winning 2 games out of 21, dinners at Seaworld, driving around the island, and picnics shared, especially when you recited poetry as we looked out over the sea while sipping our bubbles.

The pancakes and maple syrup on the deck at Ardra this January will not taste the same without you. You really enjoyed the view of our back garden especially the paintings on the garage.

We will remember the moments with you in the car telling Jeff "we'll have none of that" when he placed his hand on my knee while I was driving. Badger will no longer wonder what that funny stick is when you walked around Ardra. It seems Lynn will hold the title of being the only one of you two to pet him.

Dad is doing okay. He thanks you for the bottle of gin which with a little lime juice will slake his thirst this summer after working in the garden. Jeff and I will raise a glass or two of brandy and dry during the festive season in remembrance of a very

special lady who touched so many hearts.

So long Thelma. Thank you for all the magical memories of the times we shared together.

Love always,

Pat xx

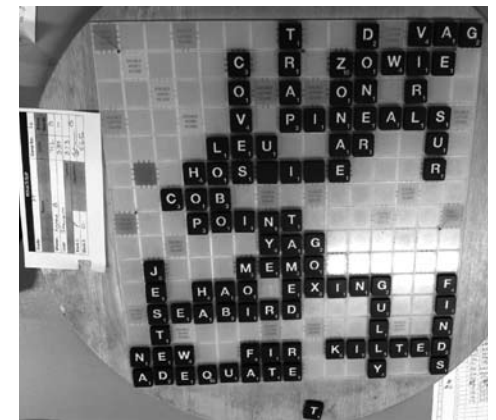
Goodbye from Jeff too, and purr purr from Badger :-))

### New NZ record

At the Wanganui tournament in October, three days after returning from Poland, Lynne Butler scored 712 in a game against Steven Brown. This may be the third highest tournament score behind Mike Sigley and Nigel Richards on 719.

To help Lynne get there, she played HOSpicE, SEABIRD then **ADEQUATE through the D, for 302. This is a new NZ record for single turn in a tournament.**

Lynne commented afterwards: "If only I'd been able to score like that in Warsaw!"



### Challenge:

#### Less is not more but the same

Name the 5-letter words that, when you remove 4 of the letters, still say the same thing. Solution on page 39.

## Errant tiles

*Jo Ann Ingram, Tauranga, has been given a tea-towel that says: "Somewhere in the world there are over a million missing SCRABBLE tiles!" And these stories tell us why ...*

### Mystery of the missing Scrabble tile

*Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell, Kiwi*

In **December 2008** I lost a Scrabble tile. It was an E, with a "Loony Tunes" sticker on the back. (We were at our Club prize-giving night at the Beerescourt Bowling Club pavilion, and were playing a version of Scrabble where we had our vowels and consonants in separate bags.)

Fast forward to **4 August 2011**, when our President Carole Coates handed me a tile – an E with a "Loony Tunes" sticker on the back. And it was in *perfect* condition.

It had been found on the bowling green. During the 32 months my tile had been missing, the green had not only been fertilised and mown and rolled and aerated, but had actually been dug up and re-surfaced!

I am thankful to finally get it back, and glad that the bowlers hadn't just discarded it.

Like a missing cat or dog that finally turns up after 2-3 years, my tile can't tell me where it's been, or what adventures it's had. How on earth did it get from inside the pavilion to the green? And how did it survive?

However, I have noticed that tiles like to stick together – how often do we draw several Is out at the same time, or end up with a rack of six Es and one R? So my theory is that it wanted to get back to my tile bag with the rest of its tile-mates.

## Rogue tile

*Shirley Hol, Christchurch*

The piece about the missing tile on your club night reminded me of a similar incident which occurred at one of our tournaments. At the finish of a game a tile was found to be missing.

The two players were thoroughly searched down – socks, sleeves, cuffs – but with no joy. We were considering holding both players up by their ankles and giving them a good shake when the tile was revealed nestling in Yvonne McLaughlan's cleavage!

### Keeping a trick up my sleeve

*Sandra Stacey, Wellington*

You wanted stories about missing tiles – well here's mine.

I was playing Scrabble at Lynn Wood's Wellington Club; it was the last game and it was over pretty quickly and so I went home. As I was undressing for bed, I pulled my sweater over my head and something hit the wall. On investigation, it was a tile which must have been tucked in the cuff of my sweater.

### Swallow this story

*Annie Dear, special correspondent to The Examiner, Missouri.*

[The missing G incident reminded Annie of an incident when she was little.]

I had a similar incident actually, believe it or not. I believe I was just coming up to the tender age of three and obviously bored by watching my big brother and mother playing the game, and decided to swallow a tile.

That can really jam up a big Scrabble game, let me tell you. They had to wait

three whole days for nature to take its course and when it finally did they – well, I'm sure it must've been Mum, as big bro was highly unlikely to do anything quite so icky – retrieved said tile. Naturally my gastric juices had worked their charm on the actual letter, as what was retrieved was a blank tile.

Being fine upstanding people, and not being ones to cheat, we decided that a third blank in the set just wasn't cricket, so then went about the laborious task of sorting all the tiles so they could discover what was missing. Apparently I'd gone for a lowly L, a single-pointer, but Mum, armed with some kind of indelible writing implement, restored the wooden tile almost to its original glory, and the game could be finished.

## That missing G

**What a coincidence that we were planning to run a few stories this issue on missing tiles.**



By now, you will have heard about the letter G going missing at the World Scrabble Championships. Reports in media sources varied, from the sensible, to the sensational, to the humorous.

- Two competitors at the World Scrabble Championships were asked to empty their pockets when a letter G went missing. Edward Martin from Britain and Chollapat Itthi-Aree from Thailand noticed a missing tile during the last draw of their match. This led to a search on and under the table, and both players were asked to show the contents of their pockets. The missing

letter was nowhere to be found, so the referee added another G to the letters to create a complete set.

– *stuff.co.nz*

*[Incidentally, our award for the best headline goes to stuff.co.nz for the following: **Letter 'G' goes missin at Scrabble championship**]*

- The World Scrabble Championships descended into controversy this weekend when a miffed player demanded an opponent be strip-searched for a missing letter G. The G-thing flap exploded when Thai competitor Chollapat Itthi-Aree urged judges during a heated match to haul England's Ed Martin into a restroom to check his skivvies for the missing letter-tile.

– *The Sun, London*

- A Thai competitor called for officials to strip-search British opponent Ed Martin, saying the Brit had hidden the letter G on his person during the Scrabble World Championship.

– *Polish Radio*

The incident also provided plenty of opportunity for the wits:

- At this year's World Scrabble Championships a player wanted his opponent strip searched because he believed the man was hiding a G. They didn't find the tile, but the players had plenty of letters concealed under their clothing:  
a T shirt with  
a V neck,  
a G string,  
a C cup,  
and an O face.



– *on Jezebel.com*



- A contributor added: In a brief statement to Scrabble officials, the accuser's wife stated "he's obsessed with the possibility," frequently demanding she disrobe and allow him to search for the spot where the G is hidden.
- We now know why the letter G mysteriously went walkabout at the recent World Scrabble Championships: an astute investor was holding it hostage, knowing it could command a sizable ransom in the current climate. On Monday G was for Germany. Yesterday, it stood for the *Guardian* newspaper – with an honorable mention for *Goldman Sachs* (GS). (Today will it be all about Greece? One can only guess.)  
– **financial report on minyandville.com**
- I take issue with Mr Itthi-Aree's idea of how to cheat. Nothing can be gained by inserting any Scrabble tile inside one's body cavities, because of the awkwardness of retrieving it later. And no player would conceal a G about his or her person, because how would it come in handy? One conceals an S up one's sleeve, so it can be added to the end of a long noun. Or a U inside one's wristwatch strap in case one picks a Q (10 points) out of the sack. We Scrabble cheats hold



these truths to be self-evident. There's nothing about G in the cheat's rulebook.  
– **John Walsh, in the UK's Independent**

**But on slate.com, Stefan Fatsis told the "real story" behind the alleged cheating scandal. We abridge his article here, since Scrabble players don't need some of the explanations:**

As soon as I saw the ubiquitous reports about the strip-search/tile-stealing allegations at the 2011 World Scrabble Championship, I cringed. Like the freak-out earlier this year over GRRL and THANG getting added to the Scrabble word list (they are, just not in North America) and last year's "news" that the game is permitting the use of proper nouns (it's not), I suspected that the truth was buried under a big pile of tiles.

As best as I can piece together from speaking to players and officials and from reading reports on the Yahoo group Word Scrabble, here's what actually happened last week in the ballroom of the Hilton Hotel in Warsaw, Poland.

In Round 7 of the 34-game event, Edward Martin, an IT consultant from London, was playing Chollapat Itthi-Aree, a math instructor from Bangkok. Near the end of the game, Martin realized a tile was missing; instead of two tiles in the bag there was only one.

After recounting several times and concluding his tracking was correct, Martin called over the tournament director. She ascertained that both players believed they had started the game with all 100 tiles. (One theory for how Martin and Chollapat didn't detect the missing letter in advance: the tiles might have inadvertently been laid out in a 9-by-11 grid.)

The director had Martin and Chollapat search for the tile – in the bag, under the

board, on the floor, on their chairs – but they turned up nothing. The director then ruled that, since the players thought the game had begun with a full allotment of tiles, the missing letter – a G – should be procured from another set and placed in the bag. Chollapat was entitled to the final two letters. Since Martin had determined how the game would likely play out, it was clear the addition of the G would change the outcome from a three-point win for Chollapat to a one-point win for Martin. (The G is worth two points.)

According to John Chew, the co-president of the North American Scrabble Players Association and assistant director of the world championship, Chollapat then asked the director to check that Martin was not concealing the missing tile on his person. Martin agreed to stand up and pat down his pockets to show nothing was inside; Chew, who witnessed the exchange, told me Martin's clothing was tight enough to make that clear. The director asked Chollapat to do the same. I'm told that Chollapat—whose spoken English is limited—did not request, as was reported in media outlets around the world, that Martin be subjected to a strip-search in the bathroom.

Play resumed. Martin used all of his remaining tiles on the next turn – a bingo, EQUINES (using a blank for the Q) – and collected, per competitive Scrabble rules, two times the sum of the letters on Chollapat's rack. Final score: 402-401, Martin.

The game occurred in the last round of the first day of play. Though the Thai players complained about the ruling en masse the next day, the dispute wasn't even known to many of the 106 competitors, and it didn't hit the media until the tournament ended on Sunday. So how did it become a worldwide story?

The tournament sponsor Mattel, which owns the rights to Scrabble outside of North America, no doubt recognized that a story including the words Scrabble, cheating, and strip-search would be media catnip. On Saturday, in its Twitter feed from the championship, Mattel began spreading the news: "Fuming Thai player calls on Brit Ed Martin to STRIP @worldscrabble11 as game ends with G tile missing – but judges refuse and Ed wins by 1pt." In conjunction with the news of Richards' victory and \$20,000 first prize, Mattel's public-relations staff mentioned the incident to reporters. (A Mattel spokesman told me a reporter for the *Independent* who was attending the event heard about it from players. The newspaper's story, filed after the conclusion of the tournament, led with the tale of the G.)

The upshot? Scads of publicity, for sure. But consider the plight of poor Ed Martin, by all accounts a nice fellow and a world-class Scrabble player, who was publicly accused of suspected cheating at the game he loves despite there being no evidence that he'd done anything wrong. Martin wrote on the World-Scrabble listserv that the widespread media reports had caused him "considerable distress," complete with reporters showing up at his house uninvited. "This has taken quite a toll on my family and me," he wrote.

And the source of the contretemps, the missing G? Martin posted a message he received from Hubert Wee, a player from Singapore. Wee had sat at the same board as Martin and Chollapat during the previous game. Wee reported that, prior to his game, he had dropped several tiles on the floor and put them back in the bag. What he didn't notice was that a lone tile had fallen into his jacket pocket. Wee found the missing letter at dinner, but he didn't realize its significance until he heard the news after returning home.

## ANOTHER story ABOUT AFRONT A

ANON

(AKA Jennifer Smith, ALIAS the Editor)

*You will remember my story in the last Forwards, where I recounted AVERSION of how I was banished to AFAR off land because AHORSE in my charge had done APOOP on AFOOT of AKING – AKING who happened to be my employer. Pam Robson has very kindly inquired after my situation now, so I continue with my story, using words formed by hooking A onto the front of ANOTHER word, and presenting ANEW list of more than 150 words, ie. not repeating ANY (from now on) that appeared in the previous episode.*

\* \* \*

APART from my talks with my taata, who was AHEAD of the tribe, my new life was pretty monotonous. However, that changed one day when we were talking in AFIELD beside ABROOK and, in ALIGHT moment, he suggested I should find myself AMATE.

At that precise moment, ABROAD walked by. She was ASTUNNING sight, ACUTELY pretty woman – so I guess I shouldn't really call her ABROAD! Her hair was drawn up into ABRAID and ASTRAY wisp of hair falling across her cheek was ALURE I couldn't resist. ATILT of her head, ASPARKLE of her brown eyes, ASWIRL of her hair, AFLUTTER of her eyelashes, ASWAY of her hips, ABUBBLE of her laughter, and I was smitten – ASTUNNED mullet, in fact!

I felt like I was in the middle of the “Goldilocks and the three bears” story.

Everything ABOUT her was just right! She was AHEIGHT that was just right for me, and her hair was perfection – ABUTTER colour, and ALENGTH that was very sexy.

ARISING in ALOIN (both of them, to be truthful) was proof that she had AROUSED ASEXUAL feeling in me. I apologise if that's AGRAPHIC picture that offends some readers, but I've never known such AWANTING, such AROUSING.

Her name was Roma, the daughter of AMERCER, and I made AMENTAL note to develop ATRACTIC to make her mine!

Thus began ADYNAMIC courtship. I showered her with gifts, and after she accepted ABROACH of diamonds at APEAK of our courtship, I made AMOVE. I asked her, in ABEGGING voice, to marry me, and she finally agreed to AMATING.

We had ASPORTING time in AMAZE of ALOFT of ASTABLE, where (to put it delicately) ALAYING took place. Afterwards, I was in AWHIRL, ADAZE of happiness. However, in AWRY moment, Roma's father, ASQUAT man with ASTOOP, tried to give me AWARNING. He told me I was on ASLOPE he described as slippery. I should have listened, as he was ASCOT, AGENCY known for their canniness.

It's ASHAME, but I was ATONY, AREALLY stupid simpleton – and that's not ABATABLE point! I was in love. AFIRE and AFLAME of love consumed me. I felt there was ASYNERGY between Roma and me, so I ignored his warning.

Roma and I were married by AZYMITÉ priest (who uses leavened bread) during AMOVING ceremony in ABUILDING with ASPIRE – quite elaborate for such ABACKWARD place. Roma was ATROPHY bride. It was ATHRILL to behold her. When

she walked in to APING of bells and ATONE from AMASSED choir – ALATE bride as per tradition (even there) – ATWITTER and ARIPPLE of admiration went round the locals gathered to watch the ceremony.

For myself, I wore the best clothes I could find. With ABRIM on my hat and ASPIC pair of trousers (which looked more like ALEGGING), I scrubbed up OK.

I was AWRACK – nervous, of course.

I had ADRY throat that was nothing

to do with ATHIRST. I couldn't prevent

ASHAKE, AQUIVER and ATREMBLE of

nervousness. But that

was quickly followed by

ASHIVER and ATINGLE

of AFORE-boding when

my prospective father-

in-law and I exchanged

AGAZE and I recalled his

warning.

My friend the taata

did AREADING; I said

AVOW and AYES at the

simple altar; the zymite

blessed us; and I was

finally AWED man. As I

looked at APLASTIC bride and groom that

the caterers had placed on ATOP tier of

ASPHERIC-shaped cake, I hoped I would

now have ABETTER life.

But it was not to be.

Once we were AWED couple, my wife became AROMA I scarcely recognised, and all of ASUDDEN our relationship became ASEPTIC one. As we had AROW most days, my love for her took ABASHING. There was AMISSING something when we were in ABED, that ASTEROID didn't improve.

I became AWEARY husband, married to AMATE who couldn't ABIDE him, and I

found it hard to keep AGLIMMER of love ALIVE for her.

ALAS for me, it turns out that she was ALES who preferred AMÉNAGE á trois!! It's an understatement to say that I was AWEE bit disappointed!

As our relationship deteriorated, I developed AITCH to leave.

On our wedding day, my taata had given me ABOON. The gift was – of all things – AHORSE [sorry, this repetition was unavoidable]. And now, ironically, the cause of my exile became my escape from it. Last

evening I'd had enough! I know it was AMORALLY indefensible thing to do, and it will cause ASTIR among the locals, but in ABID for freedom, I bounded out of our home in ASTRIDE, leapt on that horse and galloped out AGATE and AWAY into the sunset.

I'll develop AGUISE, and with AHEAP of luck, should be able to make AFRESH start with AVENTURE that's different. I plan to hide in

AHULL or AHOLD ABOARD ASEA-going vessel and find ANEW home on AISLE with AWEATHER that's pleasant.

\* \* \*

*[And so, readers, I'll say ABYE. No matter what happens, you won't hear from me AGAIN - I haven't exhausted the list of words that take AFRONT hook of A, but to keep out of AREACH of the law, I need to keep ALOW profile from now on. I'm on the run, not just from AKING, but from AROMA, AMERCER and ATAATA – and I've no doubt they'll hunt me like ARABIC dog.]*



## Favourite Zyzzyva definitions

*Kris Saether, Independent*

Have you noticed some of the hilarious definitions on the word-learning program Zyzzyva? I have no idea where the definitions are sourced from; they're certainly not from the source dictionaries used for the official word list and it's more likely they are linked to unofficial internet sources.

Anyway, a few of my favourites, plucked from memory as I've learned them via my various means on said program:

- BACHARACH** Burt born 1928, US composer of popular songs, usually with lyricist Hal David.
- DIZZY** giddy (dizzy (giddy (dizzy))).
- PITHY** concise (succinct (clearly expressed in a few words)).
- TREE** to drive into a tall, woody plant.

And my favourite...

- SCUMBER** to defecate (a dog).

Michael McKenna has been in touch with two of his faves (I especially like the latter!):

- BUG** to annoy (to irritate (to provoke (to arouse to anger or sexual desire)))
- SKINCARE** a method of caring for the skin using cosmetics and draining women's purses.

And Richard Jeremy sent me his favourite:

- ZYLONITE** a wrong spelling of XYLONITE

Perhaps other members of the Scrabble community can add to the list by submitting their own favourites?

## Blown away

*Curtis Nixon, resident of Wellington*

If the "WELLING..T...O...N... – Blown Away" sign does suffer the effects of an extreme gale after its construction, with the letters forming all sorts of unintended anagrams spread over Rongotai and Kilbirnie, here are some of the possibilities:



- LENTIL GOWN** a vegan-friendly entry in the Wearable Art Awards
- WELL TONING** some of the above who spend time on a sunbed.
- NEWTON GILL** amount of spirits required to interfere with proper spelling of local suburb.
- GENT ILL WON** one of the above imbibers who overdid it, while successful in pub raffle.
- TELL WING ON** above lucky punter wishes to inform Chinese friend of good luck.
- WELL GOT INN** fortuitous arrival at accommodation site.
- LENT GIN LOW** having borrowed spirituous liquor, it diminishes steadily.
- LENT GLOW INN** similarly borrowed weak light source, may be concerned with Christian holiday.
- LET LINNET GLOW** healthy facial skin tone after eating flaxseed.
- WELL NOTING** applies to a number of Miramar film personages eg PJ.

**LET LONG WIN** possible outcome of Commerce Commission investigation into Richard Long's role as spokesman for failed Hanover Finance.

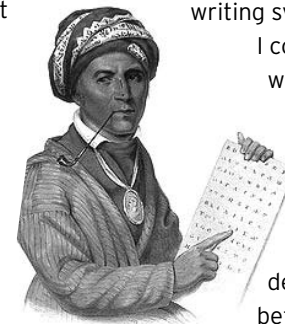
– thanks to Curtis for allowing us to use his article



*How! I am a Cherokee Indian born about 1776 – my father was a white trader, my mother a Cherokee woman. My English name is George Guess, so the Cherokee gave me an Indian name that means "guessed it".*

I worked as a silversmith, and was an athlete – that is, until the day that I became crippled from a hunting accident. You wordsmiths and language fanatics will understand my passion for what then became my life's work.

As a silversmith, I had dealt with whites who had settled in the area. My fellow tribesmen and I could not understand how white people could look at a piece of paper and read. I decided to study the secret of this "talking leaf".



So about 1809 I began work to create a character for each word in our Cherokee language. I dedicated a year to this effort, neglecting all else – my fields were left unplanted, so that my friends and neighbours thought I had lost my mind. My wife at the time is even said to have burned my initial work, believing it to be witchcraft! I didn't succeed until I gave up trying to represent entire words and instead developed a symbol for each syllable in the language. After a month I had developed a symbol for each of 86 sounds.

Unable to find adults willing to learn, I taught it to my little daughter, Ayokeh. Our Indian chiefs could not see the merit in my

alphabet – they were convinced that it was trickery, and were reluctant to adopt it. The turning point came when they devised a test – I had to write a secret message on a piece of paper, which they gave to Ayokeh. When she read aloud what had been written they were astonished, and from then on allowed me to teach it to a few more people.

As people came to appreciate the practicality of my writing system, it spread rapidly from western to eastern Cherokee. And so the Cherokee written language was born. The *Cherokee Phoenix* was the first newspaper to have text in both Cherokee and English, and in 1825, the Cherokee Nation officially adopted my writing system.

I continued teaching reading and writing until well into my seventies. I died somewhere near Mexico while I was looking for a legendary lost band of Cherokee.

I'm proud that a museum devoted to me says: "Never before, or since, in the history of

the world, has one man, not literate in any language, perfected a system for reading and writing a language."

However, you Scrabble players may not find that as interesting as one of the ways I was immortalised. In 1847 the Hungarian botanist, Stephen Endlicher, named a giant conifer after me. I signed my name Ssequoyah today in Cherokee, but the English spelling of my name is SEQUOIA. You are probably familiar with it, since it is one of only five 7-letter words containing each of the five vowels.

Think of me when you play that wonderful word, SEQUOIA. I hope it will have even more significance for you now.

## Scrabble street sign

Residents of Jackson Heights, New York, with the street sign to be re-installed on the southeast corner of 81st Street and 35th Avenue to commemorate the birthplace of Scrabble. The sign is noted in guidebooks and maps as a local attraction.



A similar sign was originally installed in 1995 outside the Community United Methodist Church, where Alfred Butts invented the popular game, but it mysteriously vanished in 2008.

## Other uses for Scrabble tiles

*Val Mills, Pakuranga*

My neighbour called me over before work this morning to show me the most gorgeous photo in *NZ House and Garden* (I think) of a beautiful table setting, and this was part of it – place names for your guests.



## New cockney alphabet suggestions

**The Editor's family** worked on this challenge and came up with:

- A** for milk (A4 milk, supposed to have special benefits)
- B** for honey (bee for honey)
- C** for fish and ships
- D** for Kate (defecate)
- E** for green trees (evergreen trees)
- F** for bull (effable)
- G** for crying out loud (gee, for crying out loud!)
- H** for consent (age for consent)
- I** for no idea (I've no idea)
- J** for sweets (Jaffa sweets)
- K** for creek (Cave Creek)
- L** for sinners ('ell for sinners)
- M** for highway (M4, London to Wales motorway)
- N** for cement (enforcement)
- O** for a cup of tea
- P** for relief (pee for relief)
- Q** for the ladies
- R** for pass (Arthur's Pass)
- S** for me (as for me ...)
- T** for biting and chewing (teeth for biting and chewing)
- U** for human rights (Youth for Human Rights)
- V** for 'mation (V formation)
- W** for bike ride (double you for bike ride)
- X** for chickens
- Y** for husband (wife or husband)
- Z** for winds (zephyr winds)

Other contributors all came up with the D (defecate) idea.

**Val Flint, Hamilton**, had some different suggestions for some letters. Her W and X suggestions are brilliant.

- B** for stew
- E** for hoe (heave-a-ho)
- G** for string
- H** for pain (ache)
- I** for tower (Eiffel)
- J** for rub (chafe or rub)
- L** for pixie (elf)
- M** for size
- N** for rooster (hen)
- O** for lout (oaf)
- Q** for toilet
- T** for dentures (teef/th)
- U** for me
- V** for Las Vegas
- W** for identical twins
- X** for divorcé/e
- Y** for mistress (wife)

Other suggestions from **Anderina McLean**, **Mt Albert**:

- B** for your time (before your time)
- D** for 'mity (deformity)
- I** for tower (Eiffel Tower)
- L** for dwarf (elf or dwarf)
- V** for world cup (FIFA World Cup)
- Y** for mistress (wife or mistress)
- O** for tuna (O Fortuna, from **Carmina Burana** by Carl Orf)

Anderina thought outside the square by introducing the word "is" in some of her definitions, eg:

- P** is for protest (peaceful protest)
- Q** is for the win (Kiwis FTW!)
- S** is for cutting paper
- X** is for alimony (exes for alimony)

And she takes the Spike Milligan award for way-out-ness:

- Z** for comes after ze three (the 4 comes after the 3)



**L for dwarf**,  
Illustration from  
the book *A is for  
Salad* by  
Mike Lester

Anderina said the challenge reminded her of a lovely little picture book called *A is for Salad* by Mike Lester. It's an alphabet book where the words don't really match the pictures, e.g. "T is for polka-dotted underpants" and the picture shows a Tiger all embarrassed in his underwear. She supplied the illustration on the left.

On the other hand, **Jeff Grant**, **Independent** invented a Cockney Alphabet using only personal forenames and surnames.

He's the only person who was able to suggest something a bit different for Z. He couldn't improve on some of the original definitions, but he's made a good job of including some Scrabble names: (Olga Visser, (Sue) Bear, Esther Perrins, Kate (Wignall), Lynn (Wood), (Barbara) Dunn and Bob (Jackman or Johnstone).

- A** for Sonya-Rose (aphis on your rose)
- B** for Len (befallen)
- C** for Myles (see for miles)
- E** for Gabor (Eva Gabor)
- F** for Rafter (ever after)
- G** for Visser (chief officer)
- H** for Dean (age fourteen)
- I** for Annai (eye for an eye)
- J** for Lynn (javelin)
- K** for Bear (cave for bear)
- L** for Bet (alphabet)
- N** for Sibyl (enforceable)
- O** for Dunn (overdone)
- Q** for Poole (cue for pool)
- R** for Chance (half a chance)
- S** for Perrins (Esther Perrins)
- U** for Rhea (euphoria)
- V** for Lamour (vive l'amour)
- X** for Emil (eggs for a meal)
- Y** for Hunt (Y-front)
- Z** for Carr (Zephyr car)

## Alphabet fun (or frustration)

*Lyn Toka, Kiwi*

This is not the kind of alphabet the editor asked for, but after half a morning spent on the phone trying to cancel a service, I am inspired to submit:

### The Call Centre, an alphabet for modern times

- A**ll All our operators are busy right now. Please hold.
- B**acklog We have a backlog of calls right now. Please hold.
- C**ustom Your custom is valuable to us. Please continue to hold.
- D**o Do you have your account number handy?
- E**nter Enter your account number using your touch phone.
- F**ile We are unable to access your file at present.
- G**ive Give me that account number again, please.
- H**old Hold the line. We are searching for your file.
- I**'m I'm sorry I cannot help. I'll transfer you to Angelina.
- J**ust Just one moment. I'll try that line again.
- K**now Do you know the extension you require?
- L**ine Your call is now fifth in line.
- M**oments Please hold for a few more moments.
- N**o No, I can't help you. I'll transfer you to La Toya.
- O**ur Our records show you are deceased.
- P**lease Please hold the line. I'll try that number again.
- Q**uestion Will you please repeat your question?

- R**ecorded This call is being recorded for training purposes.
- S**creen I have the wrong screen here. Please hold.
- T**ransfer You have been transferred here in error. I'll pass you to Abdul.
- U**nderstand I am a machine. I can understand simple words.
- V**alued You are a valued client. Please continue to hold.
- W**orking We are working to find a solution.
- X**pect Xpect a reply in the mail in 15 working days.
- Y**our Your satisfaction is important to us.
- Z**aire We are situated in Zaire. Have a nice day!

## Something trivial

*Jennifer Smith, Hamilton*

I am a member of a pub quiz team, and whenever we get Scrabble questions in the "Sports and Games" category, my teammates all look to me to provide the answer.

Of course, the inevitable happened - the week I was away in the South Island at my nephew's wedding, one of the questions involved knowing the points value of the P and Q tiles in Scrabble.

They didn't panic because I wasn't there, as all five were confident they knew this one - the P is worth five points and the Q worth eight.

They were unanimous in the answer, so were not surprised when they got the question correct.

Who says two wrongs don't make a right? Fortunately, the question had asked them for the sum of the two values!

## Brain power

### Scrabble contest no. 105

The numbers one to twenty can be represented by Roman numerals in letter form: I, II, III, IV, V, ...XX.

Finding words containing some of these letter combinations is easy, for example: HIT, NEXT, GIVE, SEXIER.

How many of the twenty Roman numerals (I-XX) can you find embedded in allowable Scrabble words? The numerals must occur consecutively (eg GIVE is OK, SILVER is not), and only one example for each numeral please. 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](mailto:ardra@clear.net.nz)

Closing date is 26 February 2012

### Solution: contest no. 104

Jethro Snafflerod found the following two-syllable 13-letter Scrabble words: BACKSCRATCHED, BREAKTHROUGHS, BREASTPLOUGHS, BREASTSTROKES, DRAUGHTBOARDS, DRIVETHROUGHS, HAIRSBREADTHS, HANDSBREADTHS, PLOUGHWRIGHTS, SCRATCHBOARDS, SCRATCHBUILDS, SCRATCHPLATES, SCRIEVEBOARDS, STRAIGHTBREDS, STRAIGHTEDGED, STRAIGHTFORTH, STRAIGHTLACED

Joan Thomas (Hastings) and Lyn Toka (Kiwi) found many of these too. Lyn suggested, tongue-in-cheek, that "any New Zillunder will tell you STRAIGHTFORWARD is pronounced 'straitford'". Nice try, Lyn! You're on the right track.

Dorothy Latta (Dunedin) submitted BREASTSTROKES and STRAIGHTFORTH,

and Michael Vnuk (S. Australia) HANDSBREADTHS. Michael commented that it is a pity STRAIGHT-BACKED is hyphenated.

The clue to a longer two-syllable word lies in the likes of FEATHERSTONEHAUGH, a 17-letter English surname on occasions pronounced 'Fan-shaw'. According to some dictionaries, the 15-letter word HALFPENNYWORTHS can be pronounced 'hay-piths'.

Nobody got this though, so we had a draw, and first name out of the hat was Joan - well done!

## Neologisms

The Washington Post calls for submissions to its neologism contest, in which readers are asked to supply alternate meanings for common words. Some entries were:

- Lymph** (v.) to walk with a lisp.
- Gargoyle** (n.) olive-flavoured mouthwash.
- Testicle** (n.) a humorous question on an exam.
- Rectitude** (n.) the formal, dignified bearing adopted by proctologists.
- Pokemon** (n.) a Rastafarian proctologist.
- Oyster** (n.) a person who sprinkles his conversation with Yiddishisms.

Readers are also invited to take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting, or changing one letter, and supply a new definition. Here are some entries:



- Bozone** (n.) the substance surrounding stupid people that stops bright ideas from penetrating. The bozone layer, unfortunately, shows little sign of breaking down in the near future.
- Foreplop** (v) any misrepresentation about yourself for the purpose of getting laid.
- Cashtration** (n.) the act of buying a house, which renders the subject financially impotent for an indefinite period.
- Giraffiti** (n) vandalism spray-painted very, very high.
- Sarchasm** (n) the gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.
- Inoculatte** (v) to take coffee intravenously when you are running late.
- Hipatitis** (n) terminal coolness.
- Decafalon** (n.) the gruelling event of getting through the day consuming only things that are good for you.
- Glibido** (v) all talk and no action.
- Beelzebug** (n.) Satan in the form of a mosquito that gets into your bedroom at three in the morning and cannot be cast out.
- Caterpallor** (n.) the colour you turn after finding half a grub in the fruit you're eating.

## Bricolage

*BRICOLAGE is a valid Scrabble word, meaning something made or built from materials you have. It's also the name of a word-based board game invented by Australian Robert Tryhorn, who hopes the game will "not only rival Scrabble, but eclipse it".*

It all began on a Sunday, when Robert was playing a game of Scrabble. "I spelt the word TRAMS and I got annoyed, because there was a perfectly good word on the board that I couldn't score," he said. The word was TRAMS spelt backwards: SMART. And so began a journey of 18 years that saw the disintegration of a marriage, the loss of employment and a spiral into depression. The final result was Bricolage.

Although many of the game's elements are still under wraps, Robert can reveal that there are 120 double-sided, hexagonal letters and players can create words in six directions. But the feature he's most proud of is the complete absence of a scoring system – a thunderbolt idea which came to him while he was looking at a teaspoon of sugar.

"There's no scoring system, yet you still arrive at a winner," he said. "It sounds impossible, but it's so simple, it's stupid."

Robert's efforts were recently rewarded in Brisbane, where Bricolage was named September's Invention of the Month by the Inventors Association of Australia.

He is now in the running for Invention of the Year, and if he wins, Bricolage will go straight into production.



## I've been reading

*Glenda Foster, Wellington*

**The Land of Painted Caves** by Jean Auel

This is the final in the *Clan of the Cave Bear* series that follows the life of Ayla who was born during the stone age in central Europe. You don't have to have read the whole series as there is plenty of reference to the earlier books.

Interesting words:

- LEK a gathering of males, of certain animal species, for the purposes of competitive mating display
- ABRI a shelter
- TRAVOIS a frame used by indigenous people to drag loads over land.
- TALAR pertaining to the talus bone in the foot
- BOVID an animal of the bovine species
- DENTALIA tooth shells or tusk shells used in indigenous jewelry, adornment, and commerce.
- TUMPLINE a strap attached at both ends to a sack, backpack, or other luggage and used to carry the object by placing the strap over the top of the head.
- BURIN a special type of lithic flake with a chisel-like edge which was probably also used for engraving, or for carving wood or bone

\* \* \*

"There have been allegations made, and we need to find out who the alligator is."

**– Employment Consultant**

\* \* \*

"Playing bop is like SCRABBLE with all the vowels missing."

**– Musician, Duke Ellington**

## Night safari: Scrabble study

*Jennifer Smith, Hamilton*

After competing in the Causeway Challenge, Shirley Martin and I spent a wonderful evening at the Night Safari in Singapore.

How many of these animals are you familiar with? Notice how many of them seem to include an H.

(In order of size – not the animal, but its name):

- TAHR goat-like mammal
- ANOA wild ox
- ORYX African antelope
- GAUR wild ox
- LORIS Asian lemur
- BONGO large striped red/orange antelope
- TAPIR hoofed mammal
- DHOLE Indian wild dog
- BHARAL blue Himalayan sheep
- SERVAL African wildcat
- LECHWE African antelope
- SAMBAR large Asian deer
- GHARIAL Indian crocodile
- MOUFLON wild sheep
- MARKHOR wild goat
- BANTENG ox
- PANGOLIN toothless mammal
- BINURONG small Asian civet
- BABIRUSA wild hog
- BARASINGHA swamp deer

Perhaps we should have visited the zoo **before** the Causeway Challenge!

## Playing with words through Scrabble

Gabriel Martin, Malaysia

*Scrabble may be of less value as an English Language learning aid than most people believe, although you can learn a lot in the process of improving your game, albeit not in a very structured manner.*

The point is, Scrabble is a word game, not a language game. It has been observed before that Scrabble is more mathematics than language, and expert players tend to have backgrounds in mathematics, computer science, actuarial science, engineering, architecture and music.

If you want to play well, you need to be able to identify possible options from any given position, and to select the option which gives the best chance of winning.

The valuation of words within the game therefore differs from those within the language. The words which are most useful in written and spoken English are not necessarily the words which are often used in Scrabble.

Those likely to appear in the context of the game are determined by probabilities, which in turn depend on the words in the dictionary of choice, or more strictly speaking, the official list, and the likelihood of their coming up during play.

The letter distribution was worked out by the game's inventor, Alfred Butts, based on a painstaking manual count of letters used in the *New York Times*, and his handwritten notes of this still exist. Butts' insight means that the letter distribution in the game is fairly reflected in the real language.

The words in the official list are derived from selected reputable dictionaries.

Experienced players often complain about the "Englishness" (or otherwise) of the words, but know better than to attempt to impose their judgment on the word list.

Playing (literally) with such a diverse and seemingly random assortment of words does little to help a learner string words together to make a coherent sentence.

Players curious enough to dig deeper may learn about foreign plural forms, agent nouns, prefixes, suffixes, portmanteau, acronyms, homonyms, borrowings, clipplings and a host of other ways to describe the words they use within the game.

The vast range of words and the diverse fields from which they come provide a golden opportunity to open a window into every subject under the sun. All it takes is a little inquisitiveness. Most people will eventually be curious enough to check the meaning of some of the weird words they encounter.

From the sphere of military history, we have words like SOLFERINO, WATERLOO, MARENGO, MARATHON, MAFFICK, MAGENTA, TANAGRA and BALACLAVA.

Now try to guess under which groups these clusters of words belong to:

- 1) CISOID, LITUUS, CARDIOID, LIMACON, TRACTRIX, CONCHOID, OGEE, ASTROID and NEPHROID
- 2) BECHAMEL, VELOUTE, PONZU, HARISSA, BEARNAISE, HOLLANDAIS, HOISIN and GNOCCHI
- 3) SUBPOENA, USUCAPT, USUFRUCT, INFANGTHIEF, LACHES and GARNISHEE
- 4) CRESCENDO, FURIOSO, SFORZATI, FORZATO, EQUALI, PIANISSIMO, PAMESE and LICHANOS
- 5) OERSTED, SVEDBERG, ANGSTROM, FARAD, DARAF, HENRY, YRNEH, MHO and COULOMBS

- 6) SPHAIRISTIKE, PARKOUR, TRACEUR, TCHOUKBALL, SALCHOW, SPITBALL and PUSHBALL

Answers: 1) geometry 2) cookery 3) law 4) music 5) physics 6) sports

Knowing the meaning and origin of interesting words like these could add value to our daily use, whether in writing or conversation.

Who would have known that the peculiar SPHAIRISTIKE is another word for tennis?

The question that teachers or parents should be asking is: "What do players actually learn in the process of improving their game, and how do I exploit this without compromising the elements that make the game such fun to play?" rather than "How do I use Scrabble to teach my kids English?"

In contrast to textbook learning, the value of any word learnt with the object of improving your game becomes immediately apparent the first time it is used to good effect. And winning is usually fun.

– from *The Malaysian Star online*

[Forwards has ongoing permission to use any Scrabble articles published by The Malaysian Star. We greatly appreciate their willingness to share material for the good of Scrabble. We also envy Malaysia for having such a Scrabble-friendly newspaper! -Ed.]

## Grizzle

Jennifer Smith, Hamilton

*If people or agencies want to use Scrabble to make a point or promote a product, I do wish they'd do their research and use it correctly.*

A USA advertisement for a car insurance firm uses a footballer called Orakpo as their promotional frontperson\*. In one ad, Orakpo is shown playing Scrabble with his opponent, who plays ORAKPOED\*.

Fair enough – I don't mind the dreamed-up word. Its meaning is given by the player as "sacked" (in American football, a sack is the tackle of the quarterback behind the line of scrimmage) – but the word was the **first** word played in the game. Come on! **Eight** letters for a turn?

Worse is to come. After Orakpo plays CAT, his opponent plays around that A to make the word NEANDERTHAL. **Ten** letters this time!

Orakpo then storms off in a huff, clearly offended at the allusions to his play and his uncouth appearance. I, for one, am unable to make the connection between that incident and car insurance, but that's irrelevant.

Perhaps (wishful thinking on my part) Orakpo's taken offence at Scrabble being misrepresented in this way?





## Australia

### 2011 Championships

1. Chris May (NSW)
2. Naweena Fernando
3. Trevor Halsall

## France

### Duplicate Scrabble

1. Franck Maniquant, defending Champion
2. Thierry Chincholle
3. Etienne Budry

Over five games, Maniquant was just 9 points from the best possible score.

## The Gulf

The Gulf Championships attracted players from Bahrain, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Oman.

1. Mohammed Sulaiman (UAE)
2. Nikhil Soneja (UA)
3. Salah Salih (Saudi Arabia)

## Malaysia

### Penang Open

1. Nigel Richards (New Zealand)
2. Sam Kantimathi (USA)
3. Yeo Kian Hung (Malaysia)

## Scotland

A pair of high-scoring Scrabble enthusiasts have set a new Scottish record. Raymond Tate and Siobhan O'Tierney from Paisley, played endurance-sapping Scrabble to raise money for charity. Sadly, they fell short of breaking the world record but,

with a mammoth score of 150,201 over 208 games during their 24-hour stint, the two friends have set a Scottish record. The final score was 12,000 off the world record of 162,171.

## Singapore

Singapore Open, November

### A Division

1. Aaron Chong
2. Hubert Wee Ming Hiu
3. Alastair Richards

### B Division

1. Olga Visser
2. Lee Cheong Cheng
3. Valliammah Thamb

### C Division

1. Pasith Teeka Uttmak
2. Isabelle LimXiaoRong
3. Alex Leckie-Zaharic (New Zealand)

## Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka Open (41 players)

1. Pichai Limprasert (Thailand)
2. Nigel Richards (New Zealand)
3. Alastair Richards (Australia)

## Thailand

1. Nigel Richards (New Zealand)
2. Komol Panyasophonlert

## United Kingdom

Wayne Kelly, 37 (pictured), beat Gary Oliver, 39, in the best-of-five final to become the National Champion. Describing Scrabble as "a big part of my life", Wayne said he had always enjoyed playing but never considered himself particularly good at it. It was only when he was a runner-up on the television game show, *Countdown*, in 1994 that friends suggested he might be talented at Scrabble.

The Irish Scrabble team has won the

Wayne Kelly



Four Nations Scrabble Tournament. The two-day tournament – which pits teams from Wales, Scotland, England and Ireland against each other – has been running for eight years and this is Ireland's first victory.

The Irish team consisted of two players from Northern Ireland: Paul Gallen, a former *Countdown* 'Champion of Champions' and Stewart Holden. From the South was Kevin McMahon from Dublin, currently living in Cork studying physics, and Feargal Weatherhead from Wexford who is the current Irish Champion.

Chairperson of the Republic of Ireland Scrabble Players Association (RISPA), John Ryan, said: "We have seen an upsurge in Scrabble in Ireland over the last couple of years and this victory will give us a good boost."

## USA

Championships in Dallas (400+ players)

1. Nigel Richards (New Zealand)
2. Kenji Matsumoto
3. Brian Bowman

## Who's playing Scrabble

### Katie Holmes and Tom Cruise, film stars

Katie revealed: "We like to play a version of Scrabble called Take Two, where you don't use the board, just the pieces."



### Salman Rushdie, author

Apparently, he has revealed on his new Twitter account that he is "locked in a Scrabble death-match series" with Kylie Minogue. Kylie demanded a Scrabble rematch with the author after he said "she's good, but I should point out that I'm winning".



### Alec Baldwin, TV actor

Alec Baldwin was asked to leave an American Airlines flight for disobeying a standard airplane rule to turn off cell phones before take-off. He was playing "Words with Friends" while his plane was parked at the gate, not moving. (The extent of the argument over the game/device was in dispute – some reports say Baldwin was abusive toward the flight crew.)



# Twenty years ago

John Foster, Independent

Five entries were received to my challenge in the last issue, from Ron Bunny, Tony Charlton, Jennifer Smith, Joan Thomas, and Lyn Toka.

A couple of gray areas quickly became apparent. Should I accept Roger Cole-Baker and Jo Ann Ingram as valid entries? Fortunately every entry included Roger and all but one included Jo Ann and it was not necessary to make a decision for a tie-breaker so I allowed both, which meant the total number of valid names is 24. Only Joan and Lyn found all 24 and I am awarding the prize to Lyn who not only provided apt definitions but also wove them into the ingenious verse which follows.

**Murray Rogers** is a large Aussie fish that's screwing.  
**Peter Jones** says "Oh, I wish"  
When he sees what's doing.  
He does desire but it's tapering off.  
Perhaps it'll stir if he sees **Anna Hough**.  
Anna is holding a coin obsolete  
While eating a joint of sweet Scottish meat.  
**Pam Barlow's** a knave with a very long knife.  
**Ray Goodyear's** the devil with a long beam of light.  
**Roger Cole-Baker** likes to screw the cabbage roaster.  
The female Chef is **Colleen Cook** who's handy with a toaster.  
Another female is **Sheila Reed**,  
A tall grass down by the swamp indeed.

**Alan Henley's** a nomad in Europe of old  
With a fine wooly jumper to keep out the cold.

**Mike Southern** waves his microphone  
down towards Bluff.

**Jeanette Grimmer** is a sterner person  
dressed in denim stuff.

**Maria Barker** is a female horse or zebra  
mare  
Shouting out for custom at the annual  
county fair.

**Mary Beech** is a tree whose bark is smooth  
and grey  
And she has marijuana to take her cares  
away.

There are two **Marshall's** with a plan that's  
been made  
For post-war European economic aid.

**Paul's** fancy lever may help with the  
farming plan,  
While **Carol's** there singing as loudly as she  
can.

**Jo Ann Ingram's** a sweetheart with a  
pension  
But seems to be ignorant, this I'll mention.

**Paul Lister's** plough has a pivotal lever,  
**Betty Don** has a crowbar that she swings  
in a fever

While putting on clothes so she won't  
cough and sneeze.

**Pat Wood** will tap lightly while planting  
some trees.

There are four colours on this list today  
And the first of these is **Mary Gray**.  
She is a mixture of black and white  
With the hemp plant to keep her happy all  
night.

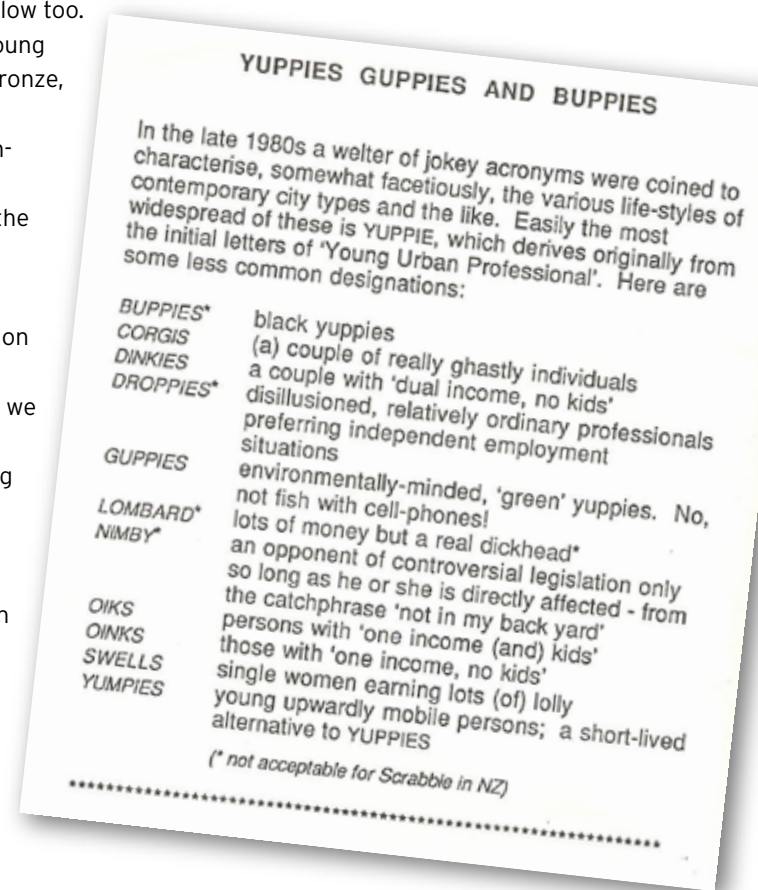
**Madeleine Green** mixes yellow and blue  
To tint her sponge cakes for me and for  
you.

**Sheila Green** is a woman who

Mixes the blue and the yellow too.  
Then there's Mr **Brown**, young  
**Steven**, His voice is tan, bronze,  
chocolate even.

**Jean Wacker** is our denim-  
clad friend,  
And that, good people, is the  
end.

And from issue 25  
December 1991, my selection  
is an article on acronyms.  
Interestingly, even though we  
have had many dictionary  
revisions in the intervening  
20 years, and have been  
inflicted with nonsense  
acronyms like YABA, the  
only one of the four shown  
as unacceptable then but  
now allowed is BUPPIES.  
I never cease to be  
surprised that NIMBY\*  
has never been allowed  
in spite of NIMBYISM and  
NIMBYNESS being ok.



## What else?

What nickname do you get when you  
are an American professional baseball  
player named Marc Rzepczynski?

Yes, with that impossible combina-  
tion of high-scoring letters, it has to be  
"Scrabble".

26-year old Rzepczynski is a left-handed  
pitcher. He began his career in the minor  
league in 2007, playing for the Toronto  
Blue Jays, and it was that team that gave  
him his nickname. Since 2009 he has  
played in the major league for the St. Louis  
Cardinals.

## Solutions to challenge (page 19)

AITCH. Remove AITC and you're left with H.

QUEUE. Remove UEUE and you're left with  
Q.

Similar examples:

- A seven-letter word that can have six letters removed and still say the same is NOTHING. (Remove NTHING and you're left with O.)
- The 4-letter ZERO minus three letters ZER leaves you with O.
- Can you think of more?

## The Minnesota challenge

### Can Scrabble solve the mystery?

Jeff Grant, Independent

In the last *Forwards* we read about the 2007 collapse of the Mississippi River bridge in Minneapolis, Minnesota, which resulted in 13 deaths. Recently, the monument in a remembrance garden was defaced just two days after it opened, with vandals stealing some of the brass letters used to name the victims.

The theft set off a minor puzzle-solving frenzy after the *Star-Tribune* newspaper published a list of the 22 missing letters, which some people believe were not prised off at random. Using tiles from a borrowed Scrabble set, design student Liam Flahive came up with the only remotely plausible solution. He believes it shows criticism of the monument itself:

#### Damn your metal signage, W.W

Note that the stolen letters were mostly lowercase, which may not be significant as the thief was probably not worried about capitalisation. Nevertheless, a dot above a lower case l and a comma were also taken. Why? Liam thinks W.W could be the thief's initials, but the missing dot is strange.

This is a good example of how long anagrams can be used to suggest almost anything. Assuming the letter theft was not random, and the perpetrator was probably young, male and from the area, here are some alternative theories based on transposition of the missing letters plus the comma and dot.

1. The perp is a member of a fundamentalist church who disapproves of such public monuments and wants prayers

for the victims only on Sunday.

#### We want Sunday memorial, G.G

(GG is online slang for God's Greetings)

2. There is a gang connection. Someone wants attention, recognition, or something.

#### Dwayne Wuts' gang memorial.

#### Wayne Lumaro, Midwest gang.

#### Manuel Stower, Midway gang.

#### Samuel Towner, Midway gang.

The Mexican-American Sureno gang is active in Minneapolis-St. Paul, but it is unlikely they were responsible for this crime.

#### W. Midway Metal, Sureno gang.

3. Midway and West Midway are areas in St. Paul (capital of Minnesota), which adjoins Minneapolis. Perhaps someone from there is the letter thief.

#### Manuel Grogan, West Midway.

#### Manuel G. Rogan, West Midway

4. A local Harry Potter fan did it! He calls himself:

#### Wayward Muggle, Minnesota.

\* \* \*

## Further to the 1-35W Memorial story

Letty Keaton, *Forwards* Roving Reporter

I know that my neighbour, Mame, had been a vocal opponent of the memorial garden and I thought the worst of her when I realised that the stolen letters spelt out

#### WoW it's an ugly garDen. mame

When I taxed her with it, she was indignant.

"I'm not a thief or a vandal, and even if I were, I would not have taken the upper case D and Ws. They don't look right. And

what's the point, anyway? I'd sooner have written an angry letter to the paper."

We wondered if the letters had been stolen to order, and tried to match them to local businesses. We tried:

#### gateway gemWoRlD, minn.usa

#### WayWaRd egg motel, minn.usa

These looked awkward with the capitals in the middle. Next were:

#### Welqum DraqWay, minnesota.

#### Waggly Water Dome, minn.usa

#### Wee Doggy Walmart, minn.usa

#### and even (with the Ws inverted)

#### Maggy Munter's animal Dome.

These were all possible, but each one needed more capitals and, anyway, the letters were too small to be part of a firm's signage, we thought, so we gave up.

However, the other day at our local mall I noticed a smart new name plate with brass letters on the front door of

#### Manuel Dimmany, Mortgages.

\* \* \*

## Non words

Alison Holmes, *Christchurch*

**The scene:** Grandmother doing the Codecracker, Grandfather resting, Grandson (16) playing a tactile game on the floor (he doesn't read willingly).

**Grandmother:** "Is there such as word as "bieve" cos it would fit?"

**Grandfather:** "No there isn't."

**Grandson:** "Grandad, do you know all the words that aren't in the dictionary as well as the ones that are?"

\* \* \*

## Why teachers drink

From Alison Holmes, *Christchurch*

Q Explain briefly what hard water is.

A Ice.

Q What was Sir Walter Raleigh famous for?

A He is a noted figure in history because he invented cigarettes and started a craze for bicycles.

Q What did Mahatma Ghandi and Genghis Khan have in common?

A Unusual names.

Q Name one of the early Romans' greatest achievements.

A Learning to speak Latin.

Q Name six animals which live specifically in the Arctic.

A Two polar bears, four seals.

Q Where was the American Declaration of Independence signed?

A At the bottom.

Q Joanna works in an office. Her computer is a stand-alone system. What is a stand-alone computer system?

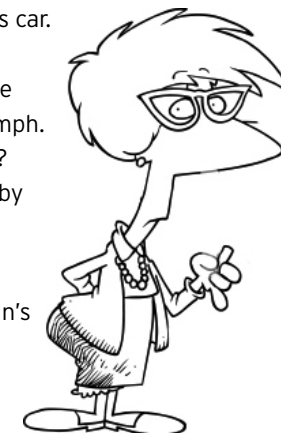
A It doesn't come with a chair.

Q Steve is driving his car. He is travelling at 60feet/sec and the speed limit is 40 mph. Is Steve speeding?

A He could find out by checking his speedometer.

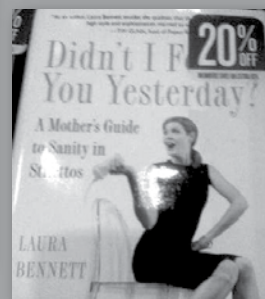
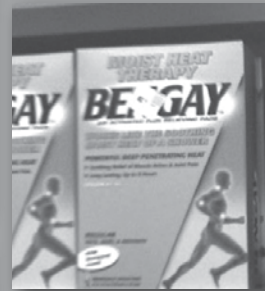
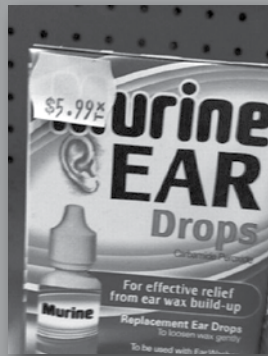
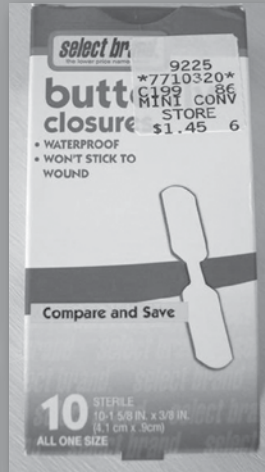
Q Where was Hadrian's Wall built?

A Around Hadrian's garden.



## Poorly placed stickers

The following photographs show how a poorly placed sticker can change everything. (You have to wonder whether some of the stickers were deliberately positioned by bored or rebellious shop assistants)



# Rankings

NZASP Rankings  
as at 19 December 2011

Rank	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%
1	Howard Warner	2003	1508.5	2050	74%
2	Blue Thorogood	1976	455	659	69%
3	Kristian Saether	1937	107	168	64%
4	Joanne Craig	1919	263	397	66%
5	Jeff Grant	1910	1486	1960	76%
6	Mike Sigley	1892	887	1264	70%
7	Nick Cavenagh	1888	161	272	59%
8	Peter Sinton	1884	571.5	789	72%
9	Patrick Carter	1873	681	1087	63%
10	John Foster	1865	1315	2303	57%
11	Lawson Sue	1855	419.5	814	52%
12	Glennis Hale	1851	1312.5	2350	56%
13	Lynne Butler	1831	834.5	1357	61%
14	Rogelio Talosig	1819	395	665	59%
15	Andrew Bradley	1817	740	1415	52%
16	Debbie Raphael	1802	523	851	61%
17	Rosemary Cleary	1797	631	1355	47%
18	Glenda Foster	1794	869.5	1722	50%
19	Steven Brown	1769	821	1512	54%
20	Chris Hooks	1760	880	1810	49%
21	Anderina McLean	1733	400.5	726	55%
22	Allie Quinn	1724	922.5	1907	48%
23	Liz Fagerlund	1718	855	1663	51%
24	Glenyss Buchanan	1706	589.5	1252	47%
25	Murray Rogers	1693	563	1084	52%
26	Olivia Godfrey	1689	492	891	55%
27	Denise Gordon	1686	649	1342	48%
28	Paul Lister	1679	732.5	1299	56%
29	Marianne Bentley	1658	274	617	44%
30	Lynne Powell	1654	855.5	1711	50%
31	Amelia Carrington	1648	272	490	56%
32	Tim Anglin	1637	30	55	55%
33	Peter Jones	1635	734	1512	49%
34	Karyn McDougall	1634	624	1193	52%
35	John Baird	1626	140	243	58%
36	Janice Cherry	1622	344	657	52%
37	Shirley van Essen	1620	351.5	682	52%
38	Lynn Wood	1614	1365	2873	48%
39	Val Mills	1610	910	1941	47%
40	Ian Patterson	1606	210	399	53%
41	Helen Sillis	1603	673	1336	50%
42	Frank Robinson	1589	173.5	333	52%
43	Joan Thomas	1580	807.5	1619	50%
44	Jennifer Smith	1578	819	1674	49%
45	David Gunn	1568	1093.5	2203	50%
46	Margie Hurly	1567	297	572	52%
47	Cicely Bruce	1560	200.5	329	61%
48	Katy Yiakmis	1528	89	191	47%
49	Irene Smith	1522	125.5	239	53%
50	Pam Robson	1519	499.5	1085	46%
51	Pam Barlow	1513	550	1089	51%
52	Selena Chan	1511	231	437	53%
53	Vicky Robertson	1499	187	361	52%
54	Yvette Hewlett	1495	400.5	840	48%
55	Maureen Holliday	1494	592	1155	51%
56	Scott Chaput	1476	125.5	207	61%
57	Clare Wall	1466	223	428	52%
58	Hazel Purdie	1459	854.5	1746	49%
59	Anna Hough	1449	492	1011	49%
60	Leila Thomson	1445	490.5	1103	44%
61	Herb Ramsay	1434	113	171	66%
62	Shirley Martin	1428	717.5	1374	52%
63	Mary Gray	1425	381.5	735	52%
64	Jean O'Brien	1397	892.5	1748	51%
65	Kaite Hansen	1392	269	484	56%
66	Peter Johnstone	1387	95.5	174	55%
67	Rosalind Phillips	1386	429.5	815	53%
68	Shirley Hol	1376	535.5	1182	45%
69	Lyn Toka	1375	452.5	866	52%
70	Lorraine Van Veen	1370	756.5	1481	51%
71	Roger Coates	1363	602.5	1287	47%
72	Yoon Kim Fong	1358	447	855	52%
73	Su Walker	1354	803.5	1581	51%
74	Dianne Cole-Baker	1351	317	597	53%
75	Pat Bryan	1334	159	275	58%
76	Karen Gray	1329	199	368	54%
77	Glenda Geard	1314	892	1818	49%
78	Ray Goodyear	1293	200	407	49%
79	Ruth Groffman	1280	393.5	818	48%
80	Heather Landon	1277	338	642	53%

81	Faye Cronhelm	1275	733	1475	50%	122	Chris Handley	859	327	621	53%
82	June Mackwell	1275	670.5	1516	44%	123	Alex Leckie-Zaharic	851	39	57	68%
83	Allison Torrance	1262	301.5	579	52%	124	Tony Charlton	839	161.5	334	48%
84	Ernie Gidman	1257	348	692	50%	125	Kathleen Mori-Barker	831	312.5	626	50%
85	Rhoda Cashman	1254	744.5	1533	49%	126	Joan Pratt	827	597	1166	51%
86	Delcie Macbeth	1242	713.5	1368	52%	127	Judy Driscoll	806	60	190	32%
87	Lynn Carter	1235	479.5	920	52%	128	Richard Cornelius	805	46.5	86	54%
88	Margaret Cherry	1213	422	852	50%	129	Annette Coombes	803	567	1272	45%
89	Lyn Dawson	1200	354	650	54%	130	Valma Gidman	779	613.5	1223	50%
90	Marian Ross	1149	462	916	50%	131	Leighton Gelling	772	53	105	50%
91	Jean Boyle	1149	423.5	800	53%	132	Alison Holmes	759	161.5	298	54%
92	Carolyn Kyle	1144	565.5	1121	50%	133	Suzanne Harding	740	206	407	51%
93	Jena Yousif	1141	328.5	643	51%	134	Yvonne McLaughlan	712	412.5	882	47%
94	Ann Candler	1123	647.5	1372	47%	135	Thelma Chisholm	699	264.5	568	47%
95	Andree Prentice	1117	835	1634	51%	136	Janny Henneveld	696	301.5	630	48%
96	Colleen Cook	1103	251	511	49%	137	Michael Groffman	695	209.5	449	47%
97	Malcolm Graham	1101	300	613	49%	138	Ruth Godwin	688	138	357	39%
98	Elaine Moltzen	1070	522	1038	50%	139	Philippa Medlock	688	51.5	100	52%
99	Gabrielle Bolt	1063	317.5	615	52%	140	Maria Clinton	663	185	383	48%
100	Roto Mitchell	1049	584	1147	51%	141	Jean Craib	648	335	712	47%
101	Karen Rodgers	1039	103	270	38%	142	Judith Bach	645	75	146	51%
102	Barbara Dunn	1026	185.5	327	57%	143	Madeleine Green	633	41.5	87	48%
103	Nola Borrell	998	211.5	382	55%	144	Noelene Bettjeman	607	210	458	46%
104	Judith Thomas	983	141.5	264	54%	145	Lynn Thompson	593	168.5	388	43%
105	Roger Cole-Baker	982	339	648	52%	146	Anne-Louise Milne	592	78	295	26%
106	Shirley Morrison	982	102.5	224	46%	147	Sue Mayn	573	153	373	41%
107	Sheila Reed	976	164.5	333	49%	148	Pauline Smeaton	560	297.5	572	52%
108	Catherine Henry	973	377.5	713	53%	149	Joan Beale	544	54	107	50%
109	Bev Edwards	970	157.5	293	54%	150	Anthea Jones	527	156.5	320	49%
110	Sandra Stacey	966	136	265	51%	151	Anne Scatchard	521	188.5	377	50%
111	Pam Muirhead	963	74.5	129	58%	152	Maggie Bentley	494	53	97	55%
112	Fran Lowe	942	47.5	99	48%	153	Antonia Aarts	471	78	180	43%
113	Jo Ann Ingram	935	156	322	48%	154	Naveen Sivasankar	469	10	42	24%
114	Carole Coates	934	526.5	1076	49%	155	Christina Linwood	462	84.5	183	46%
115	Betty Eriksen	926	1056	2084	51%	156	Alan Henley	445	21	52	40%
116	Tim Henneveld	899	275.5	634	43%	157	Betty Don	440	9	57	16%
117	Julia Schiller	893	58	149	39%	158	Margaret Miller	404	95	252	38%
118	Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell	888	514	1071	48%	159	Stephanie Pluck	355	34.5	100	35%
119	Karen Miller	886	434.5	880	49%	160	Penny Irvine	323	82.5	206	40%
120	Rosemary Wauters	869	121	240	50%	161	Frances Higham	257	25	97	26%
121	Mary Curtis	865	131	256	51%	162	Susan Milne	242	16.5	65	25%
						163	Trish Fox	178	21	135	16%

# Tournament Results

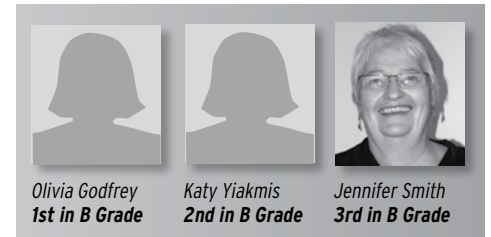
## Mt Albert Tournament 1 – 2 October 2011

GRADE A	CLUB	WINS	SPREAD	AVE	
1	Howard Warner	MTA	10	710	448
2	Jeff Grant	IND	9	908	452
3	Lawson Sue	MTA	9	312	437
4	John Foster	IND	6	287	424
5	Glennis Hale	IND	6	72	406
6	Allie Quinn	WRE	6	0	391
7	Andrew Bradley	MTA	6	-545	404
8	Nick Cavenagh	HAM	5	35	419
9	Patrick Carter	MTA	5	-31	398
10	Murray Rogers	NEL	5	-228	380
11	Val Mills	PAK	4	-344	376
12	Liz Fagerlund	MTA	4	-359	386
13	Lynne Powell	HBC	3	-817	369



GRADE B	CLUB	WINS	SPREAD	AVE	
1	Olivia Godfrey	WEL	9	358	401
2	Katy Yiakmis	MTA	8	637	423
3	Jennifer Smith	HAM	8	379	400
4	Joan Thomas	HAS	7	510	407
5	Cicely Bruce	WRE	7	10	396
6	Maureen Holliday	HBC	7	-166	381
7	Lynn Wood	WEL	7	-193	391
8	Pam Barlow	PAK	6	-6	398
9	Margie Hurly	WRE	6	-61	387

10	Shirley Martin	HAM	6	-223	378
11	Yvette Hewlett	IND	5	-177	404
12	Su Walker	MTA	5	-312	384
13	Clare Wall	WEL	5	-374	386
14	David Gunn	WKP	5	-382	381

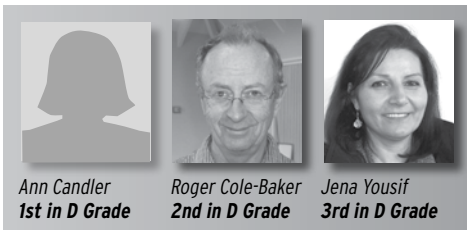


GRADE C	CLUB	WINS	SPREAD	AVE	
1	Lorraine Van Veen	IND	8	510	396
2	Faye Cronhelm	IND	8	464	391
3	Delcie Macbeth	IND	8	385	407
4	Mary Gray	MTA	8	358	392
5	Glenda Geard	IND	8	192	394
6	Pat Bryan	MTA	8	-13	395
7	Rosalind Phillips	PAK	7	234	401
8	Ruth Groffman	DUN	7	113	381
9	Chris Higgins	MTA	7	-63	390
10	Ernie Gidman	ROD	6	-305	366
11	Dianne Cole-Baker	MTA	6	-370	362
12	Marianne Patchett	MTA	4	-478	374
13	Lynn Carter	IND	4	-598	369
14	Bev Edwards	WRE	2	-429	357



GRADE D	CLUB	WINS	SPREAD	AVE	
1	Ann Candler	NSB	11	769	389
2	Roger Cole-Baker	MTA	10	702	407
3	Jena Yousif	KIW	9	512	386

4	Fran Lowe	HAS	8	367	380
5	Roto Mitchell	WAN	8	236	388
6	Karen Miller	IND	6	106	353
7	Heather Landon	TGA	6	19	370
8	Betty Eriksen	WAN	6	-118	368
9	Catherine Henry	TGA	6	-252	354
10	Tim Henneveld	ROT	6	-394	329
11	Suzanne Harding	WRE	5	-403	352
12	Valma Gidman	ROD	4	-482	338
13	Ruth Godwin	ROT	3	-456	335
14	Annette Coombes	WKP	3	-611	342



GRADE E	CLUB	WINS	SPREAD	AVE	
1	Leighton Gelling	HAM	13	1289	398
2	Janny Henneveld	ROT	10	581	365
3	Lynn Thompson	WRE	9	343	354
4	Elaine Ware	MTA	8	599	365
5	Noelene Bettjeman	HBC	8	96	337
6	Alan Henley	NSB	6	-134	322
7	Antonia Aarts	MTA	6	-201	333
8	Julia Schiller	IND	5	46	342
9	Margaret Miller	HBC	5	-283	323
10	Anne Scatchard	WRE	4	-315	326
11	Chris Guthrey	IND	2	-977	296
12	Susan Milne	MTA	1	-1049	274

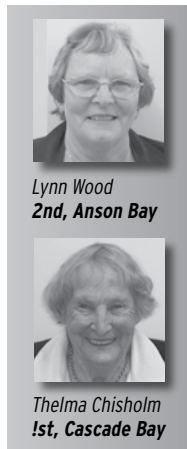


## Norfolk Island 15-22 October 2011

Congratulations to the Australians who won the shield back this year. Here are the results:

### Anson Bay

- 1<sup>st</sup> Roberta Tait (Aus)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Lynn Wood (NZ)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Rose Garden (Aus)



### Ball Bay

- 1<sup>st</sup> Jenny Plant (Aus)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Wendy Batt (Aus)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Wayne Willis (Aus)

### Cascade Bay

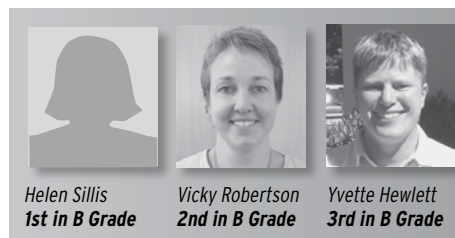
- 1<sup>st</sup> Thelma Chisholm (NZ)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Julie Russell (Aus)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Rita Humphrey (Aus)

## Wanganui Tournament 22 – 23 October 2011

GRADE A	CLUB	WINS	SPREAD	AVE	
1	Mike Sigley	WAN	11	662	438
2	Lynne Butler	NPL	8	185	419
3	Rosie Cleary	WAN	8	-220	396
4	Olivia Godfrey	WEL	6	24	406
5	Glenyss Buchanan	LOH	6	-300	396
6	Steven Brown	KAP	6	-345	408



GRADE B	CLUB	WINS	SPREAD	AVE	
1	Helen Sillis	NPL	10	311	399
2	Vicky Robertson	WEL	8	386	399
3	Yvette Hewlett	IND	8	225	410
4	Rosalind Phillips	MTA	8	52	390
5	Leila Thomson	LOH	6	-452	374
6	Hazel Purdie	MTA	5	-522	381



GRADE C	CLUB	WINS	SPREAD	AVE	
1	Suzanne Fredricks	WAN	10	656	403
2	Jean Boyle	WAN	10	201	380
3	Andree Prentice	WAN	9	301	385
4	Heather Landon	TGA	8	249	387
5	Roto Mitchell	WAN	8	-220	372
6	Nola Borrell	WEL	7	46	381
7	Betty Eriksen	WAN	5	-47	367
8	Judy Driscoll	KAP	3	-1186	319



## Canterbury Open Tournament 29-30 October 2011

GRADE A	CLUB	WINS	SPREAD	AVE	
1	Blue Thorogood	CHC	14	1677	469
2	Allie Quinn	WRE	8	194	391
3	Ian Patterson	DUN	8	-40	384
4	Murray Rogers	NEL	7	-199	374
5	Shirley van Essen	CHC	6	-321	373
6	Karyn McDougall	DUN	5	-129	395
7	John Baird	CHC	5	-435	362
8	Selena Chan	CHC	3	-747	366



GRADE B	CLUB	WINS	SPREAD	AVE	
1	Anna Hough	CHC	9	358	381
2	Irene Smith	CHC	9	288	381
3	Herb Ramsay	CHC	8	279	393
4	Peter Johnstone	CHC	8	196	381
5	Shirley Hol	CHC	8	54	387
6	Ray Goodyear	CHC	5	-139	375
7	Ruth Groffman	DUN	5	-288	364
8	Allison Torrance	CHC	4	-748	357



GRADE C	CLUB	WINS	SPREAD	AVE	
1	Colleen Cook	CHC	11	529	394
2	Heather Landon	TGA	10	386	373
3	Lyn Dawson	CHC	8	196	374
4	Andree Prentice	WAN	7	23	376
5	Gabrielle Bolt	CHC	6	-173	360
6	Connie Flores	CHC	6	-212	354
7	Karen Rodgers	IND	4	-253	354
8	Malcolm Graham	CHC	4	-496	364



GRADE D	CLUB	WINS	SPREAD	AVE	
1	Kathleen Mori-Barker	CHC	12	1235	417
2	Alison Holmes	CHC	9.5	540	364
3	Tony Charlton	NEL	9	390	367
4	Kadda Mohamed	CHC	9	25	372
5	Jean Craib	CHC	9	-65	350
6	Madeleine Green	CHC	8	105	361
7	Judith Bach	CHC	8	29	348
8	Yvonne McLaughlan	CHC	7	211	369
9	Anne Scatchard	WRE	6.5	-12	343



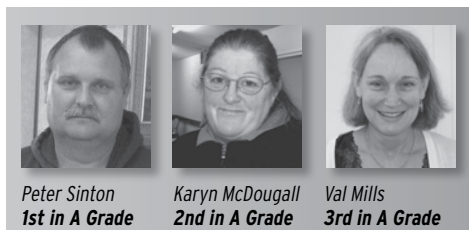
10	Betty Don	NEL	5	-573	321
11	Trish Fox	CHC	1	-1185	281
12	Scott Chisholm	CHC	0	0	0



*Kathleen Mori-Barker, 1st*     *Alison Holmes, 2nd in D Grade*     *Tony Charlton, 3rd in D Grade*

### Otago Lion Open 12-13 November 2011

GRADE A	CLUB	WINS	SPREAD	AVE
1	Peter Sinton	DUN	12	1229 448
2	Karyn McDougall	DUN	8	-418 378
3	Val Mills	MTA	7	252 392
4	Lynn Wood	WEL	7	-50 393
5	Ian Patterson	DUN	6	-907 364
6	Cicely Bruce	WRE	5	-106 392



*Peter Sinton, 1st in A Grade*     *Karyn McDougall, 2nd in A Grade*     *Val Mills, 3rd in A Grade*

GRADE B	CLUB	WINS	SPREAD	AVE
1	Irene Smith	CHC	11.5	535 410
2	Kaite Hansen	CHC	8	404 384
3	Peter Johnstone	CHC	7.5	-464 373
4	Shirley Hol	CHC	7	447 404
5	Karen Gray	DUN	6	-594 369
6	Ruth Groffman	DUN	5	-328 349



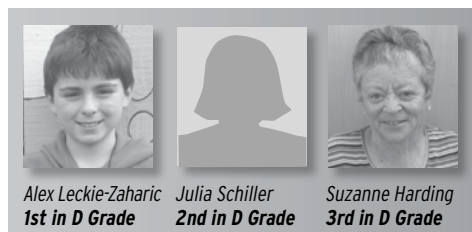
*Irene Smith, 1st in B Grade*     *Kaite Hansen, 2nd in B Grade*     *Peter Johnstone, 3rd in B Grade*

GRADE C	CLUB	WINS	SPREAD	AVE
1	Carolyn Kyle	DUN	8	377 385
2	Heather Landon	TGA	8	363 386
3	Marian Ross	DUN	8	213 392
4	Jean Boyle	WAN	8	84 381
5	Malcolm Graham	CHC	7	-225 382
6	Colleen Cook	CHC	6	-812 354



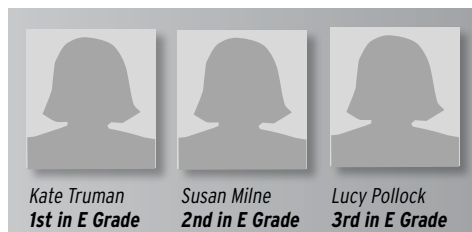
*Carolyn Kyle, 1st in C Grade*     *Heather Landon, 2nd in C Grade*     *Marian Ross, 3rd in C Grade*

GRADE D	CLUB	WINS	SPREAD	AVE
1	Alex Leckie-Zaharic	DUN	12	1405 421
2	Julia Schiller	IND	11	474 369
3	Suzanne Harding	WRE	9	583 378
4	Michael Groffman	DUN	8	278 365
5	Anne-Louise Milne	DUN	7	-181 349
6	Lynn Thompson	WRE	6.5	-15 357
7	Naveen Sivasankar	DUN	4	-1078 318
8	Stephanie Pluck	DUN	2.5	-1466 293



*Alex Leckie-Zaharic, 1st in D Grade*     *Julia Schiller, 2nd in D Grade*     *Suzanne Harding, 3rd in D Grade*

GRADE E	CLUB	WINS	SPREAD	AVE
1	Kate Truman	DUN	15	1833 362
2	Susan Milne	MTA	11	845 314
3	Lucy Pollock	DUN	9	647 310
4	Joseph Araya	DUN	5	-498 259
5	Tyler Proctor	DUN	4	-725 241
6	Tim Barham	DUN	1	-2102 179



*Kate Truman, 1st in E Grade*     *Susan Milne, 2nd in E Grade*     *Lucy Pollock, 3rd in E Grade*

### Hamilton Promotion/ Demotion Tournament 27 November 2011

#### Winners

		Total Wins	Spread
1.	Nick Cavenagh	HAM	(7 wins) +594
2.	Julia Schiller	IND	(7 wins) +365
3.	David Gunn	WKP	(7 wins) +226
4.	Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell	KIW	(7 wins) +50
5.	Hazel Purdie	MTA	(6 wins) +361
6.	Jena Yousif	KIW	(6 wins) +341
7.	Ruth Lilian	KIW	(6 wins) +333
8.	Heather Landon	TGA	(6 wins) +260
9.	Mary Gray	MTA	(6 wins) +186
10.	Anderina McLean	MTA	(6 wins) +125
11.	Lynn Carter	IND	(6 wins) +105
12.	Pam Barlow	PAK	(6 wins) +42
13.	Dianne Cole-Baker	MTA	(6 wins) -28

#### All Results

		Total Wins	Spread
14.	Noelene Bettjeman	HBC	5 352
15.	Pam Robson	IND	5 222
16.	Roger Coates	KIW	5 184
17.	Philippa Medlock	ROT	5 150
18.	Cicely Bruce	WRE	5 -2
19.	Lawson Sue	MTA	5 -185
20.	Howard Warner	MTA	4.5 179
21.	Joan Thomas	HAS	4 120



*Nick Cavenagh, 1st Place*     *Julia Schiller, 2nd Place*     *David Gunn, 3rd Place*

22.	Leighton Gelling	HAM	4 59
23.	Katy Yiakmis	MTA	4 -51
24.	Roger Cole-Baker	MTA	4 -67
25.	Val Mills	PAK	4 -111
26.	Catherine Henry	TGA	4 -211
27.	Ruth Godwin	ROT	4 -231
28.	Maggie Bentley	ROT	4 -263
29.	Elaine Moltzen	KIW	4 -281
30.	Liz Fagerlund	MTA	3.5 -280
31.	Shirley Martin	HAM	3 112
32.	Delcie MacBeth	IND	3 -9
33.	Samantha Samuels	IND	3 -19
34.	Bev Edwards	WRE	3 -122
35.	Rosalind Philips	MTA	3 -139
36.	Glenda Geard	IND	3 -140
37.	Faye Cronhelm	IND	3 -187
38.	Jean O'Brien	IND	3 -329
39.	Jennifer Smith	HAM	3 -330
40.	Margaret Miller	HBC	3 -374
41.	Su Walker	MTA	3 -475

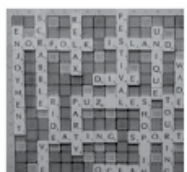
#### TOURNAMENT CALENDAR 2012

\*entry restricted to qualifiers

Tournament	Place	Dates
Pakuranga	Auckland	28-29 January
Rotorua	Rotorua	18-19 February
Nelson	Nelson	25-26 February
Wellington	Wellington	10-11 March
Mt Albert Memorial	Auckland	17-18 March
Dunedin Open	Dunedin	31 March-1 April
Masters*	Wanganui	7-9 April
Kapiti Coast	Kapiti	21-22 April
Whanagrei	Whangarei	7-8 July
Mt Albert	Auckland	29-30 September
Tauranga	Tauranga	25-26 August
Kiwi	Hamilton	30 June



*Keep these dates free for next year.*



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AIR NEW ZEALAND



*We live on Norfolk and know Norfolk Best!*

## STOP PRESS

**Kiwi Scrabblers have decided to hold a Mid-Winter Christmas Tournament on Saturday 30 June.**

**This will be a no-frills tournament – bring your own lunch – but home baked morning and afternoon teas will be provided.**

## NZ Scrabble Records

Record	Tournament		Club Level	
	Score	Player (Club)	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)
<b>NEW</b> Highest Single Score	302	Lynn Butler (NPL)	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	03 545 1159	tony.charlton@yahoo.co.uk	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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