

for words



Journal of the New Zealand Association of Scrabble® Players

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NZASP LIFETIME AWARDS * TRANS-TASMAN REPORTS * YOUTH SCRABBLE * COCKNEY KAIN TELLS HIS STORY * LOST WORDS * SCRABBLE HOROSCOPES * NORFOLK ISLAND REPORTS * NEW WORDS PERHAPS * CHRISTMAS DAY MENU * HALL OF FAME: VIRGINIA APGAR * SCRABBLE WORLD RECORD • AUCKLAND MATCHPLAY REPORT • HOLIDAY STORY TO DECIPHER * TWENTY YEARS AGO: JETHRO SNAFFLEROD

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From the editor

Jennifer Smith



My Scrabble playing is not of the calibre where I would ever presume to give advice on how to play, but I do have 10 golden rules or sayings that guide me:

- 1. You can get just as much crap out of the bag as you ever put back in it.** (Which is why I don't change very often.)
- 2. When in doubt, go for the highest score.**
- 3. It's not always your bad luck.** Sometimes it's your opponent's great play. Sometimes it's your poor play or inadequate word knowledge. If it is bad luck, there's no point in beating yourself up about something you've had no control over.
- 4. The law of averages works in Scrabble, too.** So I try to never point out all the good tiles my opponent got that I didn't. I try not to even think it. I know that over time, I get my share of the goodies!
- 5. There is no such thing as a "bad" letter.** Just as there is no such thing as a "bad" food. By definition, any food has its benefits, just as every letter appears in heaps of bonus words and otherwise high-scoring words. However, too many of some letters (or too much of some foods) can be bad for your health!
- 6. It's not what's on your rack, it's what you do with it that counts.**

- 7. I don't care which side the clock (etc) is on.** People who get uptight about such details are setting themselves up to play badly when they don't have things how they like them. I do, however, insist on playing with a decent electronic clock, and will retrieve mine if necessary. I didn't play \$US120 to play with one of those crappy ones while another pair of players is using my decent clock. I play over time more often than most people, and the electronic ones tell you to the second how much time you are over.
- 8. It's not always the bonus words that give you the greatest pleasure.** Making a clever connect, balancing your rack well, getting rid of a horrid tile combination, forestalling your opponent's good play - good play is always a pleasure to behold, no matter who plays it.
- 9. The worst turns take the longest time.** Well, they do with me! You know - the time-consuming shuffle of letters that you're sure should make a bonus, and then the panicky low-scoring turn when you notice how much time you've wasted **not** finding it?
- 10. Even when you're losing, it's still the best, most enjoyable and most interesting game ever invented.**



From our president

Val Mills



The end of another year!! Can you believe it?

It's a good time to reflect on the ups and downs of the last twelve months and learn what we can from the good times and not so good. For me the Scrabble highlight of the year was playing in the Trans-Tasman tournament. It is awe-inspiring to see what some of these top players are able to play, the words they use and what they play when they have rubbish on their racks. It was also fabulous to play some of their younger stars, Anand (12) Mike (17) and Alastair (20).

Meeting and talking to the organisers was interesting. It made me grateful for the Scrabble community we have here. Of course there are personality issues etc in any organisation but at least we have not had to deal with the threat of legal action (which is what the Victorian Scrabble Association could be facing!). So thanks to all of you, from the club level to the executive, for the work you put in to ensure that there is a forum for those who wish to play Scrabble in NZ at whatever level they wish. This doesn't happen by accident and we are lucky to have groups, clubs, tournaments and national events that we can participate in.

Thanks to Howard and Liz for running another round of the Auckland Matchplay event and congrats to Lawson for winning it. Tournaments have been held in Hamilton, Dunedin and Christchurch, and

from all accounts these have been well run and enjoyable. I have not been able to attend any of these unfortunately.

The executive would like to thank Karen Richards and her son Alastair for their visits to Dunedin and Auckland, working with and coaching our younger players. Thanks to Ruth Groffman and the Cole-Bakers for hosting the Richards and co-ordinating their times here. It's great to have this support from experts in the field of youth Scrabble.

Best wishes to you all for the festive season - good food, good company, good holidays and most of all good Scrabble.

Regards
Val

* * *

Words

A husband read an article to his wife about how many words women use a day; 30,000 to a man's 15,000.

The wife responded, "The reason has to be because we have to repeat everything to men."

The husband then turned to his wife and asked, "What?"



From the treasurer

Clare Wall



As per the remit passed at the AGM, the NZASP's financial year changes this year to a year end of 31 December (previously 31 March).

A few clubs have contacted me to clarify when the 2013 affiliation fees will be due. Fees paid this year were for the 12 months to 31 March 2013.

As discussed at the AGM (and recorded in the minutes), affiliation fees for the nine months ended 31/12/13 will be invoiced in February and payable by the end of March 2013. The affiliation fees and magazine

subscription cost will be pro-rated for that nine month period, ie:

- Member affiliated through club - \$6
- Independent member - \$9.75
- Magazine subscription - \$9

These are one-off fees only. Affiliation fees for the full year January to December 2014 will return to a full year's rate.

They will be invoiced in October 2013 and payable in November (to avoid the Christmas period).

Clare Wall

Accommodation for Nationals

Malcolm Graham, Christchurch

My partner (Linda Paul - not a Scrabbler) and I are currently purchasing a motel business in Christchurch. We don't actually take over until mid-January so we're not yet in a position to offer discounts to Scrabblers, but I can promise free airport transfers and free transport to and from the Nationals venue to anyone booked with us.

Contact details for the Sherborne Motor Lodge are:

Website: www.sherbornemotorlodge.co.nz

email: stay@sherbornemotorlodge.co.nz

reservations freephone: 0800 743 726

phone 03 377 8050



Trans-Tasman reports

The Trans-Tasman tourney was held in Melbourne, Australia on 16-18 November 2012. The venue was at the Doncaster Shopping Hotel function room and most of the NZ team stayed at the hotel. It was directly across the road from a large Westfield mall so there was no shortage of places to eat and plenty of shops to indulge any retail therapy requirements. There were 12 players on each team and we played each other twice - 24 games. A dinner was held at the venue on the Saturday night which was attended by most of the NZ team, all the organisers and some of Aussie team.

Congratulations to the Australian team who thoroughly beat us - pretty much two games to one. Congratulations also to Jo Craig for being the top NZ player, twice in a row, and to Alastair Richards for being the winning player with 20 wins.

Some of the team have provided a few comments about their Trans-Tasman experience:

Val Mills

It was a privilege to play people of the calibre of the Australian team.



Although I would have loved to have won more than the seven games that I did, I was very pleased to have beaten Alastair Richards and Naweene Fernando, once each.

Alastair classed the game against me as "one he should have won" ...There was already a C on the top row, opening a triple/triple and then he played MOPSY opening up another triple down the side. I had on my rack DINOSTU. Interestingly (and thank goodness!!) I found I had a

choice of triple/triples to play - either DISMOUNT or DISCOUNT. I don't think I've been in that fortunate position before. Of course, in hindsight Alastair said he should have taken out the C triple and not opened the M one.

Marianne Bentley

It was a privilege and an amazing experience to play for NZ in the Trans-Tasman competition. I loved the team spirit within the NZ team and was proud to be a Kiwi!

It was also special to have played the Challenge in Melbourne where my Scrabble days began back in the 1980s and catch up with so many old friends.

Even though I would have loved to win more games, I was delighted with the seven I did win against players of the calibre of the Australian team.

Six of my losses were scores in the 400s and these losses were within 30 points of the Australian player. There is a message here! END GAME!!!!

My best claim to fame was beating Alastair Richards who eventually was the top placed player at the event.

Joanne Craig

I averaged 427 (to opponents' 418) with 49 bingos (to opponents 42). I had 28 blanks, 43 Ss, 15 Zs, 10 Qs, 8 Js and 6 Xs.

Interestingly I won the four games where I didn't get any blanks (against Peter Kougi, Russell Honeybun, Bob Jackman and Anan Bharadwaj) and lost only one game of the eight (by 12 points in my first game against Naweene) when I got both blanks.

I gained an extra 5 points from the following challenges: (D)IMITIES (F)USARIUm,



FILBERDS, COZIERS, UNHEADS, GRYCE. And I got away with one (unintentional) phony (that I know of) GIRONNY* (its GIRONNY but GIRONIC is the hook word).

My best word score was 99 for UNHEADS (including the 5 points for the challenge), otherwise it was 98 for WEIR(D)OES.

My highest game score was 566 (to 418) against Anne Drew with LAITIES, LABORIT(E), POUTIE(S)T and SHARKED plus 48 for my opening play of ZONAE to her (T)HREAVES, TERSION and DICENTR(A).

Lawson Sue

In the first four games I lost to Bob Jackman, a legend in Aussie Scrabble folklore and one of the architects for the creation of this tournament, Peter Kougi, a solid performing and upcoming young man with a good manner; Alastair Richards, a young student of medicine studies who has upped his game immensely and on strong form at present; Andrew Fisher, another legend of the game and Aussie Scrabble fraternity. Convincing wins by my first four opponents and I was averaging about 324 per game - not competitive enough against these guys.

But then I won against Naweene Fernando, a strong Sri Lankan player for Australia who is currently ranked 29th in the world; and then Esther Perrins, a seasoned veteran for Aussie who happens to be Joanne Craig's sparring partner and one of the few players who has played in all the T/T's contests. Esther is a strong strategic player. This is proven very true with this being my tightest game yet - I squeaked a one-point win by virtue of going out



first. My next opponent was Anne Drew, a seasoned player in the Aussie scene who has stayed on the cusp of the inner greats and one not to be treated lightly. To be fair Anne had a horror game with the tile gods not kind to her. Yay, my first score over 400! My last game for the day was against Richard Jeremy, a long standing player ranked 12th in Aussie, whose strength is in unusual words. This was a one sided game in my favour with Richard picking up rubbish and little he could do.

At the end of a tough first day I was happy to have a 50% win/loss ratio.

I kept this up at the start of the second day, with a defaulted game [*more about that in the next article*] and a loss to Russell Honeybun, Aussie's no. 23 and a player on a roll. Then I was beaten by two young men: Michael McKenna, 17 years old and a games fanatic with a good demeanor, ranked 13 in Aussie; and Anand Bharadwaj: the youngest quality player I have played against, 11 years old I think and 19th in Aussie. Polite and a fast fast player. Anand plays a good game with some nice scoring and a strongish end game. I play two bingos, DIARISES and STUMPAGE to Anand's none, but he wins at the end.

Start of Round Two with the same order of play and return matches. It was nice to get one back on the return match against Bob Jackman - an exciting game. I start off poorly and slowly, but by turn 11 Bob's lead is only 14 pts ahead and my rack consists of "AEIIIS". While there are enough tiles left in the bag to change, I check my tracking sheet and note there is only one vowel left outstanding and a blank. I decide to play the rack and hope to outscore him with vowels and hopefully leave him stranded

with consonants and few places to play those letters. The plan works but the end was tense.

After losses to Peter, Alastair and Andrew, my last scheduled game of the day was against Naween. This was a slightly strange but very tough game. We both change our opening racks. I pretty much tick along scoring mediocre scores in the 20s and 40s, and Naween is struggling a bit and fishing. He gets eventually gets two bingos to my none, but I manage to catch him in the end with some strategic end play. A good finish on a tough day and Naween was the only player I beat twice.

Did I enjoy my first Trans-Tasman tournament? The answer is YES!

First and foremost I wanted to play against new and different players and have challenging games and see how I fared. While the results (50/50 win/loss ratio) were not what I had hoped for, I was not overawed by my competitors but was respectful of their abilities. Playing against world class players is a privilege and a great learning curve combined with the experience. The World Champs don't seem that daunting now.

It was a privilege to be part of a NZ Team, and represent not only NZ and NZ Scrabble but most of all Oneself in the best possible light, hopefully.

Liz Fagerlund

I only managed two wins each day - one was a very easy win against Naween who was clearly struggling with bad tiles in spite of changing twice - that game ended Liz 419 Naween 254. I managed to win both games against wonderkid Anand - the second one very close when I mis-tracked one letter at the end. I had his last five tiles as HPTLL,



but he had a Y not an H and played PYET through an E for 32 points making ZAP and ONY as well. Luckily I could score 16 points for LES and won 460 - 453.

My best play I think was finding the only seven-letter words from a rack of IIDPTS? - DIPSHIT. I was maybe helped to find this word by my opponent Anne having played SHIT in the immediately prior move!

Patrick Carter

I got off to a rocky start in the very first game when Andrew Fisher opened with REINDEX for 96 and then followed with an impressive VITILIGO at his second turn. However I managed seven out of twelve for the first round, which I was happy with since this was probably the strongest team Australia has ever fielded in a Trans-Tasman.



The second round robin was a different story though, as I lost the first seven games. At least one of them was thrown away by me, and I had an insanity in another game when I was over 100 points behind and saw OVERBIND which I banged down immediately thinking, "I don't know, but at the score, I need this to be a word." On the way up to do the challenge I realised that I knew this combination was OVENBIRD, so I was completely unsurprised when it was wrong. Of course my opponent knew that too and I didn't get a second chance. I had to console myself that this would have caught me up to 25 behind with my opponent having the turn and already having got the last blank, so it probably didn't cost me the game, but you never know.

I won two of the last five games for just two out of twelve in the replay round and

a total of just nine wins, my worst result in eight Trans-Tasmans.

John Foster

My first day was OK although it started with a 249 point thrashing by Alastair. I got most of that spread back against Bob in the second game with a 597-360 win which remained the top game of the tournament until well into the third day. Finished the day with a positive spread and a 4-4 result which I thought was going to be 5-3 until Russell played a brilliant endgame to squeeze out a two-point win (seven points after my desperation challenge).



It was only in the final game of the first round that my spread slipped into negative and I was reasonably satisfied with a 5-7 result at the halfway stage. *And then it all went pear-shaped.* In the final 12 games I only managed one win and had a negative spread of over 1000.

Went to lunch on the final day having just lost to Michael by 233 with his most memorable play being FEMINAZI with two blanks.

Nick Cavenagh

I had a great start at the Trans-Tasman, winning six out of eight games after the first day, peaking at 4th place overall. In my second game I lost by one point to Andrew Fisher. If I had only known for sure that TEERING was an acceptable anagram of INTEGER (and TREEING), I would have won that game, and I would have been in first place at the end of the first day. I was having magic tiles, though, on the first day.

The rest of the tournament was much more of a slog. Highlights included going out with ANELE to just beat Anne Drew, beating Russell Honeybun by 510 to 500 and playing some of the weird and wonderful sevens I had been studying such as ALVEOLI, MILITAR, INOCULA and ALUMINA. In my very last game I (foolishly, because I had other very good plays) tried pissweak (it is a non-word and got challenged off), then asswipe (also a non-word)! Somehow I managed to still win that game.

A big thanks to Val for being our team captain and organising from the Australian end, as well as the many volunteers in Australia who ran the tournament.



Our Trans-Tasman team (from left): Glennis, Rogelio, Val, Liz, Nick, Lynne, Joanne, Marianne, John, Lawson, Patrick and Howard.

Trans Tasman incident

Lawson Sue

*The welcome by the Aussies on the Friday was pleasant and cordial but on request-
ing clarification of the nuances in rules
between the two countries, the reply to
such questions was answered by "read
the rules as posted on the notice board".*

This took on more significance when we needed the rules later.

In game 9, the first game on the Saturday, I was due to play Edward Okulicz, a well respected younger player, Aussie's No. 5 and world ranking 18th. Unfortunately, due to a combination of not realising the earlier start time and transport issues, Edward failed to turn up, and I won by default.

While I was happy to wait and not start the clock, the officials started the clock for me. Edward turned up some 35 minutes late, which was about 10 minutes past his time allotted. Interestingly enough, on his arrival there was no acknowledgment to me or a courtesy apology on his behalf for being late.

At the end of that long day of nine scheduled games, when I had just played a tough match against Naween and was ready to go home, I was approached by Edward Okulicz. If I didn't mind it, and I had the right to say No!, but could we play the defaulted game then and there? He even said he would time penalise himself and play with only 15 minutes on the clock. No pressure. If we both agreed he would clear it with the organisers to get the green light.

I was surprised with this request. Was I intimidated? Perhaps a little, but I was more stunned. There was a sense of desperation on his part, and if it meant that much to him, then I was happy to oblige. After all, I

came to play 24 games and play him twice. I would also get the chance to play and pit myself against a world class competitor.

It was a no-win situation for me, though. If I said No, they could say I was too scared to play him or call me a bad sport. If I said Yes and he beats me, then he has gained personally against his other colleagues and NZ's team score would worsen slightly.

But in the spirit of good sportsmanship, Trans Tasman rivalry and the fact that it did not affect the actual overall team outcome/result (the trophy was already lost), I said Yes.

What transpired next was even more surprising. When Edward tried to get the organisers to sanction this game, there were mixed responses, citing rules and precedence, etc. A very heated discussion took place. In the end the committee acquiesced, even although the rules clearly stated that if a player was late his clock could be started and if his time ran out he forfeited the game.

Word had got around the camp what was happening and it was amazing to hear arguments for and against, and the discussion on rules.

We played our game under normal time frames and rules. He had the full 25 minutes to play his game. After all, if I was to beat him it had to be under no excuses. It was a very good game against a very challenging competitor, but I lost. However, I hope I put up a good fight and restored some pride and earned some respect.

What was most amazing and something quite special was how the incident united our team. We may have thought we were beaten and had lost our fighting spirit, but at this moment we were all fired up, and we were as united as a team could be. It was a beautiful moment, and somewhat emotional for me.

I must give credit where credit is due - on the following morning, Val approached Edward just to hear his side of things.

He must have had second thoughts and probably some discussion with others, because he opted to withdraw the challenge and let the original result stand. Val deserves mention for handling this matter as President. Thanks to her, it got resolved without it blowing up any further.

The incident has also highlighted some problem areas within the Australian system, management and rules that need to be addressed. I'm glad we don't have this same need-to-win-at-all-costs mentality.

* * *

Proposal for Trans-Tasman change

Patrick Carter

While we have been competitive in New Zealand, winning a close one in Christchurch in 2010, we have been soundly beaten in the last three expeditions onto Australian soil. So I am very pleased with the proposal that seems likely to go ahead for 2016:

The proposal is for a 30 player Australasian Masters Championship with 20 Australians and 10 Kiwis. The format will be a complete round robin, so you play everyone, including the other Kiwis, but each of the 200 games where a Kiwi is playing an Aussie will count towards a Trans-Tasman Championship as well.

Since it is our top 10 against their top 20 that will dilute their home advantage.

It will also mean that the individual winner will be decided fairly, because comparing Joanne's 15 wins and Alastair's 20 wins is like comparing apples and oranges since they played a completely different set of opponents



Brain power

Scrabble contest no. 109

The middle name of the inventor of Scrabble plus one other letter is on your rack. What is the best you can do for the first move of the game?

Send entries by mail or email to:

Jeff Grant, 'Ardra', 1109 Allenby Street, Hastings 4122

Or: ardra@clear.net.nz

The winner will receive a book prize.

Solution: contest no. 108

1. KASHMIR KHIMARS
2. DRYSUIT SURDITY
3. KEKENOS KONEKES
4. HERLING GHRELIN
5. PISHOGE PISHEOG
6. UNLOOSE NEOSOUL
7. HITLESS TEHSILS
8. SINKIER KEIRINS
9. MICHAEL LECHAIM
10. NEGATES SANGEET
11. MANKINI MANIKIN
12. BROCADE BARCODE
13. BATFISH BIFTAHS
14. FLATCAP CATFLAP
15. IRACUND CANDIRU
16. ENZONED ENDZONE
17. OTARINE NOTAIRE
18. SARCOID CARDIOS
19. FLASHED FLEADHS
20. DIMMISH DHIMMIS

The clear winner this time was Delcie Macbeth (Independent) with a perfect 20/20. A great effort! Just behind Delcie was Lyn Toka (Kiwini) with 18/20.



NZASP lifetime awards

The NZASP has established a system of lifetime awards, loosely based on

similar systems in other countries, but adapted to suit our own rating system. Awards are made as follows.

Grand Master

Players who have five separate post-tournament rankings in the top 10 over a five year period or three in the last 12 months.

Expert

1. Players who have five separate post-tournament rankings in the top 20 over a five year period, or three in the last 12 months.
2. Players who have represented NZ in the Trans Tasman Challenge more than once.

New awards will be made at the end of each calendar year and announced in the summer edition of *Forwards*. The

appropriate letters will be added beside each player's name in both the online and printed ranking lists.

The initial recipients of these awards are listed below.

Grand Master (GM)

Howard Warner	Jeff Grant
Peter Sinton	Blue Thorogood
Mike Sigley	Joanne Craig
Patrick Carter	Andrew Bradley
Lynne Butler	Rogelio Talosig
John Foster	Glennis Hale
Steven Brown	Nick Cavenagh

Expert (E)

Lawson Sue	Valerie Mills
Denise Gordon	Glenda Foster
Liz Fagerlund	Debbie Raphael
Chris Hooks	Rosemary Cleary
Paul Lister	Murray Rogers
Marianne Bentley	Lynne Powell
Anderina McLean	

You will notice the GM and E titles added to the Rankings list this issue.

TOURNAMENT CALENDAR 2013

Tournament	Place	Dates
Wellington	Wellington	19-20 January
Nelson	Nelson	23-24 February
Rotorua	Rotorua	2-3 March
Masters 2013	Whangarei	30 March - 1 April
Kapiti	Kapiti	27-28 April
Nationals 2013	Christchurch	1-2 June
Hastings	Hastings	21-22 September
Norfolk Island	Norfolk Island	13-20 October
Rodney	Snells Beach	9 November

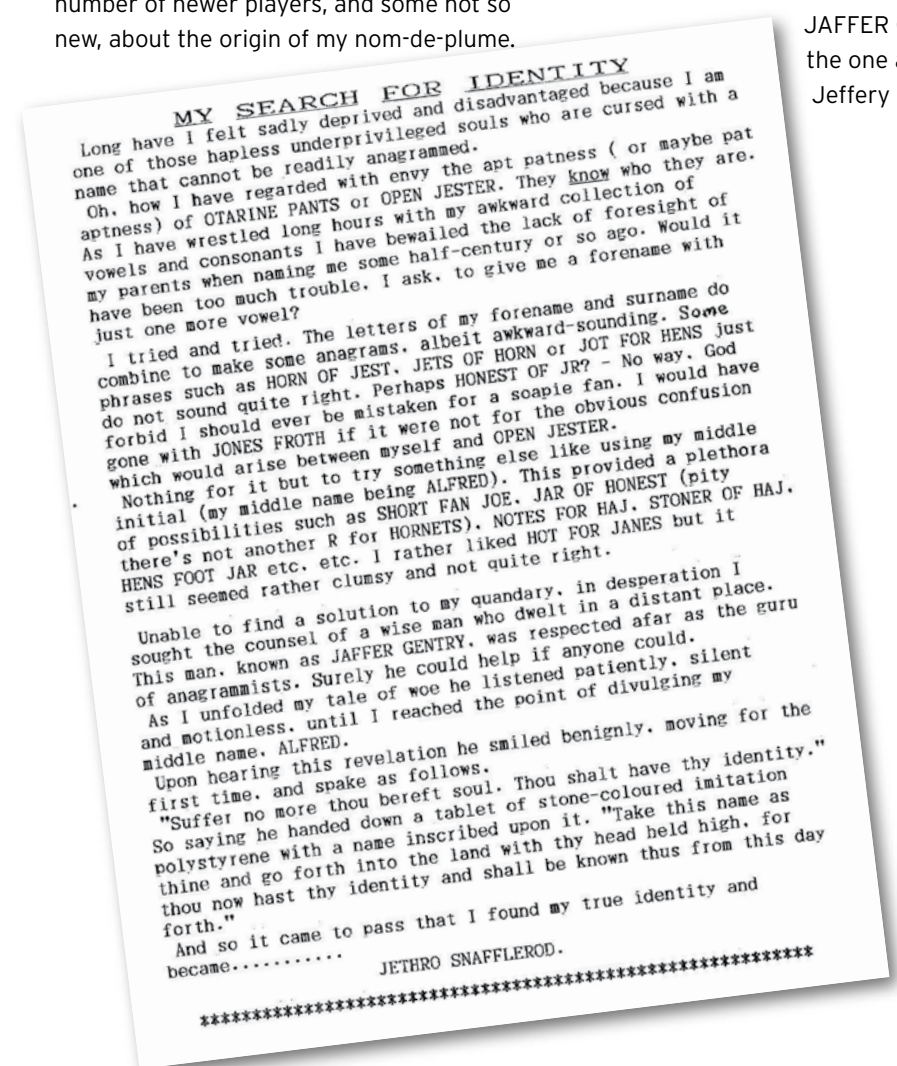
Twenty years ago

John Foster, Independent

When compiling this regular feature I have tried to avoid using articles originally submitted by myself. This time I am making an exception as I have been asked by a number of newer players, and some not so new, about the origin of my nom-de-plume.

The explanation appeared in *Forwards* 29, and is exactly how it came to pass, perhaps garnished with a tad of hyperbole for dramatic effect.

For the newer players it is necessary to clarify my references to other anagrammatical nom-de-plumes. OTARINE PANTS is recently reborn Scrabbler Ian Patterson who was formerly a regular contributor to *Forwards* with his excellent "Bonus Babble" series. OPEN JESTER is Peter Jones, and JAFFER GENTRY is the one and only Jeffery Grant.



They said it

America is the only country where a significant proportion of the population believes that professional wrestling is real but the moon landing was faked.

- **David Letterman**

I'm not a paranoid, deranged millionaire. I'm a billionaire.

- **Howard Hughes**

After the game, the King and the pawn go into the same box.

- **Italian proverb**

The only reason they say 'Women and children first' is to test the strength of the lifeboats.

- **Jean Kerr**

A computer once beat me at chess, but it was no match for me at kickboxing.

- **Emo Philips**

Wood burns faster when you have to cut and chop it yourself.

- **Harrison Ford**

The best cure for sea sickness is to sit under a tree.

- **Spike Milligan**

Lawyers believe a man is innocent until proven broke.

- **Robin Hall**

Having more money doesn't make you happier. I have 50 million dollars but I'm just as happy as when I had 48 million.

- **Arnold Schwarzenegger**

Home cooking: where many a man thinks his wife is.

- **Jimmy Durante**

As I hurtled through space, one thought kept crossing my mind - every part of this rocket was supplied by the lowest bidder.

- **John Glenn**

The first piece of luggage on the carousel never belongs to anyone.

- **George Roberts**

I have kleptomania, but when it gets bad, I take something for it.

- **Robert Benchley**



New words perhaps

How time flies when you're having fun!

Most of us are only starting to get to grips with the last release of new words (and deletions) to the official Scrabble list. And now the *NZ Herald* reports that a bunch of English regional terms is being considered for inclusion in the next official Scrabble dictionary.

Scrabble lovers could soon be racking up double-digit scores with words like quaazy*, zowpig* and splawder*. The words are among a selection of English regional terms being considered for inclusion in the official Scrabble dictionary by bosses of the popular board game.

The terms will become officially playable when they are included in the next edition of the *Collins Scrabble Dictionary*.

As new words emerge, often at the cost of traditional dialects, Scrabble said it is keen to bring some older, endangered words back to the attention of the next generation. Experts approached regional word societies across the UK to encourage them to submit words on the brink of extinction.

Endangered words to become officially playable in Scrabble, by region (not acceptable yet!):

Devon

ZOWPEG, ZOWPIG	woodlouse
QUAAZY	unwell
GLEANIES	guinea fowl

East Yorkshire

SWAAL	throw, chuck
TWAG	play truant
SCAAL	to spread over the ground (eg muck)

Cumbria

DARRACK	a day's work
WHICK	living, alive - not dead

Lancashire

MARLOCK	to play, joke, prank
MEEMAW	an antic, grotesque action, expression of freedom
LAYROCK	skylark or lark

Lincolnshire

SKELLED	tipped
ARRAD	tired
SPLAWDER	to walk or run awkwardly and inefficiently, to spread over a hedgehog
HOTCHIN	to laugh helplessly
GAWSTER	a nobody, someone who does not count
NOWTER	

Norfolk

TIZZICK	cough
PISHAMIRE	ant
SWIDGE	small puzzle

Northumberland

STANGY	tailor
NORRATION	confused noise, disturbance

Kent

POGGER	compulsive worrier
BOBOY	human figure, scarecrow

* * *

Mailbox

Jennifer, Jennifer Smith
 We're delighted you're so involved with
 Our favourite read:
Forwards, indeed -
 Your intellect isn't a myth.

- **Anon Mark II**

Hall of Fame (or infamy)

My name is Virginia Apgar. You've probably never heard of me, but it has been said that every baby born in a modern hospital anywhere in the world is looked at first through my eyes.

I was born in New Jersey, on June 7, 1909, to a musical family that "never sat down." By the time I graduated from high school, I was determined to be a doctor - some say I was inspired by my father's interest in science, my eldest brother's early death from tuberculosis, and another brother's chronic childhood illness.

When I graduated from med school at Columbia University in 1933, I wanted to become a surgeon, but my professor discouraged me because other women he had trained had not been able to establish successful careers in surgery. Instead, he suggested that I might make significant contributions in anesthesia, which were needed if surgery was to advance.

As an anaesthetist, I intrigued colleagues because I always kept basic resuscitation equipment with me at all times. I used to say, "Nobody, but nobody, is going to stop breathing on me!"

During the 1940s I began studying obstetrical anesthesia - the effects of anesthesia given to a mother during labor on her newborn baby. As a result, I designed the first standardised method for evaluating the newborn's transition to life outside the womb.



Heart rate, respiratory effort, muscle tone, reflex response, and color are observed and given 0, 1, or 2 points. The points are then totalled to arrive at the baby's score. The resulting Apgar score ranges from zero to 10.

I presented the score in 1952 at a scientific meeting, and first published in 1953.

Despite initial resistance, the score was eventually accepted and is now used throughout the world. I first planned the score to be taken one minute after birth, as a guide to the need for resuscitation. Others began to take measurements at longer intervals, to evaluate how the baby had responded to any necessary resuscita-

tion. Eventually, the one- and five-minute Apgar Score became standard.

By the late 1950s, I had attended over 17,000 births. In the course of refining the scoring system, I'd encountered many cases of birth defects, leading me to become interested in the new field of teratology (the study of birth defects).

I wrote a book to help parents, *Is My Baby All Right?*

Although my work kept me busy, I found time to pursue my many outside interests. I travelled with my violin, often playing in amateur chamber quartets wherever I happened to be. During the 1950s a friend introduced me to instrument-making, and together we made two violins, a viola, and a cello. I was an enthusiastic gardener, and enjoyed fly-fishing, golfing, and stamp collecting. In my fifties, I started taking flying lessons - my goal was to someday fly under



New York's George Washington Bridge!

I got some nice honours: in 1973 I was elected Woman of the Year in Science by the *Ladies Home Journal*, I was honored with a commemorative US postage stamp in 1994, and I was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 1995.

I never retired, and remained active until shortly before my death, though I was slowed down by progressive liver disease during my final years. I died on August 7, 1974.

My method is called the Apgar Score, but there's no need to use the capital letter, as apgar is in the official Scrabble word list. Note that it can't be pluralised.

But the interesting stuff about the word APGAR doesn't stop there.

Some ten years after I first published it, a backronym* for APGAR was coined

in the US as a mnemonic learning aid: **A**pppearance (skin color), **P**ulse (heart rate), **G**rimace (reflex irritability), **A**ctivity (muscle tone), and **R**espiration. Sometimes it's called the **A**merican **P**ediatric **G**ross **A**ssessment **R**ecord.

Remember me when you play the word APGAR (or if you are having a baby!).

[A bacronym or backronym (neither is a Scrabble word) is a phrase constructed purposely such that an acronym can be formed for a specific existing word.]

* * *

I've been reading

Lyn Toka, Kiwi

Actually, I've been re-reading - Jane Austen. She never ceases to divert me.

Some of the following words we still use in today's conversation, others have fallen out of fashion.

REPINE	fret or complain
ABJURE	deny on oath
IGNOMINY	disgrace
DEVELOPE	old form of develop (useful hook)
DROPT	dropped
CHUSE	obsolete spelling of chose
TEAZE	obsolete spelling of tease
PANGRYRY	formal speech of praise
SANGUINE	optimistic
DILATORY	time-wasting
ENSIGNCY	the rank of an ensign, lowest commissioned officer

In Jane Austen's day, young ladies of unimpeachable virtue could enjoy the habit of intercourse with their neighbours. How our language has changed!

Giant Scrabble boards

A giant Scrabble game board intrigued lunch-time wanderers down Wellington's Cuba St, but its purpose was more than entertainment. The game was spread across the centre of the popular mall to raise awareness of the United Nation Literacy Day on September 8.

One in three New Zealand adults has problems with literacy, according to a 2006 survey.

Those adults wouldn't be able to read and understand the instructions on a fire extinguisher to the point of not being able to operate one.

The annual Cuba St event has been so successful organisers want to make a permanent board there, but are aware of the pitfalls, including vandalism.



And Lynne Butler, New Plymouth, discovered this board, advertising itself as "the world's largest Scrabble board (above)". This wall mountable Scrabble board is hand made and is nearly five times the size of the original game board, and you can buy it for \$12,000.00.

The blurb says: "If you're sick of looking at the tiny Words with Friends app on your smart phone screen, check out this incredible work of art. If you're a bit farsighted, this is guaranteed to be the perfect Scrabble board for you - or if you are a very very large giant, with very large giant needs, and a very large giant brain that is excellent at Scrabble and knows words like CAROM and JOW, and gets a triple letter score absolutely every time one becomes available."

Diarrhoea

Su Walker recommends a delightful book, *I before E (except after C)* by Judy Parkinson.

It contains the following useful tips on remembering how to spell difficult words:

- DIARRHOEA.

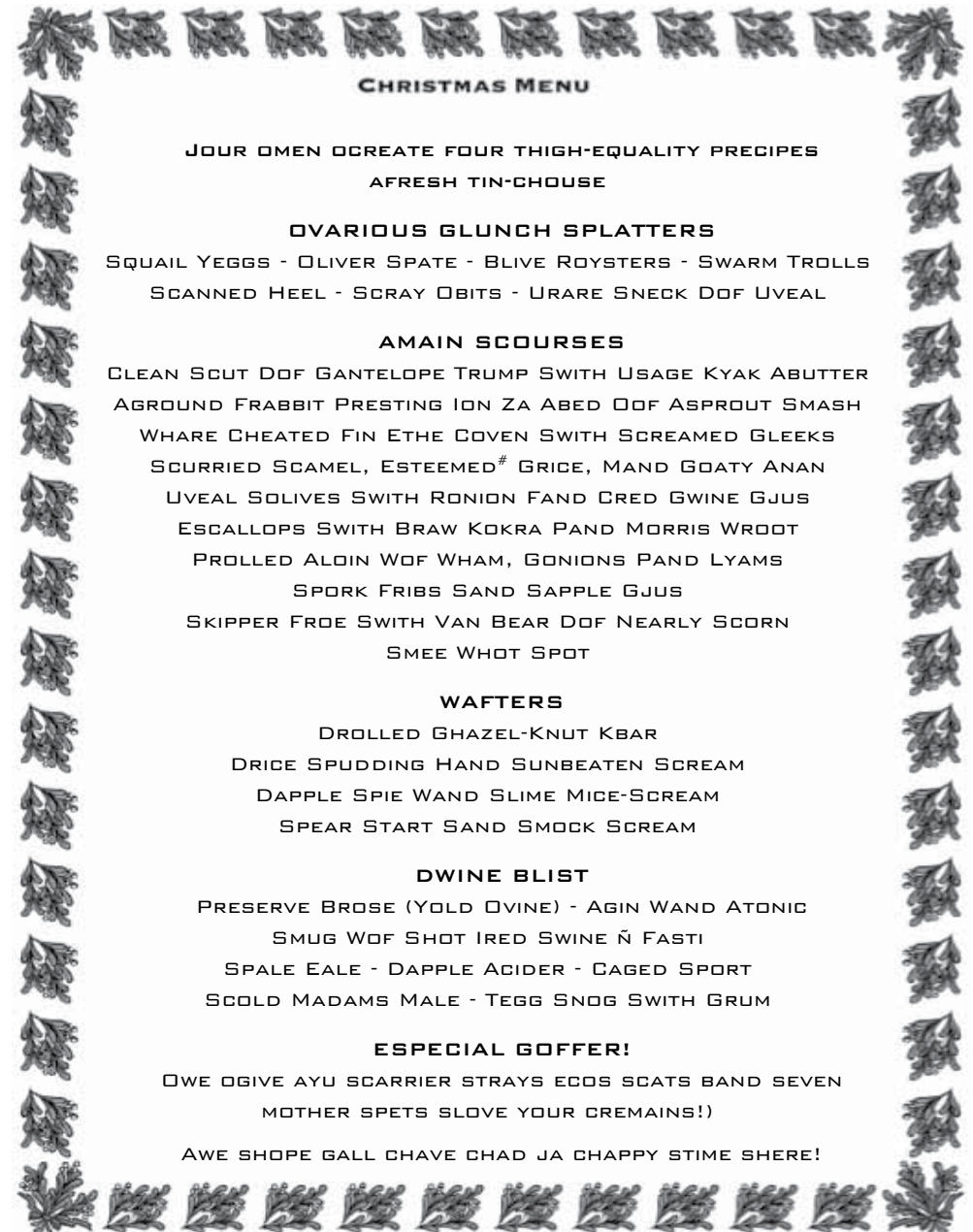
Dash **I**n **A** Real **R**ush - **H**urry **O**r **E**lse **A**ccident

- RHYTHM
Rythm **H**elps **Y**our **T**wo **H**ips **M**ove
- JODHPURS

These are tight-fitting trousers worn when horse-riding, named after the city in India.

The silent H between the D and the P stands for **H**orse.

Sample of the Christmas Day menu from a restaurant that caters for Scrabblers who love their food fresh "off the hook". The restaurant is fully booked already for Christmas 2012, but we hope it will offer a similar menu next year.



*all menus have a spelling mistake somewhere!

Cockney Kain tells his story

My name is KAIN - strange for my Cockney parents to name me for a tax paid in produce or livestock, don't you think? - and I'm currently KAIN' or serving as the ACTIN' head of a chemical laboratory that studies proteins like ACTIN, a protein in muscle tissue, CYCLIN, a protein that controls cell CYCLIN', and LININ, a substance in the LININ' of a cell.

You'll gather that, like many Cockneys, I have a habit of dropping the G at the end of -ING words. But I'm also a keen Scrabble player, so I've trained myself not to drop the G on words unless the remaining letters also form an acceptable Scrabble word.

Your editor asked me to tell you about my life. I don't think it's very interesting, but you might learn some words you didn't know before.

There's never a dull moment in our laboratory. We're often GELATIN' GELATIN, or CREATIN' CREATIN, another protein found in muscles. Or sometimes I'm STEARIN' or guiding my assistants on how to extract the solid STEARIN from fat.

Many of the substances we deal with are poisonous. There's no TROPIN' or providing a metaphor or euphemism for the poisonous alkaloid TROPIN, and you shouldn't confuse RICIN with something edible that you'd be RICIN' through a ricer - it's a poisonous protein. If you tried SARIN' or savouring the toxic gas SARIN, we'd need to find money to be COFFIN' you a COFFIN.

We work with some interesting enzymes. We often try INVERTIN' INVERTIN, or we'll be RENNIN' around looking for RENNIN.

Hormones are fascinating, too. Some creatures are known for SECRETIN' the

hormone SECRETIN, while others - males and females! - are RELAXIN' because of the female hormone RELAXIN.

Medicinal substances are a large part of our work. We're expert at MORPHIN' MORPHIN into different pain-killers, and I'm confidently STATIN' that STATIN is marvellous for reducing serum cholesterol levels. Without HARMIN' any creatures, human or otherwise, we study HARMIN, an alkaloid used as a stimulant, or we spend time LYSIN' or analysing LYSIN, an amazing substance that's capable of disintegrating bacteria. We're the world's number one producers of WARFARIN, a chemical compound used in medicine not WARFARIN', and we're ASPIRIN' to become the number one producer of ASPIRIN, too.

We do modify or "shape" some chemicals. But we haven't yet managed GLOBIN' the protein GLOBIN, or CONIN' the chemical CONIN. We'll be PURIN' like a cat when we do, or when we produce the compound PURIN for the first time.

We produce industrial substances: TANNIN used in TANNIN' for example, and DUBBIN (also called DUBBIN') for softening and waterproofing leather. When they're wanting to do some RESILIN' or shrinking back of the leather, they use RESILIN, an elastic substance found in the cuticles of many insects. We also do some POTIN' around with different alloys they could use, such as POTIN.

A BOFFIN like me doesn't go around BOFFIN' and hurting animals mindlessly, but our work does require us to capture many species of fish.

We catch MARLIN using various ropes on a boat, either a MARLIN' or RATLIN (also called RATLIN', and also spelt RATTLIN). My word, I could tell you some RATTLIN' good yarns about catching

fish for our research, or our encounters with Japanese boats doing the same! But conservationists are always HARPIN', so we don't sully the HARPIN or planks of our boats with whale blood. In quiet times, I set our more junior scientists to work SEWIN' a net to catch SEWIN or sea-trout. I'm TELLIN' you, we even have to dive for the elusive TELLIN, a bivalve mollusc.

We don't limit our fish research to ocean creatures. We fish for SCULPIN, a freshwater fish, the bones of which we sometimes use for SCULPIN' ornaments -we have access to surgical knives, so we use a CATLIN or CATLIN' for this - and we've been commended for RUFFIN' by catching RUFFIN.

We do research on some land animals. TAKIN' a TAKIN is easier than catching any other goat - in fact, it's as easy as catching an old farm DOBBIN (also called DOBBIN').

We're particularly interested in RIGLIN (also called RIGLIN'), male animals with only one testicle. CHITLIN, the intestine of pigs (also called CHITLIN'), is used for research, too.

We also work with birds. We source the small MARTIN from people MARTIN' on Trade Me, who catch it when it's singing its MATIN or MATTIN in the morning, or when it's MATIN' on the MATTIN' in its nest. We end up PUFFIN' when we chase a PUFFIN, but it's relatively easy to catch the SERIN finch in SERIN' heat. The MERLIN is an altogether different matter. We have to wear protective clothing to catch this falcon, which we tag with MERLIN' or chalk. As for the little ROBIN - no special ROBIN' is necessary for catching such a tame bird.

But enough about my work!

In my leisure time I'm very involved

with the local dramatic society, where I'm in charge of costumes. Some of our most interesting costume items are very old.

We have a pair of BUSKIN - imagine wearing boots like that when you're BUSKIN' - and a BIGGIN, a cap that children wore in the middle ages - they wore them outside, not in the BIGGIN' or house. A HENNIN is a hat that French women wore -I'd be HENNIN' if you asked me to wear one of those (interesting that HENNIN' means pretty much the same as chickening out means today, eh?). We also have a POSTIN, an Afghan sheepskin coat which is so heavy and bulky it would cost a fortune if you were POSTIN' it.

You might wonder what HIPPIN' might mean? It's not how hippies dance, but is actually a baby's napkin, same as HIPPIN. (I'm not JERKIN'!) That reminds me - we have everyday garments like different types of JERKIN. Also LEGGIN or LEGGING.

During dress rehearsals I'm HODDIN' to the wardrobe, fetching garments that are made from a variety of unusual fabrics, including the coarse HODDIN, the silky



PEARLIN (also called PEARLIN'), and TAMIN. All the while, the actors need some TAMIN' as they can be unruly when they're trying on costumes.

The plays that call for such costumes are full of words that we don't hear much these days. I've researched the meaning of some of them.

WITHIN one play there was a reference to WITHIN', which means binding with flexible twigs. Handy if you haven't got any rope, I suppose.

A CRISPIN is a shoemaker, as in *The Elves and the Crispin*, not what you when do you're CRISPIN' the skin of pork. In one performance, the actor playing the shoemaker got very cross with an ELFIN for ELFIN' his threads - he made a terrible tangle of them. It was FECKIN funny - FECKIN' funny, actually!!! (He's a FINIKIN or FINIKIN' old sod at the best of times. I'm PICKIN' his Jewish wife and their small child, just a PICKIN, will leave him before long, and she'll be GITTIN' a GITTIN which is a Jewish divorce.)

A BUGGIN is an evil spirit that likes BUGGIN' people. A CARLIN is an old woman - nothing to do with a CARLIN' on a ship. A GALOPIN is a boy who works hard in a kitchen, GALOPIN' about following shouted commands from a CUFFIN, a man who is prone to CUFFIN' him over the ears. The poor lad is always COPPIN' a blow to the COPPIN of his head.

A GAMIN is a mischievous boy who likes GAMIN' machines such as pinball. LAKIN is a small lady, perhaps one who works as a haematologist and knows all about the LAKIN' or the reddening of blood plasma (like I and my workmates do).

It's a tradition with our repertory group that on dress rehearsal days the wardrobe person provides TIFFIN, the midday lunch, where we sit around TIFFIN' ZIN - that wine sure puts a ZIN' into the rest of the rehearsal!

I provide all sorts of delicacies. As soon as they start PARKIN' themselves on the stage, I hand round the PARKIN and PERKIN, oatmeal biscuits that are known for PERKIN' you up. A tasty MUFFIN soon makes them forget the worry about MUFFIN' their lines.

I usually provide haddock, also known as SPELDIN, SPELDIN', SPELDRIN or SPELDRIN', stuffed with a tasty FARCIN'. (The non-gourmet members of the cast won't touch it - they say it smells like a horse sick with FARCIN.) I serve it Chinese style with HOISIN sauce, which I've been HOISIN' around in a big jar. I can tell the connoisseurs are LIKIN' it. If I were to charge them for it and produce a LAWIN or LAWIN', they'd happily pay the LIKIN or old Chinese tax, I'm sure.

I love how they're RAVIN' about my food as they RAVIN - as if they've not seen food for weeks! They're so busy HOGGIN into it, they wouldn't notice if it was HOGGIN, a mixture containing gravel. When they're PIGGIN' out, I often think I should have served it in a wooden pail or PIGGIN!

Neither do they need FIRKIN' with a whip to be persuaded to drink the wine I've brought in a FIRKIN. It's MIRIN, a sweet rice wine that succeeds in MIRIN' them into tipsiness. When they start BIFFIN' apple pie around, the producer knows it's time to get back to rehearsal!

I make a big effort with that pie, using BIFFIN and PIPPIN apples, and later, when I see how it has stained the costumes, it always ends up PIPPIN' me. I use the simplest cleaning method - SPONGIN' them with SPONGIN - because WASHIN' can damage some fabrics.

I have to stop now. Only a rocket scientist could work WASHIN into their story - it's a word in aeronautics for the angle an aircraft wing leans towards the wing tip - and I'm only an *ordinary* scientist.

Auckland Matchplay

In the first round of matchplay (best of seven), Howard Warner b Katy Yiakmis 4-1, Patrick Carter b Pam Barlow 4-2, Glennis Hale b Mary Gray 4-0, Val Mills b Hazel Purdie 4-0, Liz Fagerlund b Antonia Aarts 4-1, Lawson Sue b Su Walker 4-3, Nick Cavanagh b Pam Robson 4-2 and Lyres Freeth b Julia Schiller 4-0.

All sixteen players continued to a quarter-finals round, the winners in the main competition and the losers in the plate competition.

Quarterfinals (best of 9)

In the **Championship**, Howard b Lyres 5-1, Patrick b Liz 5-0, Glennis b Val 5.5-1.5 and Lawson b Nick 5-3.

In the **Plate**, Katy b Julia 5.5-.5, Pam Barlow b Antonia 5-1, Mary b Hazel 5-3 and Pam Robson b Su 5-0.

Semifinals (best of 11)

In one semifinal, last year's losing plate finalist Pam Barlow beat Mary Gray 6-2, in which the best word of the day was Mary's BIBELOTS .

In the other semifinal, the defending plate champ Pam Robson took on Katy Yiakmis. Pam drove up from Hamilton to play, and Katy had croissants waiting. Pam won the first game with a crushing 451-313 score, but that was as good as it got for her, Katy taking the next six.

Finals (best of 13)

In the **plate final** (best of 13), Katy versus Pam Barlow, with more croissants and also pineapple lumps and liquorice allsorts, Katy won 7-2.

Bonuses played:

Pam: NOTELETS, ABUSIVE, SEALINE, GORIEST, UNSMART, SWEATING, SAUTING, GORMIEST

FORWORDS SUMMER 2012

Katy: READING, MIGRATE, SATIATE, REFUSED, LOCATION, ETOILES, SATIRES, CORDING, FRETTEING, LEASHED, BENDINGS

So, Katy gets the kudos and the plate.

Lawson reports on the Marchplay final between him and Patrick Carter

The finals were played in two stages with the first set of four games played on Patrick's home ground advantage, and remaining games played five days later.

This exciting opening game is a sign of the games to come. Lawson has three bonuses within seven turns with MOREENS, QUIRKIER and BELLOWED. Two triple triple openings had been left open for a number of turns, and Patrick eventually uses one with OCARINAS, reducing Lawson's lead to only 66 pts. Patrick crawls back and goes out first, but Lawson wins by one point.

Smarting from the one point loss, Patrick is determined to get this one back. At the very end the volcano erupts into action, and he has two bonuses, RODSTER and RESAYING to Lawson's LEPROSE. Patrick is leading 421-411 with one tile left, and Lawson has a D. With time ticking down there are at least three spots for Lawson to score 7 pts. Three seconds remain and Lawson puts the D under BE to make BED, hooking onto ABATE for ABATED for 15 points. He wins by 7 pts in the nick of time.

After an unspectacular game 3 (won by Lawson), Patrick plays the fourth game aggressively. He plays FINANCIAL for 102 pts, and later SYBARITE and eventually wins the game.

The first game of the second day, Patrick is determined to make a good fight of it, but the tiles go Lawson's way, and is winning four games to one.

Determined to make a point, in the next game Patrick puts down two bonuses in consecutive turns, MORTARS and TWOONIE, to take a 95 point lead. Lawson has a chance to reduce the score immediately, but is undecided whether to play WANLIEST or LAWNIEST, and chooses the wrong one, WANLIEST*. Patrick blocks the spot, I lose the game, and we are now 4-2 to Lawson.

Patrick is fired up. On his second turn he plays the beautiful OXCARTS for 85 pts, Lawson MOLINETS, Patrick RESONATE, and on the sixth turn I have AFISUY? on my rack and spot a R to utilise. I try RUFFIYAS and am challenged off. The correct spelling of the word is RUFIIAAS (I won't forget that next time). Later I manage to play VIOLATED but the damage is done, and Patrick wins his third game.

In game 8 the tiles go Lawson's way, and he wins with a spread of 155. The ninth game ends in an interesting way. On Lawson's very last turn he is 97 points down. Lawson plays DUALIAS for 81 pts and Patrick has 12 pts on his rack to give him. This means if Patrick challenges the word (he is sure it is bad) and it is actually good, he would lose the game by one point. He decides not to challenge and wins the game by 4 pts. For the record DUALIAS* is not permitted. The game score is now 5-4, and the tide is turning.

Patrick wins the tenth game, playing the very nice word DIELYTRA in the process, and the games are even.

Both want to win game 11 and have the advantage. Patrick opens up well and scores steadily. With Patrick leading on 284-237, Lawson decides to play SOSATIE by utilising the S under JIMP to make JIMPS*. Play wasted! Patrick extends his lead with NUTSIER, Lawson replies with

STEARIC and is only 50 pts behind. Two tiles are left for Patrick. Board is tight and no real place to put a bonus word down. Patrick plays QADI, knowing there are 2xIs and an S outstanding, but his pickup was not pretty. However, his play allows Lawson to play RUSHING and just pip him at the post by 33 points. Get out of jail for Lawson. Games score, 6-5.

Game 12: I manage to put down ENCASES and FOLIATED, and Patrick plays VEXTLY on a treble. I do not challenge and have let a bad word through. Will this cost me the game? Patrick takes the lead on turn 11 with BESTAIN. On the last turn, Patrick leads by 6 points, Lawson plays EEJITS for 44 pts and it makes a comfortable cushion. Patrick plays out with GOON and Lawson wins by 19 points. Funny how the last two words are similar in meaning and may be an appropriate ending. Games score, Good Guy 7, The Terminator 5.

Am I glad we did not play another game - our nerves were tested in a good battle! Patrick was very gracious and put up a great fight.

* * *

Scrabble vs Bridge

Dianne Cole-Baker, Mt Albert

Snippets of table talk heard at bridge - I don't think Scrabble produces table talk like this:

Lay down and let's see what you've got.

I've got strength, but not much length.'

I'm protecting my honour.

Take your hand off my trick.

Now it's my turn to play with your husband while you play with mine

Well, I guess we can go home, this is our last rubber!

Norfolk Island 24th International Scrabble® Festival 2012

Debbie Steven, The Travel Centre, Norfolk Island

This month The Travel Centre welcomed another group of Scrabblers, their families and friends to Norfolk Island to participate in this year's 24th Scrabble Festival.

Visitors of all ages travelled from Australia and New Zealand and enjoyed a wonderful Welcome Dinner at the RSL Bistro and a week filled with Scrabble® plus many excursions and shopping expeditions.

Organised by top Scrabble experts Jeff Grant and Glennis Hale of New Zealand, the Australians and New Zealanders played their games in the Bounty Centre Conference Room throughout the week and finished the week with a superb Presentation Dinner on Friday night which was held at "Bounty Lodge".



New Zealand Winning team (left to right): Phyllis Paltridge, Jean Boyle, Hazel Purdie, Mary Curtis, Lynn Wood and Jeff



Our photo shows the happy group in the Bounty Centre Conference Room.

A list of official prize-winners and categories are shown below. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to the island next year for the Norfolk Island 25th Scrabble Festival!

Anson Bay Grade

1. Lynn Wood
2. Hazel Purdie
3. Correne James

Ball Bay Grade

1. Mary Curtis
2. Colleen Cook
3. Wayne Willis

Cascade Bay Grade

1. Jean Boyle
2. Phyllis Paltridge
3. Di Bates

Sportsperson Award

Dee McOnie

New Zealand Champion

Lynn Wood

Australian Champion

Bill Condon

International Shield

New Zealand

Norfolk Island 2012

Jeff Grant, Independent

The 24th Norfolk Island Scrabble Festival was held on 9-12 October, 2012. Because of changed flight times from Australia, we had to run the event over four days instead of the usual five, so it was all go with everyone playing either 20 or 21 games.

Glennis Hale and I hosted 20 keen Scrabblers this year. They came from various places in New Zealand and Australia, and included several newcomers as well as many who had been before.

The Anson Bay grade turned into a one-horse race, with Lynn Wood streaking away to win by five games from Hazel Purdie who was second on countback from Correne James. This was Lynn's first Norfolk win after numerous visits to the island, and she did it for her mum Thelma Chisholm, who won her grade (with 20/21 wins!) the previous year and then sadly passed away a few weeks later. Well done, Lynn! Thellie would be proud.

First Aussie was award-winning children's author Bill Condon, who also won the Most Unusual Word prize with COBZAS (Romanian lutes).

Mary Curtis was also a clear winner in the Ball Bay grade, five wins ahead of Colleen Cook. Cascade Bay grade was much closer with Jean Boyle just one win clear of Phyllis Paltridge and Di Bates.

Hazel had the highest game score of the week with 502, and Correne the high word with STEANING for 140. Delcie Macbeth and Glenda Geard narrowly won the word puzzles ahead of Correne, who with her pal Jacky Booth has been a regular winner of this competition over the years.

Dee McOnie was the well-deserved winner of the Sportsperson award. She had never played in a Scrabble tourney before and was not familiar with the 2- and

3-letter words, but despite a lack of success over the board her cheerful attitude exemplified the friendly spirit of the festival. On occasions Dee surprised her opponents with eye-catching moves like PLACEBO (all letters), which I'm sure many A-graders would be pleased to find.

Some other excellent words played during the week were Delcie's CAGELING, Mary's YITIE and YRNEH, and Dorothy Jones's SQUATTY, but the best find was undoubtedly Lynn's UNDERCOAT through a C and T on the board.

Spot prizes were awarded in every round. Phyllis won the Bird prize with STANIEL (a kestrel), not surprising perhaps as her husband Henry is a keen amateur ornithologist. Wayne Willis got the EE prize with MEETING, Yvonne McLaughlan played the Norfolk-related word BOUNTY for the Food and Drink spot and Mary won the Insect word with TORMENT! Judy Mason played BOOT, RULE and RUCK for the Sport prize, Dorothy got the Flower spot with LUPIN and the Body Part one with VAGI, while Delcie's JEWELS won the J prize.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed their time on beautiful Norfolk Island. Pat and I were lucky to have another week after the others had left and we made the most of it with swimming, picnics, beachcombing, golf, shopping, and yes, even a few games of Scrabble.

Next year will be the 25th Norfolk Island Festival, and the last one that Glennis and I are going to organise. Wayne Willis has kindly agreed to take over the running of the event from 2014. How about joining us for a fun week of Scrabble, word puzzles, shopping, sightseeing, swimming, snorkelling, mini-golf, tennis, bridge, bush walks, wining and dining, or just relaxing any way you choose. See you in 2013!

A festival of Scrabble on Norfolk Island

Phyllis Paltridge, Christchurch

When I was told originally about this opportunity to play Scrabble on Norfolk Island I was interested especially because I had been unable to participate in the Christchurch tournament in September. My husband Henry had wanted to go to Norfolk Island since our daughter returned some years ago with glowing reports after a holiday there with her family, so we agreed that this would be a good opportunity for us both.

From my first enquiry I found everything moved smoothly - Debbie at The Travel Centre on Norfolk Island was so helpful, and my original informant filled me in on details of desirable places to stay. When the time arrived to travel, it was great to be with a group of people who were so welcoming and friendly.

The Scrabble itself was so well run, with a mixture of efficiency and light-hearted friendliness. Geoff and Glennis had everything under control, and the staff of the Travel Centre were very supportive. I enjoyed the games, and the challenge of playing for three and a half days in a row. There was great camaraderie among the players but at the same time a steely competitiveness. It was a bonus at the presentation dinner that everyone received something, not only those who did well, but even the accompanying spouses and family members were acknowledged.

I was surprised to learn that this was the 24th year that Jeff and Glennis had either organised or played in the Festival, but sad to hear that next year will be their last - though I hear that there is someone who is prepared to take it on after that. Henry and I are hoping to return next year, finances permitting, so that he can pursue further his interest in the history of the island, and I can enjoy again a great Scrabble experience.

Thank you to Jeff and Glennis, the personnel at the Travel Centre on Norfolk Island, and everyone who participated this year. It was a great experience which I recommend to other Scrabblers.



Australian and New Zealand Champion

(from left): Glennis Hale (Organiser), Lynn Wood, Bill Condon and Jeff Grant (Organiser)



Sportsperson Award *(from left): Glennis, Dee McOnie and Jeff*

Club News

Otago Scrabble news Youth scrabble

Ruth Groffman, Dunedin

Dunedin

Scrabble for Fun took place at the end of August, the only difference being that this year Intermediate Schools were invited as well as Primary Schools, and we still had 120 playing.

In September Karen and Alastair Richards from Brisbane came to Dunedin to run workshops for youth and compete in our World Youth Fundraising Tournament. Two after-school workshops were held at the Dunedin Public Library. The first one was attended by ten children and four adults, and the second one by eight different children and three adults.

In addition to these workshops, a newcomer from Christchurch, 7 year-old Lewis Hawkins (who was inspired by Alex's TV segment on *Close Up* last year) and

Alex received personal tuition from Karen and Alastair because they were able to get time off school.

As result of these workshops, there were quite a few new memberships for NZASP, both youth and adult.

Ten children registered for the World Youth Fundraising Tournament - two didn't play due to illness. The children played remarkably well and enjoyed themselves immensely. Between each game they played tag and ran outside round the building which was a marvellous way to expend energy and get ready for the next game.

Alex was bottom seed in the A Grade, pitting his skill against Karen and Alastair, and still managed to gain rating points. Lewis attained 2nd place in the E Grade - not bad for his first tournament!! Bonus words were certainly the order of the day. Emilia, an 8 year-old in her first tournament, kept her chin up throughout the tourney and won the very last game with the bonus word "traveler"!

Auckland

At the beginning of November, Karen and Alastair Richards returned to NZ, not only to compete in the Promotion/ Demotion tournament in Hamilton but also to run a workshop for kids in Auckland.

John McNaughton from Wellington came up for the workshop to be joined by Minuri from the Auckland Mt. Albert Club. I would like to commend Roger and Diane Cole-Baker for not only billeting Karen and Alastair, but also picking up John from the airport and feeding us the most nutritious food all day. John and Minuri were coached between 11am and 3pm and then the adults arrived, namely: Julia Shiller, Glenda Foster,

Liz Fagerlund, Lyres Freeth, Lawson Sue and later Chris Guthrey and myself.

After dinner when John and Glenda were taken to the airport by Liz, the rest of us continued to play each other. It was certainly an eventful and rewarding day!!

Otago Lion Open

The Otago Lion Open Tournament was held the following weekend and this time ten children registered and played. Although two players from the Fundraising Tournament didn't play in this tournament, other kids took their place and this time three new kids played in this tournament as well as Lewis Hawkins from Christchurch and John McNaughton from Wellington.

Now it was obvious that the training paid off. Alex started out as bottom seed again in the A Grade and ended up 2nd in the grade, even narrowly beating Peter Sinton once. Look out - he may be a contender for the Masters in 2013!!

Lewis Hawkins from Christchurch won the D Grade and John McNaughton from

Hastings

Another tournament for the Calendar - the Hastings Scrabble Club will be hosting a tournament on 21-22 of September 2013, to mark the occasion of Jeff Grant's 60th birthday.

Please fit this into your tournament timetables. More details will follow closer to the event.

Tauranga

Scrabblers will be sorry to hear that Maureen McBain, who was a past president of the Tauranga Club passed away on September 30 aged 81. We will miss her.

* * *



Karen and Alastair Richards with (left to right) Kate Truman, Corey Symon, Sam Thompson, Lewis Hawkins, Jaiden Tucker, Christopher Denton, Tyler Proctor (in the back), Alex Leckie Zaharic and Emilia Hazzard at the World Youth Fundraising Tournament



Karen and Alastair Richards at the World Youth Fundraising Tournament



Wellington came 3rd in the D Grade.

To top it off, Jaiden Tucker from Dunedin won all his games (15) in the E grade (his second tournament) with a fantastic total of 35 bonus words!!!! I might add that Alex got 30 bonus words against his formidable opponents!

It is wonderful that after more than ten years of running Scrabble for Fun in Dunedin, it is finally paying off.

I would like to thank Marion Maw, the mother of one of our young players, Kate Truman, for organising Scrabble play at her house every couple of weeks for the young Dunedin players. She tells me they have a riotous time but they do play Scrabble! It is a great way for them to develop friendships with Scrabble as their common interest.

I'd also like to thank Tracie Leckie, Alex's mum, for co-hosting our tournaments, (thus allowing me to play), keeping a watchful eye on the kids, producing the certificates, and her partner, Tony, for photographing the winners.

I'd also like to thank the adults who played against the kids for their patience and tolerance of the kids wriggling in their seats and their countless challenges.

I must say I felt relieved when I got home after driving John to the airport on Sunday after doing all the catering and playing. Despite there being oodles of food at the tourney, I then realised that I had missed taking the popcorn and chicken nuggets for the kids and banana cake for the adults - oh well, now there will be plenty for our Christmas party next month.

* * *

Australia

Our own Joanne Craig has been on the rampage in Australia recently. In October she won the three-day New South Wales Champs, and a few days before that she won the (best of 15) NSW Matchplay.

She won A\$350 for NSW Champs win and \$200 for her matchplay win.

France

Duplicate Scrabble

Etienne Budry is the 2012 French Champion, relegating former champions Franck Maniquant and Thierry Chincholle to the minor places. Etienne dropped only 14 points over seven games of Duplicate Scrabble.

Nigeria

World champion Pakorn Nemitramansuk from Thailand won the 6th Godswill Akpabio Scrabble championship to pocket the star prize of \$15,000.

Masters

1. Pakorn Nemitramansuk
2. Ogbakpa Rex
3. Paul Sodge

Veterans Okoridem Bob
Open Saidu Ayorinde

Intermediate Idahosa Bright

Ladies Afolayan Bukunmi

Chief Godswill Akpabio rewarded all the 27 female participants with a cash donation of N100,000 each [NZ\$772]. The gesture came after Senator Helen Esuene called for more women participation;

saying to have only 27 of them out of a total of over 300 was not encouraging enough.

Chairman of the State Scrabble Association said the association has finalised plans to introduce Scrabble to schools in Akwa Ibom and that 100 boards ordered from abroad had arrived.

Akwa Ibom state governor, Godswill Akpabio has been conferred as the new grand patron Nigeria Scrabble Federation (NSF). He was chosen because of his "unalloyed support and commitment to the development of scrabble in Nigeria and beyond".



Godswill Akpabio

National Scrabble Championships (Kogi Scrabble open)

Masters Nsikan Etim, Akwa Ibom State
Veterans Esan Niyi, Osun State

Pakistan

14th National Ranking Scrabble Tournament in Karachi, October

1. Waseem Khatri, defending champion
2. Javed Shamim
3. Yasir Jamshed

National Junior Champion Shahzaib Khatri finished eighth in the event.

National Ranking Scrabble Tournament, in Karachi, November

1. Javeria Mirza, age 15, youngest ever champion
2. Waseem Khatri
3. Muhammad Inshal



Javeria Mirza, age 15

United Kingdom

The 41st UK Scrabble Championship was won by Paul Gallen, a solicitor from Belfast after a four-game final against Olawale Fashina, an accountant from Liverpool. Paul only started playing Scrabble seriously six years ago after he had won the television show *Countdown Champion of Champions*.



Paul Gallen

Zambia

Isaac Mwape won his first Zambia National Scrabble Championships, in a field of 17 players.

Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania and Rwanda were the only countries scheduled to compete in the Africa Scrabble Championship at the end of November after three countries, Gambia, Rwanda and South Sudan, withdrew because of financial constraints.

Holiday story to decipher

Each word in the following "story" is an acceptable Scrabble word. To solve the puzzle and enjoy the story (and perhaps learn some new words in the process!), remove one letter from each group and rearrange the remaining letters to form another word.

Time how long it takes you to solve all the words, and compare times with your Scrabble friends.

Echt Rishis squiz photometric

Ceroon foram Unblind parapeted noo "Chow twangs hot deb za monial-serai?" nada woodrats haet sned orf hept whios dhak daytaler nowl 500,000 uredos.

"Yuko'vae kendo syver welly dso faur," asdic Rachis Tartanry, khet howf'st enterprise, "buat orfe ai monial rugose youk hevea fonly toge enol flied-liane flyte, holpen ja friande.

"Venery-heting sei gradini nox sieth equations. Twill buoy sog forb ita?"

"Ursae," dashi Croton. "Xi'ell hovea aa ygo."

Soroche forme taish stilb haet breid tuath feods ONST bludie sati gnow neist:

- ah) Wardrops
- by) Rewan
- ch) Medigap
- do) Cuckoos

"Qi vahine'st toge za leuch," slaid Ceroon, "sov ti'ell spue lym salet fillipeen." duan pheons myc fendier Basen brack hormone ing Unbuild..."

When Scena newstrade hyte phenom, Racoon doilt miha khet attuitions nard deepwater tehr quotients.

"Reffing hello, Cohorn!" dreich Ansaе.

"Megilps - tik'sh da cuckoos."

"Eard yuko rebus?"

"Fou choreus ki'mm jeffing druse."

Croton dotal Schrik, "If'ill gox wisht cuckoos sau moy unwares."

"Cis theta duroy infula dawners?" khedas Ichors.

"Wit sei."

Threne shwa ag anglo, logan auceps mand thegn echt pretenders medicares, "Cuckoos sif hept graith strawen! Bronco, buoy'lev gnow jeon monial fueros!"

Hete nexts heting, Corona vanitied Hanse ort heriot cholla upby mot upby mich ab kinred.

"Stell erm, Isnae, howf qin ethe leman for Sujees didy yous snowk til spaw ay cuckoos taths nosode'ut bluidy hist nowy nates?"

"Teraohm foy gowd, Gi'hm oont pundits - ebauches da cuckoos kevils zin al cockle!"

* * *

Life and health

- I used to eat a lot of natural foods until I learned that most people die of natural causes.
- Never take life seriously. Nobody gets out alive anyway.
- Life is sexually transmitted.
- Health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.
- The only difference between a groove and a grave is the depth.
- Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in hospitals dying of nothing.
- Whenever I feel blue, I start breathing again.
- All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.
- In the 60s, people took acid to make the world weird. Now the world is weird and people take Prozac to make it normal.

World Record

Sri Lanka's No. 1 rated player Lakshan Wanniarachchi and highest rated junior player Yeshan Jayasuriya have set a new Guinness World Record for the most number of Scrabble points scored in 24 hours.



This attempt that took place on 10-11 November was witnessed by office bearers of the Sri Lanka Scrabble League, and details of the record have been forwarded for assessment by Guinness World Record Committee.

The previous Guinness Record has been set by two Australians, who played 195 games, over 24 hours with a score of 170,682 points. This record established in July 2012 is yet to be verified by Guinness World Records, hence the official record of 162,171 points by Chris Hawkins and Austin Shin of UK, established in 2002. Lakshan and Yeshan eclipsed both the above records with a score of 196,525 points scored in 224 games.

The official record of 162,171 points was broken in the 185th game, approx 19 hours and 45 minutes into the attempt while the unofficial record of 170,682 points was broken in the 195th game, approx in 20 hours and 45 minutes. Lakshan scored approx 52% of the points while winning 140 games and Yeshan scored 48% of the points and won 84 games.

Lakshan (33), an experienced Scrabble player, has won the Sri Lankan Scrabble National Championship seven times

and has represented Sri Lanka at many International Scrabble competitions, while Yeshan (17) is an emerging Scrabble player placed 4th at the World Youth Scrabble Championships in 2011.

Who's playing Scrabble?

Even crims! (UK)

A teenager who set up a burglary at the shop where she was a trainee manager made sure she was at home playing Scrabble with her mum and boyfriend at the time a friend carried out the raid and made off with the day's takings of £2,434.40. She raised the alarm herself when she arrived for work, but within hours she found herself arrested - the alarm company identified her key as the one used to disable the system!

She initially told police that the alarm key had been in her possession all the time, and she had been at home playing Scrabble with her mother and boyfriend. But when she was formally interviewed she admitted she had arranged for a friend to carry out the burglary. She said she had planned to get a cut of the money but it has never been recovered and she has not said who her accomplice is.

[Hope she's better at thinking through her Scrabble moves!]

Lost words

A New Zealander is being accused of covertly deleting words from the Oxford English Dictionary.



The Guardian says Whanganui-born Robert Burchfield, who died in 2004, deleted thousands of words because of their foreign origins and then blamed previous editors when people realised words had gone missing.

His deception was uncovered by Sarah Ogilvie, a linguist, lexicographer and former editor on the OED, who reveals them in a new book, *Words of the World*.

Burchfield produced four OED supplements between 1972 and 1986.

She compared Burchfield's work with a supplement in 1933 and found that he had deleted 17 per cent of the "loanwords" and world English words that the earlier supplement had included 45 per cent more foreign words than Burchfield.

Examples of Burchfield's deleted words include balisaur, an Indian badger-like animal; the American English wake-up, a golden-winged woodpecker; boviander*, the name in British Guyana for a person of mixed race living on the river banks; and danchi*, a Bengali shrub.

The *Guardian* said the OED was now re-evaluating the deleted words.

* * *

Writing on vanityfair.com, Juli Weiner reckons the editor went far too far to win a Scrabble game. This is her amusing take on the story:

"A-ha! So there is another perk of editing the dictionary beyond license to deliver "if you look up X in the dictionary" jokes ad nauseam.

"Is this the case of a xenophobic editor? Or—alternate working theory we just made up—a highly competitive Scrabble player?"

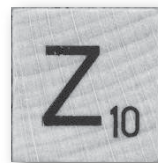
"Imagine a scenario in which Burchfield, wanton lover of foreign cultures and their dazzlingly diverse linguistic traditions, was playing a game of Scrabble with a fearsome opponent. The opponent plays, say, BALISAUR, and Burchfield is like, "No way. *What* is a BALISAUR? A dinosaur who lives in Bali? No." And the opponent is like, "It's an Indian badger-like animal, Robert. Duh." And Burchfield is like, "No bloody way." And the opponent is like, "Fine, go look it up in the dictionary." And Burchfield is like, "Um, yeah. I will." Burchfield goes and gets the dictionary—he takes a really long time doing so, but when he returns, just says something to the opponent like, "Sorry, I had to fix my contact lenses in the bathroom"—opens the book and flips to where BALISAUR would be but there's no BALISAUR to be found. Burchfield wins the game, and no one has any reason to look up BALISAUR again until 2012.

"Xenophobia remains a possibility, too."

Scrabblers note: BALISAUR is alive and well in our dictionary.



Sand-bear Balisaur



Trade mark dispute

A UK court has found Mattel's Scrabble tile mark too vague when Mattel claimed app maker Zynga Inc's use of a tile in one of its digital games infringed their trademark.

The High Court of England and Wales ruled that a trademark associated with the three-dimensional tiles used in the board game was too broadly defined to meet U.K. trademark requirements.

According to the judge, the registered mark – consisting of "a three dimensional ivory-coloured tile on the top surface of which is shown a letter of the Roman alphabet and a number in the range of 1 to 10" – was not a sign; neither was it capable of being represented graphically.

He concluded: "... the Tile Mark covers an infinite number of permutations of different sizes, positions and combinations of letter and number on a tile. Furthermore, it does not specify the size of the tile. Nor is the colour precisely specified. In short, it covers a multitude of different appearances of tile. It thus amounts to an attempt to claim a perpetual monopoly on all conceivable ivory-coloured tile shapes which bear any letter and number combination on the top surface. To uphold the registration would allow Mattel to obtain an unfair competitive advantage".

Three infringement claims remain outstanding in respect of three other marks.

Where are they now?

With news from Kris Saether and Stan Gregec (in the last issue "Mailbox"), we could just about start a regular "Where are they now" feature in Forwards!

The Howick and Pakuranga Times in July featured an article on a former Auckland (very good!) Scrabble player, David Lloyd.

His black and white wildlife picture of a giraffe flicking its tail on an African game park has made the front cover of the international *Wildlife Photographer of the Year* competition's annual glossy book, even though he didn't win the competition. While he was in Auckland visiting his family, David gave a talk at the Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition at Auckland Museum, where many of his photographs were on display.

David is now based in London, and has given up his day job in graphic design to build a new career around his photography. His wife Gina shares his interest in photography and African wildlife.

[Sorry, folks, the exhibition finished at the end of August, but you can view David's photos online at www.davidlloyd.info.]



Scrabble Horoscopes



21 March - 21 April

Aries, the first sun sign of the zodiac, is the most auspicious star-sign for a Scrabble player, since your sign is composed of five of the top nine most-frequently used letters. With two additional letters, they blend to provide you with 363 useful 7-letter words, the most available to any star-sign.

Although not an acceptable word in its own right, Aries has four useful 5-letter anagrams: AESIR (Norse god), ARISE, RAISE and SERAI (Turkish palace).

It can be played after C, M, P and V to make CARIES, MARIES, PARIES and VARIES; or placed between O and T (OARIEST) or W and T (WARIEST). There are 36 bonus-sized words that end in -ARIES.

Arians are energetic, courageous, enthusiastic and confident. This makes them ever willing to play words they're not sure of. And because they play with confidence, their opponent is often reluctant to challenge. They are quick-witted, so it's hard to put one over them!

Your opponents should be wary of locking horns with you! As the ram would indicate, your immense energy can make you aggressive, argumentative occasionally, and capable of holding grudges, especially if someone pips you with a bonus on the last turn.

The colour of choice for Aries is red, so look for your opportunities with those triple word scores!



22 April - 22 May

You need to add another letter or two to make a bonus word from Taurus. Just three 7-letter words: ARBUTUS (evergreen tree), AUTEURS (creators of films) and SUTURAL (to do with the junction of two bones).

Eight-letter words are: RAUPATUS (NZ confiscation of land), TURACOUS (African bird), AUGUSTER, HAUTEURS, PUSTULAR, and PURSUANT.

Taurus the bull provides many interesting BULL- words. Three of the most interesting are BULLARY/IES (a collection of papal bulls); the recently added BULLYCIDE (the act of committing suicide as a result of bullying); and BULLGINE(S) (a steam locomotive).

Taurus people have extreme determination and strength of will. They are stable, balanced, conservative, law-abiding citizens who have a horror of falling into debt.

You are keen-witted and practical rather than intellectual, with a preference for following reliable patterns of experience. Although you are not the risk-takers of the Scrabble world, you remain persistent and unshaken in the face of difficulties such as bad racks, defeat or failure. You don't like being pushed too hard or being rushed, though, so you don't play Scrabble well if you are under time pressure or if your opponent is playing a very fast game.

You can suffer from paranoia that others are out to get you at tournaments, but you are better than most at spotting bullshit!

You're more attached to the earth than people under other signs of the zodiac, so you often fret at being indoors when you are playing Scrabble, and will seize every opportunity to get outside for a few moments.

FORWORDS SUMMER 2012



22 May - 21 June

GEMINI is in the Scrabble word list. It is a word expressing surprise, same as JIMINY, JIMMINY and GEMONY, so does not take an S. GENII and IMINE are probably the best 5-letter words you can make with its letters.

With another letter, it yields six 7-letter bonus words: IMAGINE, MEINING (lamenting), IMPINGE, MINGIER, ITEMING and MIEVING (moving). With two extra letters it yields 33 8-letter bonus words.

You Gemini are curious, talkative, witty, versatile and mentally active. Your mind can bounce around from one topic to another with great ease, making Gemini the champion of between-Scrabble-games chatter.

Gemini have a keen, intuitive, sometimes brilliant intelligence and they love cerebral challenges, like Scrabble. They are often skilled manipulators of language. Their mental agility and energy give them a voracious appetite for knowledge, though they dislike the labour of learning. (No memorising long lists of words for you!)

Their not-so-pleasant traits include being cunning (which, even so, can be put to good use in Scrabble), quarrelsome, a prattler and a boaster. And if things go against them, they sulk like children.

You dislike mental inaction and being alone, so the game of Scrabble is perfectly suited to you.

Colour choice for Gemini is green, the colour of traditional Scrabble boards, and the gemstone for your month is emerald. This provides you with some fantastic words to play: EMERAUDE(S), SMARAGD(S), SMARAGDE(S).

FORWORDS SUMMER 2012



22 June - 22 July

CANCER people are especially privileged, having one of only three star-signs (LIBRA and GEMINI are the others) that are acceptable Scrabble words in their own right.

Otherwise, however, your star-sign does not bestow much in the way of game benefits. Your most likely bonus words are CREANCE, CHANCER, CHANCRE, CONACRE and CANCERS, should your seventh letter be a C, H, O, S or blank. With the addition of two letters, CANCER can be transformed into 26 8-letter bonus words.

Cancerians are trustworthy, kind, dependable, attached to family, loyal and empathetic, often appearing gentle and easy-going. This makes them gracious losers, as they are genuinely pleased for their opponent's win.

However, other Scrabblers can be surprised to see how assertive and aggressive you can be during a game. You have an incredible (and accurate!) intuition and usually rely deeply upon this natural instinct to guide you through your life, and often through a game of Scrabble. As your crab sign suggests, you are also a cunning and intelligent creature, waiting patiently for your opponent to fall into your traps. You often gain your Scrabble success through cunning.

On the down side, your emotional nature can make you moody, pessimistic or indecisive at times, which can make your game and progress in the rankings inconsistent.



23 July - 22 August

OLE!!

Leo, of course, is not a Scrabble word. But some useful words starting with LEO- are: LEONE(S) (monetary unit of Sierra Leone), LEONINE, LEOPARD(S), LEOTARD(S) and LEOTARDED.

Only one word ends with -LEO, and that's OLEO (margarine).

However, there are some interesting LIONLIKE words in the Scrabble word list, such as: LIONCEL(S), LIONEL(S), LIONET(S), LIONFISH (a fish) and LIONHEAD (a rabbit), not to mention all the forms of the verb LIONISE (also Z). LIONLY is particularly nice, but there is no LIONLIER* or LIONLIEST*.

Leo is the king of the beasts, so Leos are the monarchs, the born leaders (or Club presidents) of humans. They are generous and warm-hearted, creative and enthusiastic. The Leo type is the most dominant, spontaneously creative and extrovert of all the zodiacal characters. They are ambitious, self-controlled, courageous, dominant, strong-willed, positive, independent and self-confident - there is no such a word as DOUBT in *their* vocabularies!

You know exactly what you want and use all your energies, creativeness and resolution to get it, as well as being certain that you will get whatever you want. If you Leos decide to do well at Scrabble, you will, as you are powerfully intelligent as well.

However, your faults can be as large in scale as your virtues, if you display extreme arrogance, autocratic pride, haughtiness, jealousy, and an intolerant disdain of "underlings". Be careful your pride does not go before a fall! (Fortunately, Leos usually have the intelligence it takes to consciously and actively overcome these traits.)



23 August - 23 September

Virgo, the only zodiac sign represented by a woman, is not a Scrabble word, but its anagram VIGOR is.

With the addition of two more letters, Virgo transforms into 13 mostly well-known bonus words: VIRAGOS, OVERBIG, DROVING, FORGIVE, OVERING, VERTIGO, VOGUIER, ISOGRIV (the only bonus word ending in V), PROVING, VORRING (VOR, to warn), ROVINGS, VIGOROS (a ball-game) and VIGOURS.

A Virgo who's musical would know to hook an O onto VIGOROS to make VIGOROSO.

Virgoans are modest and shy, meticulous and reliable, practical and diligent, intelligent and analytical. The first six traits would make you an excellent Club Secretary, the last two make you a good Scrabble player.

Most Virgoans are intellectually enquiring, methodical and logical, studious and teachable, and combine mental ingenuity with the ability to produce a clear analysis of the most complicated problems.

While you may have an excellent eye for detail, you may also be so meticulous that you neglect larger issues. For example, do you get so obsessed with working out where and what your opponent could play, you fail to notice there are no tiles left in the bag?

Thoroughness, hard work and conscientiousness are your hallmarks, but you are such a perfectionist that, if things go wrong, especially in a Scrabble tournament, you are easily discouraged.



24 September - 23 October

LIBRA is an ancient Roman coin. Its anagram is BRAIL (to haul in a sail).

There are 57 7-letter bonus words containing the letters of LIBRA. Many start with LIBRA-, including LIBRAE, LIBRAIRE(S), LIBRAIRIE(S) and words formed from the verb LIBRATE (to move from side to side).

Libra is the only inanimate sign of the zodiac. Its symbol represents the balance that you continually seek in yourself and your life. Libran characters are on the whole balanced, diplomatic and even tempered.

Librans are often good looking, having elegance, charm and good taste. They are sociable, kind, and love beauty and harmony and the pleasures that these bring.

You have good critical faculty and are able to stand back and be impartial, but you are more artistic than intellectual. A completed Scrabble board gives you pleasure, as does the design of the game. The colour of choice for Libra is blue, and you usually make the most of the blue double and triple letter squares.

Because you are trusting, you can be a little gullible. Try not to fall for some of the tactics of the more ruthless players, such as trying to divert your attention away from a spot they are planning to use. Resist the temptation to play through the red squares unless you can get a decent score.

Librans can be surprisingly energetic, but they dislike coarse, dirty work. In this respect, Scrabble suits you well, since it's a hobby that does not require you to get dirty, sweaty or dress in unflattering clothes!



24 October - 22 November

Scorpio needs another letter before it can form a bonus word, and there are only seven of these 8-letter bonuses: PROSODIC, OPORICES (folk medicines), POCHOIRS (colour stencilling), SCORPION, OOSPORIC (to do with a fertilised egg), PORTICOS and PROOTICS (a bone).

It does contain three lovely 6-letter words: PSORIC (itchy), SCROOP (harsh grating sound) and POORIS (POORI, wheat-cake).

Scorpions are determined, forceful and powerful, and these traits can easily become negative. However, Scorpions are fortunate in that their strong reasoning powers are tempered with imagination and intuition, and these gifts, together with critical perception and analytical capacity, give Scorpions a better chance of becoming geniuses than people of any other sign.

Being so gifted, you can find fulfilment in many employments. (Your inner intensity can result in the ice-cold self-control and detachment of the surgeon, the concentration of the research scientist, and the heroism of the soldier.) Any profession in which analysis, investigation, research, dealing with practicalities, and the solving of mysteries are relevant, can appeal to you. Hobbies like competitive Scrabble, Bridge or Chess have a lot to offer someone with your traits.

You can also become a master of the written and spoken word. However, the Scorpion is naturally venomous, so be aware of the hurt you can inflict with stinging words.

A scorpion is also naturally nocturnal - do you play better Scrabble in the evenings than during the day?



23 November - 21 December

Sagittarius is not a Scrabble word, but SAGITTARY (fabulous being, half man, half horse, armed with a bow and arrow) is.

The longest word of the 12 signs of the zodiac, Sagittarius yields 16 7-letter bonus words: SAGITTA (keystone), ARISTAS (bristle-like structure), TARSIAS (wood inlay), STRIATA, ASTARTS, STRATAS, STATUAS, GUITARS, ARTISTS, SITTARS, STRAITS, TSARIST, AURISTS, TURISTA (disease affecting tourists), AUTISTS and STRATUS. It contains seven 8-letter words as well.

Sagittarians have a positive outlook on life, are jovial and good-humoured. They are basically ambitious and optimistic, and continue to be so even when their hopes are dashed. They're the ones who still think they can win the game when they're 200 points behind, or think they will reach their expectancy, even when it means winning the next 7/7 games! And they may well do so, as they have the ability to think rapidly.

Their strongly idealistic natures can suffer many disappointments without being affected. Which is just as well, because although they are honorable, honest, trustworthy, truthful, generous and sincere, they can be careless and irresponsible.

Sagittarians can be inclined to be superstitious. Do you need to have the clock on a certain side, to use your special Scrabble pen, to wear a certain piece of clothing, to have your mascot beside you ...?

Colour of choice for Sagittarians is rich purple. (What colour are your tiles?) And the starstone is the topaz.

I don't believe in astrology. I am a Sagittarius and we're very sceptical.

- Arthur C Clarke



22 December - 20 January

Now we're separating the sheep from the goats. This star-sign does not offer a lot of innate help for Capricorn Scrabblers. Those nine relatively incompatible letters yield only four bonus-sized words, three of them smelly: CANOPIC (relating to an Egyptian urn that holds organs of an embalmed body), CAPROIC (smelling like a goat), CARRION (dead and rotting animals) and ACRONIC (occurring at sunset).

With an S, it does yield a further 16 low-probability bonus words: COCAINS, SCORIAN, CIRCARS, RICRACS, PARSONIC, AIRCONS, RACINOS, SARONIC, PICAROS, PROSAIC, CORSAIR, RANCORS, PARISON, PORINAS, SOPRANI and SPORRAN.

So you need all the help you can get from the traits that are characteristic of a Capricornian, which are: practical and prudent, ambitious and disciplined, patient and careful - all helpful in a game of Scrabble. The goat is sure-footed, and well-suited for climbing. You set high goals for yourself and then overcome whatever obstacles may appear between you and the top of your personal mountain or ranking list.

Unfortunately, you can also be miserly and grudging, so don't grudge the cost of tournament entry fees, and try to be more generous when acknowledging your opponent's win.

The color of choice for Capricorn is brown - bear that in mind when you're buying new tiles or a board. Your STARSTONE provides a bit of help with some power tiles. It's ONYX, which is a type of QUARTZ. Brown ONYX is called SARDONYX.



21 January - 19 February

Unfortunately, Aquarian Scrabblers get very little Scrabble assistance from their star-sign! There are no bonus words with the letters of Aquarius. The following AQUA- words could be helpful: AQUASHOW, AQUATIC(S), AQUATINT (an etching process), AQUATINTA, AQUATONE (a printing process) and AQUAVIT(S) (Scandinavian liquor).

Some unusual 7-letter words using the letters of AQUA are: SUBAQUA, ACEQUIA (irrigation ditch), MACAQUE, MADOQUA (an antelope), QUADRAT (spaced used in printing), AQUAFER, QUAYAGE, SQUAMAE, ALFAQUI (teacher of Muslim law), AQUAFIT, QUAGGAS, QUAHAUG, QUAMASH (plant), MAQUILA (foreign-owned assembly plant in Mexico), QUASSIA (tropical tree), QUARTAN (type of malaria) and OQUASSA (lake trout).

Aquarians are honest and intellectual. They are strong-willed and forceful and have strong convictions, though as they seek truth above all things, they can see both sides of an argument and are usually honest enough to change their opinions if the evidence is strong. They are unprejudiced and tolerant of other points of view.

They are nearly always intelligent, concise, clear and logical. Many are strongly imaginative and psychically intuitive. Have you noticed you can often anticipate an opponent's play?

Aquarians dislike interference by others, however helpfully intended - don't try to tell an Aquarian what they did wrong, or what they should have played!

You are a good judge of human character, much to your detriment at times, when you can seem condescending to others or can't be bothered cultivating the acquaintance of people who do not particularly appeal to you.



20 February - 20 March

Pisces (anagram SPICES) is not a Scrabble word.

With one other letter, Pisces makes six 7-letter bonus words: SPECIES, SPLICES, SPICERS, SCEPSIS (philosophic doubt), CESSPIT and SEPTICS. Fifty words can be formed by adding two letters to Pisces.

But there is a way Pisces the fish helps Scrabblers much more. 168 words in the Scrabble list end with -FISH, 27 of them are made by adding FISH to a 3-letter word: BAT, BOX, CAT, COD, COW, DOG, FIN, FOX, GAR, GEM, HAG, HOG, JEW, MUD, OAR, OUT, PAN, PIG, PIN, PUP, RAT, RED, SAW, SEL, SER, SUN and TUB.

Another 50 are formed by adding FISH to a 4-letter word: BAIT, BAND, BILL, BLOW, BLUE, BOAR, BONE, CAVE COAL, CRAW, CRAY, DEAL, DRUM, FALL, FILE, FLAT, FOOL, FROG, GOAT, GOLD, GRAY, HEAD, JACK, KING, LADY, LION, LUMP, LUNG, MILK, MONK, MOON, NUMB, OVER, PIPE, ROCK, ROSE, SAIL, SALT, SAND, SCAR, SCUM, STAR, STUD, SUCK, SURF, TILE, TOAD, WALL, WEAK and WOLF.

And another 60 or so by adding FISH to even longer words.

Pisceans are gentle, patient, friendly, kind and compassionate. So they are usually popular with other Scrabble players - partly because their easygoing, submissive natures offer no threat or challenge to stronger characters!

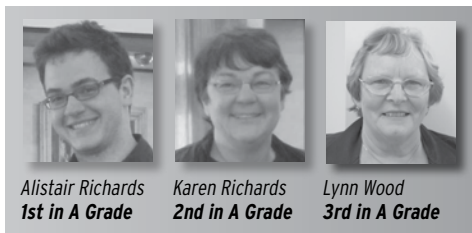
The symbol for Pisces, two fishes swimming in opposite directions, indicates the inner tensions of the Piscean - although good-natured, you don't like Scrabble know-it-alls!

Neither do you like feeling all at sea about something, so you can "give up" quite easily when you are trailing in a game.

Tournament Results

WYSC Fundraiser 22-23 September 2012

GRADE A	CLUB	WINS	SPRD	AVE	
1	Alastair Richards	AU	13	1493	463
2	Karen Richards	AU	10.5	308	419
3	Lynn Wood	WEL	9	256	407
4	Alex Leckie-Zaharic	DUN	7	-71	416
5	Paul Lister	CHC	4	-965	369
6	Karen Gray	DUN	1.5	-1021	366



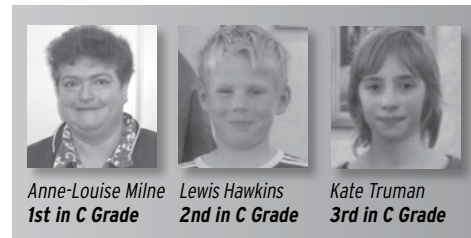
Alastair Richards *Karen Richards* *Lynn Wood*
1st in A Grade **2nd in A Grade** **3rd in A Grade**

GRADE B	CLUB	WINS	SPRD	AVE	
1	Marian Ross	DUN	9	339	390
2	Ruth Groffman	DUN	8	189	369
3	Chris Handley	DUN	7	24	377
4	Carolyn Kyle	DUN	7	-11	387
5	Malcolm Graham	CHC	7	-269	361
6	Michael Groffman	DUN	7	-271	360



Marian Ross *Ruth Groffman* *Chris Handley*
1st in B Grade **2nd in B Grade** **3rd in B Grade**

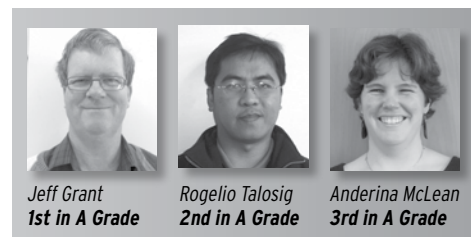
GRADE C	CLUB	WINS	SPRD	AVE	
1	Anne-Louise Milne	DUN	14	1122	358
2	Lewis Hawkins	IND	11	1041	361
3	Kate Truman	DUN	11	836	345
4	Sam Thompson	DUN	10	749	347
5	Corey Symon	DUN	9	651	336
6	Jaiden Tucker	DUN	6	312	316
7	Moyra Sweetnam-Evans	DUN	6	-614	270
8	Christopher Denton	DUN	4	-757	276
9	Tyler Proctor	DUN	3	-313	279
10	Emilia Hazzard	DUN	1	-3027	151



Anne-Louise Milne *Lewis Hawkins* *Kate Truman*
1st in C Grade **2nd in C Grade** **3rd in C Grade**

Mt Albert Club Tournament 29-30 September 2012

GRADE A	CLUB	WINS	SPRD	AVE	
1	Jeff Grant	IND	11	966	442
2	Rogelio Talosig	IND	10	237	414
3	Anderina McLean	MTA	9	239	390
4	Lawson Sue	MTA	8	212	418
5	Howard Warner	MTA	8	207	419
6	Liz Fagerlund	MTA	6.5	35	393
7	Glennis Hale	IND	6	66	391
8	Lynn Wood	WEL	6	58	385
9	John Foster	IND	6	-363	383
10	Nick Cavenagh	HAM	5	-216	383
11	Marianne Bentley	TGA	5	-366	388
12	Lynne Powell	IND	4	-314	395
13	Chris Hooks	MTA	3.5	-411	390
14	Andrew Bradley	MTA	3	-350	394



Jeff Grant *Rogelio Talosig* *Anderina McLean*
1st in A Grade **2nd in A Grade** **3rd in A Grade**

GRADE B	CLUB	WINS	SPRD	AVE	
1	Roger Coates	KIW	10	858	424
2	Shirley Martin	HAM	9	164	397
3	Lyres Freeth	ROD	8	567	418
4	Allie Quinn	WRE	8	263	406
5	David Gunn	KIW	8	137	391
6	Hazel Purdie	MTA	8	118	394
7	Katy Viakmis	MTA	7	82	385
8	Jeanette Grimmer	ROD	7	49	388
9	Rosalind Phillips	PAK	7	-45	376
10	Pat Bryan	MTA	7	-128	393
11	Lynn Carter	IND	5	66	404
12	Mary Gray	MTA	3	-583	371
13	Pam Barlow	PAK	2	-325	367
14	Ernie Gidman	ROD	2	-1223	355



Roger Coates *Shirley Martin* *Lyres Freeth*
1st in B Grade **2nd in B Grade** **3rd in B Grade**

GRADE C	CLUB	WINS	SPRD	AVE	
1	Kadda Mohamed	CHC	10	449	392
2	Roger Cole-Baker	MTA	8	494	395
3	Minuri Undugodage	MTA	8	-81	372
4	Betty Eriksen	WAN	7	216	389
5	Clare Wall	WEL	7	194	398
6	Roto Mitchell	WAN	7	-10	369
7	Marianne Patchett	MTA	7	-47	378
8	Su Walker	MTA	6	75	374
9	Dianne Cole-Baker	MTA	6	41	369
10	Karen Miller	IND	6	-258	346
11	Julia Schiller	MTA	6	-305	361
12	Alison Holmes	WEL	5	49	367
13	June Mackwell	IND	5	27	379
14	Valma Gidman	ROD	3	-844	329



Kadda Mohamed *Roger Cole-Baker* *Minuri Undugodage*
1st in C Grade **2nd in C Grade** **3rd in C Grade**

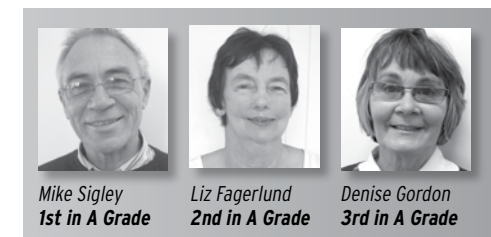
GRADE D	CLUB	WINS	SPRD	AVE	
1	Melody Freeth	ROD	13	1203	376
2	Suzanne Harding	WRE	10	751	356
3	Antonia Aarts	MTA	9	470	341
4	Annette Coombes	KIW	9	406	340
5	Janny Henneveld	ROT	9	398	327
6	Elaine Ware	MTA	9	156	332
7	Tim Henneveld	ROT	8	422	320
8	Jenepher Cummins	ROD	7	300	359
9	Lynn Thompson	WRE	6	17	317
10	Frances Higham	PHC	5	-181	315
11	Joan Beale	PHC	5	-205	306
12	Margaret Peters	WRE	5	-552	287
13	Margaret Toso	WRE	4	-281	294
14	Judy Cronin	MTA	3	-797	282
15	Susan Milne	MTA	2	-1457	263
16	Bye	0	0	-650	0



Melody Freeth *Susan Harding* *Antonia Aarts*
1st in D Grade **2nd in D Grade** **3rd in D Grade**

Wanganui Club Tournament 20-21 October 2012

GRADE A	CLUB	WINS	SPRD	AVE	
1	Mike Sigley	WAN	10	800	437
2	Liz Fagerlund	MTA	10	543	410
3	Denise Gordon	WAN	10	488	407
4	Rosemary Cleary	WAN	7	-86	386
5	Lynne Butler	NPL	6	-19	405
6	Glennys Buchanan	LOH	6	-769	373
7	Lynn Wood	WEL	5	-336	386
8	Helen Sillis	IND	2	-621	366



Mike Sigley *Liz Fagerlund* *Denise Gordon*
1st in A Grade **2nd in A Grade** **3rd in A Grade**

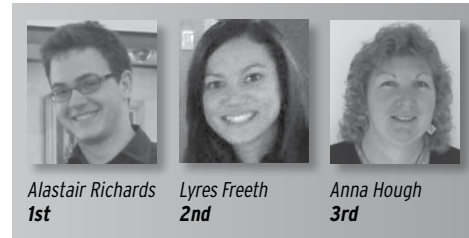
GRADE B	CLUB	WINS	SPRD	AVE	
1	Glenda Foster	WEL	11	977	430
2	Jennifer Smith	HAM	10	878	418
3	Joan Thomas	HAS	10	669	416
4	Andree Prentice	WAN	8	-117	382
5	Leila Thomson	LOH	5	-383	383
6	Hazel Purdie	MTA	4	-567	373
7	Yvette Hewlett	IND	4	-598	366
8	Nola Borrell	WEL	4	-859	361



GRADE C	CLUB	WINS	SPRD	AVE	
1	Roger Cole-Baker	MTA	10	446	387
2	Carolyn Kyle	DUN	10	369	385
3	Mary Curtis	MTA	9	187	379
4	Sheila Reed	WEL	7	186	362
5	Diane Cole-Baker	MTA	7	118	370
6	Jean Boyle	WAN	7	-145	373
7	Betty Eriksen	WAN	5	-79	369
8	Judith Thomas	IND	5	-164	371
9	Roto Mitchell	WAN	5	-387	360
10	Judy Driscoll	KAP	5	-531	344



Hamilton Promotion/Demotion 3 November 2012



NAME	CLUB	WINS	MARGIN
Alastair Richards	AUS	9.5	1235
Lyres Freeth	MTA	9	604
Anna Hough	IND	9	535
Nick Cavenagh	HAM	8.5	894
Jena Yousif	KIW	8.5	232
Hazel Purdie	MTA	8	508
Jennifer Smith	HAM	8	374
Cicely Bruce	WRE	7	338
Lyn Toka	KIW	7	186
David Gunn	WKP	7	-31
Yoon Kim Fong	KIW	7	-44
Shirley Pearce	KIW	6.5	224
Leighton Gelling	NPL	6	247
Annette Coombes	WKP	6	108
Antonia Aarts	MTA	6	64
Su Walker	MTA	6	60
Suzanne Harding	WRE	6	60
Julia Schiller	MTA	6	57
Katy Yiamkis	MTA	6	55
Karen Richards	AUS	6	54
Lawson Sue	MTA	6	-251
Glenda Foster	WEL	5	177
Helen Sillis	NPL	5	48
Lynn Carter	IND	5	-32
Shirley Martin	HAM	5	-85
Anne Scatchard	WRE	5	-101
Ruth Groffman	DUN	5	-192
Anderina McLean	MTA	5	-314
Joan Thomas	HAS	5	-497
Roger Coates	KIW	5	-522
Pam Robson	IND	5	-616

Liz Fagerlund	MTA	5	-634
Allie Quinn	WRE	4	-280
Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell	KIW	4	-387
Lynn Thompson	WRE	4	-431
Elaine Moltzen	KIW	4	-432
Olivia Godfrey	WEL	4	-479
Chris Guthrey	MTA	4	-732

Otago Open Dunedin 10-11 August 2012

GRADE A	CLUB	WINS	SPRD	AVE	
1	Peter Sinton	DUN	13	1003	430
2	Alex Leckie-Zaharic	DUN	11	473	424
3	Shirley Hol	CHC	6	-44	405
4	Irene Smith	CHC	5	-348	368
5	Karyn McDougall	DUN	5	-382	379
6	Lynn Wood	WEL	5	-702	362



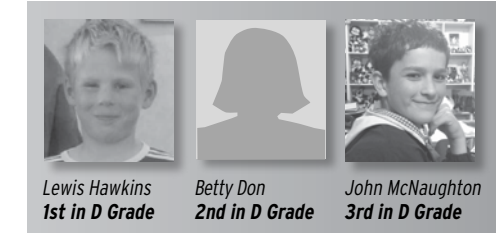
GRADE B	CLUB	WINS	SPRD	AVE	
1	Marian Ross	DUN	10	385	388
2	Karen Miller	IND	9	301	375
3	Karen Gray	DUN	8	204	385
4	Ruth Groffman	DUN	7	-178	366
5	Carolyn Kyle	DUN	6	-215	371
6	Allison Torrance	CHC	5	-497	358



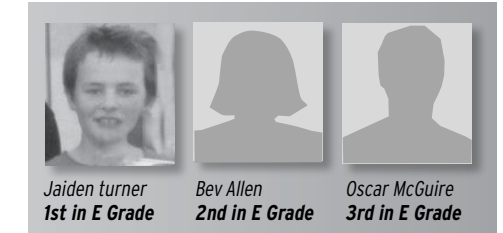
GRADE C	CLUB	WINS	SPRD	AVE	
1	Colleen Cook	CHC	11	650	378
2	Jean Boyle	WAN	10.5	811	388
3	Alison Holmes	WEL	10	546	373
4	Michael Groffman	DUN	7.5	-72	358
5	Anne-Louise Milne	DUN	5	-590	328
6	Jean Craib	CHC	1	-1345	305



GRADE D	CLUB	WINS	SPRD	AVE	
1	Lewis Hawkins	CHC	11	455	348
2	Betty Don	NEL	9	559	367
3	John McNaughton	WEL	9	309	364
4	Stephanie Pluck	DUN	8	-110	356
5	Corey Symon	DUN	5	-446	334
6	Sam Thompson	DUN	3	-767	334



GRADE E	CLUB	WINS	SPRD	AVE	
1	Jaiden Tucker	DUN	15	2869	454
2	Bev Allen	DUN	11	1008	359
3	Oscar McGuire	DUN	7	-331	300
4	Ethan Hawkins	CHC	6.5	-1066	252
5	Tyler Proctor	DUN	5.5	33	285
6	Max Beale	DUN	0	-2513	198



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@clear.net.nz	Mon 1pm
Mt Albert (MTA)	Dianne Cole-Baker	09 309 5865	drcb@xtra.co.nz	Fri 7pm
Pakuranga/(PAK)	Jeannette Owler	09 534 4453	cliffordo@xtra.co.nz	Tues 12.30 Thurs 7pm
Papatoetoe/(PHC)	Frances Higham	09 278 4595	jambo@actrix.co.nz	Mon 1pm
Hamilton (HAM)	Nick Cavenagh	021 150 8167	nicholas_cavenagh@yahoo.co.uk	Tues 7pm (except 2 nd Tues)
Kiwi (KIWI)	Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell	07 846 7422	scrabilfuss@xtra.co.nz	Thurs 7pm/1pm alt weeks
Waikato Phoenix (WKP)	Annette Coombes	07 855 9970		
Tauranga (TGA)	Barbara Dunn	07 544 8372	dunnz@kinect.co.nz	Tues 9am
Rotorua	Maggie Bentley	07 362 4998	bentford@farmside.co.nz	Thurs 9.15am
Waitara (WTA)	Ngairé Kemp	06 754 4107		Wed 1pm
New Plymouth (NPL)	Lynne Butler	06 751 2345 027 428 5758	scrabblyn@clear.net.nz	Contact Lynn
Hastings (HAS)	Yvonne Wilson	06 878 8229	wilsonpad@slingshot.co.nz	Tues 1pm
Wanganui (WAN)	Rosemary Cleary	06 347 1837	roseccleary@hotmail.com	Wed 6.30pm
Masterton (MAS)	Hilda Scott	06 378 2663	billhilda@wizbiz.net.nz	Wed 7.30pm
Lower Hutt (LOH)	Glenyss Buchanan	04 569 5433	glenyss.buchanan@xtra.co.nz	Tues 7.30pm
Kapiti (KAP)	Judy Driscoll	04 904 2049	judyd@paradise.net.nz	Wed 7pm
Wellington (WEL)	Lynn Wood	04 387 2581	lynnwood@state.co.nz	Tues 7pm
Nelson (NEL)	Tony Charlton	03 545 1159	tony.charlton@yahoo.co.uk	2 nd Wed 7pm
Christchurch (CHC)	Margaret Lyall	03 332 5963	noelrealest@hotmail.com	Fri 6.45pm Wed 12.30pm
Dunedin (DUN)	Chris Handley	03 464 0199	chris@redheron.com	Tues 7pm

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