

Forwords



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Let the Jabberwocky enrich your playing power

Also in this issue

Word Famous in New Zealand

New Zealanders on the international
stage

The day the world didn't end

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The Year of the Horse

New Zealand Scrabble records

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Editorial

It's OK to fake it!

How many times have we heard the cliché that a particular sport, whether it be cricket, rugby, or deep sea diving, is a confidence game? Well, the same can certainly be said about Scrabble.

In Scrabble, when you're riding high on a raft of wins, nothing ever seems to go wrong. That ridiculous word that couldn't possibly be right but that you think you might try anyway, impossibly, comes back with a green tick. When you challenge, your opponent's words are always invalid, bingos flow off your rack as if you were Nigel at the Worlds, and it seems as if the tile fairies were feeling generous when they attended your birth.

Conversely, when things go wrong, nothing goes right. You pick up four I's, a U and two V's for your first rack, and when you swap all seven letters, you pick up B, C, F, M, R, T, and W. You choose not to challenge that S hook that of course you should have challenged, and your opponent wins by three points. Your Scrabble brain is so slow it's positively leaving snail trails. And you manage to spill tea all over yourself, the board, your opponent and your dog. You are cursed ... but the worst thing of all is that your confidence in your game is shot. Naturally this causes you to play even worse, and on and on the cycle goes.

For me, there are two signs that my confidence has gone awol. I don't challenge words as readily. I get into negative thought patterns that go something like this:

I wonder if
that's a word?
But if I
challenge it,
it's bound to
be right



Olivia Godfrey

because nothing's going my way at the moment. Besides, my opponent is so much better than me, they're sure to know that word. I'm just going to give away five points that I can't afford. Nah, I won't challenge it.

When I look up the word at the end of the game, sure enough, it's invalid, and of course my confidence takes another hit, and I'm even more inclined to stay my challenging hand in my next game.

The other sign that I have lost confidence in my game is when I see a possible high-scoring move, but I'm not sure about a particular word, so I play something that I'm certain is a word and, in doing so, I have to settle for a noticeably smaller score. Interestingly, my thought patterns in these instances are similar to the ones I find myself in when I fail to challenge my opponents' plays:

X is so much better than me, he/
she will definitely know if that's a
word or not. Anyway, my luck is
so bad right now, it's probably
not a word and I'll end up getting
zero just when I can't afford it.

When it comes down to it, a loss of confidence is actually a loss of trust. You no longer have the winning mojo because you no longer trust your own brain. You've lost your belief in your ability to recognise a bad word when it's

President's report



Val Mills

Happy New Year to you all – though it's already more than a third of the way through. My new year started with the birth of a new grand-daughter at precisely 1:01 on 01/01/14. That was pretty good news and a great start to the year!

2014 is shaping up to be a busy year Scrabble-wise. As well as all our usual club tournaments (thanks to those clubs who have finalised their dates and advised Glenda), we have the Masters and Nationals in Hamilton, Youth Scrabble tournaments in Sri Lanka, Commonwealth Games tournament in Scotland, the Trans-Tasman (venue still to be confirmed), and another Scrabble Champions Tournament at the end of the year. There are also many other overseas tournaments for those that want to extend their Scrabble playing experiences to outside New Zealand.

Again another huge thanks to Jennifer and Vicky for their work with *Forwards*, and also to Anderina, Olivia, and Glenda in agreeing to continue with this work. I encourage you to support our new editors in whatever way you can. Keep

an eye out for interesting Scrabble news, stories, or cartoons. Send in articles on things of interest to you as they are bound to interest us all. Keep the club news items rolling in— and try to get your contributions to the editors in a timely manner (note to self here!!).

A reminder that remits for the AGM have to be in before Friday the 25th of April 2014. Since this is Anzac Day and as our secretary, Frances, is departing for overseas travel shortly after that date, we would appreciate all remits being sent as early as possible, and by Thursday the 24th of April at the latest. This will give Frances time to collate them and send them out to everyone before she goes.

I'm looking forward to catching up with as many of you as possible at various tournaments this year. Check the tournament calendar and start planning!

Happy Scrabbling to everyone for 2014.

Valerie Mills

Editorial (continued)

played, and you don't trust yourself to recognise a good word when you see it.

So how do you reverse this kind of negative spiral? Well, there's not much you can do except give yourself a slap, whistle a happy tune, and challenge that word or play that move anyway even if you do believe that your opponent knows

everything and you're illiterate. Remember that Scrabble is like politics or parenting — the wheel will turn, no bad phase can last forever but, till that happens, you have to fake it till you make it!

Olivia

Word famous in New Zealand



We intend to include as a regular feature in Forwards a section in which we profile one or more New Zealand Scrabble players. It doesn't matter what part of the country you're from, or whether you're ranked in the top 10 or bottom 10, we want to hear from you. We want to find out what draws us all to this great game, and also what different interests people in our Scrabble community have when the boards are packed away.

So, we're calling for volunteers. If you would like your profile to be included in a Forwards issue, please let Olivia or Anderina know. We are happy to either conduct an interview and write up your profile for you, or to accept prepared contributions. If we don't receive volunteers, we will start shoulder tapping, so please don't be shy.

To kick off, we have decided to profile ourselves. Hopefully, that way, you'll get to know a little more about your new editors, and you'll also get to see some examples of the kinds of information and ideas we're hoping you'll contribute to this section of your magazine.

Name: Olivia Minh Godfrey (nee En)

Birthplace: Tay Ninh, Vietnam

Current home: Palmerston North

Club affiliations: Dunedin 2002-2005, Wellington since 2006

Principal occupation: Household executive for a family of five plus one dog and one cat (harder work than my previous job as a lawyer, and not as highly paid, but perks include cuddles and kisses on demand).

I was born in a small, rural village in South Vietnam. At 18 months, I went blind after a bout of measles. In Vietnam back then, there was little hope for a child with a disability, and certainly none of the kinds of resources and support available in countries like New Zealand. Fortunately for me then, shortly after I went blind, my parents received the news that our entire family would be allowed refugee status in New Zealand.

We arrived in New Zealand in February 1986, when I was three years old. One of my earliest memories of life in New Zealand is being given my first McDonald's hamburger and being

O₁

amazed that I was allowed the whole thing to myself (this is probably why I still have a shameful love of all things fast food today). Another memory is my first visit to a library with my adopted Kiwi grandma, June, to get stories on tape. I think this was the beginning of my love affair with the written word. To this day, my favourite smell is the smell of books and, even though I can't actually read a print book myself, I still adore holding a new book and sniffing the pages.

When I was ready to begin school, my family was living in Palmerston North. The only school for the blind was Homai College in Manurewa, so at age five I was sent to Auckland as a boarder. I didn't speak anything but Vietnamese then, but immersion is definitely the fastest way to learn a language, and I quickly became bilingual.

It was at Homai that I made the acquaintance of Scrabble for the first time. Apparently, one weekend when I was six and bored, I climbed the cupboard shelves (a complete no-no), and found a forgotten Braille Scrabble set stashed somewhere up the top. I

demanded that a hostel carer teach me how to play it. I know now that that Scrabble set wasn't exactly tournament standard, as it only had one blank but five esses.

Two years after I started at Homai College, there was a complete change in thinking around the education of children with disabilities. Instead of being kept in specialist schools, children with disabilities were now to be taught in a mainstream school alongside other "normal" children. I was therefore sent back to Palmerston North to live with my family and attend a local school.

I remember that, as a seven-year-old, I was outraged. I liked boarding. I liked my friends, my teachers, constant access to the Braille book library, and so on. I specifically remember throwing a tantrum over having to leave the Scrabble set,

which I had effectively claimed as mine.

I must have made a bit of an impression with my Scrabble meltdown because, on my seventh birthday (my first birthday after leaving Homai), a huge parcel arrived, containing the Scrabble set from my Homai hostel. Probably the one blank and five esses meant that the set was pretty much useless for anything other than donation to a child anyway. At home I used to play Scrabble with my teddy bears who, funnily enough, were never quite good enough to beat me.

I never knew about the existence of Scrabble clubs until I moved to Dunedin to study Law and History. I was procrastinating about an assignment one night, so I googled "Dunedin Scrabble", and Dunedin Scrabble Club was one of the first hits.

Having played Scrabble practically since I could spell, I obviously considered myself an expert. It is no wonder that I was completely crushed the first time I wandered along to the Dunedin Scrabble Club and discovered the world of two-letter words like AA and EA, and people who seemingly could flop out seven-letter words onto a board at will.

Marion Ross, a lovely Dunedin Club member, gave me the sage advice that the two-letter words were the most important ones to know. Well, I



*The Godfrey family: Olivia and Jonathan (back)
Cordelia, Annabelle and Callum (front)*

admit that I'm rather competitive, so that night I went home, scanned the hard copy list of two and three letter words that I had been given, put the scanned file through my character recognition software so that my computer could read it to me, and set a goal for myself that I would know all the twos by the time I went back to the Club the following week. I wasn't going to embarrass myself again.

There are so many things that I love about Scrabble. I love the fact that sitting at a Scrabble board seems to be the only time that I'm any good at maths. I love the thrill of picking out my letters, turning each one over and wondering if it's going to be a blank. I love seeing a letter combination on my rack and immediately knowing all the possible anagrams because I've studied the right word lists.

Even better than playing a seven-letter word, I love slapping down a five and scoring as much as a bonus simply because of good placement. One of my favourite moves involved just such a five-letter word. It was during a tournament game where I had ??ADESZ. I saw that I could play DAZZLES, but I would only get 70-odd points for it, and I'd have to use two blanks besides. Instead, I played SADZA for 87 points because I got the S on a triple word, the Z on a double letter, and the D was hooked to make DJINN. I was still left with a blank and an E. It was a moment of pure Scrabble heaven.

While I fully admit that I'm entirely obsessed with Scrabble, I do have other preoccupations. My number one preoccupation is my family. My husband, Jonathan, and I currently have three children under four years (two are under two years). With Callum, Annabelle, and Cordelia around, life is pretty hectic and intense at times.

I also sing in the Palmerston North Choral Society, am studying part time towards a Masters in Bioethics and Health Law and, more recently, I have been co-editing *Forwards*.

I love animals, musical theatre, and fast food, so a perfect day for me would be to take my kids to a petting farm in the morning, followed by lunch at McDonald's, some Scrabble in the afternoon, dinner at KFC, and an evening out with Jonathan attending a classic stage show like *Phantom of the Opera* or *Les Miserables*. Unfortunately, dreams are free ... but babysitters are not!

That's me in a nutshell. I could go on, of course, and write a few more pages on my favourite topic... but I'm sure I'd be edited.

Name: Anderina Jane McLean (nee McKinney)

Birthplace: Otorohanga, Waikato, NZ

Current home: Titirangi, West Auckland

Club affiliations: Mt Albert since 2003

Current Occupations: School Librarian (part time); Household executive and Quartermaster (full time)

I've always enjoyed collecting unusual vocabulary and delighted in reading, spelling, and word play of all sorts. My mother claims that, before I was four, I was in the back seat of the car and suddenly asked, "Mummy, why does that sign say McCulloch Chainsaws?" Apparently she nearly drove off the road... Similarly, at perhaps a slightly older age I can remember staring fixedly at another sign (TOYOTA*) and eventually asking my father, "Daddy, how would you say that word backwards?" Hmm, perhaps this second incident explains why I always think OT* is



allowable?

When I was seven, Santa Claus gave me and my older sister a Monopoly set. I look back on the next few years as a kind of Golden Age of family board and card games. We were old enough to remember and follow the rules, to keep score with passable accuracy, and to limit emotional outbursts when we lost. At the same time, we were still young enough that gaming was more appealing than alternative extracurricular pursuits.

It wasn't until I was about 13 that Scrabble became my game of choice. Probably this was because it was a favourite game of my mother's, but my sister refused to play it. By choosing to do so I could make Mum happy **and** have her to myself for an hour or so.

I remember my consternation when Mum would suddenly bust out a word such as LI or ID, and calmly give me a definition for it. I recall my triumph when I finally memorised all the twos, and when I got hold of a list of threes and fours from my

cousin. I can practically relive that terrible afternoon when Mum played UNHAMPER* and I challenged it off and insisted that she miss a turn.

The main reason I eventually joined a Scrabble club was to gain an advantage over my mother who, up till then, had taught me everything I knew about the game. What continues to appeal to me about Scrabble (now that the initial goal of besting Mum has been achieved) is that, for me, the game represents the perfect balance between skill and luck. I don't particularly enjoy games that require too much of either (for example Chess, or Ludo). In Scrabble I know there are plenty of ways I can actively improve my game through conscious effort. If I don't bother to make that effort, though, there always remains the chance of a lucky coincidence of good tiles, perfect board position, and stunning self-confidence (or desperation!) resulting in one of those 'once-in-a-lifetime' plays.

For example, I once fluked a win by trying a bonus. I was sure of the singular but

didn't believe the plural was likely. There were no tiles left in the bag and, knowing I would lose otherwise, I chose to risk it. I was delighted to win the challenge. The word was FIGJAMS, defined by Zyzzyva as meaning "a bighead", an acronym for "Forsooth I'm Good, Just Ask Me". The aptness of this tickles my fancy.



The McLean family: from left Bronwyn, Anderina, Andrew

Outside of Scrabble, I devote my time to my husband, Andrew, and my almost three-year-old daughter, Bronwyn. We also have a black lop-eared bunny rabbit named Mica. We are expecting a further addition to our family this September (well, you didn't think you could have a Scrabble Nationals without somebody being pregnant, did you?).

I have tertiary-level qualifications in English and Linguistics, Teaching (primary), Proofreading & Editing, and Librarianship.

I can speak and understand a little Māori, a little more New Zealand Sign Language, and a very little Japanese (but I can read two out of three Japanese 'alphabets'!).

An unusual factoid about me that you may or may not find interesting is that I have had one boyfriend in my entire life. I met Andrew when I was 15 and married him when I was 20. Monogamy is obviously my secret quirk.

My dream job would be as a children's / young adult readers' advisory consultant ("so you enjoyed this? Next you should read this!"). I would do bedtime stories as a full time occupation if I could make it pay. Sometimes I like to imagine my future self as a 'busker of literature', taking a favourite novel from my childhood, and going and sitting in a public place (library? mall? park?) and reading it aloud, just to see who stops to listen.

It won't be a surprise then when I say that one of my favourite leisure activities outside of Scrabble is reading fiction and talking about books. I also enjoy cooking, especially the non-everyday sort. I am skilled at making desserts in general, but my particular specialty is Russian fudge. I still enjoy other board and card games.

Since becoming a parent I have been working on cultivating my photography skills. My preferred form of exercise is none, but I enjoy swimming and dancing once I get underway, and I have recently joined a neighbourhood volleyball team.

Amongst my non-Scrabble friends, I am known for: my complete disregard for current fashion; my staunch championship of the possessive apostrophe; and my knowledge of picture books and children's fiction. I am also known for my propensity to quote from children's books, Shakespeare, certain '80s and '90s movies, and from song lyrics (I am especially fond of musical theatre, and pop music as long as it's not from the '70s).

So with that in mind, I'm inclined to close my contribution to this column with perhaps my most obscure and versatile quotation, though it comes from none of the above sources. I think it succinctly describes my experience of *Forwards* editorship thus far:

"When all around is strife and uncertainty, there's nothing like a good old-fashioned plate of sardines!"

Noises Off by Michael Frayn

A few of my favourite examples of unusual vocabulary:

PETRICHOR*: the smell of earth after rain

SPANGHEW: to flick something (esp. a toad or a frog) off a stick

PRANDIAL: pertaining to a meal, as in "a post-prandial snooze"

STERNUTATION: the act, fact, or noise of sneezing.

CRUCIVERBALIST: a crossword enthusiast or creator

New Zealanders on the International Stage



Scrabble Champions Tournament

Last year, the Scrabble Champions Tournament, formerly known as the World Scrabble Championships, was held at the Andel's Hotel in Prague from the 4th to the 8th of December. For the first time, the familiar Worlds tournament for the globe's top Scrabblers was held alongside an open tournament designed to welcome all comers.

New Zealand was entitled to send five representatives to the elite tournament. Thus, at the end of November, our top Scrabblers in the form of Blue Thorogood, Howard Warner, Joanne Craig, Nicholas Cavenagh, and Peter Sinton set off for Prague to do battle with the Nadals and Federers of the Scrabble scene.

The elite tournament began with a round of 31 games. At the end of this initial phase, the top four finishers were paired off, with first playing fourth, and second playing third in two best-of-five semi-finals. The two semi-final winners then faced off in a best-of-five final.

While their results may not have been as dazzling as in previous years, after the first round of 31 games, our famous five had put in a creditable performance, with Howard coming 32nd, Joanne 39th, Peter

59th, Blue 83rd, and Nick 100th. Now everybody was ready to sit back, relax and enjoy the action as it unfolded on the giant screens that allowed everyone to track the four remaining players' every move. Who said Scrabble couldn't be a spectator sport?

The eventual winner was, of course, Nigel Richards. While Nigel was officially invited to the elite tournament because he was the defending World Champion from 2011, we can, and do, claim him as a genuine, home grown, Kiwi Scrabbler. Nigel efficiently took out Dave Wiegand of the United States in the semi-final, three games to zero. He then netted his third World crown and US\$10,000 when he beat Komol Panyasophonlert of Thailand, three games to two. Nigel is the only person on the planet to have ever been crowned Scrabble World Champion more than once.

Of course, we must not forget about our intrepid explorers who went to the inaugural open tournament, Cicely Bruce and Lewis Hawkins. Cicely wanted to find out what the international stage would be like, and Lewis was on his way to the World Youth Scrabble Championships, so he thought he would slip in a quick 18 games beforehand just to warm up. The eventual winner of this open tournament



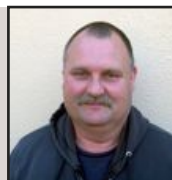
Howard



Blue



Joanne



Peter



Nicholas

was Jesse Matthews of Canada. Cicely came in at 31st place and Lewis finished up at 33rd.

Now, let us hear the story of the Scrabble Championships Tournament from those who were actually on the spot. Find out from Nick, Joanne, Cicely, and Lynley, (Lewis' mother), about what life is like in the Scrabble fast lane. Then Howard tells us about where he thinks the future of the Worlds competition is headed.

Nicholas Cavenagh

My first world championships was exciting, gruelling, at times brutal, occasionally lucky, educational, and eye-opening. It was a truly international event, with players from every corner of the globe. I was matched against Scrabblers from Guyana, Japan, France, Ireland, Indonesia and many other countries.

Before the main event, I elected to play a few warm-up games and was doing pretty well. Unfortunately, I seemed to have used up all my luck in these pre-tournament games. Now, as a mathematician, I know that luck is not a commodity that gets used up. Yet, the mathematically impossible seemed to have happened to me as, during the main event, I played 12 very close games in which the spread was less than 50 points, but the score sheet only came out in my favour in three of those games. That does not make for a good tournament!

I don't think I've ever felt so haunted by some of the losses, going over and over the endgames in my head, wondering if there was something I could have done differently. For example, in one early game, my opponent came out of nowhere with the word HELICASE, to score a

double-double plus another double on a hook. He came storming back from almost 200 points behind to win the game. What could or should I have done? Would things have worked out differently if I had done it? I don't know the answer but I do know now that, at the Worlds, you are never safe!

In another game, there was a triple-triple opening if I could play through an I. I had the bonus DEFORMS on my rack but, not seeing anything, I played my bonus elsewhere on the board. A minute later I remembered that DEIFORM is a word, and was rueing a triple-triple opportunity missed. Luckily I, (a), still won that game and, (b), found out later that DEIFORM doesn't take an S anyway, so it was just as well that I didn't see it.

I eventually won 13 out of 31 games. If I had won a couple more I would have been very happy with my performance. However, looking on the bright side, I did hold my own in almost all of the games, staying in the hunt until right near the end.

I particularly enjoyed meeting some of the players from around the world, and also experiencing the camaraderie of the New Zealand team. I distinctly remember my first glimpse of Blue at the championships. He was standing outside in temperatures barely scraping zero, smoking a cigarette and wearing his trademark jandals, t-shirt and shorts.

A French player I played in my very final game made me laugh when I was thinking about whether to challenge SPITTER. He asked, "Would you like me to show you?", and made as if he might spit on the board. He did all this in a very charming and whimsical manner as only the French can. After that I couldn't stop laughing

for most of the game, which was just as well since he ended up beating me.

It was quite exciting to watch the finals on a big screen in a separate room. It seemed impossible that the finalists could not hear the gasps from the crowd when a player drew a blank. People would call out suggestions, and the commentators had some very interesting things to say about tactics and strategies.

I took my Czech host along to watch a couple of games during the finals. I had to explain to him that not recognizing many of the words on the board did in no way reflect poorly on his English abilities, which are superb.

It was certainly cold enough that I made the most of the gear emblazoned with the New Zealand Scrabble insignia. You can be assured that New Zealand Scrabble was promoted all over Prague as I took the tram and metro many times. On one night it snowed, and Prague is simply magical with all the snowflakes gently drifting down. Moments like that certainly make up for any losses on the Scrabble board.

Joanne Craig

[In this article, lower case letters in capitalised words represent letters that were already on the board, and a capitalised word followed by an asterisk indicates that it is a phony —Ed]

In Prague we played 31 games over four days and, given the high standard of play, I was very happy to win 17 of them and finish in 39th place.

I didn't get to play our World Champ, Nigel Richards, but I did manage to beat the 2012 runner-up World Champion, Andrew Fisher, (543 to 419). In that game, I was particularly pleased with the

fact that I played four eight-letter words (cEILINGS, gHOULIES, eRODENTS, and ARGEMONE), while Andrew managed only one seven-letter word, (PASSATA).

However I was defeated (335 to 519) by the 2009 World Champ, Pakorn Nemitrmansuk. He opened with two bingos (JUNGLES and AILETTES), followed by BERDACHE later on in the game. I could only manage SNOWIER.

Over the 31 games, I averaged 420, while the average scored against me by my opponents was 423. I achieved 56 bingos and 63 bingos were played against me. I drew 32 out of 62 blanks, and 59 out of 124 esses. I had six close games in which the margin was less than 10 points, and I won three of those. In one such game, I unsuccessfully challenged my opponent's word thereby giving my opponent an extra five points. Unfortunately, I ended up losing that game by just three points. Despite this, however, I would definitely continue to challenge words I don't know as, overall, I did gain more points from challenges than I gave away.

I gained an extra five points when my opponents challenged CRIOS, MIXTE, WHOOT, OLIGIST, TANNERY, GOFFERED, KALINITE, RITENUTOS, SAPROPEL, TALLIATE, TITTERED and TROUBLER. I gave my opponents an extra five points when I challenged HYPERS, HISSERS and RUSTABLE. As soon as I issued the challenge for RUSTABLE, I actually remembered the anagrams for that letter combination and realised that, in fact, RUSTABLE was acceptable. By then, of course, it was too late.

I challenged off five invalid words (FAUVEST*, GROTTERS*, PORGIEST*, SANDGRUB*, and PROSONIC*). Unfortunately, I left WOMBLESS* on the

Cicely Bruce

board, which gave my opponent 98 points. I found out later that only the words COMBLESS and TOMBLESS follow that pattern. Luckily, despite my failure to challenge WOMBLESS*, I still won that game!

I admit that I did get away with a phony myself as I played WOXES* for 61 points. I found out later that this is invalid as WOX and WOXEN are past tenses of the verb WAX, so they cannot take an ess.

My favourite bingo play was HEXADES for 97 points, but my actual highest scoring bingo was BloPSIES for 149. My highest non-bingo play was OZALID for 81 points.

The highest word played against me was QUIESCE for 122 points. This was a very exciting game in which I opened with two consecutive bingos (MISTIER and GOFFeRED). My opponent, David Webb, followed up with ANdROGEN and QUIESCE but, fortunately, I came back late in the game with TERNION and PaRODIST.

My highest combined score was 522 to 504. In this game, my opponent, Orlot Bullock, played four bingos (RATCHES, SANDBUR, DILATATe, and OUTGIVEn). I managed only two bingos (NeVELLED and dRIBLETS), though I did score well with the high-value tiles, playing ZOMbl for 56, SIJO for 56, and QaTS for 69. I was helped by the fact that he missed a turn when I challenged off his sANDGRUB*. However, as he used two blanks in that move, I knew that he had several legitimate options available to play.

It was a very enjoyable tournament and I am very much looking forward to the next one when I hope I can represent New Zealand again!

Deciding to play in the “Open” section at Prague was a step into the unknown for me as, other than Norfolk, I had never played in an overseas tourney before. I’m so glad I went! If anyone else is thinking about going to the next Open, my advice would be to just go, and enjoy the different experience of being part of a large Scrabble event.

The Open tourney was held alongside the Champions event, with the 110 elite competing in one large room, while the 46 Open competitors played next door in the lobby area and side rooms of the Hotel. There were also tournaments for Norwegian, German and Polish Scrabble.

The Open Section consisted of one three-day event followed by two one-day events. There was a wide range of players, from Mark Nyman (former world champ — I got slaughtered, but learned that even world champs can play phonies), to a nice lady from California who was still learning the CSW three-letter words. Players came from England, Scotland, USA, Malta, Israel and Australia. It was interesting to see that some countries had their own playing styles. For example, I noticed that the Australians all seemed to play really quickly.

As well, they held evening events which included Duplicate Scrabble, Clabbers and Speed Scrabble. Playing three-minute games against tough opponents is not for the faint-hearted. With so many different sorts of Scrabble going on, there was a definite upbeat buzz about the place.

Games were played in accordance with the WESPA rules and our opponents were selected using a Swiss draw format. This was all comfortably familiar.

I finished up a respectable 31st in the three-day event with 10 wins out of 18 games, a spread of 344, an average of 411, and a personal highest game score of 561. My final game of that tourney was a bit of a heartbreaker as I lost to my opponent by just one point (424 to his 425).

Many people, including myself, opted not to play in the last one-dayer, in order to watch the semi-finals and finals of the Champions event. These were televised onto a screen in a large room next door to where Nigel et al. were battling it out. There was a large audience but not what you would call a quiet, deferential one. People had definite opinions on what the players should do and were not shy in airing them! This made it all the more entertaining, especially for newcomers like me.

Prague itself is as lovely and interesting as everyone had told me it would be. I was fortunate enough to have a friend doing a house swap in Prague the week after the tourney, so I got to take in some serious sightseeing before coming home. If you're ever in Prague to take part in a Scrabble event, it would definitely be a shame not to add a few extra days onto your trip so as to get to know the city properly. I would recommend staying at an apartment or similar accommodation rather than the Andel's Hotel though. You can get better facilities for half the price.

All in all then, competing in Prague was a bit daunting to start with, but it was well worth the trip, and heaps of fun. Seeing a beautiful new city and playing lots of Scrabble seem to me to be the ingredients for a perfect holiday.



G₂ T₁

The 5th finals match won by Nigel

Lynley Jenness

After Lewis had finished playing in the Princess Cup in Bangkok [see p. 20 for Lynley's description of the Princess Cup], we flew on to Prague so he could take part in the Scrabble Champions Tournament Open Section. However, before he even started that event, Lewis played in the Last Chance Qualifier. This was an eight-game tournament held on the 3rd of December, the day before the elite event began. It was open to anybody who wanted to try their luck at getting into the elite championship event. Last Chance Qualifiers were given entry into the elite event if they placed in the top four, or if they finished as the top player aged under 18 years. Apart from Lewis, there were only two other under 18-year-olds present, and they were both 17.

In the event, Lewis came a respectable 27th out of 40, with three wins out of eight games, and a spread of 117. In the last game, he just missed out on getting the top under-18 player spot. This was actually rather fortunate as the pressure would have been intense.

Having warmed up during the Last Chance Qualifier tournament, Lewis then focused his attention on the first tournament in the Open Section. This was to span three days and 18 games. Eventually, he placed 33rd, with eight wins and a spread of minus 33.

The next day (day five), he played in the second Open tournament, which was a one-dayer consisting of six games. He placed 13th out of 44 with four wins and a spread of 134.

By this stage, Lewis had played 42 tournament games in Prague alone, and this isn't counting the games of Speed Scrabble that he had played on the first evening of the tournament. Needless to say, he was a little tired by day six, so we decided against entering him in the 3rd Open Tournament. Instead, we opted to sit in the spectators' room and watch the semi-finals between the top four players and, eventually, the finals involving Nigel Richards. This proved to be very exciting, watching Nigel take the top prize. Lewis followed the games on Quackle, analysing all Nigel's moves.

Throughout the week, Lewis was interviewed by reporters from both television channels and newspapers. He proved to be quite a hit. As a parent, I am proud to say that Lewis received many compliments from adults at the event on his tournament etiquette. All those hours being coached by Paul Lister and Ray Goodyear really paid off!

Worlds at the crossroads

by Howard Warner

There was only one topic when the biennial meeting of the World English-language Scrabble Players Association

(WESPA) was held in Prague last December: the future of the 'worlds'. Competitive Scrabble has been happening for more than three decades now, yet the question of how to bring together the best in the world is less clear than ever. But, before I open this debate, here's a little background.

History of the Worlds

The world championships has been held every two years since 1991. Initially, the Worlds was hosted alternately by Mattel, (the brand owner of Scrabble in most of the world), and Hasbro, (the North American owner). But in the early 2000s, Hasbro opted out, and Mattel have clearly been a reluctant host in recent years.

The 2013 model: Mind Sports International's festival of Scrabble

This year, the announcement of when, where and how the world champs would be held was very late in coming. When it did come, it was a huge surprise to everyone in the Scrabble scene. Mattel chose to contract out the job to Mind Sports International (MSI), a Europe-based company that puts on multi-game tournaments, particularly in more lucrative, high-profile games such as poker, chess, and backgammon.

The new host company ran the four-day tournament in Prague, in mid-winter. As was the case with previous Worlds, players in the elite event were not required to pay an entry fee. MSI also adopted countries' existing player allocations. But they added a one-day 'last chance qualifier' tournament, the day before the event proper — the top four finishers and top under-18 finisher from this tournament got automatic entry into the elite event. And the prize fund for the main event was noticeably smaller

than in previous years.

Perhaps the main difference though was that this so-called 'festival of Scrabble' wasn't limited to a single flagship event. MSI also put on a three-day open event and two one-day events, to run alongside the main one — with a hefty entry fee. There were specialty events in the evenings: Speed Scrabble, Clabbers and Duplicate Scrabble. Tournaments were also run for Scrabblers playing in German, Norwegian, and Polish.

Likes and not-so-likes

Personally, I rather liked some of the innovations, though I had been sceptical at first. All players like to play more games, especially if you've come from the other side of the world. And I enjoyed trying my hand at Clabbers, (which I have played for some years but never in a competition), and Speed Scrabble, (which I've never played before, but hopefully will do again — especially because I won a bronze medal and 50 euros!). It was delightful to rub shoulders with Scrabblers who play the game in other languages. And the Last Chance Qualifier proved a definite success, allowing participation for great players who slip between the cracks in their country's national qualification process. It was a Last Chance Qualifier, Sammy Okasagah, who finished at the top of the table after the initial round of 31 games in the elite event.

I still didn't like the event name. To me, Scrabble Champions Tournament sounds rather vague. The communication left a lot to be desired. The equipment was substandard for a tournament anywhere, let alone the top global event. And some logistical aspects showed a lack of understanding about how Scrabble works.

But the MSI people were friendly and approachable, and seemed to genuinely want to put on a good programme of events.

WESPA biennial meeting

This brings us back to the WESPA meeting. It was attended by the WESPA executive, a large number of players from around the world, the MSI boss, and the event co-ordinator.

We learned that MSI had been 'licensed' by Mattel to run tournaments. And they proposed to run an annual tournament, but hadn't thought of doing this outside of the UK, Europe and Las Vegas. They would let us know about the 2014 event, but it looked likely to be in the UK, in November.

I expressed the concern that New Zealand, despite having a strong quota (and having produced a multiple world champion), would struggle to send a team annually. This was because of the distance and cost, and because we already have a qualifications and fund-raising process in place to support the long-standing biennial "World Scrabble Championship" concept.

Some people (particularly from countries with a large player base, such as the US, the UK and Canada), wanted to expand or even double their allocations. MSI seemed to have no problems with doubled quotas. They basically wanted to leave national quotas up to WESPA and the national associations. From their point of view, the more players involved the merrier.

Funding by players

MSI then dropped the bombshell that future world tournaments would be

funded largely or solely by the players, though they were trying to cultivate sponsors. The inaugural Scrabble Champions Tournament had been funded by entry fees for the subsidiary tournaments but, in future, MSI wanted to adopt a model in which all players (including those in the elite event), paid an entry fee.

In retrospect, there were some benefits in having Mattel host the Worlds in the past. They knew Scrabble, and they were consistent in the format and representation criteria, so that we knew where we stood from one Worlds to the next.

The advantage of having MSI as our master is their total focus on the playing of 'mind sports'. However, their commercial model is a problem if the main funding source is to be us players — we're not exactly flush.

I, personally, had always hoped that WESPA would eventually take over the world championships and run it for the players. But WESPA has neither the financial resources nor the organisational structure and oomph to find sponsors. Also, it is always hamstrung by Mattel and Hasbro owning the Scrabble brand and having the final say on who does what, how.

A better bet for WESPA, I believe, would be to support regional championships (for example, in the Americas, Britain and Europe, Australasia, Asia, and Africa), and then run a small-scale 'world masters' for the top regional finishers. In fact, I presented this concept to WESPA, just before the biennial meeting. I'm sure it would be logistically and financially

feasible. And the likes of Mattel, Hasbro and MSI might even chip in as sponsors if they could see that we were doing the organising for ourselves.

New Zealand strategy

Where does this leave New Zealand? We have managed to send a team every two years, due in large part to the support and good will given by you, the members. And we have performed pretty well for our relatively small player base. But I doubt very much that we could afford to send a team every year, especially if the event is always in Europe or North America. And once you add in the player entry fees that MSI has hinted at, the price tag may be just too high.

Perhaps we should continue our existing funding model and send a team every two years — and keep petitioning MSI/Mattel to consider running a Worlds tournament in the Asia-Pacific region. We can also hope that WESPA might run some kind of tournament that can be attended by the best players rather than just by those with the most disposable cash.

What are your thoughts? Why don't you drop a line to Anderina and Olivia for the next *Forwards*, or post your thoughts to the New Zealand email forum?



World Youth Scrabble championships, Dubai 2013

The eighth World Youth Scrabble Championships was held in Dubai from the 12th to the 14th of December 2013. It has been an annual event since 2006. Last year, it was attended by 138 players aged 17 years and under. Players came from 17 different countries spanning five continents. The only continents not represented were South America and Antarctica. The event consisted of 24 games played under WESPA rules, using the Collins Scrabble Words list, and in accordance with a Swiss draw format.

The eventual winner was Moizullah Baig from Pakistan, who finished with 19 and a half wins, a spread of 1448 and an average of 427. As well as prizes for the top 10 overall placings, awards were given to age group champions, youngest top 25 finisher, highest word, highest game, and best team. Pakistan fielded an extremely strong team of 18. As well as producing the overall champion, two other Pakistani players finished in the top 10. The team prize was also taken out by Pakistan.

New Zealand's only representative in this event was 8-year-old Lewis Hawkins. He placed a stunning 27th with 14 wins, a spread of 849 and an average of 396. He also took out the awards for top under-12 years and top under-10 years player. This is quite some achievement, particularly when we consider that Lewis had already participated in the Princess Cup in Bangkok and the Scrabble Champions Tournament Open Section in Prague. Let us hear from Lynley, Lewis' mother, about what it was like to watch Lewis on the tiles in Dubai.

Lynley Jenness writes

After Lewis had finished playing in the Scrabble Champions Tournament Open Section in Prague [see p. 14], we packed our bags and headed on to Dubai to the World Youth Scrabble Championships, our main reason for all this travel.

We arrived at our accommodation at the Etisalat Institute at around 1pm on the 10th of December, but before we could settle in, we had to sort out a few issues with our room. Our original room on the ground floor had a window that wouldn't shut, and our replacement room had no linen! We finally got to sleep at 2am, but were woken early by new arrivals.

The next day, we went on a bus tour around Dubai and saw the world's largest everything. The whole place reminded me of an Arab Simcity!

In the evening, we went on a four wheel drive tour into the desert, which was terrifying. I had elected to go in the slow



car after being forewarned by Karen Richards, but it turned out that the fast car and the slow car all had only one speed ... fast. I felt sure we were going to roll! We then had dinner and watched a show which consisted of a belly dancer and whirling dervish complete with disco lights.

The second night was not much better sleep-wise. Our room was next to the entrance door. There seemed to be a continuous stream of people coming in and out and banging the doors. I swear the Nigerian team didn't sleep at all that night!

Poor Lewis was still jetlagged* and exhausted the next morning, but he managed to struggle through a mock tournament run by Karen Richards. That night, we tried to get to bed early so he would be fresh for the tournament the next day, but at 2am someone set the fire alarm off so we all had to get up and go outside. We were back in bed half an hour later, and it went off again. The guards assured us that the alarm was nothing. One told us that it was being caused by a lady in the shower on the second floor, and another that it was someone smoking in their room. That didn't fill us with confidence. We couldn't help but wonder if somebody was trying to sabotage the other players by setting off the alarm deliberately, then sleeping through it themselves while we all stood outside in our PJs!

The tournament started bright and early the next morning and there were a lot of very tired kids, so we weren't alone. The rest of our family had arrived from New Zealand to watch Lewis play.

The first game was a random draw. Lewis drew Diyath Visidagamage from Sri Lanka

and lost 282 to 508. The next game he drew a much easier opponent and made up some ground. By the end of the day he had won five out of seven games and was placed 20th with a spread of 584. In game six, he played Moizullah Baig, who was the eventual winner of the tournament, and Lewis lost by only 46 points.

On day two, he started with three losses, then four wins, followed by another two losses to finish the day on nine games out of 16. He was placed 44th with a spread of 391.

On the final day, Lewis' first two games were very close. In the first, he lost to Tim Mason from Australia by just three points. We watched Tim sigh with relief as he walked over to hand in the result slip. Lewis had played Tim a few times earlier in the year before the Australian Nationals. I think Tim was expecting an easy win but all the coaching and the earlier tournaments meant that Lewis had improved exponentially, and Tim got quite a fright.

The second game was even closer, with Lewis being pipped by just one point. He followed up those close losses with three more wins. Then he lost to a Sri Lankan boy whom he had played the day before and found a bit intimidating.

The last two games were real cliff hangers. It is impossible to read Lewis' body language. Besides, he often gives me a "thumbs down" and frowns for a couple of minutes, before telling me that he is only joking and has actually won.

He managed to pull off two more wins, which put him in 27th place, only two places off being awarded the prize for the youngest player finishing in the top 25. He had 14 out of 24 wins overall and a

spread of 849. This meant that he took out the prizes for the top under-10 and under-12 year old players. The rest of the family were nervous wrecks by the end of it all, but it was definitely worth the trip!

International Youth Princess Cup, Bangkok 2013

The 25th Cyberdict International Youth Princess Cup was held in Bangkok on the 23rd and 24th of November 2013. The main competition was open to players aged under 21 years, that is, players born on the 1st of January 1993 or later.

The tournament consisted of 15 games, with the top two finishers in the initial round of 15 playing another game to determine the overall winner. The top prize of US\$3,000 eventually went to Preedee Khongthanara of Thailand who finished the initial round of 15 games with 12 wins and a spread of 1006.

New Zealand was represented by Lewis Hawkins from Christchurch. The Princess Cup was the first of three international tournaments that Lewis competed in at the end of 2013. Lynley Jenness, his

mother, accompanied him to all three tournaments. She recounts for us their incredible Scrabble journey, which began with the Princess Cup in Bangkok.

Lynley Jenness writes

In November last year, Lewis and I went on a bit of a Scrabble junket. Our ultimate goal was to attend the World Youth Scrabble Championships in Dubai [see p. 18], but, on our way, we intended to take in the Princess Cup in Bangkok, and the Scrabble Champions Tournament in Prague [see p. 14]. Before we could begin our journey, however, we first had to fly to Auckland to attend the AMP scholarship awards on the evening of the 20th of November. Lewis had been fortunate enough to receive a \$10,000 scholarship to follow his Scrabble dream. The next day, after the AMP scholarship ceremony, we flew back to Christchurch for lunch, then left again in the afternoon on our three-week Scrabble adventure.

Our first stop was Bangkok and the Princess Cup. We met part of the Australian team (Alistair Richards and Michael McKenna), and two South African players in Sydney. We then travelled onto Bangkok, where we met up with Karen and Paul Richards.

On the first day in Bangkok, Lewis attended a pretty intensive coaching session run by Karen, Alistair and Michael. The next day we wandered down in the 35 degree heat to the Central Plaza Bangna Shopping Complex to register for the competition.



The tournament began with an opening ceremony, which was attended by some dignitaries. We couldn't understand what was being said, but we were slightly taken aback when, at the end of the ceremony, the dignitaries were engulfed in dry ice vapours, and a huge container of glitter was dumped on them from above! From that moment on, it was chaos, what with the giant talking Scrabble robot, the continuous thumping out of the song *The Final Countdown*, and the voices of thousands of Thai children playing Scrabble.

Lewis was entered in the international section so he was up against some of the best under-21 year olds in the world, including Preedee Khongthanara, Sinatarn Pattanasuwa, and Naravit Nathapukdi from Thailand, Michael McKenna from Australia, and Victor Gwee from Singapore. Being 8 years old at the time, Lewis was the youngest in this section by six or seven years.

After 15 rounds and two days of intense competition and noise, Lewis finished 14th on seven and a half wins and a spread of 78. The top two place winners, Preedee and Sinatarn, played a 16th round to determine the final winner. This game was played on a giant Scrabble board so that we could all watch.

We then had a week to fill in before Prague. We spent it playing Scrabble by the hotel pool with the others who were travelling with us. Karen, Alistair and Michael held some more coaching sessions while we all sipped on green coconuts and fruit shakes. It was certainly a wonderful way to end our time in Bangkok before moving onto the much colder climes of Prague.

Tribute to former editors

The Executive Committee would like to recognise the contributions of former editor Jennifer Smith and layout editor Vicky Robertson.

Jennifer took over from Lynne Butler with issue 84 in Spring 2006, becoming the fifth editor since the magazine's inception. She produced 30 issues with an average of about 44 pages per issue. That's a lot of material sourced and edited!

Jennifer brought a fresh approach and an eye for detail. She set up internet links to alert her to all Scrabble-related material. From this she was able to create signature articles such as *Who's playing Scrabble*.

Vicky joined Jennifer with issue 103 in June 2011, becoming the second computer layout editor. Vicky brought her creative talents that were evidenced by her prize in the 2013 World of Wearable Arts. Using different design software, she created graphics that were complementary to the textual material. She also managed to add to the stock of player photos.

To recognise their efforts, the Executive Committee have awarded both of them complimentary subscriptions to *Forwards*.

Thanks again for your sterling efforts.



Jennifer

Vicky

Talking point

This is your magazine, and we're very interested in your opinions. The following extracts are from recent emails to the NZSN mailing list, regarding an upcoming international opportunity, and the way Scrabble is covered (or not) in the media.

*In the upcoming winter edition of Forwards, we'd love to include some further responses to this discussion: How do **you** think Scrabble compares to more mainstream sports? What are **your** ideas about enhancing our favourite game's media coverage? On a continuum from sexy to unsexy, where would **you** fit Scrabble? What would **you** do, if you went to Glasgow this August?*

Please send (or tell!) your thoughts to either editor by the beginning of May. We'd love to hear as many different voices on this topic as possible.

Commonwealth Championship

In conjunction with the Commonwealth Games being held in Glasgow, a Commonwealth Championship Scrabble Tournament will be held in late August 2014. It has been decided that New Zealand will try to send a team of the three top-rated players.

Frances Higham, NZASP Secretary

Someone, somewhere has got the idea that running the tournament alongside a major event somehow promotes Scrabble. I think they are completely wrong. In 1998 the Scrabble event (alongside the Commonwealth Games in Malaysia) didn't get one column inch in the local papers, and I presume they didn't get any media coverage anywhere else either. All the media coverage goes on the Commonwealth Games and the only people who knew we were there were people who already know what a wonderful game Scrabble is. Not all of **them** knew either.

If you want to raise the profile of Scrabble on the national or the world stage, try to avoid other major sporting events as much as possible. Run a big exciting competition when nothing else is on and hope that there is some thrilling finish

where Nigel makes some amazing play and then maybe the media coverage you get will provide some promotion that raises the profile of Scrabble as a competitive sport.

Patrick Carter, Mt Albert

I'm resigned to the fact that Scrabble is an unsexy game which never gets any profile, regardless of how big the tournament is, where it's held, or what Nigel does.

This is just another international tournament someone has kindly thought to organise, for the players' benefit. It sounds like a really good deal. And you could get to watch a few Games events into the bargain. At Kuala Lumpur, we watched the whole day of rugby sevens, when NZ won the gold medal. It was awesome!

The novelty is having a tournament for just the Commonwealth - there's never been one before. The tricky part for us is that it's on the other side of the world - yet again. But I would recommend anyone who is in with a shot after the Masters to consider it, just for the experience.

Howard Warner, Independent

The day the world didn't end

by Nick Cavenagh

I do enjoy organising tournaments, but while helping to organise the Masters and Nationals in Hamilton this year, I realise I am still haunted by the last tournament I was involved with, the August 2013 Hamilton tournament.

It was a tournament where things did not work out perfectly. The noise of the poker machines was certainly annoying, some of the tables were awkward to play on, and the printer didn't work. Leading up to the tournament, there were a number of headaches involving the venue but I don't need to go into all of those. Suffice it to say that I was particularly worried it wouldn't turn out to be a great venue (it was the best we could find that year) so I was already stressed and quite sleep-deprived before the tournament had even begun.

And then the printer didn't work ... that and a couple of other things meant that when everyone arrived and the tournament was supposed to begin, things simply weren't ready. For me, that was the worst moment of the tournament. There were 10 minutes or so where I really wasn't coping and was almost in tears.

This was certainly not a single individual's fault. No one person acted terribly. In hindsight, I did learn a lot and there are things I know now that would, should or could have done differently. For example, I could have told everyone to sit quietly while the problem was sorted out. Instead of trying to deal with everything on my own, should a similar situation

arise again, I would ask for help. However, a number of people did display their frustration and impatience towards me during that time. No one person was especially rude, but the effect of a lot of people behaving in such a way at once was really unpleasant.

A few things went wrong, but it certainly wasn't the end of the world. Indeed the tournament was only delayed by 15 to 20 minutes; by lunchtime everything was back on schedule. By Sunday I think there was a collective realisation of how stressed I was because everyone was being super-nice and understanding!

As a tournament organiser, I do want players to have a great experience. Feedback is welcome if presented graciously. I understand the impatience to get things started on time, and the sense of confusion if you arrive and don't know whom you are meant to be playing. Nevertheless, please try to be even more polite and patient than usual if something does go wrong in a tournament. Although you pay a fee, remember that people who run tournaments are doing it for free and, if for no other reason, this means that they deserve respect and politeness.



Hall of fame

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen.

My name is Helen Porter Mitchell, and I was born in Australia in 1861.

I was one of the most famous voices of the Victorian era and early 20th century, as well as one of the larger-than-life celebrities of the time. My effortless coloratura voice helped popularise opera to the masses in Europe and the US, and from the time of my 1888 London debut at Covent Garden, I became a regular there, as well as at New York City's Metropolitan Opera House.

I was the first Australian classic musician to gain international fame, and was also one of the first stage performers to receive the Order of the British Empire. You know me as Dame Nellie Melba. Nellie Melba is my stage name – "Melba" is a tribute to my birthplace, Melbourne.

In my day, opera divas didn't just rub elbows with royalty, they were treated like royalty themselves – some of my critics would say I insisted upon it. My home in London was refurbished to look like the palace at Versailles, and my private train car was continuously stocked with my favourite foods: fresh caviar and plover's eggs.

Many royals and nobles have had recipes created especially for them, or named after them. For example:

- The VICTORIA SPONGE (to name just one recipe) was named after Queen Victoria – the jam-filled sponge was her favourite accompaniment to afternoon tea.

By Jennifer Smith, Kiwi

- APPLE CHARLOTTE, a golden encrusted dessert made by baking a thick apple compote in a mould lined with buttered bread, was named after Queen Charlotte, the wife of George III. (Or else after his granddaughter Princess Charlotte, who could have become queen had she not died in childbirth.)
- CHARLOTTE RUSSE, a cold dessert of Bavarian cream set in a mould lined with ladyfingers, was invented by French chef Carême for the wife of Czar Alexander I. (Or possibly also for Queen Charlotte, wife of George III.)
- NAPOLEON, a type of pastry named after the Emperor Napoleon.
- The SANDWICH, after the Earl of Sandwich.



I was no exception. **My** grand personality was immortalised by the famous chef Auguste Escoffier, an icon himself, and the first chef to receive the French L'égion d'Honneur. Of all the dishes he created in homage to me, though, the peach melba gave me the most pleasure.

While I was performing Wagner's *Lohengrin* in London, the Duke of Orléans honoured me with a dinner party, for which Escoffier created a masterpiece of a dessert. The dessert, consisting of peaches on vanilla ice cream with an elaborate spun sugar topping, was presented on a swan carved out of ice (representing the swan in *Lohengrin*). Thus, PEACH MELBA entered the culinary world.

Years later, Escoffier recreated the recipe for the opening of the Carlton Hotel in 1900, but this time with a twist (and, alas, minus the giant ice-swan). He topped the peaches with purée of raspberries and redcurrants –voilà– MELBA SAUCE, which today tops everything from pound cake to puddings.

How did something as humble as MELBA TOAST come to bear my name? It didn't. At least, not at first. Melba toast was first called "toast Marie", when Escoffier invented it for the wife of hotelier César Ritz. The obviously pernickety Marie complained that toast was never quite thin enough for her exacting taste (talk about prima donna!), and the chef obliged.

Later, when I was recuperating from an illness at the Savoy Hotel in London, and finding toast more digestible than my former diet of caviar and eggs, I was presented with the dish that is no longer known as toast Marie. It has been known as melba toast ever since. (The better-known diva rules, after all!)



Peach melba

The MELBA GARNITURE which also bears my name is appropriately rich: chicken, truffles and mushrooms stuffed into tomato cups and enrobed in VELOUTÉ sauce.

For the purposes of your Scrabble, you will be pleased to learn that MELBA is a Scrabble word – but as you can see from these examples, it's an adjective, so it can't be pluralised.

After a series of farewell tours, I died in 1931 at the age of 69, following an infection that is widely rumored to have been the result of a facelift. (But I will make no comment on this.) My death made headlines all over the world, and billboards proclaimed simply: "Melba is dead."

Remember me when you play MELBA or eat any of the foods that bear my name.

But I am so much more than recipes. Opera buffs all over the world still listen to my voice in recordings. No wonder Australians immortalised me on the \$100 note.

[All words in capitals in this article are acceptable in Scrabble.]

Promoting Christchurch Scrabble Club's Generation Z

by Lynley Jenness

Lewis really enjoyed playing many kids and young adults in Dubai and, upon coming back to Christchurch, he has been rather sad as there are no other children playing competitively. We have decided to do something about it so we are starting a club in Christchurch for children aged 11 to 15. We will meet on Saturday evenings, initially in our home. The first evening will be held on the 26th of April, which is the Saturday after Easter. If there is enough interest we will also have

a few sessions in the school holidays. The name of the club is Christchurch Scrabble Club's Generation Z (Generation Z are kids born from the late 1990s). Our Facebook page is www.facebook.com/ChristchurchGenerNZscrabblers if you want to take a look at it and like us. Below is the flier we will be distributing to libraries and schools in our area. If you know of any kids who might be interested (grandchildren, neighbours, kids from church, etc.), please tell them about us.

Christchurch Scrabble Club's Generation Z₁₀

- ✓ Love strategy games and words?
- ✓ Good at problem solving and maths?

Generation Z₁₀ is a new club for 11-15 year olds who love Scrabble or who want to learn to play.

Learn the strategies to help you win:

- Why Scrabble isn't really a word game (it's a maths game!)
- Anagramming using Zyzyva card box
- When to exchange tiles
- Rack management
- Tile tracking
- The end game

Get connected to other Scrabblers around the world on ISC and Facebook. Compete in tournaments in Christchurch and around New Zealand (and the world!) and meet other super-brainy kids like you!

Join us for club nights in Waltham from 6:00-9:30pm Saturday evenings, beginning the week after Easter, or enquire about our April school holiday sessions. \$3.00 entry to cover supper and photocopying. Parents are required to stay initially with young children. Phone Lynley on 960 6880 or email lynleyjenness@hotmail.com for more information and to register or follow us on Facebook: "Christchurch Scrabble Club's Generation Zee."

Club news

Mt Albert



Back in September, Mt Albert club attendees were treated to a surprise celebration of a special birthday for member Khin Saw Khine (known as Khine).



Christmas dinner pot luck!). The Knock-out (Group 2) competition was won by Ruth Lilian.

Val Flint cleaned out the Pyramid and Ladder competitions, and was runner-up to

the Club Champ, while Yoon Kim Fong was the Pot Luck winner. Roger Coates was runner-up in the Pyramid, and Lyn Toka was the Ladder runner-up.

The three Round Robin competitions were won by Shirley Martin, Carole Coates and Margy Moore. Carole also had the Best Player Average for the year.

Some of the most eagerly coveted prizes are:

- Most Bonus words: Roger Coates, with an impressive average of 1.67 per game.
- Most 100-Point words: Karen Stewart, with a staggering 8 words during the year.
- Most Improved Player: Margaret Penniket.
- Achievement award: Elaine Moltzen.

Kiwi is sad to be losing Ruth Lilian and Bev Henderson, who have moved to Tauranga. Kiwi's loss is Tauranga's gain! But Kiwi players will be glad to be able to catch up with Ruth and Bev at Scrabble tournaments.

Kiwi

The Kiwi Club celebrated Christmas and held its prize-giving with a pot-luck dinner and quiz night in December. Many thanks to Fay Wright for her traditional quiz and to Karen Stewart for her diabolically hard one!

Club Champion was Jennifer Smith, who also won the Knock-out (Group 1) competition, and was runner-up in the Pot Luck (that's Scrabble pot luck, not



President Carole Coates presents the Club Champion trophy to Jennifer Smith



A happy line-up of prize-winners at the Kiwi prize-giving

Whangarei

In mid-January, Cicely, Suzanne, and Bev braved the hurricane winds and headed out to Whangauimu (Wellingtons Bay — just before Tutukaka) for a day at the beach.

We departed at 9:30am with Cicely's kayak on the roof of the car. We like to get underway early to grab our usual spot and set up camp for the day. It really is amazing how much gear three people require to do this! Most important of course is the Scrabble board and dictionary, pens and paper. After a couple of hours, the wind died down and it



Beach Scrabble

became a perfect picture postcard day. The day was spent playing Scrabble, having a swim or a kayak, playing Scrabble, eating and drinking, playing Scrabble, reading the paper, another swim, and playing a bit more Scrabble.

Several 'shades of brown' later, revitalised and relaxed, we departed for home at 6:00pm. A truly glorious day, we are so lucky to have this at our doorstep.

Bev Edwards

Pakuranga

2014 marks Pakuranga Club's 30th year of hosting Scrabble tournaments. In January this year they pulled out all the stops for this anniversary, hosting a very successful "full-on frills" tournament. More than 60 participants were, as Heather Landon (Tauranga) quipped, "frilled" to attend. Prizes abounded, including, as advertised, a prize for the most frillily* dressed each day; these were won by Carolyn Kyle (Dunedin) and Mary Gray (Mt Albert).

On Saturday Val Mills shared the following information about the club's long-ago beginnings:

Early in 1984 Margaret Cherry advertised in a local paper for people who might be



Club founder, Margaret Cherry, cuts the cake

interested in joining a Scrabble group. Fifteen people answered the advertisement, but not all of them turned up for the first gathering. After the third meeting it was obvious that the original enthusiasm had waned and that the group would not survive.

Another advertisement in April 1984 brought better results, and that was the beginning of the Pakuranga Scrabble Club. At this stage Margaret was unaware of the existence of the Scrabble Association. Mt Albert Scrabble Club players David Lloyd, Andrew Bradley, Peter Jones and David & Dorothy Pinner came along to give support to this new club for the first few weeks. This was very much appreciated.

The minutes of Pakuranga Scrabble Club's inaugural meeting show that this was held on July 5th, 1984, with 10 people present, presided over by David Lloyd. At that time it cost \$10.00 to join the club plus a \$5.00 session fee, \$2.00 of which went to the Scrabble Association. 32 people attended our first tournament and this brought in \$350.00.

Over the years there have been a couple of times when so few people attended our weekly meetings it was thought we may have to close the club. Many attempts to encourage new members have been mostly unsuccessful and our numbers haven't increased very much, but what we lack in numbers we make up for with enthusiasm.

Nelson

by Tony Charlton

This year, as usual, we held our tournament in the last weekend in February. We had entries from Nelson,



Edible frilly place setting

Golden Bay, Christchurch, and Wellington; and one from New South Wales, who just happened to be touring in our area that weekend; however by closing date we had just 12 entries. While this worked out nicely for a triple round robin over 15 games, we were disappointed at the diminished turnout to our tournament this year. We felt that a factor contributing to this was that the Rotorua tournament was taking place the same weekend. While it's wonderful that there are so many tournaments to choose from, as a small club in the South Island, it is very difficult for us to compete for player attendance when dates clash. Our tournament has traditionally been held in the last full weekend in February for many years, and we wish to continue to host a tournament at this time of year for many years to come.

The Nelson Suburban Club continues to be an ideal tournament venue, close to motels and the beach, and not far from the airport. Lunches could be obtained at reasonable prices at the Club Café in the same building.

Results after the end of Saturday morning play were close to expectations, with

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Murray Rogers leading Grade A and Joanna Fox slightly ahead of Tony Charlton in Grade B. By the end of Saturday's play, John Baird and Jean O'Brien were both beating Murray in Grade A, while Tony had moved into the lead in Grade B.

Sunday morning was fine and it really was a pity to be indoors, but we finished play early to allow people to catch their flights home or otherwise enjoy the sunshine. By Sunday lunchtime, the leaders were unchanged, but Murray was running second in Grade A and Maria Clinton was in second place in Grade B.

[See page 49 for the final results from this tournament].

A boon for us this year was that the City Council decided to hold Opera in the Park the same weekend as our tournament. Last year we had been informed that this enjoyable event would not be held again till 2015, but happily, they changed their minds. We pushed the games through as fast as possible so as to finish early on the Saturday, to give people the chance to get a good seat at the performance. The show was a real knockout with Orchestra Wellington, several international opera singers, and the Australian virtuoso cornet player, James Morrison. The performance finished with Elgar's Pomp & Circumstance March, accompanied by the usual stunning fireworks display.

This was Murray's seventeenth Nelson Tournament and my eleventh. Next year will be the twentieth year of the Nelson Scrabble Club, and it will be good to have a few more entries to our Tournament. Why not enter 21st and 22nd February into your 2015 calendar?

Let the Jabberwock playing power

The question that we are most frequently asked as competitive Scrabblers is, "What does that word mean?" - and our usual response is, "I don't know, I just know it's a word." The reality, though, is that we would actually all benefit from knowing the meanings of the words that we play. Knowing word meanings helps us to recognise whether a word can be pluralised or not. If we know that a root word is a verb then we will be confident enough to add an -ING on the end even if we've never actually seen that word played with an -ING suffix before. That could mean the difference between a four-letter word for 20 points and a seven-letter word for 74 points.

With that in mind, here's a well-known piece of poetry by Lewis Carroll. The highlighted words in the text are seemingly nonsense words but they are actually valid Scrabble words, either because they were already valid words when Carroll so cleverly employed them in his poem, or because Carroll coined them and they have been accepted into the English language.

Have a read of the poem and do the small vocabulary quiz afterward. Note that the correct definitions in the quiz have been sourced from www.dictionary.com and www.oxforddictionaries.com so they may not necessarily conform to the definitions provided by Zyzzyva or by Carroll himself. Good luck enriching your word power and your playing power as well.

vocky enrich your

Jabberwocky

Lewis Carroll

(from *Through the Looking-Glass and
What Alice Found There*, 1872)

‘Twas brillig, and the slithy toves
Did **gyre** and gimble in the wabe:
All **mimsy** were the borogoves,
And the **mome raths** outgrabe.

“Beware the **Jabberwock**, my son!
The jaws that bite, the claws that catch!
Beware the Jubjub bird, and shun
The frumious **Bandersnatch!**”

He took his **vorpal** sword in hand:
Long time the manxome foe he sought --
So rested he by the Tumtum tree,
And stood awhile in thought.

And, as in uffish thought he stood,
The Jabberwock, with eyes of flame,
Came **whiffling** through the tulgey wood,
And **burbled** as it came!

One, two! One, two! And through and
through
The **vorpal** blade went snicker-snack!
He left it dead, and with its head
He went **galumphing** back.

“And, has thou slain the **Jabberwock**?
Come to my arms, my **beamish** boy!
O **frabjous** day! Callooh! Callay!”
He **chortled** in his joy.

‘Twas brillig, and the slithy toves
Did **gyre** and gimble in the wabe;
All **mimsy** were the borogoves,
And the **mome raths** outgrabe.

Word Power Quiz

Select your answers from the four options
beneath each word.

[Answers and explanations on page 43.]

1. JABBERWOCKY:

- A. flowery language used for exaggerated flattery;
- B. a collection of clichés or homilies;
- C. Invented or meaningless language;
- D. nonsensical lies or tales told to children to explain difficult concepts.

2. GYRE:

- A. to dance crazily from foot to foot;
- B. to whirr or gyrate;
- C. to skip joyfully and with abandon;
- D. to sing loudly off-key.

3. MIMSY:

- A. lazy and slow moving;
- B. sleepy, dozy;
- C. Feeble and prim or affected;
- D. self-satisfied or snobbish.

4. MOME:

- A. fierce;
- B. clumsy;
- C. foolish;
- D. cruel.

5. RATHS:

- A. birds whose call supposedly sounds like angry gods quarrelling;
- B. mischievous spirits who appear to lost travellers to lead them to their doom;
- C. mounds or cairns marking the graves of people who are unidentified;
- D. circular enclosures surrounded by an earthen wall.

6. JABBERWOCK:

- A. the collective noun for words that



have been coined by a particular person but that have passed into common usage;
B. an anthology of nonsense poetry;
C. a puzzle or riddle usually featuring clever wordplay;
D. a playful imitation of language consisting of invented, meaningless words.

7. BANDERSNATCH:

A. a monster with six scissor-like pincers with a penchant for kidnapping young children;
B. an imaginary wild animal of fierce disposition;
C. a birdlike creature of East Asian

folklore that breathes fire like a dragon;
D. a furry rabbit-like animal that is attracted to and steals small shiny objects.

8. VORPAL:

A. deadly;
B. curved;
C. heavy;
D. rapier thin.

9. WHIFFLING:

A. making a buzzing noise by allowing one's lips to vibrate while blowing air through them;
B. moving or causing to move lightly as if being blown by a puff of air;

- C. making a snorting noise through the nose;
- D. flying swiftly through the air like an arrow or dart.

10. BURBLED:

- A. cackled in a witchlike manner;
- B. giggled or chuckled quietly;
- C. whispered softly;
- D. made a continuous murmurous noise.

11. GALUMPHING:

- A. moving in a clumsy, ponderous manner;
- B. bouncing or jumping noisily;
- C. galloping like a horse;
- D. running smoothly and gracefully.

12. BEAMISH:

- A. long and skinny like a beam;
- B. crazy, silly;
- C. beaming with happiness, optimism or anticipation;
- D. handsome, charming.

13. FRABJIOUS:

- A. strange, mysterious;
- B. blessed, fortunate;
- C. delightful, joyous;
- D. nightmarish, frightening.

14. CHORTLED:

- A. Skipped joyfully;
- B. Laughed in a noisy, gleeful way;
- C. Jabbered wordlessly in excitement;
- D. Waved one's arms about frantically.



The Year of the Horse 2014

by Val Mills

It is said that one of the admirable characteristics of those born in the Year of the Horse is that they "make unremitting efforts to better themselves." While I am not a horse myself, 2014 is the Year of the Horse so I have decided to honour those born under this star sign by making some investigations into words relating to all things horsey (or horsy if you prefer). This way, I can at least better my Scrabble play even if I can't better myself. I have come up with the following words, which were all interesting to me, and may be interesting to some of you, too.

Disclaimer: some words may have other meanings that are completely not horse-related, and others will be words regarded as common to those brought up with horses. All of them are, however, allowable Scrabble words, unless asterisked.

Types of horses

BRONC or **BRONCO**: a horse used in rodeo riding.

CLUMPER: a half-bred draught horse.

DISTAFF: in racing, refers to female horses.

DOGGER: (Aust slang), a horse used for pet meat.

HINNY: the sterile offspring of a male horse and a female donkey.

JENNET: a small gaited horse of the Middle Ages.

RIDGLING or **RIDGELING**: a male horse with an undescended testicle (also called a **RIG**).

SKEWBALD: a horse with patches of brown and white and no other colour, as opposed to...

PIEBALD or **PYEBALD**: a horse with patches of black and white and no other colour.

TYPEY or **TYPY**: slang for a horse that conforms to its breed standards.

VANNER: a powerfully built horse used for light draught work.

WEANLING: foal (or other animal) weaned from its mother.

ZEBRULE or **ZEBRULA**: offspring of a zebra and a horse (also called a **ZORSE***, **ZONKEY*** or **ZEDONK***).



Words Related to Horse

Ailments

BOTFLY: a parasitic fly that lays its eggs on the legs, muzzle or jaws of a horse.

BUTE: common name for phenylbutazone, a drug used on horses to control pain and swelling.

ERGOT or **ERGOTISM**: a small callous on the back of a horse's fetlock.

GLANDERS: A rare, contagious disease, mainly affecting horses, characterised by swelling below the jaw and mucous discharge from the nostrils (do NOT be tempted to play this word without the S as **GLANDER*** is not allowed),

LAMINITIS: inflammation of the laminae of the hoof.

STRINGHALT: a nervous disorder in horses causing jerking movements of the hindlegs.

WINDGALL: a painless swelling above and

behind a horse's fetlock.

Horse body parts

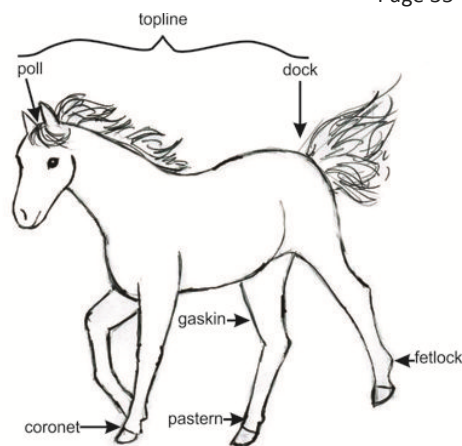
FETLOCK: the joint above the pastern (the definition is no help at all but, in laymen's terms, it's actually the ankle).

PASTERN: the segment of leg between the fetlock and the coronet (again no help at all).

CORONET: where the leg meets the hoof (right, I get the picture now!).

TOPLINE: the area on a horse that runs from the poll to the dock (translation, from between the ears, down the back, to the base of the tail).

GASKIN: a large muscle on the inside of a horse's upper leg.



Equipment and other horsey words

LATIGO: soft flexible strap made of leather used to attach a cinch.

CINCH: wide flat girth made of mohair, reinforced felt, or other synthetic material.

NUMNAH: saddle pad.

QUIRT: short handled flexible whip.

SJAMBOK: heavy whip made from the skin of a rhino or hippo (surely an item that is now banned from being made or traded?).

SURCINGLE: piece of training equipment that runs around the girth of a horse.

MARTINGALE: leather device used to control the position of a horse's head.

BROWBAND: a piece of bridle that goes across a horse's brow and.....

NOSEBAND: a piece of bridle that goes across a horse's nose.

CANTLE: the high part of the saddle.

QUADRILLE: a ride performed to music involving four horses and riders.

RENVERS: a high level dressage movement.

HOSTLER or OSTLER: a horse groom.

LONGEING or LUNGEING: to work a horse on the end of a long rope.

LORINER: a maker of metal parts for a horse's apparel.

NICKER or WHICKER: to neigh softly.

Mythical creatures based on the horse

CENTAUR: From Greece, a creature with the head, arms, and torso of a human but the legs and hindquarters of a horse.

HIPPOCAMPUS: From Greece, a creature with the head and forequarters of a horse and the hindquarters of a fish or dolphin.

It is also a part of the brain, supposedly shaped like a seahorse, that plays a role in the creation and retention of short term memories (what did I just say?).

HIPPOGRIFF or HIPPOGRYPH: From Greece, a winged horse with the head and upper body of an eagle.

PEGASUS: From Greece, a white horse with wings.

UNICORN: a shining white horse with a single spiral horn, which symbolises purity.

Compound words including horse

And if you should happen to find a horse on your board you can put 22 words in front of it and 30 odd words behind it. I've picked out some of the ones I find most interesting or quirky.

CARTHORSE: A strong horse used for pulling carts or other heavy loads. (Don't put your cart before your horse, except in Scrabble where the cart always comes before and never after.)

HORSECAR: A streetcar drawn by a horse. (Hmm, so if you're desperate to put your horse before something, drop the T off CART and put your HORSE before your CAR.)

COCKHORSE: A child's rocking horse. (Don't try ROCKINGHORSE* though or it will rock right off your board.)

RACEHORSE: We all know this is a horse bred for racing. The word is interesting to me primarily because I discovered that you can have a RACEHORSE and a HORSERACE, but you can't have HORSERACING*.

REDHORSE: A freshwater fish endemic to the Eastern half of the United States and South Eastern Canada. (It is neither particularly red nor horsey.)

HORSELAUGH: a loud, boisterous laugh, a guffaw. (This definition made me laugh just reading it.)

HORSELEECH: A large, bloodsucking leech of Europe and Northern Africa that attacks the lips and mouths of horses.

HORSEPOND: A pond for watering horses. (I wonder why horses get special treatment in this regard? I mean, you can't have a COWPOND* or DONKEYPOND* but, presumably, these creatures need to drink too.)

HORSETAIL: A leafless plant, with hollow and rushlike stems. (I've worn a ponytail and a pigtail, but never a horsetail.)

Twenty years ago in *Forwards*

by John Foster, Independent

My selection from *Forwards* issue 34 is this article on "The Coming of QI", which has now been with us for 20 years. This little word split the Scrabble world down the middle with a controversy which would make CSW12's JANDAL* scandal look like a damp squib. There were many who clamoured for it to be deleted from our word base, but the majority took the view that we must accept whatever is in our adopted dictionary rather than take the first step on the slippery slope of making selective deletions.

(That step actually was taken by the compilers of OSPD3, who decided to selectively delete words they considered offensive. Fair enough perhaps to delete the F and B words, and various four letter words, but where to stop? Once NIGGER (for instance) has been deleted, should one look at deleting similar racist terms like COON and SPADE, even though they have other meanings? Likewise for derogatory terms such as DIKE (DYKE)... Fortunately OSPD3 was never adopted by the Scrabble world and I doubt that many copies still exist. However, I digress...)

I remember an incident at club about the time of the introduction of QI, when a rather strange woman appeared for the first, and only, time - and I played QI against her. She packed a spectacular sad and loudly declared, "I use **proper** English. I use the **Oxford** Dictionary". She was not at all mollified when I pointed out that Chambers had only recently included this word but that it had been in the Oxford Dictionary for many years previously. A few turns later I confess I chickened out and did not play GOX against her, settling for a smaller score with the less controversial OX.

The Coming of *Qi*

Back in the pioneer days of tournament Scrabble in New Zealand our reference was the *Shorter Oxford Dictionary* (S.O.D.). At the first National Championship in Tauranga in 1980 Kevin Edgeler played a word that was to become part of Scrabble folklore — QIBLA. Rather an exotic term for that era, but unfortunately for Kevin, not listed in the old S.O.D. Somewhat perversely, however, QIBLA appeared in the much smaller *Concise Oxford* current at the time! In the early 80's getting stuck with the Q was a real worry. In fact the only allowable Q-word without a U was *CINQ*, which isn't even listed in our modern Scrabble dictionaries.

Years passed and the dreaded Q became less of a bogey. Our references changed to OSPD and Chambers Dictionary, with words like QAID, QADI, QANAT, QINTAR, FAQIR and (at last) QIBLA making it much easier to get rid of the problem letter. Also, a certain QAT was let out of the bag (er, book) and the threat of the Q was further lessened. Some Scrabblers loved it; others felt it spoil the game. In fact one prominent N.Z. player evened threatened to quit if QAT was allowed.

When OSPD2 was released a few years ago there was a huge sigh of relief. Why? Because there had been talk of Websterian 'words' like *QT* (on the *qt*) and *PDQ* (pretty damn quick) being listed. Yes, seriously! Thank goodness common sense prevailed.

Now another new dictionary is coming. *The Chambers Dictionary* is in the shops now. It will replace our current *Chambers English Dictionary* (1988), but not until it is thoroughly

checked and a new OSW produced and distributed — probably later this year. Revised Scrabble references have a penchant for including weird new words, seemingly just for Scrabblers. The latest Chambers is no exception. Among the U-less Q-words we will have available are *WAQIF* (an Islamic donation), *QASIDA* (an Arabic poem), *YAQONA* (kava, Fijian) and *MBAQANGA* (a type of African music).

However, as far as Scrabble is concerned, the most significant word in the new dictionary is undoubtedly *Qi* (pronounced 'chee'), in Chinese medicine, a person's life-force. For anyone who says "surely qi can't be a word", you only have to look in the Oxford English Dictionary, which records the term supported by citations of use dating from 1971. Top U.K. Scrabblers and wordsmith Darryl Francis comments in the British magazine *Onwords* no 74:

"Many of the worries about changing the Q or getting stuck with the Q at the end of the game will disappear. With the advent of *Qi*, the Q is no longer worthy of its face value of 10 points. Some players may well think this word will remove a certain spice from the game. Anyway, make of it what you will. It's a word, it's in the dictionary, and it will become valid for Scrabble."

So, what do you think? Will *Qi* change the game that much, bearing in mind all the other Q-words without a U? Do you like or dislike the word? Will you give up Scrabble when *Qi* is allowed? Would you if the likes of *QT* and *PDQ* ever came in? Is the Q still worthy of 10 points? Send your views to the editor please.

Yaqona

Mailbox

Crunch!

Recently whilst playing online with an opponent from France, I had an entire game's score scored against me in a single turn... just unbelievable!

Here's how it happened: at the bottom right-hand side of the board, the third to last tile down was an e. I had played the word SHRIVE, thinking she'd score only maybe 30 or so in her turn, which I could afford at that time! Silly me...

Her rack consisted of E,L,P,R,S,T,Z. She played PRETZELS for a score of 311!

How about that?! Just amazing.

Bev Edwards - Whangarei

John, husband of Allie Quinn (Whangarei), passed away on February 7th.

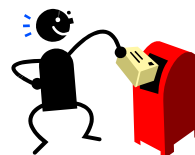
Allie writes:

I would like to acknowledge and thank you all for your cards, phone calls and support — I was quite overwhelmed to know I had so many friends out there. John had no quality of life for the last few weeks and it was a relief for all when he slipped away. Another chapter of my life has started and I look forward to getting back into the Scrabble scene and losing myself in words!

Thank you Scrabblers.

Jane Brown (Toowoomba) writes:

It is with great sadness that I have to announce that Anne Drew passed away on 27th December at the Prince of Wales Hospital, Randwick. Anne died as a result of a cerebral aneurysm which ruptured on Christmas Day. She had been in a coma



since then. Her daughter Lee, sister Bronwyn and other family members were with her.

Here in Toowoomba, Queensland, we are feeling the shock and sadness of losing someone who was synonymous with Scrabble. Every one of us, at both the Thursday and Monday clubs, whether social or competitive players, can say that Anne taught us to play Scrabble and to love even more the game that she loved herself.

Our thoughts go out to her family, and especially to her daughter Lee, who had been enjoying having Anne near her since Anne moved to Woolongong this year.

[Anne was a regular member of the TransTasman Australian team and was well-known to many Kiwis — Ed.]

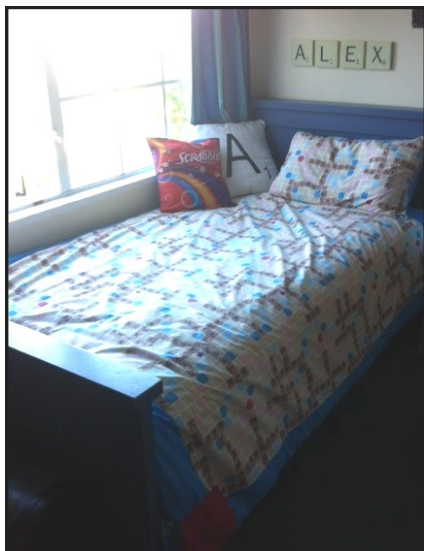
Kaite Hansen (Christchurch) has recently been diagnosed with terminal bowel cancer.

Kaite writes:

I just kept getting weaker with diminishing energy so couldn't even work ... finally they did an MRI scan ... my darling Scrabble friends have given me enormous joy with challenging games... phone calls too tiring right now but emails great even if I do not answer them I will enjoy receiving.

xxxx

kaitehansen@icloud.com



A Scrabble bedding set made by Tracie Leckie for the 13th birthday of Dunedin's enthusiastic Alex Leckie-Zaharic last December

Ratings, draws, and expectancies

To work out each player's new rating after a tournament, I need to know exactly which other players each player has actually played, and how many actual wins out of that number of actual games.

So, to work out expectancies, I need to know who will be playing whom. For full round robins, I only need to know that full round robins (i.e. each player in the grade plays each other once and once only, or twice and twice only, etc.) will be played, and the list of players in the grade. If the number of games is even one game more or less than a set of complete round robins, then I can't work out expectancies before the tournament, or new ratings afterwards, without being told exactly who plays whom.

When results are supplied to the ratings officer, the ratings officer must know (or be able to work out) which wins were from actual games, and against exactly which opponents each player played actual games. This information may all be provided with the results, or it may be that the intended draw was supplied before the tournament, and did not change at all on the day.

If the games actually played at a tournament differs in any way (byes, forfeits, or any other rearrangement of who plays whom, or not) from the last draw provided to the ratings officer before a tournament, then:

any expectancies provided for that grade will no longer be valid, and will need to be re-calculated to work out new ratings, and

the ratings officer must be advised of any such byes, forfeits, or other changes to the draw along with the results.

*Steven Brown
NZASP Ratings Officer*

One of those plays

Some of you may well query what sort of standards the new editorial team holds, but after considerable deliberation, we have decided to include this photograph, of a play by Pakuranga's Lawson Sue that really bummed out Susan Schiller, recent arrival to Mt Albert. (Perhaps she should've told him to stick it where the sun don't shine?)

Nick Cavenagh (Hamilton) has pointed out that the offending word's anagram, HALOSERE, would also have been a viable play (it describes a type of plant community).

Howard Warner (Independent) has observed in the past that another orifice that is apparently an anagram of this one (which would have made a dazzling triple-triple play in this case) is in fact a non-word; Lawson chose well not to play EARHOLES*.



Photograph by Julia Schiller

To New Zealand Scrabble players

My two new publications, *Winning Words* and *Fabulous Fives* are now available direct from the publisher at <http://www.lulu.com/spotlight/winningwords> at discounted prices. From this one site, you will be able to read a brief description of each book and place an order if desired.

Among other content, *Winning Words* contains definitions of all unusual words to four letters, while *Fabulous Fives* contains over 5000 definitions of unusual five-letter words.

If any New Zealand player is interested in obtaining a quantity of either of these titles, at a further reduced price, for sale at clubs or tournaments, please email me

privately at rjackman@ozemail.com.au to make arrangements.

Thank you,

Bob Jackman

Dear New Zealand Scrabble players

Please allow me to ask a (Scrabble related) favour:

Over the years, many researchers from various scientific fields have used word associations data in some form or another, for example, to study our memory for the meaning of words, to research lines of thought, etc. Recently, we started a research project, in which we gather word associations on a very large scale, using the internet.

Our goal is to collect associations for over 20,000 words by asking English speakers three different association responses for a short list of 16 words. The task is very easy and takes, on average, just over five minutes.

We aim at 100 persons per word, which means we'd need just over 133,000 participants. Nowadays, email, social networks, and internet forums make it quite feasible to reach such a large group of people. We'd like to ask for your help to spread the word because everything depends on our ability to reach large groups of people. We think that people who love words, like Scrabble players, will be particularly interested in participating.

We hope these data will benefit many researchers, as we will actively share the norms with the community of language researchers all over the world. All suggestions or requests are most welcome and we'd be happy to give you

more details or discuss further possibilities to spread this project. If you're interested, feel free to take a look at the website, or contact us for more details.

The website can be found by clicking: <http://www.smallworldofwords.com/new/en>

We feel quite confident that Scrabble lovers will enjoy the task. If you enjoy it, please send the link to your friends, family, colleagues etc. If you did not like the task, just send the link to your enemies!

Many thanks for your help. With kind regards,

*Dr. Gert Storms and Dr. Simon De Deyne
Faculty of Psychology and Educational
Sciences
University of Leuven, Belgium*

[I have done it, it was fun, and it did only take five minutes. –Ed]

Lois Kelly (Tauranga) writes

I thought that you might like to share this photo of my cat Jerry. Seems he needed some TLC, attention or feeding. My partner says he has come over to fart on my Scrabble tiles (big laugh) Anyway I love her to bits and she wrecked my game practice.



2014 Mind Sports International World Championships

Location: ExCeL London

Dates: November 19 -23, 2014

Specific details on the exact Scrabble schedule and format will be released as soon as the finite details have been agreed by all parties involved, however we can confirm that the Scrabble main event will follow a similar format to that featured within the successful Prague event conducted last year.

This year's event will be enhanced thanks to it being a 100% OPEN tournament. The main event entry fee for all participants will be set at £150 with a discounted entry fee of £100 available to Mind Sports Academy members. The main event will last a total of 5 days (November 19th – 23rd), with a variety of additional small events being hosted throughout the Championships to give players more opportunity to have fun and take part in extra 'side' events and language-specific Scrabble tournaments.

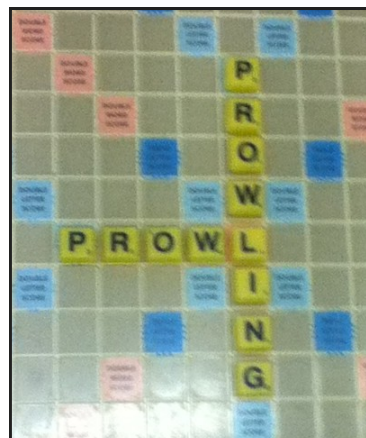
The dedicated registration booking website containing full event schedules will be live in April, enabling players to book their place as well as accommodation. An additional update with prize pool information will be published beforehand following final items being confirmed with our corporate partners and tournament directors (led by John Chew).

We hope that this announcement answers a number of core questions and that you are pleased with the positive developments taking place. We would like to thank you for your ongoing support as we continue to enhance things further.

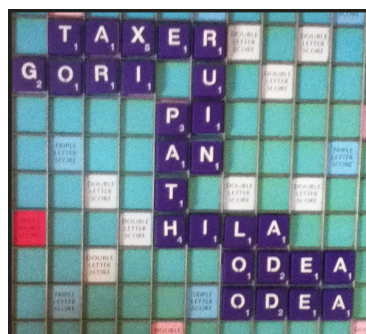
So what ARE the odds?

In the most recent issue of *Forwards* (issue 113, p. 10), Margaret Cherry related an anecdote wherein her opponent played a bingo, then, in refreshing her tiles from that play, picked up the same word again.

During the recent Rotorua tournament, Faye Cronhelm (Independent) was starting, and I drew the rack GINOPRW. Not knowing the seven-letter word there contained, and failing to spot the eight through the most probable letter, I focused my psychic energy on willing Faye to play an L. As this photograph shows, she really picked up my vibe!



Here's another more probable example of the same word occurring twice in one game between Su Walker and Liz Fagerlund, at Auckland's Pub Club during January:



Finally, the following is reproduced from the Australian Scrabble Association's March 2014 newsletter, *Across the Board*, under the heading *A Billion To One Chance*:

At the Southport Tournament on 30th November I was playing Jean Gillespie, and sitting next to Sheryl Davidson, who was playing Karen Woodhead. I prayed that Jean would put out a 'D' for me, as my rack displayed the wonderful letters REJOINE - just begging for a 'D'. Jean played the word 'add' out to the right-hand middle triple, and I was able to place my word 'REJOINED' for 101 points, which was High Word for the A section.

As I played my word and announced the score Sheryl Davidson nudged me and pointed to her rack. She had the letters REJOIN? and there was the magical 'D' sitting on the middle triple at the bottom of the board. Because Sheryl had a blank her score was 98, but had she not had a blank we would have tied on 101 for the highest word of the day with the same word played at the same time. I wonder if any other players have had a similar experience.

Trish Brighton – Redcliffe Club

Jabberwocky

Answers and Notes

1. C.

Carroll's explanation to a girls' school in Boston, USA, is that "Jabberwocky" or "Jabberwock" is coined from the old English word "wocorr*" which means offspring or fruit. This is then combined with the word "jabber" which, of course, means to talk or discuss volubly. One could speculate, then, that "jabberwocky" means the fruit of voluble discussion. What might that be? Well, nonsense, of course.

2. B.

Carroll's Explanation:
"Gyre, verb (derived from gyaour* or giaour, 'a dog'). To scratch like a dog."
Humpty Dumpty, a character in *Through the Looking Glass*, explains that GYRE means to "go round and round like a gyroscope."

3. C.

Humpty Dumpty's explanation:
"Flimsy and miserable."

4. C.

Humpty Dumpty's explanation:
"I'm not certain about mome. I think it's short for 'from home' — meaning that they'd lost their way."

5. D.

Humpty Dumpty's explanation:
"A rath is a sort of green pig."

6. D.

See notes for answer to "1." Above.

7. B.

Bander was an old English word meaning "leader" so it has been suggested that a BANDERSNATCH is a creature capable of hunting leaders.

8. A.

Carroll admitted that he could not explain this word but noted that it could be formed by taking the alternate letters from the words VERBAL and GOSPEL.

9. B.

Whiffing is not a word specifically coined by Carroll. Originally, it meant smoking and drinking. In Carroll's time, though, it always related to blowing short, unsteady puffs of air so became a slang term for being variable and evasive.

10. D.

Carroll explains in a letter to a friend that he could not be sure but he thought that he had come up with the word BURBLE by taking bits from the three verbs BLEAT, MURMUR and WARBLE.

11. A.

It has been suggested that GALUMPHING was coined by Carroll by combining the words GALLOP and TRIUMPHANT.

12. C.

Though Carroll may have thought that he coined this word, it has been noted that BEAMISH was actually cited in the Oxford English Dictionary in 1530 as meaning "radiant with joy".

13. C.

The Oxford English Dictionary explains that Carroll coined this word by combining the words FAIR, FABULOUS and JOYOUS.

14. B.

The Oxford English Dictionary explains that CHORTLE was coined by Carroll by combining the words CHUCKLE and SNORT.

Rankings list as at 31 March 2014

	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%		Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%
1	Howard Warner (GM)	1992	1771	2371	75%	50	John Baird	1509	188	344	55%
2	Blue Thorogood (GM)	1982	544.5	776	70%	51	Kadda Mohamed	1503	111.5	168	66%
3	Jeff Grant (GM)	1972	1588	2093	76%	52	Shirley Martin	1488	824.5	1609	51%
4	Joanne Craig (GM)	1890	316.5	481	66%	53	Anna Hough	1487	577	1163	50%
5	Peter Sinton (GM)	1873	655.5	908	72%	54	Faye Cronhelm	1484	817	1640	50%
6	Mike Sigley (GM)	1871	929	1328	70%	55	Selena Chan	1483	278.5	523	53%
7	Karen Richards	1857	35.5	55	65%	56	Jeanette Grimmer	1481	95.5	159	60%
8	Nick Covenagh (GM)	1841	275.5	469	59%	57	Lorraine Van Veen	1479	840.5	1649	51%
9	Lyres Freeth (E)	1837	178.5	270	66%	58	Peter Johnstone	1475	141.5	260	54%
10	Patrick Carter (GM)	1831	733.5	1168	63%	59	John McNaughton	1473	68	98	69%
11	Denise Gordon (E)	1820	674.5	1393	48%	60	Joan Thomas	1469	957.5	1915	50%
12	John Foster (GM)	1813	1457.5	2536	57%	61	Delcie Macbeth	1462	836.5	1595	52%
13	Cicely Bruce	1807	336	595	56%	62	Allie Quinn	1459	1010.5	2092	48%
14	Rogelio Talosig (GM)	1804	454	765	59%	63	Yvette Hewlett	1424	434.5	909	48%
15	Andrew Bradley (GM)	1801	786	1503	52%	64	Herb Ramsay	1406	143	228	63%
16	Glennis Hale (GM)	1794	1421	2539	56%	65	Roger Cole-Baker	1401	458.5	883	52%
17	Liz Fagerlund (GM)	1773	1040.5	1989	52%	66	Yoon Kim Fong	1400	506	988	51%
18	Lynne Butler (GM)	1758	868	1422	61%	67	Leila Thomson	1392	546.5	1201	46%
19	Debbie Raphael (E)	1755	570	952	60%	68	Glenda Geard	1358	990	2019	49%
20	Rosemary Cleary (E)	1743	714.5	1544	46%	69	Pam Barlow	1354	669	1331	50%
21	Lawson Sue (E)	1726	638.5	1210	53%	70	David Gunn	1332	1177	2415	49%
22	Glenda Foster (E)	1713	948.5	1893	50%	71	Irene Smith	1324	168	340	49%
23	Steven Brown (GM)	1711	878	1642	53%	72	Jean O'Brien	1308	1033.5	2037	51%
24	Val Mills (E)	1707	1138.5	2361	48%	73	June Mackwell	1305	799.5	1757	46%
25	Scott Chaput	1704	172.5	281	61%	74	Minuri Undugodage	1304	23	50	46%
26	Shirley van Essen	1688	394.5	775	51%	75	Andree Prentice	1298	934.5	1847	51%
27	Anderina McLean (E)	1682	573.5	1068	54%	76	Clare Wall	1292	265.5	511	52%
28	Paul Lister (E)	1668	774.5	1372	56%	77	Kaite Hansen	1287	315.5	585	54%
29	Pat Bryan	1665	232	411	56%	78	Mary Gray	1274	476	938	51%
30	Vicky Robertson	1658	267	536	50%	79	Dianne Cole-Baker	1250	428.5	824	52%
31	Lynn Wood	1638	1608	3381	48%	80	Lynn Carter	1238	609	1183	51%
32	Glenyss Buchanan	1636	645.5	1382	47%	81	Fran Lowe	1228	94.5	167	57%
33	Lynne Powell (E)	1628	915.5	1843	50%	82	Rosalind Phillips	1227	531	1028	52%
34	Katy Yiakmis	1624	172	354	49%	83	Heather Landon	1220	462	897	52%
35	Hazel Purdie	1622	1017.5	2075	49%	84	Chris Day	1218	117.5	206	57%
36	Jennifer Smith	1615	962.5	1983	49%	85	Lyn Dawson	1212	387	720	54%
37	Olivia Godfrey	1614	608	1140	53%	86	Carolyn Kyle	1209	731	1476	50%
38	Marianne Bentley (E)	1610	295.5	666	44%	87	Nola Borrell	1208	334.5	620	54%
39	Margie Hurly	1607	329	633	52%	88	Su Walker	1208	936.5	1868	50%
40	Chris Hooks (E)	1605	929	1912	49%	89	Ray Goodyear	1206	215	449	48%
41	Janice Cherry	1589	378	735	51%	90	Margaret Cherry	1169	474.5	966	49%
42	Pam Robson	1568	537.5	1171	46%	91	Gabrielle Bolt	1164	378.5	743	51%
43	Helen Sillis	1559	707	1418	50%	92	Lois Kelly	1153	62.5	161	39%
44	Karyn McDougall	1550	664	1289	52%	93	Betty Eriksen	1142	1256.5	2437	52%
45	Karen Gray	1540	263.5	500	53%	94	Lewis Hawkins	1123	75	101	74%
46	Murray Rogers (E)	1524	698	1344	52%	95	Geoff Bonser	1111	63	96	66%
47	Roger Coates	1524	703.5	1481	48%	96	Marian Ross	1106	507	1004	50%
48	Shirley Hol	1521	616.5	1339	46%	97	Shirley Pearce	1100	36	80	45%
49	Alex Leckie-Zaharic	1510	120	212	57%	98	Karen Rodgers	1089	138	341	40%

	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%
99	Ruth Groffman	1081	444	932	48%
100	Chris Handley	1076	361.5	708	51%
101	Barbara Dunn	1075	272	464	59%
102	Connie Flores	1074	153	255	60%
103	Karen Miller	1065	501	1010	50%
104	Mary Curtis	1064	248.5	472	53%
105	Ernie Gidman	1057	386	775	50%
106	Lyn Toka	1053	519.5	993	52%
107	Jo Ann Ingram	1047	209	405	52%
108	Marianne Patchett	1043	301.5	590	51%
109	Jean Boyle	1041	518.5	980	53%
110	Sheila Reed	1039	204	415	49%
111	Kathleen Mori-Barker	1033	348.5	696	50%
112	Agnes Rowland	1022	105	196	54%
113	Suzanne Harding	991	350.5	675	52%
114	Julia Schiller	988	196	422	46%
115	Alison Holmes	976	224.5	410	55%
116	Jena Yousif	970	401	799	50%
117	Shirley Morrison	956	142.5	307	46%
118	Colleen Cook	949	314.5	625	50%
119	Bev Edwards	946	210.5	412	51%
120	Tony Charlton	935	219.5	433	51%
121	Michael Groffman	906	258	523	49%
122	Allison Torrance	901	392	750	52%
123	Roto Mitchell	897	690	1370	50%
124	Malcolm Graham	895	354	727	49%
125	Elaine Moltzen	895	549	1099	50%
126	Carole Coates	888	586.5	1215	48%
127	Yvonne McLaughlan	877	470.5	966	49%
128	Maria Clinton	860	237	482	49%
129	Margaret Bullen	842	75	127	59%
130	Ruth Godwin	836	257.5	595	43%
131	Catherine Henry	825	429.5	825	52%
132	Anne Scatchard	804	322	634	51%



Anne Scatchard

	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%
133	Joanna Fox	759	35	57	61%
134	Josie Parkin	749	48	109	44%
135	Joan Beale	747	182	346	53%
136	Leighton Gelling	742	89	171	52%
137	Jaiden Tucker	737	39	59	66%
138	Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell	734	558	1170	48%
139	Janny Henneveld	728	409	852	48%
140	Betty Don	716	99	255	39%
141	Judy Driscoll	710	134	380	35%
142	Alison Vautier	709	70.5	191	37%
143	Phyllis Paltridge	703	20	70	29%
144	Valma Gidman	700	667.5	1338	50%
145	Antonia Aarts	691	190	397	48%
146	Junior Gesmundo	683	31	58	53%
147	Judith Thomas	683	184.5	358	52%
148	Sandra Cowen	677	49	84	58%
149	Tim Henneveld	676	390.5	855	46%
150	Chris Guthrey	671	68	192	35%
151	Linda Moore	668	97.5	197	49%
152	Sam Thompson	660	38	88	43%
153	Judy Cronin	656	57.5	168	34%
154	Annette Coombes	649	655	1444	45%
155	Anne-Louise Milne	648	119	369	32%
156	Jean Craib	589	379.5	797	48%
157	Pat Wood	582	122	229	53%
158	Anne Goldstein	579	42	71	59%
159	Margaret Toso	577	74.5	161	46%
160	Steve Pearson	574	33	53	62%
161	Judith Bach	543	124.5	231	54%
162	Elaine Ware	538	372.5	728	51%
163	Gordon Pinchin	527	189	369	51%
164	Frances Higham	462	106	321	33%
165	Di Barritt	453	69.5	209	33%
166	Gill Charlton	450	6	43	14%
167	Alan Henley	443	58	136	43%
168	Sue Mayn	437	184	446	41%
169	Valerie Smith	422	18	78	23%
170	Hanna Dodge	387	52.5	138	38%
171	Noelene Bettjeman	382	296	643	46%
172	Bev Allen	366	52.5	176	30%
173	Kasi Mooney	348	15	61	25%
174	Corey Symon	345	19	44	43%
175	Lynn Thompson	337	253.5	576	44%
176	Margaret Peters	317	25	88	28%
177	Margaret Miller	303	131.5	339	39%
178	Trish Fox	89	25	191	13%
179	Susan Milne	70	26	177	15%
180	Susan Schiller	8	4	61	7%

Tournament results

Pakuranga Tournament 25-26 January 2014

14 games

Grade A

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
1	Howard Warner	IND	11	1224	469
2	John Foster	IND	8.5	367	408
3	Vicky Robertson	WEL	8	98	399
4	Anderina McLean	MTA	7	-126	407
5	Liz Fagerlund	MTA	6	38	394
6	Lawson Sue	MTA	6	-751	367
7	Val Mills	PAK	5	-375	394
8	Cicely Bruce	WRE	4.5	-475	370

Grade B

1	Rosemary Cleary	WAN	10	580	423
2	Olivia Godfrey	IND	9	576	402
3	Pat Bryan	MTA	9	553	420
4	Lynne Powell	IND	9	330	411
5	Roger Coates	KIW	7	-62	379
6	Faye Cronhelm	IND	5	-614	378
7	Lorraine Van Veen	IND	4	-870	373
8	Lynn Wood	WEL	3	-493	363

Grade C

1	Delcie Macbeth	IND	10	362	413
2	Hazel Purdie	MTA	9	129	404
3	Chris Higgins	PAK	8	56	401
4	Jean O'Brien	IND	7	85	379
5	Pam Barlow	PAK	6	-107	377
6	David Gunn	WKP	6	-194	385
7	Shirley Martin	KIW	5	-160	382
8	Margaret Cherry	PAK	5	-171	372

Grade D

1	Roger Cole-Baker	MTA	11	562	403
2	Joan Thomas	HAS	9	641	427
3	June Mackwell	IND	8	284	389
4	Clare Wall	WEL	8	-73	387
5	Glenda Geard	IND	7	70	397
6	Heather Landon	TGA	5	-334	369
7	Lynn Carter	IND	5	-484	368
8	Carolyn Kyle	DUN	3	-666	350

Grade E

1	Dianne Cole-Baker	MTA	14	829	401
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	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
2	Mary Gray	MTA	10	676	401
3	Betty Eriksen	WAN	6	-15	367
4	Su Walker	MTA	6	-30	376
5	Jena Yousif	IND	6	-167	372
6	Mary Curtis	MTA	5	-53	374
7	Carole Coates	KIW	5	-402	355
8	Julia Schiller	MTA	4	-838	331

Grade F

1	Margaret Bullen	TGA	11	827	383
2	Bev Edwards	WRE	10	349	356
3	Roto Mitchell	WAN	9	540	373
4	Anne Scatchard	WRE	7	-178	329
5	Suzanne Harding	WRE	6	-366	343
6	Ruth Godwin	ROT	5	-297	336
7	Annette Coombes	WKP	4	-332	342
8	Margaret Toso	WRE	4	-543	323

Grade G

1	Junior Gesmundo	PAP	12	619	365
2	Jill Paterson	ROT	11	550	379
3	Joan Beale	PAP	10	665	378
4	Janny Henneveld	ROT	10	535	359
5	Anne Goldstein	CHC	9	420	354
6	Noelene Bettjeman	IND	8	251	336
7	Tim Henneveld	ROT	8	171	343
8	Judy Cronin	MTA	6	-131	334
9	Patricia Wareing	PAK	6	-288	330
10	Lynn Thompson	WRE	5	-529	314
11	Frances Higham	PAP	4	13	333
12	Margaret Miller	IND	4	-560	310
13	Valerie Smith	MTA	4	-647	303
14	Susan Schiller	MTA	1	-1069	289

Nelson Club Tournament 22-23 February 2014

15 games

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
1	John Baird	CHC	12	430	395
2	Murray Rogers	IND	11	905	412
3	Jean O'Brien	IND	8	576	399
4	Nola Borrell	WEL	7	-282	360

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
5	Carolyn Kyle	DUN	4	-853	350
6	Sunny Wright	AUS	3	-776	347

Grade B

1	Maria Clinton	NEL	10	530	363
2	Tony Charlton	NEL	10	282	349
3	Betty Don	NEL	9	284	353
4	Joanna Fox	CHC	8	705	368
5	Marilyn Sinclair	CHC	6	-144	332
6	Gill Charlton	NEL	2	-1657	271

Rotorua Club Tournament 22-23 February 2014

13 Games

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
Grade A					
1	Liz Fagerlund	MTA	10	816	410
2	Glennis Hale	MTA	9	1052	446
3	Katy Yiakmis	MTA	8	319	384
4	Lawson Sue	PAK	8	222	386
5	Lynn Wood	WEL	8	160	393
6	Anderina McLean	MTA	7.5	321	396
7	Roger Cole-Baker	MTA	6	-360	369
8	Hazel Purdie	MTA	6	-514	376
9	Val Mills	PAK	6	-515	363
10	Janice Cherry	IND	5.5	232	397
11	Delcie Macbeth	IND	5	-100	373
12	Faye Cronhelm	IND	4	-528	358
13	Roger Coates	KIW	4	-551	369
14	Andree Prentice	WAN	4	-554	367

Grade B

1	Mary Gray	MTA	9	-177	377
2	Chris Day	TGA	8	343	395
3	Glenda Geard	IND	8	326	393
4	David Gunn	WKP	8	308	403
5	Joan Thomas	HAS	8	148	385
6	Betty Eriksen	WAN	7	210	395
7	Rosalind Phillips	MTA	7	143	390
8	Heather Landon	TGA	7	20	388
9	Su Walker	MTA	7	11	385
10	Pam Barlow	PAK	7	-51	385
11	Mary Curtis	MTA	6	-229	384
12	Dianne Cole-Baker	MTA	5	33	388
13	Margaret Cherry	PAK	4	-310	380
14	Carole Coates	KIW	0	-775	347

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
Grade C					
1	Geoff Bonser	TGA	13	878	409
2	Julia Schiller	MTA	9	704	381
3	Ruth Godwin	ROT	9	122	371
4	Barbara Dunn	TGA	8	615	393
5	Suzanne Harding	WRE	7	200	372
6	Karen Miller	IND	7	-247	346
7	Catherine Henry	TGA	6	244	365
8	David Kerr	ROT	5	-173	377
9	Margaret Bullen	TGA	5	-380	355
10	Philippa Medlock	ROT	4	-470	323
11	Annette Coombes	WKP	3	-750	348
12	Chris Guthrey	IND	2	-743	331

Grade D

1	Joan Beale	PAP	11	524	364
2	Antonia Aarts	MTA	9	759	364
3	Frances Higham	PAP	7	397	355
4	Tim Henneveld	ROT	7	263	341
5	Judy Cronin	MTA	7	10	334
6	Janny Henneveld	ROT	7	-209	337
7	Maggie Bentley	ROT	6	-126	328
8	Noelene Bettjeman	HBC	5	-117	328
9	Allison Maclean	ROT	5	-189	334
10	Susan Schiller	MTA	1	-1312	273

Lynn Wood 65th Birthday Tournament 15-16 March

14 games

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
Grade A					
1	Jeff Grant	IND	12	1064	419
2	Howard Warner	IND	11	1493	466
3	Lawson Sue	PAK	8	16	394
4	Val Mills	MTA	8	-158	390
5	Rosemary Cleary	WAN	7	-39	403
6	Lynn Wood	WEL	5	-433	368
7	Olivia Godfrey	IND	3	-1093	356
8	Vicky Robertson	WEL	2	-850	364
Grade B					
1	Murray Rogers	IND	10	1010	416
2	Shirley Hol	CHC	9	295	413
3	Yvette Hewlett	IND	8	-29	408
4	Joan Thomas	HAS	8	-113	386

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
5	Anna Hough	IND	7	207	396
6	Leila Thomson	LOH	7	9	388
7	Jean O'Brien	IND	4	-537	389
8	Andree Prentice	WAN	3	-842	346

Grade C

1	John McNaughton	WEL	14	1337	435
2	Pam Barlow	PAK	10	344	379
3	Carolyn Kyle	DUN	7	72	374
4	Teresa Ferrari	LOH	7	-89	381
5	Nola Borrell	WEL	6	-104	381
6	Gabrielle Bolt	CHC	5	-143	351
7	Betty Eriksen	WAN	5	-434	363
8	Sheila Reed	WEL	2	-983	348

Grade D

1	Karen Miller	IND	10	515	371
2	Jean Boyle	WAN	9	419	367
3	Barbara Dunn	TGA	9	-49	362
4	Tony Charlton	NEL	7	-120	351
5	Colleen Cook	CHC	7	-255	355
6	Roto Mitchell	WAN	6	234	376
7	Allison Torrance	CHC	6	2	356
8	Josie Parkin	TGA	2	-746	331

Grade E

1	Maria Clinton	NEL	11	518	368
2	Janny Henneveld	ROT	9	472	358
3	Betty Don	IND	8	531	370
4	Tim Henneveld	ROT	8	379	336
5	Judy Driscoll	KAP	8	279	344
6	Judith Thomas	IND	7	301	351
7	Gill Charlton	NEL	3	-1087	284
8	Jamie Adams	WEL	2	-1393	270

Mt Albert Memorial 29-30 March

15 Games

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread
Gold				
1	Patrick Carter	MTA	11	778
2	Cicely Bruce	WRE	11	582
3	Lyres Freeth	IND	10	778
4	John Foster	IND	9	855
5	Hazel Purdie	MTA	9	267
6	Jennifer Smith	HAM	9	37
7	Liz Fagerlund	MTA	9	-73

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread
8	Rogelio Talosig	IND	9	-85
9	Anderina McLean	MTA	8	417
10	Lawson Sue	MTA	8	153
11	Val Mills	PAK	8	-63
12	Pat Bryan	MTA	8	-179
13	Chris Hooks	MTA	8	-196
14	Joan Thomas	HAS	7.5	215
15	Murray Rogers	NEL	7	-171
16	Shirley Martin	HAM	7	-178
17	Allie Quinn	WRE	6.5	108
18	Delcie Macbeth	IND	6	-184
19	Glenda Geard	IND	6	-542
20	Pam Barlow	PAK	5	-360
21	Roger Cole-baker	MTA	5	-501
22	Yoon Kim Fong	####	5	-705
23	Dianne Cole-baker	MTA	4	-377
24	Mary Gray	MTA	4	-576

Silver

1	Su Walker	MTA	11	647
2	Heather Landon	TGA	11	614
3	Lynn Carter	NSB	11	477
4	Khine Khin Saw	MTA	10	457
5	Marianne Patchett	MTA	9	728
6	Jena Yousif	IND	9	653
7	Barbara Dunn	TGA	9	69
8	Mary Curtis	MTA	8	644
9	Julia Schiller	MTA	8	377
10	Suzanne Harding	WRE	8	273
11	Ernie Gidman	ROD	8	49
12	Junior Gesmundo	PAP	8	4
13	Antonia Aarts	MTA	8	-13
14	Anne Scatchard	WRE	8	-205
15	Ruth Godwin	ROT	7	173
16	Valma Gidman	ROD	7	34
17	Josie Parkin	TGA	7	-237
18	Judy Cronin	MTA	7	-312
19	Margaret Toso	WRE	7	-395
20	Joan Beale	PAP	7	-550
21	Chris Guthrey	MTA	6	-124
22	Anne Goldstein	CHC	6	-232
23	Jill Paterson	ROT	6	-411
24	Val Smith	MTA	5	-454
25	Margaret Peters	WRE	4	-684
26	Susan Schiller	MTA	0	-1582

New Zealand Scrabble Records

NZ Performances at the World Scrabble Championships (held since 1991)				
World Champion		Nigel Richards	2007	
		Nigel Richards	2011	
		Nigel Richards	2013	
Most frequent competitor	10 times	Jeff Grant	1991 — 2009	
In the top 10 (other than 1st)		7th	Mike Sigley	1993
		3rd	Jeff Grant	1995
		6th	Kendall Boyd	1997
		8th, 2nd	Nigel Richards	1999, 2009

NZ Performances at the World Youth Championships				
Most frequent competitor		1 time	Alex Leckie-Zaharic	2011
		1 time	Lewis Hawkins	2013
Highest Place		27 th / 138	Lewis Hawkins	2013

Trans-Tasman Challenge			
Challenges won by NZ	3	1998, 2000,	
Individual winners		Peter Sinton	1998
		Kendall Boyd	2000
		Howard Warner	2002
		Joanne Craig	2010

Masters Tournament (held since 1984)				
Most games won		21/23	Jeff Grant	1993, 1997
			Mike Sigley	2002
Highest aggregate	11,103	Nigel Richards	1999	
Most bonus words	61	Nigel Richards	1998	
Highest spread	2454	Howard Warner	2012	
Most times winner	11	Howard Warner	2000-2001 2003-2004, 2006 2008- 2013	
Most frequent competitor	30/30	Glennis Hale	1984-2013	
Youngest competitor	12 yrs & 112 days	Alex Leckie-Zaharic	2013	
Oldest competitor	84 yrs & 288 days	June Mackwell	2008	

Notes

Records with no dates were set pre 2012, dates unknown

- 1 Since 2012
- 2 Provisional information
- 3 On current NZASP Rankings list
- 4 Provisional category

As soon as somebody achieves a clean sweep for a tournament, the heading will change to "winners of all games", and everyone who achieves this will be listed.

5 Changes to WESPA ratings during 2013 included: players must now have played in the previous two years to maintain their ranking. (Criterion is 50 games)

Highest 10 on International (WESPA) rankings 2013 (5)

Nigel Richards	1st
Howard Warner	52nd
Joanne Craig	124th
Blue Thorogood	128th
Patrick Carter	151st
John Foster	244th
Lynn Butler	268th
Rogelio Talosig	278th
Glenda Foster	290th
Glennis Hale	328th

As at 28 February 2013

Tournament records			
Highest game score	717	Mike Sigley	Nov-90
Highest losing score	514	Pam Barlow	Jun-10
Highest drawn score	487	Lynn Wood & Debbie Caldwell	Feb-04
Highest single turn	302	Lynne Butler	Oct-11
Highest single turn, non-bonus	135	Ruth O'Neil	Nov-98
Highest combined score	1078	Howard Warner & David Lloyd	Mar-97
Largest winning margin	493	Mike Sigley	Nov-90
Highest add-on	58	Jeff Grant	Mar-12
Most consecutive bonus words	5	Allie Quinn	Jun-89
Most bonus words in game (individual)	6	Nigel Richards	Aug-98
		Yvette Hewlett	Nov-01
		Howard Warner	Aug-10
Most bonus words in game (combined)	8	Mike Sigley & Glenyss Buchanan	Pre 1997
		Nigel Richards & John Foster	Aug-98
Highest average in a tournament	584	Nigel Richards	Jan-97
Highest average spread in a tournament (1)			
Highest opening play(1)			
Longest word (1)			
Most tournament games played (3)	3138	Lynn Wood	
Most tournament games won (3)	1654	Howard Warner	

Note that there are still some unclaimed categories so make a note next time you are at a tournament or the club and start a new category.

Milestones

3000 tournament games played(3)	Jeff Grant	1538	
Lynn Wood	3138	Lynn Wood	1494.5
2000 tournament games played (3)	John Foster	1387	
Glennis Hale	2241	Glennis Hale	1361.5
John Foster	2423	Betty Eriksen	1158.5
David Gunn	2290	David Gunn	1133.5
Betty Eriksen	2277	Val Mills	1007.5
Allie Quinn	2035	500 international games (WESPA-rated)	
Howard Warner	2224	Nigel Richards	1700
Val Mills	2115	Howard Warner	625
Jeff Grant	2025	Joanne Craig	506
1000 tournament games won (3)	Jeff Grant	502	
Howard Warner	1654	<i>As at 28 February 2013</i>	

Grand Masters

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

Experts

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

***John Baird, A grade
winner at Nelson***

***Karen Miller, D grade
winner at Lynn Woods'***

Club records				
Highest game score	763	John Foster	Mt Albert	Jan-93
Highest losing score	521	June Mackwell	Mt Albert	Jan-89
Highest drawn score	482	Margaret Warren & Jeff Grant	Hastings	Mar-94
Highest single turn	347	Neil Talbot	Wellington	Oct-03
Highest single turn, non-bonus	261	John Foster	Mt Albert	Jan-93
Highest combined score	1106	Dawn Kitzen & Chris Hooks	Papatoetoe & Mt Albert	Mar-92
Largest winning margin	590	Paul Lister	Christchurch	Nov-08
Highest add-on	68	Andrew Bradley	Mt Albert	Pre 1990
Most consecutive bonus words	5	John Foster Patrick Carter Paul Lister	Mt Albert Mt Albert Christchurch	Apr-92 Apr-03 Aug-10
Most bonus words in a game (individual)	7	Jeff Grant	Independent	Sep-97
Most bonus words in a game (combined)	8	Dawn Kitzen & Chris Hooks	Papatoetoe & Mt Albert	Mar-92
Highest opening play (1)				
Longest word (1)				

Tournament Calendar	
Tournament	Dates
Masters#	19-21 April
Kapiti	3-4 May
Christchurch	10-11 May
Nationals	31 May - 1 June
Youth Fundraiser	22 June
Whangarei	5-6 July
Hamilton	9-10 August
Tauranga	23-24 August
Christchurch	6-7 September
Norfolk Island	21-28 September
Mt Albert	4-5 October
Wanganui	25-26 October
Otago Lion Open	15-16 November
World champs	19-23 November
# restricted entry	



*Geoff Bonser, C Grade
winner at Rotorua*

*Su Walker, Silver Grade
winner at Mt Albert*

Club	Club Contact	Phone Number	Email	Meeting Day & Time
Christchurch (CHC)	Margaret Lyall	03 332 5963	noelrealest@hotmail.com	12.30 Wed 6.45 Fri
Dunedin (DUN)	Chris Handley	03 464 0199	chris@redheron.com	7pm Tues
Hastings (HAS)	Joan Thomas	06 878 2418	thomasi@xtra.co.nz	1pm Tues
Kapiti (KAP)	Steven Brown	04 905 9160	sgbrown@mac.com	7pm Mon
Kiwi Scrabblers (KIW)	Jacqueline Coldham-Fussel	07 846 7422	scrabilfuss@xtra.co.nz	1pm/7pm Alternate Thurs
Lower Hutt (LOH)	Glenyss Buchanan	04 569 5433	glenyss.buchanan@xtra.co.nz	7.30pm Tues
Masteron (MAS)	Hilda Scott	06 378 2663	billhilda@wizbiz.net.nz	7.30pm Wed
Mt Albert (MTA)	Diane Cole-Baker	09 309 5865	drcb@xtra.co.nz	7pm Mon
Nelson (NEL)	Tony Charlton	03 545 1159	Tony.charlton@yahoo.co.uk	7pm Wed
Pakuranga (PAK)	Jeanette Owler	09 534 4453	cliffordo@xtra.co.nz	12.30pm Tues 7pm Thurs
Papatoetoe (PAP)	Frances Higham	09 278 4595	jambo@actrix.co.nz	1pm Mon
Rodney (ROD)	Linda Moore	09 425 4959	colin.linda@clear.net.nz	1pm Mon
Rotorua (ROT)	Ruth Godwin	07 349-6954	rgodwin@xtra.co.nz	9.15 Thurs
Tauranga (TGA)	Jo Anne Ingram	07 578 3606	ingram99nz@gmail.com	9am Tues
Waikato Phoenix (WKP)	Annette Coombes	07 855 9970	No email	None
Waitara (WTA)	Ngaire Kemp	06 754 4107	ngairelynda.c@xtra.co.nz	1pm Wed
Wanganui (WAN)	Rosemary Cleary	06 347 1837	rosecleary@hotmail.com	6.30pm Wed
Wellington (WEL)	Lynn Wood	04 387 2581	lynn.wood@state.co.nz	7pm Tues
Whangarei (WRE)	Bev Edwards	09 430 2832	bevholo@xtra.co.nz	1pm Thurs

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