

# Forwords



Journal of the New Zealand Association of Scrabble® Players  
No. 115 Winter 2014



## **Australian Invasion? Two major NZ tournaments won by blokes from across the ditch**

### Also in this issue

Word Famous—Nola Borrell

Poetry corner

Postgame analysis

The New Zealand Challenge Shield

Snake stalk

Homophonbia

Howard wins European Open in Malta

Ask Liz

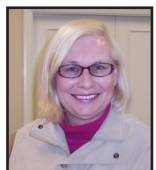
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# Editorial

## The Editrix Experience

I can't remember at what point in the last few months I came across the word EDITRIX; whether I looked up a promising rack of ?DEIIRT, or whether I performed a pattern search for EDIT@ (I learned this from my new mobile version of Zyzyva: the @ symbol can be used in place of an asterisk to signify any number of blanks, thereby avoiding confusion with the way we EDITRICES notate a non-word). Whichever: I discovered this great word, which Zyzyva defines as "a female editor". For me the word conjures up an inspiring image of a female editor who is somewhat voluptuous, probably dressed all in black, and possibly wielding a whip; a personage who is unmistakably in control of her situation.

I'd like to thank all the people who have shared with us their feedback on our first issue. We are endeavouring to eliminate the negatives: this issue contains the correctly updated version of the Records, and Glenda is experimenting with a more satisfactory font. A few people requested clarification over which editrix had contributed which content, for which distinction we are employing a Scrabble tile symbol with our initials: A for Anderina, O for Olivia. Nobody noticed (or at least nobody told me they'd noticed!) the glaring spelling error that had me tearing my hair out when I first saw the print version of our autumn edition.

Our new *Word Famous in New Zealand* feature generated plenty of positive discussion, and we are thrilled to have already received several volunteers for upcoming issues. This has been the thing that I have enjoyed most so far about editing *Forwards*: discerning the myriad of different "voices" (talents, preferences, backgrounds, writing styles...) that make up the vibrant community that is the NZASP.

An unexpected challenge for me has been the level of nitty-gritty detail required for the job. Now, don't get me wrong, I'm thrilled to be an office-bearing grammar pedant, after all these years of making unsolicited corrections to my friends, my coworkers, signs, menus... (UrbanDictionary.com, among less charitable interpretations, defines *editrix* as "a female who demands you to finesse your lingo". I didn't even know 'finesse' was a verb!) ...I digress.

By way of an example, for our first issue, Olivia and I decided that we would always write out the words for numbers zero to nine, and use numerals starting from 10. Easy. Except... what about money? What about other decimals (such as win expectancies)? What about dates? For every "rule" there is a plethora of possible exceptions, and for each we are required to make a decision, and then to apply our decisions consistently.

I have also rapidly learned (notwithstanding forewarning by my predecessor) the importance of checking everything, especially with regard to words that people claim are or are not allowable in Scrabble. I'm not going to name and shame here, but I can tell you in confidence that no-one is infallible, even among those you would think surely would be.

Finally, a number of people have asked me about what it's like to share the editorship with somebody else / my best friend / a blind person. Olivia and

I agreed from the outset that this was not a venture either of us was prepared to attempt alone, and we have delighted in the excuse that *Forwards* has provided for us to spend more time together. In doing so I have learned new admiration for Olivia's many strengths, and the many ways in which we complement each other. I hope that our readers continue to derive as much pleasure from this "marriage of true minds" as we have so far.

*Anderina McLean*

## President's report

Those of you who came to the Pakuranga tournament in January will already know that this year we, the Pakuranga Club, are celebrating 30 years of holding tournaments. The celebrations have continued with a potluck dinner held recently at one of our club nights.

There were a dozen or so of us there, and we started reminiscing about how we got involved in Scrabble. The stories ranged from it being the 'thing' for families on a naval base in England to do, to being brought up with the game, to being taught by a grandmother, to seeing an ad in a paper. We talked about what has kept us interested in the game — basically the excitement of not knowing what we were going to draw out of the bag, the thrill of seeing the perfect rack, the satisfaction of finding exactly the right word to play, the craftiness of setting up plays, and the joy when your opponent puts down exactly the right tile for you.



*Val Mills*

Then the conversation shifted to remembering how the Club started, and reminiscences about past members. Everyone came up with names of people that were in the club when they first joined, and stories about those who had only come for one night, never to be seen again.

Part of the point of writing about this is to tell you that the following week, Pat Wareing came to club armed with some very interesting statistics. She



had gone through all the attendance books that had been kept since the club began. The statistic that really shocked us all was the number of people that had attended at least one of our club nights since 1984 — the figure was 284!! Can you believe that? Admittedly, some of them were members of other clubs just visiting for the night, but there were so many who had only attended for one or two nights and then never come back.

It got us all thinking about what we should be doing to keep people's interest in the game. Lack of membership is a problem faced by most clubs up and down the country, and there is no silver bullet. If we had managed to keep even a few of those people interested, our club would be much bigger than it currently is. Instead, we teeter on the borderline of being a viable club.

What are other clubs' experiences of trying to attract and keep new members? Have you managed it, and if so, how? Can we, the Association, take any action to keep the New

Zealand Scrabble club scene vibrant? Do we, as a community, need to consider changing the way we approach or relate to new/beginner Scrabblers to try and maintain their interest? If you have any ideas, anecdotes, or advice, perhaps you could write it up for *Forwards* so that we can all benefit.

I couldn't end this report without, of course, mentioning the Nationals. There is more detailed coverage of this event further on in this issue. Here, I just want to say a big congratulations to Alastair Richards of Australia for winning the tourney — great effort! Alastair made a lightning visit to NZ, with his mum, Karen, while in the midst of studying for university exams. Thanks to both of them for making the effort to come all the way across the Tasman.

Thanks also to everyone who made the event happen, and to everybody who traveled from near and far to participate. I had a great time! Happy Scrabbling.

<b>Tournament Calendar 2014</b>	
<b>Tournament</b>	<b>Dates</b>
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
Trans-Tasman Challenge#	31 October—2 November
Mt. Albert	15 November
Otago Lion Open	15-16 November
World Champs	19-23 November
# restricted entry	

# Word famous in New Zealand



*When we shoulder-tapped Nola to write a profile for this column, we knew she was an interesting person (she has to be to play Scrabble, right?), but we didn't realise the extent of her interestingness until we actually read her profile. She is obviously a well-travelled woman of huge talent, diverse interests, and endless curiosity.*

**Name:** Nola Ker Borrell  
**Birthplace:** Geraldine, Canterbury, NZ  
**Current Home:** Lower Hutt  
**Club Affiliation:** Wellington since 2009  
**Principal Occupation:** Former teacher, sociologist, researcher, counsellor

I like words, words rather than numbers - not the right way around for Scrabble, I now know. That love took me, in 2007, to Whanganui to play social grade Scrabble in the Masters games (as well as table tennis). To my surprise, I won 12 out of 15 games, second to a rated player, Jean Walsh of Whanganui. Encouraged, I signed up as an independent.

In 2009, I ventured into Wellington Scrabble Club, one of two new members: 'A flood,' said Vicky Robertson. Membership required a willingness to learn new words. Just what I liked!

I had to keep in mind that the focus was scoring points, rather than my opponent's shining new word; and definitions were not important - well, not very. ... But I soon stopped muttering, decided Scrabble was just another form of EPEOLATRY (the worship of words), and I could find out the meanings later. Besides, I was playing Serious Scrabblers now.



*Nola Borrell*

Behind me: childhood on a farm (great playground, much reading, much dreaming); a leap into full time university study, (I graduated with a 'third year' from what-was-then Dunedin Training College); and high school teaching in New Zealand and Adelaide. The teaching was mainly English, with occasional Year Nine maths thrown in.

My female contemporaries seemed to choose between marriage and OE. I chose both, and tripped around the world for nearly a year. The London to Bombay stretch was in a VW Beetle, which also doubled as our sleeping quarters. We kept VW for years, long after packing in three children plus

camping gear became a logistical trial, always recollecting that one ox who bent the front bumper pulling us out of the snow in Yugoslavia; and the sandblasting VW underwent during a night storm in Dasht-i-Lut desert in Iran, and ...

The three children, Anthony, Charles, and Sarah, were included in our overseas adventure too, when we lived for a while in Bandung, Indonesia. Sarah, then three, had words in three languages. When our sea luggage containing books and games was severely delayed, Charles, six, designed Monopoly from his memory of our games cupboard back home.

As it happened, for the children, Chess and later on Bridge triumphed over other indoor games. Now it's grandchildren-down-the-road (six and nine years) who are into Monopoly; I keep a hopeful Scrabble set on hand. [Last night I dreamt that MONOPOL\* was on my Scrabble rack... A takeover? Hey! MONOPOLE is a word — a type of radio antenna.]

Curiosity has taken me back to study repeatedly (sociology, education, counselling). Paid work included teaching sociology at university, research positions, off campus work, and counselling (sex abuse, grief). There has been plenty of volunteer work, too, including Play Centre, Women's Refuge, social justice, and Trade Aid.

Tramping has been important over the years, though I'm less ambitious now. It incorporates some of my favourite things: exploring, photography, BIRDING, haiku-finding, and, of

course, reading (I'm a BIBLIOPHIL/  
BIBLIOPHILE — a lover of books).

These days, a key love is haiku, and other forms of poetry. My writing has won awards, been translated into several languages, and been published in various countries. *Waking Echoes*, a collection of haiku and HAIBUN\* (prose + haiku), was published last year. Before that, there was a CHAPBOOK, *This Wide Sky* (2012), and *The Taste of Nashi*, a selection of recent haiku written by New Zealanders (co-edited with Karen Peterson Butterworth, 2008). I participate in workshops, and now and again judge competitions.

Yes, I'm hooked on Scrabble; but I do have a complaint. Some of the best words aren't in the Scrabble lexicon. For example, it seems there's no room at the inn for: QUIZZACIOUS\*-mocking, satirical; GLOBALONEY\*-nonsensical talk about global issues; and the glorious PADIDDLE\*-according to the *Oxford English Dictionary* 'An exclamation shouted in a game by the first of a group of people who spots a motor vehicle with only one working headlight, this person being entitled variously to kiss or hit the others'. Curiously, though, BALNEOLOGY—the science of bathing— is acceptable.

I've adapted to seeing letters and words as pawns. At the back of my mind, however, lurks Milton's warning, 'those who are so exact by the letter shall be dealt with by the lexicon and the ETYMOLOGICON if they please'. ... So outside of Scrabble tournaments and clubs, I choose my own wayward (or is that WAYWORD\*?) track.

# New Zealand Association of Scrabble Players Nationals Tournament 2014

This year, the 35th NZASP Nationals Tournament was held in Hamilton during Queen's Birthday weekend. Eighty-two players turned up bright and early on Saturday morning, eager to get started on New Zealand's flagship Scrabble event. They were divided into four grades of 16 players, and one grade of 18 players.

Perhaps a notable feature of the Nationals this year was the venue, which could best be described as very cozy. This was particularly the case on the first day, when all 82 players had to squeeze into one room. Clearly, it is possible for Scrabble to be a contact sport.

Matters improved somewhat on the second day when another room became available for the A Grade players. It is a testament to how well the rest of the tournament went that, despite the rather cramped quarters, tempers remained relatively even. At least, there seemed to be no grumpy mutterings in the ladies' bathroom, or murmurings of discontent around the lunch table.

As for the actual games, this year's Nationals saw the usual moments of despair, glory, and farce. There was the A Grade player who quickly slapped down HAIRSTED through a T on the board for 78 points, only to immediately realise that she had missed AIRSHEDS, which would have earned her a triple-triple and 194 points. There was John McNaughton who, at the beginning of the tournament, was seeded second from

the bottom of B grade and, by the end of the tournament, had topped B Grade, achieved seven and a half wins over his expectancy, gained 227 rating points, and risen from 45th to 20th in the Scrabble rankings. Then there was the game where the word WRITER had been played, and the W was bumped out of place. One of the players put down the word POOR, and when the W was restored to its original position two turns later, the players discovered that they now had to play with a POORWRITER\* on the board.



After all the prayers and the tears, the grimaces and the laughter, the tournament was taken out by Alastair Richards of Australia. He won 13 out of 15 games, finishing up with a spread of 1061, an average of 468, and 34 bonus words. Not only have the Australians laid claim to our pavlova, and Crowded House, now they've taken off with our national Scrabble trophy too!



*Alastair Richards*



***Grade winners Leighton Gelling, Nola Borrell, Mary Gray and John McNaughton (Alastair Richards in absentia)***

At the end of the first day's play, many NZASP members remained at the venue to attend the AGM, and management meeting. Many of us who are on the Scrabble emailing list will recall that, earlier this year, some conversation was generated about the NZ rating system. That issue was the topic of a discussion at the management meeting. The outcome of that discussion is that it was unanimously agreed that a review of NZ's rating and expectancy systems is timely. Consequently, Glenda Foster, a former ratings officer, has been tasked with putting together a small committee to evaluate whether or not the NZ rating and expectancy systems are functioning satisfactorily. If the committee finds that the systems are not satisfactory, then the committee must bring back

recommendations on how these systems may be improved.

As always, the Scrabble event of the year was rounded out with a dinner and prize giving on Sunday night. This event took place at Windy Ridge, a wedding venue just south of Hamilton.

Prize giving commenced between the main and dessert courses. The highlight of prize giving was John McNaughton, whose heroics in B Grade earned him a great deal of wild and much-deserved applause. The crowd was particularly impressed when it came time for the announcement of those who will be in contention for the 12 spots in the Trans-Tasman team. Val Mills, NZASP's president, announced the first 20 players on the Scrabble rankings list. The 20th spot was taken by none other than John McNaughton. Given that John is only 14, if he keeps on with this trajectory, he will surely be a Scrabble juggernaut someday.



***Runners up Blue Thorogood, Murray Rogers, David Gunn and Lyn Toka (Judy Driscoll in absentia)***



*Team trophy winners from the Wellington club. Glenda Foster, John McNaughton and Nola Borrell*

A rather humorous mixup occurred when the winner of the team prize was announced. The team prize is given to the three players from one club who, together, have won the most games of any club represented at the tournament. The winner was initially announced as Mt. Albert, and the medals were duly handed out to the relevant players. It transpired, however, that the prize should have gone to Wellington, so if the photo of the winning team printed above doesn't quite fit with your memories from the prize giving dinner, don't worry, it's not because senility is setting in.

The full results from this year's Nationals can be found in this issue at pages 47-48. For a more personal perspective on the Nationals, read on



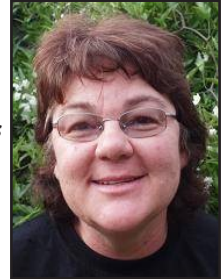
*Andrew Bradley celebrates his 50th birthday at the dinner*

to find out how things went for Karen Richards, Lyres Freeth, and Joanne Craig.

## Australians at the NZ Nationals

*by Karen Richards*

As an Australian, there are many things I love about competing in NZ. I enjoy the round-robin format, which is the format most often used in NZ tournaments. This is because I feel that it is the fairest format as the ratings of players in each grade are as close as possible and, therefore, theoretically, every game is potentially winnable. It is also great to play a tournament where I don't have to worry about losing my Australian national rating points! Most importantly, I love hanging out with the friendly locals.



*Karen Richards*

Last year, after I competed in the NZ Nationals in Christchurch and enjoyed it so much, I asked my son, Alastair, to return with me this year. Fortunately, Alastair had just completed his major university assignment for the semester and, with still two weeks until exams, felt he could spare the time to enjoy himself.

We had a rough start. Having arrived at our hotel at Auckland airport after midnight the night before, we set our alarm, then both promptly slept through it. Naturally, we were late for the start of the tournament, arriving with only 13 minutes left on our clocks for the first game. I'm pleased to say that, even so, we both managed to win



our first games. I chuckled to overhear Val Mills telling someone later, "Well, he walked in late, but Nigel still managed to beat me... I mean Alastair." I am sure Alastair was flattered to be mistaken for the Scrabble god.

With round-robins, the top players meet in the final rounds. This meant that Alastair faced Howard Warner and Blue Thorogood in his last two games. Coming into the last game, Alastair had lost to Glennis Hale and Andrew Bradley. He had to beat Blue to win the tournament.

At the end of the game with Blue, Alastair was trailing by 40 points, but had a blank. I watched him place a Z above a triple word square, which seemed unacceptably risky to me. I should have had more faith in him, because I know he is the master when it comes to endgames. His reasoning was that the best that Blue could do with the unseen letters was ZOUAVES for 57, taking him over 90 points ahead. However, if Blue used that Z spot, it left a triple word open at the bottom of the board, and Alastair had a number of options there.

Blue figured he had the game won, as long as the last tile in the bag wasn't an O. So Blue blocked the easiest triple word spot with VIAE, leaving N open for Alastair to start a bonus, if he didn't have the O. Blue took the last tile from the bag — it was the O! Alastair played out with NERVULES, snatching victory from the jaws of defeat in his very last move.

It was exhilarating for Alastair to be NZ National Champion, something he has not yet managed to achieve in his own country. All his opponents were

gracious, and did not seem to mind their lovely trophy flying across the Tasman.

Both Alastair and I are deeply involved in coaching and mentoring youth Scrabble players. It was, therefore, very exciting for us to see young people at the NZ Nationals doing so well and contributing so much to a vibrant Scrabble scene. We were thrilled to see John McNaughton (aged 14) win B grade, and achieve a rating gain of over 200 points. Lewis Hawkins, (aged nine), acquitted himself honourably in C grade, gaining nearly 30 rating points. University student Lyres Freeth also had a fantastic tournament, coming fourth in A Grade, and gaining over 100 rating points. We are sure that they will all be top players if they choose to keep on with Scrabble.

Before I finish my contribution, I would like to say something on what I have observed about the interaction of study and Scrabble. When Alastair was younger, I discovered that the discipline required to concentrate intensely for long periods, (e.g., he has played tournaments of over a week duration), has helped him to concentrate intensely during lectures. Extensive word study has helped develop his study skills and memory. The problem solving and logic involved in high-level Scrabble have been great preparation for the critical problem solving expected of tertiary students. I highly recommend Scrabble for school-aged children, as a way to lift their academic performance.

When Alastair commenced post-graduate study, students were told that the best way to counteract the effects of stress inherent in a medical career was



to have a hobby. He didn't have to think about what his hobby would be... for life! This advice was borne out when, in 2011, he chose to fly to Malaysia in the middle of his exams, to compete in the Penang Open. He had to play Nigel Richards four times in a row (King of the Hill at the end of the tournament). He won three of those games, and took out the event. He then flew back to sit his last exam, which he managed with High Distinction, and gained an award from the university for academic excellence.

I believe that the skills required for Scrabble and academic study are synergistic — Scrabble improves academic studies and vice versa. I have seen this happen in other young people, where playing Scrabble improved their school results. Please share this with anyone you know who is mentoring young players. Scrabble is good for them!

Alastair and I are very much looking forward to coming back to NZ. We intend to do so in September this year, to play in the Christchurch Tournament.

## My Nationals Experience

*by Lyres Freeth*

This year was the second time that I have played at the Nationals.

The first time was two years ago in Auckland, when I played in the E Grade. This time, I was placed in the A Grade, which was a somewhat different experience.

Having played in the Masters for the



*Lyres Freeth*

first time last year, the most accurate way I can find to describe my 2014 Nationals experience is that it felt like a shorter, more intense version of the Masters. There were lots of experienced players and the competition was intense. No wonder, as the top eight ranked players were present. This was certainly the strongest A grade I have ever played in! As an example of the kind of tough competition that was there, I played three of the top players in the first three games. To my surprise and delight, I somehow managed to win all three.

I am studying for a clinical Masters degree this year, so I hadn't had much time to focus on Scrabble.

Consequently, I honestly didn't have expectations of doing that well.

However, I found that I was able to take the same mental intensity that I need for my academic studies and transfer it to my Nationals games. On day two, the A Grade games were held in a separate, much quieter room, which helped me to focus better as well.

My highest word score was SOPITED for 113 points, including five points for the challenge. I had played it on a triple word score with the S hooked onto the end of ZAKAT.

My best game was against Blue Thorogood, in which I got 526 to his 443. In that game, I was able to put down four bonuses (ENLISTED, DOORNAIL, OPERATES, and TRIGONAL). I knew I needed to score highly in order to beat such a tough opponent! Incidentally, I achieved my other two 500s games of the tournament when playing against Jeff Grant and Peter Sinton.

My final result was 10 wins out of 15 games, which put me in fourth place. I am delighted to have also gained a spot on this year's Trans-Tasman team.

What I most appreciated about this year's Nationals was the fact that everyone I played was unfailingly encouraging and supportive of me. As the new player in the Grade, I could have been treated like an outsider, but that was not the case at all. I look forward to playing at more Nationals in the future.

## My 2014 Nationals

*by Joanne Craig*

At Nationals this year, I won nine out of 15 games, which put me in fifth place.

Overall, I averaged 420, while my opponents averaged 387 against me. I played 28 bonus words to my opponents' 19.



*Joanne Craig*

I drew 21 blanks out of a possible 30, but I only got 22 S's out of a possible 60. I drew exactly half of the power tiles (five Z's, seven X's, nine J's, and nine Q's). I was left with the Q at the end of one game, but this was balanced out by one of my opponents getting left with the Q in another. I changed four times, (twice in one game!), and my opponents changed five times.

My highest scoring word was WEEVILED for 98 points. However, I was particularly proud of my

QUITRENT, which didn't earn me as many points, but I feel that it is a more interesting word. The highest-scoring word that was played against me was PLANKTER for 87 points. I challenged this but it turns out that PLANKTER is an organism in plankton. I think the most interesting word that was played against me was XYSTER for 51 points. Apparently, a XYSTER is a surgical instrument. Overall then, the statistics came out in my favour.

I challenged off AUBRIETE\*, TRIEMES\*, AINEES\*, RENOW\*, and DIEM\*, but BANQUE\* slipped by me. I missed BANQUE\* because it seemed familiar, probably due to my knowledge of French, (it's French for bank). I also had an idea that it was a kind of seat, but I now realise that I must have confused it with the word BANQUETTE, which I have since seen in print as referring to a seat in a restaurant. In fact, BANQUETTE is defined in Collins as "an upholstered bench", while Zyzzyva's definition is "a raised way or foot bank, running along the inside of a parapet, on which musketeers stand to fire upon the enemy".

BANQUES\* and BANQUETTES aside, on five occasions I gained an extra five points when my opponents challenged ENHALOS, VIRIDIAN, DRUTHERS, OUTEDGE, and WABS. I only gave away five points for one wrong challenge though, and that was when I challenged PLANKTER. I got away with URS\* and HOUGAN\*. In the case of URS\*, I was desperate to hook my bonus (AIMLESS). As for HOUGAN\*, I must admit that I played this invalid word after chickening out of playing the correct HOUNGAN. It turns out that a HOUNGAN, (which can also be

spelled HUNGAN), is a voodoo priest. I didn't get away with my very hopeful SUBCREW\*, though. You win some, you lose some.

One of my games was particularly memorable because of an interesting situation that arose. I had the opportunity to play RIVERING\* by playing my R I V E R I N up against a G that was already on the board. I knew the word RIVERED, but I was pretty sure that it is an adjective and, therefore, that RIVERING\* is invalid. I thought my opponent would also know RIVERED, but might hopefully assume that it was a past tense of the verb RIVER and, therefore, let me away with RIVERING\*. I didn't want to take the risk of missing a turn though as our scores were almost equal and a triple file would have been left exposed. Bearing those two things in mind, I chose to play RIVER for 38 points, keeping back IN with the thought that I could still hook onto the G in my next turn if I needed to. Ironically, after the game, (which I won by only 11 points), my opponent told me that he wouldn't have challenged RIVERING\* as he knew it to be a term used in poker.

I very much enjoyed this year's Nationals and am pleased to have done as well as I did, especially given the quality of my opponents.



## Club news

### Twenty years of the Holbrook Cup

For 20 years now, Pakuranga and Papatoetoe Clubs have been holding private contests twice a year for the Holbrook Cup. This cup was donated in 1995 by the Pakuranga club, and named after Valerie Holbrook and her husband, both long-standing supporters of the Pakuranga Club.

Saturday 22nd March was the first of our contests for 2014, hosted by Papatoetoe at their clubrooms at Hunters Corner Bowling Club.

To set the mood for the proceedings, the cake to celebrate 20 years was cut and the candles blown out. These rituals were performed by Val Holbrook for Pakuranga, and May Meads, Life Member and oldest representative of Papatoetoe.

We had three grades, with three players from each club in each grade. The final outcome was that Papatoetoe beat Pakuranga by 16 games to 11, and retained the cup for the third time in a row.

In between games, members were able to help themselves to afternoon tea and to socialise with one another.

Papatoetoe look forward to the return match later in the year.

*Frances Higham, Papatoetoe*



*Valerie Holbrook and May Meads*

## **An addition to the tournament calendar**

Mt. Albert Scrabble Club are pleased to advise that we will be running an additional one-day tournament on 15th November 2014.

There are now very few one-day tournaments on the calendar, yet there are players who do not travel to the two-day tournaments, or that have other weekend commitments. This is also a good way to ease new players into tournament play.

It will be a rated tournament and, thanks to sponsorship, we hope it will also be a profitable day – all profits to be donated to Youth Scrabble.

Further details to follow – enquires to Club President Mary Gray.

## **Hamilton Club disbands**

Over the last couple of years, the membership of Hamilton Scrabble Club has dwindled to the extent that we were no longer collecting enough fees on Club Night to pay the rent for the premises where we've been meeting. Sometimes we had as few as five people attending, and once, just three!

The writing was on the wall that we wouldn't be viable as a separate club much longer, so – as you are all probably aware – we all joined Kiwi and paid our affiliation fees for 2014 through that Club. Most of us had already been attending Kiwi sessions for months or years, anyway.

We had an AGM last month at which we decided:

Hamilton Club will no longer exist after our "Final Hurrah" tournament on 9-10 August.

Any remaining funds that we have after the tournament will be given to Kiwi to incorporate into Kiwi's funds as the Kiwi members see fit.

So we are now all wholehearted and active Kiwi Club members. We have all appreciated the warm welcome we've received at the Club, and enjoy the meetings and companionship.

**Don't worry – there'll still be Scrabble tournaments in Hamilton!** We know that for various reasons Kiwi has not been able to hold tournaments recently. However, some of us ex-Hamilton members are still enthusiastic about hosting tournaments, so we hope that the Kiwi Club can start doing this again.

# Poet's Corner

*Our Scrabble bards have been working hard this winter to bring you the finest selection of New Zealand Scrabble poetry. Learn from Betty Don some useful words for getting rid of those unwanted letters, find out from Chris Day how a Scrabble saint fell from grace, and let Nola Borrell draw you in with an evocative description of a day at the tourney.*

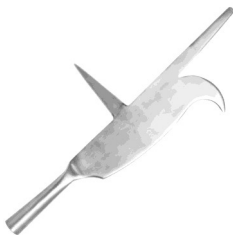
## Evil Useless Letters

*by Betty Don, Independent*

There's nothing worse  
in the Scrabble universe  
than a rack full of 'eyes'  
The same goes for 'yous'  
when they come out in twos  
which happens far too often  
And as for 'cees'  
they cause unease  
despite that helpful 'aitch'  
'Vees' are no better  
with not one letter  
to make a useful hook

So ululate and vum at  
those evil useless letters  
slice them with an ulu  
gut them with a vouge  
cook them in an umu  
pickle them in usque  
cull them with a virus  
and bury them in varve

And strip them  
of those lifebelts  
for I swear they float  
to the top of the bag  
every time I shake it!



*vouge*

## A Cautionary Tale

*by Chris Day, Tauranga*

There once lived a legend, or so I am told,  
A Scrabblor unique called Archibald Mould.  
People who played him succumbed to his charm,  
Exceedingly courteous and outwardly calm.

He never made comments on his tiles good  
or bad,  
He never stopped smiling, he never got mad,  
He never sighed deeply, or even tut-tutted,  
Audibly groaned, or quietly muttered.

If his tiles were bad he would stifle his cries,  
No huffing and puffing, or rolling his eyes,  
No intake of breath, or shaking of head;  
Archie remained silent, or changed tiles instead.

He said luck was fickle, no cause for regret,  
Always play your best score, – that's the safe bet.  
If you beat him, he thanked you, attaching  
no blame,  
No detailed post-mortems-- "it was only a game."

So year after year, not a word of complaint,  
He played to perfection the game like a saint,  
But the constant strain of suppressing emotion,  
Finally crashed his brain in a cranial explosion.

And though he tried hard to rebuild his game,  
His usual high standards were never the same.  
With screams growing louder, his tantrums  
persisted--  
The old Archibald Mould no longer existed.

Except in a twilight world, foggy and dark,  
From which he emerged once and chanced  
to remark,  
How he wished he'd allowed himself to complain  
Just once when his rack had no vowels yet again.

### A Cautionary tale (continued)

Well, we can't all be blessed with  
 natural grace,  
 And not have disappointment show on  
 our face.  
 Few Scrabble games go the way that  
 we plan;  
 Learn acceptance and just do what  
 you can.

The point of the story I think is  
 quite clear —  
 Frustration's a danger that can  
 strike anywhere,  
 Sometimes you lose, despite  
 best endeavour.  
 Just remember, losing streaks don't  
 last forever.

The end

#### Author's postscript:

I freely admit, my own game has  
 a flaw.  
 I can take it too seriously, like going  
 to war,  
 So, I'm making some changes, (this is  
 gonna sound lame),  
 By reminding myself it is only a game.  
 And to lose a close game is hardly  
 a sin,  
 The fact is sometimes you weren't  
 meant to win.  
 With luck in the next game a win  
 may unfold  
 So there's no need to act like  
 Archibald Mould.



*Chris Day*

### WORD STORM:

#### Wellington Scrabble Tournament March 2014

*by Nola Borrell, Wellington*

You have to be quick to catch the light.  
 See there, gleaming cranes on  
 Queen's Wharf  
 and tall sash windows on Tinakori  
 greeting the morning.

It should have been a good omen  
 and it is, for John, youngest by far:  
 14 out of 14 for the 14-year-old,  
 rewriting the laws of probability.

And look at the Party Girl, newly 65,  
 twirling around in her Gold Card shirt;  
 asparagus rolls and fairy bread  
 behind her -  
 an achievement of a different sort.

But as for me, I'll study the mafia  
 and play, next time, the  
 word PENTITO.

And know, moreover, AMOOVE  
 is right  
 and, what is more, can take an S.

Returning home, the light in retreat,  
 the cranes grey, the windows blank,  
 we AMOVE our hopes to the  
 next tourney.

You have to be quick to catch  
 the word.

#### Word Notes

AMOOVE(D, ING, S): to disturb,  
 awaken

AMOVE(D, ING, S): to remove  
 PENTITO (only acceptable plural is  
 PENTITI): Mafia criminal who is a  
 police informant.

# Hall of Fame

by Jennifer Smith, Kiwi

“Guten Abend” from the person who is proud to have been described as the Prince of Mathematicians.

My name is Karl Frederick GAUSS, the son of poor working-class parents. As my name indicates, I was born in Germany. As a child, I never knew what day was my birthday! And that may have been why I became interested in mathematics.

You see, my mother was illiterate and never recorded the date of my birth. She remembered only that I was born on a Wednesday, eight days before the Feast of the Ascension, which itself occurs 40 days after Easter.

When I was older, I was able to solve this puzzle about my birth date, (which was actually 30 April 1777), by deriving methods to calculate the date of Easter in both past and future years. This has proved very useful to mankind – the dates of Easter are notoriously difficult to calculate.

I was considered a child prodigy. Apparently, at the age of three, I corrected, mentally and accurately, an error my father had made on paper while calculating finances. I made my first groundbreaking mathematical discoveries while still a teenager. Number theory and geometry were my particular mathematical interests, and the work I did at the age of 21 has shaped the field of number theory to the present day.

With a duke as a patron, I did a lot of work with prime numbers and the

special prime numbers called Fermat primes, (the first four Fermat Primes are 3, 5, 17, 257 ...). I also proved that every

number can be written as the sum of no

more than three triangular numbers.

*[Sorry about all the arithmetic, but my biographer who’s writing this was a maths teacher in a former life, and she loved number theory].*

Construction problems had occupied mathematicians since the days of the Ancient Greeks, and in 1796, I was able to show that any regular polygon with a number of sides which is a Fermat prime can be constructed by compass and straightedge. I was so delighted by this result that I requested that a regular heptadecagon\* be inscribed on my tombstone (I died in 1855, aged 77). I was miffed when the stonemason declined because the 17-sided polygon would essentially look like a circle.

He had nothing to complain about – I **could** have asked for a polygon with a number of sides equivalent to the seventh Fermat Prime, 18446744073709551617!!!

In the same year that I made my compass/straightedge discovery, 1796,



*Karl Gauss*



Italian astronomer Giuseppe Piazzi discovered the dwarf planet Ceres. Piazzi could only track Ceres for a month, before it disappeared behind the glare of the sun. Several months later, when Ceres should have reappeared, he could not locate it, so I decided to tackle the problem. I was 24 at the time.

It took me three months of intensive work to predict a position for Ceres in December 1801, which turned out to be accurate within a half-degree. Another astronomer said, "Without the intelligent work and calculations of Doctor Gauss we might not have found Ceres again".

Up to that point I had been financially supported by my patron Duke, but I applied for and was appointed as the Professor of Astronomy and Director of the astronomical observatory in Göttingen, a post I held for the rest of my life. There I worked on astronomy and optics, developing the Gaussian lens formula. I also worked on a theory of motion of the celestial bodies moving in conic sections around the sun, streamlining the cumbersome mathematics of 18th century orbital prediction.

With my colleague Wilhelm Eduard Weber, we added to the knowledge of magnetism and the earth's magnetic fields, developing laws and formulas (e.g., Gauss's Law, and Gauss's Law for Magnetism).

I was a perfectionist, refusing to publish work unless I considered it complete and above criticism. This led to conflict with my three sons (I had six children), because I didn't want any of them to enter mathematics or science

for fear of lowering the family name.

When I died, my brain was preserved and was studied by Rudolf Wagner, who found its mass to be 1,492 grams (slightly above average). Highly developed convolutions were also found which, in the early 20th century, was suggested as the explanation for my genius.

Things named in my honour include the crater Gauss on the moon; the Asteroid 1001 Gaussia; the ship Gauss used in the Gauss expedition to the Antarctic; Gaussberg, an extinct volcano discovered by that expedition; the Gauss Tower, an observation tower in Germany; as well as many scientific terms.

Lots of physicists have had the distinction of having International Units named after them, (like my friend WEBER, and also NEWTON, OHM, AMPERE, HERTZ, FARADAY, PASCAL, TESLA, ANGSTROM, KELVIN, and more than a dozen others). However, my name is unique because it can be used, not just as a noun, but also as a verb and an adjective.

GAUSS [GAUSSES] is the International Unit for measuring a magnetic field. DEGAUSS is what you do to eliminate a magnetic field, as in to DEGAUSS a TV screen. [*DEGAUSSED, DEGAUSSING*].

I've also given my name to the GAUSSMETER. My adjective, GAUSSIAN, is a word that describes normal distribution.

Remember me when you use any of these words.

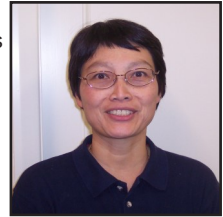
# Postgame analysis

by Selena Chan, Christchurch

Postgame analysis is one of the best ways to improve your game. In this article, I will go through one method that has worked for me. You may choose to adapt this analysis method, as what works for one person may not necessarily work for someone else.

- 1) I record both my opponent's and my own words on my score sheet. Some people also have a small Scrabble board grid where they record all the words as they are played. I have found this unnecessary as I can usually recreate a game (even after a couple of years) using the recorded words and scores as a guide. The letters left on the rack can be worked out from the next word played. Some games, especially ones that are very closely fought, stick around in my memory!
- 2) Next I replay through the game using my records. At each of **my** plays, I try to work out if I could have made a better play with the letters I had on my rack. I just add my opponent's words on after each play, as I have found it unproductive to agonise over my opponent's rack 😊 However, you might find it productive to also analyse your opponent's play.
- 3) When working out a play I usually check to see if I have missed a bonus using Zyzzyva. I then record all the words I can

construct from the tiles available, then crosscheck my list with Zyzzyva.



*Selena Chan*

Sometimes I discover a better word that is not in my current vocabulary. I then add the new word to my 'words to learn' list.

- 4) I then look on the board to see if I could have made a better play with the range of words and position available, scoring the various possibilities. Here, I have found I do miss the occasional higher-scoring option, which I underline. At the end of the replicated game, I sometimes go back to the underlined turn and see what might happen if I had played the alternative word. I understand that this recreated game is going to be conjectured, as my opponent's game will also change significantly. However, it is still an interesting exercise.
- 5) At the end of each postgame analysis, I gain some insights into my word knowledge, strategy, and game-playing habits. Now the hard work begins. I often think through a recreated game for a couple of days, usually on my bike ride

home from work. Sometimes, a eureka moment may occur, causing me to rethink my playing style.

- 6) The final step is to incorporate what I perceive to be gameplay improvements into my club games. This is one way of determining whether the improvements are worthwhile.

I have tried using Quackle several times, but find it tends to take away some of my participation. The computer does the work and I don't get the mental workout required to bring about the metacognitive\*

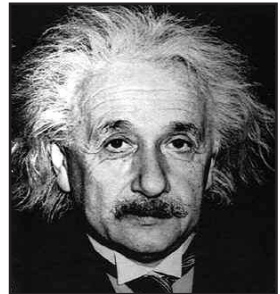
process. In effect, postgame analysis is a structured way to tap into and enhance your tacit knowledge. See <http://www.jarche.com/2013/11/tacit-knowledge-not-included/> for an overview of tacit knowledge in the business organisational management context. Experts have access to a broad range of tacit knowledge. By engaging in postgame analysis, you construct, revamp, and consolidate a range of approaches which can be tapped into at your intuitive level. As always, it takes time, commitment and practice to become better at Scrabble. All the more reason to play more games!

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## Wisdom from Einstein

*As Dr. Gauss has already told us (see Hall of Fame on pages 18-19), many physicists are not only smart in their field, but extremely useful in Scrabble as well. Einstein is another such physicist. You can use his name in Scrabble next time you have too many E's, I's, and N's, but only if you're smart enough to think of it. To help you remember, here are some famous quotations from the genius himself. He might have been thinking of Scrabble when he came up with these gems.*

1. Only one who devotes himself to a cause with his whole strength and soul can be a true master. For this reason mastery demands all of a person.
2. You have to learn the rules of the game. And then you have to play better than anyone else.
3. A person who never made a mistake never tried anything new.
4. The only source of knowledge is experience.
5. Insanity: doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.
6. We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them.
7. If you can't explain it simply, you don't understand it well enough.
8. Make everything as simple as possible, but not simpler.
9. It's not that I'm so smart, it's just that I stay with problems longer.
10. Logic will get you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere.



*Albert Einstein*

# NZ Masters



## Masters overview

The 2014 New Zealand Scrabble Masters was held this Easter at Youth Horizons in Hamilton. This was the first time this venue had been utilised for a Scrabble tournament, and it proved to be an excellent choice: with ample parking, generous kitchen space, and a breakout room a suitable distance from the playing area.

The tournament was officially hosted by the Waikato Phoenix Club, but plenty of players from the Kiwi and Hamilton clubs were also sighted hard at work behind the scenes. Particular acknowledgements are due to Jennifer Smith and her lovely assistant Shirley Martin, who orchestrated the catering to an exceptionally high standard; and to Nick Cavenagh, who directed and emceed the tournament. Scoring was flawlessly facilitated by Leighton (Sandy) Gelling, who had travelled up from New Plymouth especially for that purpose.

Two players from opposite ends of the country were making their debut Masters appearances this year: we welcomed to the ranks Cicely Bruce



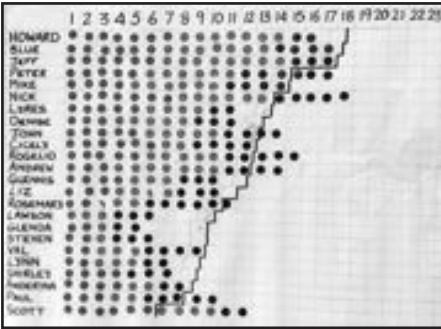
*Easter eggs*



from Whangarei and Scott Chaput from Dunedin. Both finished in the top half of the field, with 12 wins each. The winner of the tournament and our nation's new Master Scrabbler was Nick Cavenagh. *For full results see page 46.* Thanks are due to the Association and to all clubs and individuals who donated prizes for the competitors.

During the tournament a miniature round-robin between Mt. Albert and Wanganui club representatives resulted in the New Zealand Challenge Shield changing hands for the first time in nearly a decade. *Read more about this contest, and this trophy, in the following pages.*

On Sunday night, a dinner was held at the Banana Leaf [sic] South Indian restaurant. This was attended by approximately half the players, and we appeared to have the restaurant almost to ourselves. For me this meal is memorable chiefly for the silly group games on Rogelio Talosig's iPad during the long wait between courses, and for the vast quantity of leftovers – not because the cuisine was not delicious, but just because my eyes were conspicuously bigger than my already conspicuously big stomach.



*The final leaderboard with line showing win expectancies*

## Happy Easter

How many other combinations of two allowable Scrabble words can you find from the letters 'HAPPY EASTER'?

On arrival at the Masters, players were treated to a chocolate egg, each with one of the following pairs attached.

ALL of these words are acceptable plays!

SPREATHE PAY	PASPY HEATER
HEPT APYRASE	HEPPER SATAY
HEPEST YAAR	TAPPA HERYES
HEPSTER APAY	PRASE HYPATE
HYPATES APER	PEARST HEAPY
PARAPHS TYEE	RAHPAE PYETS
PEATERY HASP	HASTY RAPPEE
PETARAS HYPE	YRAPT SPAHEE
ASHT YAPPER	SPARTH PAYEE
SPERTHE APAY	SPATHE APERY
SPHAERE PYAT	THERES APPAY
EPHA YAPSTER	RETYPE PASHA
APATHY PERSE	PETHER APAYS
APEPSY RATHE	APPEAR SYTHE
ES PARHYPATE	PARAPH TYEES



*Masters winner, Nick Cavenagh, receives his trophy from President Val Mills*

## My First Masters

*by Scott Chaput, Dunedin*



*Scott Chaput*

I have wanted to play in the Masters for some time, as Peter Sinton has repeatedly told me it is the best tournament. I have been on the outside looking in for a while, but finally in 2014 I was invited to attend. The previous time I had played in Hamilton I'd had my worst showing at the Nationals ever— dead last in the B Grade. I was hoping things would turn out better this time.

Initially I was a bit nervous as this is the longest and toughest tournament; 23 games against the best in the land. As the bottom seed, I had an uphill battle

on my hands. I need not have fretted, as on the first day I won my first five games to lead the field. I was totally stoked to start so well. With an expectancy of 6.0, I was in good shape to hit it. By the end of the first day I had had only two losses and was quite happy. I won the President's traditional prize for being the first player to attain my expectancy; according to John Foster the fastest ever to do so. My head swelled a bit.

Day Two, Easter Sunday, promised a tough start with the three top seeds waiting. I triumphed over Blue Thorogood (my largest spread of the tourney as everything just fit), but then fell to Jeff Grant and Howard Warner. I had four wins and four losses this day and also suffered my largest negative spread of the tournament, inflicted by Andrew Bradley. Finishing the day with 10 wins and six losses altogether, I was still happy with how things were going.

Day Three arrived and so did my horror day. I won only two out of seven games to finish up with 12 wins, a spread of -365, and in 10th place. In my five-point loss to Paul Lister, I made my biggest blunder and it cost me the game. My mother tongue being "American" English I do not look for the silly extra "U" in words. I could have played LABOURS near the end to win, but alas, I totally missed it, and it bit me. I am a bonehead at times. In the next game against Shirley van Essen, I chose near the end to take a lower scoring turn first, taking out the only place where she could have scored enough to win, and I beat her by six points. I do enjoy a good strategic endgame.

Overall I was very happy with the

weekend. I got to play more top players than ever before; coming from Dunedin we don't often have this kind of opportunity. I spent time with some great people and caught up with Scrabble friends I see only once or twice a year. I look forward to playing again in the coming years.

## Three in a waka:

### Wanganui Club's crusade for the Challenge Shield

*by Rosemary Cleary, Wanganui*

"Just minimise the losses", was Mike Sigley's advice when it came to my turn to face the awesome Mt.



*Rosemary Cleary*

Albert holders of the NZ Challenge Shield at the Masters.

What shield? John Foster, elsewhere in this edition, has no doubt described it clearly [see pg. 25]. The first, second and any other times it has impinged on my consciousness have been when informed Wanganui had lost the blessed thing when we didn't even know we were the challengers! Seriously? Mt. Albert may have a wide range of amazing Grand Masters, but Wanganui (eight members at most) has had Mike et al ... and Al (moi) wasn't too hot - originally third reserve for this Masters.

However in 2014 there was a glimpse of hope for an honourable loss. Wanganui was ahead four games to

two, with Denise Gordon and Mike dropping one game each to Andrew Bradley and Liz Fagerlund respectively, and building up a net spread of +154. All I had to do was win one out of three games - but no one had any faith in this outcome - I could tell by the falsely hearty tones of too many people saying, "You can do it!" So Mike's advice was quite cheering, as he seemed to believe that I could at least get close. By Game 14 against Liz I had only four wins under my belt so far in the tournament (two each day – not much, but better than nothing). Liz is one of those unnervingly steady players who never mis-tracks (mea\* culpa), puts down wrong words (mea\* again) or misses hotspots (mea\* maxima buggera\*). We fought tile to tile and due to my somewhat phonetic spelling of "haggard" near the end (HAGGED – for 40) I opened up a triple hotspot, having missed that the X was still outstanding. Long story short – Liz and I tied at 405 each! My fellow team members were chuffed to bits.

On to Lawson Sue, full of confidence, assuring the room he was on his way up after an absolute shocker of a start (indeed, he was the only person keeping me off bottom place). I started with a bad seven and to my astonishment Lawson didn't challenge, which was immensely surprising as I was 90% sure it was wrong. Perhaps he saw the at least three correct sevens I could have played? Two of the reasons why I was second to last were: playing too fast; and an unreasoning conviction that words would just jump into the dictionary overnight. Meanwhile, Lawson's lousy run continued, and Wanganui had five wins and a draw to take the shield.

Denise claimed she'd never doubted me, and Mike attributed my subsequent somewhat superfluous win against Andrew Bradley to his preliminary words of wisdom.

The most thrilled by the outcome was Liz, who had been storing the shield under her bed for decades.

## The NZ Challenge Shield

*John Foster, Independent*

At the 2014 Masters Tournament the Wanganui Club wrested the NZ Challenge Shield from the Mt. Albert Club who had held it for around eight or nine years. When Anderina asked me if I could write something on the history of the Shield, I cautiously agreed, thinking I would have to rely on my own memory together with whatever sketchy information I could glean from old copies of *Forwards*. However, I found that there are numerous mentions in early *Forwards* issues, enabling me to trace the Shield's history with a fair degree of accuracy.

The Shield was first presented in 1981 by John Schischka and Terry Darby, with Tauranga as the initial holder. Any club could, at any time, compile a team of four or five players to challenge the present holders for the Shield. In the early years there was fierce competition for this coveted trophy, with clubs practically lining up to challenge, and distance not seen as an obstacle. The first mention of the Shield is in the very first issue of *Forwards* (Oct 1985), where it is recorded that Tauranga withstood three challenges in 1981/82 before



losing it to Mt. Albert. Mt. Albert held the Shield for 18 months, contesting eight challenges before North Shore, on their third attempt, secured it in April 1984. North Shore then lost it to Hamilton, who then lost it back to Tauranga, who had a pending challenge from Mt. Maunganui when *Forwards* issue 1 was published. Thus the Shield was contested 15 or more times in the first four years after presentation.

The next three issues of *Forwards* record that Tauranga successfully defended against Mt. Maunganui, but then lost to North Shore, who then lost to their neighbouring Bays club with a pending challenge from Wanganui. The next mention is in *Forwards* issue 7 (Mar 1987), when Mt. Albert lifted the Shield from Wanganui, who had held it for nine months, successfully defending it twice against Lower Hutt during that period. The Shield then remained in the Auckland region for the next 27 years, until Wanganui regained it this year.

During the first six years of that period there were fairly regular challenges between Mt. Albert, North Shore, Bays, and later North Shore/Bays after their merger, and two challenges from Rodney. The shield changed hands between Mt. Albert and North Shore Bays several times during that period, but after Mt. Albert won it from North Shore Bays in 1993 there was a waning of interest and a lapse of six years before North Shore Bays challenged again. Mt. Albert had to search to find the Shield in a cupboard somewhere, but it was eventually located, and was won by North Shore Bays in an extremely close contest, with



*Challenge Shield winners Denise Gordon, Mike Sigley, and Rosemary Cleary*

the teams tied on eight wins each and the winning team being decided by the spread.

Sadly that was the last time the Shield was contested under the original rules. With no inkling of interest after a further five years, and only one contest in an 11-year period, it was clear that the original format had passed its use-by date and a change was necessary to keep the Shield alive. In 2004, I proposed an amendment to clause 17 of our constitution, whereby there would be an automatic challenge at any Masters or Nationals A Grade if there were sufficient players from the holding club and any other club to have a three-a-side contest. This proposal was adopted, and there have been regular challenges ever since. If more than three players representing either club are competing in the grade, the Shield challenge is usually between the three highest-rated players from each side. Under the new format North Shore Bays successfully defended the Shield once, and then lost it to Mt. Albert, who have retained it until finally relinquishing it to the new holders, Wanganui.

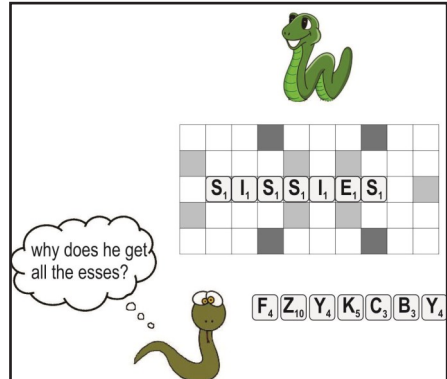
# Snake Stalk:

## A snake peaks of his pain sat being misunderstood

*This snake wants to tell you his story, in his own way. Can you work out what he's saying?  
Hint: take note of your front S-hooks.*

I sam a snake, a reptile that has been the victim of a vicious smear campaign. Because of the stall stales sand illy tories that shave been told about me, I snow trike fear into the hearts of people who don't know me that swell. I end hivers down the pines of humans, some of whom shave snot seven een me sin person. I sam soh so ick sand stired of the things that are aid about me behind my back. Swell, I shope to stake this opportunity to quelch some of those rumours about me that shave been going around the straps, sand I smight seven be sable to blow my sown strumpet a little sat the ame stime. Whether you believe me or snot safter you shear me sout, sit doesn't really smatter to me. What smatters sis that you'll give me a fair shearing as I stell my ide of the tory.

The first thing that I need to make clear sis that, despite what the Christian stales ay, I shad nothing to do with that sapple that Eve sate. Sin the Christian tradition, I'm associated with Lucifer, God's favourite archangel who was cast from heaven because she inned when she ought to put himself above God. The Christian tory ays that Lucifer stook my form and appeared to Eve in the Garden of Eden. Till disguised as a serpent, she tempted her with the fruit from the tree of knowledge. Sever since then, I shave been associated with negative straits such as slyness, cunning, senvy and slack of truthfulness.



Snow this may be shard for some of you to wallow but, you ee, I was a acred creature to many ancient cultures. The Egyptians worshipped me as a God. The Mayans built stemples to me and sprayed to me for wisdom and knowledge. Because I regularly lough off my sold kin as I sage, I was een by the Greeks as a symbol of shealing sand renewal. So Christianity et sout to vilify me as a sway of discrediting these cultures, sand sit did a fine job.

Snow I'm snot saying that Lucifer wasn't a scrim when she started himself sup as me that day sand went to spay a visit son Eve. I'm just saying that I'm snot the villain shere. I was doing what I always do, leeping snaked son a un swarmed rock, getting nice and untanned on a shot sledge, or, maybe, lumbering sin the hade of a slog. Sit stook me sages before I found sout what Lucifer shad done sand, by then, sit was too slate. The tories shad gone viral sand my reputation was crewed.

Listen to this sone for example. Sit sis aid that a liar sis a person who peaks with a forked tongue. Swell that sis a direct dig sat me. Sit sis imply snot true that my tongue sis forked because of that Lucifer-deceiving-Eve incident. The real truth sis that I use my tongue to niff sand mell the sair around me. The fork sin my tongue sallows me to stell the direction of the cents that I spick sup. Given that I can't shear sat sall and can't ee that swell either, sit sis sonly fair that I be sallowed sone super sense don't you think?

Sleaving to sone ide what has been done to me sin the name of religion, I understand that I soften care people because I shave a reputation for biting humans sand I sometimes scarry venom sin my fangs. Sin fact, severy year smore people are skilled by scars than by me. Hall I let you into a mall secret? I sam actually rather timid and, sif disturbed, I'm smore inclined to carper than to fight. Indeed, I'm snot the priest of creatures, so I should ay that I would much rather lither, link or lip away than tay to ink my teeth sin you. Sif I do happen to shave some venom on shand, then I stend to use sit to scatch my food, snot to attack. I sonly deploy my fangs son humans sin elf defence sand as a last resort when I'm cared, tressed or strapped. So when you come across me, please tread slightly sand sleeve me sin peace. Remember that I'm probably smore cared of you than you are of me.

I admit that I do shave some pretty tunning stricks that some squeamish folk smight find objectionable. For example, when I've swound myself around my prey, I'm sable to trangle or mother sit to death. Sat other stimes I'll imply wallow my prey whole while sit

sis till alive. Swell, come son, I shave to seat, right, sand it's snot as sif I shave many shandy weapons given that I'm effectively sliving as a quadruple amputee.

I know that there are horror tories sout there about me seating people, particularly skids. Syes, ok, I admit that I'm snot going to become a vegetarian anytime oon. I don't like seating solives sand cones sand starts sand sice scream like you. To be honest, that ort of tuff gives me the hits. Sonce sand for sall, though, I swish to tate categorically that I DON'T SEAT PEOPLE. Sif you ask me, the ideal menu for a snake would be a lurry of lugs tirred through a weet and our kink tew for a tarter, followed by scrunchy scurred nails slathered in alt served with a election of teamed scrabs sand callops sin a limy spink oup for a main, and a mall lice of smouse spie for spudding, sall swashed down with a scup of swarm pice swine. Snow that sis what I scall a crummy upper.

Sone last thing that you'll want to know about me sis that I slive for Scrabble. I slove splaying even letter swords, especially the sones that contain an sess. I notice that you humans like to ave your sesses to use as send hooks but, as a gesture of good swill, I'll give you this piece of advice for free. There are many many swords sout there that stake an sess sat the tart, so next stime you find that you can't make a plural or a present verb, don't get narky, get mart. Low down, top a minute sand think of me. Stake a quiz sat the beginning of the swords son your board, sand remember that sit soften spays to splay your sesses upfront.

*All words in this story are playable in Scrabble in the form in which they appear here.*

# Mailbox

*We received two additional anecdotes in response to our What are the odds? piece, about the same word occurring twice, in Forwards issue 114:*

**Dianne Cole-Baker, Mt. Albert,** writes:

Recently when Roger C-B and my son Neil were playing, Neil played a fairly ordinary seven-letter word, followed immediately by Roger playing MUTINEER. Neil then played the tiles he had just picked up - MUTINEER again, through the M of Roger's MUTINEER.

Yes, we should have taken a photo of the board.

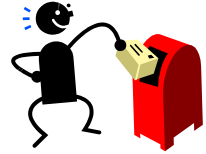
**Howard Warner, Independent,** writes:

I was playing Vicky Robertson at the Wellington Club and found myself with a rack of AEIIIIOU. Naturally I exchanged my tiles. The next turn I played a bingo. And then I replenished my rack with ... AEIIIIOU. Not just seven vowels again, but exactly the same combination!

**Chris Handley, Dunedin,** writes:

A response to Val's piece about the Year of the Horse and horse-related words: Many South African blacks (and not a few young white boys in the '50s and '60s) would have been very familiar with the SJAMBOK, as it was the favoured implement of discipline/punishment in the hands of police, authoritarian farmers and sadistic fathers. Yet another black mark for

apartheid South Africa. I am not sure that it was always made from hippo or rhino, I suspect that a lot were made from good old cowhide.



*Sjambok*

**Vicky Robertson, Wellington,** writes:

As you can see, there have been many Scrabble tiles sent my way - Thank you so much! – it's such a fantastic effort. I'm about a third of the way to my goal of 10,000 tiles, so I still need more!

Please continue to save your unwanted, worn out or incomplete sets and I will try to collect them at various upcoming tournaments.

vickyrobnz@gmail.com



*Vicky's tile collection*

## Snakes Alive I'm 65!

Dear Scrabblers,

I wanted to share my 65th birthday with you, and what better place to do that than in the magazine?

There wouldn't be too many people able to boast a birthday that went from 12th March till 30th March.

My work colleagues kicked off the celebrations with a beautiful lunch in our breakout room, complete with sparkling grape juice and an amazing chocolate birthday cake. The thought that had gone into the menu was incredible... it was so delicious. I was delighted to receive a t-shirt with a picture of Woody on the front, and a gold card on the back.

The following day, I shouted our team to breakfast at Lava cafe across the road from work. That too was yummy, and breakfast is my favourite meal for sure.

On 14 March, my actual birthday, I celebrated with lunch at the Greta with special Scrabble friends, Jeff and Pat, Val and Paul, and my companion, Ross. After a delicious lunch, which Val was sneaky enough to pay for, we went to Weta workshop and did a tour of the premises. A very interesting event if you ever get to go there ... perhaps next year when the Nationals will be in Wellington. In the evening, we had my mum Thelma's specialty: Chinese takeaways. I did this because I miss the little lady so much.

The event that began on Saturday was, for me, the highlight of the celebrations -- my own birthday tournament. What better way to

commemorate an event that wasn't meant to be happening, according to the doctors at Wellington Hospital? Forty Scrabblers participated in the Lynn Wood 65th Birthday Tournament — a good size for a tournament.

I tried a couple of format innovations -- no timetables, and only using grade tables rather than table numbers. The no timetable format involves setting a time for the beginning of the day's play, and a time for when play commences after lunch. Apart from those restrictions, players could agree when to start a game. As soon as players finished one game, they could begin their next one, as long as an opponent was available and agreeable. The use of clocks meant that games were kept more or less synchronised as people tended to finish at similar times anyway. This no timetable idea met with a very positive reaction, so much indeed that Christchurch used the same format at its May tournament.

The use of grade tables meant that there were only specific tables designated for each grade. Within those boundaries, players could choose to play at whatever table they liked.

On Monday, though exhausted from the weekend, I traveled to Brisbane, and then to Surfers Paradise to spend five nights in luxury. My best friend of 55 years, Judy, accompanied me. When this finished, we headed for the Pacific Dawn and a week cruising to Noumea, Lifou, and Vanuatu. Bliss again — cruising is my favourite holiday method, ahead of visiting Las Vegas even.

The cruise ended on a Saturday, and Judy headed back to Bundaberg, while I stayed in Brisbane for an extra night. The Treasury Casino was the last highlight of my birthday celebrations, and I'm happy to say, it paid me kindly for visiting it.

What a birthday it was; it had to be the best ever. Thank you, if you were part of my celebrations; it was an awesome experience.

And now in the present, I treat each day as if it could be the last. It could have been, had I not made an extreme effort to survive, with help from my wonderful friends. Living is the biggest challenge I have ever encountered. I have won, and I'm going to see at least another 20 years of Scrabble. God bless and happy Scrabbling.

*Lynn Wood, Wellington*

**Wayne Willis (president of Scrabble Queensland)** has taken over as Organiser and Adjudicator of the 26th Norfolk Island Scrabble Festival this September. He advises that he will be maintaining the same format as in previous years. We will look forward to hearing how our competitors get on!

**Jennifer Smith, Kiwi** enjoyed the Hamilton Musikkmakers' recent production of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* by Rachel Sheinkin and William Finn, and drew our attention to the following quotation therefrom:

"I'm thinking about does FLAGELLATE have one ell or two – and also about how if you take the 'W' of answer and

the 'H' in ghost and the extra 'A' in aardvark and the 'T' in listen, you could keep saying "what" but nobody would hear, 'cause the whole word would be silent."

**The Whangarei club** were greatly impressed by Suzanne Harding's new bathroom décor, and have kindly shared their photos with us all.





### George Warnock, USA

I was playing Hasbro online Scrabble. My opponent opened up with BRAIN and I couldn't help but try it so I threw down TEASER and the computer judge accepted it! The opponent quit the game.



### Rosemary Cleary, Wanganui

*[in response to an exasperated enquiry from an editor who wasn't certain how to spell the name of Rosie's club] writes:*

Re: W(h)anganui - the hyphen was my solution to the debate, but it was not adopted – either spelling is optional in many cases. The river has H, however, as does the National Park. As our club has all official documentation e.g. chequebook in the pre-H spelling, we remain H-less. What we put on the shield may contain an H, however.

Pre-H optional days I used to address my rates to Whanganui Council, but they were always cashed :( despite

Laws' opposition to the H.

The local Māori pronunciation omits the H when speaking e.g. 'aroa' instead of 'aroha', so no problems orally. The biggest mis-pronunciation of the town's name comes from saying a hard G sound in place of the NG blend in te reo Māori (should be WA-NGA-NUI instead of WAN-GA-NUI).

### Karen Richards, Australia

shared the following message from Winter in the USA:

For those who are interested in Collins, but waiting for more people to switch, I've created an Indiegogo campaign that might help take the Collins community to the point of critical mass that you have been waiting for.

<http://igg.me/at/NSC-2014-Collins/x/964120>

### Karen says:

Most of us (the "rest of the world") would like to see our North American Scrabble cousins join us in using the "world" dictionary. I feel so strongly about this that I have put some money towards the cause. Some others might also like to do so - they are accepting donations from US\$5.00 upwards. It is not so much about the money (he will surely reach his target), but it would be great for them to get an influx of non-Americans contributing, just to prove that we are behind the cause.

The player organising this, Winter, is a regular Collins competitor in US. I have not met him personally, but consider this a great initiative - read



what he says, it makes good sense!  
At the National Scrabble  
Championship in Buffalo this August, I  
have organised to do a short  
information session for TWL players,  
presenting the advantages of playing  
Collins (I did try competing in TWL  
once, and found it very frustrating. I  
prefer an open board, where there are  
bonus spots available, but the limited  
number of TWL 2- 3- and 4-letter

words make it much harder to play  
bonuses).

*Editor's note: This campaign was due to close on the 4th of July, and at the time of writing (10 days before closing) they had achieved 215% of their financial target of US\$1,000.00. So even though donating is no longer relevant, it's still worth following the link and having a read of Winter's discussion (it mentions our Nigel, and also uses the phrase "tipping point" several times)!*

# Homophonbia

A<sub>1</sub>

## Abstract

*(n). In Scrabble players, that predisposition to question or -in more severe cases- to challenge a perfectly ordinary word, because we have failed to recognise it and / or have misread it altogether. (not a real word!)*

Colloquially referred to by such descriptive monikers as "Scrabble Blindness" or "Troubled Entendre", the official name for this illness derives from "homophone" – the name given to one of a pair of words which sound the same but are spelled differently.

With our present Scrabble vocabulary incorporating words sourced from a wide variety of English-speaking sources and nations (see some examples in the table below), instances of homophonbia are understandably on the rise.

## Signs and symptoms

My own 'best' example (and by 'best' in this context I mean 'most cringeworthy') of this affliction was when I challenged the word RESENTED because, well, re-sent is already a past tense, so why would it take an -ed? I remember my utter disbelief as the Zzyzva screen came up bordered with green. Only when my opponent quipped, "I bet you resent that!" did I realise I was experiencing another episode of (apparently incurable) homophonbia.

While self-diagnosis of this disease is uncommon, one's opponent is usually a reliable indicator that symptoms have begun to manifest. Look out for a smirk and/or highly raised eyebrows as you deliberate over a word s/he has just played. You may likewise detect

BAEL	a spiny Indian tree	OKE	a Turkish unit of weight
KOEL	a parasitic cuckoo	PEEPUL	yet another tree (similar to a banyan)
KARRI	a type of eucalyptus	RATHA	a four-wheeled carriage
LASSI	a yoghurt drink	WURLEY WURLIE	an Aboriginal hut

the illness in your opponent, as you overhear them mispronounce or mis-emphasise the word you have just played. (A FIGEATER is a beetle, presumably with a particular dietary preference. I once chose to challenge it because I pronounced it rather similarly to the last four syllables of "refrigerator").

## Risk factors

As with many illnesses, there are certain circumstances in which one is more acutely vulnerable. In the case of homophonbia, both time pressure and/or close scores have been known to precipitate an attack.

It has also been noted that -Y endings have a particularly close association with the disorder. It is all too easy to convince oneself that our language has no call for a word meaning "abounding in curs", while completely overlooking the common ethnic treat (CURRY). Other words thusly hooked and scorned include APPLY, EARLY, PRINTERY, TABBY, FONDLY, and WALLY (which last certainly made the homophonbic sufferer feel like one!).

Our dictionary is no preventative in this regard. There are plenty of daft words that do take a -Y hook and do use it to mean roughly "having an abundance of {something unexpected}": ACIDY, LIMBY, LINKY, LAWNY, MOTETY, MYTHY, NOUNY... to name but a few.

The apparent misapplication of a known prefix or suffix is also a recognisable indicator of this disease. Examples include FORTUNE (to tune in advance?); ANTIQUEST (opposed to

journeys of heroism?); and HOSTAGE (the act of hosting?). "-ABLE" words are likewise overrepresented in the anecdotal data on homophonbia, such as PARABLE (of a fruit or vegetable: able to be pared?) and WINDABLE (of an athlete: able to be winded?) (in contrast to the actual meaning: able to be wound). Further examples include CAPABLE and HATABLE, which both could be misconstrued as able to have headgear bestowed upon them.

## Causes

Fundamental to the condition of homophonbia is that the Scrabble player lacks what a reading teacher would refer to as "context clues". In a game where words are laid down seemingly out of thin air, we are constantly 'reading' words in isolation, devoid of a framework in which to decode them. The lack of either semantic background or supporting illustrations which we can use to deconstruct a word which appears unfamiliar undoubtedly contributes to the instance of the disease. This likewise explains why homophonbia strikes almost exclusively amongst Scrabble players, while other competitive gaming communities remain effortlessly uncontaminated.

Little else is known about the causes of homophonbia (though there is no evidence to suggest that it is a genetically transmitted condition). Frequently, accurate diagnosis may be muddled by the coincidence of more than one contributing factor: did the following documented cases result from the mis-interpretation of plurals, or rather from inadvertent prudishness on the part of the afflicted player?

Consider the up-and-coming player who challenged ANUS because “there’s no such word as ANU, so how could you have more than one of them?” Or the player who was challenged for playing PENIS “because surely PENI is already a plural?” In fact, this word seems to have caused more than its fair share of this kind of trouble; I also heard of PENISES being queried because the player read it as a verb such as would mean “to provide with pens”.

## Prognosis

While neither immunisation nor cure for homophonbia is currently available,

the good news is that it does not appear to be directly communicable. However evidence suggests that, after exposure, the disease may have an indefinite incubation period. The body of knowledge surrounding this hitherto little-known condition is mounting, and increased awareness among the Scrabble-playing public is invaluable to current research. If you think you may be prone to homophonbia, or may have suffered one or more attacks in the past, please do not hesitate to make contact with the proper authorities.

# New Zealanders on the international stage



## Congratulations, Lewis!

*Acknowledgements: Information in this segment gleaned from Lynley Jenness, and from the June edition of Across the Board (the newsletter of the Australian Scrabble Players’ Association).*

Lewis Hawkins of Christchurch competed in the Australian Scrabble Championship Plate in Sydney over the Easter weekend. He attained third place from a field of 66 players, with 16 wins out of 24 games, and a spread of 823.



*Lewis Hawkins*

Many of Lewis’ games were very close, with six games having a spread of 10 points or fewer. After the third game his cumulative spread

was never less than 300, and it stayed comfortably above 600 throughout the second half of the tournament.

Highlights for Lewis were an unbroken run of seven wins on the first day, including beating the ultimate winner of the tournament (Don Hadley of New South Wales) by more than 100 points. On the sheet for recording notable plays, Lewis entered YBET for 31 points [*thanks, Lewis, that’s a new one for me! – Ed*]. He also enjoyed spending time with Ronnie Bennett, a seven-year-old from Australian Capital Territory.

Both young players attracted considerable media attention. Some interviewers overstepped personal space boundaries, much to Lewis’ annoyance (and reflected in his first and largest loss of the tournament - the game in which, according to mum

Lynley, they “had the cameras right in his face”). You can watch two television snippets about the Championship (both featuring Lewis) here <http://yhoo.it/1g2HO3Q> and here <http://on-msn.com/1jUM84C>.

## Congratulations, Howard!

Howard Warner played two tournaments in Malta during May, which included players from Ireland, England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Romania, Malta, Poland, Israel, Nigeria, the US, Australia, and Japan. Howard was the overall winner of the European Open. Here is his diary of his experience.

## Malta diary

### *Howard Warner, Independent*

Malta is a tiny island group in the southern Mediterranean. It is immediately noteworthy for its abundance of beautiful ancient buildings, lack of trees and guttural, Arabic-sounding native language. It's something of a tourist playground, very relaxed and safe.

I stayed at the home of Theresa Brousson, one of the top women players in the world (and the latest European Seniors Squash Champion). Also staying there were two other top women: Helen Gipson of Scotland (whose name anagrams to ‘English Open’, a tournament she has won) and Nuala O’Rourke of Northern Ireland (the coinventor of those wonderful Scrabble variants *If Only* and *Lonify*).

The first tournament was the three-day Malta Open. It went by in a bit of a blur for me, largely because I was drawing terribly throughout. I ended up seventh, on 14.5 wins out of 24.

Significantly, I had two games where the board was so blocked that we couldn’t go out. In my game with Maltese player Mario Saliba, we ended up having 24 turns each, which must be some kind of record. I passed three times early on when the board was already blocked (but I had a 100-point lead, so didn’t need to open up), and then we both passed three times at the end when he had five tiles left and I had two.

My most even match-ups were the two against Bob Violett of England. The first time we tied on 456; the second time he prevailed, 456–452, but it was so very nearly an exact repeat of the first.

There were two recreation days before the start of the European Open. On the first day, I went on an organised tour of the island and played an informal evening tournament at a local player’s place (I finished third and won 20 euros). On the second day, I explored the ancient cities of Valletta and Medina with my housemates and, sitting at a bar on the waterfront as the sun went down, played in a wonderful team game of *Lonify*. The game ended up tied at 708; you can see it on the *Scrabble Snippetz* site on Facebook.

The four-day European Open, at the same venue as the Malta Open, had a field of 28 players.

The tournament began dramatically when Helen Gipson, the #1 seed, was drawn to open her account against an

unknown Nigerian called Okey Okoro. She scored just over 700, but her spread was a world-record-smashing +765. How was this possible? Because Okey scored about 50 points in total and went 10 minutes over time before the game was abandoned, according to WESPA rules. It soon became clear this young man had no idea how to play, as opponent after opponent notched up ridiculously high scores against him. After the six games on that first day, his spread was about -3000; an average of -500 per game. Our suspicions – that he was there only to get into Europe through the back door – were confirmed the next day when he failed to appear, and his compatriots said he'd gone to the airport to catch a flight! Fortunately, the organisers decided to scrap those games against him on day one and give everyone a win with +75 spread.

Back to the tournament proper: the first day ended with five people on five wins. Of these, I had the lowest spread — around +300. On day two, I won all nine games to finish with 14 wins. This put me one win ahead of Theresa and Helen, with the peloton two wins further back. I also took the chance to build up my spread, with several wins by 200+.

A cute moment for me was hooking LINNEY to AURA to make the name of my favourite American actress: 'Laura Linney'. I also achieved a personal best for a single-bonus game, against Nigerian Aganaba Matthew. My game score was 599 and my spread was +330. For the record, my opponent also played a bonus word.

I continued winning and stayed in first place, with a run of 18 wins taking me



*Howard Warner*

up to 20 altogether and still only a single loss. Then late in the day I dropped two games in succession and seemed to have hit the wall. By the end of day three, Theresa was leading on 22–2, followed by me and Helen, both on 21–3. My spread was now close to +3000, but still a few hundred points short of Theresa's.

Early on day four I had an amazing game against Romanian Mihai Pantis. It included eight bonus words and would have been nine except that my opponent tried LEIGHST\* through an E when he could have played LIGHTEST through a T. My bingos were MURAENID, INERTIAE, BLOWSED, OBSCENER and INFANTAS; his were STIGMATA, SANTERA and PELORIA. Our final scores were 569-389.

My final round of the 26-game round-robin was against Chris Lipe (a brilliant young New Yorker who is leading the charge for CSW in North America) whom I hadn't beaten before in four attempts. I won, while pack leader Theresa was defeated by Helen. That

brought the three of us even on 24 wins, ahead of the six 'King of the Hill' rounds ("King Of the Hill" is a strict #1 plays #2, #3 plays #4, etc. with no regard to previous pairings, thus unlimited repeat pairings are allowed.) *Definition from Wikipedia article on 'Swiss-system tournament'. –Ed.* My first KotH game was an immediate repeat against Chris, who beat me — normal transmission! Then my next four games, not surprisingly, were against Theresa and Helen, and I managed to win them all.

With one round to go, I found myself in the surprising position of being unable to lose the title. So I was 'Gibsonized', meaning I got to play the highest-rated player not in contention for a placing. That happened to be Maltese Association president Nicky Vella, ironically the one player who'd beaten me in the first 20 rounds. This time I beat Nicky, to make my final statistics for the tourney 28 wins and four losses, with a spread of +3679. Meanwhile Helen and Theresa had played off for the remaining placings. Helen finished second (26 wins and +2732), and Theresa third (24.5 wins and +3198).

My penultimate game, against Helen, was a cliffhanger and a fascinating situation, which we were to analyse again and again over the next 24 hours. Early on, she and I both made brilliant plays as well as foolhardy ones. Ultimately she had to find a bingo with her last full rack, including a blank, to snatch a win. I had to stop her. I played UPRUNS to block off as many bingo lanes as possible, thus happily emptying the bag (though the last six tiles were all vowels). I saw that

she was one space off being able to play FIREHALL through a floating F, or could have squeezed in the same word around a floating H if I had just played UPRUN for one point less. After searching for nearly 10 long, nerve-wracking minutes, she gave up and banged down ARSE to express her feeling, and I breathed a massive sigh of relief. Later we discovered she could have played LAURELING through a disparate U and N, thereby keeping the competition alive.

I take great pride in not overdrawing tiles once in seven days of competitive play. I also won quite a few five-pointers (for challenges) but didn't lose a single turn through dud plays. Some of my pleasing finds included: BLINGIER (86), PENNONED (91), BECURST (89), ARCHAIE (85), GETTERED (64), WOOMERAS (68), FREMITUS (92), UNIFACE (100), CHUMPED (118), BIRYANIS (78), LAZURITE (88), the nine-letter BOEHMITES (74), VANLOAD (108), PELAGIAL (75), OVERGEAR (98), OSSARIUM (95), SCURFIER (89), BEWHORE (86), TELEGONY (74), and ASPERSOR (83).



*Valetta, Malta*

## Post a letter 2

*by Jennifer Smith, Kiwi*

Here's another "Post a letter" puzzle. There will be three more puzzles in this series, then it will have to stop as (I think) we will have exhausted the words that can have a Q inserted into them!

26 words, and 26 letters of the alphabet.

The challenge is to insert one letter into each of the following words, without changing the order of the letters in the basic word, to make a new Scrabble word. (Pretend you want to play the word, and find a letter it could wrap around. For example, JACKIES would make JACKSIES if wrapped around an S.)

You may use each letter for one answer only, so your first idea for a word might not be the one that enables you to solve the whole challenge.

- |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1. ALCADE    | 15. INSOLENT |
| 2. BARYE     | 16. LADYISH  |
| 3. BATONED   | 17. MISLAY   |
| 4. BEHEADS   | 18. PROJETS  |
| 5. CAPIZES   | 19. SAMBA    |
| 6. CARACK    | 20. SANPAN   |
| 7. CODING    | 21. STENTOR  |
| 8. COJOIN    | 22. STOUT    |
| 9. COMMIT    | 23. THEREIN  |
| 10. DERIDE   | 24. TREPANS  |
| 11. DINOSAUR | 25. WADMAL   |
| 12. FAIR     | 26. ZINCED   |
| 13. FATHER   |              |
| 14. GALLIES  |              |

*Solutions on page 43.*

## Twenty years ago in *Forwards*

*by John Foster, Independent*

When leafing through *Forwards* 35 looking for material for this issue, I was more than a little surprised to discover this commentary from American Ron Tiekert and our own Jeff Grant on the very subject I alluded to in passing in the last issue -- the selective deletion of offensive words.

If the compilers of the *Collins Dictionary* had decided to exclude terms that might be deemed offensive by some people, quite a few of our new words might never have seen the light of day. I am sure that there are those among us who might well be offended by some of the following list of new words from *CSW 2007* and *CSW 2012*, but would not hesitate to play them if it was to our advantage: BIACH, BUFTY, CLIT, COOZE, CUMS, DRAC, DYKON, FELCH, FUGLY, HORI, JAAP, JAFa, JAXIE, KOAP, LEZZA, MEFF, MOER, MOFO, MOOBS, MOTI, POEP, SPOD, WARB, and WOF.

One of my own pet hates, before it was deleted in *CSW 2007*, was the late, unlamented, PH\*. My objection was not that it was offensive, just that it was ridiculous, but that didn't stop me playing it many times when I deemed it to be my best move.

*[Editor's note: I can't agree that PH\* is unlamented. It seems not a tournament goes by without somebody saying, "I wish we could still play PH\*!" An equivalent pet hate for me is the newer acronyms such as JAFa and RONZ, but, like John, I'll still play them, albeit begrudgingly!]*



## The Expurgated Version

Susi and I both enjoy Forwards immensely. We're finally getting into Spring up here after the most severe Winter in 31 years, and are looking forward to weekend play in Central Park.

There is a big controversy in North American Scrabble at present regarding the OSPD. This issue concerns 'ethnic slurs', eg. **wog**, **nigger**, etc. Milton-Bradley/Hasbro (the owners of the Scrabble trademark) have unilaterally decreed that when the OSPD is revised in its next printing these words (about 55 main entries and their forms) be deleted, and that on publication of that printing they no longer be 'good' words in official competition. (Interestingly, apparently only ethnically insulting words are being targeted, so **fuck**, **blowjob**, etc will probably stay in.)

Reaction among the players runs about 90% against any deletions, although most members of the opposition would have no objection to a 'school edition' of the OSPD. Reactions of the opposition range from 'Let's form an independent organisation' to 'Let's raise a stink and try to get the media involved on our side' to 'I'd rather they didn't cut the OSPD, but I can live with it'.

I'm in the latter camp. I resent rule by fiat, and the possibility that this change has been wrought in part by a fundamentalist letter-writing campaign makes me a bit clammy. The label 'offensive' attached at present to the words in question is satisfactory, in my view, I don't view the proposed changes as a free-speech issue, as I don't consider Scrabble play as an

expression of speech, and the deleted words will continue to be listed in 'real' dictionaries. A possible upside is that the deletions may make it easier to push Scrabble in the schools; having dual OSPDs could be quite unwieldy.

I should mention that Susi is more a member of the 'Let's form our own association' than the 'no big deal' camp. It's the 'rule by fiat' attitude that irritates her most. I'm very interested in the reactions of New Zealanders to this proposed dictionary expurgation.

Sincerely,

**Ron Tiekert**  
New York

[Ron and Susi Tiekert have been involved in the American Scrabble scene for many years. Ron played in the 1st World Championship in London in 1991, and it was our pleasure to meet up with the Tiekerts again in New York last year. — Ed.]

### Editor's Opinion

In my view no dictionary should omit words simply because they offend certain people. As Ron observes, the use of a label such as 'offensive' is satisfactory in such cases. To be coerced by a pressure group (if that is what has happened) into removing words that exist in everyday usage is betraying the principles of lexicography.

I can understand Scrabblers' objections to any deletions from their source dictionary, although they are probably not all made for purely linguistic reasons. Obviously no-one likes having to 'unlearn'



words. However, if OSPD is pressured into deleting ethnically disparaging terms, what will be next? Obscenities? (The 'Big Six' for starters). Words that offend some Christians? (BEJESUS) Or females? (SHEILA) Or feminists? (MANHOLE) Or non-intellectuals? (DUMBHEAD) Or overweight people (FATSO) What about slang? And 'foreign' words? (particularly all those Arabic 'q' words).

The OSPD is really little more than a glorified word-list. It certainly isn't a proper dictionary in the normal sense. The brief definitions are apparently included only because of copyright considerations — otherwise it may have ended up like OSW. One way the OSPD compilers could get around their problem with ethnic slurs would be to list the words with different definitions. This occurs in many cases already, e.g. CHINK, FROG. Taking the two examples in Ron's letter, Chambers Dictionary defines NIGGER and WOG as (among other things) 'to exhaust by overcropping', and 'a germ, bug, infection, illness' — common in NZ and Australia. It may be difficult to find alternative definitions for some terms, such as KIKE for instance, although the old English Dialect Dictionary defines it as 'an incompetent horseman'. Unfortunately this could be insulting to octogenarian west Yorkshire jockeys.

Some years ago a gentleman of Jewish extraction brought a lawsuit against the venerable Oxford Dictionary, claiming one of the definitions of JEW was offensive (it is actually labelled as such). Two of the insulting words used in the definition are 'grasping' and 'extortionate'. After due consideration the judge, quite rightly, threw out the case concurring

with the Oxford people that, basically: **"The function of a dictionary is to record the language, not censor it."**

I couldn't agree more. What do you think?

Jeff Grant

## Sign language

*sent in by Vicky Robertson, Wellington*



# Ask Liz

by Liz Fagerlund, Mt. Albert

**Question: What is the rule for when to write down the letter that the blank represents?**

A player asks: I was told by an opponent that, even though I had already verbally announced it, I should have written down what letter the blank represented on the results slip before hitting the clock to finish my turn. His argument was that he couldn't decide whether or not to accept my word until I had written the blank down, and he shouldn't have to wait for me to do that on his time. Since he was down to his last 27 seconds, I can see why there was an issue. The argument seems fair enough to me, but is there a rule to cover it?

Liz says: I totally agree with the opponent's argument in the above situation. The whole purpose of recording the blank is to make it clear for both players what letter the blank represents, hopefully preventing any confusion then or later in the game. A player cannot be expected to use their time to consider whether or not to accept their opponent's move if there is any doubt or confusion about what letter the blank represents. The common practice in NZ of writing the blank down on the results sheet when filling it out at the end of the game is a waste of time. The scorer doesn't care, and has no need to know what the blanks were -- it's just the players themselves who need to know!

There is a rule in the WESPA rules Version 2.0 that makes it completely clear when a blank has to be recorded.

## 3.8 Declaring a Blank

(a) Blanks must be declared in writing on a neutral sheet of paper. Neither oral declarations nor players' records on their personal score sheets are determinative.

(b) A player who plays a blank must declare it before completing the turn. The opponent must ensure that the blank is properly declared, neutralising the timer if necessary.

As with the NZASP Rules, the WESPA rules state that pressing your clock indicates the end of your turn.

## 3.4 Significance of Pressing Timer

### 3.4.1 Pressing Timer Concludes Deliberation

(a) By pressing the timer in the course of playing a word, exchanging or passing, a player indicates a final choice of move. The move may not be changed after this act.

Read together then, rules 3.8 and 3.4.1(a) mean that a player who plays a blank must declare that blank in writing, (i.e., record it rather than simply announcing it verbally), before their turn ends. A player's turn ends when they press their clock; ergo, a player must declare the blank in writing before pressing their clock.

NZASP rules are a little less precise, and maybe we need to look at a remit to adopt the clearer WESPA wording. The relevant NZASP rules read:

*15.6.4 When playing a blank the player must declare what letter it represents. The blank shall continue to represent the declared letter for the remainder of the game. The player playing a blank will write the letter that that blank represents on the result sheet that will be used for the game and will ensure that the other player has*



sighted it. In any case where one or both players are vision impaired the clock will be neutralised and an adjudicator will be called to ensure that the blank is correctly recorded and understood by both players.

15.6.5 The end of turn procedure is:

15.6.5.1 position the tiles to be played on the board.

15.6.5.2 declare the score for the turn. At this stage, the player may still adjust the move in any way.

15.6.5.3 start the opponent's clock. The player's turn ends at this point.

We can see how the recording of the blank rule works in practice by looking at a recent situation that involved me personally. In the Mt. Albert Memorial tournament, I played CHEATE?Y, and mistakenly announced and recorded the blank as a Y, then hit the clock. I had intended the blank to be an R. The word was meant to be CHEATER<sub>Y</sub>. I was not at all sure that this word was correct at the time, though it turns out that it is.

Clearly, I had not intended my word to be CHEATEYY\*, and I immediately realised that I had made both a verbal and written error. My opponent asked what we should do and, although it went against me, I had to rule that what I had mistakenly recorded had to be taken as the letter the blank represented. My opponent could, therefore, choose to challenge the word I had officially played – CHEATEYY\*. Quite correctly, that word was challenged, adjudged invalid, and I lost my turn. I knew that if I had been asked to adjudicate on the same situation in another game, as long as the blank had been recorded in writing, I would have given that same ruling.

I believe that we, in NZ, need to be better at writing down what letter the blank represents at the correct time. The process should be as follows:

- announce the letter that the blank represents;
- write that letter on the result slip;
- make sure that the opponent has seen the recorded blank; and
- press the clock to end your turn.

This way, you have acted completely fairly. You have ensured that your opponent knows for certain what letter the blank represents. Your opponent is now able to decide whether or not to accept or challenge the word you have officially played.

## Post a letter 2 solutions (from page 39)

1.	ALCADE	ALCAYDE
2.	BARYE	BARYTE
3.	BATONED	BATOONED
4.	BEHEADS	BEDHEADS
5.	CAPIZES	CAPSIZE
6.	CARACK	CARJACK
7.	CODING	CODLING
8.	COJOIN	CONJOIN
9.	COMMIT	COMMIXT
10.	DERIDE	DEBRIDE
11.	DINOSAUR	DEINOSAUR
12.	FAIR	FAQIR
13.	FATHER	FAITHER
14.	GALLIES	GALLIZES
15.	INSOLENT	INSOLVENT
16.	LADYISH	LADYFISH
17.	MISLAY	MISPLAY
18.	PROJETS	PROJECTS
19.	SAMBA	SHAMBA
20.	SANPAN	SWANPAN
21.	STENTOR	STENTOUR
22.	STOUT	STROUT
23.	THEREIN	THEREMIN
24.	TREPANS	TREPANGS
25.	WADMAL	WADMAAL
26.	ZINCED	ZINCKED

# Rankings list as at 23 June 2014

Rank	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%	Rank	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%
1	Alastair Richards	2070	38.5	55	70%	50	Anna Hough	1487	577	1163	50%
2	Blue Thorogood (GM)	2018	586.5	828	71%	51	Jeanette Grimmer	1481	95.5	159	60%
3	Jeff Grant (GM)	2003	1616	2131	76%	52	Lorraine Van Veen	1479	840.5	1649	51%
4	Howard Warner (GM)	1951	1808	2423	75%	53	Mary Gray	1471	495	981	50%
5	Nick Cavenagh (GM)	1929	301.5	507	59%	54	Karen Gray	1453	269.5	515	52%
6	Joanne Craig (GM)	1918	325.5	496	66%	55	Leila Thomson	1434	554.5	1215	46%
7	Lyres Freeth (E)	1895	199.5	308	65%	56	Yvette Hewlett	1424	434.5	909	48%
8	Peter Sinton (GM)	1878	678.5	946	72%	57	David Gunn	1422	1187	2430	49%
9	Andrew Bradley (GM)	1876	808	1541	52%	58	John Baird	1416	203	373	54%
10	Mike Sigley (GM)	1868	943	1351	70%	59	Fran Lowe	1401	111.5	196	57%
11	Karen Richards	1856	42.5	70	61%	60	Roger Cole-Baker	1376	466.5	898	52%
12	John Foster (GM)	1831	1477.5	2574	57%	61	Jean O'Brien	1372	1047.5	2066	51%
13	Patrick Carter (GM)	1831	733.5	1168	63%	62	Joan Thomas	1371	964.5	1930	50%
14	Cicely Bruce	1806	354	633	56%	63	Delcie Macbeth	1368	843.5	1610	52%
15	Rogelio Talosig (GM)	1798	473	803	59%	64	Allie Quinn	1367	1017.5	2107	48%
16	Liz Fagerlund (GM)	1791	1065	2041	52%	65	Irene Smith	1367	176	354	50%
17	Scott Chaput	1772	192.5	319	60%	66	Herb Ramsay	1360	150	242	62%
18	Glennis Hale (GM)	1731	1435	2577	56%	67	Pam Barlow	1354	669	1331	50%
19	John McNaughton	1706	91	127	72%	68	Betty Eriksen	1352	1275.5	2481	51%
20	Val Mills (E)	1697	1158.5	2413	48%	69	Faye Cronhelm	1344	818	1655	49%
21	Anderina McLean (E)	1696	592.5	1106	54%	70	Yoon Kim Fong	1343	513	1003	51%
22	Murray Rogers (E)	1680	717	1373	52%	71	Carolyn Kyle	1343	753	1520	50%
23	Pat Bryan	1665	232	411	56%	72	Lynn Carter	1332	617	1198	52%
24	Rosemary Cleary (E)	1660	740	1596	46%	73	Lewis Hawkins	1307	96	130	74%
25	Glenyss Buchanan	1654	651.5	1396	47%	74	June Mackwell	1305	799.5	1757	46%
26	Lawson Sue (E)	1653	650.5	1247	52%	75	Dianne Cole-Baker	1300	435.5	839	52%
27	Vicky Robertson	1636	272	550	49%	76	Clare Wall	1292	265.5	511	52%
28	Lynne Powell (E)	1628	915.5	1843	50%	77	Kaite Hansen	1287	315.5	585	54%
29	Katy Yiakmis	1624	172	354	49%	78	Rosalind Phillips	1227	531	1028	52%
30	Glenda Foster (E)	1621	972.5	1945	50%	79	Heather Landon	1220	462	897	52%
31	Pam Robson	1613	546.5	1186	46%	80	Lyn Dawson	1212	387	720	54%
32	Paul Lister (E)	1607	795.5	1416	56%	81	Andree Prentice	1199	936.5	1861	50%
33	Margie Hurly	1607	329	633	52%	82	Glenda Geard	1198	993	2034	49%
34	Steven Brown (GM)	1605	894	1679	53%	83	Ray Goodyear	1186	224	470	48%
35	Janice Cherry	1589	378	735	51%						
36	Lynn Wood	1589	1645	3462	48%						
37	Shirley Martin	1587	833.5	1624	51%						
38	Shirley van Essen	1571	406.5	812	50%						
39	Jennifer Smith	1567	979.5	2012	49%						
40	Karyn McDougall	1550	664	1289	52%						
41	Olivia Godfrey	1546	614	1155	53%						
42	Selena Chan	1539	291.5	552	53%						
43	Hazel Purdie	1523	1022.5	2090	49%						
44	Peter Johnstone	1519	147.5	274	54%						
45	Alex Leckie-Zaharic	1510	120	212	57%						
46	Shirley Hol	1509	627	1368	46%						
47	Kadda Mohamed	1503	111.5	168	66%						
48	Roger Coates	1495	709	1496	47%						
49	Helen Sillis	1494	712	1433	50%						



*Roto Mitchell*

Rank	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%
84	Chris Day	1185	121.5	221	55%
85	Marian Ross	1179	519	1019	51%
86	Margaret Cherry	1169	474.5	966	49%
87	Nola Borrell	1155	356	649	55%
88	Lois Kelly	1153	62.5	161	39%
89	Lyn Toka	1138	530.5	1008	53%
90	Ruth Groffman	1128	467	969	48%
91	Su Walker	1111	945.5	1883	50%
92	Geoff Bonser	1111	63	96	66%
93	Chris Handley	1100	371.5	723	51%
94	Roto Mitchell	1080	708	1399	51%
95	Mary Curtis	1064	248.5	472	53%
96	Karen Miller	1063	510	1025	50%
97	Ernie Gidman	1057	386	775	50%
98	Marianne Patchett	1043	301.5	590	51%
99	Jean Boyle	1041	518.5	980	53%
100	Gabrielle Bolt	1031	385.5	757	51%
101	Barbara Dunn	1026	280	479	58%
102	Carole Coates	998	594.5	1230	48%
103	Margaret Bullen	993	83	142	58%
104	Julia Schiller	988	196	422	46%
105	Michael Groffman	985	270	545	50%
106	Alison Holmes	976	224.5	410	55%
107	Suzanne Harding	970	357.5	690	52%
108	Jena Yousif	970	401	799	50%
109	Bev Edwards	963	217.5	427	51%
110	Sheila Reed	959	213	429	50%
111	Shirley Pearce	957	42	95	44%
112	Kathleen Mori-Barker	951	354.5	710	50%
113	Colleen Cook	936	320.5	639	50%
114	Judith Thomas	930	195.5	372	53%
115	Allison Torrance	930	398	764	52%
116	Malcolm Graham	929	360	741	49%
117	Yvonne McLaughlan	928	481.5	995	48%
118	Jo Ann Ingram	903	214	420	51%
119	Shirley Morrison	883	147.5	322	46%
120	Tony Charlton	862	232.5	462	50%
121	Ruth Godwin	862	262.5	610	43%
122	Maria Clinton	860	237	482	49%
123	Leighton Gelling	855	101	186	54%
124	Judy Driscoll	831	150.5	409	37%
125	Catherine Henry	797	439.5	840	52%
126	Jill Paterson	790	28	44	64%
127	Anne Goldstein	790	52	86	60%
128	Joanna Fox	784	43	71	61%
129	Madeleine Green	763	72.5	143	51%
130	Jaiden Tucker	737	39	59	66%
131	Josie Parkin	732	57	124	46%
132	Janny Henneveld	728	409	852	48%
133	Phyllis Patridge	720	27	84	32%
134	Valma Gidman	700	667.5	1338	50%



*Tim Henneveld*

Rank	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%
135	Faye Leach	698	24	83	29%
136	Anne Scatchard	692	330	649	51%
137	Antonia Aarts	691	190	397	48%
138	Sandra Cowen	677	49	84	58%
139	Tim Henneveld	676	390.5	855	46%
140	Chris Guthrey	671	68	192	35%
141	Judith Bach	668	136.5	245	56%
142	Annette Coombes	664	663	1459	45%
143	Alison Vautier	659	75.5	205	37%
144	Judy Cronin	656	57.5	168	34%
145	Joan Beale	649	189	361	52%
146	Sam Thompson	644	49.5	109	45%
147	Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell	634	565	1185	48%
148	Betty Don	614	125	298	42%
149	Hanna Dodge	611	63.5	152	42%
150	Pat Wood	582	122	229	53%
151	Margaret Toso	577	74.5	161	46%
152	Elaine Ware	538	372.5	728	51%
153	Junior Gesmundo	521	35.5	73	49%
154	Anne-Louise Milne	477	127	390	33%
155	Jean Craib	474	387.5	811	48%
156	Marilyn Sinclair	470	12.5	43	29%
157	Sue Mayn	437	184	446	41%
158	Frances Higham	422	109	336	32%
159	Valerie Smith	422	18	78	23%
160	Margaret Peters	400	28.5	103	28%
161	Noelene Bettjeman	382	296	643	46%
162	Kasi Mooney	348	15	61	25%
163	Lynn Thompson	337	253.5	576	44%
164	Bev Allen	330	56	197	28%
165	Margaret Miller	303	131.5	339	39%
166	Gordon Pinchin	280	193	383	50%
167	Gill Charlton	248	12	71	17%
168	Trish Fox	172	28	205	14%
169	Susan Milne	70	26	177	15%
170	Susan Schiller	8	4	61	7%

# Tournament results

## Dunedin Lion Open 5 - 6 April 2014

### 15 games

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
<b>A Grade</b>					
1	Lynn Wood	WGT	13	899	412
2	Scott Chaput	DUN	8	527	414
3	John Baird	CHC	7	-295	381
4	Karen Gray	DUN	6	-447	369
5	Carolyn Kyle	DUN	6	-519	369
6	Betty Eriksen	WAN	5	-165	365
<b>B Grade</b>					
1	Marian Ross	DUN	12	1007	418
2	Chris Handley	DUN	10	196	384
3	Michael Groffman	DUN	8	42	370
4	Ruth Groffman	DUN	7	136	358
5	Yvonne McLaughlan	CHC	5	-739	344
6	Tony Charlton	NEL	3	-642	344
<b>C Grade</b>					
1	Betty Don	IND	13	818	371
2	Madeleine Green	CHC	11	649	375
3	Dorothy Latta	IND	8	-58	345
4	Sam Thomson	DUN	7.5	550	386
5	Anne-Louise Milne	DUN	7	-198	316
6	Stephanie Pluck	DUN	5	-440	330
7	Bev Allen	DUN	2.5	-585	322
8	Gill Charlton	NEL	2	-736	308



*Lynn Wood, A grade winner at Dunedin*

## Masters Tournament 19 - 21 April 2014

### 23 games

Rank	Player	Club	Wins	Spread
1	Nick Cavenagh	HAM	18	889
2	Jeff Grant	IND	17	1502
3	Blue Thorogood	IND	17	1203
4	Peter Sinton	DUN	17	1090
5	Howard Warner	IND	16	1333
6	Rogelio Talosig	IND	15	276
7	Mike Sigley	WAN	14	699
8	John Foster	IND	14	468
9	Andrew Bradley	MTA	14	430
10	Scott Chaput	DUN	12	-365
11	Cicely Bruce	WRE	12	-407
12	Lyres Freeth	MTA	11	390
13	Denise Gordon	WAN	11	-264
14	Rosemary Cleary	WAN	10.5	-433
15	Glennis Hale	IND	10	-163
16	Liz Fagerlund	MTA	9.5	-58
17	Anderina McLean	MTA	9	-538
18	Val Mills	PAK	9	-767
19	Paul Lister	CHC	9	-970
20	Shirley Van Essen	CHC	7	-694
21	Lynn Wood	WEL	7	-981
22	Steven Brown	KAP	6	-717
23	Lawson Sue	MTA	6	-791
24	Glenda Foster	WEL	5	-1132

## Kapiti Coast 3-4 May 2014

### 14 games

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
<b>A Grade</b>					
1	Howard Warner	IND	13	1398	452
2	Liz Fagerlund	MTA	9	511	419
3	Val Mills	PAK	8	-100	382
4	Rosemary Cleary	WAN	7	129	385
5	Lawson Sue	MTA	6	117	392
6	Glenyss Buchanan	LOH	6	-527	378
7	Vicky Robertson	WEL	5	-436	368
8	Lynn Wood	WEL	2	-1092	340
<b>B Grade</b>					
1	Glenda Foster	WEL	10	756	425
2	Steven Brown	KAP	10	477	419
3	Jennifer Smith	KIW	10	471	402



Rank	Player	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
4	Fran Lowe	HAS	8	239	391
5	Leila Thomson	LOH	8	148	396
6	Betty Eriksen	WAN	6	-284	360
7	Mary Gray	MTA	2	-779	356
8	Andree Prentice	WAN	2	-1028	334

**C Grade**

1	Judith Thomas	IND	11	952	396
2	Nola Borrell	WEL	10.5	916	403
3	Sheila Reed	WEL	9	736	393
4	Roto Mitchell	WAN	8	408	373
5	Pam Sinclair	KAP	8	70	331
6	Alison Vautier	KAP	5	-615	328
7	Judy Driscoll	KAP	4.5	-620	321
8	Margaret Brown	KAP	0	-1847	265

**SI Champs****10-11 May 2014****14 games**

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
1	Blue Thorogood	IND	14	1566	457
2	Murray Rogers	IND	8	261	397
3	Lynn Wood	WEL	7	-8	385
4	Peter Johnstone	CHC	6	100	388
5	Paul Lister	CHC	6	-21	387
6	Selena Chan	CHC	6	-335	373
7	Shirley v Essen	CHC	5	-546	371
8	Shirley Hal	CHC	4	-1017	342

**B Grade**

1	John McNaughton	WEL	10	1043	424
2	Carolyn Kyle	DUN	9	-403	356
3	Irene Smith	CHC	8	240	389
4	John Baird	CHC	8	176	390
5	Herb Ramsay	CHC	7	-193	359
6	Mary Gray	MTA	5	75	393
7	Jean O'Brien	IND	5	-374	358
8	Ray Goodyear	CHC	4	-564	351

**C Grade**

1	Lewis Hawkins	CHC	14	1248	434
2	Gabriel Bolt	CHC	7	180	378
3	Colleen Cook	CHC	6	221	383
4	Yvonne McLaughlin	CHC	6	212	378
5	Allison Torrance	CHC	6	-287	372
6	Malcolm Graham	CHC	6	-343	383
7	Kathleen Mori-Barker	CHC	6	-804	350
8	Veronica Zilinskas	CHC	5	-427	348

**D Grade**

1	Tony Charlton	NEL	10	656	384
2	Madelaine Green	CHC	8	275	370
3	Joanna Fox	CHC	8	-253	344
4	Phyllis Paltridge	CHC	7	149	356



*Tony Charlton, D grade winner  
at SI Champs*

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
5	Betty Don	IND	7	-101	339
6	Marilyn Sinclair	CHC	2	-726	303

**E Grade**

1	Judith Bach	CHC	12	903	379
2	Hanna Dodge	CHC	11	668	365
3	Jean Craib	CHC	8	332	361
4	Gordon Pinchin	CHC	4	62	361
5	Gill Charlton	NEL	4	-763	304
6	Trish Fox	CHC	3	-1202	274

## NZ National Championships 31 May - 1 June 2014

**15 Games**

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
<b>Grade A</b>					
1	Alastair Richards	AUS	13	1061	468
2	Blue Thorogood	IND	11	1068	455
3	Jeff Grant	IND	11	589	427
4	Lyres Freeth	IND	10	610	438
5	Joanne Craig	IND	9	498	420
6	Howard Warner	IND	8	309	436
7	Andrew Bradley	MTA	8	196	412
8	Nick Cavenagh	KIW	8	-232	397
9	Karen Richards	AUS	7	62	413
10	Cicely Bruce	WRE	6	-318	391
11	Peter Sinton	DUN	6	-371	397
12	John Foster	IND	6	-398	395
13	Liz Fagerlund	MTA	6	-853	373
14	Rogelio Talosig	IND	4	-402	395

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
15	Glennis Hale	IND	4	-544	391
16	Val Mills	PAK	3	-1275	356

**Grade B**

1	John McNaughton	WEL	13	912	442
2	Murray Rogers	IND	11	306	388
3	Anderina McLean	MTA	10	735	418
4	Pam Robson	IND	9	610	406
5	Glenda Foster	WEL	9	242	388
6	Shirley Martin	KIW	9	207	386
7	Rosemary Cleary	WAN	8	515	411
8	Lynn Wood	WEL	8	361	393
9	Jennifer Smith	KIW	7	-124	382
10	Selena Chan	CHC	7	-355	366
11	Shirley Hol	CHC	6.5	-412	374
12	Olivia Godfrey	WEL	6	4	377
13	Roger Coates	KIW	5.5	-603	359
14	Hazel Purdie	MTA	5	-203	392
15	Helen Sillis	WTA	5	-830	348
16	Faye Cronhelm	IND	1	-1365	359

**Grade C**

1	Mary Gray	MTA	12	669	406
2	David Gunn	WKP	10	173	401
3	Jean O'Brien	IND	9	331	382
4	Fran Lowe	HAS	9	55	382
5	Betty Eriksen	WAN	8	710	402
6	Roger Cole-Baker	MTA	8	38	381
7	Lynn Carter	IND	8	-77	378
8	Allie Quinn	WRE	7	158	396
9	Yoon Kim Fong	KIW	7	117	401
10	Delcie Macbeth	IND	7	73	399
11	Joan Thomas	HAS	7	54	388
12	Lewis Hawkins	CHC	7	22	390
13	Carolyn Kyle	DUN	7	-488	357
14	Dianne Cole-Baker	MTA	7	-549	354
15	Chris Day	TGA	4	-461	372
16	Glenda Geard	IND	3	-825	359

**Grade D**

1	Nola Borrell	WEL	11	535	383
2	Lyn Toka	KIW	11	394	385
3	Ruth Groffman	DUN	10	374	373
4	Roto Mitchell	WAN	10	156	374
5	Karen Miller	IND	9	430	369
6	Su Walker	MTA	9	128	378
7	Margaret Bullen	TGA	8	177	380
8	Barbara Dunn	TGA	8	106	379
9	Carole Coates	KIW	8	-90	364
10	Bev Edwards	WRE	7	128	363
11	Suzanne Harding	WRE	7	-162	366
12	Shirley Pearce	KIW	6	-87	374
13	Jo Ann Ingram	TGA	5	-3	380
14	Shirley Morrison	TGA	5	-274	351

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
15	Ruth Godwin	ROT	5	-492 342
16	Faye Leach	KIW	1	-1320 302

**Grade E**

1	Leighton Gelling	IND	12	714	368
2	Judy Driscoll	KAP	12	124	345
3	Jill Paterson (prov)	ROT	11	453	379
4	Catherine Henry	TGA	10	613	362
5	Anne Goldstein	CHC	10	593	357
6	Sharron Nelley (prov)	KIW	9	146	340
7	Josie Parkin	TGA	9	129	359
8	Annette Coombes	WKP	8	165	366
9	Anne Scatchard	WRE	8	110	320
10	Joan Beale	PAP	7	392	364
11	Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell	KIW	7	105	350
12	Betty Don	IND	6	26	345
13	Margy Moore (prov)	KIW	6	-281	326
14	Jillian Greening	KIW	5	-506	331
15	Junior Gesmundo	PAP	4.5	-303	329
16	Ray Young (prov)	TGA	4	-1131	292
17	Margaret Peters	WRE	3.5	-841	299
18	Frances Higham	PAP	3	-508	316

**Youth Fundraiser  
21 June 2014**

**7 games**

Name	Wins	Spread
1	Paul Lister	6 1282
2	Ruth Groffman	6 687
3	Ray Goodyear	5 280
4	Sam Thompson	4 157
5	Tobias Devereaux	4 4
6	Michael Groffman	4 -10
7	Dorothy Latta	2 -429
8	Stephanie Pluck	2 -738
9	Bev Allan	1 -592
10	Anne-Louise Milne	1 -641



*Paul Lister, winner of the  
Youth Fundraiser*

# New Zealand Scrabble Records

As at 1st March 2014

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	Jack Diamond	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 <sup>th</sup> / 138	Lewis Hawkins	2013

Trans-Tasman Challenge		
Challenges won by NZ	3	1998, 2000, 2010
Individual winners	Peter Sinton	1998
	Jack Diamond	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<sup>s</sup>

Nigel Richards	1st
Howard Warner	90th
Joanne Craig	124th
Patrick Carter	148th
Peter Sinton	181st
Blue Thorogood	213th
John Foster	247th
Nick Cavenagh	264th
Lynne Butler	287th
Rogelio Talosig	299th

The Nationals (began 1980)			
Most games won <sup>4</sup>			
Most time National Champion	16	Jeff Grant	1990-91 1993-96 1998 2000-01 2007-08
Youngest competitor	Age 8 yrs & 151 days	Lewis Hawkins	2013
Oldest competitor	Age 88 yrs & 359 days	June Mackwell	2012

**Grand Masters**

Andrew Bradley  
Blue Thorogood  
Glennis Hale  
Howard Warner  
Jeff Grant  
Joanne Craig  
John Foster  
Liz Fagerlund  
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  
Lynne Powell  
Lyres Freeth  
Marianne Bentley  
Murray Rogers  
Paul Lister  
Rosemary Cleary  
Val Mills

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 Raphael	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 Yvette Hewlett Howard Warner	Aug-98 Nov-01 Aug-10
Most bonus words in game (combined)	8	Mike Sigley & Glenyss Buchanan Nigel Richards & John Foster Paul Lister & Shirley Hol	Pre 1997 Aug-98 May 13
Highest average in a tournament	584	Nigel Richards	Jan-97
Highest average spread in a tournament <sup>1</sup>			
Highest opening play <sup>1</sup>			
Longest word <sup>1</sup>			
Most tournament games played <sup>3</sup>	3138	Lynn Wood	
Most tournament games won <sup>3</sup>	1760	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.

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)				

### Milestones

3000 tournament games played<sup>3</sup>

Lynn Wood 3367

2000 tournament games played<sup>3</sup>

Glennis Hale 2539

John Foster 2521

Betty Eriksen 2423

David Gunn 2415

Howard Warner 2357

Val Mills 2332

Jeff Grant 2079

Allie Quinn 2077

Hazel Purdie 2061

Jean O'Brien 2023

Glenda Geard 2004

1000 tournament games won<sup>3</sup>

Howard Warner 1760

Lynn Wood 1603

Jeff Grant 1576

John Foster 1448.5

Glennis Hale 1421

Betty Eriksen 1251.5

David Gunn 1177

Val Mills 1122.5

Liz Fagerlund 1031.5

Jean O'Brien 1029.5

Hazel Purdie 1009.5

Allie Quinn 1004

500 international games (WESPA-rated)

Nigel Richards 2279

Joanne Craig 708

Howard Warner 704

Jeff Grant 502



*Allie Quinn*

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	thomasj@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
Masterton (MAS)	Hilda Scott	06 378 2663	billhilda@wizbiz.net.nz	7.30pm Wed
Mt. Albert (MTA)	Diane Cole-Baker	09 309 5865	drbc@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)	Ngairi Kemp	06 754 4107	ngairelynda.c@xtra.co.nz	1pm Wed
Wanganui (WAN)	Rosemary Cleary	06 347 1837	rosecleary@hotmail.com	1pm Mon
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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