

Forwords



Journal of the New Zealand Association of Scrabble® Players
No. 117 Summer 2014



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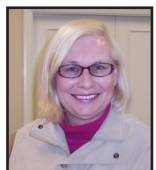
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Editorial

Would you play Scrabble under a ladder on Friday the 13th?

I am not a superstitious person. I like black cats well enough. If I spill salt, I just wipe it up. I couldn't tell you the star sign of either of my children. Sure, I'll knock on wood if I've said something portentous, but that has more to do with my cultural conditioning than with any belief that my action will have any appreciable effect on future outcomes.

I was brought up in an environment that emphasised the scientific method. Intellectually, I accept that in order to properly determine a causal relationship, only one factor may be altered in each rerun of an experiment. Scrabble incorporates so many random variables that it would be impossible to prove whether any minor change I make to my playing environment could determine whether I win or lose. My academic mind likewise acknowledges the gambler's fallacy: the mistaken belief that a run of one outcome (e.g. several losses in a row) means that the opposite outcome must surely be imminent.

Yet when it comes to competing in Scrabble, it's like some much more primitive part of my brain takes over. Had a narrow loss? Inconceivable that that would have anything to do with a weak endgame! Rather, it must have been because I was sitting on the unlucky side of the table; or scoring with the wrong coloured pen; or using

an inauspicious tile-drawing technique.

In this I am not alone. I can't think of any player I know who hasn't made some reference to "the lucky seat" or "reversing a losing streak".

Immediately prior to a tournament, we don't like too many wins in casual games, because that might exhaust our good luck supply. We all know players of sound mind whose every playing accessory is be-penguin^{*}; or who determinedly wear their ever-growing assortment of Scrabble clothing and jewellery to every tournament. I know that my Wordy Smurf is not the only talisman watching, concealed or not, from the sidelines.



Wordy Smurf

And what about the tile fairies? As adults we **know** that, like the tooth fairy, they do not exist; yet they flit persistently about our playing lore. I've never heard even the newest tournament players questioning the fairies' existence. We all are in tacit agreement that these tile fairies are easily angered and require appeasement, yet nobody seems to know how this is to be achieved. Do our elaborate hocus-pocus^{*} rituals perhaps reflect our pitiful attempts to accomplish this impossible task?

I rationalise all Scrabblers' superstitious practices as a type of

Feng* Shui* (which is defined by Wikipedia as a “philosophical system of harmonizing everyone with the surrounding environment”). This is why we prefer to play with our own apparatus: we each have chosen the board / tiles / rack / clock that are most in harmony with our individual preferences. Accordingly we feel more at ease using these items. (And all along you thought it was because your personal gear must be ‘pro’ you and ‘anti’ your opposition.)

I am not judging any player for their Scrabble superstitions – indeed, it would be more than a little hypocritical of me to do so. Rather I am expressing my fascination with the prevalence of this ethos we have developed. Because

whether fallacy or folklore, idolatry or idleness, all these practices amount to a way to justify continuing to play the game we love, even when it seems to go against us. And **that** is a practice which I wholeheartedly endorse.

[Yes, I’d love to hear about **your** lucky charms, rites, and incantations – especially any instances where something seems to have actually worked!]



President’s report

The end of another year is fast approaching, and January will be here before we know it. Lots of good things have happened in Scrabble over the past year, and there are lots of good things to look forward to.

Apart from all the usual club tournaments, the Masters, and the Nationals, we have recently hosted the 10th Trans-Tasman Challenge (see reports on pages 9-14). A huge thanks to Glenda for being the tournament director, and for organising the running of the tournament, the scoring, and providing updates after each game to the Scrabble News email list. Also, a big thanks to Howard and Vicky for finding the venue and finalising

arrangements with the Southern Cross manager. It certainly helps to have reliable and well-organised people on the ground, especially when most of the Executive were not able to be there. Thanks to all the other Wellington Club members who helped out as well.

We have also enjoyed variations to the usual round robin tournament format, with Hamilton’s “last hurrah” promotion/demotion tournament, Mt.



Val Mills

Albert Memorial and Wellington's Swiss draw tournaments, and extra tournaments run to celebrate special occasions. One such "special occasion" tournament was sponsored by Roger and Diane Cole-Baker to celebrate a special birthday for Roger, with the proceeds going to support Youth Scrabble (see page 23 for more information).

Thanks to all the smaller clubs around the country who continue to run tournaments. I know it can be difficult when you have limited entries, and not many people to help with the organisation. Please keep up the good work, because we do appreciate it.

If there are any additions or changes to the list of lifetime awards recipients, these are made at the end of each calendar year. This year I am delighted to announce two additions. Cicely Bruce has attained the ranking of Expert, while Lyres Freeth is now a Grand Master (only one year after first qualifying as Expert!). Hearty congratulations from me and from the NZASP to these two players.

Hot off the press is the news that WESPA will be running a World Scrabble Championship event in Perth from 4-8 November 2015, with an open division parallel event held at the same time! This means that anyone can enter that tournament and then be around also for the "main" event. Start saving! It would be great to have a sizable contingent of NZ players over there, both to play in the open event and to support our World Champs team. Apart from Melbourne in 1999 this is the closest to NZ that the World event has ever been held, and it is a

great chance for us to be part of the World Champs action.

I would like to again thank all of you for your support of the Executive over the past year. We really appreciate it when you suggest ways things can be run better, your willingness to help us when needed, and your enthusiasm for the game we love to play. Thanks to each of the Exec members for the work they have done in keeping things running smoothly.

Lastly, special thanks to Olivia and Anderina for taking on the role of editors of this magazine, to Glenda for stepping in and doing the layout, and to Lynn Wood for making sure we all get our magazines. You started off with a great issue and each one gets better. I love the night we get our mags at club, even though I know it means a late night for me as I can't sleep till I have read it from cover to cover.

Season's greetings and happy holidays. I hope you all get a chance to recharge so you can start the year off raring to go!



Word famous in New Zealand



When someone is kind enough to volunteer to write their profile for this column, it's always exciting to receive the copy, and be the first to find out the unknown details of their lives. Skim reading this feature for the first time, my own name jumped out at me. I hadn't remembered the apparently pivotal role I had played in bringing Jeanette into our community. Imagine my thrill when, on reading more closely, I also recognised a favourite book, my high school, and my husband's uncle. And hitherto I had presumed all Jeanette and I had in common was a church fellowship and a love of Scrabble!

Jeanette Grimmer is one of those "classy" Scrabblers lucky enough to have both her given name and her surname allowable in Scrabble. Read on to find out more about her life experiences, and what attracts her to our beloved game.

Name: Jeanette Anne Grimmer
Birthplace: Warkworth, NZ
Current home: The farm in Dome Valley where she lived as a child
Club Affiliation: Rodney since October 2010
Principal occupation: English teacher



Jeanette

Words are a joy to me. I have always loved reading, and from an early age enjoyed being read to by my mother. I would also read books such as Winnie-the-Pooh aloud to her while she was busy in the kitchen. My maternal grandmother was an excellent speller, and my mother loved poetry, copying her favourites into a special book. Some of these I tried to memorise, notably Tennyson's *The Revenge*, and Browning's *Hervé Riel*.

I grew up in the 1940s and 1950s, a very different era from today. My father was a small dairy farmer, whose 26 cows then provided sufficient income for our family of four children to live on. Known at school as "the brainy Grimms", we all did well academically. Determined not to ask my parents to pay for the university education I wanted, I applied for a

studentship. I gained my MA, before becoming a secondary schoolteacher. My first job was teaching French and English at Epsom Girls' Grammar School.

Four years later, my studentship pledge was fulfilled and I was ready for a change. I was seeking a different position in the Teachers' Gazette when an advertisement caught my eye: private students could apply to enter Victoria University's Social Work Diploma course. The stimulating two-year course in Wellington led to my employment as a social worker in the

Pukekohe Office. And it was here, in February 1973, that my life underwent a far greater change.

With a fellow social worker, Jan, I had begun to attend the Pukekohe Presbyterian Church. One weekend, a letter received from NZ cricketer, Brian Yuile, and a sermon from Welsh minister, Graham Jones, combined to reveal to me that I was loved by God. More strangely still, in view of my emotional deadness at the time, I learned that Jesus Christ wanted me to return that love. And so, committed to following him, my life path changed course again. I was baptised, then studied three years further at the Bible College of NZ in Henderson, then subsequently went to work among the Arab people in Jordan and then in Egypt. In that culture I value highly the generous hospitality, the kindness shown to foreigners like myself, and the way people deal with adversity, as well as the importance of family.

Most of my work there involved teaching English or helping Egyptian English teachers. Students ranged from



Alexandria in Egypt - the Corniche, the sea, and the buildings

first primary children to postgraduate theology students. During the twenty-six years I spent in Egypt, I moved ever northwards: from Asyut, to Cairo, to Menouf in the delta, and finally to Alexandria. My greatest work challenge came in Menouf, when I became Coordinator of a Community Service Centre which ran computer and English courses linked with the American University in Cairo.

Back in NZ to apply for superannuation before I turned 65, I visited friends in Mt. Albert. It was then that Anderina McLean invited me to attend the Scrabble club. I loved the welcome and the atmosphere, and the way Howard Warner encouraged new players. So I also visited the Rodney Club in Warkworth, where I really felt at home, too. And although I went back to Alexandria for another year of teaching, Valma Gidman and Ngaire Colville continued to play against me online. Rebecca Freeth, the club champion, was a special friend, and a lady we all loved and admired. To win against her or her daughters, Melody and Lyres, was an unusual and noteworthy event.

At my first tournament (Whangarei, 2011) I was thrilled to be awarded the Gerald Warner trophy for the "Most Promising New Player". Meeting players from other clubs at tournaments in Tauranga, Rotorua, Mt. Albert and at the Nationals has been a delight. Equally delightful has been learning so many new words! At one tournament I challenged the word ALSOONE. My opponent told me how she had once challenged ALSOON, to find it correct; then, ALSOON + E, also correct; and then had failed to challenge ALSOONE + S, which is not correct. By coincidence, in my very next game I received the letters for ALSOONE, which my opponent then challenged!!

Life in "retirement" is really busy. As well as my several church activities, I belong to U3A (University of the 3rd Age), play bridge at the Warkworth



Class of 2012 – Jeanette teaching academic English at a theological college in Yangon, Myanmar.

and Orewa clubs, and enjoy singing second alto in the Kowhai Singers. However, my favourite leisure activity is still Scrabble. I love its variety and challenge – finding those bonus words, or trying to cope with too many vowels or consonants. I can't imagine ever tiring of this intriguing word game. You never know what letters you will pick next from that bag, do you?!

Situations Vacant:

Applications are now open for the position of Principal Vowel Understudy in our exclusive, one-of-a-kind company. In order to lighten the word-load of our established team of vowels, The Bag Ltd are seeking to employ a consonant that is adaptable and versatile, able to step effortlessly into the role of a vowel in any position in a word. At The Bag Ltd, we believe that teamwork is the key to keeping our clients satisfied and guaranteeing return custom, so a proven ability to work cooperatively with other letters is essential. Our research

indicates that letters working in teams of seven or eight are the most effective in this specialist field, so The Bag Ltd is pleased to offer a bonus to any of our employees who demonstrate enthusiasm and aptitude for working within units of this size. This is your opportunity to start a career where work is so much fun that it always feels like play. For further information or to apply, please call 0800-727-222 or email bagajob@thebagltd.co.nz. Applications close 5:00 p.m. Tuesday 10 February 2015.

The Trans-Tasman Challenge 2014: A Battle Down Under

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The biennial competition between New Zealand and Australia was held in Wellington over three days at the end of October. When 24 games were done and dusted, Australia had taken out both the team competition and the best individual player prize (see full results on page 54) but, despite being the underdogs, the Kiwis went down swinging. As the following individual reports from Liz Fagerlund, Bob Jackman (Australia), and Joanne Craig will tell you, it was a battle royal that was fought to the bitter end.

Despite the fierce rivalry on the tiles, tournament director Glenda Foster commented that relations between the teams were very friendly (see also Bob's comments on sportsmanship on pages 11-12). A tournament dinner was organised for the second day of the tournament. Though many of the NZ players had prior commitments so were regretfully absent, it was well-attended by the Australians. Glenda observed that, while the service was quite slow, the food was good. As would be expected at a tournament of this calibre, the word power in the playing-room was very impressive. Some of the more interesting

plays noticed by Glenda included: ALAIMENTS, ALPHORNS (which gave Howard Warner a whopping 176 points), BRAAIED, MONTICLE, NONGUEST, PARONYMS, REMEDIAT, RIVERBED (which was challenged by Lynne Butler who had a Scrabble moment and read it as ri-verbed), SCLAFFS, and WINSEYS. Glenda, in fact, provided a much larger list but, for the sake of space, this editor has given herself the luxury of picking out 10 that particularly appealed to her personally.

At the beginning of the tournament, the NZASP presented all 24 players with personalised Scrabble-themed coasters as mementos of the 10th Trans-Tasman Challenge. Now, for more detailed accounts of what happened where, when, and to whom at the 2014 Trans-Tasman, read the following individual reports. Let the players tell you in their own words just how close the result was, and find out about a new Trans-Tasman format that has been agreed upon for 2016.

Liz Fagerlund, Mt. Albert writes



Playing Scrabble in the pub? — Now that sounds like a relaxed and social way to enjoy our favourite game! A group of us in Auckland indulge our passion for Scrabble in a pub most Wednesday nights, along with a drink, a meal, and some conversation with friends. Playing Scrabble in a Wellington pub with top Scrabble players from across the ditch (that's Australia, not the South Island) is a tad less casual!

From 31st October to 2nd November,

12 New Zealanders and 12 Australians played in the Trans-Tasman Scrabble Challenge in a room at the Southern Cross Hotel in central Wellington. The venue was a busy and popular pub. This meant that there was sometimes a bit of noise from the areas outside of our room, and at some tables, the lighting could have been a bit better. However, overall it was a great venue. Our Australian visitors really enjoyed being right in the centre of a vibrant city with easy access to shops, restaurants and the Wellington waterfront — so much better than being out in the suburbs.

The competition was pretty close — we had two games against each player

from the opposing country, so that meant 24 rounds in total. Glenda did a sterling job of updating the NZ and Australian Scrabble email lists after every round. I know this was much appreciated by the majority of Scrabble players here and in Australia.

After day one, when eight games had been played, NZ had a slight lead — 50 wins to 46. In the individual standings, Patrick Carter was in first place on seven wins, Howard Warner was second on six wins, and Australians Russell Honeybun and Rod Talbot were in third and fourth also on six wins. Anything could happen!

The first round on day two saw Australia draw level when they won eight games to four. Three rounds later at the halfway point (after 12 rounds), Australia had clawed their way to a six-game lead. However, NZ subsequently had some great rounds to come back at the end of day two (we had played 17 rounds at this point) to be only one game behind Australia (101.5 to 102.5). What a great battle this was shaping up to be!! The individual leaders at the end of day two were Joanne Craig (playing for NZ on this occasion) on 13 wins, followed by Howard, Russell, and Adam Kretschmer (another Aussie) all on 12 wins.

The seven rounds on day three were a bit of a mixed bag, with Australia winning some rounds, and NZ coming out on top in others. After round 23 (the second to last round of the tournament), Australia had only a



Team New Zealand

three-game lead. It was pretty close after all those games and all that toing and froing: we were still in with a chance!!

In the end though, Australia was triumphant. They finished the last round by winning seven games to NZ's five, giving a final result of 146.5 wins to Australia altogether against NZ's 141.5. The individual winner was first-time Trans-Tasman player Adam Kretschmer, who finished on 17 wins and only nine spread points ahead of our Joanne who was also on 17 wins.

It was a fantastic three days of Scrabble, and it was great to see our team staying in with a chance all the way. The next Trans-Tasman will be in Australia in 2016 where a new format will be trialled.

Editor's Note: Bob Jackman goes into more detail about this new format at the end of his report (see page 12).

Bob Jackman, Australia writes

The 10th Trans-Tasman Challenge in Wellington, New Zealand, was always going to be a closely fought contest.

Although Australia was sending a team missing many of its top players, ratings-wise the two teams looked fairly equal on paper.

The New Zealand organisers came up with a terrific venue, the Southern Cross Hotel, situated in a central part of Wellington. Eateries and accommodation abounded in this happening part of the city, and the hotel itself, with its superb outdoor area, was well patronised nearly the whole time we were there.

The future did not look good for Australia when New Zealand shot to a 12-game lead after the first three rounds. However, Australia rallied by winning 10 out of 12 games in round four, and from then on it was a close tussle all the way. New Zealand led 56 to 52 at the end of day one, and at the end of day two it was Australia ahead 102.5 to 101.5.

Going into the final round, Australia held a narrow three-game lead. New Zealand needed to win eight games to four to take the title.



However, this was not to be, as Australia won seven games to five instead. In the final washup, the Australian team won 146.5 to 141.5 games, thereby claiming its seventh Trans-Tasman title.

The individual title was an equally nail-biting affair. Going into the last game, any of Howard Warner, Joanne Craig, and Nick Cavenagh for New Zealand, and Adam Kretschmer or Russell Honeybun for Australia could have won. Rod Talbot knocked out Howard Warner, while Joanne Craig's victory over me fell short on spread. This enabled Adam Kretschmer to come through and win by nine spread points. In doing so he became the 10th individual Trans-Tasman winner.

There were notable instances of good sportsmanship by our New Zealand hosts. On day two, Carmel Dodd was trailing Lyres Freeth by around 135 points when she, Carmel, played out with LEUCHEN for a big score. Lyres challenged, but the word was valid and in the washup a tie resulted. However, both players overlooked the five-points penalty imposed on Lyres for the incorrect challenge, and signed the



Team Australia

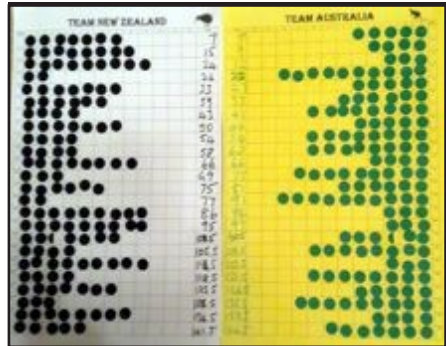
result sheet as a draw. Later when Lyres realised their mistake, she requested that Carmel be awarded the win.

On the third day, three Australian players who were staying together (including yours truly) were late arriving by half an hour due to a misunderstanding about the starting time. Tournament Director Glenda Foster opted not to start our clocks, so the games were played out as normal. Perhaps without justice, all three of us latecomers won our games.

There were some interesting anecdotes reported. In the drawn game between Tony Hunt and Nick Cavenagh on day two, during a tense endgame Tony accidentally bit his finger instead of his nail hard enough to draw blood. Rod Talbot reported that, when he could not play EYELIAD, he played YE under JO. He then immediately picked YE out of the bag and could now play his EYELIAD after all, hooking JOE to make JOEY.

Patrick Carter, playing in his 10th Trans-Tasman, drew KIORR?? against Carmel Dodd in his opening rack. He played ROCKIER, but could have scored 16 more points with optimal placement of the K, with either RIBWORK, RIMROCK, KORARIS or KORKIRS.

It was decided by the two teams present that the 11th Trans-Tasman in 2016 would be held in Adelaide for the first time. Furthermore, a new format would be trialled, in which 10 New Zealanders will take part in a 25-game round robin against 16 Australians, in an Australasian Championship, with the Trans-Tasman



The leader board at the end of the last day

Challenge happening in parallel. This was an exciting decision to cap off a truly exciting tournament.

Joanne Craig, Independent writes

I was in a positive frame of mind going into the Trans-Tasman, having had a good warmup at the Wanganui tourney the weekend before.



In the first round, I was drawn to play Naween Fernando. He's my bogey Aussie player, so I was happily surprised to beat him 493-396. Better still, I won the game even though I played only two bingos (TWOONIE(S) and INGENUS) to his four (ROSEATE, RONDELS, MILLRAC(E) and SAPROBE). However, I did score well with my X and Z (72 for MAX and 43 for ZOO).

I felt it was going to be a good tourney for me after such an auspicious start, but I ended day one on only five wins out of eight games. I also finished the first day feeling rather hard done by, as I had only drawn four blanks the whole day, with two of those coming in

my top-scoring 551-320 game against John Spaan.

In my game against John, I played four bingos (INGOTED, SHALIER, ALLEGER and ZOSTERS). I was particularly pleased with ZOSTERS because it came about as a result of some strategic play. After having several unplayable bingos cross my rack, I decided to open the top triple file by playing WA onto SH to make WASH. WASH takes two front hooks, A and S. I knew all the A's had gone by then, and I had the last two esses. My move soon paid off when I hooked one of my esses to make ZOSTERS and SWASH for 128, including five points for a challenge.

My second day went somewhat better than my first. I lost only one game, which was against Naween in an obviously unlucky round 13. I started that game promisingly, opening with JERID for 44 points, followed by two bingos (OUGH(L)IED and WINSEYS). However, Naween gained a considerable lead with D(E)RATION

and FITTABL(E). I then dangled a W in the triple file, scoring 30 for WINCE. He immediately pounced on it with ANS(W)ERER for 149 points, including five points for the challenge (just to be sure!). In the end, he beat me 637-431, which was my largest defeat of the tourney.

I had at least one blank in every game bar one that second day, (which made up for my blank shortage on day one). I was fortunate to win my one blankless* game, (which was against Ron Baginski), thanks again to the X and Z. Ron was leading after scoring 90 for C(L)EAREST on his second move. When he played DJINN on his third move however, he gave me an I for ABO(I)TEAU, which scored me 64 points. He then scored 48 for Q(U)ERN and 79 for MASSAG(E)R, but I replied with 53 for ZED and 48 for MIR(ZA). The clincher, though, was when I hooked the X onto the end of ABOITEAU to make ABOITEAUX and TIX for 71. After that, he was plagued by vowels and, despite having the last blank, he was unable to play a bingo, so I eventually won 482-438.

I started day three positively with three wins, but then had three losses. I lost to Esther Perrins (my regular sparring partner) by a mere two points. In our first matchup I had beaten her by only six points; thus my games against her were my two closest. She later pointed out that I drew all the blanks against her, but I was unrepentant since I drew exactly 24 blanks over the 24 games which, statistically speaking, was the exact number of blanks I could have expected!



Team trophy with both team captains



Individual winner Adam Kretschmer with presenter Glenda Foster

All in all, it was a very enjoyable tournament. Thanks to Glenda Foster for so ably running it (and for getting me there on time each morning!). Thanks also to her helpers for selecting the excellent venue and providing the quality equipment.

As you know, Australia ultimately retained the Trans-Tasman Challenge Shield by a mere five games, with the final game tally being 146.5-141.5. I



Best NZ player Joanne Craig

was very pleased to play my part in a hard-fought closely-contested tournament. At a personal level, I was particularly proud of gaining the Top NZ Player trophy for the third consecutive time.

Bob Jackman from Australia did a quick survey of the players to find out some of their favourite plays. Below are his results. Note that the words that were on this list, but which have already been referenced in the introduction and individual reports, have not been repeated here.

Adam Kretschmer: GRACILIS, FELLATIO

Joanne Craig: PERFECTO, PEMMICAN

Howard Warner: CHINTZY (for 155)

Esther Perrins: WHINIARD, TWIGSOME, PINNOED

Russell Honeybun: CEFTOU? through F for COIFFURE

Nick Cavenagh: TRUSTIES (for a 9-timer), PRUINOSE

Rod Talbot: STRADIOT, NUGGARS, UILLEANN

Naween Fernando: JATAKA through K for 50, ARYTHMIA

John Foster: NERVINGS (for 185)

Ron Baginski: PARONYM

KAREN Richards: FILMSET (to win over Howard), UNNATIVE

Lyres Freeth: TAKAHES

Bob Jackman: EPOPOELA, GUANXI

Matte Dunn: SOLDIERED (through an I and R)

Liz Fagerlund: PANAXES

Scott Chaput: AEMULING, UNISEX

Surprise endings

by Jennifer Smith, Kiwi

It's not just in novels and TV series where the surprise ending is thrilling — we Scrabblers love one, too.

It was my second night at Scrabble club, more years ago than I care to remember, when I first discovered that words could have surprise endings.

I was very proud of myself because I had just found my first bonus word on a club night (UNUSUAL), but had nowhere to play it. BAP was in a nice convenient spot, but not far enough over to hook the S of my word. You know how it is when you're new — I just couldn't think beyond the bonus word on my rack that wouldn't go down on the board! Fortunately, it was a dictionary game, so I looked up BAP anyway, just to check that it did take an S (those were the days before BAPS had become a common food in NZ). Wow! I discovered BAPU is a word, too!!! How exciting to be able to play my bonus after all.

Five minutes later, I couldn't believe my eyes when my opponent hooked a word on the end of ZINE to make ZINEB. From that moment, I knew never to assume that a word couldn't take a weird letter on the end of it (or front of it, for that matter)!

Here is a list of some of my favourite surprise endings, one for each letter of the alphabet:

BROUGHT	BROUGHTA
ZEBU	ZEBUB
BOBA	BOBAC
PROVEN	PROVEND
AGOG	AGOGE

GONE	GONEF
BARON	BARONG
DALED	DALEDH
EQUAL	EQUALI
BEN	BENJ
BEGUN	BEGUNK
PENCE	PENCEL
HAKA	HAKAM
CRIME	CRIMEN
STAMPED	STAMPEDO
MANTRA	MANTRAP
TALA	TALAQ
NAZI	NAZIR
LAMED	LAMEDS
APPLE	APPLET
CONGO	CONGOU
PARE	PAREV
NAVE	NAVEW
IMPOSE	IMPOSEX
GUANA	GUANAY
WARE	WAREZ

Many thanks to the opponents who taught me most of them. To date, I have played every one except DALEDH, GUANAY, IMPOSEX, and BROUGHTA.

I discovered BROUGHTA recently after I played BROUGHT from the top middle triple. At the end of the game we checked whether BROUGHT took an S — good news and bad news. The good news was that I learned a fantastic hook. The bad news was that, after playing BROUGHT, I had had AMAZING on my next rack, and could find nowhere to play it! Hooked onto BROUGHT, it would have earned me 179 points.

I've been reading:

Pat Bryan, Mt. Albert

***Thou Spleeny Swag-Bellied Miscalent:*
Create your own Shakespearean insults**
Sarah Royal and Jillian Hofer
Running Press (2014)

This is a collection of three sets of cards with adjectives, adverbs, and nouns from the Bard's works, which can be mixed and matched to create dozens of insults.

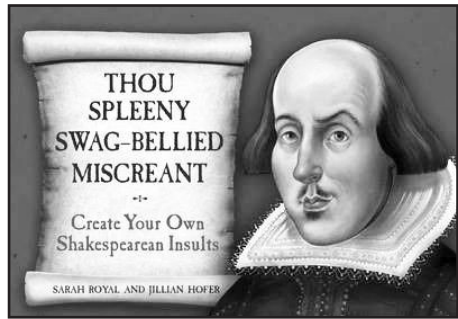
Many of Shakespeare's descriptive words are hyphenated and therefore not allowed in Scrabble (though each of their component parts are). Some of the more colourful of these are "muddy-mettled", "half-faced", "rump-fed", "bum-bailey", and "canker-blossom".

Here is a selection of useable words, selected according to my criterion of 'deliciousness':

- GUDGEON – to trick or cheat
- CURRISH – of or like a dog
- CANKERED – infected with an ulcerous disease
- GLEEKING – jeering
- SPLEENY – bad-tempered or irritable
- BESLUBBERING -- (my favourite!)
slobbering over
- REEKY – unpleasantly smelly
- DEBOSHED – debauched
- MAMMERING – hesitant
- COCKERED – pampered or spoiled
- MEASLE – infect with tapeworms (what a curse!)
- PUMPION – pumpkin
- CLOTPOLL – a dull or stupid person.
(Same as CLODPATE, CLODPOLL, CLODPOLE)
- JOLTHEAD – fool

Here are some insults I constructed to

think or mutter at tournaments:
"foul-reeking fusty rogue"
"pernicious sodden-witted maggot"
"frothing swaggering measles"
and -if I'm really having a bad time-
"ruttish, grim-looking bed-swerver!"
Happy Holidays!

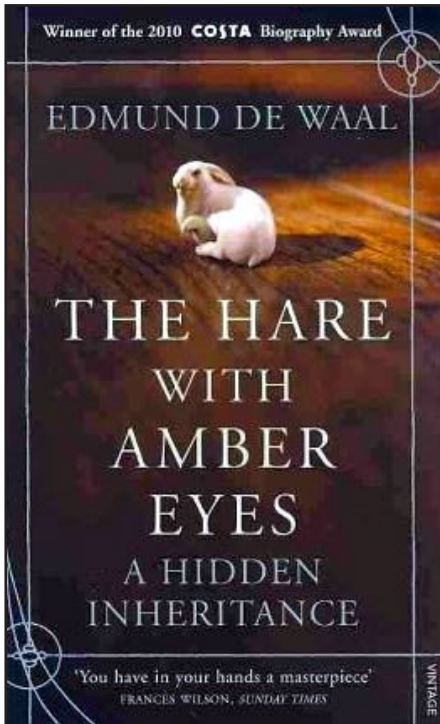


Pat observed that her library also carries the title Sex, Sleep or Scrabble?: Seriously funny answers to life's quirkiest queries by Dr. Phil Hand. Although this one contains plenty of sex, according to Pat the only Scrabble is in the title, so not nearly as desirable holiday reading for those hoping to improve their vocabulary and / or other aspects of their game.

Val Mills, Pakuranga

The Hare with Amber Eyes: A hidden inheritance
Edmund de Waal
Vintage (2011)

Here is the Wikipedia precis:
The Hare with Amber Eyes (2010) is a family memoir by British ceramicist Edmund de Waal. De Waal tells the story of his family, the Ephrussi, once a very wealthy European Jewish banking dynasty, centered in Odessa, Vienna and Paris. The Ephrussis lost almost everything in 1938 when the Nazis



aryanized* their property, but an easily hidden collection of 264 Japanese netsuke miniature sculptures was miraculously saved, tucked away inside a mattress by Anna, a loyal maid at Palais Ephrussi in Vienna during the war years. The collection has been passed down through five generations of the Ephrussi family, providing a common thread for the story of its fortunes from 1871 to 2009.

Words I didn't know:

For a start – NETSUKE!!

CARYATID – a sculptured female figure

FAUTEUIL – an armchair (useful word with 2 u's)

FLANEUR – committed idler (anagrams FUNERAL and FRENULA)

MONDAIN – a person who lives in fashionable society (also MONDAINE)

GUMSHOE – to investigate stealthily

(good compound word)

EMPYREAN – the highest heaven

FIACRE – a small horse-drawn carriage

ZOUAVE – a French infantry man (I've played this heaps, good to know what it means)

ELIDE – to omit (why don't I know/haven't seen this word with such common files?! ELIDED, ELIDING, ELIDES) *[and it must surely be related to ELLIPSIS – Ed]*

Anderina McLean, Mt. Albert

The Secret Garden

Frances Hodgson Burnett (1911)

Set in the Yorkshire moorland, the dialect of the characters provides quite a few interesting Scrabble words, including:

NESH – soft

MOITHER – to confuse

WUTHER – to move with force

KNOBSTICK – one who refuses to join a trades union

CLEMMING – to starve

POTHER – to cause anxiety or suffering

WORRIT – to worry (also WHERRIT)

KETCH – to capture

WERT – past tense of "to be" (no S)



Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to apply for the position of Principal Vowel Understudy. I believe that, as the letter “Y”, I have the necessary skills and experience to perform this role and to bring value to your company.

As you will see from my attached curriculum vitae, I have vast experience in the specialised area of vowel replacement. Indeed, I was employed exclusively as a vowel for much of the 3000 or so years that I have been working in the alphabet industry. During my employment by the Ancient Greeks under the title UPSILON, I provided my employers with the long “U” sound such as can be found in the word HUBRIS. In fact, my long tenure as UPSILON continues to be recognised in the English-speaking world today, where the words HUBRIS and UPSILON are also commonly spelled HYBRIS and YPSILON.

More recently, I have made a name for myself in the English alphabet as an “T” replacement, and I feel that it is in this area that I can bring the most value to your company. I can replace almost any vowel sound that can be represented by an “T”. For example, in the words ALLYLIC, DYSPNOEA, and YSLAKED I act in the role of a short “T” sound, while in words like CONDYLE, CYBERPET, PRYTANEA, and REPRYVE, I help to make the long “T” sound. Over the years I have also gained considerable experience in complete “T” substitution. By this I mean that words that would ordinarily be spelled with an “I” can still be spelled using me if an “I” cannot be found. For instance, words such as ALCAIDE, APAID, AROINTS, BARITONE, EMPAIRE, PRITHEE, PURTRAID, STANIEL, VENTAILE, and many others can all be spelled using either an “T” or a “Y”.

Though the bulk of my experience lies in understudying for the letter “T”, I have considerable expertise in covering for the concluding “-IE” vowel partnership as well. Many clients for whom I have provided this particular service have expressed their surprise and gratitude to me when their “-IE” team was rendered unavailable and I was able to step in to provide emergency support. Examples of situations where I have successfully understudied for the “-IE” unit include words such as BADDIE, COOKIE, CALORIE, GROUPIE, HOTTIE, NIGHTIE, ORGANDIE, QUICKIE, and REVERIE.

My work experience also includes the provision of support services for the “-IA” team, focussing on the creation of nouns with Greek origins. Words such as ANOREXIA, ASPHYXIA, ASTHENIA, ATARAXIA,

DYSPEPSIA, EUPHONIA, EUPHORIA, EUTHANASIA, MYOPIA, and XENOPHOBIA are familiar. Thanks to my endeavours in the field of “-IA” support, these and many other words ending in “-IA” can now be spelled with a “Y” on the end instead. While often the “-IA” team supports words that are too long to be of use to the discerning Scrabble client, my substitution frequently reduces these words just enough so that they can provide a more effective Scrabble service.

I also have a modicum of experience in acting for the letter “E”. I gained this experience in the late Medieval period, when I was briefly seconded into the Middle English School of Languages to provide substitution services for the “E”s in words such as ALCHEMY, CHEMIST, and TZIGANE. The variant spellings I created during this interlude are still allowable today.

Finally, I wish to address a concern expressed by some of my former clients: that I work well as an individual, but have displayed bingo-hampering characteristics when required to work in a team. I feel that one of my outstanding features as a letter is my ability to perform anywhere in a word. Unfortunately, I believe that my bingo-creation skills have been underestimated, because my inherent versatility sometimes makes it difficult for clients to find the right role for me in a team with lots of bingo potential. However, in words such as YMOLTEN, CYATHIA, ACYLOIN, AGLYCON, ZLOTYCH, AUTONYM, and ROSEBAY it can be seen that I have the ability and willingness to play any role that is assigned to me within a team, so as to help my colleagues provide just that little bit of bonus service to our clients.

Should you require any additional information regarding my work and education histories, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or my referees. I believe that I have a great deal to offer The Bag Ltd as an employee, and I hope that I am given the opportunity to demonstrate this. Thank you for taking the time to seriously consider my application.

Yours sincerely

Yojana York

Yojana York

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Toytown
New Zealand

Phone: (06) 538-8379
Cellphone: (021) 949-2759
Email: yojana.york@dismayl.net.nz

CURRICULUM VITAE

Yojana Yarran York

Referees

Name	Position/Organisation	Telephone	Email
Yenta Young	Chief Advocacy Officer, <i>Y Appreciation Society</i>	64 4 935-6839	yenta.young@welovewye.org.nz
Yuko Yidaki	Senior Character Promotion Coordinator, <i>The Why Not Wye Trust</i>	64 3 972-7387	yuko.yidaki@wyenotwye.co.nz

Personal Statement

As a talented and highly motivated letter with more than 2500 years post-qualification experience in the alphabet industry, I am now looking to challenge myself in a new career. My employment thus far has allowed me to develop hugely valuable skills in representing both vowel and consonant sounds. I now wish to expand my professional horizons, and believe that the unique opportunities offered by your company for letters to work in the word games arena will give me the chance to use my skills to benefit numerous word lovers.

Through my previous employment, I have gained enormous experience in the processes involved in syllabic formation, word creation, and vowel vocalisation support. I have held a variety of positions, including the representation of “P”, “-IE”, and “-IA” sounds. I performed my role of substituting for the “-IE” sound at the end of certain adjectival words so well, that many words that were originally spelled with an “-IE” ending are now more popularly spelled using me instead. Examples of these words include GUSTY, HANKY, HUNKY, JUMBY, and OBSEQUY. Since I have performed these replacement roles for hundreds of years, I now feel that I am ready to explore a more lighthearted, and perhaps more fulfilling, role in the gaming field.

Over my working life, I feel that the most useful skill that I have acquired is my ability to interact positively and productively with a huge variety of letter combinations. I am proud to say that I have successfully put together quality bonus-word teams despite being advised by my superiors that the individual letters I proposed to engage were completely incompatible. Indeed, I positively thrive on assignments where I have been specifically employed to use my interpersonal skills to create harmony among a team where the individual letters have not been able to relate well with one another in the past. Some of my most memorable successes include the combinations AHN RV, ALLRVUU, AMOSUZ, AORUVV, BEMNPT, CILRUVS, CIPRUV, CMMOPS, and MMNNOO. Many clients had expressed frustration at the infighting amongst these letters but, after chairing several tense mediations, and deploying all my skills of communication, persuasion, and negotiation, I was able to create the following allowable bonus words: HRYVN YA, UVULARLY, AZYMOUS, VOUVRAY, BYNEMPT, SCURVILY, PYRUVIC, COMSYMP, and MONONYM. In addition to this proven interpersonal proficiency, I would bring to my new role my analytical skills, my ability to approach clients’ problems with creativity and practicality, and a determination to contribute fully to achieving the goals of the team.

Key Skills

<p>Analytical</p>	<p>I am able to analyse information gleaned from a variety of languages, make links between diverse pieces of information provided by fellow letters, and draw logical conclusions from my findings to form successful letter combinations. I developed these skills throughout my tertiary studies in the Phoenician University of Alphabetic Excellence, where I was tutored by the Phoenician letter WAW, known among us letters as the Father of Characters. I continued to use and further develop these skills during my employment by the Ancient Greeks. My current position as a semivowel (a letter that is both a vowel and a consonant) in the English alphabet has enabled me to even further hone these skills. In this job, a large part of my work involves carrying out etymologic research using a range of information sources, analysing the information I gather, and making well-reasoned decisions on whether the letter combinations presented to me require my skills as a vowel, a consonant, an adverb facilitator, or a phonetic placeholder.</p>
<p>Interpersonal</p>	<p>While I would describe myself as an independent and clear thinker, I am very much a team player who has the capacity and sense of responsibility to actively listen to others' ideas so that I can contribute to a constructive team environment. In my current position, I have had to work with many other letters, in often quite hostile settings, to complete projects that could only be achieved through the contributions of several letters working cooperatively. I am an engaging communicator, able to form and maintain relationships with letters at all levels. This particular attribute means that I am able to take on and perform any role that is assigned to me in order to facilitate a successful bonus word environment. My sense of humour allows me to be myself at all times - particularly in times of high word stress.</p>
<p>Leadership</p>	<p>While I am skilled at delegating tasks when the occasion calls for it, my thousands of years of experience in the alphabet word-force means that I now have the ability and the confidence to lead and be responsible for major areas of written English. Aply assisted by my colleague The Letter L, I am currently the Chief Executive of the Department of Adverb Formation. Most people will know that this means I am responsible for common adverbs such as BRIGHTLY and STUPIDLY. However, under my leadership, this department has now expanded to encompass over 1400 seven- and eight-letter adverbs that use the "-LY" ending, including such gems as ADDEDLY, FRENZILY, TEUGHLY, THWARTLY, UNHOLILY, and VEILEDLY.</p>

Club news

The Battle of the Gorge 2014

The annual Battle of the Gorge Scrabble encounter between Tauranga and Rotorua clubs was held on Friday 17th October.

Tauranga won comfortably last year on their home turf, and brought a very strong team to Rotorua for the 2014 contest, so we were feeling like the underdogs this year.

By lunchtime, we had played four rounds and were halfway through the contest. Incredibly, both teams were locked together with 14 wins apiece. Two rounds later, the score had Rotorua leading, but only by 22 to 20.

The final round saw Tauranga claw it back to finish just one win behind Rotorua. The final score was Rotorua 25 to Tauranga 24, which meant that Tauranga had only just missed out on retaining the trophy.

Kevin Edgeler was the top player for the home team with six games from seven, while David Kerr and Lesley Edgeler were next on five games each. Heather Landon was Tauranga's leading player, winning five of her games.

Barbara Dunn handed the trophy over to Tim Henneveld and thanked Rotorua for their organisation of the event. She also thanked Tim and Janny Henneveld for hosting the contest at their home, and Ruth Godwin and Jan Kite for their work behind the scenes. She then extended an invitation to the Rotorua Club to come back to Tauranga for the 2015 fixture.

Kevin Edgeler, Rotorua

Tournament report: Roger Cole-Baker's 75th birthday

The extra one-off one-day tournament Mt. Albert Club ran in November proved popular and was a source of fun and good Scrabble. One of our members, Dianne Cole-Baker, suggested to the committee that her husband Roger's 75th birthday could be shared by all, and with Dianne and Roger generously sponsoring this event, it could also serve as a fundraiser for Youth Scrabble.

Everyone had a great time, with five grades enjoying their Scrabble, fantastic morning tea (provided by Mt. Albert Club members), and afternoon tea (consisting of a fabulous birthday carrot cake and gluten-free banana cake made by Dianne). There were extra prizes for the old, the young, and those who played the words roger, cole, or baker (or any forms of those words).

The Club and players also gave Roger a birthday card. It was not entirely in keeping with his advanced years, but it gave him a laugh!! Most players agreed that there was a need for more one-day tournaments. Watch this space...

Youth Scrabble will be receiving a cheque from the Club for several hundred dollars, a worthwhile amount from a fun day.

Liz Fagerlund, Mt. Albert

Dunedin Club Results

Dictionary Competition

This year not one Dictionary game was played. This is good news in that it means that all the players have been playing seriously, but bad news in that it means that we had no newbies for the entire year.

Name	Games	Wins	Average	B/Words
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Challenge Competition

1 Scott Chaput	41	37	449	82
2 Marc van Hoek	10	9	365	8
3 Ruth Groffman	54	43	374	19

Ladder Competition

1 Scott Chaput	12	12	466	26
2 Chris Handley	12	1	341	10
3 Anne-Louise Milne	13	3	316	7

Round Robin Competition

1 Scott Chaput	32	25	445	71
2 Peter Sinton	24	22	435	48
3 Ruth Groffman	33	14	359	14

Club Championship

1 Scott Chaput	85	74	450	179
2 Chris Handley	117	59	367	125
3 Anne-Louise Milne	149	39	307	72

Have a good break, drive safely if you are going away and come back next year refreshed and ready to take on the world (well, at least the players at your local club!).

Chris Handley, Dunedin

Mt. Albert Scrabble Club congratulates member Mike Currie on his wedding to Karen Jarvis during Labour weekend.



A whole new class of Scrabblers

O₁

Anderina and I had such fun coming up with the idea for Classy Scrabblers for the last issue, and we've had such great feedback about it from you guys, that we've put together a whole new class of Scrabblers for you. Once again, these people are lucky enough to have all parts of their name allowable in Scrabble.



Back row: Akita Corby, Alison Maxwell, Isabel Sweetman, Galena Zakouski, Charlotte Foley, Dominique Schiller, Tamara Pinkerton, Matilda Acton, Kelly Murphy.

Third row: Alexander Garvey, Gilbert Mulligan, Amelia Charleston, Colin Lewisson, Isabella Franklin, Chana Raiyatwari, Hakeem Sandek.

Second row: Daimen Ridley-Johnson, Graham Underwood, Albert Fulham, Houhere Taupata, Jesse Seton, Steven Langley, Kelvin Barlow, Hazan Malik, Miss Victoria Dempster (Teacher).

First row: Cicely Jackman, Mavis Chang, Erica Prentice, Sylvia Brannigan, Rosaria Borrell, Claribella Holstein-Chumley, Gloria Sweeney, Christy Bridewell, Gemma Coombes.

Front, seated: Hector Newton-Pearce, Louis Cummins.

Absent: Craig Goodyear, Kylie Marshall, Juliet Gladstone-Morris.

Romanian Open Scrabble Tournament 2014

by Cicely Bruce, Whangarei

Well, I promised Anderina and Olivia that I would report back on the international tournament held in Romania, which I attended in October, so here it is.

Before the tourney began, I was rather nervous as I was travelling to an unknown country to play, but I needn't have been, as all arrangements went without a hitch (once I got there - I won't bore you with the saga of my bus trip from Budapest!) The tourney was held in Cluj-Napoca, which is the capital of the Transylvanian region of Romania. It was an international one, WESPA and ABSP (Association of British Scrabble Players) rated, with 30 entrants from 12 different countries. Organiser Catalin Caba did a great job, making everything run smoothly and looking after everyone. He went so far as to share his homemade wine and palinka (a type of lethal local firewater) with us. His hospitality was not confined to the tourney either, since he even organised a couple of sight-seeing bus trips either side of the actual tourney, which were well-patronised and good value.

The other players were a friendly bunch, with the range of WESPA ratings being

approximately 500-1950. My rating of 1530 put me in ninth position at the start. As far as I can tell, WESPA ratings are very similar to ours.

There were two 'classes' of players, which I found were not the same thing as our 'grades'. For a start, you could play any of the players in either grade, but prizes and places were awarded separately. There were 22 games, mostly Swiss Draw, with the last two games being King-of-the-Hill. Somehow this resulted in me playing tournament winner Terry Kirk (England) in game 21, although I was sitting in 10th place at the time. Apparently this was considered "fairer", since Terry had an unassailable lead by then and they didn't want him playing the contenders for places two through four. The term "cannon fodder" did come to mind but on the other hand, what a great chance to have a game against a top player I wouldn't normally play.



Cluj-Napoca

The tourney was run in accordance with the WESPA V2 rules (which included the five-point challenge rule), but with a few small modifications. For example, at the beginning of the game, the clock is started when the first player's hand goes into the tile bag, rather than when the first tile hits the rack. Also, writing down the score does not affect challenging a move; a challenge can be made at any time until a replacement tile is drawn.



Winner Terry Kirk (England) with Catalin Caba (Romania)

Otherwise I found playing in Cluj very similar to a NZ tourney, with a few minor differences.

Games tended to start later in the day and finish later; you had to bring your own scoresheets and summary sheets; there were no spot charts for wins; there was no regulation dictating the size of tile bags so many were the standard green commercial variety.

Finally, entry fees were considerably higher, but the prize money was also more rewarding: The entry fee was €75, and prizes ranged from €400 for first place in Class A to €75 for second place in Class B.

There were no round-by-round spot prizes, though there was an overall spot prize for the best word that was in both the Romanian list and CSW12.

The organisers kept an eye on the boards for any that qualified since most of us would obviously have no idea. I managed RETRAITE, but the winner was Peggy Fehily from Germany with TOPLESS – can't imagine why the judges went for that one!

I found it interesting that the players' Scrabble vocabulary was different to ours, in



Anand Buddhew (Netherlands) playing Jean McArthur (USA).

that certain words were more familiar and used. For example I saw QUEME played often, but I hadn't come across it before, though that could be just me I know. Conversely of course some of our familiar words, particularly slang and Māori words, were new to them.

These continental European tourneys are organised on an annual basis, being shared about by the relatively few (English language) players that live

there. The next one will be in the Netherlands in November 2015, then in Vienna the following year. I would recommend them to anyone who is able to get there; they are not daunting to play in, and lots of fun.

As to the actual Scrabble, I ended up as I began, in ninth place with 12 wins. Terry Kirk from England won A class with 19 wins and Catalin won B class on 13 wins.

Twenty years ago in *Forwards*

by John Foster, Independent

It was quite a surprise to me when I came across this article by Lynn Wood. It is well known that Australia lagged behind us in adopting double dictionary, and in the early years it did not even have a nationally unified word base, with some states using Chambers and some using OSPD. What surprised me was that the transition to SOWPODS happened only this recently. Once the process started it must have been quite rapid, as the first Trans-Tasman was held only two years after Lynn's article was published, and I don't remember any issues of conflict with word sources in that first tournament.

The boards and challenges were another matter. As Lynn says, Australians were still using folding cardboard boards, and the room for the first Trans-Tasman was set up with 12 of them, until the NZ team substituted about half of them with some rotating boards that we had brought with us.

A major compromise was required from both countries with respect to

challenges, as NZ and Australia could not have been further apart in our philosophies regarding this aspect of the game. Australia was using single challenge (no penalty for an unsuccessful challenge), and NZ was using double challenge (loss of turn for an unsuccessful challenge). The compromise was "dingle challenge" (no penalty for the first unsuccessful challenge and loss of turn for subsequent unsuccessful challenges). This system was used for the first four Trans-Tasman, until it was replaced by the five-point challenge in 2004.

Editor's note

"Double dictionary" referred to using both the Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (OSPD) and the Chambers Dictionary, which latter was adapted to form the Official Scrabble Words (OSW). In other words, "double dictionary" was the original term for what later became known as SOWPODS, which was the dictionary reference used in NZ competition play prior to the adoption of Collins Scrabble Words (CSW) in 2007.

The First Queensland Two-Day Double Dictionary Tournament

I had learnt that Queensland was hosting a double dictionary tournament, from the Australian magazine to which I subscribe — and I thought “why not?”. It is very hard to unlearn words, so a tournament in Australia had never been on the cards. My parents were staying in Miami which is only five suburbs away from Southport, so here was my chance to combine a holiday with a Scrabble tournament — what bliss.

My one regret was not being able to say farewell to Lucy Bright, as I knew she would die while I was away. Lucy has always been very philosophical about the future, and encouraged me to go to Australia because, as she had said, I could not do anything for her once she was in her box. She wanted quality time in the here and now and that is what I gave her. I said goodbye to Lucy at the chapel at Auckland International Airport, and I know that I chose the right option — the one she would have wanted.

Sheryl Davidson joined me on our journey to Southport for our first Australian Tournament. The venue was the RSL club, and we were greeted very warmly by the Southport Club members who we had met previously at their daytime club.

The boards were all set up ready for play, and shock, horror, they were flat boards! We sat side-on for each game and it was an awful experience. You miss so much not looking at the board upside down and I had forgotten how spoilt we are in New Zealand.

Faye Leach (an ex-Hamiltonian) was there from Bundaberg and as I had taken two swivel boards over, I sold them to her for her club's meetings. The Australians did not want to know about turning boards. The Australian rule of challenging and not missing a turn was annoying too, as I had five words in succession

“each game was a surprise as to who you would play”

challenged and they were all correct. It is good for the person not being penalised though, and they were very happy when each word was

okay. “Just checking” was the favourite term.

The draw was Swiss style (winners play winners and losers play losers) and each game was a surprise as to who you would play. The last game on the second day was 1st playing 2nd on down through the grade. I played Maryanne Bentley and Sheryl played Marie Knight from NSW. My points were abysmal and I ended up in 3rd place. Maryanne first, Marie second and Sheryl fourth.

The prize giving was one to be learnt from too. All prizes were the same for each grade but in a different colour. They started from novice grade and finished at the winner of the Masters grade. A truly fitting idea, which we may be able to adopt for our tournament.

Anyway, all faults and advantages aside, the tournament was well worth attending and I hope to do it again next year.

**Lynn Wood
Wellington**

Why continued improvement is easier than completely 'changing gears'.

by Selena Chan, Christchurch

In an article about *Neural constraints on learning* by Sadler et al. (2014), the study's finding is compared to cookery: "Suppose you have flour, sugar, baking soda, eggs, salt and milk. You can combine them to make different items — bread, pancakes and cookies — but it would be difficult to make hamburger patties with the existing ingredients. We found that the brain works in a similar way during learning."

The above finding, based on studies with rhesus monkeys, is confirmation of something we may already understand through 'common sense'. It is easier to learn and improve on skills we are already proficient with, but difficult to learn skills unrelated to our previous experiences, or to significantly shift our learning approaches. In psychology speak, our 'through patterns' and behaviour have become 'fossilised', which means that it is increasingly difficult to 'shift gears'.

To become a better Scrabble player sometimes requires breaking ingrained habits and changing our learned approaches. Some new playing strategies are easy to achieve as they flow through from familiar methods with which we are already comfortable. However, at times, we need to make drastic changes in the way we play. Examples include the need to change how we make Scrabble decisions (i.e. decisions on rack balance; endgame strategy) or complete Scrabble tasks

(e.g. tile tracking). Since we have invested time and effort into learning most of our Scrabble-playing strategies, improvement by completely changing tack will require intensive effort to 'unlearn' what we had worked so hard to acquire in the first place. Frequently, to relearn, we need to devote even more time and energy to develop and automate that new approach.

The flipside of this debate is the work on neuro-plasticity, which states that our brains can tackle new learning at all stages of life. Neuro-plasticity is often used to explain how people who have suffered strokes are able to retrain a slightly different part of their brain to complete tasks which have been disrupted. However, there are limits to neuro-plasticity. In the main, motor skills are 'easier' to reattain. This is due to the fact that the motor function networks are very deeply embedded in our neural framework. Cognitively-categorised skills may be more difficult, since thinking processes are learnt. Hence, our neural networks for problem-solving and other thinking -type activities are highly individualised and idiosyncratic. Recovering specific cognitive function after brain injury is therefore more challenging.

So, where does that leave the Scrabble player trying to improve their game? Well, here are some hints to think through and try out:

- Determine motivation: Ask yourself the question, 'why am I making a change — to enjoy the game more (intrinsic motivation), or to increase my rating (extrinsic motivation)?' Motivation is an important ingredient for success. Intrinsic motivation (motivation arising out of the individual) is particularly determinative.
- Identify and deconstruct: Work out the behaviour/activity you want to improve/change, and try to break it down into achievable learning objectives. Let us take the example of tile tracking. If you want to become more efficient at using tile tracking information, try to work out at which stage of the game and in what types of game situations you need to begin making decisions. Then, work out what you usually do when you go through the decision-making process. Writing down the steps will help you understand, for instance, how you currently 'read' your tile tracking sheet. Then analyse which step you want to improve. For example, should you highlight whether high-value tiles have been played first or later? Or should you become more aware of vowel / consonant balance?
- Practise: Play games with yourself or like-minded Scrabble players trying to achieve similar goals. This will help you to hone the new way of playing.
- Evaluate: Reassess your new approach while playing casual games to find out whether that

approach is yielding dividends (e.g. increased likelihood of bonus word combinations; improved endgame; and so forth). After all, there is no point continuing with a new strategy if it is not actually improving your game.

All of the above hints take time and effort. There will be players who will intuitively work out how to adjust their playing skills over time. For the majority of us, however, improving Scrabble-playing not only requires determination and diligence, but a studied approach to improving the way we think about Scrabble. Happy Scrabbling. 😊

The article that inspired this feature may be read here:

<http://www.medicaldaily.com/understanding-why-brain-struggles-learning-new-skills-may-help-develop-more-efficient-300076>

And the paper that article was inspired by is:

Sadler, P.T., Batista, A.P., Yu, B.M., et al. (2014). Neural constraints on learning. *Nature*, 512(7517), 423-426.



Life beyond Scrabble: are you game to try it?



I've always enjoyed playing board and card games. As a child I used to sit by myself with the Snakes and Ladders set, assigning a character to each coloured counter as I rolled the die for each imaginary player.

While my husband and I would always prefer a board game over, say, television, I have noticed that playing indoor games is not as popular as it used to be. I feel that this is a real shame, because the fun of a board game is not just in playing it, but in the people that you're playing it with.

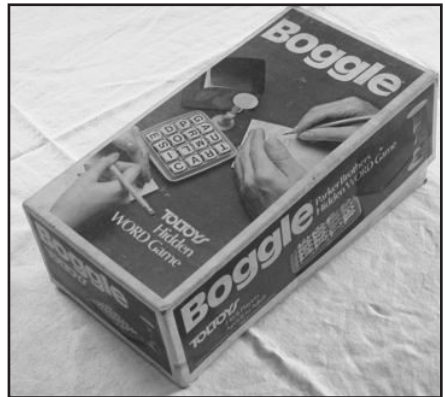
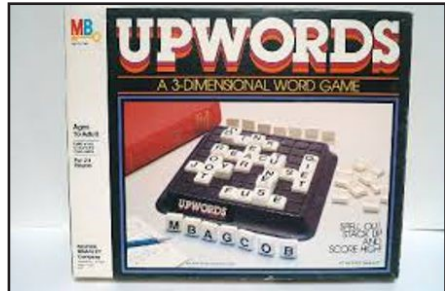
Recently, I read an interview with writer Malcolm Gladwell, who made a point with which I completely agree:

"I learned more about the world from playing board games than anything else... What you realise is that it's nothing to do with what happens on the board. It's everything to do with your relationships with the people you're playing. That's a really hard lesson to learn as a child."

<http://www.theguardian.com/books/2014/jul/26/malcolm-gladwell-this-much-i-know>

With the holiday season approaching, it's a perfect time to try some new board games with family and friends. Although no game is as perfect as Scrabble, here are a few of my other favourite word games that might tempt you this summer. Besides being great fun, these games are also a useful way to enhance your Scrabble play. But if you can't see yourself being unfaithful

to your board game love, perhaps you will find a Christmas present idea or two among this selection. Brand new, some of these games can cost up to around \$50.00, but I have found secondhand board games in excellent condition for \$20.00 or less in markets, garage sales, op shops and, of course, Trade Me.



UPWORDS (Hasbro / Milton Bradley, 1988)

The basic mechanics of this game are very similar to Scrabble: each player draws seven letter tiles, taking turns to play onto a square grid to make words in a crossword-like formation. More tiles are then drawn to replace those that have been played. Although only one word can be added in a turn, and that must be played in a straight vertical or horizontal line, all words modified in a turn are scored by that player.

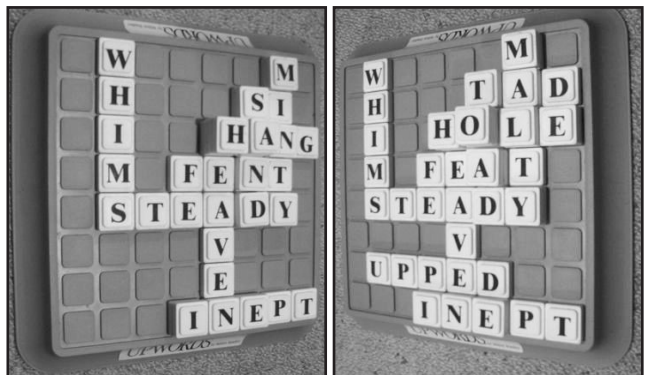
The key difference between Upwords and Scrabble is that tiles may be played on top of ones that have already been placed on the board, provided that at all times all words showing on the board are valid. Another proviso is that an entire word may not be covered up in a single play (i.e. at least one letter must remain visible from the previous play). For example, if MAIZE was on the board already and a player had DGI on their rack, they could change it to MIDGE by playing over the top of the middle three letters.

There are no premium squares on an Upwords board, and the letters do not have a face value. Thus, scoring is dependent on the word/s played rather than on individual letters and their placement. A turn's score is determined by the height of each column of letters within the word/s played, though a single stack of letters cannot exceed five tiles. Therefore, words played later on are likely to score more highly than those played at the

beginning of the game, increasing play intensity as the game progresses.

While there is a bonus awarded for playing all seven tiles in a turn, it is only 20 points, and in practice it is almost never awarded, as the board was originally only eight spaces long (later editions have a 10 by 10 board). The space constraint is a deliberate feature of the game's design, to compel play to move upwards.

The tile distribution in Upwords takes a little getting used to when one is accustomed to Scrabble; Original Upwords has no blanks, and only 64 tiles altogether, only one third of which are vowels. The single tile featuring the Q appears as "Qu", which is frustrating when we are used to playing words like QI or QAID. However I eventually figured out the reason for this: it makes it much easier to play other consonants on top of the Qu (e.g. QuAKE can be turned into RAKE, without the complication of the otherwise uncommon vowel combination).



Several turns have been played in between these two photos. The player who added the A and the L scored 30 points, by creating the words MALTY, TAD, and HOLE.

BOGGLE (Parker Brothers / Hasbro, 1972)

Playing pieces consist of 16 cubic “dice” with one letter on each face. These are tossed within a grid formation, and then players must find words from the face-up letters within the given time limit. Words found must be at least three letters long. The same letter cube may not be used more than once in a single word. The letters of a found word do not have to be in a single straight line, but they must be adjacent in their correct sequence (i.e. each letter of the word must be ‘touching’ — horizontally, vertically, or diagonally — the next letter).

As all players are playing with the same set of letters, points are only awarded to individual players for unique words found (i.e. if somebody else also found it, you can’t score it). The points are allocated according to the length of each allowable word.

For the Scrabble player, Boggle is good revision for which short words are and



Can you spot the word TURPENTINE in sequence? (Remember you cannot use the same letter cube more than once in a single word.)

are not allowable. Since the object of the game is to find as many words as possible, a great way to score well in Boggle is to find a three-letter word that can be extended at either end. Thus, CAR, CARP, SCARP, and ESCARP would be a handy sequence. This makes playing Boggle a very effective way for a Scrabble player to revise hooks. Also, as the only penalty for a wrong word is that it doesn’t add to the score, writing down guesses is a good Boggle strategy, providing the opportunity to learn new hooks.

A big difference between Boggle and Scrabble is the duration: each round of Boggle is played for only three minutes, so an entire game, including comparing words and adding up scores can take as little as five minutes (though in my experience one never plays only one round at a time!). The

only limits to the number of players in a game of Boggle are purely practical: how many can see the playing board, and how much time can be allocated to everybody reading out their lists of words and crossing off duplications.



BALDERDASH (Canada Games, Hasbro / Mattel, 1984)

Subtitled “the hilarious bluffing game”, Balderdash is best suited to players aged 10 and up, as a certain level of language sophistication is required to make the bluff credible. While the instructions suggest up to six players, a larger number is certainly possible, even preferable.

In this game, one player (the “Dasher”) rolls the die, draws a card, and reads aloud from it the unfamiliar word corresponding to the number s/he rolled. All other players write down this word, and an imaginary definition for it, while the Dasher transcribes the word’s true definition from the other side of the card. All the definitions are then collected, shuffled, and read aloud by the Dasher. The remaining players then vote for the definition they like best.

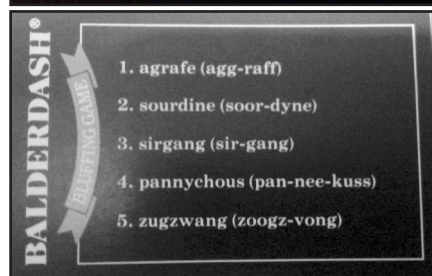
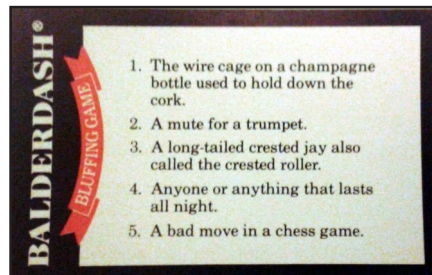
Points are awarded either for voting for the true definition, or for having other players vote for your bogus one. If a player writes a definition similar to the actual definition, they gain extra points. In the event that nobody votes for the true definition, the Dasher gains extra points. Playing pieces are advanced around the game board in accordance with the points for each round, then the next player takes a turn at being the Dasher.

There is currently a variation of the game readily available in NZ called Absolute Balderdash. The basic gameplay mechanic is identical to that described here, but in addition to defining words, players are required to fabricate movie plots, the significance of dates and names, and the full

phrases associated with acronyms or initials.

For Scrabble enthusiasts, the original “vanilla” version of the game holds perhaps the most appeal, as it is a treasure trove of obscure words, with definitions provided. Not all Scrabblers fancy the systematic memorisation of high-probability stems, and Balderdash provides admirably for those who are more interested in enhancing their Scrabble by expanding their vocabulary.

So if, like me, you often have difficulty persuading anyone outside of the NZASP to play Scrabble with you, perhaps this summer you could convince them to join you in some riotous fun with these other three word games instead.



Only one of these words is not allowable in Scrabble!

R.I.P. Mikki Nicholson

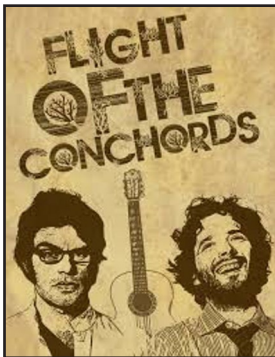
by *Howard Warner, Independent*

You may have heard about the recent death of English player Mikki Nicholson. Mikki was someone whom we representative New Zealand players had got to know and appreciate at international tournaments. At three of these (two Causeway Challenges in Malaysia, and the 2011 World Champs in Warsaw) we Kiwis had quite a bit to do with Mikki, as we were staying in the same hotel as her.



Mikki was not only an absolutely brilliant player, but a very gracious one, whether in victory or defeat. She was also one of the game's great characters, with a flair for telling outrageous yarns over a pint, a bawdy sense of humour, and an abiding passion for New Zealand musical comedy duo Flight of the Conchords.

Of course, what got tongues wagging about Mikki was her 'transformation' — 'she' first entered the Scrabble scene as a 'he'. She made no secret of her preferred gender identity. For instance, she would play in men's clothing, but turn up at prize-givings in a pink miniskirt, a sequined lamé top, and high heels. When she



came fourth at the first Causeway Challenge she attended (beating yours truly in the last game), she told me the prize money would grant her the much dreamed-of chance to start gender reassignment.

That was in 2009. By the time we got to Warsaw in 2011, Mikki was in full 'Polish countess' regalia, having lugged several suitcases full of feminine apparel across the English Channel. In that tournament, she finished just outside the top 10, having led the field for much of the four days. Sadly, it was not long after this that she dropped out of the international Scrabble scene altogether.

The Scrabble world has lost one of its star players and outstanding characters. Life was never dull with Mikki around. She will be greatly missed by the international Scrabble community.

Hall of Fame

by Jennifer Smith, Kiwi

Hello people.

My name is Wilkins, a cheerful person, generally hopeful despite adversity. I believe I qualify to be in your Hall of Fame, even though I'm not a real person. I, along with several others, inhabit the fictitious world created by Charles Dickens. One of my favourite sayings is "Something will turn up" – because I find it usually does.

Just like Mr Dickens' father, John Dickens, I've been incarcerated in a debtors' prison for failing to meet my creditor's demands. Have you guessed who I am yet?

Surname's Micawber, and I came to fame in Charles Dickens' *David Copperfield* in 1850. These days, my name is eponymous with someone who lives in hopeful expectation. Are you a MICAWBER? I hope you're all MICAWBERS! Surely that's the only way to play a game of Scrabble – in hopeful expectation!

If you are an accountant, you may have heard of the MICAWBER principle. This principle is summed up by my own words:

"Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure nineteen pounds and six, result happiness. Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure twenty pounds nought and six, result misery."

I am glad accountants appreciate my wisdom, but I was more flattered when Keith Richards of the Rolling Stones named one of his guitars after me. I like that thought – it's a cheerful one.

Ebenezer Scrooge is an acquaintance of mine. That's right, the "Bah, humbug!" man. (Everyone remembers that phrase, even though Mr Scrooge only says it twice in the whole of the book.)

I know what you're probably thinking – SCROOGE was a word long before Mr Dickens wrote *A Christmas Carol* in 1843. Yes it was, but its meaning then was "to squeeze". Since Mr Scrooge has become famous, SCROOGE now refers to a mean or miserly person, or a penny pincher, as we used to say in the days before decimal currency. Mr Scrooge is a little sad about the meaning of his eponym. He says the word SCROOGE should really mean



Stamps featuring Mr Micawber and Mrs Gamp, from the issue produced in 2012 to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Dickens' birth.

somebody who has reformed from his miserly ways, as he did.

I also know Mr Bumble, the beadle who became famous from 1838 with the publication of *Oliver Twist*. He was the beadle in the parish where Oliver was born. BUMBLE was also a word before Mr Bumble's appearance – indeed, that's probably why Mr Dickens chose that name for him. But his character of a pompous petty official has been immortalised in the word BUMBLEDOM. BUMBLEDOM is used to mean the officious actions or words of officials and/or their departments.

I also know the notorious Fagin from *Oliver Twist*, horrible character that he is. Fagin recruited children and trained them as pickpockets, exchanging food and shelter for goods the children stole. FAGIN soon became the word for an adult who teaches minors to steal and keeps a major portion of whatever they manage to get.

Fagin does not have any other name, but was originally often referred to as "the Jew". Interestingly, the first 38 chapters of the book originally referred to Fagin by his racial and religious origin 257 times, with just 42 uses of "Fagin" or "the old man". In later editions of the book printed during his lifetime, Dickens removed many of the references to Fagin's Jewishness. In one of his final public readings in 1869, a year before his death, Dickens cleansed Fagin of all stereotypical caricature.

The last of my fellow Dickensian characters I want to mention is Sarah or Sairey Gamp, from *Martin Chuzzlewit* (1843). She was a dissolute, sloppy and generally drunk person. This is a notorious stereotype of certain untrained and incompetent nurses from the early Victorian era, before the reforms of campaigners like Florence Nightingale.

Despite Sarah's character, her surname, GAMP, has not been given to that sort of nurse as one might expect (hopefully because that sort of nurse no longer exists). Instead, GAMP is used for a type of umbrella that Sarah always carried, and which she displayed with "particular ostentation".

Here's one last piece of trivia for you. If you've been to Britain and seen the various memorials to Hans Christian Andersen, Sir Walter Scott, Robbie Burns, Jane Austen, and so forth, you may have wondered why you haven't seen an official statue of Charles Dickens hanging about the place. There's a pretty prosaic explanation. Simply, in his will, our author stated that no such memorial should be erected. In any case, that's



Stop press: Since this article was written, a bronze statue of Charles Dickens has been erected in his birth city of Portsmouth despite his wishes – but not without controversy!

inconsequential – we believe our characters make a fitting memorial for our talented and entertaining creator, Charles Dickens.

Remember him, and also our characters, when you play the words FAGIN(S), SCROOGE(S), SCROOGED, SCROOGING, GAMP(S), GAMPISH,

Mailbox

Clare Wall of Wellington circulated the link to this list. We encourage you to visit the website to see a full-colour image or gif, with additional captions, for every point on the list.

17 things only Scrabble players know to be true

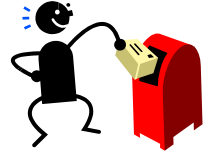
by Justin Abarca

<http://www.buzzfeed.com/justinabarca/qi-things-only-scrabble-players-understand#3w263yq>

1. The horror that is pulling all vowels out of the bag.
2. Or worse, all consonants.
3. The agony of playing a word you're not quite sure is an *actual* word.
4. The surge of confidence when someone challenges a word you *know* is accepted.
5. The joy/hate of two letter words like QI or XI.
6. The confused anger when someone plays in the space you were about to play in.
7. When someone doesn't hide their rack and then accuses you of looking.
8. Conversely, feeling violated when you catch someone looking at your tiles.

BUMBLEDOM(S) and MICAWBER(S).

[Some other eponyms that owe their origins to Dickens are Dickensian, Wellerism, Pecksniffian and Pickwickian, but these have not as yet made it into our Scrabble word list. Besides, they are all rather too long to be of particular use to Scrabblers.]



9. How incredible the tiles feel in the palm of your hand.
10. Hitting that triple word square with a doozy.

11. Constantly rearranging letters even when you're not playing.



12. The sweet, sweet feeling of using all of your letters and getting a Bingo.
13. The frustration of someone taking forever to play a word, only to put down "to."
14. Trying to spread out on the board, only to watch a whole section go unused.
15. That strange moment when the words on the board sort of make sense.
16. How sometimes you just have to get a game in no matter what.
17. How in the end, all Scrabble players feel the same way about God's gift to board games.

Some random thoughts:

(1) Without using a computer, what is the longest word you can find where each pair of letters forms a valid word? The longest I have come up with so far is TOMATOES, but I am sure that there are longer ones.

(2) What is the highest scoring word under the same constraints? The best I have thought of so far is ZAX for 19 but, again, I am sure that that can be beaten.

Email thoughts, suggestions, discussions, etc to NZST list (not NZSN), or send them to the Forwards editors.

Chris Handley, Dunedin

The other day, I was called over to look at a board with the words PENIS and VIRGINS on it!! Two ladies of a certain age enjoying their Scrabble, just sayin'!

Janetta Reitsma, Rodney

[Sadly no photograph was provided of this titillating juxtaposition, so instead we bring you this board, captured earlier in the year at a social game between Liz Fagerlund and Mike Currie, both of Mt. Albert Club. -- Ed]



Vicky Robertson of Wellington sent us this photo, and we also enjoyed the story of its construction from <http://www.sunset.com/garden/backyard-projects/backyard-scrabble>



"I like areas of double use," says Sacramento architect Kristy McAuliffe, and her 5-foot square Scrabble board rates at least a double-word score on the scale of inventive garden games.

With the help of friend Keith Rogers, McAuliffe made a wood frame, then poured concrete and scored it into 3.3/4-inch squares separated by 1/4-inch joints.

After the concrete had cured for one month, she colored the squares using water-base concrete stains.

McAuliffe then made 100 3.1/4-inch square letter tiles from baseboard trim.

She found precut, adhesive-backed vinyl letters and numbers at a sign shop, stuck them on the tiles, and sealed each one with spray lacquer.

The lightweight letters, which are stored in a canvas bag, fit on metal

trays made by McAuliffe's friend, metal artist Crystal Weber.

Games go late on summer evenings. "You get better words playing outside," McAuliffe says.

And while we're on the topic of interesting ways to decorate your home, Clare Wall referred us to this picture of a Scrabble player's perfect choice of bathroom, blogged from an apartment in Moscow. It reminds us of a bathroom belonging to Suzanne Harding of Whangarei that was similarly decorated, pictures of which were published in *Forwards* issue 115.



The editors would like to thank everybody who sent us the "venison" cartoon featured on the cover. We often struggle to come up with a suitable idea for the cover, but we've known what was going to be on this one since we first saw it last Christmas!

Scrabble general knowledge quiz No. 1

by Howard Warner, Independent

There is a total of 10 points on offer. See how many you can get without using references. See page 47 for answers.

1. Alfred Butts invented Scrabble when he was unemployed during the Depression. What was his profession? (1 point)
2. What's the name of the Wall Street Review journalist who wrote a celebrated book about Scrabble? And what was the book's title? (2 points)
3. Where was the first World Championship held? (1 point)
4. Name the three New Zealand players, besides multiple champion Nigel Richards, who have finished in the top 10 at the World Championships. (2 points - lose a point for each one you get wrong or fail to get)
5. Only one New Zealander has played in all 10 Trans-Tasman Challenges. Who is it? (1 point)
6. Which couple started the annual Norfolk Island Scrabble Festival? (1 point)
7. Which country hosted the latest World Youth Championship? Where did the only New Zealand player, Lewis Hawkins, finish? (2 points)

A crossword for the baby Scrabbler

Pregnancy, birth, and post-natal care are a veritable gold mine of topical vocabulary. Having spent 2014 furthering my firsthand experience of these processes and their associated jargon, I wanted to share with you some of the interesting playable words arising from this undertaking.

Many of our readers may not have done this for some time, so it may be an interesting revision exercise. And of course there are plenty of Scrabblers

who have not experienced the indescribable joys and -other aspects- of parenting at all, but may well be familiar with some of these words, if not their definitions.



Thanks to my amazing midwife Dianne Squire, and her student Cushla, for their assistance in compiling this list! Thanks also to Glenda, who did the hard work of arranging the crossword from the clues we provided.

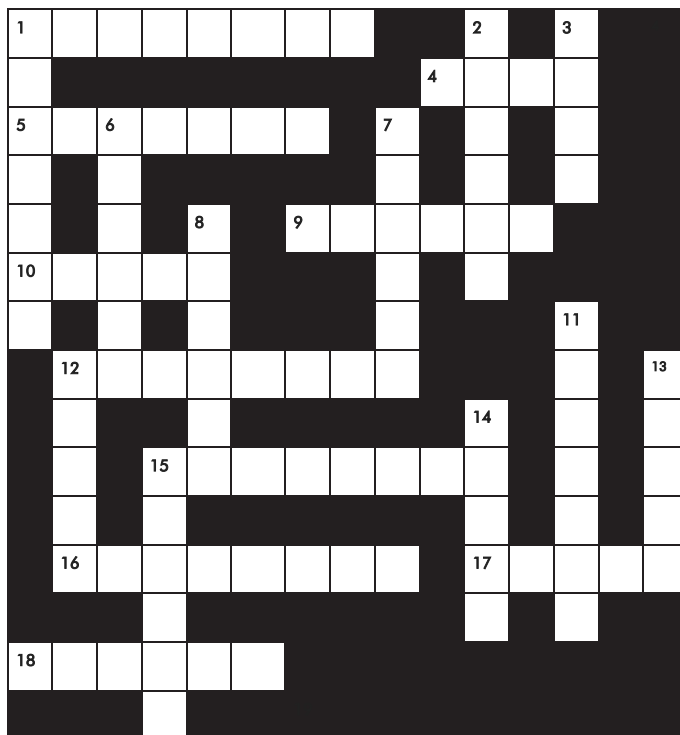
Across

1. The "love" hormone, present in semen, synthetic versions of which are used to induce or progress labour (8)
4. The membrane covering the baby's face in utero and which, very rarely, is retained for a short while after birth (4)
5. A membrane surrounding the baby in utero (7)
9. Fine soft hair covering the skin of the foetus and newborn baby (6)
10. Liquid waste that baby boys are inclined to spray everywhere (5)
12. A bluish colouring of the skin and lips, caused by a low level of oxygen in the blood, that is frequently observed in babies who are born with particular types of heart defects (8)
15. An instrument for measuring levels of oxygen in the blood (8)
16. The first faecal excretion of a newborn, approximately the colour of vegemite and the texture of treacle (8)
17. The small white spots often seen on the nose of a newborn, popularly known as "milk spots" (plural form) (5)
18. The baby's chin (6)

Solution page 47.

Down

1. The back of the baby's skull (7)
2. A method of feeding through a tube inserted in the stomach, which is often employed to sustain premature newborns who have an underdeveloped suck reflex (6)
3. The tissue that supports and binds nerves, which is hugely important in the development and growth of the brain in foetuses and infants (4)
6. To convert cells into bone, which ordinarily begins in a 12-week-old foetus and continues through into adulthood (6)
7. The uppermost point of the uterus (6)
8. A fatty substance covering the skin of the foetus and newborn baby (6)
11. Small cavity structures within the foetus' lungs (plural form) (7)
12. a cavity in the mesoderm of an embryo that gives rise in humans to the pleural, pericardial and peritoneal cavities (5)
13. The collection of extra fluid in bodily tissues, which is almost always found in the extremities of pregnant women (5)
14. A baby delivered prior to 37 weeks' gestation (5)
15. An ovum prior to maturation (6)



Tournament Calendar 2015	
Tournament	Dates
Wellington	18-19 January
Pakuranga	24-25 January
Nelson	21-22 February
Rotorua	28 February-1 March
Dunedin	28-29 March
Masters#	4-6 April
Kapiti	18-19 April
Christchurch	9-10 May
Nationals	30-31 May
Whangarei	4-5 July
Kiwi	8-9 August
Christchurch	5-6 September
Mt. Albert	3-4 October
Wanganui	24-25 October
Rodney	14 November (TBC)
Otago	14 November (TBC)
# restricted entry	

Khin Saw Khine: Scrabble in Myanmar

by Dianne Cole-Baker, Mt. Albert

It has been very interesting having Khin Saw Khine as an intermittent member of the Mt. Albert Scrabble Club over recent years. Very few, if any, New Zealand Scrabble clubs have had the privilege, as we have, of a member coming from Myanmar, formerly known as Burma. On this visit we have been fortunate to have her as a member for a year.

Khine, as she is known by us all, first joined our Club in 2000. She has returned to New Zealand twice since then to visit her son and his family, once in 2009, and again in 2013.

In Myanmar Khine was a medical microbiologist working for the government for 35 years. She played Scrabble socially, but took part in some tournaments organised by the Scrabble Club of the Medical Association under rules that are now outdated. Today the Club has adopted WESPA rules for competitions.

In Auckland in 2000, Khine met Marianne Patchett at the Wednesday afternoon social group which plays at the Blockhouse Bay Community Centre. Here, she was introduced to the complexities of "real" Scrabble, with word lists and the Official Dictionary, and was also introduced to the Mt. Albert Club. Last year, Mt. Albert Club helped Khine to celebrate her 83rd birthday, and she provided a special supper for the Club members.

On returning to her country, she persuaded about 15 of her friends (ages 55 to 75) to play with the proper books and methods. Since then, the group have been meeting weekly in Khine's home, and the Scrabble play has greatly improved. These Scrabble meetings are still informal social events, with fun, friendship, and co-operation being preferred to the stress of competitive play. On special days such as birthdays, small tournaments are run with prizes. The group have particularly enjoyed sharing Khine's copy of *Forwards*.

When Khine is in New Zealand, she greatly enjoys the competitive aspects of "real" Scrabble and coming to Club nights. Khine has also enjoyed the



Khine receives her prize for first in the D Grade at last year's Rodney Tournament

tournaments she has entered, and has placed several times, including first in the D Grade at Rodney. She is also proud to have come fourth out of 26 competitors in the Silver Grade of this year's Mt. Albert Memorial Swiss Draw tournament.

Khine's other interest is tennis - I suspect she was a very good player in her day! In recent years she has indulged this interest with visits to Wimbledon, to Flushing Meadows for the US Open, and to Melbourne for the Australian Open.

Her son in Auckland is an automotive air conditioning engineer, and her daughter-in-law is a consultant geriatrician at Middlemore Hospital.

They have been based in Auckland for the last 20 years; hence the reason for Khine's visits to our country. Khine has five children, none of whom play competitive Scrabble, but the Scrabble gene has been passed on to her grandson, who is an engineering student at AUT. Some years ago two items about her grandson were published in *Forwards*.

We will miss Khine when she returns to Myanmar at the end of the year. She does hope to "commute" here again, as long as age, time, and energy allow. Should you ever have the chance to travel to her country, you are assured of a warm welcome, and some games of "real" Scrabble with a very close-knit social Scrabble group.

Snappy new year everyone

What is it about a particular club's tournament that immediately springs to your mind when the tournament is mentioned? What makes you think "Ah yes, that's Whangarei" or "Of course, that's the Christchurch tourney"? Is it the spring flowers on the lunch table that makes you click your fingers and say "Tauranga", or the sight of a roast beef/lamb that makes you recall the Kapiti tournament with mouthwatering clarity? The *Forwards* team are on a mission to find out, and we need your help.

Throughout the next year, as you attend club tournaments, we'd like you to snap photos of anything that you think is uniquely representative of that tournament, then send the photos to

us. The photo can be of anything; it doesn't have to be taken at the venue. Perhaps it's the sign of the Polynesian Spa that speaks to you of the Rotorua tournament, or a glimpse of a river that tells you you're in Whanganui for your traditional Labour Weekend of Scrabble? Whatever it is, we want to see it, because we're creating a photo shoot of New Zealand's Scrabble tournaments to be published in the next summer issue of *Forwards*. The published product might be in the form of a picture puzzle, or simply a photo montage but, either way, we need your pics. We're not fussy; we'll accept photos either electronically or by snail mail. So please everyone, let's get snapping!

Gifts for the grandkids?

Are you stuck for gift ideas for that special small person in your life? Are you hoping to lure some unsuspecting young soul into the addictive world of Scrabble? Well, here are two feel-good picture books by New Zealand authors featuring Scrabble that will achieve both goals.

Stay Awake, Bear!

Written and illustrated by Gavin Bishop
Orchard books, NY (2000).

“Sleeping is such a waste of time!” complains Old Bear, as he watches his neighbours prepare for hibernation. He devises numerous alternative activities to keep himself occupied, and it gets even better once Brown Bear joins him: “Together the two bears stayed awake for the rest of the winter. They played Scrabble every day. They ate macaroni and cheese. They planned a vacation for the warm sunny months ahead.”

Bubble Trouble

Written by Margaret Mahy,
Illustrated by Polly Dunbar
Frances Lincoln Ltd.,
UK (2008).

“Little Mabel blew a bubble and it caused a lot of trouble ...”

So begins a delicious romp through an amazing range of two-syllable words full of L sounds. Inevitably, our game makes its appearance:

“In a garden folly, Tybal,
and his jolly mother, Sybil,
Sat and played a game of Scrabble,
shouting shrilly as they scored.
But they both began to babble and to
scrobbble with the Scrabble
As the baby in the bubble bibble-
bobbled by the board.”

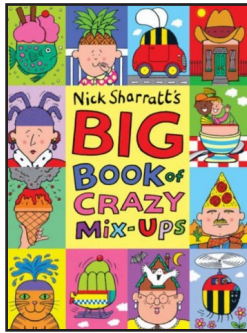


Answers:**Scrabble general knowledge quiz**

1. Architect
2. Stefan Fatsis; *Word Freak*
3. London
4. Jeff Grant, Mike Sigley, Kendall Boyd (Jack Diamond)
5. Patrick Carter
6. Roy and Bernice Vannini
7. Sri Lanka; seventh

Out of the mouths of babes

My daughter Bronwyn received this book for Christmas last year. It's one of those where you mix and match the top half and the bottom half of a picture, to create unlikely amalgamations such as "Delicious! A cheese and tomato spider", or "Posh! A royal lemon".



At two and a half, Bronwyn had not previously met a book where whole pages did not turn at once. So initially she preferred to look at the non-mixed-up versions of the brightly-coloured pictures. She seemed particularly captivated by this one ("Goodness! A grey-haired granny"), returning to it several times and staring fixedly at it. Eventually she turned to me, indicated the picture, and enquired, "she play Scrabble?"

Crossword for the baby Scrabblers

Olivia comments: I wonder how Bronwyn fits her mummy and her mummy's friend into her world of grey-haired Scrabble-playing grannies then?

"We don't stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing." — George Bernard Shaw



For unto us a child is born

Most of you will already have heard of the arrival of Tobias ("Toby") Jacob McLean, born to Anderina and Andrew 30th September 2014, weighing 9lb 7oz (4.3kg), but not everybody in the Scrabble community has yet had the chance to see his cuteness.

Most people know that TOBY is allowable in Scrabble, being a type of jug. TOBIAS is not allowed, but its anagram, BIOTAS, is the plural of the word referring to the flora and fauna of a region (and a useful front hook for a good vowel-dumper). TOEBIE is also allowed, being an Afrikaans word for a sandwich. JACOB* is not allowed either, but it's OK to play JAKE or JAKEY.*

If these pages bore you, feel free to turn over, but we editrices sacrifice considerable time with our children for the sake of this magazine, so have decided that it's only fair that we be allowed to give them an acknowledgement or two occasionally. Besides, tidings of great joy is what Christmas and Scrabble are all about.

We wish you a Merry Christmas, and may you be surrounded by the love and laughter of your own families (especially your children) this season!





Unto us a son is given



Entries for the hundred tiles challenge

In our Spring 2014 edition of *Forwards*, we issued you with the 100 tiles challenge, whereby readers were asked to come up with sentences, stories, or poems using only the 100 tiles from a standard set of Scrabble letters (see page 19 in *Forwards* issue 116). To date, we have received eight entries... And, in alphabetical order by composer's first name, here they all are for your reading pleasure. There's certainly some real talent out there in our Scrabble community.

Anderina McLean, Mt. Albert

Blanks = C and H.

AN AWFUL EX-RAP EARWORM
DRONING ROUND MY HEAD:
"VANILLA ICE ICE BABY TOO COLD".
POOH! QUIET! REGGAE FUNK IS THE
JIVIEST, ZESTIEST.

Betty Don, Independent

Blanks = K and N.

USING A HUNDRED TILES IS HARD
OF JOY. BUT LOOK! FIVE QUITE
CAPABLE ZANY MICE MINGLE, AND
TAKE OVER TOO, IN EXTRA
SPARRING. WOWEE!

Chris Day, Tauranga

1. Blanks = M and S.

REAL CRAZY BI LADIES TOOK SOUR
FIG JAM MIXED WITH POODLE'S PEE
IN A QUEST TO HAVE OILIER
UNGUENTS FOR DATING BRAWNY
CAVEMEN.

2. Blanks = H and Y.

BELIEVE US, IF A QUEEN THREW A
CHARITY BALL, A KING OOZING A
POOFY AIR SWOONED OVER ADULT
PRINCE JAMMED INTO RUDE SEXY
TIGHTS.

John McNaughton, Wellington

Blanks = H and N.

IN ONE ORIGIN THERE LIVED A
QUETZAL AND A GRASSHOPPER ON
A WAXY AUTOCYCLE, WHO JITTERED
ABOUT SMOKING FIRE FLENSED
BIVIUM.

Lyn Toka, Kiwi

1. Blanks = H and Z.

LIZZIE WENT ON A DATE WITH A
YOUNG FIRIE, ROMEO, A PERSON
SHE FANCIED BUT HE QUICKLY
PROVED TO BE JUST A RAVING SEX-
MAD GORILLA.

2. Blanks = L and N.

TIME IN THE GARDEN.

BEING TIDY, WEED YOUR FAVOURITE
FLOWERS: LARKSPUR, ZINNIA,
JONQUIL, PHLOX AND ACACIA –
SOME VEGETABLES TOO.

Val Mills, Pakuranga

Blanks = H and S.

AAH, SUMMER DAZE! RELAX – SUN,
SAND, GOOD WINE, ICY BLOCK,
HOT WEATHER. QUITE A TRIPPY
FEELING, SURFIE JANE. GOOD
VIBRATIONS – LOVE IT!

Rankings list as at 24 November 2014

Rank	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%	Rank	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%
1	Blue Thorogood (GM)	2061	599.5	842	71%	50	Hazel Purdie	1501	1046.5	2145	49%
2	Jeff Grant (GM)	2003	1616	2131	76%	51	Yvette Hewlett	1487	450.5	936	48%
3	Howard Warner (GM)	1949	1832	2453	75%	52	Lorraine Van Veen	1479	840.5	1649	51%
4	Joanne Craig (GM)	1948	336.5	510	66%	53	John Baird	1479	211	387	55%
5	Lyrres Freeth (GM)	1932	236.5	356	66%	54	Roger Coates	1469	726.5	1544	47%
6	Peter Sinton (GM)	1857	690.5	961	72%	55	Shirley Hol	1463	638	1397	46%
7	Andrew Bradley (GM)	1851	821	1561	53%	56	Irene Smith	1433	183	368	50%
8	Nick Cavenagh (GM)	1850	327	549	60%	57	Helen Sillis	1429	718	1448	50%
9	Patrick Carter (GM)	1838	741.5	1183	63%	58	Shirley Martin	1426	853.5	1684	51%
10	Mike Sigley (GM)	1832	950	1365	70%	59	Allie Quinn	1421	1036.5	2133	49%
11	Karen Richards	1808	48.5	84	58%	60	Leila Thomson	1419	559.5	1229	46%
12	Rogelio Talosig (GM)	1798	473	803	59%	61	Yoon Kim Fong	1408	543	1070	51%
13	Lawson Sue (E)	1796	704.5	1324	53%	62	Rosalind Phillips	1389	550	1055	52%
14	Anderina McLean (E)	1790	604.5	1119	54%	63	Pam Barlow	1384	688	1367	50%
15	Cicely Bruce (E)	1751	372	661	56%	64	Herb Ramsay	1360	150	242	62%
16	Scott Chaput	1743	202.5	334	61%	65	David Gunn	1355	1216	2491	49%
17	Rosemary Cleary (E)	1723	758	1626	47%	66	Lewis Hawkins	1344	114.5	160	72%
18	Liz Fagerlund (GM)	1722	1093	2091	52%	67	Jean O'Brien	1340	1086.5	2137	51%
19	John McNaughton	1719	101	143	71%	68	Chris Higgins	1340	113.5	200	57%
20	Denise Gordon (E)	1702	700.5	1446	48%	69	Faye Cronhelm	1335	831	1681	49%
21	Pat Bryan	1701	242	431	56%	70	Mary Gray	1331	513.5	1034	50%
22	John Foster (GM)	1700	1493.5	2607	57%	71	Clare Wall	1296	281.5	541	52%
23	Paul Lister (E)	1699	802.5	1430	56%	72	Margaret Cherry	1263	485.5	986	49%
24	Glennis Hale (GM)	1682	1440	2590	56%	73	Roger Cole-Baker	1233	490.5	944	52%
25	Glenda Foster (E)	1675	996.5	1988	50%	74	Marian Ross	1219	538	1048	51%
26	Val Mills (E)	1666	1174	2446	48%	75	Lyn Dawson	1212	387	720	54%
27	Janice Cherry	1658	391	755	52%	76	Fran Lowe	1211	129.5	238	54%
28	Glenyss Buchanan	1652	661.5	1410	47%	77	Lynn Carter	1203	638.5	1243	51%
29	Murray Rogers (E)	1645	738	1416	52%	78	Roto Mitchell	1196	726	1425	51%
30	Vicky Robertson	1640	291	579	50%	79	Su Walker	1195	972.5	1930	50%
31	Lynne Powell (E)	1628	915.5	1843	50%	80	Chris Day	1185	121.5	221	55%
32	Katy Yiakmis	1606	176	361	49%	81	Nola Barrell	1185	380	694	55%
33	Steven Brown (GM)	1605	894	1679	53%	82	Glenda Geard	1179	1007	2067	49%
34	Jeanette Grimmer	1581	113	198	57%	83	Colleen Cook	1176	336.5	668	50%
35	Lois Binnie	1577	24	44	55%	84	Heather Landon	1170	481	937	51%
36	Shirley van Essen	1571	406.5	812	50%	85	Barbara Dunn	1169	291	492	59%
37	Pam Robson	1562	556.5	1213	46%	86	Andree Prentice	1168	944.5	1875	50%
38	Lynn Wood	1557	1690	3559	47%						
39	Karyn McDougall	1550	664	1289	52%						
40	Selena Chan	1548	294.5	566	52%						
41	Anna Hough	1537	605	1206	50%						
42	Olivia Godfrey	1536	649	1239	52%						
43	Jennifer Smith	1527	1007.5	2074	49%						
44	Karen Gray	1527	276.5	530	52%						
45	Delcie Macbeth	1519	865.5	1643	53%						
46	Joan Thomas	1517	1012.5	2013	50%						
47	Peter Johnstone	1513	155.5	288	54%						
48	Alex Leckie-Zaharic	1510	120	212	57%						
49	Kadda Mohamed	1503	111.5	168	66%						



Andree Prentice



Karen Miller

Rank	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%
87	Karen Miller	1167	525.5	1046	50%
88	Ruth Groffman	1158	493.5	1010	49%
89	Lois Kelly	1153	62.5	161	39%
90	Betty Eriksen	1152	1313.5	2564	51%
91	Lyn Toka	1138	530.5	1008	53%
92	Margaret Bullen	1110	110	194	57%
93	Chris Handley	1101	378.5	738	51%
94	Carolyn Kyle	1096	786	1592	49%
95	Dianne Cole-Baker	1093	448	871	51%
96	Marianne Patchett	1089	306.5	597	51%
97	Anne Goldstein	1085	76	130	58%
98	June Mackwell	1065	806.5	1790	45%
Rank	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%
99	Jo Ann Ingram	1065	223	433	52%
100	Mary Curtis	1064	248.5	472	53%
101	Gabrielle Bolt	1062	399	786	51%
102	Allison Torrance	1060	417	806	52%
103	Leanne Field	1048	149	276	54%
104	Julia Schiller	1045	207	455	45%
105	Khin Saw Khine	1045	38.5	77	50%
106	Ray Goodyear	1041	229	484	47%
107	Michael Groffman	1019	279	560	50%
108	Carole Coates	1009	609.5	1263	48%
109	Jean Boyle	1007	523.5	994	53%
110	Tony Charlton	1006	247.5	492	50%
111	Bev Edwards	1002	239.5	453	53%
112	Judith Thomas	998	201.5	388	52%
113	Jena Yousif	996	429.5	846	51%
114	Elaine Moltzen	950	562	1120	50%
115	Suzanne Harding	947	370.5	716	52%
116	Ernie Gidman	946	399	800	50%
117	Malcolm Graham	941	383.5	784	49%
118	Shirley Morrison	913	153	335	46%
119	Sheila Reed	902	224	459	49%

Rank	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%
120	Sam Thompson	865	66.5	138	48%
121	Kathleen Mori-Barker	856	356.5	724	49%
122	Catherine Henry	847	444	853	52%
123	Yvonne McLaughlan	839	488.5	1009	48%
124	Joanna Fox	838	55	100	55%
125	Judy Driscoll	831	150.5	409	37%
126	Maria Clinton	830	242	498	49%
127	Antonia Aarts	828	212.5	430	49%
128	Ruth Godwin	796	274.5	636	43%
129	Phyllis Paltridge	780	33	98	34%
130	Anne Scatchard	742	336	661	51%
131	Sandra Cowen	729	51.5	98	53%
132	Chris Guthrey	726	76	205	37%
133	Annette Coombes	720	691	1519	45%
134	Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell	717	578	1206	48%
135	Valma Gidman	714	681.5	1363	50%
136	Janny Henneveld	680	423	878	48%
137	Madeleine Green	668	85.5	172	50%
138	Junior Gesmundo	666	45.5	92	49%
139	Margaret Toso	664	81.5	174	47%
140	Alison Vautier	659	75.5	205	37%
141	Jillian Greening	653	293.5	625	47%
142	Sharon Nelley	650	34	63	54%
143	Jill Paterson	649	51.5	90	57%
144	Joan Beale	626	205	409	50%
145	Betty Don	620	144	327	44%
146	Pauline Smeaton	613	325	625	52%
147	Judith Bach	608	145.5	259	56%
148	Frances Higham	604	132	398	33%
149	Elaine Ware	581	381.5	747	51%
150	Marilyn Sinclair	580	29.5	72	41%
151	Josie Parkin	570	63	137	46%
152	Anne-Louise Milne	546	135	405	33%
153	Tim Henneveld	532	403.5	881	46%
154	Judy Cronin	531	63.5	187	34%
155	Jean Craib	529	395.5	825	48%
156	Jamie Adams	502	4	43	9%
157	Faye Leach	502	27	97	28%
158	Hanna Dodge	480	70.5	166	42%
159	Noelene Bettjeman	471	302	656	46%
160	Gill Charlton	443	21	101	21%
161	Sue Mayn	437	184	446	41%
162	Margaret Peters	428	32	116	28%
163	Valerie Smith	350	22	97	23%
164	Lynn Thompson	337	253.5	576	44%
165	Margaret Miller	303	131.5	339	39%
166	Bev Allen	257	58	212	27%
167	Ray Young	145	9	41	22%
168	Susan Schiller	131	8	93	9%
169	Trish Fox	39	28	219	13%

Tournament results

Mt. Albert 4-5 October

13 games

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave	Score
Grade A					
1 Lawson Sue	PAK	10	548	426	
2 Lyres Freeth	IND	10	479	435	
3 Glenda Foster	WEL	9	304	427	
4 Andrew Bradley	MTA	9	75	402	
5 Nick Cavenagh	KIW	8.5	823	442	
6 Olivia Godfrey	WEL	7	78	389	
7 Pat Bryan	MTA	7	-138	395	
8 Chris Hooks	MTA	6.5	327	415	
9 Glennis Hale	IND	5	85	399	
10 Jeanette Grimmer	ROD	5	-445	394	
11 Val Mills	PAK	5	-466	379	
12 John Foster	IND	4	-235	384	
13 Murray Rogers	IND	3	-672	368	
14 Roger Coates	KIW	2	-763	375	

Grade B

1 Yvette Hewlett	IND	10	603	428	
2 Hazel Purdie	MTA	9	693	441	
3 Delcie Macbeth	IND	9	495	422	
4 Lynn Wood	WEL	9	422	409	
5 Anna Hough	IND	8	419	416	
6 Pam Barlow	PAK	7	199	391	
7 Joan Thomas	HAS	7	138	393	
8 Shirley Martin	KIW	7	16	392	
9 Yoon Kim Fong	KIW	5	-107	378	
10 Jean O'Brien	IND	5	-720	367	
11 David Gunn	KIW	4	-486	378	
12 Chris Higgins	PAK	4	-505	368	
13 Faye Cronhelm	IND	4	-561	364	
14 Mary Gray	MTA	3	-605	368	

Grade C

1 Ruth Groffman	DUN	8.5	230	382	
2 Carolyn Kyle	DUN	8	398	372	
3 Su Walker	MTA	8	243	387	
4 Roger Cole-Baker	MTA	8	170	387	
5 Lynn Carter	IND	7.5	143	400	
6 Betty Eriksen	WAN	7	493	385	
7 Glenda Geard	IND	7	271	395	
8 Julia Schiller	MTA	7	-67	380	
9 Roto Mitchell	WAN	7	-138	370	

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave	Score
10 Khin Saw Khine	MTA	5	-50	352	
11 Heather Landon	TGA	5	-105	363	
12 Carole Coates	KIW	5	-320	364	
13 Fran Lowe	HAS	5	-532	362	
14 June Mackwell	IND	4	-514	345	

Grade D

1 Mike Currie	MTA	12	1057	409	
2 Jena Yousif	IND	11	923	396	
3 Bev Edwards	WRE	11	686	373	
4 Suzanne Harding	WRE	9	645	384	
5 Ernie Gidman	ROD	9	439	355	
6 Margaret Bullen	TGA	8	237	355	
7 Anne Scatchard	WRE	7	82	315	
8 Elaine Ware	MTA	7	-43	339	
9 Annette Coombes	KIW	7	-75	341	
10 Valma Gidman	ROD	6	98	322	
11 Jill Paterson	ROT	6	54	383	
12 Junior Gesmundo	PAP	6	-204	321	
13 Judy Cronin	MTA	5	-390	301	
14 Frances Higham	PAP	4	-392	310	
15 Joan Beale	PAP	3	-654	313	
16 Valerie Smith	MTA	3	-777	292	
17 Susan Schiller	MTA	3	-1046	268	

Wanganui 25-26 October

14 games

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
Grade A				
1 Howard Warner	IND	11	1199	446
2 Joanne Craig	IND	11	883	427
3 Rosemary Cleary	WAN	7	58	404
4 Mike Sigley	WAN	7	-11	431
5 Glenda Foster	WEL	7	-36	408
6 Lynne Butler	WAN	5	-107	380
7 Olivia Godfrey	WEL	4	-924	355
8 Denise Gordon	WAN	4	-1062	332
Grade B				
1 Anna Hough	IND	12	809	406
2 Glenyss Buchanan	LOH	10	565	417
3 Joan Thomas	HAS	7	-516	377
4 Jennifer Smith	KIW	6	-19	394
5 Yvette Hewlett	IND	6	-116	386

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
6	Leila Thomson	LOH	5	-147	376
7	Yoon Kim Fong	KIW	5	-279	392
8	Lynn Wood	WEL	5	-297	381

Grade C

1	Jean O'Brien	IND	12	1046	405
2	Heather Landon	TGA	9	383	384
3	Margaret Bullen	TGA	9	129	374
4	Clare Wall	WEL	8	407	404
5	Betty Eriksen	WAN	8	97	375
6	Andree Prentice	WAN	8	16	363
7	Anne Goldstein	CHC	6	39	365
8	Nola Borrell	WEL	6	-213	354
9	Malcolm Graham	CHC	5.5	-242	351
10	Jean Boyle	WAN	5	-46	376
11	Sheila Reed	WEL	5	-500	348
12	Sandra Cowen	TGA	2.5	-1116	308

Trans-Tasman Challenge**31 October-2 November**

24 games

Team Results

	Wins	Spread
Australia	146.5	378
New Zealand	141.5	-378

Individual results

	Name	Country	Wins	Spread	Ave
1	Adam Kretschmer	AUS	17	819	441
2	Joanne Craig	NZ	17	810	449
3	Howard Warner	NZ	16	1182	444
4	Esther Perrins	AUS	16	832	427
5	Russell Honeybun	AUS	16	633	432
6	Nick Cavenagh	NZ	15.5	29	414
7	Rod Talbot	AUS	15	264	411
8	Naween Fernando	AUS	14	794	434
9	Blue Thorogood	NZ	14	690	425
10	Patrick Carter	NZ	14	285	412
11	John Foster	NZ	13	266	424
12	Ron Baginski	AUS	13	66	418
13	Lyres Freeth	NZ	12	142	425
14	Karen Richards	AUS	12	0	408
15	Tony Hunt	AUS	10.5	-104	409
16	Bob Jackman	AUS	10	209	407
17	Mike Sigley	NZ	10	-322	410
18	Peter Sinton	NZ	10	-464	401
19	Carmel Dodd	AUS	9	-551	408
20	Matte Dunn	AUS	8	-1465	386

	Name	Country	Wins	Spread	Ave
21	Liz Fagerlund	NZ	7	-557	387
22	Scott Chaput	NZ	7	-1552	374
23	Lynne Butler	NZ	6	-887	382
24	John Spaan	AUS	6	-1119	383

Mt. Albert**15 November****A Grade**

	Name	Wins	Spread	Ave
1	Lyres Freeth	6	640	447
2	Andrew Bradley	4	-80	406
3	Lawson Sue	3	277	440
4	Val Mills	3	73	407
5	Chris Hooks	3	-111	415
6	Pat Bryan	3	-190	376
7	Liz Fagerlund	3	-223	395
8	John Foster	3	-386	382

B Grade

1	Janice Cherry	6	404	405
2	Jennifer Smith	4	203	395
3	Katy Yiakmis	4	82	385
4	Delcie Macbeth	4	34	401
5	Pam Barlow	3	-120	386
6	Hazel Purdie	3	-271	381
7	Shirley Martin	2	-22	378
8	Roger Coates	2	-312	374

C Grade

1	David Gunn	6	516	431
2	Margret Cherry	6	164	406
3	Karl Scherer	5	292	405
4	Roger Cole-Baker	3	86	396
5	Lynn Carter	3	-48	383
6	Glenda Geard	3	-170	376

Otago Lion Open**15-16 November**

15 games

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
A Grade					
1	Peter Sinton	DUN	12	500	414
2	Scott Chaput	DUN	10	593	430
3	Karen Gray	DUN	7	-102	388
4	Lois Binnie	CHC	7	-393	394
5	Shirley Hol	CHC	5	-393	386
6	Lynn Wood	WEL	4	-205	389

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
B Grade					
1	Marion Ross	DUN	10	264	382
2	Colleen Cook	CHC	9	202	376
3	Carolyn Kyle	DUN	7	230	377
4	Chris Handley	DUN	7	-366	357
5	Allison Torrance	CHC	6	-151	358
6	Gabrielle Bolt	CHC	6	-179	366

C Grade					
1	Ruth Groffman	DUN	11	641	390
2	Michael Groffman	DUN	9	519	378
3	Paul Freeman	IND	7	122	382
4	Malcolm Graham	CHC	7	119	366
5	Sam Thompson	DUN	6	-710	342
6	Joanna Fox	CHC	5	-691	339

D Grade					
1	Madelaine Green	CHC	11	639	372
2	Betty Don	IND	10	586	366
3	Marilyn Sinclair	CHC	9	407	350
4	AnneLouise Milne	DUN	8	-11	333
5	Stephanie Pluck	DUN	5	-445	343
6	Bev Allen	DUN	2	-1176	305

Wellington 22 & 23 November

Day 1

	Name	Wins	Spread
1	Howard Warner	6	746
2	Lawson Sue	6	567
3	Lynn Wood	6	543
4	Rosemary Cleary	6	354
5	Liz Fagerlund	6	348
6	Denise Gordon	6	335
7	Lynne Butler	5	355
8	Vicky Robertson	5	327
9	Jean O'Brien	5	172
10	Joan Thomas	5	44
11	Murray Rogers	5	35
12	Tony Charlton	5	-21
13	Nola Borrell	5	-174
14	Olivia Godfrey	4	161
15	Lewis Hawkins	4	151
16	Clare Wall	4	141
17	Anna Hough	4	28
18	Betty Eriksen	4	-25
19	Pam Barlow	4	-79
20	John McNaughton	4	-241
21	Fran Lowe	4	-249

	Name	Wins	Spread
22	Jena Yousif	3	284
23	Anne Goldstein	3	57
24	Carolyn Kyle	3	52
25	Glenda Foster	3	20
26	Judith Thomas	3	-17
27	Sheila Reed	3	-37
28	Jill Moon	3	-357
29	Maria Clinton	3	-491
30	Jillian Greening	2	-197
31	Joan Beale	2	-322
32	Frances Higham	2	-474
33	Jamie Adams	2	-996
34	Gill Charlton	1	-1040

Day 2

	Name	Wins	Spread
1	Howard Warner	7	987
2	Lynne Butler	7	402
3	John McNaughton	6	437
4	Lawson Sue	6	258
5	Liz Fagerlund	5	281
6	Pam Barlow	5	263
7	Vicky Robertson	5	257
8	Lewis Hawkins	5	201
9	Lynn Wood	5	163
10	Glenda Foster	5	158
11	Rosemary Cleary	5	56
12	Denise Gordon	5	-53
13	Anna Hough	4	402
14	Joan Thomas	4	225
15	Murray Rogers	4	140
16	Olivia Godfrey	4	60
17	Fran Lowe	4	-12
18	Anne Goldstein	4	-89
19	Clare Wall	4	-127
20	Frances Higham	4	-179
21	Nola Borrell	4	-267
22	Jean O'Brien	3	192
23	Tony Charlton	3	-19
24	Carolyn Kyle	3	-51
25	Sheila Reed	3	-178
26	Judith Thomas	3	-248
27	Jillian Greening	3	-534
28	Betty Eriksen	2	-92
29	Joan Beale	2	-314
30	Maria Clinton	2	-316
31	Gill Charlton	2	-912
32	Jamie Adams	0	-1091

Club	Club Contact	Phone Number	Email	Meeting Day & Time
Christchurch (CHC)	John Baird	03 332 5996	john@jbssoftware.com	12.30pm Wed 6.45pm 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)	Dianne 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	9.15am 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	bevhol@xtra.co.nz	1pm Thurs

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