

# Forwords



Journal of the New Zealand Association of Scrabble® Players  
No. 119 Winter 2015



*John Foster, NZASP's newest Life Member*

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From AASVOGEL to ZZYX

Scrabbly logic

Winning Scrabble and the nature of expertise

Report on Masters

Book review: *The fingertips of Duncan Dorfman*

Advice for U all

Ask Liz

English assignment on Scrabble

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# Editorial

## KNOCKED for SIX?

By the time you are reading this, it'll be old news, but I am writing this the day after the World Cup Cricket final. I am one of the least sporty New Zealanders you will ever meet; I don't play, I don't watch, and I don't care. But I once had a crush on a boy who was a devoted cricket fan, so I have watched enough to know roughly how that game works (just don't ask me to make any umpiring decisions!).

So having ignored almost the entire Cup, I bestirred myself to watch the final. And it was ... disappointing. Chances were taken that did not pay off. Opportunities were missed. We made mistakes and paid heavily for them. 'Neutral' adjudication never seemed to rule in our favour. Meanwhile, our opposition could do no wrong! **They** snapped up the chances that came their way, they played better cricket all round, and sometimes they were less-than-gracious about it.

Inevitably, as the game (and by extension, the tournament) dragged on towards its inexorable and oh-so-bitter end, my mind wandered to making comparisons with Scrabble. What if Scrabble were a spectator sport? What would the commentators say? Would we play differently if we knew what they were saying about us? What is the Scrabble equivalent of a cricket run, a boundary, a century? What would a Scrabbler have to do to receive a standing ovation despite losing? At what point would it be

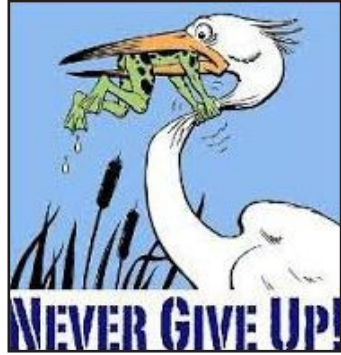
appropriate for a Scrabbler to yell "HOWZAT!!?"?

But throughout the match, the main way in which it seemed to me that Scrabble and cricket could overlap thematically was this: at some point in a game, it may become apparent to us that we have been completely outclassed by our present opposition. This is often regardless of prior performance; we may have beaten them hands down in every club game and friendly match in the past six months, only to fall over when it matters most or when the outcome of the tournament depends on us not losing this game. But my key question is: how should the player who seems to be doomed to lose respond in that situation?

I have for some time been puzzled by Scrabble opponents who will tell me "that's the winning move" when we're barely beyond the halfway point in the game. I was especially astonished recently to be informed by an opponent who was experiencing a long losing streak that "I'm not targeting you for a win" before our game had even commenced. It's a sure bet that if you tell me I'm going to win, then I'll take psychological strength and confidence from that and I **will** win! Or perhaps it's just that a player who begins a game with a losing mindset **will** lose. I am aware that my endgame is not my strongest feature, but I can still relate myriad occasions where I have redeemed my score from a long way behind, simply

by never just going through the motions but always endeavouring to play the best I could with the tiles I had.

I doubt that, as some commentators would have it, the Black Caps were doomed from the moment the first wicket of the final fell. But regardless, our players still gave everything they had. A One Day International bowler at his best is trying to take a wicket with every ball. A fielder knows that every catch, every grassy slide that prevents a boundary could make the difference to their team's winning or losing, or at least to their morale; and every throw, no matter how far, should be aimed to dislodge the bails.



I exhort you to play your Scrabble in a like manner. Sadly, no team or individual player can come out on top on every occasion... but there's no surer way to lose than by simply giving up.

## President's report

Lately there seems to have been a lot of things happening that have been making me think about time. My mother turned 95 in April, and after dropping her back to her unit at Hillsborough Heights after lunch, I immediately went to pick up my one-year-old grandchild Alice, whom I was looking after that night. It struck me that I have 94 years between members of my family! That is quite a long time!

I clearly remember the first time that I realised the concept of Time was something that could be studied, and had been studied for ages. I was 17 and in Tahiti on an exchange, going to all the classes at the Lycee with my host sister Sylvie. One of her classes was philosophy, which was compulsory for all students from the first year at high school. This was odd

enough, as we didn't even have that as an option at my high school, but to be in a class where the Philosophy of Time was being discussed in French was very strange indeed.



*Val Mills*

People have always said how fast time flies as you get older and, really, I didn't get that at all until I reached that age bracket myself. It came as a shock to me when reading the last edition of *Forwards* that I could actually remember the article that John had reprinted from 20 years ago. Oh no! Had I really been reading that magazine for 20 years!?

Seeing the movie about Stephen Hawking reminded me again that Time is something that scientists are still very interested in. Looking for an audio book at the library that I could listen to on my phone when driving, I saw that his book *A brief history of time* was available, so I downloaded it and started listening... Well, although it was written for the general public, I was lost from the first chapter. The words used were one thing, but also the concepts being discussed were things that I had never put my mind to — was there a start to time, time goes faster in some places than others, imaginary time... I made myself listen to the whole book, but I can't say I am much the wiser.

Anyway, we all know that in Scrabble time is something not far from us all. That clock ticks down and we have to do our best within our 25 minutes. We have all agonised over a rack for 10 minutes only to end up playing something for 10 points; we have all left ourselves 60 seconds to play our last four moves; we have all forgotten to press the clock.



There are good and bad things about playing Scrabble online, but one of the things you can train yourself to do is to play faster by playing a three- or 10-minute game. Sure, you don't have to add up, but you still have to think pretty quickly. Having 10 minutes available to you at the end of the game is such a help for all sorts of things, and it is something that I am training myself to

do — play quicker at the beginning so that I have more time for my endgame.

An organisation such as ours can only be successful through members giving their time. Looking through even our current membership, I am amazed and humbled by the number of people that have helped in the running of the Association in all sorts of ways. One of the ways that the Association thanks such members is to award life memberships. I am delighted to say that, at the recent Nationals held in Wellington, I had the honour of presenting John Foster with a life membership. John is one of those people who has given huge amounts of his time to the Scrabble scene in New Zealand. He, along with Bob Jackman, founded the Trans-Tasman competition between Australia and New Zealand, which has now been going strong for over 20 years. He also maintains the Association's Experts and Grand Masters database, and is the go-to man for anything to do with New Zealand Scrabble history and records. Thank you John on behalf of the Association.

As time passes and people come and go, the mantle of various roles is passed to new people, and we continue to be served by a great group of willing members. A huge thanks to all of you who make Scrabble happen in New Zealand!

*Val Mills*

*Editor's note: John Foster is featured in this issue's 'Word Famous in New Zealand' column. See pages 6-9 to find out more about the man behind the Scrabble.*

# Word famous in New Zealand: John Foster



*Given John's newly-minted Life Membership, the editrices thought that our readers might be interested to find out more about our unofficial Scrabble historian and archivist, and the man who provides us with those fascinating glimpses into the past in the regular column, 'Twenty Years Ago in Forwards'. We have therefore twisted his arm to be profiled in this issue's Word Famous column. In the interview below, John has again kindly provided us with some fascinating glimpses, this time into his own life.*

**Name:** John Foster  
**Birthplace:** Christchurch  
**Current residence:** Auckland  
**Club affiliation:** currently Independent, formerly Mt. Albert, and East Coast Bays (since dissolved)  
**Occupation:** Retired

Q. Could you please start by telling our readers some basic facts about your life?

A. I was born in Christchurch and am the youngest of two children; I have one older sister. When I was one year old, our family moved to Hamilton for my father's new job. That was where I grew up and went to school. I have a son and three stepchildren. At the last count, I have five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Q. What did you do during your working life?

A. Many things actually. I trained as a civil engineer, and worked for the Ministry of Works for 19 years. One of my more interesting tasks during that period was to determine the feasibility of building a TV mast on top of Mt. Te Aroha. With no road access back then, I was taken to the summit by helicopter, which was

quite a novelty in 1962. The mast has now been a landmark for over half a century, and I never fail to point it out to my passengers when driving past on the way to Scrabble tournaments.

I might have stayed with the Ministry for the rest of my working life but for OPEC. The oil shocks of the early 1970s had such a severe impact on road construction that budgets were repeatedly slashed to the point that no new projects were being started. I became increasingly frustrated that my job had virtually come to a standstill, so I started looking for fresh fields.



*Mt. Te Aroha's mast*



In 1975 I quit, cashed in my superannuation, and bought a dairy on Auckland's North Shore. I won't dwell on that, except to say that it was not the most inspired decision of my life.

After the dairy I worked at factory jobs for a while, until I found a job as contracts engineer for a large earthmoving firm. I spent the next two years travelling most of the central and upper North Island pricing and directing a wide variety of projects. I then took on my biggest challenge, accepting a post as project manager of a multi-million dollar road construction contract in Papua New Guinea. Sadly, I did not complete the contract. My wife became ill and returned to NZ for treatment. After learning just how ill she was, I followed a few weeks later, walking away from my contract amidst threats of legal action (which never eventuated). She died just three weeks after my return, leaving me a widower and solo parent at the age of 41.

I needed a complete change of direction then. First, I purchased a lawn-mowing round, which I maintained in whole or part for 14 years. Then I became involved in security, first as a driver for Armourguard, and later as a security guard at the Reserve Bank, where I remained for seven years. When restructuring reared its ugly head again, I took voluntary early retirement at the age of 57. During both those security jobs, I handled or saw sums of cash that most people

could not even visualise. Suffice to say, I have picked up a million dollars with each hand, (yes, it is possible, using \$100 notes) and have assisted in unloading a single consignment of large denominations totalling over \$2 billion.

Several times when I was on night duty at the Bank, I smuggled Patrick Carter into the control room and we would play Scrabble from around midnight to 6:30 a.m. This was very naughty as my job was actually to keep unauthorised people out. It would have meant instant dismissal if I had ever been caught. I made sure that Patrick knew exactly what cupboard he needed to hide in if the governor of the Reserve Bank (Don Brash at the time) should come calling, which he often did on New Year's Eve.

Q. Have you done much travelling?

A. Very little. Apart from travelling to PNG, my only ventures outside NZ have all been Scrabble-related — four times to Australia for Trans-Tasmans, three times to Norfolk Island, and once to London for the World Scrabble Championships during my stint as president of NZASP when I went along for the ride with the NZ team.

It was in London that I first met Bob Jackman and he mooted his ideas for a Trans-Tasman competition. We quickly agreed on the basic concept and ironed out the details in the next few months. Our plan became a reality the following year.





He quickly introduced rowing to Hamilton High. I was one of his first recruits and, suddenly finding a sport more fitted to my physical attributes, enjoyed it immensely. I sometimes wonder how good I might have been had I chosen a different career path which would have permitted me to remain in Hamilton and continue training. I was always competing with, and beating, another boy for the same seat. That boy was Warren Cole, who went on to win an Olympic gold medal for rowing at Mexico in 1968. In an interesting quirk of fate, I discovered decades later that my rowing coach was a neighbour to June Mackwell, another veteran of the NZ Scrabble scene.

I played golf on and off for over 30 years. I mostly played around a 15 or 16 handicap, but at times I managed as low as 13. I twice broke 80 on full-length courses. In all 30 years I never scored a hole-in-one, but I did once record an eagle while playing with Jeff Grant on Norfolk Island.

A regular part of my life now is Contract Bridge. I have been playing for 14 years and, while I will never play the game at the exalted level that Patrick Carter plays it, I am still considered a reasonably competent intermediate.

Q. Is there one memorable event that stands out for you?

A. I think witnessing the

very start of a volcanic eruption is one of the most standout events for me. This happened at Mt. Ulawun in PNG in 1980, when I was flying out of Rabaul. This was not just a few puffs of smoke and a bit of ash, but a full-monty eruption with a huge column of burning gases and a mushroom cloud starting to form at the top. The pilot flew as close as he dared, close enough for us to see expelled rocks cascading down the sides. When we landed at Biella nearly 60 km away, I looked back and the burgeoning mushroom cloud was dominating the skyline.

Unfortunately the wind was blowing in our direction so, by noon, the smoke and ash had blotted out the sunlight and I needed headlights just to drive at walking pace. Strangely, after being in the dark all day, just before sunset it started to get eerily light again as the sun got low enough to shine up under the dust cloud. It was indeed one of the weirdest and most memorable days of my life.



*Mt. Ulawun, Papua New Guinea*

# Report on the Nationals

*June was always going to be a busy month for both editrices, with an assortment of assignment deadlines, children's birthdays, choir performances, spousal absences, extensive dental treatments, and returning to part-time work between us. It's a wonder we find time to play any Scrabble at all! "Let's get the Winter Forwards out before June!" we said. "No, we need to include the Nationals coverage in this issue," we said. "Oh well, let's try to get everything except the Nationals coverage done before June then," we said. We did not succeed.*

*This is by way of an introduction, to emphasise how grateful we are to Shirley Martin (highest number of wins in the whole tournament) and Scott Chaput (top performer amid the many shining stars from Dunedin) for agreeing, after only minimal coercion, to contribute the following Nationals reports, and for sending them in so promptly. Read on for their two takes on events. Also reproduced here is Murray's poem, for those who missed his performance at the dinner; and for those who requested to see it in writing, the better to get their heads around the concept.*

For those who were unable to attend, the following matters of general interest (presented here in no particular order) were determined at Saturday's meetings:

- Next year's Nationals will take place in Rotorua (2016).
- The following year the Nationals will return to Christchurch (2017).
- Thanks again to Clare Wall for her service as Treasurer for the NZASP.
- Dianne Cole-Baker will be taking over the role of Treasurer, with the help of her beautiful assistant, Roger.
- The new CSW15 resource is not yet readily available to New Zealanders, so this dictionary will not be adopted here in the immediately foreseeable future.
- Accordingly, the previous decision to use CSW15 at the Whangarei tournament has been reversed, which means that the only valid adjudication dictionary at Whangarei, and until further notice, will be the current dictionary, CSW12.

## Nationals 2015

*by Shirley Martin, Kiwi*

The National Scrabble Tournament for 2015 was held in Wellington at St. Anne's Parish Hall, an excellent venue within walking distance of a variety of motels, cafes, and restaurants.

Seventy-three people played 15 games over two days of the long weekend. The presentation dinner was held on Sunday night at the Amora Hotel, with medals and certificates being presented as follows:

A grade: Winner Howard Warner, second Jeff Grant, third Peter Sinton  
B grade: Winner Scott Chaput, second

Alex Leckie-Zaharic, third Murray Rogers

C grade: Winner Shirley Martin, second Shirley Hol, third Hazel Purdie  
D grade: Winner Karl Scherer, second Karen Miller, third Marian Ross  
E grade: Winner Annette Coombes, second Stephanie Pluck, third Tim Henneveld

For full results, see pp 48-49.

The big surprise for me was being presented with the Georgie trophy for moving up the most rating points. What an honour!

The highlight of the evening for many was the naming of the team to



*Shirley Martin receives the Georgie trophy from vice-president Ruth Groffman.*

represent New Zealand at the forthcoming WESPA Championship. It was wonderful to see one of our young guns qualifying; congratulations John. The confirmed team is as follows: Howard Warner, Jeff Grant, Peter Sinton, Joanne Craig, Blue Thorogood, and John McNaughton. Reserves are Cicely Bruce, Lyres Freeth, and Anderina McLean. Congratulations all!

Coming home on the plane our third seat was allocated to Anderina. What are the chances? And, surprise surprise, as well as talking to us she studied words. She is deserving of her high-flying rank!

## **Dunedin Wins Team Title**

*by Scott Chaput, Dunedin*

The end of autumn proved fruitful for the Dunedin club at the 2015 Nationals. Six members sallied forth from the Deep South and swept aside all other clubs in the land. They each won at least 10 games, showing there



*Shirley and Anderina weren't the only Scrabblers to meet up on their homeward journeys. Here are John McNaughton and Alex Leckie-Zaharic squeezing in another match at the bus depot.*

*(Photo sent in by Tracie Leckie)*

is plenty of Scrabble talent (and maybe a bit of luck) in the most beautiful part of the country.

Led by B Grade's champion Scott Chaput and runner-up Alex Leckie-Zaharic, (each with 13 wins and differing in spread by only 17), and strongly supported by E Grade runner-up Stephanie Pluck's 11 wins, Dunedin romped home over second placed Kiwi (30 wins led by Shirley Martin's awesome 14 wins) and third placed Christchurch (29 wins). To my knowledge this is the first team title for the Southerners. If we could have had a B team, they would have taken second place by 99 spread points.

Personally I am most pleased for Stephanie. Making her maiden appearance at the Nationals, she played really well. A change in how the club funds players going to Nationals enabled her to make the trip



*Team trophy winners Alex Leckie-Zaharic, Stephanie Pluck and Scott Chaput*

to Wellington. I must thank Ruth Groffman for proposing this change, and Stephanie's successful contribution towards our team title makes a strong argument in favour of retaining the new policy for the future.

I had an inkling we were looking good for the team prize, but was focussed on holding off Alex's challenge (and tournament-leading 44 bonus words and 462 average) for the B Grade title. I knew as long as I (and other Dunedinites) kept winning, we had a good chance. Only in the last few rounds did someone point out that we would likely win the title.

For the next 371 days until Queen's Birthday weekend next year, the Dunedin Club will bask in the glory of the team title. With the Masters taking place in sunny and warm Dunedin next Easter, we plan to challenge for the New Zealand Challenge Shield. Like the Ranfurly Shield, it doesn't come to Otago very often.

*The following poem was delivered by the Murray at the Nationals prize-giving dinner. The 26 couplets proceed in alphabetical order, each highlighting a different letter of the alphabet. The*

*first line of each couplet introduces a word, then the second line uses a word that hooks the featured letter to both the front and the end of that introduced word to make another allowable Scrabble word. (Of necessity, some of the "power tiles" have departed somewhat from this form). In addition, the featured letter is often named within the text of the couplet, though it is frequently in disguise.*

## Letters from Both Sides Now

*by Murray Rogers, Independent*

Challenging disciplines known as **calculi**

Eh? Eh? Mathematical inability, **acalculia**, I do not lie



**B** Oo, don't look closely  
To be...a **boob**, yes to be

**Ode** to the instrument you  
sometimes see  
Transformed into **codex** so  
beautifully



**D** The skin of an **apple** spotted  
with 'd's'  
**Dappled**, still warrants a bite,  
yes please

A former coin, the **ducat** I seize  
More currency knowledge,  
**educate** me with ease



**F** The miner's delight, **ore hoo**,  
effuse  
One foot forward, **forehoof** you  
choose

An organic base known as **amin**  
Gee, I can make this a **gaming**  
win



**H** The referee, or the **ump**, usually  
an adult  
To aitch their own, **humph**, this  
one is difficult

**I** To **mar** but only with both eyes  
**Imari**, Japanese porcelain in  
 disguise

**You, it's you**  
 Let's wrestle, **jujitsu**

**K** **Aia**, the female servant when  
 okay  
 Stretches out in the **kaiak**  
 everyday

The **eve** is all still and well  
 The cup with wine fulfilled and  
**level**

**M** **Ala**, winged part of a bone, mm  
**Malam**, Koran master will teach  
 them

**Aa**, we're red hot now, watch us  
 flow  
 Rising heat give **naan** a go

**O** **Vol**, a shortened version of  
 volume, oh  
 Mould me carefully into an **ovolo**

In Te **Reo** there is no 'p'  
 Try delicate surgery so the **preop**  
 can be

**Q** In Turkey I'm **a...am**  
 An officer, the **qaimaqam**

To **elate** each other this we are  
 Pleased the **relater** is a star

**S** One letter at a time, keep the  
**pace** this  
 Es good, so watch these **spaces**

To be **able** to play Scrabble well  
 is an ability  
 Equal to decoding glyphs on a  
**tablet** historically

**U** **Rub** it long enough you do  
 Voila, a vulture, **urubu**

A single 'a' is what we have  
 With Hebrew magic wedge out a  
**vav**

**W** **Ho**, no wawa we will not stop  
**Whow**, wawa we will get to the  
 top

**Ero** with an 's' is such a lusty  
 word  
 Cross it out, **xerox** it too, this is  
 absurd

**Y** The bristle of grasses, **awn**, you  
 ask why? why?  
 Getting tired, **yawny**? to you ask I

To finish I present the single 'z'  
 A triple letter **zzz**, 'tis now time for  
 bed.

*[Note that the only words in the poem longer than  
 two letters that you are NOT allowed to play in  
 Scrabble are KORAN\* and ERO\* (EROS is  
 allowable). -Ed]*



*A Grade winner Howard Warner is  
 congratulated by Ruth Groffman*

# From Aasvogel to Zzyzx

by Jeff Grant, Hastings

I really enjoyed Olivia's excellent article 'In the beginning was WHAT??' in the last *Forwards*. It's great to see oddities like DVANDVA, PHTHISIS and ZWIEBACK on show, because they rarely make it onto a Scrabble board.

In the plate final of the first world champs (London, 1991), Kwaku Sapong of Ghana played CTENOID (comb-shaped) against me - far more impressive than its anagrams NOTICED and DEONTIC. I once saw 1993 world champ Mark Nyman of England playing Thailand's Pakorn Nemitrmansuk, and Mark played TJANTING (a batik tool). Unfortunately for him, this superb find probably cost him the game, because it put a T in the triple-triple row and Pakorn played EUISETA through it for 203 points. Sometimes there's no justice.

Glenda Foster has been helping me with a project titled 'From Aasvogel to Zzyzx, a Dictionary of Initial Bigrams\*'. An AASVOGEL is a South African vulture, Zzyzx\* is a settlement in California, and a bigram\* in recreational linguistics (word-play) is a pair of letters considered as a single unit. The dictionary contains entries for words (including proper nouns) starting with all 676 possible 2-letter combinations, from aa- to zz-. Perhaps unsurprisingly, Scrabble words account for over 300 of them. Many of Olivia's unusual terms are listed in this dictionary, but it was not difficult to gather 26 interesting new examples. I hope some of these will find their way onto your racks and that there is a

place on the board to play them!

**AOUDAD:** a wild sheep of North Africa. Two near-anagram eights starting with AO- are AORISTIC and AORTITIS.

**BWAZI:** variant of BUAZE, an African fibre-yielding polygalaceous shrub (milkwort genus).

**CSARDAS:** also CZARDAS, a Hungarian dance in two movements, one slow and the other fast.

**DZIGGETAI:** a central Asian wild ass. The DZO (or DZHO) and DZEREN are also Asian animals.



*Jeff Grant*



*dziggetai*

**EKPWELE:** variant of EKUELE, a former unit of currency in Equatorial Guinea. (-s plural for EKPWELE only)

**FYNBOS:** an area of low shrubs, in southern Africa. (plural FYNBOSES)



**GMELINITE:** a sodium aluminium zeolite, useful as a front hook for MELINITE (anagrams ILMENITE, MENILITE, TIMELINE)

**HWYL:** divine inspiration in oratory; or emotional fervour, such as that exhibited by Welsh rugby fans at Cardiff Arms Park.

**IOPANOIC:** as in IOPANOIC acid, a compound used in x-ray examination of the gall bladder.

**JNANA:** in Hinduism, spiritual knowledge acquired through meditation and study. (A good front hook but don't forget ANANA!)

**KWANZA:** the standard monetary unit of Angola, divided into 100 LWEIS.

**LLANERO:** an inhabitant of a LLANO, one of the vast plains in northern South America.

**MWALIMU:** in East Africa, a teacher, who is sometimes a MZUNGU (white person).

**NGARARA:** a lizard-like monster in Māori mythology; a tuatara, or lizard generally.

**OQUASSA:** a small dark-blue lake trout found in western Maine, US.

**PZAZZ:** a combination of flamboyance, panache and vigour, needing both blanks to play.

**QAWWAL:** a male singer of QAWWALI, devotional Sufi music, usually sung in Persian or Turkish.

**RYOTWARI:** in India, a system of land tenure in which each peasant deals directly with the state.

**SVEDBERG:** a unit of time amounting to one ten-trillionth of a second.

**TCHOTCHKE:** a knickknack or trinket. If you get a rack of CCHHKTT, be sure to check for the separated O and E.

**UJAMAA:** a sort of Tanzanian kibbutz. An uncommon ending to go with a unique start.

**VULSELLA:** also VULSELLUM, a forceps with toothed or clawed blades.

**WUXIA:** a Chinese genre of films featuring martial arts and fantasy sequences.

**XRAY:** radio communication code word for the letter X. JULIET, NOVEMBER, and QUEBEC all have similar definitions.

**YTTRIFEROUS:** containing the metallic element YTTRIUM. Imagine your rack is ORSTTUY. You make a great find: TRYOUTS, but it won't go down. Suddenly you spot RIFE on the board and use it to play YTTRIFEROUS - on a triple-triple. Move over, Nigel!

**ZLOTYCH:** also ZLOTE, ZLOTYS and ZLOTIES; plural of ZLOTY, a monetary unit of Poland equal to 100 GROSZY.

## Erratum

From *Forwards* issue 118: The quiz on p. 31 asks about three women who have won major titles, and the answers on p. 42 name Glennis Hale, Joanne Craig, and Lynne Butler. Jeff Grant has been kind enough to correct this information: Sue Marrow won the first Nationals in 1980 and Glenyss Buchanan won the same event two years later. The editors hope Sue and Glenyss can accept our apologies for Howard's omissions.

# Club news

## Kaimai Challenge

*by Carole Coates, Kiwi*

In February, the Tauranga and Kiwi Clubs resurrected the Kaimai Challenge, a friendly tournament that, for one reason or another, we hadn't played since 2011. So on Valentine's Day, eight Kiwi Club members travelled to Tauranga where we received a very hospitable greeting at Barbara Dunn's place. Barbara had transformed her lounge into a very pleasant competition venue with eight tables, and the Tauranga members were already seated ready to play.

The format we chose was a round robin, where each person played the eight members of the other club. It was great to play against people we don't often (or ever!) get to challenge, in an unofficial tournament where the results weren't going to affect our ratings. It was particularly nice for those of us from Kiwi to be able to catch up with ex-Kiwi members Ruth Lilian (who was playing), and Elaine Moltzen (who was helping with the catering).

Jennifer Smith, Yoon Kim Fong, and Shirley Pearce from Kiwi Club won the most games with six games apiece. Ruth Lilian from Tauranga also won six, while Chris Day and Stan Skinner (also from Tauranga) both won five. Others taking part were Carole and Roger Coates, Jillian Greening, Fay Wright, and Sharron Nelley (Kiwi); and Barbara Dunn, Heather Landon, Margaret Bullen, Rosalind Phillips, and Shirley Bonthron (Tauranga).



*Scrabblers enjoying the Kaimai Challenge*

At the end of the day, both clubs were equal on 32 wins, so it came down to spread. Based on that, Tauranga won the trophy. Congratulations to Tauranga!

Many thanks to the Tauranga Club for the lovely morning and afternoon teas, to Barbara for her relaxed and warm hospitality, and to Heather for the thorough recording of results.



*Because the Kaimai Challenge between the Kiwi and the Tauranga Clubs was being held on Valentine's Day, Jennifer Smith made a special card for the host club.*

*This is the front of the card.*



*This is the inside of the card.*

## Whangarei's Horeke Weekend

*by Bev Edwards, Whangarei*

Recently, the Whangarei Scrabble Club members were privileged to receive an invitation from Val Mills and her partner Paul to join them in Paul's magnificent villa in Horeke for a two-day unrated tournament to take place over 21 and 22 March. Twelve members gladly accepted their offer, and we immediately began to formulate plans for our journey into the Mid North.

Four cars loaded with Scrabble paraphernalia, food, wine, bedding, and bodies headed north on the Friday, arriving at our destination before dark. Major unpacking followed, sleeping spaces were allocated, and there was even time for a

couple of games before bedtime. Paul's Riverhead guesthouse is an historic colonial kauri homestead set in idyllic surroundings with stunning views over the Hokianga Harbour; a perfect spot for some relaxing Scrabble.

The tournament began at 9.00am each morning, preceded by a lavish continental breakfast, which our hosts provided on both days. Cicely had spent weeks making up personalised record sheets (love mine with the Q on it), score sheets, charts, and numerous other extras. She also took on the role of chief organiser and record keeper for the two days. Thank you Cicely from all of us for the fantastic job you did.



*Anne Munro, Lynn Thompson, Margaret Toso, Margaret Peters; Allie Quinn, Jenny Litchfield, Rebecca Pullman, Anne Scatchard, Suzanne Harding; Margy Hurly, Val Mills, Paul Jepsen, Bev Edwards.*



*Margaret Peters, Jenny Litchfield,  
Margy Hurly*

We used a handicap system courtesy of Patrick Carter, which evened the playing field a little. It ranged between 0 and 160; some players were very happy with it, some not so much, but everyone enjoyed the Scrabble. It was a real surprise for Bev when she found that she had topped the first day's play, but Allie was the overall champion as she won 11 out of 13 games.

Our lunches on Saturday and Sunday, and the special dinner on Saturday evening were all banquets. Everybody contributed, and the selection was amazing. What an absolute treat to be part of this. Our sincere thanks to Val for hosting us, and to Paul for agreeing to share such a wonderful space with us.

I asked our members who attended the weekend in Horeke to write me a line of eight words about their experience. Here are their thoughts:

Warm, witty, wordy weekend — we ate, laughed, played.

Awesome weekend, wonderful hosts, venue, company, and scrabble.

Riverhead — fabulous house, great scrabble, friends, and food.

Historic Horeke's harbourside homestead held heartwarming, harmonious hospitality.

Hokianga harbour hilarity, gluttony, games galore, wanting more.

Good company, great food, lovely hosts, wonderful weekend.

Horrendous handicaps, hilarious happy hours, hampered high hopes.

|               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| SCRABBLE      | HOKIANGA      |
| Scintillating | Horeke        |
| Competitive   | Overate       |
| Rumbustious   | Koreros       |
| Amicable      | Inaugural     |
| Brainboxes    | Accommodating |
| Brainfood     | Nonrated      |
| Laudable      | Games         |
| Exciting      | Amazing       |



*Stunning views over the Hokianga Harbour*



# Hall of Fame

by Jennifer Smith, Kiwi

Ciao!

My name is Tiziano Vecelli (or Vecellio).

I was born in Pieve di Cadore, Italy, probably around 1477.

The exact date of my birth is uncertain. When I was an old man I claimed in a letter to Philip II, King of Spain, to have been born in 1474, but experts think this date is unlikely. However, nobody disputes the date of my death in 1576, and they all agree that I was probably close to 100 when I died – certainly a very ripe old age for that time.

I began painting when I was only four years old, and didn't stop painting until the day I died. I trained under the great masters Gentile and Giovanni Bellini, and even they say I surpassed them in the use of colour.

My contemporaries reckon I was one of the most versatile of Italian painters, being equally adept with portraits, landscape backgrounds, and mythological and religious subjects. My painting methods, particularly in the application and use of colour, would exercise a profound influence not only on painters of the Italian Renaissance, but on future generations of Western art. I'm generally recognised as the most important member of the 16th century Venetian school of art.

In 1513, I went to Venice, to obtain a broker's patent.



*Detail from 'Self-portrait' by Titian*

There I became superintendent of government works. This "La Sanseria" was a privilege much coveted by rising or risen artists, and my patent yielded me a good annuity of 20 crowns, as well as exempting me from certain taxes. I was bound in return to paint likenesses of the successive Doges of my time at the fixed price of eight crowns each. (Actually, I only ended up painting five!)



*Venice*

During the last 26 years of my life I worked mainly for Philip II, and as a portrait-painter. I also finished off many copies my pupils made of earlier works of mine, which has created headaches for art experts, collectors, critics and dealers ever since. My works were also very widely copied and faked outside my studio, during my lifetime and afterwards.

My last painting, the *Pietà* (which was finished by Palma il Giovane after my death), is a dramatic scene of suffering, of myself and my favourite son and assistant, Orazio, before the Saviour.

I died of a fever on 27 August 1576 while the plague raged in Venice. Orazio also died of the plague shortly afterwards, and my opulent mansion was plundered by thieves during the epidemic.

Art historians attribute approximately 400 works to me, of which about 300 survive.

But I have left a legacy other than my paintings. As I said, I was noted for my mastery of colour. I often depicted my models with hair in shades of a lustrous bronze. The colour was so rich, so magnificent, that my name came to be accepted for the brownish yellow colour, which some have described as a sort of red-yellow, and others reddish-brown or auburn. The English called me "Titian", and this has become the word for my trademark colour.

Remember me when you play TITIAN or TITIANS. You redheads out there might like to use this elegant word. It's much more useful and dignified than the modern – and bogus – GINGA\*.



*Detail from Sacred and Profane Love, by Titian, oil on canvas, c. 1514.  
The nude character on the right, supposedly a personification of Aphrodite, is one example of the colour hair for which the artist became renowned.*





# Scrabble Logic

Five lucky women are about to jet off on overseas holidays of a lifetime. They are all keen Scrabblers so they'll be taking along their CSW15 initiation kits, which will enable them to bone up on the new words during their long-haul flights. Each of them has already chosen a favourite new word. Using the 12 clues below, can you work out each woman's first and surname, where she's going, what her favourite ethnic food is, and what word she likes best from the CSW15 lexicon? Note that all words in the clues (including the women's names, and holiday destinations) are allowable Scrabble words, though you'll have to wait for a few more months before you can play any of the CSW15 words favoured by our travelling Scrabblers.

## Clues:

1. The woman who's travelling to Florence doesn't have a sweet tooth, but Ms. Blackthorn loves her desserts.



*baklava*

2. Diane is hoping that the missionary work she's going to be doing in Tripoli will be satisfying, but CSW 15 has given her the word AIYEE to express her extreme alarm if things go wrong.



*souvlaki*

3. Miss Greenwood's favourite ethnic food begins with the same letter as her surname and,

coincidentally, Sharon likes a food beginning with the initial letter of her surname too.



*'malarias'*

4. Miss Brownfield is flying to Michigan, but she must remember to warn the airline that she has a severe nut allergy.
5. Moira is looking forward to her trip to Berlin and, as a lawyer, she's



*gravlaks*

always pleased to see new legal terms like LIENEES added to the word list.

6. The woman whose surname is Brownfield

wonders why anyone would enjoy a food if it's the anagram of MALARIAS, but that's precisely why the woman going to Berlin loves that dish.

7. The woman who enjoys souvlaki rather than baklava is delighted to see GRR finally enter the Scrabble lexicon, but Mrs. Whitehead doesn't think that word should be allowed.
8. Miss Goldstone had a terrible time in Berlin when she visited it 10 years ago so she vowed she would never go back.



*bobotie*

9. Miss Brownfield has tasted bobotie before but she can take it or leave it.
10. The woman whose favourite new word is XED (but who thinks IXNAY is ridiculous), likes a food containing three A's in its spelling.
11. The woman who could eat gravlaks all day long loves the fact that her first name has three anagrams, including BREATH.
12. Connie has a son living in Lima but she's not going there on this trip.

## A diversion

by Lyn Toka, Kiwi

Here are some fairly nonsensical sentences.

Delete exactly half the letters from each sentence. Do not change the order of the remaining letters.

What do you find?

1. Vi and Rex were bread lovers, yes.
2. Jo and Merlin ate mice, kale and tea.
3. All prizes for a general fund.
4. Jodi and new schoolmate's black gear.
5. Rob lugged the Moro gorge boldly.
6. Gail went down a frosted ramp.
7. Oh, living that good life, really.
8. Al always moans, upset.
9. Put rouged lips onto a loud singer.
10. Relays are safer even then.
11. Who was red warrior's new rave?
12. Just mend knife, rust mitt helps.
13. I love ale: prime, mild, old ales.
14. Juice of a fig or can it.
15. I call a red cow a llama.

Hint: What you should be finding are NZ Scrabblers' names.

Answers to all puzzles on p. 45

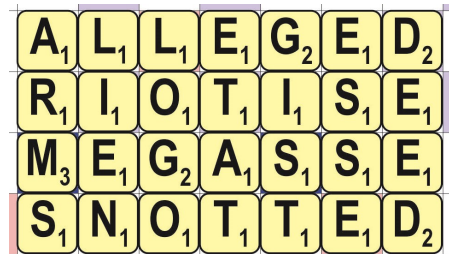
## A new meaning for "Bonus Block"

by Jennifer Smith, Kiwi

It started in a friendly game between Su Walker and me. Su played ALLEGED, first turn, and I followed with RIOTISE immediately underneath to make eight complete words.

The two-word block looked so fantastic on the board, I wanted to try to find a further extension.

Months later, I explored the self-imposed challenge to find a third word to go underneath those two, and was pretty pleased with myself for finding MEGASSE. I never dreamed that there could be a fourth word, but it did not take me long to find SNOTTED (SNOTTER would also work). No further words are possible with this block.



I'm sure a seven-word block would be well-nigh impossible, but I'd be thrilled to create a five-word block. Have a go yourself!

(Hint: Finding two words to start with is the hardest part. After that, it gets much quicker to either find a word or realise another word is impossible.)

# Winning Scrabble and the Nature of Expertise

Studying a game yields insights into what it takes to be great at something

by David Z. Hambrick

*After my recent editorial questioning why it seems that male Scrabblers dominate the top of the New Zealand Scrabble rankings even though three times as many females play competitively, I was extremely interested to read the following article on the types of skills and expertise displayed by elite Scrabble players. It seems that there might be a genetic component to at least one of those skills after all. It would be fascinating if research could determine whether that genetic component may also be sex-linked. Thank you to Chris Handley, Dunedin, for bringing this article to our attention. This article was sourced from <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/winning-scrabble-and-the-nature-of-expertise/> and was accessed on 23 May 2015.*

Clearly, expert Scrabble players are to some degree “made.” But there is evidence that basic cognitive abilities play a role, too.

In case you didn’t hear the news, there was a major shake-up in the competitive Scrabble world last summer in Buffalo. Conrad Bassett-Bouchard, a 24-year old graduate student from Portland, Oregon, won the \$10,000 first prize at the National Scrabble Championship, making him the youngest American to ever win the tournament. But the big news was that the win ended Nigel Richards’ run of four titles. Richards, a reclusive New Zealander, is widely regarded as the best Scrabble player of all-time—the “Michael Jordan of the game,” as one co-competitor put it. Along with five U.S. National titles, Richards has won the World Scrabble Championship three times, and the Thailand International—the largest Scrabble tournament in the world—eleven times.

Scrabble has been one of the most popular board games in the world for

decades. And, now, as an increasingly popular domain for scientific research on expertise, it is giving psychologists a better understanding of the underpinnings of complex skill and a clearer picture of the origins of greatness. The overarching goal of this research is to better understand the interplay between “software” and “hardware” aspects of the cognitive system. Software factors include knowledge and skills that are acquired through experience, whereas hardware factors include genetically-influenced abilities and capacities. Scrabble is ideal for research on how these factors interact not only because it is relatively easy to find research participants from a wide range of skill, but because it can be imported into the lab.

The basic goal of Scrabble is to create intersecting words by placing lettered tiles on a board containing a 15 x 15 grid. Knowledge is, of course, critical for success in this task. If you want to become a great Scrabble player, first and foremost, you have to know a lot of words. A top player will know most of

the two hundred thousand or so words in the Scrabble dictionary (not their definitions, just the words themselves). Among the plays in the final game at the National Scrabble Championship in Buffalo: WAB, TROOZE, HOURI, AA, KIBI, and QUA (all real words, apparently). You also need to be adept at identifying potential plays. Expert players can rattle off dozens of possible plays for any given rack—for, say, GINOPRS, words like SPORING, GIPONS, PIROG, PINGO, OS, and SORN. Many serious Scrabble players “cross-train” by playing anagramming games like Boggle, or by just solving anagrams, which Conrad Bassett-Bouchard compares to a basketball player practising free throws. Finally, you have to know Scrabble strategy—or what aficionados call “rack management”—such as how to keep a good mix of consonant and vowels (the key, according to reigning World Scrabble Champion Craig Beevers, is to “score and leave”—go for points but be mindful of what any play will leave you on your rack).

People aren’t born with this type of specialized knowledge. Research indicates that we may come into the world equipped with the building blocks for complex skills such as math, but certainly nothing as specific as knowledge of words in a particular language. Thus, experience is necessary to become an expert in Scrabble. And, in fact, Scrabble skill has been found to correlate positively with the amount of time people spend engaging in Scrabble-related activities. In one study, using official Scrabble rating as an objective measure of skill, researchers found that groups of “elite” and “average” Scrabble players differed in the amount of time they had devoted to

things like studying word lists, analyzing previous Scrabble games, and anagramming—and not by a little. Overall, the elite group had spent an average of over 5,000 hours on Scrabble study, compared to only about 1,300 hours for the average group. Another study found that competitive Scrabble players devoted an average of nearly 5 hours a week to memorizing words from the Scrabble dictionary.

Clearly, expert Scrabble players are to some degree “made.” But there is evidence that basic cognitive abilities play a role, too. In a study recently published in *Applied Cognitive Psychology*, Michael Toma and his colleagues found that elite Scrabble players outperformed college students from a highly selective university on tests of two cognitive abilities: working memory and visuospatial reasoning. Working memory is the ability to hold in mind information while using it to solve a problem, as when iterating through possible moves in a Scrabble game. Visuospatial reasoning is the ability to visualize things and to detect patterns, as when imagining how tiles on a Scrabble board would intersect after a certain play. Both abilities are influenced by genetic factors.

Further evidence pointing to a role of these abilities in Scrabble expertise comes from a recent brain imaging study by Andrea Protzner and her colleagues at the University of Calgary. Using functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI), these researchers recorded the brain activity of Scrabble players and control subjects as they performed a task in which they were shown groups of letters and judged whether they formed words. (fMRI measures brain activity by detecting

changes in blood flow within different regions of the brain.) The major finding of this study was that competitive Scrabble players recruited brain regions associated with working memory and visual perception to perform this task to a greater degree than the control subjects did.

What might explain Scrabble experts' superiority in working memory and visuospatial reasoning? One possibility is that playing Scrabble improves these cognitive abilities, like a work-out at the gym makes you stronger. However, this seems unlikely based on over a century of research on the issue of "transfer" of training. When people train on a task, they sometimes get better on similar tasks, but they usually do not get better on other tasks. They show "near" transfer, but not "far" transfer. (Practise Scrabble and you'll get better at Scrabble, and maybe Boggle, but don't count on it making you smarter.) For the same basic reason that basketball players tend to be tall, a more likely explanation is that people high in working memory and visuospatial reasoning abilities are people who tend to get into, and persist at, playing Scrabble: because it gives them an advantage in the game. This explanation fits with what behavioral geneticists call gene-environment correlation, which is the idea that our genetic makeup influences our experiences.

These findings challenge the dogma that anyone can become anything they want to become—like the best Scrabble player in the world—with enough hard work. At the same time, they add to an emerging understanding of complex skill that may ultimately bring expertise within reach of a larger number of people than is currently the case. For example, it may one day be possible to give people

precise information about their abilities, and of the likelihood of achieving success in particular domains given those abilities. It may also be possible to design approaches to training complex skills that accelerate the acquisition of expertise.

## About the author

David Z. Hambrick is a professor in the Department of Psychology at Michigan State University. His research focuses on individual differences in intelligence and skill. He is an associate editor of the *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, and has written for the *New York Times*, *Huffington Post*, and *Slate*.



# Masters 2015

*This year, the Masters tournament was held at the Kairangi Bridge Club in Wellington from 3rd to 6th April. There was a slight change in format this year in that, instead of the games being played on the Saturday, Sunday, and Monday of Easter weekend as had always been the case previously, they were played instead on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Reaction to this change was mixed; the early start meant that everything was over by Sunday afternoon, so people could start wending their way home earlier than usual. However, play began at 1:00 p.m. on the Friday. Consequently, a few games had to be played late into the evening on the first day, with dinner being provided at the venue. There was no rest for the wicked, as play began again at 9:00 a.m. the next morning, with nine games being played that day. Unsurprisingly, some players found that this schedule was rather hectic. By the end of the tournament, the usual suspects*

*had taken out the top spots. Judging by the results, it was a rather close affair though. Jeff Grant took out the top spot on 19 wins, followed by Howard Warner on 18.5, and Peter Sinton on 17.5 (see p. 47 for the full results). As neither of the coeditors attended the Masters this year, we had to interrogate a few players who did attend to provide us with relevant information. We would like to thank Liz Fagerlund, Mt. Albert, and Lyres Freeth, Independent, for giving us the lowdown on things like the new timetable, the venue, etc. They have both helped us to sound much more knowledgeable than we actually are about this tournament. We have also twisted the arms of a couple of other players to provide us with reports on their experiences. Read on to find out how Denise Gordon from Wanganui and John McNaughton from Wellington fared at the 2015 Masters.*

## My Scrabble Masters 2015

*by Denise Gordon, Wanganui*

There were two clear champions at this year's Masters: Jeff and his wife, Pat. Jeff, congratulations on yet another well-deserved win at the board; and Pat, what wonderful catering was provided through your culinary ideas and hard work. Many thanks must also go to Lynn Wood for her organising of the venue, and those many others from the Wellington Club who supported her.

When Olivia asked me to write about my personal experiences at this year's Masters, she would not have predicted what would turn out to be a dismal performance on my part! The first day's play saw me as the only player with no



*Denise Gordon*

spot on the board! To add insult to injury, three of my games that day were against the Mt. Albertians with whom Wanganui was competing to retain the Championship Shield (we had only just won it off Mt. Albert the previous year). Needless to say, my losses that first day did not help in this endeavour. Congratulations Mt. Albert for wresting the Shield from Wanganui's limp grasp and so reinforcing your dominance over this piece of wood.

My best game that first day was against Howard Warner. Unfortunately, my team of SURGEONS, while giving me 78 points, was still unable to wheedle any mercy from the lionlike Howard, who played LEONINE for 69, CUITTLED for 95, DEVISAL for 85, and COTYLES for 70. COTYLES are apparently cuplike cavities and, after his barrage of bonuses, I certainly felt





*The Masters players*

as if my brain had been left full of them. The final score was Howard 543 to my 451. Congrats Howard on a close second in the Masters this year and the highest average of 454.

On day two I fared a bit better, finally getting four spots up on the board. My best game that day was against Glenyss Buchanan. I managed to get two early bonuses down, (EROSION and GAITERS) but Glenyss was scoring very well with the letters she had. Towards the later stages of the game, she overtook me with her J word (JEW if I remember correctly) but leaving the J on the top left triple. I think the COTYLES were still in my brain as I surveyed my rack of ABEEMOR. I could play JAMBO off the J, I mused, leaving me with ERE. Luckily the penny dropped

and I played JAMBOREE instead for 116, thereby snatching back the lead I had just lost.

Day three saw me with another three spots. One of my highlights that day was a move I played in my game against Peter who was making mincemeat of me. I'm sure he would agree that there was an imbalance of vowels and consonants in our game; as he bemoaned the fact that we would run out of vowels soon, I was bemoaning the fact that we would run out of consonants. I searched the board desperately for available vowels and was able to play PLUMBERS over a U (I needed the help of two blanks to achieve this). Looking at Peter and knowing his profession must have inspired me. Despite losing that game,



*Masters winner Jeff Grant*

(he got 547 to my 386), I felt satisfied that Peter had not been able to respond with either RETIRED or TEACHER. Well done Peter for third place in the tournament and a very healthy average of 450.

Another highlight of my third day was a very close win that I managed to pull out against John McNaughton. Towards the end of a low-scoring game with only one bonus on the board so far (John's DETRAIN for 85), there was but one spot left for a seven-letter word, and it had to end with an I to fit next to the Q. Fortunately for me, I had the blank and, better still, I found ZINGARI for 81. However, I could still see that there was a beautiful spot for John to play JOSH over the S in the bottom right triple. There was nothing I could do to block it and, sure enough, John picked up the H to make it possible, thereby scoring 73, which put him just ahead. With two unsuccessful challenges from John during the endgame, and his leave, I managed to scrape in 422 to his 407. Phew!

Finally, I just want to make special mention of four players, Lyres Freeth, Cicely Bruce, Vicky Robertson, and John McNaughton. Lyres was the highest placed woman in the tournament, achieving fifth, closely followed by Cicely who got sixth. Vicky achieved the greatest rating change of any player, piling on 151 ratings points during the tournament. John, as our youngest player, came eighth and continues to climb the rankings. Congrats to you all!

## My first Masters

*by John McNaughton, Wellington*

My first Masters experience actually started a whole year ago at the Nationals held in Hamilton. With a bit of luck, I managed to scale my way up B grade, and somehow ended up over 30 ranking places above where I started. It was at the prize-giving after that tournament that I learned my new ranking was 20th, giving me entrance into the 2015 Masters. I was overjoyed! The (hopefully not ultimate) dream had come true.



*John McNaughton*

Anyway, back to the future and the Masters 2015...

### **Day one — seven games: four wins and three losses**

Looking at the draw it was crazy to think about rankings and ratings. Everyone was so experienced, and most had been playing in A grades for

quite some time. Bizarrely, with this thought in the front of my mind, I was able to relax because I felt that I could treat each game as a challenge, no game would be a “should win”, and every game won would be a bonus. I was therefore extremely happy about my wins and losses in equal measure.

### **Day two — nine games: four wins and five losses**

The day started with a match against Howard Warner and finished with a disappointing loss against Blue Thorogood. Sadly, I made two major mistakes that second day. First, in my game against Lawson Sue, I managed to talk myself out of an out-play, which would have given me a bingo and a win; instead I lost by 50. In the final washup, that mistake also cost me a placing in the final result. The second mistake was at the end of the long day and so I will use tiredness as my excuse. Playing Blue, he had absolute dross and I had a “senior” moment, losing the turn and my self-confidence in one fell swoop.

However, on a positive note, I did have an amazing game against Val Mills in which I got absolutely everything! I played four bingos: NAILERS, IDOLATER, SILAGED, and TIMIDER. I was especially proud of TIMIDER because it made seven words altogether, including six hooks running parallel to SILAGED, for 91 points. My final score was precisely double the spread, a first for me!

### **Day three — seven games: four wins and three losses**

My best match of the tournament came on this day, and it was against Peter Sinton. I won by 132 points.

Given the calibre of my opponent, I was thrilled to be able to finish my tournament on such a high note. With 12 wins in total I finished eighth, a result that I didn't expect but was delighted to achieve.

I really enjoyed the atmosphere of the tournament. It was very relaxed and there was a great deal of friendliness in between the serious Scrabble-play. Personally, I very much enjoyed the lack of pressure because of my realisation that, in this environment, any win was a plus, and a loss was merely a formality. I could simply sit back and enjoy my Scrabble ride.

## **NZ Challenge Shield**

At the Masters the Wanganui and Mt. Albert Clubs vied for the NZ Challenge Shield. Mt. Albert scored an emphatic victory.



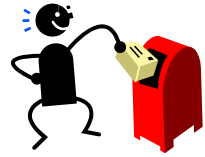
*Mt. Albert team Liz Fagerlund, Lawson Sue and Andrew Bradley.*

# Mailbox

*The Autumn issue of Forwards generated plenty of feedback from our readers. Thanks to everybody who has taken the time to tell us what they liked, what they thought, and what it looked like. We're always keen to hear your opinions about Forwards, so please feel free to email either editrix at any time!*

In response to Olivia's editorial, "Why are men always on top?", **Liz Fagerlund from Mt. Albert** shared with us a piece she had written for the *New Zealand Kennel Gazette* in May 1992, entitled "Will men ever be overtaken?". In her article, Liz recounted a newspaper feature about the improvement in the speed of women in athletic track events compared to the improvement in the speed of men, but observed that "none of the current women's world record holders could even meet the men's qualifying standards for the Olympics".

She then investigated some figures comparing the performance of male and female competitors in dog agility events. In Liz's words, "The results... startled me. I didn't expect the percentage of male handlers being placed to be quite as great as it was". She found that men were placing first, second or third in Senior events (where qualifying wins in lower classes are required to gain entry) approximately 70% of the time, even though usually two to three times as many women were competing. She also wrote, "I assure you, this article isn't written by a disgruntled female competitor who never gets in the lineup – last year I



got placed in every event I ran in... [but] I feel like I'm relying on men's dogs making mistakes to give the likes of even fast women like me a chance of winning! (and who doesn't want to win?)"

As with Olivia's editorial about the New Zealand Scrabble scene, Liz was unable to conclusively state why, in this completely different arena, the significant majority of highest achievers would be men. Again, the stereotype of male competitiveness seems to be a factor. Liz did, however, have some constructive advice to offer about redressing the imbalance: "Perhaps for good measure I, and my fellow female competitors, need to tie together a few of the men's shoelaces!" Probably that would prove a more effective strategy in dog agility events than in Scrabble!

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In the further adventures of **Liz and Olivia**, they have responded to our challenge on page 35 of *Forwards* issue 118 to capture words with similar thematic content on the same board. The picture on the next page shows what happened in their game during the most recent Christchurch tournament.

Please continue to photograph these kinds of plays and send them in to *Forwards*. It is possible that a certain game in the A Grade in the Nationals included the word PUSSY hooked onto the word (S)CREW, but probably those



two words are completely unrelated. Or if not, such a photograph would probably be unsuitable for this magazine.

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**Jennifer Smith, Kiwi,** writes:

Loved your list of beginnings. My favourite new word from the list was RHYTHMI.

Joan Thomas taught me IJTIHAD years ago. She remembers it as "I, Joan, Thought I HAD a word" – and so do I remember it the Joan way, even though Jennifer would work as well. Never played it, though!

I've played UINTAITE a couple of times, and OUISTITI also twice. Didn't know any of the others except QWERTY, of course...

The QWERTY keyboard layout was developed by Christopher Sholes in the early 1870s. He placed common two-letter combinations on opposite sides of the keyboard so mechanical keyboards of the time wouldn't jam. The standard PC keyboard layout was invented by Mark Tiddens in 1982.

But do you know AZERTY? It's an alternative or unconventional keyboard layout, used in France, Belgium, and some African countries.

*[See also Jeff Grant's response to the 'beginnings' article, p. 14]*

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**Chris Handley, Dunedin,** writes:

I do feel obliged to point out that in Howard Warner's quiz on page 31, the word in question four should have been spelt AIBOHPHOBIA (otherwise it is not a palindrome).

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After the previous issue was ready to print, we received this photo of **Kiwi Club members (L-R) Lyn Toka, Jillian Greening, and Shirley Pearce** experiencing Rotorua's lakefront Scrabble sculpture.




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**Julia Schiller, Mt. Albert,** managed an improbable nine-letter word (with no blanks) against Joanna Fox from Christchurch during game nine of the Otago Open:

I opened by offering a TIKI, while she played COAL, I countered with JUDO, she had a VUG, which made me feel some brain FAG. I think she played under TIKI next, which left me in a state of JADEDNESS.





**Glenda Foster, Wellington**, asked the New Zealand Scrabble News email list, "Has anyone seen a 12-letter word on the board lately?" Glenda subsequently sent this screenshot from her online game:



**Vicky Robertson, Wellington**, responded that she had recently managed the 11-letter FORCEPSLIKE, and **Patrick Carter, Mt. Albert**, shared the following anecdotes:

A few years ago I was desperately trying to hold onto a 50-point lead in an endgame against Jeff Grant.

He had two blanks, but I had shut the board down so tight that he couldn't play a bingo.

However I had made a fatal mistake earlier in the game when I had played the word OLOGIES instead of GOOLIES. It meant that Jeff could play six of his tiles to extend the word back to the corner triple word square and make the 13-letter word CRIMINOLOGIES.

Even though he was using both blanks, it still scored 57 and turned out to be enough to win the game.

My own best play in this genre is not quite in the same class. It was a situation where I had STONERS or NESTORS or TENSORS, but there was no place to fit the seven-letter words. Fortunately the word MINE was in the bottom left hand corner and I was able to extend it along the bottom to make MINESTRONES.

---

## 100 beautiful words from the English language that you need to use more

And speaking of longer words, **Vicky Robertson, Wellington**, sent us the following link:

<http://sobadsogood.com/2015/03/19/100-beautiful-words-english-language-you-need-use-more/>



*Vicky Robertson*

We have included only half the words here, interested parties are encouraged to read the remainder of the list online. All of these words, however improbable, are allowable plays in Scrabble.

How many of these have you dropped into conversation recently?

**AILUROPHILE:** A cat-lover.  
**BELEAGUER:** To exhaust with attacks.  
**BUCOLIC:** In a lovely rural setting  
**CHATOYANT:** Like a cat's eye.

CYNOSURE: A focal point of admiration.

DEMESNE: Dominion, territory.

DENOUEMENT: The resolution of a mystery.

DESUETUDE: Disuse.

DIAPHANOUS: Filmy.

EBULLIENCE: Bubbling enthusiasm.

EFFERVESCENT: Bubbly.



EMBROCATION: Rubbing on a lotion.

EMOLLIENT: A softener.

EPHEMERAL: Short-lived.

ERSTWHILE: At one time; for a time.

EVANESCENT: Vanishing quickly;

lasting a very short time

FELICITY: Pleasantness.

FUGACIOUS: Fleeting.

GOSSAMER: The finest piece of thread; a spider's silk.

HALCYON: Happy, sunny, care-free.

HARBINGER: Messenger with news of the future.

IMBRICATION: Overlapping and forming a regular pattern.

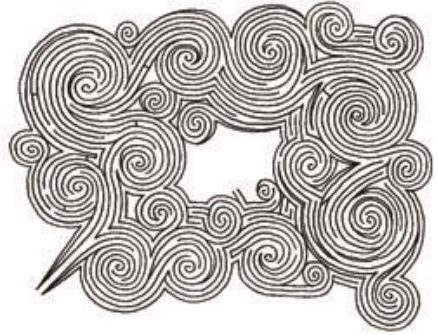
IMBROGLIO: An altercation or

complicated situation.

INGLENOOK: A cozy nook by the hearth.

INSOUCIANCE: Blithe nonchalance.

LABYRINTHINE: Twisting and turning.



LAGNIAPPE: A special kind of gift.

LANGUOR: Listlessness, inactivity

LASSITUDE: Weariness, listlessness.

LISSOME: Slender and graceful.

MELLIFLUOUS: Sweet sounding.

MONDEGREEN: A slip of the ear.

MURMUROUS: Murmuring.

ONOMATOPOEIA: A word that sounds like its meaning.

PALIMPSEST: A manuscript written over earlier ones.

PANOPLY: A complete set.

PENUMBRA: A half-shadow.

PROPINQUITY: An inclination.

PYRRHIC: Successful with heavy losses.

REDOLENT: Fragrant.

RIPARIAN: By the bank of a stream.

SCINTILLA: A spark or very small thing.

SEMPITERNAL: Eternal.

SERAGLIO: Rich, luxurious oriental palace or harem.

SUSURROUS: Whispering, hissing.

UMBRATILOUS: Shadowy; shaded or secluded.

UNTOWARD: Unseemly, inappropriate.

VESTIGIAL: In trace amounts.

WAFTURE: Waving.

WOEBEGONE: Sorrowful or downcast.

# I've been reading ...

A<sub>1</sub>

*The Fingertips of Duncan Dorfman*

Meg Wolitzer

Dutton Children's Books, USA (2011)

I know I picked this title up somewhere in connection with my *Forwards* work, I didn't just stumble across it by good fortune as I perused the children's section of the public library. Try as I might, however, I can neither recall the referee nor locate the original reference that prompted me to reserve one of Auckland Libraries' two copies, but if you happen to be reading this, I thank you.

I am employed as a school librarian, so it's little wonder that I enjoy reading children's books. A children's book about a Scrabble tournament was obviously something I would want to look at more closely. Although I did not recognise the author's name, she has published many other novels, more often for adults than for younger readers. It is not clear what prompted her to write about the Youth Scrabble Tournament, but her novel demonstrates that she knows more about our game and our lifestyle than many other authors who have decided to include Scrabble scenes in their works of fiction.

It's an American book: the story revolves around a tournament that takes place in Florida. This means that not all the dictionary information included is accurate for us Collins players. For example, a major character's name is Carl Slater, and he boasts that his surname has 10



anagrams – which are listed in the text – whereas we could play an eleventh, TARSEL. Also, some slang words, which the players lament as being absent, have been included in our dictionary since this novel was published. But there are still some observations that I found poignantly relevant. For instance, this passage struck a particular chord with me:

*Whoever came up with the words that were acceptable in the Scrabble dictionary seemed to have a warped view of life, April thought. Why was ZA good, but, say, GA wasn't? More babies probably said GA than all the people combined who called pizza ZA, but those were the rules.*

I was also privately amused by the disclaimer included in the fine print of the publisher information: "...Hasbro, Inc. has not authorized or endorsed the use of the SCRABBLE name and any other intellectual property owned by Hasbro, Inc. on or in connection with publication of this book", and the way the lettering on the cover coincidentally resembles but definitely does not represent Scrabble tiles. There are also several references to a software program named "SYZYGY", which bears a striking resemblance to our familiar software with Z's and Y's in its name.

Besides the setting of a Scrabble tournament, it's a fairly typical book for older children. The plot includes troubled family relationships; school cafeteria bullying; many predictable coincidences; a crush or two; and a climactic scene where the youngsters must prove their mettle in a curiously adult-free environment. The climactic scene takes place in the unlikely setting of a dilapidated amusement park:

*The coaster plunged down so fast that neither of them had a chance to say another word. Their mouths opened into two letter O's, perfectly round and worth one point apiece, and they both screamed ...*

As many of we obsessive players experience daily, Scrabble is never far removed from the other goings-on: for example the title character has a major epiphany about his personal life as he mulls over the anagrams of PARENTAL. The sole element of magic in the story, alluded to in the title, serves mainly as

a character development device (will Duncan use his "power" to win the tournament, or is personal integrity more important?) and is surprisingly insignificant to the book as a whole.

It's hard to say who the target audience for this book is. I'm sure it can't really have been written just for me: competitive Scrabble players who are also children's librarians are presumably rather few and far between. I expect I would have enjoyed reading it even in my childhood, but it seems a bit too Scrabble-heavy for most youngsters who don't already have an interest in the game. And for those that do have such an interest, what then is the point of reproducing word lists within the text (such as the anagrams of RETINAS, or the entire list of allowable two-letter words)?

One further extract to whet your appetite for this easy read: in the course of a conversation between two of the schoolboy characters, the word LANGERHANS\* comes up:

*LANGERHANS, Duncan thought... he moved the letters around slowly in his mind, as Carl had taught him to do. He saw that you could make HANGERS from LANGERHANS. Or, he saw, you could make LASAGNE. You'd still have leftover letters, of course, but hey, Duncan joked to himself, you **always** have leftovers when you make lasagne.*



# I've been reading...

by *Howard Warner, Independent*

Jim Crace's *Harvest*, a novel set in a feudal farming community. Scrabble-friendly words include:

**BELDAM** — an ugly old woman; hag, witch (ironically, it comes from the French 'belle dame', meaning 'beautiful lady')

**CAMLET** — a durable fabric

**CODLING** — an unripe apple (also: CODLIN, QUODLIN)

**DUNNOCK** — the hedge-sparrow

**ERINGO** — a medicinal herb (also: ERYNGO)

**ERLKING** — an evil spirit in folklore

**FILBERT** — a hazelnut (also: FILBERD)

**FLEER** — to deride by making a face at

**FUSTIAN** — a cotton fabric

**HEDDLE** — a thread drawn through the eyes of a loom

**IMPING** — the process of grafting

**LAYSTALL** — a place for depositing dung

**LOGGETS** (sing.) — a throwing game

**MERESTONE** — a boundary-marking stone

**MOIETY** — a half (also: MOYITY)

**MOPSY** — a dowdy woman

**MUNIMENT** — a means of defence (also: MINIMENT)

**MURRAIN** — a disease of cattle (also: MURREN, MURRIN, MURRION)

**PANNAGE** — the right to pasture swine in a forest belonging to the lord's manor

**QUICKSET** — a plant suitable for hedges

**REASTY** — smelling rancid or rank

**RUDDOCK** — the robin redbreast (also: RADDOCKE)

**SEEDLIP** — a sower's basket

**SMALT** — a blue pigment

**SOUROCK** — a reddish-brown plant (also: SORREL, SOREL)

**STOVER** — a coarse food for cattle

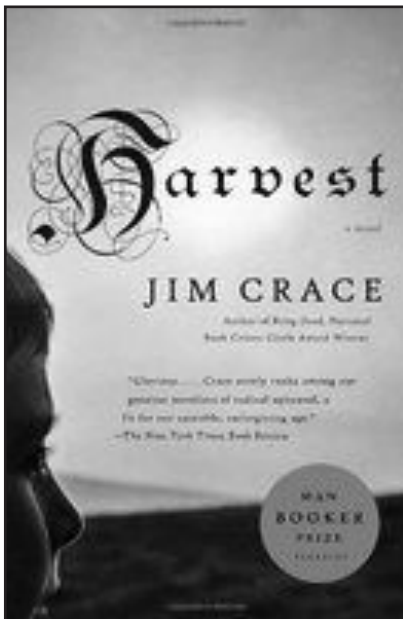
**SUCKET** — a candied fruit or vegetable (also: SUCCADE)

**TILTH** — cultivated or tilled land (also: TILLAGE)

**TURBARY** — a place where peat is dug

**TURVES** — an old plural of 'turf'

**WAUKER** — one whose job is to shrink and thicken cloth (also: WAULKER)



# How to get a WESPA Rating



For many Kiwis, the open tournaments in Perth alongside the World Scrabble Championships will be the first time they will have competed in an overseas Scrabble tournament. For those (like myself) who have been wondering, here are some key points about international (WESPA) ratings and rankings:

- Your WESPA rating is provisional until you have played 30 games in WESPA-rated tournaments. For provisionally rated players, results are aggregated to avoid anomalous increases or decreases.
- For players without WESPA ratings at the beginning of the tournament, no starting rating is used, and each individual's rating is calculated at the end of the tournament based on the ratings of their opponents and their performance against those players.
- Your current (or past) NZ rating has no impact on your WESPA rating; the ratings systems are entirely independent of each other. However it is expected that, after 30+ games, your New Zealand and WESPA ratings should be similar to each other.
- You will not be allocated a world ranking until you have played 50 games in WESPA-rated tournaments overall.
- To appear in the world rankings list, you need to have played in at least one internationally-rated tournament in the previous two years.

Thanks to NZASP's ratings officer, Steven Brown, and WESPA's ratings officer, Bob Jackman, for their prompt and thorough replies to my enquiries on this topic.

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## Twenty years ago in *Forwards*

*by John Foster, Independent*

Following the recent 32nd NZ Masters Tournament, readers may find this article on adjudication at the 12th Masters interesting. Such an article could not be written nowadays because the introduction of self-adjudication means that no records of challenges is kept.

At that time the first use of computer-adjudication was still some years away, and Sue McRae adjudicated by going

from table to table with a Griffon word list and making decisions on allowability. I still have a copy of the Griffon and, as it is dated 1995, it must have been very new at the time. This was probably the first time that a single reference was used for adjudication instead of having to leaf through two separate dictionaries for longer words, or the Official NZASP Word List for words of four letters or less. →

## 50 Good Reasons For Spending Easter Weekend Looking Up Other People's Words

At the 12th New Zealand Masters the NONELECT adjudicator got FISHEYES looking at the INTROLD words played by JUNKMEN and RONIONS. They caused her to flit like a NONSKED from one table to another to check the EELIEST words of players like Blue, (whose IXORA immediately proved handy in a friendly match with a RURALITE spectator from Thames). The FAMOUSED knowledge of John was tested often but he was not BANED with any NEURINES despite his early lead, whereas Patrick KAYOED them with his weird ones, clashing the ZILL on occasions. Gerald and Glenyss Buchanan were seen to HAGRIDE the adjudicator good-naturedly when the ticks were down. But there was no FIKERY, as everyone behaved well, and the adjudicator did not rely on HEARSAYS, nor did she sip whisky from a DEWAR, as every AXITE in her brain was vital in making decisions. Fae spent some time PATHING a few obstacles and late ring-in Marj proved to be a TWICER along with Fae who also had cause to OUTBRAG, but did not. Glenda Foster looked down her VOMERS with a twinkle in her eye when I gave her a rare 'x', but Glennis won many a challenge, was given a glass of water as an ESTOVER and came back on Day 2 for SMORE victories. Jan the PANTLER provided wholesome peals and Alan the TALLIER calculated some PARSECS in adding up the totals. There was not a FAINEANT among them, with Reeva throwing in the WARBIEST attempts and Rhoda nearly finding SPOFFISH in a close finish. June and Glenda Geard played

like SOVRANS while Lynn and Lynne supplied the necessary RIANCY. Andrée played like a RANEE, FEEZING her opponents, while Puti also turned the odd CHAINE and Leila did her best in an UNNOISY way. Denise had to TRAIK along valiantly, DONNERT with a sore throat, and Sheryl discovered every cloud has an ARGENTAL lining. The Wellington weather provided some VIRID scenery in ESTIVAL temperatures causing ABOULIA and ATONIES in some players by Day 3. Paul shocked us with some of the LAWNIEST bonus words and Jeff TREADLED his way to many a victory, while Mike came from behind, DAVENING and shrouded in MUSLINET to win the tournament. All of them supplied me with enough new words for the next TOWMOND to put in my TRIDARN.

The words in capitals were all played at the Masters and found to be correct.

Sue McRae  
Wellington Club

**DAZZLING  
DOZEN**

Now that the new dictionary is in use, it's time to start learning all those new 3 and 4 letter words. Apart from the obvious QIS, here are a dozen of the most useful new words to dazzle the opposition.

|     |      |      |
|-----|------|------|
| KYU | AREG | MZEE |
| MAA | DZHO | PROB |
| NOX | JUVE | RIZA |
| REZ | LAZO | WAQF |

# Advice for U all

by Jennifer Smith, Kiwi

*An easy way to learn all 40 three-letter and 21 four-letter words that take an end hook of U.*

A FONdu hug and a BUSSu to you, MASu and MENSu (including my own MUMu and brother PATu).



*Patu*

Are you in a FUGu because you're overweight?

This is my advice to every overweight person, whether you're a LASSu, BUBu, EMEu, FRAu, or MUNTu:

I wouldn't spend one CENTu to BANTu. If you're living in Latvia, Albania, Lithuania or Afghanistan, my advice to you is the same – don't waste a LATu, LEKu, LITu or PULu on practising Bantingism.

It's a high protein, low fat and carbohydrate diet. BAHu! I won't LIEu to you – that means no CORNu, BAPu, PUDu, NAMu bread or GURu to sweeten your tea. Instead, you TENDu to get your protein by eating animals like BUCKu, PIKAu, PUPu, RATu or TEGu.

If you HAPu to like such outlandish meals, THOU, go for it. SUSu it out, get all the GENU, and if you're Māori, don't forget to check KAWAu before bringing such food onto the marae.

But there's another, more pleasant, way to lose weight.

Just get out of BEDu, put on some old clothing (of BATTu, or some old RAGu you made when you were learning to TATu), put a BALu on each foot, JAMBU on a sunhat, and make for your favourite outdoor spot, be it a BUNDu, an AITu or the RIMu of a canyon. If you're an Arab, don your HAIKu, and get out to a savannah edged with BITOU trees.

Walk, run, or throw some PILAu. You can do that, HUHU?

You'll not only PAREu off excess weight, you'll get much fitter. Keep a TABu on your progress, and you may even become a VERTu to a fitness regime!



*Huhu grub*

Is walking, running or javelin throwing too energetic for you? TUTu, TUTu! At least get cracking and DEGu the thirsty pot-plants on your patio! As the MOTu says, "use it or lose it". Don't PENDu any longer – make up your mind and just do it.

But be sure to keep well hydrated. Keep a KORu or two of water in a VATu on TAPu.

Then, the next time someone texts you "WUDu? (What U doing?)", you can QUIPu, "Losing weight without dieting".

# Global titbits

*by Howard Warner, Independent*

## The playingest\* player

The Philippines' Scrabblers have a delightful turn of phrase: they talk of the 'winningest\*' player, the 'losingest\*' player and (for Lynn Wood/Betty Eriksen types) the 'playingest\*' player.

On the world stage, that last accolade would belong to our Nigel. According to the WESPA website, he has now (as at time of writing) played exactly 2500 international games. To put that into context, the next most international (WESPA-rated) games is 1974, played by Singaporean veteran Tony Sim. Only 16 other players (out of a total current ranking list of 924 players) have played more than 1000 international games.

Interestingly, those 16 break down thus: Australia 4, Malaysia 3, Singapore 3, UK 2, Thailand 2, and one each for Malta and US. The preponderance of South-East Asian players in this list is presumably because their domestic tournaments tend to be international. And both Australia and the UK have a number of their major domestic tournaments WESPA-rated.

It's also worth noting that, for all the international tournaments Nigel plays, his WESPA rating never seems to suffer.

He is currently on 2303, having been over 2300 several times. A few years back, players used to say no one would ever pass 2200 – that was the impossible magic mark. Currently, the joint No 2-ranked players in the world, Northern Ireland's Paul Gallen and American Conrad Bassett-Bouchard, have a rating of 2187 – 163 points below that of Nigel.

You can view the complete international ranking list at <http://www.wespa.org/aardvark/cgi-bin/rating.cgi>

## Lovely logo lass

Talking of the WESPA website, take a look at the lovely logo and graphic strip across the top of all pages (pictured below). The international Scrabble community has Auckland Scabbler (and designer) Katy Yiakmis to thank for that.

## Tao-ism and bingo bonanza

I recently visited the lovely city of Adelaide, and played (not very successfully) in the South Australian Champs. I met some very interesting people, including some very fine players, both established and up-and-coming.





One of the latter was a young man called Trevor Tao, who, I discovered, had some rare qualities. For one, he seemed to appreciate my scatological sense of humour. Top man! Even more impressive, he can play Satie on the piano while solving a Rubik's Cube puzzle. If you don't believe me, then check it out for yourself at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JkeK8ssl5qA>

While I was there, Alastair Richards (our 2014

Nationals winner) broke a long-standing record for the most bonus words in a game by one person: EIGHT!!! It equals our record for the highest number by **both** players. You



can read about it at [http://www.scrabbleplayers.org/w/Records#Most\\_bingos\\_by\\_one\\_player\\_in\\_a\\_game](http://www.scrabbleplayers.org/w/Records#Most_bingos_by_one_player_in_a_game)

## Those aren't real words!

As we approach the time when the new CSW word list – containing a few thousand new entries – comes into play, the Americans seem to be as reluctant as ever to join the world, in a lexical sense. I remember, at the World Champs in Prague two years ago, North American Scrabble Players Association (NASPA) boss Chris Cree holding forth about why CSW would never be adopted wholesale by North Americans. Just maybe they would if we got rid of archaic words and Maori words, since they're not real English, he suggested.

I've since heard other Americans echo this view. So it was interesting to come across a page in NASPA's wiki, written by former Englishman and now US resident Nick Ball, under the heading: 'Are All Collins Words Obscure, Obsolete, Foreign Etc?' ([www.scrabbleplayers.org/w/Obscure\\_Collins\\_words](http://www.scrabbleplayers.org/w/Obscure_Collins_words)). He has done an interesting exercise with the 30,000-plus words in the CSW lexicon that are not in TWL (the American competition word source). He breaks them down into a number of lexical categories. These include:

animals 523 words; archaic 164; Australian 112; chemicals/mineral 141; clothing/fashion 95; dialect 177; food/drink 200; France 112; India 132; irregular inflections 345; medical/anatomical 153; New Zealand 122; obsolete 388; other adjectives or adjectival forms 537; other nouns 1269; other verbs 573; plants 321; religion 160; Scots 573; Shakespearean 207, Spenserian 307.

This shows how small a component of the list old words and Maori words are. And how arbitrary a decision it would be to cut out a couple of (relatively small) categories that Americans don't like.

One last little dig at the Americans: isn't it quaint how they label the language of England 'British English' and their own more recent version 'English'? A strange kind of inverted linguistic imperialism, don't you think?

# Ask Liz

## A reader asks:

Is there a rule dealing with a situation where a player, not involved in the game in question, interferes with game equipment while that game is still in progress?

Both my opponent and I were low on time. We were into a nail-biting finish with perhaps three minutes between us. My opponent had just spent a long time deliberating over a move, in particular making calculations to determine whether a challenge could affect the outcome of the game. When we did walk away from our board to conduct the self-adjudication, another player reset our clock, even though it was neither their clock nor their board. The tiles were still all over the board; our racks were covered but still had tiles on them; so all evidence pointed to the fact that we were still playing.

There was nothing whatsoever that we could do except finish the game without a clock. My opponent took back his disallowed turn, and I played my final move to go out and win the game. However, I am sure that I would have acted differently if my clock was still running; taken a little longer to find the highest possible score perhaps, or taken more than one turn to go out. However, because my time was not ticking, I felt obliged to play as quickly as possible because I didn't want to make my opponent wait and wonder whether I might have gone over time.

## Liz replies:

This is one of those situations where there is no rule to cover the scenario.



*Liz Fagerlund*

My advice would be, if both players knew exactly how much time they had left (perhaps to the nearest whole minute rounded up), the clock could be reset to the agreed number of minutes for each player. If it is too difficult to do this on a digital clock, then an analogue clock could be used for the remainder of the game as it would be simple to set that to nonstandard times. This would be preferable to playing without a clock at all since, otherwise, it would be possible for one player to gain an unfair advantage by deliberately taking more time than they knew they had left. However, both players would have to be in agreement as to the time each of them had remaining prior to the unfortunate interference.

In relation to the external player who interfered with the game equipment, a reprimand from the tournament director would have been in order. Beyond that, however, there is no way to penalise that player for the interference, unless it was felt that the actions were deliberately taken in order to advantage one of the players.

The tournament director could also give a general reminder to all players to refrain from interfering with any tiles, racks, board, or clock that may still be in use during an active game. If players think that the game may have been completed but the equipment has not been readied for the next game, the best thing to do is to find the players that were at that table and get them to remedy the situation themselves.

# On Scrabble

by Ruth Groffman, Dunedin

*NZASP Vice President Ruth Groffman is working towards a Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in Linguistics, at Otago University. An early assignment for her English paper on Essay and Feature Writing required members of Ruth's class to write about "something we thought might provoke interest". Unsurprisingly, Ruth decided Scrabble would fit into that category, and she has decided to share her (slightly adapted) assignment with Forwards readers.*

Is this a board game only for little old ladies to guard against dementia? When you were a kid and visited Grandma did she entertain you with this game and beat you? This is the impression I get from the wide populace. When you ask someone about Scrabble, they have to look into the depths of their experience and drag out a memory of having played once or twice.

When my kids were aged between 8 and 12, I introduced Scrabble as both a family game and a way to improve their vocabulary. Almost every night after dinner the board game would come out together with a trusted dictionary. To make it more interesting, I proposed that every time someone scored 20 points the reward would be a chocolate. My middle son chirped up with "If I score 40 points can I have two chocolates?" Needless to say, chocolates like Smarties, M&M's, and Cadbury's blocks were consumed during the course of the evening. When we got sick of chocolate we used fruit like cherries or grapes. Even when I went to the supermarket, my kids would say "Hey Mum we're shopping for Scrabble!"

Of course, each kid wanted to win but alongside this there was the satisfaction of knowing that they were gaining knowledge and having fun. Also it was a great improvement on immediately going to watch television after dinner.

Since I was an avid reader and had a fascination for words and their

meanings, I also got caught up in this game. Mind you, there are other word games like Boggle, Bananagrams and Upwords which I fancied in passing but nothing grabbed me as much as Scrabble. I would even play by myself to get the highest score way after everyone else had gone to bed. I was hooked!!

All of the above occurred when I lived in Brisbane. My husband, Michael, and I played Scrabble on our travels. We bought a travel set in London and played on planes, trains and in hotels. After losing a piece along the way, we bought another set in Vancouver. The purpose of our travel was to find out where we would live next as our kids had all left home so there was no reason to stay in Brisbane. At the end of our travels, we chose to live in Dunedin, New Zealand.

Believe it or not, it was here that I discovered a Scrabble club!! There were Scrabble clubs all over and there was one just down the road from where I lived in Brisbane. What had I missed out on? I have since played in Adelaide, Sydney, Vancouver and Vancouver Island. In the last two places they did not penalise for playing Q!. I was able to take it off the board and have another go.

So now I'm well and truly settled in New Zealand and it has been a joy to meet and play with so many of you. Happy Scrabbling everyone.

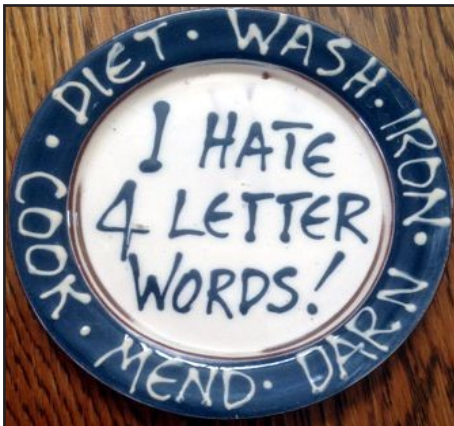
# Puzzle Answers:

## Scrabby Logic

| First name | Last name  | Destination | Ethnic food |
|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| Bertha     | Greenwood  | Florence    | Gravlaks    |
| Connie     | Brownfield | Michigan    | Souvlaki    |
| Diane      | Goldstone  | Tripoli     | Bobotie     |
| Moira      | Whitehead  | Berlin      | Rasmalai    |
| Sharon     | Blackthorn | Lima        | Baklava     |

## A Diversion

- 1) Andrew Bradley 2) Anderina McLean
- 3) Liz Fagerlund 4) Dianne Cole-Baker
- 5) Blue Thorogood 6) Glenda Foster
- 7) Olivia Godfrey 8) Lawson Sue
- 9) Rogelio Talosig 10) Lyres Freeth
- 11) Howard Warner 12) Jennifer Smith
- 13) Valerie Mills 14) Jeff Grant
- 15) Clare Wall



*Sent in by Rosemary Cleary, Wanganui*



accordingtodevin.com

*Sent in by Vicky Robertson, Wellington*

# Tournament results

## Mt. Albert Memorial 15-16 March 2015

### Day 1

| Name | Wins | Spread |
|------|------|--------|
|------|------|--------|

#### Gold

|    |                   |   |      |
|----|-------------------|---|------|
| 1  | John Foster       | 6 | 466  |
| 2  | Lawson Sue        | 6 | 346  |
| 3  | Liz Fagerlund     | 6 | 225  |
| 4  | Cicely Bruce      | 5 | 385  |
| 5  | Lyres Freeth      | 5 | 71   |
| 6  | Pat Bryan         | 5 | 13   |
| 7  | Val Mills         | 4 | 382  |
| 8  | Jennifer Smith    | 4 | 191  |
| 9  | Joan Thomas       | 4 | -29  |
| 10 | Anderina McLean   | 4 | -117 |
| 11 | Dianne Cole-Baker | 4 | -246 |
| 12 | Lynn Carter       | 4 | -314 |
| 13 | Pam Barlow        | 3 | 31   |
| 14 | Glenda Foster     | 3 | -17  |
| 15 | Yoon Kim Fong     | 3 | -196 |
| 16 | Lynn Wood         | 2 | -378 |
| 17 | Shirley Martin    | 2 | -383 |

#### Silver

|    |                   |     |      |
|----|-------------------|-----|------|
| 1  | June Mackwell     | 7.5 | 470  |
| 2  | Mary Curtis       | 6.5 | 418  |
| 3  | Shirley Pearce    | 6   | 220  |
| 4  | Marianne Patchett | 5   | 13   |
| 5  | Glenda Geard      | 5   | 0    |
| 6  | Su Walker         | 5   | -17  |
| 7  | Jena Yousif       | 4   | 77   |
| 8  | Suzanne Harding   | 4   | 47   |
| 9  | Junior Gesmundo   | 4   | 26   |
| 10 | Elaine Ware       | 4   | -76  |
| 11 | Ruth Godwin       | 4   | -88  |
| 12 | Mike Currie       | 3   | 255  |
| 13 | Roger Cole-Baker  | 3   | 156  |
| 14 | Julia Schiller    | 3   | 93   |
| 15 | Judy Cronin       | 3   | -390 |
| 16 | Val Smith         | 2   | -356 |
| 17 | Susan Schiller    | 2   | -703 |
| 18 | Joyce Mowbray     | 1   | -145 |

### Day 2

| Name | Wins | Spread |
|------|------|--------|
|------|------|--------|

#### Gold

|    |                   |   |      |
|----|-------------------|---|------|
| 1  | Lyres Freeth      | 6 | 542  |
| 2  | Patrick Carter    | 6 | 509  |
| 3  | Val Mills         | 6 | 260  |
| 4  | Anderina McLean   | 5 | 255  |
| 5  | Liz Fagerlund     | 5 | 193  |
| 6  | Jennifer Smith    | 5 | -5   |
| 7  | Pam Barlow        | 5 | -34  |
| 8  | Lawson Sue        | 4 | 164  |
| 9  | Hazel Purdie      | 4 | 80   |
| 10 | John Foster       | 4 | -43  |
| 11 | Dianne Cole-Baker | 4 | -236 |
| 12 | Cicely Bruce      | 3 | -4   |
| 13 | Yoon Kim Fong     | 3 | -46  |
| 14 | Pat Bryan         | 3 | -108 |
| 15 | Joan Thomas       | 3 | -373 |
| 16 | Glenda Foster     | 2 | -139 |
| 17 | Mary Gray         | 2 | -503 |
| 18 | Lynn Carter       | 2 | -512 |

#### Silver

|    |                  |   |       |
|----|------------------|---|-------|
| 1  | Su Walker        | 6 | 288   |
| 2  | Karl Scherer     | 6 | 199   |
| 3  | June Mackwell    | 5 | 736   |
| 4  | Mike Currie      | 5 | 257   |
| 5  | Shirley Pearce   | 5 | 206   |
| 6  | Roger Cole-Baker | 5 | 99    |
| 7  | Jena Yousif      | 5 | 56    |
| 8  | Junior Gesmundo  | 5 | -103  |
| 9  | Julia Schiller   | 4 | 120   |
| 10 | Glenda Geard     | 4 | 110   |
| 11 | Mary Curtis      | 4 | 97    |
| 12 | Shirley Martin   | 4 | 34    |
| 13 | Suzanne Harding  | 4 | 25    |
| 14 | Antonia Aarts    | 4 | -131  |
| 15 | Ruth Godwin      | 3 | -86   |
| 16 | Joyce Mowbray    | 2 | -428  |
| 17 | Susan Schiller   | 1 | -404  |
| 18 | Val Smith        | 0 | -1075 |



## Dunedin 28-29 March 2015

15 games

| Name                  | Club | Wins | Spread | Ave |
|-----------------------|------|------|--------|-----|
| <b>A Grade</b>        |      |      |        |     |
| 1 Alex Leckie-Zaharic | DUN  | 10   | 700    | 443 |
| 2 Scott Chaput        | DUN  | 10   | 592    | 427 |
| 3 Val Mills           | PAK  | 9    | 121    | 410 |
| 4 Lynn Wood           | WEL  | 6    | -198   | 381 |
| 5 Karen Gray          | DUN  | 5    | -361   | 392 |
| 6 Carolyn Kyle        | IND  | 2    | -854   | 357 |

### B Grade

|                    |     |    |      |     |
|--------------------|-----|----|------|-----|
| 1 Paul Freeman     | DUN | 10 | 804  | 401 |
| 2 Malcolm Graham   | CHC | 9  | 259  | 376 |
| 3 Julia Schiller   | MTA | 8  | 664  | 380 |
| 4 Joanna Fox       | CHC | 8  | -84  | 346 |
| 5 Marian Ross      | DUN | 7  | -26  | 392 |
| 6 Michael Groffman | DUN | 7  | -240 | 357 |
| 7 Chris Handley    | DUN | 4  | -705 | 352 |
| 8 Sam Thompson     | DUN | 3  | -672 | 328 |

### C Grade

|                     |     |     |       |     |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-------|-----|
| 1 Tobias Devereaux  | DUN | 12  | 609   | 361 |
| 2 Stephanie Pluck   | DUN | 10  | 1175  | 388 |
| 3 Betty Don         | NEL | 10  | 754   | 363 |
| 4 Marilyn Sinclair  | CHC | 8   | 232   | 344 |
| 5 Jean Craib        | CHC | 7   | -229  | 323 |
| 6 Anne-Louise Milne | DUN | 6   | -539  | 312 |
| 7 Susan Schiller    | MTA | 2.5 | -785  | 299 |
| 8 Bev Allen         | DUN | 0.5 | -1217 | 285 |

## Masters Championship 4-6 April 2015

23 games

| Name              | Club | Wins | Spread | Ave |
|-------------------|------|------|--------|-----|
| 1 Jeff Grant      | IND  | 19   | 1119   | 436 |
| 2 Howard Warner   | IND  | 18.5 | 1460   | 454 |
| 3 Peter Sinton    | DUN  | 17.5 | 1539   | 450 |
| 4 Blue Thorogood  | IND  | 16   | 889    | 431 |
| 5 Lyres Freeth    | IND  | 15   | 1127   | 441 |
| 6 Cicely Bruce    | WRE  | 15   | 413    | 415 |
| 7 Lawson Sue      | PAK  | 13   | 579    | 404 |
| 8 John McNaughton | WEL  | 12   | 617    | 418 |
| 9 Liz Fagerlund   | MTA  | 12   | 240    | 406 |
| 10 Mike Sigley    | WAN  | 12   | 132    | 435 |
| 11 John Foster    | IND  | 12   | -165   | 398 |

| Name                | Club | Wins | Spread | Ave |
|---------------------|------|------|--------|-----|
| 12 Andrew Bradley   | MTA  | 11   | 253    | 410 |
| 13 Lois Binnie      | CHC  | 11   | -18    | 410 |
| 14 Vicky Robertson  | WEL  | 11   | -231   | 395 |
| 15 Murray Rogers    | IND  | 11   | -573   | 382 |
| 16 Glennis Hale     | IND  | 10   | -37    | 406 |
| 17 Paul Lister      | CHC  | 9.5  | -596   | 388 |
| 18 Glenda Foster    | WEL  | 9    | -303   | 392 |
| 19 Val Mills        | PAK  | 9    | -569   | 384 |
| 20 Scott Chaput     | DUN  | 8    | -844   | 386 |
| 21 Denise Gordon    | WAN  | 7    | -1166  | 390 |
| 22 Glenyss Buchanan | LOH  | 7    | -1302  | 386 |
| 23 Katy Yiakmis     | MTA  | 5.5  | -1356  | 366 |
| 24 Rosemary Cleary  | WAN  | 5    | -1208  | 363 |

## Kapiti 18-19 April 2015

14 games

| Name               | Club | Wins | Spread | Ave |
|--------------------|------|------|--------|-----|
| <b>A Grade</b>     |      |      |        |     |
| 1 Howard Warner    | IND  | 10.5 | 1423   | 470 |
| 2 Val Mills        | PAK  | 9    | 361    | 410 |
| 3 Lawson Sue       | PAK  | 9    | 253    | 402 |
| 4 Lynne Butler     | WAN  | 7.5  | 147    | 407 |
| 5 Glenda Foster    | WEL  | 7    | -337   | 386 |
| 6 Glenyss Buchanan | LOH  | 5    | -295   | 394 |
| 7 Olivia Godfrey   | WAN  | 4    | -590   | 366 |
| 8 Vicky Robertson  | WEL  | 4    | -962   | 367 |

### B Grade

|                   |     |    |      |     |
|-------------------|-----|----|------|-----|
| 1 Lynn Wood       | WEL | 10 | 697  | 395 |
| 2 Anna Hough      | IND | 9  | -18  | 386 |
| 3 Yvette Hewlett  | IND | 8  | 233  | 408 |
| 4 Jean O'Brien    | IND | 8  | 164  | 397 |
| 5 Jennifer Smith  | KIW | 7  | 89   | 393 |
| 6 Leila Thomson   | LOH | 7  | -212 | 363 |
| 7 Rosemary Cleary | WAN | 4  | -558 | 369 |
| 8 Betty Eriksen   | WAN | 3  | -395 | 355 |

### C Grade

|                  |     |    |      |     |
|------------------|-----|----|------|-----|
| 1 Carolyn Kyle   | IND | 11 | 422  | 389 |
| 2 Mary Curtis    | HAS | 10 | 701  | 407 |
| 3 Nola Borrell   | WEL | 10 | 418  | 383 |
| 4 Betty Don      | IND | 10 | 27   | 356 |
| 5 Agnes Rowland  | KAP | 8  | 344  | 369 |
| 6 Judith Thomas  | IND | 8  | 241  | 364 |
| 7 Jean Boyle     | WAN | 7  | 291  | 372 |
| 8 Judy Driscoll  | KAP | 6  | -183 | 359 |
| 9 Alison Vautier | KAP | 5  | -23  | 342 |

|    | Name            | Club | Wins | Spread | Ave |
|----|-----------------|------|------|--------|-----|
| 10 | Sheila Reed     | WEL  | 5    | -91    | 353 |
| 11 | Karen Donaldson | LOH  | 3    | -672   | 330 |
| 12 | Graeme Brown    | KAP  | 1    | -1475  | 270 |

## Christchurch 9-10 May 2015

14 games

|                | Name                | Club | Wins | Spread | Ave |
|----------------|---------------------|------|------|--------|-----|
| <b>A Grade</b> |                     |      |      |        |     |
| 1              | Howard Warner       | IND  | 14   | 1420   | 465 |
| 2              | Liz Fagerlund       | MTA  | 8.5  | 86     | 393 |
| 3              | Olivia Godfrey      | WAN  | 7    | 335    | 418 |
| 4              | Alex Leckie-Zaharic | DUN  | 6    | -165   | 410 |
| 5              | Murray Rogers       | IND  | 6    | -509   | 371 |
| 6              | Lynn Wood           | WEL  | 5    | -229   | 377 |
| 7              | Anna Hough          | IND  | 5    | -527   | 381 |
| 8              | Lois Binnie         | CHC  | 4.5  | -411   | 376 |

**B Grade**

|   |                 |     |     |      |     |
|---|-----------------|-----|-----|------|-----|
| 1 | Irene Smith     | CHC | 8.5 | 347  | 387 |
| 2 | John Baird      | CHC | 8   | 281  | 395 |
| 3 | Lewis Hawkins   | CHC | 8   | 231  | 402 |
| 4 | Selena Chan     | CHC | 8   | -113 | 382 |
| 5 | Peter Johnstone | CHC | 6.5 | 198  | 406 |
| 6 | Shirley Hol     | CHC | 6   | -188 | 396 |
| 7 | Jean O'Brien    | IND | 6   | -205 | 371 |
| 8 | David Gunn      | WPK | 5   | -551 | 354 |

**C Grade**

|   |                  |     |    |      |     |
|---|------------------|-----|----|------|-----|
| 1 | Herb Ramsay      | CHC | 11 | 1014 | 404 |
| 2 | Colleen Cook     | CHC | 10 | 451  | 384 |
| 3 | Betty Eriksen    | WAN | 7  | -239 | 351 |
| 4 | Carolyn Kyle     | DUN | 6  | -148 | 366 |
| 5 | Ruth Groffman    | DUN | 6  | -242 | 355 |
| 6 | Anne Goldstein   | CHC | 6  | -244 | 375 |
| 7 | Mary Gray        | MTA | 5  | -32  | 374 |
| 8 | Allison Torrance | CHC | 5  | -560 | 341 |

**D Grade**

|   |                      |     |    |      |     |
|---|----------------------|-----|----|------|-----|
| 1 | Marian Ross          | DUN | 10 | 954  | 417 |
| 2 | Gabrielle Bolt       | CHC | 10 | 562  | 383 |
| 3 | Joanna Fox           | CHC | 10 | 166  | 368 |
| 4 | Tony Charlton        | NEL | 7  | -111 | 360 |
| 5 | Kathleen Mori-Barker | CHC | 7  | -170 | 365 |
| 6 | Antonia Aarts        | MTA | 5  | -483 | 345 |
| 7 | Betty Don            | IND | 4  | -329 | 337 |
| 8 | Malcolm Graham       | CHC | 3  | -589 | 346 |

|                | Name              | Club | Wins | Spread | Ave |
|----------------|-------------------|------|------|--------|-----|
| <b>E Grade</b> |                   |      |      |        |     |
| 1              | Phyllis Paltridge | CHC  | 13   | 873    | 370 |
| 2              | Yvonne McLaughlan | CHC  | 9    | 864    | 377 |
| 3              | Annette Coombes   | WPK  | 9    | 603    | 378 |
| 4              | Hanna Dodge       | CHC  | 9    | 467    | 358 |
| 5              | Marilyn Sinclair  | CHC  | 9    | 462    | 351 |
| 6              | Sam Thompson      | DUN  | 9    | 441    | 375 |
| 7              | Madeleine Green   | CHC  | 8    | 342    | 363 |
| 8              | Gill Charlton     | NEL  | 7    | -609   | 312 |
| 9              | Judith Bach       | CHC  | 5    | -109   | 347 |
| 10             | Trish Fox         | CHC  | 3    | -1321  | 282 |
| 11             | Gary Mintrom      | CHC  | 2    | -1056  | 274 |
| 12             | Mariah Henderson  | CHC  | 1    | -957   | 287 |

## National Championship 30-31 May 2015

15 games

|                | Name                | Club | Wins | Spread | Ave |
|----------------|---------------------|------|------|--------|-----|
| <b>Grade A</b> |                     |      |      |        |     |
| 1              | Howard Warner       | IND  | 12   | 1093   | 452 |
| 2              | Jeff Grant          | IND  | 11   | 726    | 433 |
| 3              | Peter Sinton        | DUN  | 10   | 596    | 426 |
| 4              | Karen Richards      | OS   | 9    | 545    | 427 |
| 5              | Lynne Butler        | WAN  | 9    | 221    | 429 |
| 6              | John McNaughton     | WEL  | 9    | 38     | 397 |
| 7              | Anderina McLean     | MTA  | 9    | -117   | 394 |
| 8              | Joanne Craig        | IND  | 8    | 280    | 415 |
| 9              | Nick Cavenagh       | KIW  | 7    | -415   | 392 |
| 10             | Lawson Sue          | PAK  | 6.5  | -441   | 388 |
| 11             | Lyres Freeth        | IND  | 6    | -37    | 393 |
| 12             | Val Mills           | PAK  | 6    | -251   | 383 |
| 13             | Nick Ascroft        | WEL  | 6    | -313   | 396 |
| 14             | Glennis Hale        | IND  | 4.5  | -668   | 378 |
| 15             | Blue Thorogood      | IND  | 4    | -475   | 383 |
| 16             | Liz Fagerlund       | MTA  | 3    | -782   | 384 |
| <b>Grade B</b> |                     |      |      |        |     |
| 1              | Scott Chaput        | DUN  | 13   | 1181   | 451 |
| 2              | Alex Leckie-Zaharic | DUN  | 13   | 1164   | 462 |
| 3              | Murray Rogers       | IND  | 10   | 293    | 401 |
| 4              | Glenda Foster       | WEL  | 9    | 229    | 408 |
| 5              | Selena Chan         | CHC  | 9    | -85    | 400 |
| 6              | Anna Hough          | IND  | 8    | 35     | 395 |
| 7              | Joan Thomas         | HAS  | 8    | 10     | 395 |
| 8              | Glenyys Buchanan    | LOH  | 8    | -228   | 386 |
| 9              | Olivia Godfrey      | WAN  | 7    | 273    | 413 |
| 10             | Jennifer Smith      | KIW  | 7    | -155   | 394 |

| Name                 | Club | Wins | Spread | Ave | Name                 | Club | Wins | Spread | Ave |
|----------------------|------|------|--------|-----|----------------------|------|------|--------|-----|
| 11 Lewis Hawkins     | CHC  | 6    | -159   | 389 | 3 Marian Ross        | DUN  | 10   | 555    | 401 |
| 12 Lynn Wood         | WEL  | 6    | -286   | 377 | 4 Ruth Groffman      | DUN  | 10   | 286    | 373 |
| 13 Leila Thomson     | LOH  | 6    | -575   | 372 | 5 Tracy Ivamy        | HAS  | 9    | 374    | 391 |
| 14 Rosalind Phillips | TGA  | 4    | -100   | 390 | 6 Nola Barrell       | WEL  | 9    | 354    | 378 |
| 15 Pam Barlow        | PAK  | 4    | -719   | 379 | 7 Gabrielle Bolt     | CHC  | 9    | -174   | 351 |
| 16 Stan Gregec       | IND  | 2    | -878   | 371 | 8 Agnes Rowland      | KAP  | 8    | 249    | 377 |
| <b>Grade C</b>       |      |      |        |     | 9 Tei Ngatai         | TGA  | 6.5  | -120   | 359 |
| 1 Shirley Martin     | KIW  | 14   | 1178   | 416 | 10 Judith Thomas     | IND  | 5    | -201   | 350 |
| 2 Shirley Hol        | CHC  | 11   | 702    | 405 | 11 Phyllis Paltridge | CHC  | 5    | -250   | 339 |
| 3 Hazel Purdie       | MTA  | 10   | 475    | 404 | 12 Betty Don         | IND  | 5    | -296   | 331 |
| 4 David Gunn         | WKP  | 10   | 384    | 401 | 13 Roto Mitchell     | WAN  | 5    | -467   | 351 |
| 5 Lynn Carter        | IND  | 8    | 530    | 404 | 14 Sheila Reed       | WEL  | 5    | -521   | 355 |
| 6 Yoon Kim Fong      | KIW  | 8    | 204    | 399 | 15 Ruth Godwin       | ROT  | 5    | -745   | 331 |
| 7 Lyn Toka           | KIW  | 8    | -44    | 390 | 16 Rahimah Abdullah  | KAP  | 5    | -815   | 336 |
| 8 Jean O'Brien       | IND  | 7    | 74     | 386 | <b>Grade E</b>       |      |      |        |     |
| 9 Clare Wall         | WEL  | 7    | -25    | 392 | 1 Annette Coombes    | WKP  | 12   | 937    | 397 |
| 10 Heather Landon    | TGA  | 7    | -91    | 379 | 2 Stephanie Pluck    | DUN  | 11   | 406    | 382 |
| 11 Teresa Ferrari    | LOH  | 6    | 91     | 380 | 3 Tim Henneveld      | ROT  | 10   | 465    | 365 |
| 12 Carolyn Kyle      | IND  | 6    | -552   | 360 | 4 Janny Henneveld    | ROT  | 9    | 403    | 363 |
| 13 Colleen Cook      | CHC  | 5    | -412   | 366 | 5 Joan Beale         | PAP  | 9    | 175    | 372 |
| 14 Mary Gray         | MTA  | 5    | -522   | 369 | 6 Frances Higham     | PAP  | 9    | -97    | 350 |
| 15 Betty Eriksen     | WAN  | 5    | -913   | 344 | 7 Dorothy Latta      | IND  | 8    | 247    | 369 |
| 16 Geoff Vautier     | IND  | 3    | -1079  | 331 | 8 Aiwa Poomom        | MTA  | 4    | -730   | 315 |
| <b>Grade D</b>       |      |      |        |     | 9 Jamie Adams        | WEL  | 3    | -1056  | 305 |
| 1 Karl Scherer       | IND  | 13   | 1267   | 418 |                      |      |      |        |     |
| 2 Karen Miller       | IND  | 10.5 | 504    | 374 |                      |      |      |        |     |

| Tournament Calendar 2015 |                   |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Tournament               | Dates             |
| Whangarei                | 4-5 July          |
| Kiwi                     | 8-9 August        |
| Tauranga                 | 23-24 August      |
| Christchurch             | 5-6 September     |
| Wellington Swiss         | 19 & 20 September |
| Mt. Albert               | 3-4 October       |
| Wanganui                 | 24-25 October     |
| Rodney                   | 7 November        |
| Otago                    | 14-15 November    |
| # restricted entry       |                   |

# Rankings list as at 1 June 2015

| Rank | Name                 | Rating | Wins   | Games | %   |
|------|----------------------|--------|--------|-------|-----|
| 1    | Howard Warner (GM)   | 2002   | 1903   | 2547  | 75% |
| 2    | Jeff Grant (GM)      | 1983   | 1654   | 2183  | 76% |
| 3    | Peter Sinton (GM)    | 1924   | 718    | 999   | 72% |
| 4    | Joanne Craig (GM)    | 1903   | 354.5  | 539   | 66% |
| 5    | Patrick Carter (GM)  | 1875   | 752.5  | 1198  | 63% |
| 6    | Blue Thorogood (GM)  | 1849   | 619.5  | 880   | 70% |
| 7    | Lynne Butler (GM)    | 1823   | 901.5  | 1481  | 61% |
| 8    | John McNaughton      | 1821   | 122    | 181   | 67% |
| 9    | Cicely Bruce (E)     | 1819   | 411    | 727   | 57% |
| 10   | Karen Richards       | 1818   | 63.5   | 112   | 57% |
| 11   | Lyres Freeth (GM)    | 1809   | 268.5  | 410   | 65% |
| 12   | Anderina McLean (E)  | 1806   | 636.5  | 1177  | 54% |
| 13   | Rogelio Talosig (GM) | 1798   | 473    | 803   | 59% |
| 14   | Nick Cavenagh (GM)   | 1791   | 349    | 591   | 59% |
| 15   | Lawson Sue (E)       | 1782   | 752    | 1405  | 54% |
| 16   | Mike Sigley (GM)     | 1777   | 962    | 1388  | 69% |
| 17   | Andrew Bradley (GM)  | 1761   | 832    | 1584  | 53% |
| 18   | Scott Chaput         | 1746   | 233.5  | 386   | 60% |
| 19   | John Foster (GM)     | 1744   | 1520.5 | 2659  | 57% |
| 20   | Val Mills (E)        | 1743   | 1227   | 2547  | 48% |
| 21   | Alex Leckie-Zaharic  | 1739   | 149    | 255   | 58% |
| 22   | Glennis Hale (GM)    | 1678   | 1454.5 | 2628  | 55% |
| 23   | Paul Lister (E)      | 1678   | 812    | 1453  | 56% |
| 24   | Liz Fagerlund (GM)   | 1676   | 1142.5 | 2187  | 52% |
| 25   | Murray Rogers (E)    | 1672   | 780    | 1496  | 52% |
| 26   | Glenda Foster (E)    | 1652   | 1032.5 | 2070  | 50% |
| 27   | Pat Bryan            | 1649   | 257    | 461   | 56% |
| 28   | Janice Cherry        | 1648   | 397    | 768   | 52% |
| 29   | Lynne Powell (E)     | 1628   | 915.5  | 1843  | 50% |
| 30   | Vicky Robertson      | 1622   | 312    | 630   | 50% |
| 31   | Lois Binnie          | 1621   | 39.5   | 81    | 49% |
| 32   | Denise Gordon (E)    | 1613   | 707.5  | 1469  | 48% |
| 33   | Steven Brown (GM)    | 1605   | 894    | 1679  | 53% |
| 34   | Jeanette Grimmer     | 1605   | 121    | 211   | 57% |
| 35   | Roger Coates         | 1597   | 742.5  | 1571  | 47% |
| 36   | Glenyss Buchanan     | 1595   | 681.5  | 1462  | 47% |
| 37   | Olivia Godfrey       | 1580   | 689    | 1322  | 52% |
| 38   | Anna Hough           | 1579   | 634    | 1263  | 50% |
| 39   | Selena Chan          | 1576   | 310.5  | 594   | 52% |
| 40   | Shirley van Essen    | 1571   | 406.5  | 812   | 50% |
| 41   | Pam Robson           | 1562   | 556.5  | 1213  | 46% |
| 42   | Katy Yiakmis         | 1555   | 185.5  | 390   | 48% |
| 43   | Joan Thomas          | 1546   | 1031.5 | 2058  | 50% |
| 44   | Delcie Macbeth       | 1537   | 875.5  | 1669  | 52% |
| 45   | Jennifer Smith       | 1532   | 1033.5 | 2132  | 48% |
| 46   | Lynn Wood            | 1528   | 1751   | 3678  | 48% |
| 47   | Shirley Martin       | 1522   | 878.5  | 1728  | 51% |
| 48   | Irene Smith          | 1495   | 191.5  | 382   | 50% |
| 49   | Leila Thomson        | 1493   | 580.5  | 1272  | 46% |



*Faye Cronhelm*

| Rank | Name                | Rating | Wins   | Games | %   |
|------|---------------------|--------|--------|-------|-----|
| 50   | Yvette Hewlett      | 1486   | 462.5  | 964   | 48% |
| 51   | Lewis Hawkins       | 1486   | 137.5  | 203   | 68% |
| 52   | Lorraine Van Veen   | 1479   | 840.5  | 1649  | 51% |
| 53   | Karen Gray          | 1476   | 281.5  | 544   | 52% |
| 54   | Shirley Hol         | 1469   | 662    | 1440  | 46% |
| 55   | John Baird          | 1463   | 225    | 415   | 54% |
| 56   | Peter Johnstone     | 1460   | 162    | 302   | 54% |
| 57   | Hazel Purdie        | 1444   | 1072.5 | 2195  | 49% |
| 58   | Rosalind Phillips   | 1443   | 564    | 1084  | 52% |
| 59   | Pam Barlow          | 1440   | 708.5  | 1412  | 50% |
| 60   | Helen Sillis        | 1429   | 718    | 1448  | 50% |
| 61   | Rosemary Cleary (E) | 1424   | 778    | 1691  | 46% |
| 62   | David Gunn          | 1416   | 1242.5 | 2547  | 49% |
| 63   | Dianne Cole-Baker   | 1408   | 473    | 914   | 52% |
| 64   | Herb Ramsay         | 1407   | 161    | 256   | 63% |
| 65   | Yoon Kim Fong       | 1380   | 566    | 1114  | 51% |
| 66   | Ruth Lilian         | 1362   | 54     | 77    | 70% |
| 67   | Jean O'Brien        | 1338   | 1124.5 | 2208  | 51% |
| 68   | Allie Quinn         | 1337   | 1049.5 | 2160  | 49% |
| 69   | Lynn Carter         | 1336   | 665.5  | 1301  | 51% |
| 70   | Clare Wall          | 1326   | 300.5  | 570   | 53% |
| 71   | Chris Higgins       | 1320   | 115.5  | 207   | 56% |
| 72   | Lyn Toka            | 1307   | 548.5  | 1036  | 53% |
| 73   | Heather Landon      | 1306   | 505    | 979   | 52% |
| 74   | Karl Scherer        | 1243   | 53     | 84    | 63% |
| 75   | Colleen Cook        | 1241   | 359.5  | 711   | 51% |
| 76   | Chris Day           | 1235   | 127.5  | 234   | 54% |
| 77   | Carolyn Kyle        | 1233   | 826    | 1677  | 49% |
| 78   | Margaret Cherry     | 1226   | 490.5  | 999   | 49% |
| 79   | Lyn Dawson          | 1212   | 387    | 720   | 54% |
| 80   | Betty Eriksen       | 1211   | 1355.5 | 2662  | 51% |
| 81   | Fran Lowe           | 1211   | 129.5  | 238   | 54% |
| 82   | Anne Goldstein      | 1198   | 94.5   | 172   | 55% |
| 83   | Mary Gray           | 1194   | 544.5  | 1106  | 49% |
| 84   | June Mackwell       | 1193   | 835    | 1833  | 46% |
| 85   | Mike Currie         | 1187   | 25     | 42    | 60% |
| 86   | Faye Cronhelm       | 1186   | 842    | 1708  | 49% |

| Rank | Name                 | Rating | Wins  | Games | %   | Rank | Name                       | Rating | Wins  | Games | %   |
|------|----------------------|--------|-------|-------|-----|------|----------------------------|--------|-------|-------|-----|
| 87   | Su Walker            | 1152   | 996   | 1973  | 50% | 138  | Sam Thompson               | 749    | 78.5  | 166   | 47% |
| 88   | Karen Miller         | 1150   | 544   | 1081  | 50% | 139  | Stephanie Pluck            | 733    | 83.5  | 192   | 43% |
| 89   | Ruth Groffman        | 1141   | 509.5 | 1039  | 49% | 140  | Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell | 717    | 578   | 1206  | 48% |
| 90   | Allison Torrance     | 1141   | 433   | 834   | 52% | 141  | Marilyn Sinclair           | 679    | 52.5  | 114   | 46% |
| 91   | Shirley Pearce       | 1130   | 71    | 145   | 49% | 142  | Tim Henneveld              | 668    | 427.5 | 921   | 46% |
| 92   | Mary Curtis          | 1125   | 280.5 | 529   | 53% | 143  | Sandra Cowen               | 666    | 56.5  | 111   | 51% |
| 93   | Andree Prentice      | 1121   | 949.5 | 1889  | 50% | 144  | Chris Guthrey              | 666    | 81    | 218   | 37% |
| 94   | Barbara Dunn         | 1113   | 298   | 505   | 59% | 145  | Valma Gidman               | 660    | 683.5 | 1370  | 50% |
| 95   | Marian Ross          | 1113   | 565   | 1091  | 52% | 146  | Sharron Nelley             | 650    | 34    | 63    | 54% |
| 96   | Margaret Bullen      | 1110   | 110   | 194   | 57% | 147  | Joan Beale                 | 649    | 223   | 437   | 51% |
| 97   | Joanna Fox           | 1099   | 79    | 142   | 56% | 148  | Madelaine Green            | 648    | 93.5  | 186   | 50% |
| 98   | Marianne Patchett    | 1092   | 311.5 | 605   | 51% | 149  | Frances Higham             | 647    | 150   | 425   | 35% |
| 99   | Nola Barrell         | 1091   | 410.5 | 751   | 55% | 150  | Elaine Ware                | 633    | 385.5 | 755   | 51% |
| 100  | Roger Cole-Baker     | 1087   | 508.5 | 987   | 52% | 151  | Janny Henneveld            | 618    | 441   | 918   | 48% |
| 101  | Gabrielle Bolt       | 1074   | 427   | 829   | 52% | 152  | Pauline Smeaton            | 613    | 325   | 625   | 52% |
| 102  | Jena Yousif          | 1065   | 446.5 | 875   | 51% | 153  | Jillian Greening           | 609    | 297.5 | 638   | 47% |
| 103  | Leanne Field         | 1048   | 149   | 276   | 54% | 154  | Noelene Bettjeman          | 595    | 312   | 670   | 47% |
| 104  | Glenda Geard         | 1042   | 1026  | 2110  | 49% | 155  | Dorothy Latta              | 591    | 143   | 351   | 41% |
| 105  | Ray Goodyear         | 1041   | 229   | 484   | 47% | 156  | Hanna Dodge                | 583    | 79.5  | 180   | 44% |
| 106  | Julia Schiller       | 1020   | 232   | 512   | 45% | 157  | Josie Parkin               | 571    | 73    | 150   | 49% |
| 107  | Bev Edwards          | 1002   | 239.5 | 453   | 53% | 158  | Jean Craib                 | 508    | 402.5 | 839   | 48% |
| 108  | Michael Groffman     | 999    | 286   | 574   | 50% | 159  | Margaret Toso              | 508    | 87.5  | 188   | 47% |
| 109  | Ernie Gidman         | 987    | 403   | 807   | 50% | 160  | Faye Leach                 | 502    | 27    | 97    | 28% |
| 110  | Carole Coates        | 983    | 622.5 | 1290  | 48% | 161  | Judith Bach                | 494    | 150.5 | 273   | 55% |
| 111  | Suzanne Harding      | 967    | 396.5 | 759   | 52% | 162  | Gill Charlton              | 472    | 33    | 129   | 26% |
| 112  | Tony Charlton        | 961    | 265   | 532   | 50% | 163  | Judy Cronin                | 464    | 76.5  | 222   | 34% |
| 113  | Kathleen Mori-Barker | 960    | 363.5 | 738   | 49% | 164  | Anne-Louise Milne          | 461    | 141   | 419   | 34% |
| 114  | Elaine Moltzen       | 950    | 562   | 1120  | 50% | 165  | Margaret Peters            | 428    | 32    | 116   | 28% |
| 115  | Tei Ngatai           | 945    | 24.5  | 41    | 60% | 166  | Jamie Adams                | 341    | 6     | 57    | 11% |
| 116  | Jo Ann Ingram        | 933    | 229   | 447   | 51% | 167  | Valerie Smith              | 275    | 29    | 127   | 23% |
| 117  | Khin Saw Khine       | 925    | 43.5  | 91    | 48% | 168  | Susan Schiller             | 249    | 21    | 150   | 14% |
| 118  | Geoff Bonser         | 924    | 71    | 122   | 58% | 169  | Lynn Thompson              | 232    | 255.5 | 590   | 43% |
| 119  | Jean Boyle           | 916    | 536.5 | 1020  | 53% | 170  | Dorothy Bakel              | 220    | 14    | 52    | 27% |
| 120  | Shirley Morrison     | 913    | 153   | 335   | 46% | 171  | Ray Young                  | 180    | 12    | 54    | 22% |
| 121  | Chris Handley        | 906    | 382.5 | 752   | 51% | 172  | Bev Allen                  | 131    | 58.5  | 226   | 26% |
| 122  | Junior Gesmundo      | 888    | 68.5  | 135   | 51% | 173  | Trish Fox                  | 128    | 31    | 233   | 13% |
| 123  | Roto Mitchell        | 882    | 738   | 1468  | 50% |      |                            |        |       |       |     |
| 124  | Judith Thomas        | 880    | 220   | 429   | 51% |      |                            |        |       |       |     |
| 125  | Sheila Reed          | 878    | 244   | 500   | 49% |      |                            |        |       |       |     |
| 126  | Antonia Aarts        | 878    | 233.5 | 472   | 49% |      |                            |        |       |       |     |
| 127  | Phyllis Paltridge    | 869    | 62    | 141   | 44% |      |                            |        |       |       |     |
| 128  | Betty Don            | 860    | 185.5 | 398   | 47% |      |                            |        |       |       |     |
| 129  | Ruth Godwin          | 854    | 304.5 | 694   | 44% |      |                            |        |       |       |     |
| 130  | Catherine Henry      | 847    | 444   | 853   | 52% |      |                            |        |       |       |     |
| 131  | Malcolm Graham       | 843    | 412.5 | 838   | 49% |      |                            |        |       |       |     |
| 132  | Jill Paterson        | 799    | 68    | 117   | 58% |      |                            |        |       |       |     |
| 133  | Annette Coombes      | 798    | 724   | 1573  | 46% |      |                            |        |       |       |     |
| 134  | Judy Driscoll        | 782    | 167.5 | 462   | 36% |      |                            |        |       |       |     |
| 135  | Anne Scatchard       | 767    | 351   | 688   | 51% |      |                            |        |       |       |     |
| 136  | Yvonne McLaughlan    | 762    | 497.5 | 1023  | 49% |      |                            |        |       |       |     |
| 137  | Maria Clinton        | 762    | 245   | 512   | 48% |      |                            |        |       |       |     |



*Anne-Louise Milne*



| Club                  | Club Contact               | Phone Number | Email                       | Meeting Day & Time         |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Christchurch (CHC)    | John Baird                 | 03 332 5996  | john@jbsoftware.com         | 12.30pm Wed<br>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-Fussell | 07 846 7422  | scrabilfuss@xtra.co.nz      | 1pm/7pm<br>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<br>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)         | Ngaire Kemp                | 06 754 4107  | ngairelynda.c@xtra.co.nz    | 1pm Wed                    |
| Wanganui (WAN)        | Rosemary Cleary            | 06 347 1837  | rosecleary@hotmail.com      | 1pm most Mon               |
| Wellington (WEL)      | Lynn Wood                  | 04 387 2581  | lynn.wood@state.co.nz       | 7pm Tues                   |
| Whangarei (WRE)       | Bev Edwards                | 09 430 2832  | bevholo@xtra.co.nz          | 1pm Thurs                  |

|                  |                                   |                             |  |
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