



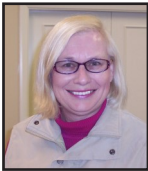
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# Editorial

## A Scrabblers' challenge

During Kiwi Club's recent promotion/demotion tournament, there were special prizes presented at the end of the tournament to the player who issued the highest number of challenges, and to the player who withstood the highest number of challenges. This was the first time I had kept a record of all the challenges made by and against me throughout a tournament, and it made me more aware of the dynamic of challenging in Scrabble.

As the tournament progressed, I was frankly astonished by the number of times my opponent would say something like "Ooh I don't know that word, but I won't challenge you because I'm sure you know it." This attitude strikes me as extraordinary for several reasons.

First, I can assure everyone who has ever, and will ever, play me that I do not have Zyzzyva programmed into my brain; nor is my name Nigella Richards. My word-knowledge is categorically not perfect, and I'm certain this describes the vast majority of Scrabblers. Second, what if a word that I'm uncertain about is going to give me considerably more points than one that I absolutely know to be correct? Surprise surprise, there's a very good chance I'll give the uncertain word a whirl, if I judge that it's not totally ridiculous (or even then I might try it anyway, because desperation is the progenitor of hope).

My point here is that there will be many many times when we have to play someone with a much more extensive word-knowledge. However, by being unwilling to challenge, we allow them to 'double-dip' on that greater word-knowledge. Not only do they get the advantage of simply knowing more words, they also get away with any phonies they might play, either due to a mistake (legend has it that even Nigel has played OT\* before) or because they're trying something on.

In relation to try-ons, I'm not suggesting that Scrabblers frequently play words that they know to be utter rubbish. However, I have a theory that the accuracy of our judgment about a word's ridiculousness decreases in inverse proportion to our opponent's unwillingness to challenge. In other words, the more reluctant our opponent is to challenge, the easier it is to convince ourselves that a word **might** be right.

So why exactly is it such a challenge for us to challenge, especially when faced with a person we perceive as being a more "wordy" opponent? It seems obvious that it's because we feel that there's a greater chance of giving away five points. However, consider a challenge that forces an opponent to remove a play that is worth, say, 20 points (and I'm being conservative here). We would have to challenge five correct words before they would gain more points from our challenges than they had been deprived of by that single missed turn.

While I do not have any statistics to back up my claims, my suspicion is that the numbers will invariably stack up in favour of challenging words that we are uncertain about, regardless of the calibre of our opponent.

Of course, there are times when careful calculation shows that it is better to refrain from challenging. For example, during the Kiwi tournament, I had a situation where my opponent played a word that I was absolutely certain was invalid. She scored 64 points from it, but she also gave me an opening to immediately follow with my bonus that was worth 96 points. By

leaving the invalid word on the board, I would score 32 points more than my opponent. Further, if the word was removed, then the most I could have scored was about 15 points.

So, yes, obviously there are times when it's better to keep a challenge to ourselves, but only if we gain a clear advantage from that decision. If we find ourselves refraining only because we're afraid to give away five points, then let's take a deep breath and challenge anyway. After all, what have we to lose by challenging and, more to the point, what has our opponent to gain if we do not?

## President's report

Two things have been exciting me recently with Scrabble. The first is the amount of press that NZ Scrabble received with Nigel Richards winning the French Scrabble champs, and the second is the introduction of CSW15. We look at the list of new words that has come in and balk at the thought of learning even some of them, but this pales in comparison to Nigel's feat of learning 300,000 new words to be able to play in Belgium.

It got me thinking about how many of the new words are French words. If I were to play in French, which words would I already know? I did a quick check of the new three-, four-, and five-letter words to see which were also French words. I came up with one three-letter word, three four-letter words and 12 five-letter words. Of course there are plenty more in the words we already use.

The new words and their meanings in French are shown in the table on the next page.



*Val Mills*

This was a good exercise for me, as for a start I had to type all the words into my French dictionary, and secondly it has helped my French vocab. I learnt French at school and did a year of it at Uni and though I have not done much since then I have recently started going to a French conversation class. Our patient French teacher Marie despairs of us when each week we turn up with our excuses for not doing our DEVOIRS (also an allowable French word). In her gorgeous accent she tells us, "By just coming to the class your French

CSW15 word	French meaning	CSW15 word	French meaning
CAL	callus	GARES	stations
CINQ	five	JURES	to swear (vf)
GRIS	grey	LOCHE	loach fish
TROU	hole	LUXER	to dislocate (vf)
ARCHI	architecture	MALUS	penalty
BOGUE	chestnut burr	RANGS	rows
FLANE	to stroll (vf)	SALUT	a greeting
FLEUR	flower	TUILE	roofing tile

will stay at its current level, but if you want to improve then you must do a little work!"

Isn't it just the same with trying to learn the new Scrabble words? For me, I work better with an incentive or a deadline, so with Perth coming up quickly it is spurring me on to do a little quizzing on Zyzzyva. Nothing systematic, just what takes my fancy - but it's got to be better than nothing.

So happy browsing of the new words, but most of all, enjoy playing them. I'm already wondering how we managed without NAV, VOG, and VOM.

*Amicalement\*,  
Val Mills*

*Editor's note: To read more about Nigel's triumph, see pages 14-17. To read more CSW15 words, see pages 10-13 and 32-34.*



*Association President Val Mills presents John Foster with his Life Membership award at the Tauranga tournament August 2015.*

# Word famous in New Zealand: Chris Handley



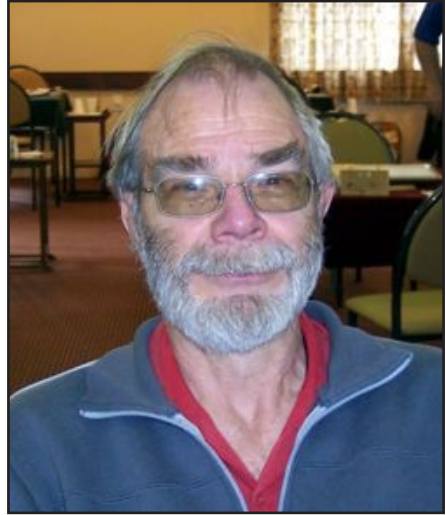
Name: Chris Handley  
Birthplace: Greytown, South Africa  
Current Residence: Dunedin  
Club affiliation: Dunedin (Secretary)  
Occupation: Retired (and loving it!)

## Could you please start by telling readers some basic facts about your life?

I was born in Greytown, a medium-sized country town (probably about the size of Balclutha) in the Midlands of Natal. I was the last of five children, born seven years after the fourth child in our family. I grew up on the 18,000 hectare family farm, roaming the plantations and cliffs. I have been married twice (my second wife and I have been together now for nearly 40 years) and I have four children, but only one grandchild.

## What did you do during your working life?

My first degrees were in Chemistry, but during my Honours year I learnt a very early version of FORTRAN (a computer programming language) for an early IBM computer. My interest in computers lead, early on, to several programming jobs in various SA companies. I didn't enter the academic profession until, at a friend's suggestion, I applied for and obtained a lecturing position in Business Data Processing at the recently formed "Indian" University (the University of Durban Westville).



(Remember that this was in Apartheid South Africa, so every major racial group had to have its own facilities.) This position was later expanded to become a fully-fledged department, offering degree courses in both Business Data Processing and the then very new discipline of Computer Science. I remained in academia, firstly moving to a nearby "white" university, and remained there (apart from sabbaticals) until I left SA for New Zealand to take up a lecturing position at the University of Otago.

## When and why did you move to New Zealand?

My second wife, Charlotte, and I, along with our two boys, moved to NZ in early 1989. We had long been aware of the evils of the Apartheid regime in SA and we didn't want to bring up our children in that

environment. We considered several different countries. The computer programming industry is extremely stressful so I wanted to go somewhere that would offer me an academic appointment. This ruled out the UK, the US, and Canada. Australia was a possibility but we were told that if we loved the west coast of Canada (which we did), then we would love NZ too. It was quite a wrench leaving family and friends, but when we look back at what our sons have achieved and where they are now, we realise that emigrating when we did was worth the pain. Plus, we loved NZ when we arrived and we still do.

### **You lived in Apartheid South Africa, can you tell us what that was like?**

I was born four years before the first National government in 1948, so much of the major Apartheid legislation was already in place. I grew up in an environment in which it was perfectly normal, for example, for there to be separate entrances for Whites and Non-whites in all government buildings and even some retail outlets. The realisation of just how unjust this system was crept up on me gradually, but I think that it was while at uni that the terrible implications of the Apartheid laws really struck home. Under various legislation, interracial marriages and relationships were a



criminal offence, and the races had to use different beaches, schools, hospitals, parks, and even park benches, with the facilities and services being much more inferior for Non-whites. In later years, the regime became out and out cruel as it sought to suppress those who protested against it. Protest violence included bombings and sabotage of public buildings (similar to the IRA), and the police often responded with violence and brutality in their turn. This was not what we wanted for our children.

### **You mention working on early computers, what was that like?**

Exciting, fascinating and frustrating, in almost equal measure. This was in the days of punched cards and paper tape, when computers were the size of an entire room, and attended by dedicated operators. I can remember



that one of the first “real” programs that I wrote almost filled the memory, so before I could add anything I had to delete something else. Most of the work I did in industry was on 32 and 64 kilobyte machines with a whopping(!) five megabytes of removable disc storage. To put this in context, my current smart phone (already several years old) contains several gigabytes of memory (a gigabyte is 1000 megabytes), so a phone that fits in my pocket is many, many orders of magnitude more powerful than those early machines.

### **Have you done much travelling?**

One of the perks of an academic life is that it allows for quite a bit of travel. I have visited or lived in British Columbia, the UK, US, Australia, Chile, Germany, Taiwan, the Netherlands, and Hawai'i. Most years we visit our son, daughter-in-law and grandson in London, sometimes going on to San Francisco to visit our other son.

### **How were you introduced to Scrabble?**

Someone gave my family one of the first Scrabble sets, the old ones with wooden tiles and a folding board. I think this was just before my sixth birthday. I still have that set, complete with some tiles that my dad had made to replace lost ones—not exactly legit for competitive play! Whenever I went home, my mum would challenge me to a game or

two of Scrabble and we kept a record of all the games.

I didn't play any Scrabble after moving here until after finishing my PhD in 1998. After graduation, my family asked what I was going to do in the evening, now that I didn't have a pile of journal articles to read. I found out about the Dunedin Scrabble Club, so I went along to see what it was all about. I remember getting soundly beaten, even in a dictionary game, but I improved and have been a member ever since.

### **What other hobbies or interests do you have?**

Tramping and rock climbing have been lifelong passions for me. I was introduced to rock climbing by my brother, and to tramping by a fellow student who invited me along on a mountain club trip. My university weekends were spent either on the crags or tramping in the Drakensberg, an escarpment that runs roughly north-south for 1000 km through SA.

Most of my climbing was purely for the fun of it, rather than to conquer





any major peaks. I have climbed some of the peaks in the Natal Drakensberg up to about 3000 metres, and I've even participated in first ascents of some minor peaks. I get an incredible rush getting off the top of a climb that has pushed me almost to the limit both physically and mentally. The rush is even greater when I'm opening a climb. There's just that thrill of knowing that no-one has ever touched those rocks before! I no longer climb, but still spend a lot of time tramping or just walking in the hills around Dunedin.

About 10 years ago I took up geocaching. In brief, this is an activity where someone hides a container containing, at minimum, a logbook (under a park bench, in a hole in a tree, etc) and then publishes the coordinates on the internet along with a brief description and perhaps some hints as to how to get there. The idea is to use a GPS receiver (or smart phone nowadays), travel to the place, locate the container and sign the logbook. Geocaching (a new word by the way), has taken me to many places that I would never have known about otherwise, ranging from fishermen's spots on the Otago



Peninsula, to the chancel of an 800-year-old church in a paddock in England. I've walked through an archway in Bruges expecting to find a house courtyard only to discover a beautiful park with a lake and mature trees.

### **What are your most memorable moments?**

Apart from watching the births of my last two children, other memorable moments include seeing lightning play in an isolated cloud; leading a multi-pitch grade 16 rock climb; watching the sunrise from 3000 metres up on top of a peak in the Drakensberg; and walking through an empty lava tube and a semi-active caldera on Hawai'i.

# The **BEAUTEST** list yet

*by Howard Warner, Independent*

Here is CSW15 at last — with LOTS of new words to suit the CLUIEST of Scrabblers. There are some that will make you go “EEEW” or “NYAH”, and others that will make you go “HMMM” or “LOLZ/LULZ”.

Basically, I have no argument with most new inclusions in the word list. My view has always been the bigger the list, the more ammunition we have to shoot down our opponents.

There are the usual legitimate sources of new words: food, culture, foreign languages (especially Canadian/Inuit), dialectal, abbreviations, colloquial (with a leaning towards American street slang), computers, sports, disease, and drugs. There are also many lexical ‘conversions’, that is, words that change from one part of speech to another and so acquire new endings. These include DOILIED, GUILTED, ELDESTS, FINESTS, BEAUTER, and LOVIEST.

There are plenty of words I’ve come across before in general usage and wondered if they’d ever make it into our lexicon. For instance, I’ve seen TASE (to use a taser), SOJU (a Korean vodka), VAPE (to smoke an electronic cigarette); plus EMOJI, EZINE, GETOUT, ROLLIE, AXELIKE, EARHOLE, ONESIES, PIANOLA, ABSEILER, BIOWASTE, DRIFTNET, GEOCACHE, just to name a few.

There are former duds people repeatedly played that are now legit. No, not OT\* or LE\*, sorry, but



*Howard Warner*

GOATIES, ENSUITE, WRISTED (I saw someone play this just the other day and they looked quite aggrieved when it came off), CHAINER, and TANGOES.

I note, though, quite a few oddities and inconsistencies:

- Why allow — finally! — GRR but not GRRR\* (along the lines of BRR and BRRR)? And similarly, why allow EEW and EEEW, but not EW\*, which is the spelling I’ve seen most often?
- PERC is given as a noun, short for PERCHLORIDE, a dry-cleaning chemical. Yet we’ve been using it as a verb, short for ‘percolate’, for decades.
- CAPRI is now allowed, where previously it was only allowed in

the plural (CAPRIS) meaning a pair of tapering trousers for women. Why have a word for a single trouser-leg?

- MUZAK is now allowed, where before we only had, inexplicably, MUZAKY. Along the same lines, SKED has been introduced and goes with the existing NONSKED, yet we still can't have NIMBY\* to go with NIMBYISM. Go figure!
- And here's an oddity of definition that amuses me—CRUISY (CRUISIER, CRUISIEST) is defined as "frequented by homosexuals looking for partners", but I'm sure it's far more commonly used by us Kiwis to mean 'laid-back'.

Some words are just plain spelling mistakes but obviously common enough to become accepted. These include DOGREL, TINSELY, PIXELATE and PIXILATE (even the original PIXILLATE has only come in with this dictionary update).

Some words have been pluralised incorrectly. For instance, JURES is given as the plural of JURE, meaning jurisprudence. In fact, JURE (also IURE) is an adverb meaning 'by right' or 'by law', so it shouldn't take a plural. The related noun is JUS, (plural is JURA), meaning a legal right.

PANDANIS is another example of a dodgy plural. There's no meaning given in the Initiation Kit, and I don't have access to dictionary definitions yet. But I do know that PANDANI is already the plural of PANDANUS (a tropical plant).

The new list also features some interesting word sets. For example, there are some speech-derived spellings, what I call 'lazy-speaker' words, such as LEGGO and LEMME for 'let's go' and 'let me', LOTSA and LOTTA for 'lots of' and 'a lot of', OUTA/OUTTA and OFFA for 'out of' and the Americanised 'off of'.

There are some words that came into an earlier edition of the word list, then went out, and are now back in again. Examples include WASM (an obsolete belief or out-of-fashion ISM), FREON (an aerosol propellant, used in fridges), OUNDIER/OUNDIEST, SCLATED, COPIABLE, CORAMINE, DEERHORN, LERNAEAN (but not the former LERNEAN\*), and TANAISTE.

Aussies will be happy. I know they have been agitating for ages for CORONIAL (meaning of the coroner) and CLUEY (meaning clued up), and now they get their wish. But we were not so lucky. The only new Kiwi words I can see are the ludicrous BEERSIES (a made-up word from a current TV ad, which will surely be forgotten in a few months) and the inelegant MUNTED popularised by Christchurch Mayor Bob Parker after the earthquake. Sadly JANDAL\* hasn't made it back in yet.

Word pairs, once they become common, tend to combine into a single compound word. We now have a handful of new ones to play with, including BEDREST, BEERMAT, DOGTAIL, FIGTREE, NETSURF, ROSEBED, SEAFOAM, CAKEHOLE (I was once very disappointed to get this challenged off), FURPIECE, GOREFEST, HANDLINE, MEATHOOK, RAINSUIT, and WASTEBIN.

There are lots of words that have gained a plural —S or —ES, including foreign words such as CHONS, LEVS, SOMONIS, FAGOTTOS; —ings words such as DININGS, MIXINGS, BATHINGS, REAPINGS; and words that were previously only adjectives such as SAUROIDS, NONMEATS, and INKJETS. And, in an interesting reverse twist, some foreign-derived words that previously had only an English plural regain their source-language plural form. An example is DEMOI, plural of DEMOS(ES) (meaning the people of an ancient Greek state).

Of course, there are all those txt-spk spellings that so enrage us pre-texting fogeys, but which have become popularised THANX to the youth-pampering, social-media-obsessed media.

Finally, there are two new alphagrams\*, sitting side by side on my new learning list, which yield synonyms we use all the time when talking about Scrabble: BDEGINO and BDENOSU. I'll leave it up to you to work out what those are.

## Of dictionaries and deletions and things

*by John Foster, Independent*

As one who has been playing competitive Scrabble for well over 30 years and who did not encounter a major dictionary revision for over a decade, I am more than a little bemused by the frequency and magnitude of recent revisions. I find it quite staggering to be faced with 6500 additional words only three years after the last revision.

We are all aware that this update has been spawned by a kneejerk reaction by Collins and/or WESPA to the new edition of OSPD. But why was it necessary to react with such haste? The Americans have always been out of step with the rest of the world, and will continue to be, so why would it have mattered if they were a little more out of step for a further two years until the next planned



*John Foster*

five-yearly update of CSW in 2017? Perhaps the uncertainty over the timing that has affected the NZASP and other national associations could have been avoided if there had been

a less hasty response to the American update.

Also, with more time to consider, the compilers may have had second thoughts about some of the more RIDIC new words. Take, for instance, XED. In what universe is X an allowable verb, and if it is, why do we not have XES\* and XING\*?

Others that I detest are LOLZ and LULZ. I have previously said that I would quit the game when texting terms were included, and a letter combination was deemed to be a word just because it was coined by some semi-literate teenager. I think that the compilers are sailing very close to the edge with these two. Of course, if it comes to the crunch, I will probably not quit, but will grit my teeth and carry on like I did during the years that PH\* was allowed. Although I hated the word, I did not hesitate to play it if it was to my advantage.

Now to my biggest aversion, which is deletions, particularly what I call revolving-door deletions. These are words that go out in one edition and

come back in later editions. Such deletions are due to differences of opinion between compilers, and they are often done on little more than a whim. They only serve to make our game more difficult. If you doubt that this happens, I ask you to look at the list of deletions we were given for CSW12. The number of deletions in that list is 203 and now, only three years later, 84 (41%) of those deletions have been reinstated. I rest my case.

I stress that I am not singling out Collins for this criticism. A similar number of deletions were made in the 1995 edition of Chambers, quite a number of which have since been reinstated, perhaps some to be again deleted. If I had my way, every budding dictionary compiler would be forced to read a book entitled *The Surgeon of Crowthorne*. In reading that book, they would learn to appreciate the huge effort by a large number of researchers over a period of decades that went into the original Oxford Dictionary. Those budding compilers might then be less frivolous in their word creation and deletion.



## **Nobody does it better**

*A father of six. A speech-language therapist. A Bunnings salesman. A gymnastics coach. Three deaf people. A retired postie. What do all these diverse people have in common? They are just a sample of my many acquaintances who wanted to share with me their excitement over the news that Nigel Richards, a New Zealander just like them (OK, maybe not so very much like them!) had won the French Scrabble championship.*

*Most people on the outside of the Scrabble scene couldn't care less when Nigel won the World Championships in English ... or when he did it again ... and again. But something about the switch to French suddenly caught people's imaginations, and they all came rushing to chat with the only Scrabble person they know: yours truly. I'm sure it was the same for you.*

*Now, at last, the New Zealand Scrabble community has received the media attention it has craved for so long. Journalists from major media corporations such as CNN, the BBC, and Al Jazeera, as well as numerous ones from New Zealand, reached out to Val and Liz to gain more insight into this enigmatic man.*

*Instead of reprinting any of those write-ups, which you have probably already seen anyway, we have chosen to share with our readers the perspective of a Scrabbler. Australian Andrew Fisher is another top-level player. He faced Nigel in the best-of-five final at the 2011 World Scrabble Championship in Warsaw. Mr. Fisher's in-depth report appeared in the September issue of Across the Board (the Australian Scrabble Association newsletter). We are grateful both to him for his generosity in allowing us to reproduce it here, as well as to the several people who drew our attention to the high calibre of his article.*

*Due to space constraints, some parts of Mr. Fisher's excellent analysis have been condensed or summarised by the Forwards editors.*

## **On Nigel (Part 1 of 2)**

*by Andrew Fisher, Australia*

How does Nigel do it? Specifically, how did he master the official French Scrabble dictionary (ODS) in the space of nine weeks, and then win their world championship without speaking any French beyond 'bonjour'? Well, it's hard to say. It's like Roger Federer deciding to take up badminton, and then winning the BWF world title a couple of months later.

I can only compare it with my own attempts to learn new words – I tend to have a pretty retentive memory, and I'm usually motivated enough to put in the study hours when needed. But on my third pass through the CSW15 additions I can still find myself



*Andrew Fisher*

stumped by alphagrams\* like CEEMOOR, AAGHSSTU and others (that's EMOCORE and GASTHAUS if you're wondering), when it seems that Nigel would just need to read them once. Stefan Fatsis of *Word Freak* fame has reported online how Nigel recalls words:

"Basically, what he does is, he looks at word lists and looks at dictionary pages ... he can conjure up the image of what he has seen. He told me that if he actually hears a word, it doesn't stick in his brain. But if he sees it once, that's enough for him to recall the image of it. I don't know if that's a photographic memory; I just think it's something that his brain chemistry allows him to do."

This is backed up by what the local organisers discovered after his triumph. Antoine Rousseau commented "We were all incredibly surprised. It's hard enough just to win the championship, but then to consider that he learned the whole French dictionary in nine weeks ... it's really incredible. Especially considering he can't speak French. To learn the words when you don't understand the meaning, to learn all the sequences of letters and their arrangements .... It's almost impossible." He had to adjust his play to the nuances of the French lexicon, the different letter-scores, probabilities and strategic objectives, while also coping with his debut at an event conducted in a language he does not speak.

When asked if there was a secret to learning the entire Gallic vocabulary so quickly, Nigel simply responded

"No. I just saw them and remembered them." His strategy is simply based on learning the words, but of course knowing them and finding them is a different matter.

Breaking it down, ODS6 contains 163,000 words of length 2-9, which is slightly more than CSW12's 157,000 (we are now up to 161,000 with CSW15). That may seem daunting, but in fact the entire lexicon up to 15 letters is derived from only 65,000 distinct root words; that's because every adjective can have several forms including gender and number markers, and every verb can have a myriad of different endings depending on person, tense and mood. The average number of variants on a specific word is about six per root entry in ODS, compared to only two per root entry in CSW, so it is less daunting, but still an almighty effort.

Nigel took part in several events in Louvain-la-Neuve, the first being the Open Classique, a six-round last chance qualifier/warmup which he won on 5-1 (though he had already qualified for the main event as the sole representative of New Zealand). 'Classique' describes the one-on-one play we are familiar with in the anglophone sphere, while Duplicate is the popular French variety whereby each player seeks the highest possible score using the same rack and board position.

Then came the Classique world championship itself, a 17-round swiss-paired event with a twenty-minute time limit, followed by a three-game final between the top two players. Nigel secured 14 wins to set himself up for

the final where he would face Gabonese player Schélick Ilagou Rekawe (2014's runner-up, notching 13 wins). After a narrow loss in the first game of the final, Nigel won the remaining two games, becoming the champion at his first attempt.

The website [www.ffsc.fr](http://www.ffsc.fr) describes the aftermath with the audience standing in acclamation, and the brief interview (conducted in English, of course) as follows:

"Nigel, are we really that bad, or are you just the best?"

"No, all these players are excellent."

"How long have you been studying the French word list?"

"Since the end of May."

"Do you have a particular technique for learning vocabulary?"

"No."

Nigel also took part in a four-game the Blitz event, played to traditional Duplicate style, but with a restricted time limit. He dominated the field in the first game with a perfect score including EBOUTERAI and the low-prob NASONNAI. When the players found that his first ever Duplicate game had been played to perfection, they rose to their feet in acclamation. Sadly, he erred in the remaining games mainly due to recording errors (e.g. not making a note of the intersecting plays), finishing mid-pack but still impressing the field.

Next up was the fearsome Défi Mondial, a knockout Duplicate event for 36 top players with ever-diminishing time controls in each round.



*Nigel Richards*

After a reasonably straightforward start, the fourth round draw scythed through the field, demanding an extremely difficult top find – using the rack EGHMTU?, players had to spend the blank and declare MUpHT(I) onto a floating I for 39 points. Nigel sailed through the test along with just six others.

Three rounds later was a super-blitz (20 seconds available), and the draw was CFLNOUV. From this unpromising rack Nigel found the astounding CHNOUF round an H for 28, the best possible play which nobody else had seen. However, it seems he made a mistake in recording it, and the arbiter was forced to eliminate him. This led to a crowd uproar and a suspension of play, with many of the audience demanding he be reinstated; two of the remaining contenders had found VULGO for 27 and were declared eligible to continue, but one of them quit in protest, thus terminating the contest prematurely and leaving the other as the technical winner.



Finally, Nigel participated in the seven-game Elite Duplicate, the flagship event of their championship played to normal time controls with the best players in the French-speaking world.

After three perfect rounds, in the fourth game Nigel took a penalty of five points for misrecording the coordinates of one of his plays, dropping him from joint first to joint second place. The new leader David Bovet was on minus one at this point. In game five, Nigel made his sole vocab error of the tournament, spotting EX for 44 instead of AXE for 47. David also dropped two points in this round. After game six, Nigel was in sole second at minus 8, David still minus 3 after both registered perfect rounds. Game seven was another perfect round for Nigel, but Bovet dropped a further four points by declaring PROVIENS instead of PIORNES. The game's last few racks

were played out amid high tension and excitement, but there were no further changes. The final outcome was a win for David Bovet on minus seven, with Nigel a mere point behind on minus eight.

To put this into perspective, the maximal number of points over 161 moves in seven games was 6,415, meaning Nigel found 99.95% of them. If it hadn't been for the technical penalty, he would have won the world duplicate event along with the classic at his first attempt. Now, in the world of Collins we train and play Scrabble differently, but how many 'tops' do you think you would find in the average game? And then, how many would you find in a foreign language after a few weeks of study? His achievement is breathtaking and quite historic.

*To be continued... Look out for Part Two of Mr. Fisher's report, to be published in the Summer edition of Forwards.*

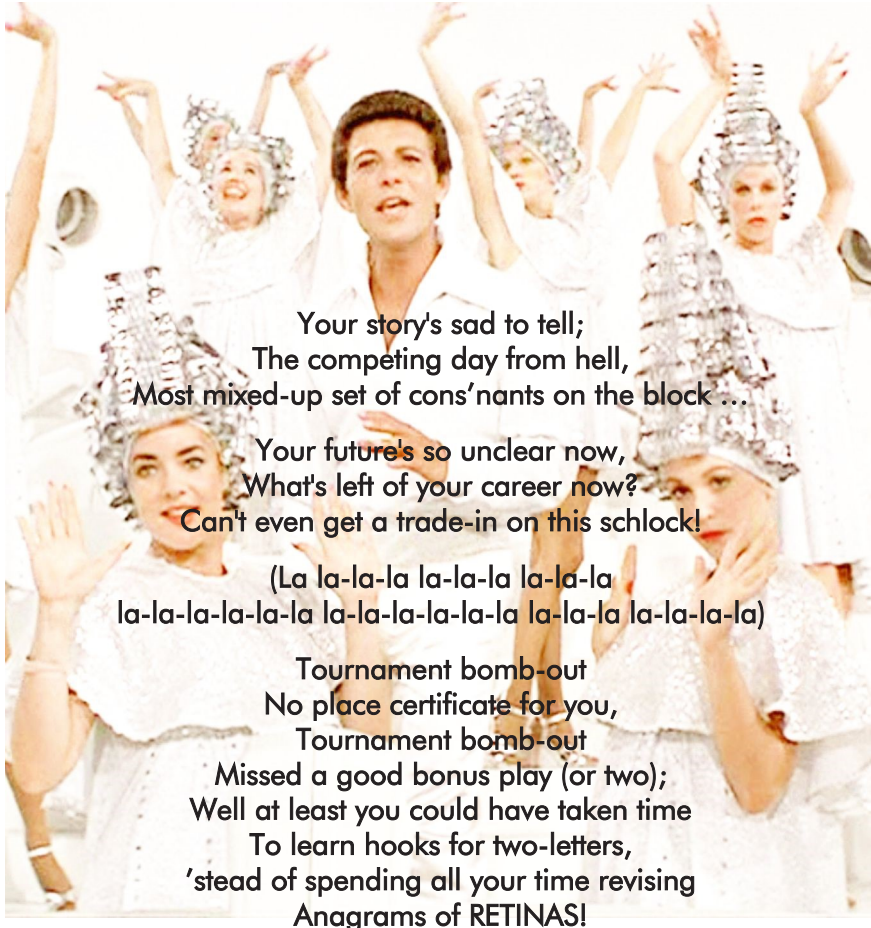


# Tournament bomb-out

A<sub>1</sub>

One of the CSW15 words I was most delighted to see included was FILK. This noun is defined in the Initiation Kit as “a type of popular music that parodies folk songs”. The word has been in usage (as both a noun and a verb, but we’re not allowed to play FILKED\* or FILKING\*, yet) amongst certain of my friends for many years. These friends have collectively (thanks, Facebook!) provided me the following definition of the word: “rewriting the words of an existing song (esp. a folk song) so that it is now about a different subject (esp. a fandom) for a humorous effect.” I suspect it could be a coinage from FILCH + FOLK.

So, to honour this simple word’s inclusion in our word list, I have penned a little ditty about an experience I think we all can identify with. Ladies and gentlemen, I offer you my first Scrabble FILK, to be sung to the tune of ‘Beauty School Dropout’ from the musical / movie *Grease*.



Your story's sad to tell;  
The competing day from hell,  
Most mixed-up set of cons'nants on the block ...

Your future's so unclear now,  
What's left of your career now?  
Can't even get a trade-in on this schlock!

(La la-la-la la-la-la la-la-la  
la-la-la-la-la-la la-la-la-la-la-la la-la-la la-la-la-la)

Tournament bomb-out  
No place certificate for you,  
Tournament bomb-out  
Missed a good bonus play (or two);  
Well at least you could have taken time  
To learn hooks for two-letters,  
'stead of spending all your time revising  
Anagrams of RETINAS!

Baby get moving (better get moving),  
Why keep your feeble hopes alive?  
What are you proving?  
(What are you doing?)  
You just played QI, but not INQUIRE!  
If you try to swap your tiles,  
It's like drawing from cesspools,  
Turn in your tracking sheets  
And go back to Quackle.

Tournament bomb-out  
Hanging around the sticker charts,  
Tournament bomb-out  
Even a half would be a start!  
Well we couldn't teach you anything,  
You thought you knew your word lists,  
But the way these games are going for you,  
You might as well play BIRDSHIT\*!

Baby don't sweat it (don't sweat it)  
You're not cut out to hold the top,  
Better forget it (forget it!)  
Now watch your rating take a drop.  
Now the tiles are squared, the score's declared,  
And still the world is cruel,  
Write off your entry fee  
And go back to Quackle.

Baby don't blow it,  
Don't put my good advice to shame,  
Baby you know it,  
Even dear Nigel'd say the same.  
Now your ranking's shot,  
you've lost the plot,  
I really gotta fly ...

... Gotta be throwing my  
results slips  
on the fire.



# Club news

## Our Tinny 10th Tournament

*by Suzanne Harding, Whangarei*

We started collecting empty tins back in May. The committee had previously discussed our upcoming tournament and when we realised it would be our 10th we wanted to make it special. Finding out that "tin" was the 10th Anniversary symbol was the inspiration for our Tinny 10th Tourney. Some members of our club looked at us rather strangely, but duly produced empty tins of various sizes. For several weeks I had an ever-growing quantity of tin-filled bags in my spare room. We all kept a lookout for "tinny" spot prizes, and by mid-June everything was falling into place. Cicely Bruce took care of all the printing and produced our book-style score sheets in coloured covers.

Bev Edwards and I became the "tinny" designers. Full marks to Bev for envisaging the tin screen suspended over the entrance to the main room of the Bridge Club. The pair of us spent several fun-filled hours putting it together, and were delighted with its gentle clanging and the visual effect. I created a "feature" from tins of varying sizes in the form of a sandcastle. We also used tins as sugar bowls, teaspoon holders, vases, etc.

A "canny pair", Frances Higham & Joan Beale of Papatoetoe caused much hilarity when they arrived in silver hats draped in shiny strips of foil. There was also a further surprise in store for a select few: Cicely had

taken it upon herself to check out how many people had been to all 10 of our tourneys. Liz Fagerlund, Shirley Martin, Bev Edwards, Margie Hurly and I were each presented with a bottle of wine.

I also asked Watties for posters featuring tins. Posters were not available but they very kindly sent us a carton of baked beans. Those cans meant that nobody at our Tinny 10th tournament went home empty-handed!

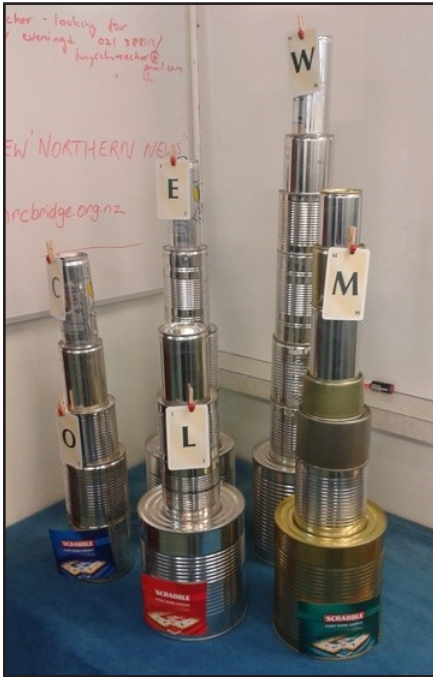
Joanne Morley (Rotorua) received the Warner Family Trophy for the most impressive newcomer. David Gunn (Waikato Phoenix) won the Gerald



*Joan Beale in her "tinny" headwear.*



*Bev Edwards delights in her dangly doorway.*



*Suzanne's sandcastle sculpture.*



*Joanne Morley accepts her trophy.*

*Photographs by Vivienne Ogden and Anderina McLean*



Warner prize for a nine-letter word: FORESTAYS. Our caterers received many accolades for the delicious lunches. Ever obliging, our club members provided home-produced goodies for morning and afternoon teas.

We are grateful to Murray Landon for allowing us the use of his scoring program, which as usual worked without a hitch. It enabled us to send the results to Steven Brown very quickly, and he very kindly produced rating changes in record time, even before we had circulated the results!

Thanks to all the team in Whangarei. Everyone helped in many different ways to make our tournament such a success. Special thanks too to all who travelled to Whangarei and were so supportive of our Tinny 10th Tourney.

## What a lot of Bulls

*by Lynne Butler, Wanganui*

It's indescriba-bull how much fun the Wanganui Club has when we meet up in Bulls for a day of Scrab-bull. A knowledgeable-bull bunch, several of us from Wanganui and Olivia from Palmerston North regularly converge on Jean Boyle's comforta-bull home for a day of fun, food and finding those play-a-bull words (some of which are challengea-bull).

The last trip was an undenia-bull treat. There had been a lot of snow, and the ranges were covered with plenty of the white stuff, shining brightly in the winter sun. Ruapehu looked remarka-bull dressed in a thick winter coat. What incredi-bull scenery on our 30-minute drive.

Jean, hospita-bull as always, welcomed us into her warm home with hot drinks at the ready. After a couple of games, we ate our delecta-bull BYO lunch and settled down very quickly for yet more Scrab-bull.

The atmosphere on these outings is always relaxed and amica-bull, the conversation is hilarious with Olivia regaling us with updates about her children's latest antics or mock flirting outrageously with me (I of course flirt back), Andree counting in incomprehensi-bull French, and all of us helping to mop up the blood as Mike and Denise try to kill each other over the Scrab-bull board. If we happen to be meeting during the school holidays, (which we were this time), Rosie adds her presence to the drama and the fun, and we all get to giggle hysterically at her mum-bulls

and grum-bulls, (even she cracks a cackle at herself).

All too soon it was time to go — Olivia to Palmy on the bus, and the rest of us back to Wanganui. An enjoya-bull day was had by all—no bull.

*Editor's note: As one of those lucky enough to belong to the Wanganui Club and as a regular attendee at these Bulls gatherings, I can attest that these Scrab-bull days are always full of friendship and laughter, outrageous jokes and terri-bull puns. We've actually had another gathering since Lynne wrote her above contribution. It was organised specifically so we could all practise using the CSW15 lexicon. To encourage us to do just that, a free challenge was allowed anytime that it was a new word being challenged. New words that got played that day included AIYEE, CRON, LUN, TREM, and WUZ, (me, for 55 points, against Lynne—a very proud moment) but personally I think that the prize for the best new word of the day had to go to Andree who played VOMITY against Jean.*

*Lynne also revealed her secret for learning and revising the new words. She has laminated the Initiation Kit and reads it while aqua-walking up and down the local pool. Ingenious! She gets to exercise her body and her mind simultaneously. Oh, and she assures us that laminated pages don't retain the smell of chlorine. Bonus!*

## A game of two halves?

*by Julia Schiller, Mt. Albert*

For Mt. Albert Scrabble Club's annual midwinter celebration at the end of July, we always like to do something a bit out of the ordinary. This year we played a variation in which the consonants and the vowels were each in separate bags, and players could choose how many tiles to draw from each bag in any given pickup.



and team for their narrow but deserved win. Next year we won't let you off so easily!

The Scrabble didn't end for Lawson, Shirley and me until about 2am – while watching the rugby, those two were playing Scrabble. With the noise they were making, I joined in too, and so beat Shirley (including a wonderful play of CURATIVE through a lone V), and got thrashed by Lawson.

Day two started with the news that one of the lower-grade players had dropped out, leaving us a player short again. This resulted in several minutes of trying to figure out how to handle the two byes this would create. Eventually it was decided that the bottom two grades, J and K, would have three players each. The day moved swiftly (or crawled) to a close, whereupon the prizes were given out, leaving me frantically trying to find out who had the highest losing and lowest winning scores.

## Driver's Drivel

*by Letty Keaton, Kiwi*

I love to look for Scrabble threes, mostly number plates,  
Though sometimes I will spot them on notice boards or gates.  
The other day while driving home, south of Whangarei,  
I had a perfect plethora of threes that came my way.  
First I passed a FEU, then FAN, a FAG and then a FEW,  
Followed by a GUN, a GAT, a FUG and then a GNU.  
In quick succession HAD, HAG, HEN, (all alphabetical),  
But then I saw a BOC and ERP, no good to me at all.  
A little group of people plates seemed to break the spell,  
YVIE\* came, then HENG\* arrived and PATTE'S one as well.  
After that I didn't see a single Scrabble word,  
Just acronyms, abbreviations, some of those absurd:  
Try-hard combinations that baffle you and me:  
I'm still unable to decipher BIZLLC.  
Then I reached the Harbour Bridge and had to concentrate,  
Stopping then my little game with other people's plates.

After I got home, I learned that I'd made one mistake in the scoring, resulting in a placing shuffle, but given the circumstances over the two days, one mistake seems but a small blip on the overall record.

Though the promotion/demotion format is fun, it is a bit finicky when something goes awry. We have a year before the next one to perhaps develop some regulations and workarounds for managing missing players (especially mid-tournament), so that the record-keeping, necessary for rating calculations, is better kept and understood. A suggestion for dealing with the missing player problem is to have a standby player or two to leap in to make up the numbers?

Whatever the outcome, I look forward to the next tournament. One of these days I'll get to play in another one ...



# My day as a Scrabble fluffer

by Lawson Sue, Pakuranga

*In mid-June, the Pakuranga Plaza hosted interested competitors for two one-day Scrabble tournaments. The mall liaised with Val Mills, who took registrations from both Association players and interested shoppers. Generous prizes in the form of shopping vouchers were provided by the Plaza, and no entry fee was required.*

*Congratulations to Patrick Carter, Pamela Glyn, Nick Cavenagh, and Junior Gesmundo for each topping their grades.*

The day started well with me being on time (for once!) to pick up my passenger. Who would have thought it would be her to delay the proceedings as she needed to find her shoes, brush her teeth, or whatever it was? Just as well I had built in an allowance for any delays. Despite all of that, and the Saturday morning traffic, we still got to the venue with at least three minutes to spare.

From the rooftop parking, Olivia and I descended through the shops to get to the designated area of Pakuranga Mall. Whilst weaving through a particular store, Olivia pipes up and says "Are we in Farmers?" Surprised and intrigued (because she was correct), I had to ask,



*Nearly-four-year-old Bronwyn McLean misinterprets "Mummy wants to take a picture of that sign for her magazine".*

"How did you know that?" She advises me that Farmers department store has a distinctive smell that she recognises.

I was not competing in this tourney, as I felt it would be

good to be available to assist both public inquiries and members of the public that had entered, plus it was good to have a spare body around if required. As it happened, there were some new public entrants that were either running late or had decided not to turn up, even though they had pre-registered and entered. I was therefore called upon to fill in, to make up even numbers.

My first opponent was a young schoolboy from within the area, who showed some promise but had yet to fully appreciate the art of parallel plays. Tips were offered and some second chances were given as encouragement. The mother of his mate (another competitor in the tournament) was later overheard telling somebody else that he was playing against the blind girl's (Olivia's) husband. Me, Olivia's husband? Please give me some credit! Is it because we are both Asian? Both Olivia and I agreed that she could do better and I could do taller, haha.

Later on we experienced slight computer/draw issues that Liz Fagerlund was required to attend to, even though she was competing. In stepped the fluffer. In order to keep within our advertised time schedule, Liz worked on the technical issue while I played Liz's opponent for this round.

This worked out well, minimising delays and ensuring that there were no byes in either grade.

Around late morning, there was a comical incident in which one seasoned competitor attempted to manoeuvre over a rope barrier and split his pants in the attempt. What a poor-taste way to attract new membership! Just as well there was a men's clothing store within the mall from which he could replace his trou, and he remained fully clothed for the remainder of the day.

I spent the rest of my day going around and observing play, offering guidance to the public entrants during their games, and talking to interested passersby. As it was quite taxing for members of the public entering their first Scrabble tournament to play six games in a day, there were drop-outs and drop-ins that we had to negotiate. If anyone is involved in running a tournament with public entrants in future, I would highly recommend

having at least one spare person around (we had Val Mills in addition to me) to fill in the gaps and deal with the changes that will inevitably happen. Be patient, totally flexible and most of all still have fun.

We all should be proactively engaged in spreading awareness of our beautiful game. While clubs may not have gained any new members from it yet, having a tourney run in a shopping mall and being in the public's faces cannot help but raise awareness. People are always attracted to something that looks like fun.

The joy seen on the faces of the public entrants and new casual friendships made is something to be experienced rather than just talked about. This was the best response we have had to date from players outside of our usual Scrabble scene. I am thrilled that both the established Scrabblers and new players all played their parts to promote the game. Board games are still cool!



What was my absolutely favourite part of the Pakuranga Mall tournament? I could buy an ice cream between every game! Fun day but not so good for my figure.

*Photographs by  
Lawson Sue and  
Anderina McLean*

*The "Shopaholics" grade in action in the mall during Sunday's tournament.*

# Fifty more reasons to never say “never”

In Forwards issue 119, John Foster reproduced an article headed “50 good reasons for spending Easter weekend looking up other people’s words”, featuring adjudications from the 12th NZ Masters tournament. In his introductory paragraph, John suggested that “such an article could not be written nowadays because the introduction of self-adjudication means that no records of challenges is kept”. Fee! Fie! Faugh! Foo! There is nothing our Zyzzyva cannot do! The following snippets, emulating the style of Sue McRae’s piece, highlight some of the allowable words challenged at the 2015 Whangarei tournament:

A meal of JAWARI or DURR, no matter how they TEMS it or REPLATE it, will leave you feeling



*jawari*

alternately ADRY and GULPY. The GLAMMED waitresses’ efforts to OUTSERVE each other by bringing extra KOLA and OOLONGS will only make you SAB. If only a RINDY AVO (gotta love that RINE!), or even some overcooked meat from the OUTDOERS’ STEWPOTS were available instead of these WANKY WHATS!

Shortly after being PLIGHTED and WIVED, you may find yourself UNDREST and ATINGLE, anticipating

TURNONS; or ABLINGS, if you are UNTONED and of a SHIER disposition, CAULDEST and all ASHIVER, foreseeing only DOGGERY and MOMI. Should you and your new spouse still require OWTS to do in the EVO, consider going out for a VIBEY BOOGY.

HONG on to your KEPI, WARING the SHEITAN lest it INHEARSE your BRU. Seek refuge in an ANNEXE of the HUGY MINSTER, where you may be able to OUTPRAY your enemy. If this experience ATHEISES you, WENA could alternatively set a TRAPLINE or lay some ETHIONS FORBY the ROSIERES.



*kepi*

*Thank you to Su Walker of Mt. Albert Club, who not only cheerfully brings her laptop to many tournaments to be used for adjudication purposes, but also allowed me to plunder her files so I could write this article.*

*For those who would like to know how a record of challenges can be found:*

- open Zyzzyva and go to the Preferences tab;
- select “Word Judge” from the left-hand menu;
- verify that “save judge results to log files” is ticked (this appears to be the default setting);
- below that, the “Log directory” gives the file path to where on that computer the records are being stored.

# Hall of Fame

*by Jennifer Smith, Kiwi*

Good even, good people. (That's a common greeting in the era in which I lived.)

You could say, "Good morrow, Thomas" to me in reply, since Thomas is my name.

I was a notable English executioner from the Elizabethan era. In days gone by in England, 'executioner' was not a commonly-chosen career path because of the risk of friends and families of the people we put to death finding out who we were and where we lived. Obviously, we were not very popular with them, and they often sought to take their grief out on us. It was rather a case of shooting the messenger.

Because of the dangers of our profession, executioners were often coerced into the role. Take me, for example. Becoming an executioner was not an aspiration of mine. However, I found myself convicted of rape (I shall neither confirm nor deny that charge at this late date). I was then pardoned and acquitted of the death penalty by Robert Devereux, the Earl of Essex and the Queen's favourite at the time. Apparently, applications for the role of executioner were not very forthcoming, so my pardon was conditional on me becoming an executioner at Tyburn.

When I first came to the job there, they used the old-fashioned rope-over-the-beam method. To me this seemed terribly inefficient, not to mention that it required a great deal more physical

effort. So, for the hangings I performed, I devised a beam with a lift and pulley system ... much more professional I say!

In case you haven't worked it out yet, let me introduce myself properly ... Thomas Derrick at your service.

I am proud to say that my little invention became so well-known that DERRICK became the eponym for the frame from which the hangman's noose was supported. Through that usage (by analogy) it also became the word used for your modern-day cranes. A modern-day DERRICK is a towerlike device for lifting and lowering heavy loads. It is commonly used in docks and onboard ships, or often on oil rigs. Some large DERRICKS are



*derrick*

mounted on dedicated vessels, and are often known as “floating derricks”.

Interesting?

“In small measure,” I hear you say. But you’ll remember my name better when I share this fascinating little fact with you: I likely executed more than 3,000 people in my career. Included amongst them was the Earl of Essex himself, the very man who pardoned me and pressed me into the role of executioner. Sadly for the Earl, he was found guilty of treason and thus it was that, on 25 February 1601, it became necessary for him to personally test out my professional skills.

I can already hear you marvelling at that irony, but consider this additional one: because the Earl was an aristocrat, he was allowed to be executed by simple beheading. This form of execution was considered to be the least painful, and much more dignified than hanging, which was reserved for the lower classes. I was much less skilled as a headsman, so it took me three blows of the axe before I successfully shortened the fellow. Now, if his blood had not been so blue, he could have experienced my DERRICK for himself. My invention would have given him a swifter and more efficient dispatch I’m sure!

Remember me when you play DERRICK or DERRICKS. And note that you can extend DERRICK with -ED or -ING.



*Earl of Essex*

## Doctor in the house?

*by Howard Warner, Independent*

At the recent NSW Winter Masters in Sydney (a WESPA-rated tournament), event founder Ivor Zetler, a GP, offered a \$200 prize for the best medical word. It was awarded to Alastair Richards – soon to be a doctor himself – who played not one but four medical words: ECTASIA, DYSURIES, ULCEROUS, and MEDICAL itself. Other contenders were ORECTIVE, ANEURISM, TINCTURE, MEDICOS, URAEMIAS, RELAXINS and ENZYMIC.

For the record, our Joanne Craig came second to Esther Perrins and just ahead of Mythili Rudra — possibly the first time women have taken out the top three places in a major tournament in Australia (incidentally, Mythili is also a doctor).

# Judgment and decision-making in Scrabble:

Not as straightforward as we think

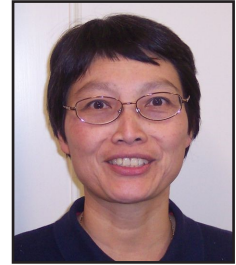
by *Selena Chan, Christchurch*

As part of my ongoing professional development, I recently completed a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) to better understand how we learn. The nine-week course was on the topic of neuroeconomics run by the Higher School of Economics, which is part of the National Research University located in Moscow.

Neuroeconomics is an interdisciplinary field to introduce aspects of psychology and neuroscience into rationalist economics. Economists use various theories to work out how decisions are made, and adopt a view that all decisions are based on full information, clear thinking, and linear processes. However, in humans, decision-making is rarely that clearcut. Although our brains are often likened to computers, the human brain (being organic) is far more complex and works very differently from electronic devices.

Neuroeconomists have started to unravel what takes place in our brains when we make decisions, though bear in mind that the technology behind brain scans and the science of deciphering brain activity is still very young. As usual, there are many contributors to decision-making processes. Some of these include our senses, hormones, and biochemical messages. Additionally, the brain can only work with what it already 'knows'. Hence, our decisions are

subconsciously coloured by things like past experiences, emotions, and other biochemicals. We might think that our decisions are quite logical, but they are actually often very subjective.



*Selena Chan*

So how does all this apply to Scrabble? Clearly, when we play Scrabble, we are constantly assessing information, evaluating outcomes, and making decisions. We make decisions about which letters to play and which to keep, whether to open or close the board, whether to try a word we're uncertain of, whether to challenge an opponent's play. These decisions are not always purely logical. For example, when we're deciding what letters to play, we'll often be reluctant to play our ess even if it's logical to do so for the sake of rack balance and tile turnover. This is because past lessons have told us that esses can be useful for bonuses and we can't bring ourselves to "waste" them. Similarly, when we make decisions about whether or not to challenge a play, we often base this on "illogical" considerations such as our perception of our opponent's comparative skill level, and how many times we've already challenged incorrectly that day.

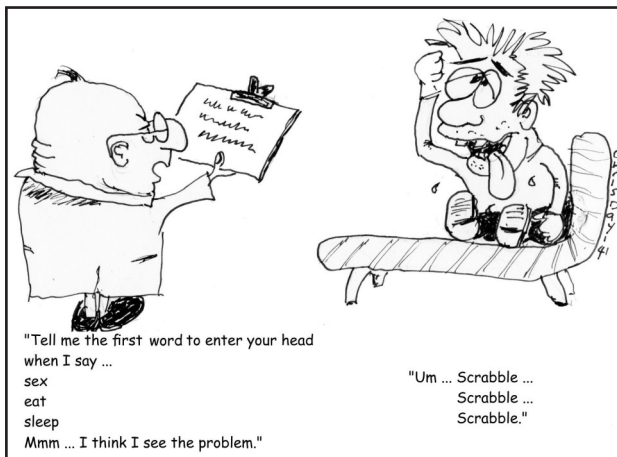
Things become even more interesting when we make decisions about whether or not to play a word that we're uncertain about. This is where our behaviours around risk-taking impact upon our Scrabble play. When assessing risk, humans tend to be risk-averse if we see a gain, but risk-seeking when faced with a loss! Small probabilities are over-weighted, while large probabilities under-weighted. Therefore, we will gamble on an outcome when faced with a losing proposition whereas, if we perceive a sure win, we are conservative. In Scrabble, for instance, this means that we will often try out bonus words near the end of a game that we are losing, as we have 'nothing to lose', but, if we are already winning, then we are likely to refrain from trying an uncertain word in order to gain a sure win.

What all this tells us is that decision-making in Scrabble is a complex business, and it pays to be aware of some of the factors that are influencing our thinking and decision-making, because they may be colouring our judgment to the point that our

decisions are not as optimal as they could be. Try to analyse how you feel when faced with particular choices. Do you find yourself playing too many turns using only six tiles on your rack because you're so reluctant to play your ess in anything less than a bonus? Do you find yourself basing your decision whether or not to challenge on your perception about the comparative expertise of your opponent rather than considerations about whether that word is possible given your knowledge of how the English language and spelling works? In short, if you want to improve your Scrabble-playing, it might help to think about your thinking.

If you are interested in finding out more about neuroeconomics and decision-making, the link to the MOOC I mentioned is <https://www.coursera.org/course/neuroec>

*[Editor's note: NEUROECONOMICS is NOT an allowable Scrabble word (and nor is its derivative: -IST/S), but it was too disruptive to the reading of the article to annotate each instance of the word accordingly.]*



*Cartoon by Chris Day, Tauranga*

Forwards Spring 2015

# The adventures of a calorie-restricted cruciverbalist

O<sub>1</sub>

A story utilising all 31 new three-letter words from CSW15

We first met at a newly-opened CAF (in my day we called it a café or cafeteria) called the Low-CAL Watering Hole. I spotted it on my way home from the RYU, a Japanese school of martial arts that I had been attending for a couple of years. Since my instructor had recently suggested that I decrease my calorie intake, I was struck by both the CAF's punny name, and its claim that all food served would be 98% fat-free.

Despite the pouring rain and roaring southerly, I was sufficiently intrigued to stop my car and make a dash for the LUN of the building (I recently learned that LUN is another word for a lee), and peered inside. I beheld a room decorated in an unapologetically rustic style. The counter and tables were all made of rough-hewn timber with the odd NUG still evident here and there. A NUG is a chunk of wood usually sawn off a log, but this furniture was obviously unacquainted with niceties such as sandpaper.

Perusing the menu, I noticed that it, too, seemed esoteric. It listed unconventional selections such as spiced YAS in a honey-sweetened fruit jus (the blurb explained that YAS are Asian pears — "EEW", as my daughter would say.) The DUM tofu balls stuffed with AJI and served with a side of green salad looked reasonable though. I knew that DUM meant that the tofu was steamed, but I had to ask what AJI was. I stepped inside. The waitress informed me that AJI was a kind of

spicy pepper. Although I would really have preferred a generous serving of SEV with tamarind sauce (my favourite deep-fried Indian snack, and a calorific no-no), I tried to appear enthusiastic as I ordered the DUM tofu along with a trim hot chocolate.



*SEV*

"Oh, sorry," I was told, "hot chocolate has been XED."

"XED?" I asked, puzzled.

"I mean, we've deleted it from the menu, because there's no way to make hot chocolate 98% fat-free. Would you like one of our herbal tisanes instead?" Grudgingly, I ordered a peppermint tea.

Looking around, I discovered that there were no empty tables. The CAF was surprisingly packed, given its specialist nature. Either half of Palmerston North was dieting like me, or sensibly-eating folk had crossed over to the dark side for today. The only spare seat I could see was at a table already occupied by two other women.

"Excuse me, do you mind if I join you?" I asked a little awkwardly.

Looking up, one of the women beamed at me and replied, "SHO thang, honey."



"She means 'Sure thing'," said the other woman, smiling at me too. "Pattie-Lou is fresh off the boat from South Carolina. They insert extra syllables into every word down there," she teased her friend.

Immediately set at ease, I sat down.

"How long have you been in New Zealand?" I asked Pattie-Lou.

"I've been visiting Sophie here for just over a week now. We haven't seen each other in over a decade, not since we met on that volunteer program in Indonesia. What was that ORG we were with, Soph?"

"The organisation was called Latitude. It gets volunteers to communities that need some help to get back on their feet. We were on this island that had been ravaged by a volcanic eruption. Do you remember the VOG, Pattie-Lou?"

"Bet YER life I SHO do!" said Pattie-Lou emphatically.

I grinned as I managed to insert a question into their fond reminiscence. "What's VOG?"

"Oh," said Sophie, "it's air pollution caused by volcanic dust."

"YEZ! It WUZ incredible!" chipped in Pattie-Lou (I gathered she meant "yes" and "was" but I kid you not, that's how she spoke). "It WUZ so thick out you had to wear a mask just to go outside for a WAZ."

"She means a pee," giggled Sophie, elbowing her friend fondly in the ribs. "And you had to be so careful with your PAK - I mean your backpack - because



*"I'd like a garden salad, some fresh fruit and a slice of tofu carefully arranged to look like a cheeseburger, shake and fries."*

the dust would get through everything in no time."

Just then our food arrived. Much to my delight, my dish actually looked quite appetising and I dug in enthusiastically.

"MMM, that looks amazing!" said Pattie-Lou a bit enviously. I noticed that she had taken her chances on the YAS. "Soph, I think we're gonna have to stop by a DEP on the way home so I can buy some real food. All this goody-goody food makes me wanna VOM!"

Seeing the TIZ I was in, Sophie was quick to allay my evident confusion. "A DEP is what Pattie-Lou calls a convenience store, rather like a dairy, and she means that food that is actually beneficial for her health makes her want to vomit." Turning back to her friend, she continued, "Go on, P, just give them a try. I had to try this place out so I could add some authenticity to that food blog I'm writing."

“Oh, are you still doing that? I thought you packed it in after that silly tart started the NYM war with you.” This one was more familiar to me. From my own internet-based work, I knew they were talking about a dispute over who has the right to publish material on the internet under a fictitious name.

“GRR!” said Sophie crossly, “I can’t believe she’s claiming that she’s been writing that blog all along. I’ve been researching recipes for that thing for years.”

“Never mind, honey,” Pattie-Lou consoled her, “as my OMA would say, some folks’ll claim that they invented God, but no-one believes ‘em.” Turning to me, she elaborated, “My grandparents were German, so we always called my grandpa ‘OPA’, and my grandma ‘OMA’.”

“So what is it that you do?” asked Sophie, in an attempt to turn the conversation away from a subject that annoyed her.

“Well, I’m a computer programmer specialising in online gaming,” I explained “but I also moonlight as a crossword composer for the local paper.” Both women stared at me in astonishment.

“Online gaming!” said Pattie-Lou at the same time that Sophie exclaimed “Crosswords!” “What a very interesting combination,” Sophie went on.

“My brother plays Call of Duty. He’s always online, and always saying that he’s going to PWN so-and-so, whatever that means,” Pattie-Lou put in.

“PWN means to dominate or humiliate your opponent,” I explained, pleased to be the one providing the meaning of a word for a change. “And, yes, Call of Duty is one example of an online game, though I actually specialise in games for under-10s. Those games tend to emphasise cooperation, so it’s not really appropriate to PWN each other.”

“And what about your crossword writing, do you specialise in a particular kind?” asked Sophie.

“Well, I prefer to write cryptic crosswords, but I can throw together a themed crossword in a couple of minutes when the paper wants it.”

“What sorts of themes?”

“Well, being a computer programmer, I’ve been asked to do digital-themed crosswords before. I like to spotlight the more obscure computing terms, like SIG and FOO.”

“What on earth is a SIG and a FOO?”

“A SIG is the short personalised message some people put at the end of their emails, like when the last line after their sign-off says ‘Please consider the environment before printing’. And a FOO is a name for a temporary

N	Y	M		S	H	O
A		M	O	I		R
V	O	M		G	A	G
	P				J	
C	A	L			I	
A		U	T	E		W
F	U	N		E		U
				W	A	Z

computer file or variable." I stopped, seeing that I had lost them with that last definition.

After a slight pause, Sophie asked about my cryptic crosswords. "They must take ages. I look at them sometimes and I can never work out how on earth to solve them."

"Well, they require a bit more thought, but I'm constantly on the lookout for words that would make good cryptic clues. Like the other day, I noticed that NAV is now being used as a short word for navigation, and I came up with a clue that I'll put into my next cryptic: *Turn van around, that's the way to find where you're going.*"

"Oh, I see! So when you read the letters of van in reverse, you get the word NAV which means finding your destination!" exclaimed Pattie-Lou.

"Pretty easy, huh?"

They both looked at me uncertainly. "Only when someone actually explains it," Sophie replied. "I think Pattie-Lou and I might just stick to Scrabble. You don't always have to know the meanings of your words for that."

"Really? You play Scrabble? Real Scrabble?" I exclaimed excitedly. "So do I!"

"Oh, we've played online together for years. It's the best game ever invented!" enthused Sophie.

"And, YEZ, real Scrabble—I use Collins even though I'm American!" explained Pattie-Lou ... and that was the beginning of a beautiful friendship.

## Ask Liz

### A reader asks:

Am I under any obligation to answer truthfully, or to answer at all, if my opponent asks me what letters I have played so that they can tile track?



*Liz Fagerlund*

I have experienced several situations in which my opponent has asked me to declare which letters I have placed on the board during a particular move. For example, my opponent might ask "Did you play the E and the I?" Invariably, they become irritated if I do not provide an answer, or if my answer is indirect or enigmatic.

### Liz replies:

A player normally shouldn't have to ask what tiles you have played. Occasionally, however, a player might be concentrating so hard on their own rack that they fail to notice their opponent's move straight away. Their question about what letters their opponent has played may be an attempt to ascertain whereabouts on the board the move has been made. If you can clearly see that your opponent was concentrating on their own tiles and genuinely did not notice where you placed your tiles, then I would consider it unethical and unnecessary to tell them to look around the board until they find your play!

If you are asked something like "Did you play the E and I?" but you do not wish to answer directly, it would be fair for you to simply indicate the word that you played, and its placement on the board. Presumably the clock of the player asking for information will be running, so quickly indicating where you have played your move should not disadvantage you time-wise. I would consider that deliberately responding with incorrect information is unethical.

# Relaxing among the fenceflies\*

by Howard Warner, *Independent*

I've recently returned from Thailand, where I played in a couple of tournaments in Bangkok before chilling out on the island of Koh Samed. In a country where little English is spoken, I noted some interesting uses of our language.

The first week, I saw little of Bangkok apart from the giant mall where I played Scrabble for seven days straight. The first day, during the World Seniors Champs, I noticed an elegant woman walk past. She was wearing a stylish summer frock — inscribed on it, in big bold letters, were the words F—K YOU (but fully spelt out). I was quite taken aback. Then I learned that Thailand's premier labels often carry rather dodgy inscriptions in English — this wearer was probably blissfully unaware of what message she was proclaiming to the world.

The tournament was played against a background of continual syrupy muzak, which all sounded much the same. Eventually I did make out one song: Royals by New Zealand's own teen pop idol Lorde. (I wonder if her agents know about this...)

Every day I tried a different eating establishment in the mall: the range of cuisines was stunning. However, I carefully avoided the Korean eatery called 'Ick' and the Japanese restaurant 'Semen'.

The King's Cup (the tournament that Nigel pretty much owns) was shifted to an aircraft hangar-sized room in another part of the mall. Surrounding

us were thousands of school kids — the largest number of players I've ever seen in one place. I won't bore you with the details of Nigel's inevitable domination of the field, but one odd play deserves a mention. Former world champion Pakorn Nemitrmansuk had just returned to the game after a couple of years' break to focus on his architecture business. He played the formerly allowable JANDAL\*, and looked bemused when it was challenged off. (Someone should give him the jandal for overlooking that CSW12 deletion — especially given all the fuss we made in New Zealand.)

On Koh Samed, signs and menu items provided a few good giggles. There was a sign outside a local hotel reading 'ROOM FOR LENT' (presumably a cross between 'Room to let' and 'Room for rent'). It had a biblical ring, though Easter is long past.

The dish 'Paper Salad with Blue Crap' failed to entice me, until I realised it was 'papaya' and 'crab' — two ingredients of which I'm rather fond. I was also amused by 'Roti Pancake with Oval Martin' (Ovaltine), intrigued by 'Stir the Sea Clutter' (something like stir-fried seafood combo?), and repelled by 'Fenceflies' (which turned out to be harmless French fries).

I know it's unfair of me to poke fun at the Thais' use of English, given that I speak no word of their language. But that's one of the joys of travel — aside from playing yet more Scrabble!

# An ABC of unusual bonus animals

by Jennifer Smith, Kiwi

*\*Note: All except one pluralise normally.*

## A is for AUROCHS

An extinct wild ox  
Its horns were too big  
To fit inside a box  
Not so long ago  
The last one went to heaven  
It died in Poland  
In 1627.

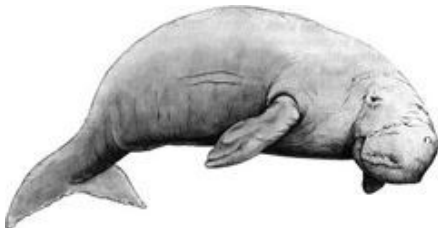
## B is for BORZOI

Which means very fast  
It's a type of wolfhound  
With a distant Russian past.

## C is for COLOBUS

Black and white, and cute  
A monkey of Africa  
Where it eats seed and shoot  
With manners so sloppy  
It helps plants take root.  
(Nothing to do  
With the explorer, Chris,  
Tho' it looks like his name  
With the M gone amiss!)

It's a sort of manatee  
Is **D** is for **DUGONG**  
If you think it's unique  
You're surely not wrong  
It's the only mammal  
That's a marine herbivore –



*Dugong*

All other manatee  
Need fresh water galore.

The creature's common  
The name is strange  
See if you can play  
This word for a change

## E is for ERGATE

An ant that's a worker  
Always busy  
Never a shirker.

## F is for FILARIA

A parasitic worm –  
Can make you feel yukkier  
Than any virus or germ –  
'Specially if you take  
A wild guess  
And try to pluralise  
By adding an S!

## G is for GUANACO

A rellie of the llama  
Found in South America  
From Chile to Pan-áma.

## H is for HOATZIN

(Great extension for ZIN!),  
A tropical bird –  
South America, it's in.  
And its young have  
A most curious thing  
Claws on the end  
Of their juvenile wing.

Six feet long  
With wicked tails  
Strong jaws, sharp teeth  
And scratchy nails

## I is for IGUANA

Lizards of America Central

But you better watch out –  
They can be quite temperamental!

**J** is for **JERBOA**

What to think about that?  
It sounds quite romantic  
But it's really just a rat  
That lives in the desert  
Its long ears have fuzz  
– And J is for Jumping  
'Cos that's what it does.

**K** is for **KOUPREY**

I have a vague idea  
It's a big wild ox  
In Cambodia somewhere.

It sounds lazy  
And full of languor  
But it's a leaping monkey

Is **L** for **LANGUR**

Black-faced, pesky  
And very jolly  
Some live in India  
Where they're considered holy.

**M** is for **MUNTJAC**

The oldest known deer  
From Asia, but now common  
In England where  
You'll see the small things  
In forest and park  
Or perhaps even hear them –  
Weirdly, they bark!

**N** is for **NUMBAT**

Dying out in West Oz;  
(Aussies are stupid  
We know that because  
They call it a numbat  
And a bat it is not! –  
It's a marsupial that eats  
Termites a lot.)

Monkeys usually have  
Very good looks  
But one contradicts

What you've seen in your books  
It's found on many  
An Amazon trail  
It's skinny and has  
A very short tail  
Though hairy in general  
His head is quite bald  
**O** for **OOUAKARI**  
Is what it is called.



*Oouakari*

**P** is for **PECCARY**

A tropical sort of pig  
With hoof and snout  
And eyes far from big  
America provides  
Their diet there  
Grass, seeds and cactus  
It loves prickly pear!

People want this parrot  
Yellow and gray  
It's pretty and talkative  
And friendly, so they  
Try to smuggle it  
In their cabin carry-on  
This Aussie parrot is  
**Q** is for **QUARRION**.

**R** is for **RORQUAL**

Gigantic baleen whales  
They have a pleated mouth  
(Even the males)  
Which allows them to eat  
In one great big gulp

They like their fish  
In bulk, not as pulp!

**S** is for **SERIEMA**

A Brazilian bird  
With legs red or black –  
That's what I've heard.

**T** is for **TANREC**

Madagascar's its home  
It feeds on insects  
On its nighttime roam  
This hedgehog is usually  
A buff sort of yellow  
And five inches long –  
Just a little fellow.



*Tanrec*

**U** for **UAKARI**:

If you can't remember  
See under O, or we'll be here  
'Til December!

**V** is for **VICUNA**

Throughout Chile you'll see,  
Likes living in the Andes  
Not near the sea.  
Its wool a huge price –  
Shorn just one year in three –  
By Inca law, for royal folk  
Not for you and me.

**W** is for **WIDGEON**

A fresh water duck  
It rhymes with PIDGEON  
And will bring you good luck.

I thought I'd never find  
A creature starting with X  
But it didn't take too long  
And it wasn't even complex  
I've found a special one  
It's X for **XENOPUS**  
A frog in Africa, I believe,  
Not a rellie of octopus!



*Xenopus*

*(Also the armadillo, XENURINE  
Or XERUS, an African frog –  
But I didn't want to show off  
By going the whole damn hog!)*

**Y** is for **YAPOCK**

A South American opossum  
It doesn't live in gum trees  
Or fruit trees bearing blossom  
No, it likes to live near water  
'Cos it's an aquatic possum.  
(For an extra treat  
It's got webbed hind feet!)

And last but not least  
Is our Z-starting beast –

**Z** is for **ZONURE**

A little South African lizard  
It likes a sunny rocky place  
And wouldn't survive a blizzard.

# Mailbox

Chris Handley from Dunedin writes in response to the "Beautiful Words" list featured in the last issue (see pp. 33-34 of Issue 119):

I loved Vicky's list of 'beautiful words', but have to take exception to her definition of PROPINQUITY. Dictionary.com lists the meanings as:

1. nearness in place; proximity.
2. nearness of relation; kinship.
3. affinity of nature; similarity.
4. nearness in time.

This accords with my understanding.

*Ed note: In fairness to Vicky Robertson who put us onto the "Beautiful Words" list, she simply sent us a link. She didn't actually collate the list or specify the definitions.*

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It's always exciting to hear about new Scrabble initiatives and events, so it is with delight that we reproduce the following message sent by Clare Wall to the NZ Scrabble List:

Inspired by the Auckland initiative, and some overseas groups we've heard about, we're starting pub Scrabble events in Wellington. We had one successful evening last month. We hope to make these a regular event, perhaps monthly to start with and then see where it goes. We're organising and advertising the events through the Meetup website. Meetup is free to join and has some great tools for managing social groups. If you're coming to Wellington, check out the Meetup site to see if there's a pub Scrabble night on while you're here.



We'd love to have out of town visitors!

*Ed note: The link for the Meetup website mentioned in Clare's message is [www.meetup.com/WellingtonOnBoard](http://www.meetup.com/WellingtonOnBoard)*

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Val Mills tells us of another interesting Scrabble event that took place in July:

Earlier this year the NZASP was approached by the organisers of the Junior MindGames Competitions to see if we would like to be involved in organising the 'Scrabble' content for that event. Anderina and I met with the organisers, and all was going well until they decided to postpone the event and change the venue. So, instead of being held in Auckland during ANZAC weekend, the event was held in Hamilton from 3-5 July. The organisers wanted their competition to coincide with a MindGames conference being held there that weekend. Since these dates encompassed the weekend of the Whangarei tournament, it was very fortunate that the Scrabble event was scheduled for Friday 3 July. This was not very convenient for Anderina as it was a work day but, as it happened, I already had leave planned for that day so it worked out that I was able to be involved.

The MindGames organisers were very keen for a young NZ player to play in the competition in order to showcase Scrabble. Thank you to Alex Leckie-Zaharic and his mum Tracie, who went out of their way to travel from Dunedin so that Alex could perform that role.



I picked them up on Friday morning and, along with my granddaughter who was over from Oz, we all headed down to Jennifer Smith's place in Hamilton. She had kindly made her house available to Tracie and Alex to stay in, even though she had already left to head up north for the Whangarei tourney.

We got to the venue, the Performing Arts Centre at Waikato Uni, armed with all the boards, clocks and other Scrabble gear that we could carry. We had been told that there could be up to 20 kids playing, but in the end there were only 12, which dwindled down to 10 as some kids dropped out after realising that they were expected to play for the whole six games.

The kids' ability ranged from Alex (who has had both international and national competition experience) to kids who hadn't ever played before. One teacher brought four children down from Roscommon School in South Auckland, there were two more from Auckland, and one from Hamilton. All were keen as mustard,

but their inexperience was such that Tracie and I were kept busy making sure that they were scoring and keeping their score correctly. The computer adjudication was a hit with kids challenging just for the fun of it.

As you can imagine, Alex was by far the best player there, and probably achieved some of his best ever results. For example, he got eight bonuses in one game, and a spread of over 800 in another (or that could have been the same game!). He was his usual amiable self, making friends and helping out, and it was good for the other kids to be able to see how the game could be played. He won the tourney, going home with a polo shirt and a medal. We had taken down Scrabble pencils and tile bags as gifts, and the MindGames Association donated a Scrabble set, so everyone went home with something.

Even though the number of entrants was disappointing and the children's skills not really up to tournament level, a fun day was had by all.



*Alex stood out among the group in more ways than one!*

# Scrabble Scenario Bingo



My husband has a saying: “There are two kinds of experiences in life. Good experiences, and experiences that make good stories.”

In any given Scrabble tournament, both kinds of experiences occur. Not in every game, and not to every player; but these experiences, or scenarios, are the things that we want to tell our friends about between games.

The idea for the following game came to me when somebody mentioned that in their experience of Australian Scrabble tournaments, there have been no spot prizes, so I was trying to think of a suitable replacement. This bingo game can be used during any tournament, or any series of games; but I personally will be debuting it during my six days of competing in Perth in November.

As always, we would love to receive feedback from you. Send in your completed boards, your favourite anecdotes, or your suggestion(s) for other scenarios that you think could have been included, and we will publish them in future issues of *Forwards*.

## Preparation:

In the small squares on the board opposite, randomly assign 10 different numbers chosen from between one and 20, inclusive. In the remaining two spaces, choose from numbers 21-25 inclusive. (This is to ensure that each contestant plays with a different card – bingo would be no fun if everybody played with the same numbers!)

If you're feeling keen, you could photocopy the game board beforehand, so as to reuse it for your next tournament. Or you could make / draw your own version, perhaps on larger paper (or even card). You can even laminate it if you want... but none of this is essential.

## How to play:

The numbers you have positioned correspond to the numbered scenarios on the following page. When one of your selected scenarios happens to you in a game, record in the larger square on the bingo board your opponent's name, and the relevant word/s, rack, or score as appropriate.

When you complete a horizontal line on your bingo card, give yourself a pat on the back. When you complete a vertical line, do a happy dance. When you have filled in every square, congratulations!

I just might award a novelty prize to the first three contestants who share their completed cards with me.

## A few more rules:

- If a single play fulfils the criteria for more than one scenario, you must choose which box to fill in (you can't put one play into more than one square).
- Once a scenario is recorded in a square, it cannot be moved.
- You can fill in as many squares as applicable per game, provided you use a different play (turn) for each scenario.
- Whether or not a particular play matches a numbered scenario is left to each player's own discretion; some of the scenarios are intentionally left open to broad interpretation.

**Disclaimer:**

This game is a frivolity.

Forfeiting of Scrabble points or position to gain 'bingo' points or position is neither intended nor advised.


**Scrabble Scenario Bingo**

## The Scenarios:

- 1) Used a blank as a power tile (J, Q, X, or Z).
- 2) Played a word longer than three letters new to CSW15.
- 3) Won a game with fewer bonus words than the other player had.
- 4) Scored over 60 points for a non-bonus play.
- 5) Played both F's, H's, V's, W's, or Y's in a single turn.
- 6) Played a word longer than four letters that started and ended with the same letter.
- 7) Played a word noticed on somebody else's board earlier in the tournament.
- 8) Played a word challenged earlier in the tournament.
- 9) Challenged off a highly plausible word.
- 10) Challenged off a highly implausible word.
- 11) Identified a better move after hitting the clock.
- 12) Played four or more words in a single turn  
(i.e. a parallel play with at least three hooks).
- 13) Extended an existing word on the board in both directions  
(e.g. added a prefix and a suffix; or a front hook and an end hook).
- 14) Played a word connecting two separate existing words to completely enclose  
a space on the board (see example below).
- 15) Played a word associated indelibly with a particular book, movie,  
character, or song (e.g. TEQUILA; **HASTA LA VISTA...**)
- 16) Exchanged tiles and played a bonus the following turn.
- 17) Exchanged tiles and exchanged a vowel problem for a consonant problem  
(or vice versa).
- 18) Played a blank in what turned out to be the only possible bonus from that rack.
- 19) Made a strategically appropriate decision based on accurate  
tile-tracking information.
- 20) Had a really good, refreshing dump (of ugly tiles onto the board).



*This board shows two separate examples of Scenario #14. The W and R played to spell WORD enclosed 11 squares of the board. Later CABLED was played through the existing B and E, completely enclosing a single square.*

- 21) Wild card – Make up a scenario of your own.
- 22) Wild card – Handpick any unused scenario from numbers 1-20.
- 23) Wild card – Repeat a scenario from elsewhere on your card.
- 24) Wild card – Steal any scenario from numbers 1-20 that your opponent experiences and pretend it was your own.
- 25) Wild card – Any play of which you feel particularly proud that doesn't fit any of these categories.

# I've been reading ...

*Holloway* by Macfarlane, Donwood & Richards  
(Faber & Faber 2013).

*by Nola Borrell, Wellington*

This is a short, illustrated, and poetic account of exploring holloways in South Dorset. A holloway is "a sunken path, a deep and shady lane. A route that centuries of foot-fall, hoof-hit, wheel-roll and rain-run have harrowed into the land.... and in places reduced 16 to 18 feet beneath the level of the fields". While holloway itself is not an allowable word in Scrabble, here is a list of other 'ways' and terrain-related words that I came across in the book:

**CARTWAY:** A road by which carts travel, a cart track

**CAUSEWAY:** raised path or road across water or marshland (can be used as verb with appropriate endings)

**GREENWAY:** a linear open space with pedestrian and cycle paths

**LEY:** Arable land put down to grass, grassland or pastureland

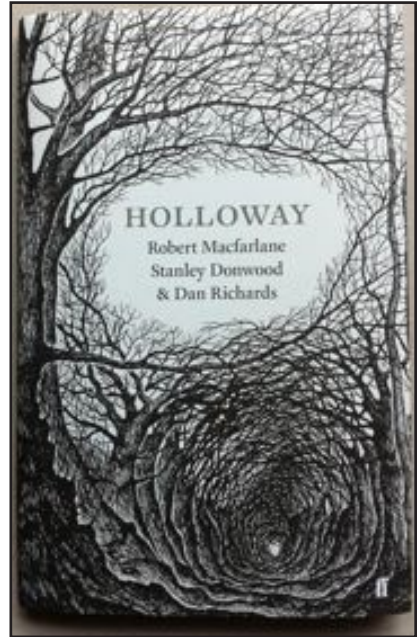
**LICHWAY:** A path used to carry a coffin into church

**SHUTE:** steep slope or channel down which things may be slid, also known as a **SLIDEWAY**

**SNICKET:** A passage between walls or fences

**TRODS (pl):** another word for path, can also be spelled **TROADE**

**WAYFARE:** To travel.



Other 'way' words that did not appear in the book but are nevertheless interesting include:

**BIKEWAY:** A cycle lane, sometimes called a **CYCLEWAY**

**BRIDLEWAY:** A path specifically meant for horseriding, can also be called a **HORSEWAY**

**DRANGWAY:** a narrow lane

**PACKWAY:** A path for pack animals

**SLIPWAY:** A launching slope on which ships are built or repaired

**SPILLWAY:** A channel that carries away excess water such as from a dam

# Tournament results

## Whangarei 4-5 July 2015

### 13 games

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
<b>Grade A</b>					
1	Cicely Bruce	WRE	10	783	435
2	Lawson Sue	MTA	10	661	398
3	Val Mills	PAK	9	95	407
4	Anderina McLean	MTA	8	661	410
5	Shirley Martin	KIW	7	253	394
6	Janice Cherry	IND	7	-308	384
7	Liz Fagerlund	MTA	6	271	397
8	Lynn Wood	WEL	6	-36	380
9	Margie Hurly	WRE	6	-491	375
10	Glennis Hale	IND	5	84	399
11	Jennifer Smith	KIW	5	-80	387
12	Joan Thomas	HAS	5	-346	369
13	Jeanette Grimmer	ROD	4	-699	376
14	Lorraine Van Veen	IND	3	-848	367

### Grade B

1	Lynn Carter	IND	10	272	393
2	Roger Cole-Baker	MTA	9	383	377
3	David Gunn	WKP	9	166	396
4	Hazel Purdie	MTA	8	475	407
5	Su Walker	MTA	8	131	393
6	Mary Gray	MTA	8	120	382



*Cicely Bruce, A Grade winner at  
Whangarei*

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
7	Heather Landon	TGA	7	514	389
8	Betty Eriksen	WAN	7	469	381
9	Dianne Cole-Baker	MTA	7	203	389
10	Ernie Gidman	ROD	7	73	389
11	Bev Edwards	WRE	6	-101	381
12	Jena Yousif	IND	5	-265	364
13	Annette Coombes	KIW	4	-539	340
14	June Mackwell	NSB	4	-599	342
15	Suzanne Harding	WRE	3	-621	356
16	Margaret Cherry	PAK	2	-681	332

### Grade C

1	Jenny Litchfield	WRE	11	1041	404
2	Valma Gidman	ROD	9	235	355
3	Linda Moore	ROD	9	206	348
4	Tim Henneveld	ROT	9	-22	331
5	Joanne Morley	ROT	8	345	377
6	Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell	KIW	8	314	358
7	Margaret Toso	WRE	7.5	73	342
8	Joan Beale	PAP	7	344	369
9	Janny Henneveld	ROT	7	70	344
10	Vivienne Ogden	WRE	6	79	340
11	Dorothy Latta	IND	6	-144	352
12	Margaret Peters	WRE	6	-295	329
13	Anne Scatchard	WRE	4	-260	314
14	Frances Higham	PAP	4	-579	317
15	Lynn Thompson	WRE	1.5	-682	319
16	Judy Cronin	MTA	1	-725	312

## Kiwi Promotion/Demotion 8-9 August 2015

### 16 games

	Player	Wins	Spread
1	Jennifer Smith	12	620
2	Margaret Penniket	11	340
3	Howard Warner	10	847
4	Olivia Godfrey	10	499
5	Shirley Morrison	10	239
6	Leanne Field	10	150
7	Lyres Freeth	9	447
8	Shirley Pearce	9	378
9	Julia Schiller	9	131
10	Anderina McLean	9	28

Player	Wins	Spread	Ave
Coldham-Fussell	8.5	-120	
12 Janny Henneveld	8	136	
13 David Gunn	8	82	
14 Val Mills	8	67	
15 Ruth Godwin	8	52	
16 Lorraine Van Veen	8	48	
17 Jillian Greening	8	44	
18 Glenda Geard	8	-15	
19 Anna Hough	8	-50	
20 Carole Coates	8	-155	
21 Ann Scatchard	8	-243	
22 Yoon Kim Fong	7.5	-160	
23 Joan Thomas	7	163	
24 Hazel Purdie	7	39	
25 Susan Schiller	7	-31	
26 Heather Landon	7	-79	
27 Sharron Nelley	7	-94	
28 Suzanne Harding	7	-140	
29 Delcie Macbeth	7	-239	
30 Lawson Sue	7	-473	
31 Roger Coates	7	-544	
32 Barbara Dunn	6.5	30	
33 Jo-ann Ingram	6	261	
34 Pam Robson	6	-74	
35 Shirley Martin	6	-125	
36 Lynn Wood	6	-152	
37 Annette Coombes	6	-238	
38 Tim Henneveld	5.5	-17	
39 Nola Borrell	5	13	
40 Cicely Bruce	5	-155	
41 Su Walker	5	-549	
42 Dorothy Latta	4	-33	
43 Karen Stewart	2	-921	

## Tauranga 23-24 August 2015

### 13 games

Name	Club	Win	Spread	Ave
<b>Grade A</b>				
1 Liz Fagerlund	MTA	11	784	432
2 Val Mills	PAK	9	600	416
3 Lawson Sue	MTA	9	202	409
4 Vicky Robertson	WEL	8	249	407
5 John Foster	IND	8	9	403
6 Cicely Bruce	WRE	7.5	264	415
7 Anderina McLean	MTA	7	393	419

Name	Club	Win	Spread	Ave
8 Marianne Bentley	TGA	6	-169	403
9 Shirley Martin	KIW	5.5	-307	374
10 Lois Binnie	CHC	5	-176	397
11 Roger Coates	KIW	4	-242	375
12 Olivia Godfrey	WAN	4	-478	381
13 Lynn Wood	WEL	4	-510	369
14 Lorraine Van Veen	IND	3	-619	362

### Grade B

1 Yoon Kim Fong	KIW	10	700	403
2 Delcie Macbeth	IND	9	578	407
3 David Gunn	WKP	8	271	407
4 Roger Cole-Baker	MTA	8	93	384
5 Lynn Carter	IND	7	201	388
6 Lyn Toka	KIW	7	91	393
7 Hazel Purdie	MTA	7	31	390
8 Rosalind Phillips	TGA	7	-295	372
9 Joan Thomas	HAS	6	-73	393
10 Heather Landon	TGA	6	-136	382
11 Fran Lowe	HAS	6	-214	383
12 Ruth Lilian	TGA	5	-169	378
13 Dianne Cole-Baker	MTA	3	-379	369
14 Chris Day	TGA	2	-699	347

### Grade C

1 Faye Cronhelm	IND	10	365	392
2 Allison Torrance	CHC	9	495	395
3 Margaret Bullen	TGA	8	235	389
4 Tei Ngatai	TGA	8	119	391
5 Barbara Dunn	TGA	8	59	378
6 Geoff Bonser	TGA	7	309	385



*Yoon Kim Fong, B Grade winner at  
Tauranga*

	Name	Club	Win	Spread	Ave
7	Jo Ann Ingram	TGA	7	285	389
8	Carole Coates	KIW	7	170	374
9	Mary Curtis	HAS	6	203	410
10	Roto Mitchell	WAN	6	-424	354
11	Glenda Geard	IND	5	-84	358
12	Shirley Morrison	TGA	4	-442	342
13	Suzanne Harding	WRE	3	-354	364
14	Antonia Aarts	MTA	3	-936	332

**Grade D**

1	Catherine Henry	TGA	11	639	380
2	Sandra Cowen	TGA	9	222	370
3	Joanne Morley	ROT	8.5	351	396
4	Rosemary Wauters	TGA	8	442	377
5	Ruth Godwin	ROT	8	343	356
6	Jill Paterson	ROT	7	422	378
7	Pat Wood	TGA	6.5	-103	352
8	Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell	KIW	6	-138	360
9	Annette Coombes	WKP	6	-268	351
10	Anne Scatchard	WRE	5.5	17	336
11	Noelene Bettjeman	TGA	5	-528	315
12	Janny Henneveld	ROT	4	-358	337
13	Valerie Scott	TGA	3.5	-559	332
14	Tim Henneveld	ROT	3	-482	319

**Grade E**

1	Bev Henderson	TGA	13	960	381
2	Lynn Thompson	WRE	9	31	337
3	Dale McMillen	TGA	8	397	347
4	Dorothy Bakel	TGA	8	7	348
5	Val Isherwood	ROT	6	88	349
6	Ray Young	TGA	6	-133	333
7	Merilyn Anderson	TGA	6	-185	325
8	Aiwa Poomorn	MTA	5	167	357
9	Fay Wenzlick	TGA	2	-406	303
10	Alison Connolly	TGA	2	-926	282



*John Baird, B Grade winner at  
Christchurch*

## Christchurch 5-6 September

**14 games**

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
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**A Grade**

1	Alex Leckie-Zaharic	DND	11	787	438
2	Irene Smith	CHC	8.5	223	402
3	Heather Long	AUS	8	327	415
4	Lynn Wood	WEL	7	-100	375
5	Murray Rogers	IND	6	118	413
6	Paul Lister	CHC	6	-218	400
7	Anna Hough	IND	6	-694	370
8	Lois Binnie	CHC	3.5	-443	226

**B Grade**

1	John Baird	CHC	9	466	392
2	Lewis Hawkins	CHC	9	407	400
3	Peter Bauer	AUS	9	107	388
4	Shirley Hol	CHC	7	407	411
5	Herb Ramsay	CHC	7	5	387
6	Peter Johnstone	CHC	6	-219	380
7	Jean O'Brien	IND	5	-539	358
8	Colleen Cook	CHC	4	-634	363

**C Grade**

1	Marian Ross	DND	10.5	639	411
2	Betty Eriksen	WAN	10	238	373
3	Gabrielle Bolt	CHC	9	220	376
4	Carolyn Kyle/IND	7	-98	366	13
5	Joanna Fox	CHC	6.5	-260	347
6	Allison Torrance	CHC	5.5	-58	368
7	Geoff Vautier	IND	4	-287	357
8	Karen Rodgers	IND	3.5	-394	348

**D Grade**

1	Phyllis Paltridge	CHC	9	346	361
2	Betty Don	IND	8	-139	341
3	Yvonne McLaughlan	CHC	7	340	362
4	Tony Charlton	NEL	7	-8	345
5	Marilyn Sinclair	CHC	7	-116	334
6	Kathleen Mori/Barker	CHC	4	-423	339

**E Grade**

1	Madelaine Green	CHC	12	1147	376
2	Hanna Dodge	CHC	10	631	359
3	Judith Bach	CHC	9	238	347
4	Gill Charlton	NEL	6	-146	324
5	Trish Fox	CHC	4	-814	291
6	Mariah Henderson	CHC	1	-1056	287



## Wellington Swiss

### 19 September

8 games

	Name	Wins	Spread
1	Howard Warner	7	650
2	John McNaughton	6	615
3	Rosemary Cleary	6	469
4	Lynne Butler	6	421
5	Lawson Sue	5	287
6	Val Mills	5	249
7	Murray Rogers	5	145
8	Lewis Hawkins	5	138
9	Steven Brown	5	106
10	Joan Thomas	5	42
11	Sheila Reed	5	27
12	Nola Borrell	5	-6
13	Anderina McLean	5	-36
14	Liz Fagerlund	4	113
15	Mary Curtis	4	112
16	Anna Hough	4	80
17	Olivia Godfrey	4	-32
18	Geoff Vautier	4	-58
19	Lynn Wood	4	-67
20	Dianne Cole-Baker	3	89
21	Vicky Robertson	3	83
22	Rahimah Abdullah	3	21
23	Glenda Foster	3	-115
24	Roger Cole-Baker	3	-192
25	Betty Eriksen	3	-246
26=	Anne Goldstein	3	-270
26=	Jean Boyle	3	-270
28	Agnes Rowland	3	-326
29	Julia Schiller	3	-351
30	Judith Thomas	2	-233
31	Tim Henneveld	2	-334
32	Jamie Adams	0	-1111

## 20 September

8 games

	Name	Wins	Spread
1	Howard Warner	7	863
2	John McNaughton	6	610
3	Rosemary Cleary	6	307
4	Anderina McLean	6	236
5	Joan Thomas	6	65
6	Lawson Sue	5	273
7	Anna Hough	5	261
8	Liz Fagerlund	5	96
9	Lynne Butler	5	79
10	Dianne Cole-Baker	5	40
11	Olivia Godfrey	4	343
12	Murray Rogers	4	175
13	Lewis Hawkins	4	100
14	Val Mills	4	63
15	Nick Ascroft	4	61
16	Lynn Wood	4	-59
17	Jean Boyle	4	-94
18	Anne Goldstein	4	-134
19	Geoff Vautier	4	-203
20	Roger Cole-Baker	4	-289
21	Glenda Foster	3	167
22	Mary Curtis	3	-10
23	Nola Borrell	3	-64
24	Julia Schiller	3	-137
25	Betty Eriksen	3	-230
26	Sheila Reed	3	-322
27	Rahimah Abdullah	3	-511
28	Tim Henneveld	2	-426
29	Judith Thomas	1	-624
30	Agnes Rowland	0	-636

Tournament Calendar	
Tournament	Dates
Wanganui	24-25 October
Rodney	7 November
Otago	14-15 November
Wellington	23-24 January
Pakuranga	30-31 January

# Rankings list as at 21 September 2015

Rank	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%
1	Jeff Grant (GM)	1983	1654	2183	76%
2	Howard Warner (GM)	1979	1927	2578	75%
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	Lyres Freeth (GM)	1861	277.5	425	65%
7	Blue Thorogood (GM)	1849	619.5	880	70%
8	John McNaughton	1840	134	197	68%
9	Karen Richards	1818	63.5	112	57%
10	Lynne Butler (GM)	1804	912.5	1497	61%
11	Rogelio Talosig (GM)	1798	473	803	59%
12	Nick Cavenagh (GM)	1791	349	591	59%
13	Mike Sigley (GM)	1777	962	1388	69%
14	Alex Leckie-Zaharic	1767	159	268	59%
15	Andrew Bradley (GM)	1761	832	1584	53%
16	Lawson Sue (E)	1750	788	1462	54%
17	Scott Chaput	1746	233.5	386	60%
18	Anderina McLean (E)	1743	671.5	1234	54%
19	John Foster (GM)	1739	1528.5	2672	57%
20	Val Mills (E)	1727	1262	2604	48%
21	Jennifer Smith	1719	1050.5	2160	49%
22	Cicely Bruce (E)	1696	433.5	768	56%
23	Liz Fagerlund (GM)	1671	1168.5	2229	52%
24	Janice Cherry	1656	404	781	52%
25	Pat Bryan	1649	257	461	56%
26	Glennis Hale (GM)	1619	1459.5	2641	55%
27	Paul Lister (E)	1617	818	1467	56%
28	Vicky Robertson	1613	323	651	50%
29	Denise Gordon (E)	1613	707.5	1469	48%
30	Steven Brown (GM)	1613	899	1687	53%
31	Murray Rogers (E)	1608	794	1525	52%
32	Rosemary Cleary (E)	1608	790	1707	46%
33	Shirley Martin	1598	897	1769	51%
34	Irene Smith	1598	199	395	50%
35	Glenyss Buchanan	1595	681.5	1462	47%
36	Lois Binnie	1591	48	102	47%
37	Glenda Foster (E)	1587	1038.5	2086	50%
38	Anna Hough	1584	656	1307	50%
39	Selena Chan	1576	310.5	594	52%
40	Pam Robson	1572	562.5	1228	46%
41	Katy Yiakmis	1555	185.5	390	48%
42	Jeanette Grimmer	1552	125	224	56%
43	Olivia Godfrey	1539	711	1366	52%
44	Roger Coates	1536	753.5	1599	47%
45	Lewis Hawkins	1536	155.5	233	67%
46	Joan Thomas	1514	1060.5	2115	50%
47	Lorraine Van Veen	1501	854.5	1690	51%
48	John Baird	1498	234	429	55%
49	Leila Thomson	1493	580.5	1272	46%



*Anna Hough*

Rank	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%
50	Yvette Hewlett	1486	462.5	964	48%
51	Karen Gray	1476	281.5	544	52%
52	Lynn Wood	1469	1781	3748	48%
53	Delcie Macbeth	1469	891.5	1697	53%
54	Yoon Kim Fong	1451	583.5	1142	51%
55	Pam Barlow	1440	708.5	1412	50%
56	Shirley Hol	1439	669	1454	46%
57	Helen Sillis	1429	718	1448	50%
58	Herb Ramsay	1418	168	270	62%
59	Peter Johnstone	1405	168	316	53%
60	Rosalind Phillips	1400	571	1097	52%
61	David Gunn	1393	1267.5	2588	49%
62	Lynn Carter	1371	682.5	1327	51%
63	Hazel Purdie	1354	1094.5	2236	49%
64	Lyn Toka	1346	555.5	1049	53%
65	Allie Quinn	1337	1049.5	2160	49%
66	Jean O'Brien	1332	1129.5	2222	51%
67	Heather London	1331	525	1020	51%
68	Clare Wall	1326	300.5	570	53%
69	Chris Higgins	1320	115.5	207	56%
70	Roger Cole-Baker	1310	532.5	1029	52%
71	Ruth Lilian	1300	59	90	66%
72	Dianne Cole-Baker	1294	491	956	51%
73	Fran Lowe	1279	135.5	251	54%
74	Marian Ross	1274	575.5	1105	52%
75	Colleen Cook	1266	363.5	725	50%
76	Karl Scherer	1243	53	84	63%
77	Leanne Field	1240	159	291	55%
78	Betty Eriksen	1237	1378.5	2705	51%
79	Anne Goldstein	1231	101.5	188	54%
80	Mary Gray	1225	552.5	1119	49%
81	Gabrielle Bolt	1213	436	843	52%
82	Faye Cronhelm	1208	852	1721	50%



*Suzanne Harding*

Rank	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%
83	Mike Currie	1187	25	42	60%
84	Shirley Pearce	1176	80	160	50%
85	Carolyn Kyle	1167	833	1691	49%
86	Geoff Vautier	1155	125	331	38%
87	Karen Miller	1150	544	1081	50%
88	Chris Day	1146	129.5	247	52%
89	Ruth Groffman	1141	509.5	1039	49%
90	Ernie Gidman	1122	410	820	50%
91	Andree Prentice	1121	949.5	1889	50%
92	Joanna Fox	1120	85.5	156	55%
93	Barbara Dunn	1108	312.5	533	59%
94	Margaret Bullen	1106	118	207	57%
95	Nola Barrell	1098	423.5	782	54%
96	Mary Curtis	1095	293.5	558	53%
97	June Mackwell	1094	839	1846	45%
98	Allison Torrance	1093	447.5	861	52%
99	Marianne Patchett	1092	311.5	605	51%
100	Bev Edwards	1079	245.5	466	53%
101	Jena Yousif	1077	451.5	888	51%
102	Tei Ngatai	1064	32.5	54	60%
103	Carole Coates	1052	637.5	1318	48%
104	Julia Schiller	1048	247	543	45%
105	Margaret Cherry	1039	492.5	1012	49%
106	Su Walker	1038	1009	2001	50%
107	Sheila Reed	1021	252	516	49%
108	Geoff Bonser	1018	78	135	58%
109	Jo Ann Ingram	1003	242	475	51%
110	Michael Groffman	999	286	574	50%
111	Glenda Geard	976	1039	2138	49%
112	Roto Mitchell	966	744	1481	50%
113	Jean Boyle	960	543.5	1036	52%
114	Elaine Maltzen	950	562	1120	50%
115	Phyllis Paltridge	945	71	155	46%
116	Khin Saw Khine	925	43.5	91	48%
117	Catherine Henry	925	455	866	53%
118	Shirley Morrison	924	167	363	46%
119	Chris Handley	906	382.5	752	51%
120	Junior Gesmundo	888	68.5	135	51%
121	Betty Don	886	193.5	412	47%
122	Suzanne Harding	869	409.5	800	51%
123	Tony Charlton	860	272	546	50%
124	Agnes Rowland	850	124	241	51%
125	Marilyn Sinclair	846	59.5	128	46%
126	Malcolm Graham	843	412.5	838	49%
127	Yvonne McLaughlan	842	504.5	1037	49%
128	Antonia Aarts	838	236.5	485	49%
129	Judy Driscoll	782	167.5	462	36%
130	Judith Thomas	780	223	445	50%
131	Maria Clinton	762	245	512	48%
132	Ruth Godwin	757	319.5	721	44%
133	Sam Thompson	749	78.5	166	47%
134	Kathleen Mori-Barker	743	367.5	752	49%
135	Bev Henderson	742	25	41	61%
136	Jill Paterson	739	75	130	58%
137	Stephanie Pluck	733	83.5	192	43%
138	Valma Gidman	726	692.5	1383	50%
139	Madelaide Green	692	105.5	200	53%
140	Annette Coombes	686	739	1613	46%
141	Jillian Greening	676	304.5	652	47%
142	Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell	673	599.5	1246	48%
143	Dorothy Latta	671	153	370	41%
144	Chris Guthrey	666	81	218	37%
145	Anne Scatchard	641	368.5	729	51%
146	Tim Heneveld	637	449	978	46%
147	Elaine Ware	633	385.5	755	51%
148	Margaret Toso	629	95	201	47%
149	Joan Beale	620	230	450	51%
150	Hanna Dodge	594	89.5	194	46%
151	Noelene Bettjeman	589	316	682	46%
152	Josie Parkin	571	73	150	49%
153	Sharron Nolley	567	40	77	52%
154	Janny Heneveld	554	459	958	48%
155	Judith Bach	539	159.5	287	56%
156	Margaret Peters	535	38	129	29%
157	Jean Craib	508	402.5	839	48%
158	Frances Higham	488	154	438	35%
159	Anne-Louise Milne	461	141	419	34%
160	Susan Schiller	428	27	164	16%
161	Gill Charlton	356	39	143	27%
162	Judy Cronin	314	77.5	235	33%
163	Lynn Thompson	314	266	616	43%
164	Jamie Adams	309	6	65	9%
165	Valerie Smith	275	29	127	23%
166	Trish Fox	226	35	247	14%
167	Ray Young	214	18	67	27%
168	Bev Allen	131	58.5	226	26%

Club	Club Contact	Phone Number	Email	Meeting Day & Time
Christchurch (CHC)	John Baird	03 332 5996	john@jbsoftware.com	12.30pm Wed 6.45pm Fri
Dunedin (DUN)	Chris Handley	03 464 0199	chris@redheron.com	7pm Tues
Hastings (HAS)	Joan Thomas	06 878 2418	thomasj@xtra.co.nz	1pm Tues
Kapiti (KAP)	Steven Brown	04 905 9160	sgbrown@mac.com	7pm Mon
Kiwi Scrabblers (KIW)	Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell	07 846 7422	scrabilfuss@xtra.co.nz	1pm/7pm Alternate Thurs
Lower Hutt (LOH)	Glenyss Buchanan	04 569 5433	glenyss.buchanan@xtra.co.nz	7.30pm Tues
Masterton (MAS)	Hilda Scott	06 378 2663	billhilda@wizbiz.net.nz	7.30pm Wed
Mt. Albert (MTA)	Dianne Cole-Baker	09 309 5865	drbc@xtra.co.nz	7pm Mon
Nelson (NEL)	Tony Charlton	03 545 1159	tonycharlton44@gmail.com	7pm Wed
Pakuranga (PAK)	Jeanette Owler	09 534 4453	cliffordo@xtra.co.nz	12.30pm Tues 7pm Thurs
Papatoetoe (PAP)	Frances Higham	09 278 4595	jambo@actrix.co.nz	1pm Mon
Rodney (ROD)	Linda Moore	09 425 4959	colin.linda@clear.net.nz	1pm Mon
Rotorua (ROT)	Ruth Godwin	07 349-6954	rwilsongodwin@gmail.com	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	bevhola@xtra.co.nz	1pm Thurs

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