

# Forwords



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**Also in this issue:**

Word Famous: Lynn Wood

New Zealanders on the  
International Stage

Scandal in the Waikato

Slip Slop Slap

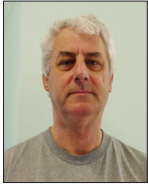
Christmas Cryptic Crossword

A Handy Fairy Tale

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**President**

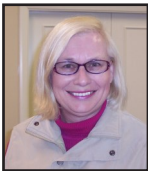
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# Editorial

It's no secret that your editrices are not especially financially well-off. We both have young children, and neither of us are currently experiencing the full advantages of a dual-income household. We're both drawing subsidies from Work and Income, and neither of us have a foot on the first rung of the property ladder. However, this editorial is neither a plea for charity, nor a yuletide exhortation to consider how others are so much worse off. Instead I'm going to write about one of the many things that makes the New Zealand Scrabble community a great one to be a part of (I know, Olivia wrote about just such a topic in the previous issue, but bear with me...).

At the Whanganui tournament in October, I got into a conversation with Anna Hough. Anna was observing that if your budget for Scrabble tournaments is finite, then the cost of accommodation can be quite prohibitive. If you have nobody to share a motel room with, you'll be paying around \$100 per night. In more isolated locales where public transport is restricted, the added hassle/cost of transport to and from the venue is another factor. Unless, that is, a member of the host club can billet you. Then you are not paying a cost per night, and you can share in whatever transport arrangements your host has in place. You only really have the cost of your meals to consider, and some hosts will even insist on taking that consideration off your hands.

And all of this means (as Anna so rightly observed) that you can subsequently *go to more tournaments*.

Sure, when you're staying in someone else's home, there are disadvantages. Maybe you'll have to help make up your

own bed. Maybe their shower runs colder when you turn the lever towards red. Maybe your opponent can never again view you as a serious threat across the board after they've seen you stumbling blearily about their kitchen in your reindeer pyjamas.

On the other hand, though, there are the many advantages of being billeted. A Scrabble tournament can sometimes feel like a Ferris wheel of nothing but new words and new faces, interspersed with way too much tea and fruitcake (more about that some other time). Yet, there is so much more to each Scrabble character than what is revealed to us within the four walls of yet another tournament venue. Who knew that this challenger used to be a champion embroiderer? Or how well this virtuosic anagrammer can tickle the ivories? Or that this Mainlander completes several crosswords each day? You can't help but find out more about someone when you spend time with them in their home.

Personally, I love the buzz of uncovering new similarities between my host and myself. I love finding the same Scrabble-themed trinkets in others' homes that I have in my own.

As a billetee, I can't resist perusing my host's bookshelves and music collections, and I have never yet failed to find titles and interests my hosts and I have in common. A shared penchant for fast food is always a winner in my book, but I am equally indebted to those hosts who have prepared hot dinners and/or homemade lunches for me during my stay.

It saddens me that I am not currently in a position to reciprocate by hosting guests in my Auckland home.

But it remains one of my long-term goals that, before I toss in my tile bag for good, I will be able to lighten other Scrabblers' burdens by inviting them to stay with me. In the meantime, here's wishing tidings of comfort and joy to everyone, but especially to all those beneficent souls who have hosted (and offered to host) me, Olivia, or any other

Scrabblers who are far from home during a tournament. You make it possible for us all to get to know each other better, and to do more of what we all love.

*Anderina McLean*

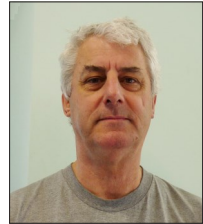
## President's report

I've been a proud and long-standing member of the NZASP since the early 80s. Scrabble was very uncomplicated then, and some remnants of those halcyon days are still to be found in our constitution: "encourage all Scrabble players to compete together", and "organise and conduct tournaments".

Local, national, and international Scrabble progressed idyllically through the 90s and noughties. In those years the most troubling issues were over who preferred the "English" dictionary over the "American English" lexicon. In the recent past Scrabble had felt especially settled when the *Collins Official Scrabble Words* came out circa 2012 following consultation with Scrabblers Darryl Francis, Allan Simmons, and David Sutton. WESPA had been formed by this time, and a nice rollout of world tournaments and updated ratings was moving our game along famously.

However, in recent years some troubling clouds have been rolling over our established Scrabble landscape, in the form of Mind Sports International (MSI). The plots they have afoot include ousting WESPA as the international Scrabble rules and regulatory body, obnoxiously trying to deny WESPA the right to use the term World Championship, and pushing an expurgated dictionary.

While WESPA preserves the traditional WSC invitational format, MSI's 'world championship' is open entry. I couldn't stand it if we went to a scenario similar to the World boxing championship, where there are four (4!) different world championship boxing belts. I'm a bit of a loyalist and a traditionalist, and a Mind Sports International World Scrabble champ and a WESPA World Scrabble champ would grate on my nerves. A scenario like this also discredits the integrity built up over the decades by our administrators and players.



*Paul Lister*

Moving on... I would like to wish you all a fabulous Christmas and a Scrabblish New Year. On offer in the year ahead are *Forwards* being delivered by email and in colour, a new rating system, and several interesting new tourneys.

I look forward to catching up with you all in 2017!

*Paul Lister*

# Word famous in New Zealand



## Lynn Wood

*Lynn Wood has been a feature of the Scrabble scene in New Zealand for many decades. With her recent achievement in racking up the most tournament games played by any New Zealand Scrabblor, it seems timely that we should end 2016 with her profile.*



*Lynn Wood as a child*

I was born in Wellington in 1949 to Frank and Thelma Chisholm. Mum was a Dunedin girl, so perhaps that is why I love Dunedin so much. I left school armed with school cert when I was 15. Because I got school C, my father bought us our first television. I think he would have really liked me to go to university but I knew the academic thing just wasn't for me. I did complete units in Retail Administration, and Merchandising Techniques through the New Zealand Institute of Management. However, that experience just reinforced my view that study just wasn't my thing!

I've held down a number of varied and interesting jobs in my working life, and on 19 January 2017, I will have been working continuously for 52 years. I got my first after-school job when I was 14. It was in a Kilbirnie pharmacy (Kilbirnie is a suburb of Wellington, where I still live today). While I was there I had one of those moments that a 14-year-old girl will never forget. A customer came in and asked for a Gossamer product. I supplied him with Gossamer hair spray but what he actually wanted were condoms of the same name.

The chemist righted the situation for me, but I was left red-faced and blushing for quite some time afterward.

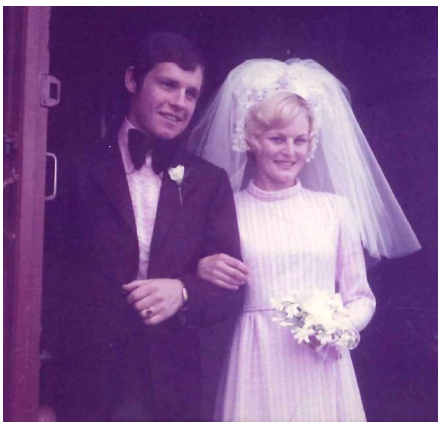
When I left school, I went to work at James Smith Department Store. It was there that my love of clothing came to light. I worked for several years in school wear, haberdashery, and lingerie (it was over the bra counter that I met my first husband, Eion, who was a commercial traveller for Bendon at the time). I was then promoted to a Buyer of Fashion position. In total, I worked for 16 years in clothing retail.

NZ Breweries beckoned next, and I worked there for a span of five years. I loved the work and social life there but, unfortunately, I was made redundant from Lion on two occasions. On the second of these occasions, Lion's head office shifted to Auckland but I had no desire to leave Wellington.

In 1984 I did, in fact, transfer to Auckland along with my second husband, Laurie. There I worked as a receptionist in the Poenamo Hotel. We were only in Auckland for two years though before Laurie and I decided to move back to Wellington in 1986.

Back in Wellington, it was time for another career change, this time from beer to milk. For the next 18 years, I worked for the Dairy Board. Alas, the Dairy Board also eventually decided to shift their HQ to Auckland and, as I'm a true Wellingtonian at heart, I opted to take redundancy again rather than go back to Auckland. After I had spent my "kitty" (my redundancy payout from the Dairy Board) I went to work for IAG (the insurance company) and I've been here for the last 12 years.

I suppose that my next step will be retirement. I plan to go into a retirement home in Kilbirnie or Newtown (I can't leave my beloved Wellington), where I hope to find a good contingent of people interested enough in Scrabble to make an afternoon club a viable option.



*Lynn on her wedding day*

Regrettably, I have to be 70 before I'm eligible for the villages I've chosen, so I've got to wait two more years yet.

Scrabble has always been part of my life in some form or another. From when I was about 10, I played with Mum and my Nana Rose. We sat in front of the fire in winter and usually had two games a night. Those games were oh so slow, particularly by today's standards. I remember that if Nana picked up the Q, she always said "shit". What a giveaway! She would love to be alive today to play Q!!

It was in 1984, while my second husband and I were living in Auckland, that I met Lynne Powell at the \*Cossy Club in Takapuna. We became firm friends and it was Lynne who taught me the fundamentals of competitive Scrabble. We played Scrabble on Takapuna Beach some mornings before I went to work at the Poenamo Hotel, and on my rostered days off we would take a cask of wine and French bread with us. We had right royal tussles over our flat board, and great fun in the sun.

By the time I returned to Wellington in 1986, competitive Scrabble was well and truly in my blood, so I started the Wellington Club. We have been in operation for 30 years this year, and I'm very proud of all the people who have come and gone from the club over those 30 years. Frank Robinson would be the longest-standing member of the club, (behind me of course), though I have actually known him since our primary school days, so some 57 years.



I've been lucky enough to have been able to do quite a lot of travelling while indulging my love of Scrabble. Not only have I travelled all over New Zealand, but I've had the chance to take overseas trips as well. I've regularly visited Norfolk Island for their Scrabble festival, and I've always loved it. After Mum passed away in November 2011 (she used to accompany me to Norfolk as well and actually won her grade in the October just before her death) I finally managed to win the A Grade there outright.

I've also played tournaments in Las Vegas on two occasions. This was certainly a different experience on the Scrabble circuit. The cost of a tourney in Las Vegas far exceeds our modest prices— US \$50 for four games. There were no scoresheets provided either, only a water stand. I never grumble about the costs of tournaments in NZ now; they are extremely reasonable!

Still, I was compensated for the cost of the Las Vegas tournaments by being able to combine my Scrabble with plenty of gambling, which is another of my loves. I definitely hope to go again one day.

Cruising is an activity that I very much enjoy, and I've been on 10 cruises so far, nine of them around the Pacific Islands and one around the Hawaiian Islands. Again, I've been fortunate enough to be able to combine this passion for cruising with my passion for Scrabble by going on a Scrabble cruise. The Scrabble cruise went from and back to Sydney, and we played 16 round-robin games in total. They were played during the mornings of the four "at sea" days. It was a great morning filler and heaps of fun. Now I'm eagerly awaiting my second Scrabble cruise, which will take place on the Emerald Princess in 2017.



*L-R: Pat Grant (seated), Jeff Grant, Thelma Chisholm, Lynn Wood, Glennis Hale, Liz Fagerlund*



*Ladies in red*

This year, I had the opportunity to play in my first Trans-Tasman, which was a great experience too. I got the chance to travel to Adelaide for this but, unfortunately, I didn't do so well. Still, I'm proud to have achieved a draw in my game with the top NZ player Lyres Freeth, who finished second overall. Thank goodness that that draw didn't deprive Lyres of first place. Sadly, the trip was so quick that I didn't get to do much sight-seeing around Adelaide, so I really need to go back one day.

One of the highlights for me during the 32 years or so that I have been playing competitive Scrabble was when I played in the Turn of the Century tourney in New Plymouth organised by Lynne Butler. We played for 24 hours and, as those who know me will already know, I'd play Scrabble 24/7 if I could. We played a game at midnight as we entered the year 2000, and we drank bubbles and sang Auld Lang Syne. Lynne had organised for it to be an optional fantasy or fancy dress affair. I went as a penguin of course; they're my favourite birds.

To date though, the greatest thrill of my Scrabbling career has been playing my 4000th tournament game. That happened in November this year. To mark the occasion, the NZASP presented me with a trophy featuring penguins. The presentation put a big lump in my throat, but it put an even bigger smile on my dial. Thanks to NZASP for the wonderful gesture. The trophy now has pride of place on my mantelpiece.

Looking back over those 4000 games, I've been as high in the Scrabble rankings as 12th, and the lowest I've ever been is 69th earlier this year. Interestingly, millennial games seem to be lucky for me. I won my 2000<sup>th</sup> tournament game against Rogelio Talosig, my 3000<sup>th</sup> against Steven Brown, (both of whom are Grand Masters) and my 4000<sup>th</sup> against Lorraine Van Veen.

As many of you will know, I've had two brushes with cancer in my life. Thankfully I've come through them both with flying colours. The second occasion was particularly dramatic. Back in 2009, I was told by the doctor that I was dying, but he obviously didn't know my ox qualities. I'm still here seven years later, still travelling, gambling, Scrabbling, and doing everything else that I love.

There you have it, a colourful life, well lived. I feel sure that there is a lot more colour to be seen and a lot more life to be lived yet. For a start, I certainly intend to be around to at least play my 5000th tournament game.

***Slainte from Lynn.***



# New Zealanders on the International stage

*In late November, six hardy Kiwis represented New Zealand in the Causeway Challenge in Malaysia. Joanne Craig and Lynley Jenness (mother of Lewis Hawkins who competed in the tournament) have kindly provided us with reports on their experiences. They did so at very short notice after having their arms twisted by this particular editrix, so huge thanks to both of you. We know just how terribly frantic everyone is at this time of year.*

## Our JB Experience

*by Lynley Jenness, Christchurch*

In late November Lewis and I packed our bags and headed off to Johor Bahru in Malaysia for a week of travel before Lewis was to play in the Causeway Challenge. We arrived a few days before the tournament started, to get over the five-hour time difference, and see a few sights before settling down to play Scrabble. The hotel we were staying and playing at is the previously five-star establishment called the Berjaya Waterfront Hotel. It must have been grand in its day but it now needs a serious seeing-to in order to get it back into shape. (Anyone who is interested in a full review of the hotel can read my rant in [Tripadvisor.com](http://Tripadvisor.com) under the name LAJ.)

In our free day we had a look at the sights of JB, and Betty Eriksen joined us for the ride. First we visited the JB zoo. We were a little put off by the reviews of the zoo and weren't expecting much for our 2RM (60c) entry fees, but it turned out to be quite pleasant. Besides, it had the added benefit of being housed in a leafy parklike setting, which was a nice walk on a hot day. The animals looked happy and well-fed, although the facilities were rather rundown.



*Lewis Hawkins at the Causeway Challenge*

There were a surprising number of interesting large animals including lions, Sumatran tigers, sun bears, hippopotami, crocodiles, llamas, and snakes.

Our next stop was the City Centre, a large shopping mall which is listed as the number one attraction by Tripadvisor reviewers. It was just a big crowded mall with all of the usual brands so we didn't stay long. We were intrigued by the huge queues of people lining up to pay for baskets of bread and cakes from the bakery, and another huge queue of people waiting for their turn at a Chinese restaurant. Given the number of half empty restaurants we had seen, this place must have been pretty special, but we had just eaten at a rather average place so we didn't stop to find out.



*Berjaya Waterfront Hotel  
(centre) as viewed from the causeway  
between Malaysia and Singapore*

Later in the evening Lewis and I returned to town to visit a night market where Lewis bought a few souvenirs for his friends. By this time all of the other players had started arriving at the hotel.

On Monday and Tuesday Lewis played in the Youth event, (for those under 21) while some of the adults played a warmup event. Lewis was overjoyed to see that his friend Abdullah Abassi (16 years old) from Pakistan was competing too. Lewis and Abdullah first met in Dubai at the 2013 World Youth Scrabble Championship (WYSC) and have caught up with each other since in Sri Lanka in 2014 and then Perth in 2015.

*Lewis sightseeing in Johor Bahru*



Unfortunately, we were unable to attend the Lille WYSC this year in August, so it was lovely to see Abdullah again. There were also other youth players that Lewis was able to catch up with again, including Tim Mason from Australia and Ryan Wee from Singapore. This is the reason I am keen for Lewis to compete internationally – he has made a lot of really good friends from all over the world and they all love Scrabble! If only we could find a few more closer to home!

Lewis ended up coming second in the under-15 age group and 11<sup>th</sup> overall, while Abdullah won the overall youth prize. Unfortunately, the tournament was a little marred by some suspicious behaviour. In the last game, Lewis suspected that the girl he was playing was using a cellphone to find anagrams as he could hear the beeps of the phone, she had her bag on her knee, and seemed to have her hand down there for a lot of the game. She won and knocked him out of first place for his age group. I said that I would watch her for him in the next event. I did notice the same behaviour and called the tournament director over. He watched for a few moments but then seemed to lose interest.

However, I caught her trying to put her phone back into her bag at the end of the game and, as clearly nobody else was going to do anything about it, I grabbed her hand with the phone in it.

The director came running over but she had closed down all the apps by then so she got away with a warning. She ended up dropping out at the beginning of the last day.

I noticed some other suspect behaviour as well and ended up videoing one boy as the director was unable to see anything going on when I asked for the boy to be watched. I showed the video to the boy's team leader and asked that the boy should be spoken with. It was notable that his average dropped considerably the day after this was done.

The main event began on Wednesday morning. Lewis was entered in the intermediate (C) grade along with Betty Eriksen and Anne Goldstein. Nigel Richards, Lyres Freeth, and Joanne Craig were representing NZ in the Premier (A) grade.

Spectators had a seating area in the playing room with a large screen on which we were able to watch the top two players playing live, which kept me occupied. However many tournaments I attend with Lewis, I am always amazed at how I can look at these Scrabble boards and barely recognise a word.



*Lynley, Lewis and Abdullah Abassi watching the top two players on the large screen*



*Lewis receiving his award from Russell Honeybun for 9th place in the intermediate division*

This was no different. Over the five days and 45 games of that tournament, everything seemed to be a blur of boards and letters, and I must confess that as I am not a Scrabblor, I don't remember any of the words that were played or any amazing Scrabble moments.

However, for those who are interested, some of the top games can be watched on Youtube at the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?e=0enucbpuce4>

Overall, it was a tough but enjoyable tournament. Lewis was quite tired by the last couple of days, especially as he had played in the youth tournament just before the main event, so he actually played 60 games in seven days. I think he was also quite frustrated that the people who had played unfairly were not dealt with properly. The fact that such behaviour is not taken more seriously does leave me feeling rather disillusioned about these tournaments. While Causeway was great, that aspect of things really did spoil it for us.

## Returning to the Causeway by Joanne Craig, Independent

It was great to return to Johor Bahru to play the Causeway Challenge after a five-year hiatus. It's called the "toughest tournament in the world" as it involves playing 45 games over five days. I played in the top (Premier) Division which had a very strong field despite the hefty US\$300 entry fee. There were 46 players with ratings ranging from 1667 to 2278 (Nigel Richards) with 20 of those players rated over 2000.

We had a king-of-the-hill draw (lagged on the first four days), which meant that we had the potential to play the same opponent several times. However, I personally didn't play anyone more than three times.

I only won four of the first nine games on Day One, but felt that wasn't too bad considering I only drew three blanks all day!

Day Two was my highlight as I won eight out of 10 games, and finished the day in fifth place. I attained my highest game score of 568 in the last game of the day, scoring five bingos: UNSWORN, (D)ULLIEsT, SEROSAE, BEEHIV(E)s, and a phony \*REMORIDS which my opponent didn't challenge off! REMORID is an adjective which pertains to a REMORA (a type of marine fish), so it doesn't take a S. The rack EIODMRRS only makes MISORDER and MORRISED.

I felt I played well on the morning of the third day, but still lost the first four games despite four bingos in each of the first two games. Such is the calibre of the players that they



*Joanne Craig competing in the Premier Division at the Causeway Challenge*

seemed to have the ability to score at every turn and eke out a win during endgames. In the third game David Eldar played a triple-triple REDO(U)BLE for 149 points, in addition to his other two bingos (SUBSIdY and UNITIES). Despite me playing three bingos of my own (OL(I)GEMIA, LEAFAGE, and TRANT(E)RS), David finished with a score of 560 to my 488.

I won the fifth game against one of America's top players David Wiegand despite missing an opening bingo in AEIOJS?. I played JIAOS for 40 points instead of FEIJOAS! He replied with (S)OULDANS (83 points), then FEDE(L)INI (98 points), but I was lucky to get three easy bingos and the second blank in the endgame, to win by 517 to his 473.

I finished the third day in 11th place with four wins from 10 games (and losing the last game by seven points).

I hit the wall on the fourth day, losing nine games straight. I had to play David Webb (who cowrote the book *How to Win at Scrabble* with Andrew Fisher) in the ninth game and only lost by nine points!



In another game I went one second over time, thereby incurring a 10-point time penalty, and ended up losing by eight points. As there was only one annotator at our table, I had agreed to record my racks for that game rather than leaving it to the annotator, but I rather rued that decision after my flag fell.

In total I had six losses by less than 10 points, but didn't ask for a recount as I presumed (perhaps somewhat naively) that when both players are checking the scores they would tally up and therefore a recount wouldn't make a difference to the scores. Fortunately I won the last game on Day Four so it wasn't a complete washout, but I had now dropped to 34th place.

Coincidentally I started the last day (Day Five) playing Rex Ogbakpa from Nigeria, whom I had beaten in the first game. I won 488-454 with four bingos (CAMSTON(E), BIOTINS, HOOLIER, and DRAGONS) to his two V(E)STuRAL and MISDrAw(S)).



*Joanne vs Rex Ogbakpa*

He also scored 73 for FLEEXO and 54 for CINQUE in that game. He did get his revenge by beating me in the 45th and final game of the tourney after he played four bingos to my two. His win entitled him to keep the tiles, and I gave him my rack so that he would have a matching pair (with Causeway labels).

I finished the tournament in 36th place in a field of 46. I won 19 out of 45 games. It was exciting to play (and beat) some of the top players in the world. I averaged 440 per game (429 for my opponents) and played 99 bingos (95 for my opponents) and drew 43 blanks and 85 esses from 45 games.

It was good to see Nigel Richards triumph in the Premier Division and receive a hefty US\$10,000 for first prize. Lewis Hawkins was also in the prize money, achieving ninth in the Intermediate Division, immediately after playing in the Youth Tournament. Betty Eriksen and Anne Goldstein also played in the Intermediate Division, and Lyres Freeth played in the Premier Division.

For those who are interested, further details can be found at [www.causewaychallenge.com](http://www.causewaychallenge.com), including links (under the Games tab) to the live commentary on the games played at table one and other annotated games.

Thanks to Michael Tang for organising the toughest tourney in the world - we hope it isn't the last!



# Scandal in the Waikato: Club team hires stripper

by Jennifer Smith, Kiwi

*After their recent successful tournament, Kiwi Scrabblers decided to follow the example of the Chiefs and celebrate by ordering a stripper to entertain them. However, in an unprecedented follow-up, the stripper, Ursa Undress (no relation to Ursula Andress) went to the media the next day and complained about the way the members of the club had treated her. She alleged that they had verbally abused and insulted her.*

*"They were calling out awful four-letter words," Ursa Undress said. "They used words with F, C and K in them."*

*"I've never been so insulted at a stripping job in my life," she said. She complained that one young man had even said, "Show us your rack!"*

*Our reporter, Anna Wordsmith, investigated:*

The incident took place at the Kiwi Scrabblers' regular club venue. According to the President, Jennifer Smith, the event was meant to be a team building and training exercise. "We were studying words with the prefix UN-, and I thought this would be a good way for members to learn UN-words to do with clothing," she said.

When we put this to Ursa Undress, she responded: "Yeah, right! I've heard some feeble reasons in my time for people hiring a stripper, but that has to be the strangest! Do you wonder that I felt uneasy about the whole thing?"

As we talked to members of the club, the exact details of the evening became clearer. When Undress turned up from Bosoms Galore, members said they were surprised at how overdressed she was, but they know Hamilton can be very cold at any time of the year, and realised strippers have more reason than most to feel the chill.

"I've heard of people *figuratively* wearing many hats," said member Lyn Toka, a stickler for grammar. "But Ursa was *actually* wearing many hats. She obviously feels the cold on her head, because she was piled high with headgear. She was wearing not only a **cap**, but a frilly **bonnet** over that, a **hat** squashed on top, and a **cowl** as well as the **hood** of her hoodie holding all the headgear on. Topping the lot, she was wearing, of all things, a **crown**."

"What was with the crown?" said another straight-talking member, Shirley Martin. "Does she think she's the queen of the strippers or something?! And later, when she proceeded to **UNCROWN** – or, if you prefer, to **DISCROWN** or **DECROWN** – herself, I saw that she was also wearing a **mitre**. Even if they don't disapprove of hiring a stripper, I'm pretty sure no church would approve the mitre-wearing!" said Shirley emphatically.

Fashionista Carole Coates confirmed, “She was certainly bundled up. Talk about the layered look!

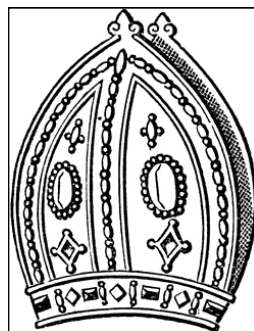
She was wearing a **suit** over a simple **dress**, a **gown** over the dress, a matching robe covering the gown and fastened with a **buckle** and **belt**, a **frock** covering the robe, a **cape** over her shoulders, a **mantle** on top of that, and a warm **coat** as well as a **cloak** over the lot.

Completing her outfit were **breeches**, **gloves** and sexy thigh-high **boots**, which – we didn’t know until she started stripping – were snugly enclosing a pair of **shoes** with killer heels.”

Pam Robson, well known for her unshockability after many years of working with the police on Night Owl patrols, said: “I thought I’d seen everything, but what really made our eyes pop out of our heads was the bondage paraphernalia she was wearing – fur handcuffs, a **visor** over her **vail** or **veil**, a **mask** over her eyes, and a **gag** over her mouth. She indicated that she wanted me to wrap her in a **shroud**, and she stood completely still for a moment until the music started. Then she began her act.

“She **UNSHROUDED** herself with sexy wriggles,” Robson said, “and as the shroud dropped to the floor, the audience gasped.”

Ursa’s next action was to **UNBREECH**, **UNBOOT** and **UNSHOE** herself, whereupon the youngest male in the group, Barney Bonthron, expressed his disappointment vocally.



*Mitre*

“I always thought strippers took everything off *except* their boots,” he said later, “so I admit I did yell at her. I desperately wanted her to **REBOOT**.”

In quick succession, Ursa continued to **UNCROWN**, **UNHOOD**, **UNCOWL**, **UNMITRE**, **UNHAT**, **UNBONNET**, and **UNCAP** ... “So fast,” Sharron Nolley joked afterwards, “that I fully expected to see her **UNHAIR** or **UNHEAD** herself as well!”

Members started chanting; “Off! Off! Off!” She held out her hands to Erana Davis, and indicated she should **UNCUFF** her. Once **UNCUFFED**, she proceeded to **UNGLOVE** her hands, sensually, finger by finger. With her fingers freed, she continued to **UNVISOR**, **UNVAIL/UNVEIL**, **UNMASK**, and **UNGAG**.

“It was weird,” Undress complained to the media afterwards. “While others were calling ‘**UNDRESS!**’ ‘**DISROBE!**’ one man was shouting ‘**SUNDERS!**’ ‘**BORIDES!**’ What sort of sicko says that to a stripper?”

We asked President Smith to comment on this deviant behaviour.

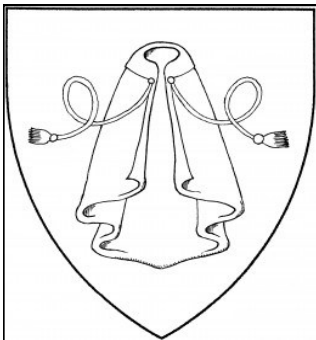
"Oh, that would have been Roger Coates," she said. "He spends so many hours each week studying anagrams of bonus words, that his automatic reaction on hearing any seven-letter word is to recite its anagram. There's nothing strange about a Scrabble player doing that," Smith said.

Members continued to encourage Undress to carry on, with cries of **DISFROCK! DEFROCK! DENUDE! UNGIRD! UNCOVER!**

Secretary Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell, always supportive of her president, told this reporter that President Smith had tried to rein in the members' excitement. "Jennifer reminded us that we should seize the opportunity to learn some new words."

According to Secretary Coldham-Fussell, President Smith had said, "Don't ask Ursa to **\*UNCOAT**, because it's not allowed! But we would be more than happy if she becomes **UNCOATED**."

Lyn Toka, who by her own admission likes to save up ING for bonus words, reportedly added excitedly, "But she's **UNCOATING**, and that's OK!"



*Mantle*

From <http://mistholme.com/>

(This reporter can't see the difference, but I understand that Scrabble players can appreciate the significance of these apparently conflicting statements.)

Slowly and deliberately, the stripper continued to **UNCLOAK, UNSUIT, UNGOWN, UNMANTLE, UNCAPE,** and **UNBUCKLE** and **UNBELT** her robe in order to **UNROBE** and **UNFROCK** herself.

Soon she was standing **DEFROCKED, DISFROCKED** and **UNFROCKED** in a state of **UNDRESS**, and at last members could see what she was wearing underneath all those layers – just a **corset** and a **vest**.

But although they were keen for her to become **UNCORSETED**, as well as **UNVESTED, DEVESTED,** and **DIVESTED** of her vest, President Smith again interceded and would not allow her to **\*UNVEST** or **\*UNCORSET**.

"So the stripper's modesty was well-protected," Coldham-Fussell insisted. "I can't understand why Ursa thought members were overstepping the lines of decency."

President Smith added, "Everything Jacqueline says is true. You should know that Miss Undress was modestly covered until the end. She definitely did not **\*UNBRIEF**. She wasn't ever **UNBRIEFED**. Although members were keen to have her **DEBFRIEF**, I would never have allowed an **\*UNBRIEFING**. Indeed, we couldn't see if she was even wearing **briefs!**"

We asked Undress for further clarification.

But she insisted the Scrabble members *were* abusive and insulting. “They were calling out awful four-letter words,” she said. “Everybody knows Scrabble players don’t mind using the F word or C word. Even the N word is acceptable to those sort of people,” she said. “They were definitely calling out the word with an F, C and K in it.”

In reply, President Smith said she had held an inquiry, and had concluded that nobody had said anything inappropriate. “Ursa has misunderstood the environment of a Scrabble club.” She explained that Peter Jones, a member, has spent his entire Scrabble career learning words with combinations of high-scoring letters in them.

“Peter knows every word with a F, C and K in it – words like FINBACK or FISHCAKE – and we are quite used to him showing off his extensive vocabulary. He could have been saying FUTTOCK or FUNCKIA, for example, and Ursa misheard him.

“However, in this instance, I am assured that he was simply calling out ‘Get FROCKED, get FROCKED!’ because he was concerned that the stripper may have been getting cold,” she said.

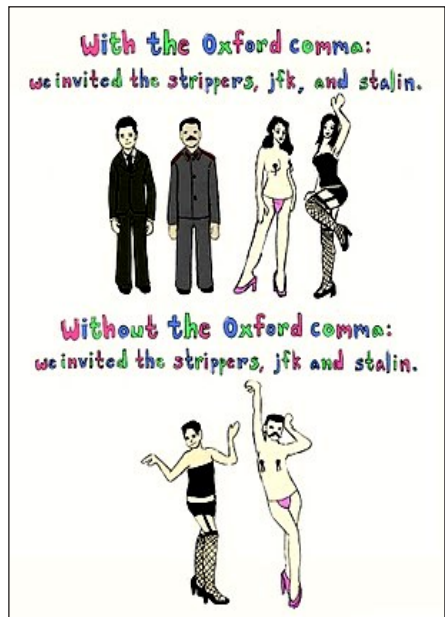
“I have, however, spoken sternly to the member who demanded that Miss Undress reveal her rack.

That is not acceptable behaviour. Every person has a right to keep their rack concealed. That member has apologised for their bad decision, and has promised it won’t happen again.

“My final conclusion is that the stripper’s allegations cannot be substantiated, and that nothing inappropriate took place. However, we will not be hiring a stripper again.

We will stick to traditional methods of learning, and avoid controversial or potential hands-on activities in the future.”

*[Author’s note: As well as being used as adjectives with an -ED ending, most of the above UN-clothing words can be used as verbs with the use of -S, -ED and -ING endings. Exceptions are clearly identified in the story.]*



*Why your editrices prefer to use the Oxford comma*

# Club News

*This report written by Rotorua Club's Kevin Edgeler arrived in the editrices' inboxes way back in September. We are mortified to admit that we simply overlooked it for the Spring issue. We profusely apologise to the Rotorua Club for our oversight. Please forgive us for dropping the ball on this one!*

## The Battle of the Gorge

The annual Battle of the Gorge Scrabble event between Tauranga and Rotorua Clubs took place just after the arrival of the winter edition of *Forwards*.

Much appreciation must go to Ruth Godwin for her organisation both before and during the event. Ruth had the responsibility of inputting results for each round in between playing her games.

Thanks also to Tim and Janny Henneveld for providing their home for a pleasant playing environment.

Tauranga brought a strong team to the clash and hoped to take the trophy back with them, having won it on their home turf last year. The local club was up to the challenge though, leading 16-12 after four rounds, and progressing

through the following three rounds to take out the title with 29 wins against Tauranga's 20.



*Merilyn Anderson of Tauranga presents the trophy to Tim Henneveld of Rotorua*

The top player on the day was Rotorua's Kevin Edgeler, winning seven games out of seven, followed by Joanne Morley with six wins. The top player for the Tauranga team was Elaine Moltzen with five wins. All games were played in a great spirit.

Merilyn Anderson graciously presented the trophy to Rotorua President Tim Henneveld, and thanked the hosts for such an enjoyable day.

.....

*Olivia Godfrey from Whanganui Club provided us with this little piece of news from her club:*

At the 2016 AGM of the Whanganui Club held in November, our club voted to change its name so that the letter H is now included in the word "Whanganui". The name-change motion met with a surprising degree of controversy however. People went on at some length about why they thought the H is wrong, and why it's right. There was even a half-nervous joke made about the possibility of a "Screxit" if the motion went through. As I'm not actually a resident of Whanganui itself, I had no strong views on the correctness or otherwise of the H.

However, I personally pushed hard for the inclusion of the H for the simple (though obviously self-serving) reason that it would make my life as an editrix of *Forwards* just that little bit easier. You see, we've always been conscious that the city Whanganui was spelled differently from the club, and it has always been something we've needed to carefully check and correct. Well, no longer! It's the Whanganui Club from Whanganui now.



Trust a Scrabble club, though, to get hot under the collar over the spelling of its own name. We say “meh!” to finances and who should be the president/ secretary/treasurer. But try to change the spelling of a name and we all sit up and listen!



.....

*We recently received two end-of-year reports from Rotorua members Joanne Morley and Kevin Edgeler. We have collated these into a single report for you. Read on to find out about the exciting things that have taken place in Rotorua Club this year.*

### **Rotorua Scrabble Club Round Up**

Since the formation of the Rotorua Scrabble Club in 2000, it has met at the home of Tim and Janny Henneveld. On 17<sup>th</sup> March, however, the club moved to the Parksyde Centre for our weekly club games. Though Parksyde is a great venue, the coffee made by Tim will always be remembered and missed by many members.

During the first round of games on the first day in our new venue, Kevin Edgeler and Joanne Morley christened the new clubrooms with a game in which the aggregate score was 986 (Kevin 512 to Joanne 474). Kevin played three bonus words (POSTERNS, NASTIES, and UNAWARE), while Joanne managed two (CANTERED for 149, and DOTTERS).

Points continued to flow as, later on during the same morning, Bridie Anderson matched Joanne’s 149 for one word in a game against Ruth Godwin.

Overall, the move to the new venue has been a positive one for the club. It has benefitted from being more accessible to other public groups, and from being able to advertise through Parksyde. As a result, attendance is now frequently up in the high teens, and club membership has also increased. For our recent Christmas function (more on that later), 20 members registered to attend!

At the AGM in October, we finally accepted Tim’s resignation as president (having encouraged him to stay on for another year at the 2015 AGM). We would like to take this opportunity to thank Tim and Janny for hosting the weekly club meetings. They have worked industriously to maintain our playing hardware. We’ve had our tile bags made for us, including some made of Christmas fabric to use at Christmas time! They’ve provided our morning teas. And they have performed all sorts of hidden tasks that we are not even aware of. Thanks in particular to Tim for all the work he has done as president; your shoes are going to be hard to fill. Thanks in advance for the help and pointers that the incoming committee look forward to receiving from you as the club progresses.

As mentioned above, the club recently held its end-of-year Christmas function at Parksyde. The day started with some games, followed by prize-giving, and then a Secret Santa devised and read out by Cal Isherwood. All went well and we had a lot of fun.

We then headed to the dining room for lunch which the club generously subsidised for members. The table was tastefully decorated with Christmas crackers and little novelty boxes.

Prizes were awarded as follows:

In the A Grade (handicapped challenge-style matches) first and second prizes went to those scoring the most cumulative points gained through bonus words. Kevin Edgeler came first with 4149 total points, and Joanne Morley came second with 3094 total points. Kevin also came first for the most number of wins in this grade (29 wins), followed in second place by Ruth Godwin on 25 wins. The most improved player (calculated based on their handicap at the beginning of the year versus their handicap at the end of the year) was Judith Kuchler. In the Open Bonus Word competition for this grade, first was Kevin, second Joanne, and third Janny.

In the B Grade, the winner of the handicapped bonus words competition was Jan Kite on 505 total points, and second was Wendy Anastasi on 456 total points. Wendy Anastasi won the most handicap games with 20 wins, and Jenny Miller came second on 14 wins.

The most improved player in this grade was Pam Fulton. In the Open Bonus Word competition for this grade, first was Wendy Anastasi, second was Jenny Miller, and third was Jan Kite.

It has been proposed that in 2017 the club should abandon the Open Bonus Word competition. This competition was established to encourage members to look for and play more bonus words. Our committee would be interested, however, to learn more about how other clubs incentivise their members to learn more skills and improve on existing ones. We're particularly interested in what other types of competitions clubs run for their members.

All in all 2016 has been a very busy year for the Rotorua Scrabble Club with a great deal of growth and change. The club is extremely proud of its growing membership. We are breaking our attendance records week by week.



*Rotorua Scrabble Club enjoying their Christmas break-up function at the Parksyde*

# Hall of Fame

*by Jennifer Smith, Kiwi*

Guid day.

Aye, no prizes for guessing that I'm a Scotsman! I was born in Ayr in 1756 – my parents called me John Loudon.

My father died when I was 14, so I was brought up by a merchant uncle in New York. He put me to work in his counting house, and by the time I was 27, I had acquired a tidy fortune.

When I returned to Scotland in 1783, I bought an estate in Ayrshire, where I became a local magistrate and deputy -lieutenant for Ayr and road trustee of the Ayrshire Turnpike in the Scottish Lowlands.

I had always been interested in roads. In fact, as a youngster, I had superintended the construction of a model section of road between our village and a neighbouring one. (This was no doubt possible because of my father's considerable local position and influence.)

After my return to Scotland, this interest of mine became an obsession. I was appalled by the condition of our roads, which consisted of rubble granite in those days. Horses that travelled on them had very short lives and, after heavy rain (as only Scotland can get!), the roads became a morass, and were all but impassable.

In 1798 I was appointed agent for providing provisions and stores for the navy, so travelled extensively in the southwest of England, where I found the roads in an even poorer state than the roads in Scotland! As I said at the

time, the roads were “at once loose, rough and perishable, tedious and dangerous to travel on, and very costly to repair.”

The problem was the size of the gravel and rocks – large and uneven – and those rocks offered little or no resistance to the wheels of heavy vehicles such as carts and stagecoaches. Most roads were in a chronic state of disrepair, with deep ruts and potholes. A typical journey from London to Edinburgh (329 miles or 529.5 kilometres) could take upwards of 10 days. So I began to investigate how to improve roading.

In 1815 I was appointed surveyor-general of Bristol roads (responsible for 149 miles or 240 kilometres of road!), and began to put into practice my ideas on laying new road surfaces.

After much experimenting, I discovered that massive foundations of rock upon rock were unnecessary, and that native soil alone would support the road and traffic upon it, as long as it was covered by a road crust that would protect the soil underneath from water and wear. I found that the best roadbed consisted of layers of broken stones, angular in shape, of nearly uniform size. Placed over a convex roadbed which allowed water to drain off, the stones would then be crushed into position by traffic.

In 1823, at my urging, a committee of the House of Commons was set up to inquire into the feasibility of applying my new system of road-making throughout the country.

I attended, and gave evidence at length. The committee was somewhat surprised to learn what immense labours and trouble I had taken in order to bring my system to perfection. Between 1798 and 1814 I had travelled no less than 30,000 miles (some 48,280 kilometres) in order to examine the roads of Britain. I had spent 2,000 days on my travels, which had cost me £5,000. Besides this sum, I had also expended large amounts of money on private experiments.

Parliament reimbursed me for my expenses and gave me a handsome gratuity, but I declined a proffered knighthood. My only wish was that the roads should be improved for the public good. I would be satisfied by seeing my fine new hard roads stretching far and wide through the British countryside.

My views were adopted by the public authorities, and in 1827 I was appointed general surveyor of roads.

I wrote booklets on road construction: *Remarks (or Observations) on the*



*Road makers breaking stones to precise specifications, 1823*

*Present System of Roadmaking*, (which ran nine editions between 1816 and 1827) and *A Practical Essay on the Scientific Repair and Preservation of Public Roads*, published in 1819.

Have you guessed my surname yet? Aye, it's Macadam, and the first MACADAMISED stretch of road was Marsh Road at Ashton Gate, Bristol.

So successful were my roads that my system was used not only in Britain but all around the world. The first MACADAM road built in the United States was a 10-mile (16-kilometre) stretch of road called the Boonsboro Turnpike Road, completed in 1822. Later, road surfaces were bound together using coal tar and were commonly known as TARMACADAM roads. This is where the word TARMAC comes from. (Nowadays, roads have a more compact surface, such as asphalt or bitumen.)

It's been so interesting (and gratifying) to me to see that modern roads are still built largely on my system but without the intensive labour required in my day.

Size of stones was central to my road building theory. For example, the upper layer of stones was limited to two centimetres (because they needed to be much smaller than the 10cm width of the iron carriage tyre), and stones were checked by supervisors who carried scales.

A workman could check the stone size himself by seeing if the stone would fit into his mouth. And I believed that the “proper method” of breaking stones for utility and rapidity was accomplished by people sitting down and using small hammers, breaking the stones so that none of them was larger than six ounces (170 grams) in weight. Today, I marvel at roads being built with heavy machinery doing all the work.

I was married twice, and had four sons and three daughters by my first wife – one of my sons subsequently accepted the knighthood that I had declined. I died of a heart attack in 1836.

I am proud of my legacy – not only of effective and economical road construction, but of my advocacy for effective road maintenance and management. I lobbied for a central road authority and a trained professional official who would be paid a salary that would keep him from corruption.

But the most amazing thing for me, is to know that my name will forever be associated with good roadways. Bear in mind, that when I designed my systems, automobiles had not even been invented.



*Tarmac*



*John Macadam*

It was not until 50 years after my death (in 1886) that a petrol powered car was invented. Yet my roading design will still stand up under the heavy vehicles of the modern day.

In my day, the only things that could fly were birds and insects, and the Wright brothers did not make their first famous flight until 67 years after my death. Yet, the area where planes sit at an airport is called the TARMAC – because of me!

Think of me when you travel highways or board a plane on a tarmac to go to your next Scrabble tournament. Here's hoping you get to play TARMAC(S), MACADAM(S) or MACADAMED at a tournament soon!

And if your opponent opens with MACADAM, you might be able to extend it to a triple by adding TAR [TARMACADAM(S)] in front, or -ISING/-IZING, -ISE(S)(D)(R)/-IZE(S)(D)(R), -ISATION(S)/-IZATION(S) behind.

According to your word list, roads can be UNMACADAMISED or UNMACADAMIZED too!



# HOW SCRABBLERS THINK: An analysis of SLIP SLOP SLAP

At this time of year, the Cancer Society exhorts New Zealanders to “SLIP on a shirt, SLOP on some sunscreen, and SLAP on a hat”. It doesn’t take a Grand Master to observe that each of these four-letter words can be rearranged in the same way to form LIPS LOPS and LAPS. Next I discovered that if any one letter from any of these words is repeated, there is only one five-letter combo that doesn’t make at least one allowable Scrabble word (see how many of the others you can find for yourself, before you resort to Zyzzyva to validate my claim). So naturally I then had to find out what else we all could learn from the analysis of these three everyday words.

## Anagrams:

LIPS LISP  
LOPS POLS  
ALPS LAPS PALS SALP

## Back hooks:

SLIPE SLIPS SLIPT  
SLOPE SLOPS SLOPY  
SLAPS

## Front hooks

*While none of SLIP SLOP or SLAP boast any front hooks of their own, consider the following front hooks for LIPS LOPS and LAPS:*

BLIPS CLIPS FLIPS  
CLOPS ELOPS FLOPS GLOPS  
PLOPS  
ALAPS CLAPS FLAPS KLAPS PLAPS



*SLIP on a shirt*

## Extensions (Compound words):

*Editor’s Cut – There are actually 48 words four or more letters long that can be appended to SLIP! My favourite find for this collection would have to be SLIPSLOP(S), SLIPSLOPPY, and (new to CSW15!) the comparative and superlative forms SLIPSLOPPIER and SLIPSLOPPIEST, but just in case your rack comprises something other than S’s and P’s, consider also:*

**SLIP**–CASE(S) –COVER(S) –DRESS  
–FORM(S) –KNOT(S) –LESS –  
NOOSE(S) –OUT(S) –OVER(S) –  
PAGE(S) –RAIL(S) –SHEET(S) –  
SHOD –SHODDINESS –SOLE(S)  
–STREAM(S) –WARE(S) –WAY(S)

**SLOP**–PIER –PILY –PING –WORK(S)  
–WORKER(S)

**SLAP** –DASH –HAPPY –HEAD(S) –  
JACK(S) –SHOT(S) –STICK(S)

ANTI– COVER– COW– GYM– LAND–  
NON– OVER– PAY– PILLOW– PLAY–  
SIDE– SNOW–**SLIP**

SLIP–**SLOP**  
BACK–**SLAP**

**Seven letter words:**

If your rack this summer reads SLIP ON A, turn it into OILPANS!

If it's A T-SHIRT, you should play ATHIRST, RATTISH, or TARTISH (but don't play \*TSHIRT!)

SLOP ON with a blank can become PLOSION, PLONKOS, or UNSPOOL.

ON SOME with a blank gives 11 options for seven-letter words, including OWNSOME, which is new to CSW15.



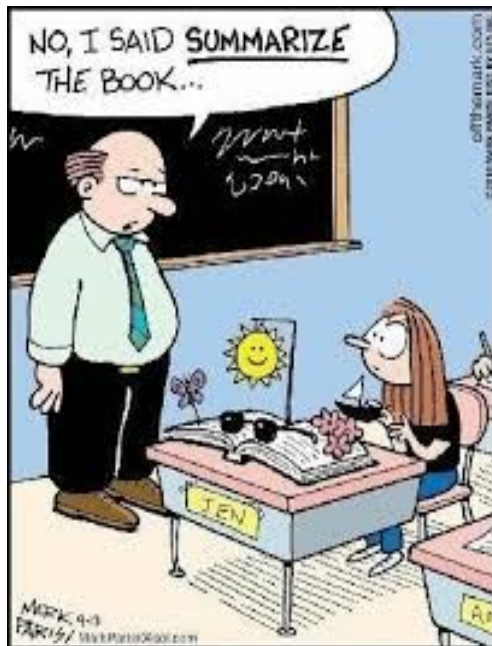
*SLAP on a hat*



*SLOP on some sunscreen*

If you read SLAP HAT, you could make ASPHALT, SPATHAL, or TAPLASH.

SLOP ON with a blank gives you eight options for seven-letter words; new to CSW15 is PONGALS.



# Christmas Cryptic Crossword

*It wouldn't be a holiday issue of a magazine without a puzzles section. This summer, we are thrilled to wish you a very Merry Christmas, with a cryptically thematic (or is it thematically cryptic?) crossword designed by Jeanette Grimmer from Rodney. Puzzlers should be aware though that not all crossword answers are allowable Scrabble plays, but hey, all wordplay is good wordplay, isn't it?*

*And while you're chewing over some of those clues, we'd also like to wish you a "Snappy" New Year (see p. 43).*

## CLUES ACROSS

1. Songs that give a girl direction. (6)
4. Waits may wear it if cold, though it's too firm at the end. (8)
10. Jovial reveller turns ill in Granny's chair. (9)
11. Christ is its prince, or just a bit, say. (5)
12. Except it's what Jesus was born to do. (4)
13. What your Christmas guests get, the six there first being in one nation. (10)
15. It's half a minute, broken piece of Christmas fare. (5, 3)
16. It gives light to a hundred and fifty English people. (6)
19. The reindeer draw what a small town produces. (6)
20. House where we'll be in sound of a bell. (8)
22. Can Joseph's relationship to Jesus be perhaps put not near? (6, 4)
24. Skewer the turkey, for example, turning crazy. (4)
26. Tailless creature provides title people gave the adult Jesus. (5)
27. To retain hui may be the good news of the Maori Christmas carol. (2, 7)
28. My true love sent me pipers on this day after Christmas. (5, 3)
29. Decorate with it, finding some art in sellotape use. (6)

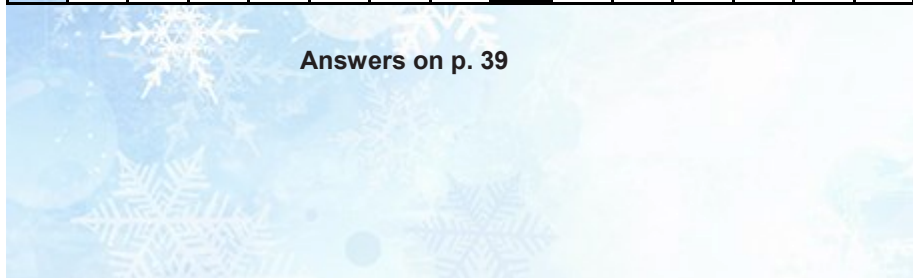
## CLUES DOWN

1. You need it to celebrate 25 December aright, this festival drink. (9, 6)
2. What \_\_\_\_\_ does the birth of Christ have with our over-commercialisation of Christmas? It's hardly even clear. (9)
3. Turn ring up, placed there in the manger? (4)
5. Call Mary this, as six grin away. (6)
6. The Virgin Birth is surely not this, for you can do it again, clever. (10)
7. Dutch granny and American soldier together greet the wise men. (1, 4)
8. A blathering eagle turns out to be the divine annunciator. (3, 5, 7)
9. Say, "\_\_\_\_\_ born today," and raise the sign, a Maori fish. (1, 4, 2)
14. When the reindeer cry, we hear a double negative. (5, 5)
17. 500 split over odd sign for movements of wind-driven snow. (9)
18. Two tailless and restless nervous reindeer may be like this. (7)
21. Spoke before a group did Herod: "That I may worship him, forsooth!" (6)
23. Nearly finished dressing the bird. (5)
25. A temple ritual offering a deity light some participate in at Christmas? (4)



1		2		3			4	5		6		7		8
					9									
10										11				
12					13									
				14										
15									16			17		
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28										29				

Answers on p. 39



# A Handy Fairy Tale

*In the recent 11th Hour Tournament I was thrilled to be able to play a triple-triple. My opponent placed an S right next to the bottom middle triple and, with my AIDHNT? rack, I fittingly played HANDIEST through it for 167 points. That was certainly the HANDIEST letter S I've come across in a while. When I later looked up other possible plays, I discovered that I in fact had two other triple-triple contenders, including the word HANDLIST. This led me to wonder what other HANDY words might be floating around in Collins, ripe for the picking so to speak.*

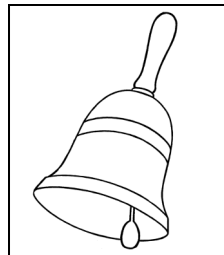
*My research yielded interesting results. There are actually over 200 words that begin with HAND, while some 25-odd words end with hand. Of course, some of these are variations on the verbs HAND (e.g. HANDED, HANDING etc.), and HANDLED, but I discovered some delightful gems. So, to celebrate my fairytale Scrabble moment, I've written the following little handy fairy tale.*

Once upon a time in a land far far away, there lived a beautiful HANDMAID named Handora, who was enslaved to a singularly unpleasant princess. This princess had been born with a CLUBHAND, and so consumed was she by her HANDICAP that she had grown into a spoiled and self-centred young woman. It did not help that her every whim, however ridiculous, was indulged by the king and queen.

At all hours of day or night, she would ring her silver HANDBELL to make unreasonable demands of Handora.

"Bring me the finest gown in the kingdom, girl," she would shout "and make sure it's HANDKNIT, using only the softest silks HANDWOVEN on HANDLOOMS. You bring that HANDMADE dress to me two hours hence, or it's off with your HANDS!" Another time, the spoiled princess demanded that a HANDCAR filled with the most delicate HANDCRAFTED, HANDBLOWN glassware be brought to the palace, just so that she could HANDPICK the best items and toss them over the HANDRAIL of the palace's grand staircase.

One day, as Handora was about her mistress' business, she met a HANDSOME young COWHAND. Unbeknownst to Handora, he was actually Prince Hans, heir to the neighbouring kingdom. Betrothed to the spoiled princess from their infancy, Hans had now come disguised as a COWHAND in order to discover what manner of woman his bride might be. However, as soon as his eyes fell on Handora, Prince Hans fell deeply in love. Likewise, Handora's heart was his from their first HANDSHAKE.



*Handbell*





*Cowhand and handmaiden*

The feel of his warm BAREHAND HANDCLASP caused her unprecedented joy.

As that long, hot summer passed, they met in secret, and Handora was the happiest HANDMAIDEN alive. Hans brought her joy and laughter. He performed HANDSTANDS for hours at a time; he taught her how to do HANDSPRINGS, and how to use a HANDAX and HANDSAW. He even instructed her in the use of weapons such as HANDGUNS and HANDJARS (Hans believed that women should be empowered to protect themselves, since a Prince Charming may not always be HANDILY standing by). Handora almost forgot her enslavement, and Hans forgot that he had been betrothed to the princess.

Alas! As autumn came, news of Hans' infatuation reached the ears of his father the king. And alack! The princess discovered that Handora had been meeting the princely COWHAND in secret. Both flew into a rage. Hans' father demanded that Hans never see or speak of Handora again. When Hans refused, his father had him

HANDCUFFED and locked in the highest tower of the castle, there to languish with only HANDFULS of grain for sustenance, until he agreed to eschew his love and wed the spoiled princess.

Meanwhile, in her fury, the princess demanded that Handora be given in wedlock to the ugliest, most cloddish, most unrefined man in the realm. The princess' father decreed that men from lands near and far would be invited to compete in a week-long tournament of jousting, HANDBALL, dancing, singing, and acrobatics to reveal the least-skilled male.

Soon, the kingdom's PR team had drawn up a HANDBILL (HANDWRIT in the most elegant LONGHAND that the royal calligraphers could manage), calling all ugly, unskilled, and unmannerly men to come and compete for the miserable but beautiful Handora. Kingdoms near and far ground to a halt as FARMHANDS, DECKHANDS, DOCKHANDS, CHARGEHANDS, and HANDCRAFTSMEN alike all abandoned their HANDJOBS (er, that is to say, their HANDWORK) to flock to the tournament.

Locked away in his tower, Prince Hans heard of his beloved's terrible plight. Desperate to put a HANDBRAKE on impending disaster, the imprisoned Prince persuaded a kindly guard to bring him research materials. While the tournament progressed, Hans searched frantically through HANDCARTS full of HANDBOOKS and HANDOUTS. There must be a way for true love, he thought, for true love always prevails in a fairy tale.

The spoiled princess' father had decreed that, at sunset on the last day of the tournament, Handora was to be wedded to the worst specimen of manhood in the realm. On the very morning of the day in question, Prince Hans at last came across a small HANDWRITTEN note in the margin of an ancient leatherbound tome. It read:

*When the hour is most dark and  
bleak,*

*A prince shall brush his true love's  
cheek*

*With HANDKERCHER by fairy made,*

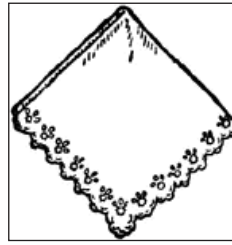
*And thus the evil spell shall fade.*

*The changeling will be shown at last,*

*And love to love shall be HANDFAST.*

He stared at the OFFHAND little note, and something clicked in his head. Could this be a prophecy? All fairy tales contain UNDERHAND curses and improbable magic, right? Could it be that the spoiled princess and Handora had somehow been swapped at birth, and that Handora was the true princess? Could he come through with his Prince Charming act and break the evil spell just in time? But how could he, enchained as he was?

Prince Hans (a man who believed that men should freely express their emotions) began to weep. His tears fell onto the little note. As they touched the words, there was a flash of light and there stood before him a beautiful woman.



*Handsewn handkerchief*

“Now, that’s enough crying,” she said briskly. “No need to explain anything to me. I’m Handra, your fairy godmother, and I’ve got a HANDLE on everything. You’re in love with a HANDMAIDEN who’s actually a princess, but she’s about to married off, and you need to get outa here before sunset to do the rescue scene. Oh yeah, and you need a magical prop. Coming right up!” And with a wave of Handra’s wand and a couple of HANDCLAPS, Prince Hans’ HANDCUFFS fell away, the door to the tower flew wide, and he found himself holding a beautiful HANDSEWN HANDKERCHIEF sprinkled with fairy dust.

“Well, get moving!” Handra said as he continued to stand there, mouth agape. “I can tell you they’ve got a HANDLIST of every Prince Uncharming for miles around lining up for her, but I’m fresh out of pumpkins. Used my last one to give that poor kid a lift to the ball. So better run, Hansy, run!” And with that last piece of sage advice, Handra disappeared.

Thus galvanised, Prince Hans dashed out the tower door and down the stairs, stopping only briefly to grab his favourite HANDAXE with the customised HANDGRIP (just in case of the traditional overgrown thornbushes).

He arrived at the palace just as the sun was preparing to dip below the horizon. With horror, he heard the town crier announcing “Handora the harlot HANDMAID shall be HANDFASTED to Handelot the hairy HANDYMAN.”

“Handie, my love!” Hans cried, flinging himself into the grand hall, “Just say no! Remember what I told you about consent! They can’t make you marry that monkey, HANDMAID or not, and you’re definitely not!!!” Everyone stared openmouthed while Prince Hans desperately MANHANDLED his way through the crowd. “Stop him, HANDCUFF him, chop his HANDS off!” screamed the spoiled princess, and many HANDS reached out to grab him. But, taking a firm HANDHOLD of his hefty HANDAXE, he held them off valiantly.

At last, Hans reached Handora. Whipping out Handra’s magic HANDKERCHER, he brushed it quickly over Handora’s cheek, and everyone aghed with astonishment as a HANDWROUGHT tiara suddenly appeared on Handora’s golden curls. At the same time, Handra appeared in a puff of fairy dust. “Yup,” she explained to the bewildered king and queen, “she’s the real deal, your kid. That one over there that you’ve been calling your darling daughter? She’s the kid of some HANDMAID down the road that my sis rustled up to trick you guys. Handiana’s always been the wicked one, and I’m constantly having to clean up her messes. Speaking of which, I gotta go and help some other lot over yonder. They’ve got a daughter who’s gonna die ’cos of a prick if I don’t hurry.” And with a wave of her wand, she disappeared.

The spoiled princess (well, HANDMAID now) was beside herself of course. “Chop their HANDS off... I want them HANDLESS!” she was heard screaming over and over, as the royal psychiatrists bustled her out a side door.

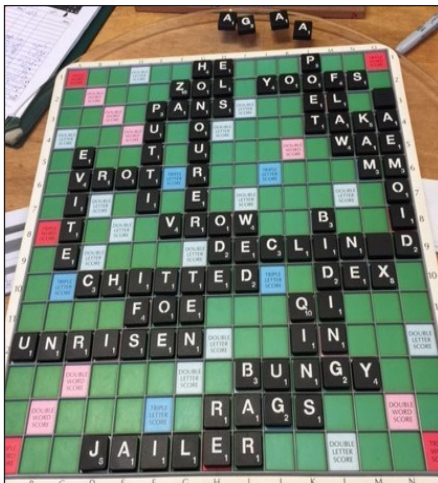
Prince Hans and Princess Handora were HANDFASTED right then and there, while Handelot the HANDYMAN stood by, still trying to work out what had happened. Well, he was the most witless male in several realms, so that was no surprise. The king and queen welcomed their real daughter with open arms, probably because she was considerably less demanding than the earlier model. Prince Hans’ father was delighted because his son had done the right thing and married an appropriate princess, and everyone lived happily ever after. Even the new HANDMAID with the CLUBHAND (after a great deal of therapy) found her calling: advocating for the rights of left-handed people and creating awareness of the harmful effects of systemic HANDISM.

*[Editors’ note: All -HAND- words capitalised in this story are playable in Scrabble (but the characters’ names and diminutives are not). However, please note that FAIRYTALE is designated an adjective (as in, “the prince and princess had a fairytale wedding”) so don’t be tempted to extend it with an S.]*

# Mailbox



Howard Warner tells us that he was stunned by the awesome game that he played with Lewis Hawkins during the 2016 Whanganui tournament. Despite getting three consecutive bingos, Howard nevertheless finished with a silver in that particular game with Lewis finishing on 524 and Howard on 480. Better look out Lewis; Howard is determined to get his revenge at your first Masters this year.



*Howard vs Lewis*

A simpler 4x4 square can be formed from Scrabble words using just the letters A and N:

**A N N A**  
**N A A N**  
**N A N A**  
**A N A N**

Nick wonders if a 5x5 square of this type is possible. It may not be with just Scrabble words. Here is an example using some terms from other sources. RESAT and ARETS are allowed in Scrabble, \*STAER is dialect for 'stair', \*TARSE is an old word for 'penis' and \*ESTRA is a Swedish Island.

**R E S A T**  
**E S T R A**  
**S T A E R**  
**A R E T S**  
**T A R S E**

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*With reference to pp. 30-31 of our Spring issue, John Foster, Independent, writes:*

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*Jeff Grant, Independent, writes:*

On p.9 in the Spring 2016 issue of *Forwards* Nick Cavenagh (Kiwi) mentions the following regular 4x4 word square formed from anagrams of COAT:

**T A C O**  
**A T O C**  
**C O A T**  
**O C T A**

In creating a \*LINDRO it could be said that an original word is UNLETTERED at both ends. Such four letter \*LINDRO sequences are relatively easy to find if any ABETTERS care to go SWIMMING through our lexicon, but longer sequences are much rarer. The longest I have found incorporate six-letter palindromes, such as MANTELLETTA, and perhaps the longest \*LINDRO playable on a Scrabble board is the 15-letter MICROMILLIMETRE.

## Mindsports Academy 2017 World Championships

The 2017 Mindsports Academy 5th World Championship, incorporating the World Youth Scrabble championship, The World Scrabble Championship, and several other events will take place in Doha, Qatar 19-27th August.

The event will start with the Youth tournament which will last three days (format to be agreed), and is expected to be the largest youth event ever held with over 200 players already assured.

The world Championships will be over six days with 32 rounds followed by quarter, semi, and finals at the weekend.

There will also be a weekend event and other side events for players to enjoy. We also expect several language events but at this time we are still working on scheduling.

The Tournament Director will be Amy Byrne, who will be building a team from around the world for the event. This will also be the team that will then help plan several events scheduled for 2018. Amy will be responsible for the structure and running of all events and will liaise with the team at Mindsports International to ensure that information is processed as quickly and as effectively as possible.

There will be several other events in Qatar this time and we expect over 1500 people to attend. It is part of the Qatar summer festival which in 2015 had 160,000 visitors from over 30

countries. More information on this will be available in the New Year.

For now the team have a great deal to plan and we are working on discounted flights through an airline sponsor. We also expect discounted room rates and other benefits to be announced in due time. We are in talks with several leading brands to make this the largest media event possible.

We hope that as many players as possible join us and we will be contacting several groups over the coming months to help with visas, answer questions, and to correct any misunderstandings regarding local customs.

More information will follow in the New Year.

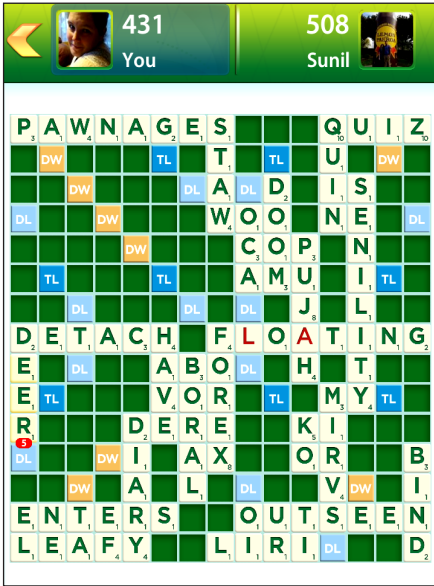
Mindsports International

.....

*Anderina McLean, Mt. Albert, writes:*

My cousin Sandy, the first person ever to mention to me that ‘Scrabble Club’ was a thing, has long held the ambition to have all triple word squares used in a single game. Earlier this year, Sandy and I achieved this in an online game, but only by careful design: “look, only two more to go, so if you play a four-letter word there, then it’ll open up the other one with enough tiles still in the bag that I can take the corner one and you’ll be able to play to the middle one...”. We were still pretty pleased with ourselves... but then, a few months later, this happened:





This was against another of my regular online opponents. I didn't even notice that we *had* used all the Triple Word squares, until at the start of our next game, my opponent commented how high-scoring this one had been, and I went back to take a closer look at it.

How many times have *you* managed to do this? And is it just me, or does it only happen in games against non-rated players?

## NZASP LIFETIME AWARDS

*Thanks to John Foster for the following information:*

Any additions to the list of lifetime awards recipients are made at the end of each calendar year. This year there are two new awards to be made. The NZASP heartily congratulates the following new **Grand Masters**:

**Lawson Sue**, who was only one win away from qualifying for GM status by the fast-track route three years ago and had to settle for the long haul.



*Lawson Sue*

**Anderina McLean**, who has qualified with a flurry of top performances in the last six months.



*Anderina McLean*

In our Spring issue, we published a "Whodunnit" puzzle (pp. 28-29), then neglected to allocate space to print the answers in that issue. So, now that you've had a few weeks to mull over the questions, the answers are as follows:

1: JEFF GRANT (yes sorry, the extra square made that one a lot trickier, didn't it?) 2: NIGEL RICHARDS 3: JOANNE CRAIG 4: ALLIE QUINN  
 5: LYNNE BUTLER 6: NOEL MAISEY 7: DAVID LLOYD 8: KIWI  
 9: TAURANGA 10: LYRES FREETH

Which of course means that we need to thank JACQUELINE Coldham-Fussel of Kiwi Club for contributing the trivia which we used to create the puzzle.

# Two Extra Scrabble Tournaments in November and December

by *Liz Fagerlund, Mt. Albert*

The number 25, especially in the month of December, probably makes people think of Christmas day. It's also the number of extra tournament games that became suddenly available when Lyres Freeth and I decided to organise two "pop-up" tournaments.

## 11th Hour Tournament

The first tournament was held during the weekend of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> November, and was named the **11<sup>th</sup> Hour tournament**. We tried a slightly different format from the usual round robin format that is generally seen in New Zealand tournaments. Each grade had eight players playing 16 games. The first 14 games were played like a normal double round robin, then the last two games were played king-of-the-hill style (i.e. first plays second, third plays fourth etc.), except that in the 16th game you didn't have to face whichever person you had just played in the 15th game.

In other words, everyone in a grade played each other twice, plus you got to play two other people in the grade a third time.

Considering that the tournaments were only announced after Mt. Albert's tournament in early October, the response was great! 48 players turned up, with many travelling from out of town – one from Dunedin, two from Nelson, two from Whanganui, three from Wellington, four from Hamilton, two from Coromandel, three from Rotorua, one from Rodney, two from Tauranga, seven from Whangarei, and an Aussie import! To keep numbers equal (six grades of eight players) and avoid any byes, I didn't play, but did the scoring, stuff in the kitchen, and a bit of bossing people around to keep things moving. Lyres and Alastair Richards (Alastair being the Aussie import) helped out too with scoring, kitchen, setting up, and cleaning up. Things ran very smoothly, and even

though the start time each day was 9:00a.m. and there were eight games a day, we were done with play by about 5:00p.m. both days. This was helped by players playing each group of two games without a break (as long as their next opponent was ready of course).



*First time tournament player Joan Stanners vs Joan Beale at the 11th Hour tournament*

We had just four spot prizes, each one running over four games. The first one was the best time or number word – the winner was clearly Betty Eriksen with her ELEVENS (especially considering the tourney name). The second was a word with at least two of the big power letters, and this went to Murray Rogers with ZEX for 83. Third was the highest word with at least four different vowels, and this went to Anderina McLean with ORGANIZE for 104. Finally, the fourth spot prize was the highest word starting with N (for November), and this was won by Bernie Jardine with NOISIER for 68. Other special prizes went to Alastair with the highest game score of 621, Olivia Godfrey for the highest word score (HANDIEST for 167), Allie Quinn for the highest non-bonus word (ZOEAE for 100), Olivia for the highest losing score of 490, and Howard Warner and Lawson Sue for the highest aggregate of 1031 (Howard 583 to Lawson 448). A prize was also awarded to the person with the most bonuses in one game.



*Lorraine Van Veen ponders her move at the 11th Hour tournament*

Up to game 10, there were eight games where a player had four bonus words, but then in the last game Alastair sealed the prize with five bonus words (ALERION, VESTURED, MARAVEDI, STINGER, and POTGUNS).

## Nearly Xmas Tournament

The second tournament was the **Nearly Xmas tournament** on December 10<sup>th</sup>. We used the promotion/demotion format over nine games, with four players per group. After games three and six, the top person in each group moved up a group while the bottom player moved down (except the top group where nobody could move up and the bottom group where nobody could move down). We had 28 entries here, giving us seven groups. One keen player, Anna Hough from Nelson, got some cheap flights and came up to play. Two came from Hamilton and two from Rodney. How lucky that for both tournaments we had exactly the right number of players per group or grade!

This time both Lyres and I could play, so Alastair was given the job of scoring and he worked very hard in between games to enter scores. (Luckily my printer was still quite well after Alastair tripped on the power cord and sent the printer to the floor!) Lyres and I, and many helpers, looked after the morning and afternoon teas.

All the players got the hang of this different format, even though many hadn't previously played in a promotion / demotion tournament.

Even with nine games and starting at 9:00a.m., (a bit later than we had planned) we had still finished play by 5:00p.m. and those of us who cleaned up were out of there by 5:30p.m. We managed to sell all 40 numbers of our “lucky number” raffle – great with only 28 players! Lyres had created a beautiful Christmas tree with each number stuck on to the tree – clearly this made the numbers more attractive!

The winner was Lynn Carter with seven wins, but there were several players on six wins including Joan Beale in fifth place, showing that with this format you don’t have to be one of the top-rated players to win a prize. Joan also won a special prize for the biggest “upward mover” in the field.

We gave two spot prizes for each group of three games – a word starting with C (for Christmas), longest word of nine letters or more (an existing word could be added to), and the best Christmas words.

Alastair again took out the prize for the highest game with 617. The highest word score was won by Patrick Carter with BLITZES for 135, while the highest non-bonus word went to Pam Barlow with RIZ for 71. Highest losing score went to Alastair with 428, the lowest winning score was awarded to Frances Higham with 357. Finally, the prize for highest aggregate went to Lyres and Jennifer Smith with a total of 938 (Lyres 484 to Jennifer 454).

Thanks to everyone who entered one or both tournaments. We got so many positive comments, especially about the good number of games, and the

fact that we provided two extra tournaments to fill the usual gap in our Scrabble calendar between the last tournament of the year and the first tournament of the following year.

Thanks also to the many players who contributed food for morning and afternoon teas, helped with setting up, packing up, and kitchen duties.

Over the two tournaments, we gave quite generous prizes, and after other expenses, which we kept to a minimum, we have just over \$100 to donate towards the NZASP travel fund (quite apart from the total of \$152 in tournament levies).



*Lucky number Christmas tree*

# Ask And-dream-a



Now that the silly season is upon us, with its over-indulgence in rich food and drink, combined with the inevitable Scrabble withdrawal due to the seasonal lull in the tournament calendar, it seems a prime time for more material for this column to be generated. While you're dreaming of a white Christmas or being home for Christmas or what you'd really like to say to your in-laws at Christmas, perhaps you'll have a few Scrabble dreams too. If you do, may I impress upon you the urgency of recording your Scrabble dream as soon as possible after it has been dreamed, so that both the sequence and the details -so crucial to an accurate interpretation- are preserved intact. Since this column was first published, a number of Scrabblers have approached me, saying, "I had a Scrabble dream I was going to send you, but now I forget what it was about". Don't be that person! Help this column to continue! And read on to see that I'm not exaggerating if I say, "we couldn't make this stuff up!"

## Olivia's dream

*I was talking to my friend "K". I'm not sure where we were, but other people in the room included the conductor of my choir and other choir members. K and I were sitting at the back of the room on the floor. There may have been a movie playing as the room was in darkness. We had a dinner plate on the floor between us, with some squares of chocolate and some Scrabble tiles on it. We were chatting quietly together when K suddenly said, "Oh no!" I asked what the matter was, but she didn't respond.*

*Somehow I knew that her exclamation had something to do with the plate, so I reached down, and discovered that a disaster beyond my imagination had occurred. All the chocolate and my Scrabble tiles had somehow melted so that, while most of the tiles were fine, at least three of them had become combined with the chocolate in such a way that they were inseparable. It wasn't just that the chocolate had melted over them, but the tiles and chocolate had melted into each other. The tiles were completely unrecognisable and unreadable of course. lumps of chocolate with sticky tiles melted into the edges. Some were stretched out really thin and only had a bit of*

*chocolate mixed in, while others were just big lumps of chocolate with sticky tiles melted into the edges. My set was ruined. I must have made a noise because my choir conductor asked what was wrong. The lights at the front of the room went up and I silently held up the chocolate/Scrabble mess for everyone to see. There was a general gasp of horror, but I seemed quite sanguine about the whole thing. I said, "Vicky will fix it".*

*And then I woke up.*



## And-dream-a says

While Scrabble is one of the great pleasures of your life, this dream reveals that it is in a sense inseparable from other leisure activities in which you have invested yourself: mingling with friends, participating in a choir, and, of course, eating. Your commitment to Scrabble has had an impact on each of these other aspects, and they, in turn, remain interconnected with your Scrabble experience.

While for many people, dreaming about chocolate would be a happy experience, your subconscious has focused here on a truly nightmarish aspect of chocolate: its ability to melt quickly and thereby make a mess of everything. The fact that in the dream this attribute has not only affected your Scrabble tiles, but been transferred to them, is an indication of an unacknowledged concern that Scrabble has the potential to take over, or otherwise inadvertently ruin,

other things (such as choir) that are also (but perhaps not equally) precious to you. Perhaps, as some of the tiles in your dream so vividly demonstrated, you might be stretching yourself too thin?

Of course, there's nothing actually nefarious about Scrabble, and your life is not unbalanced beyond repair. In real life, no issue with your Scrabble set has yet been unable to be fixed by Vicky, its designer and manufacturer. Any personal disaster, no matter how it may be judged by onlookers ("general gasp of horror") can be overcome by your own positive attitude and proactive problem-solving skills. In your dream, Vicky's name is invoked as a powerful talisman, reflecting this underlying optimism, and proving that Scrabble is a consuming ("sticky") but ultimately harmless pastime.

### **Answers to Christmas Cryptic Crossword (see pp. 26-27)**

#### **Clues Across**

1. CAROLS    4. OVERCOAT    10. ROLLICKER    11. PEACE  
 12. SAVE    13. INVITATION    15. MINCE PIE    16. CANDLE  
 19. SLEIGH    20. DWELLING    22. PARENT UNTO    24. STAB  
 26. RABBI    27. TE HARINUI    28. TENTH DAY    29. TINSEL

#### **Clues Down**

1. CHRISTMAS SPIRIT    2. RELEVANCE    3. LAID    5. VIRGIN  
 6. REPEATABLE    7. O MAGI    8. THE ANGEL GABRIEL  
 9. A KING IS    14. NEIGH NEIGH    17. DRIFTINGS    18. TWITCHY  
 21. QUOTHA    23. ROBIN    25. ARTI.

# Twenty years ago in *Forwards*

by John Foster, *Independent*

Lynn Wood has just become the first New Zealand player to achieve 4000 rated games, so it seems timely to print this account Lynn wrote of the inaugural Trans-Tasman Challenge.

## THE INAUGURAL TRANS-TASMAN CHALLENGE

by LYNN WOOD

The first Trans-Tasman tournament got off to a slow start. Two Australian players were late, but they were to be excused as the plane had broken down the night before in Tasmania, and they were lucky to be there at all.

The haka didn't happen, but the New Zealand team did look very well decked out in their polo shirts with the silver fern and NZ Scrabble Team 1996 wording. The national anthems of both countries were played after a welcome speech by Bob Jackman and John Foster, and then it was down to business.

I annotated several games on the first day, and that was exciting, as the Australians tend to have a different style of game play to the Kiwis, and the mental notes were being made to advise our team of their quirks.

On Saturday evening Alan Weinstein, an ex-New Zealander, took us to the Mandarin Club for an excellent

smorgasbord, with prawns and crab like you wouldn't believe. We couldn't all sit together as a booking had not been made, but the evening was nevertheless a very pleasant one with three tables of mixed nationality 'Scrabble nuts'. Thanks, Alan.

Day two was fairly uneventful, with

positions at the top not seesawing very much. Marriage must be good for Bob Jackman, as he continued on his winning way. He was, however, beaten convincingly by Lynne and by over 200 points. Lynne said she would have to trounce Jack the giant killer and she did. By now it is day three and NZ has a huge task ahead of them to win the shield. The top three places remain on a knife edge — it is still anybody's race. Will it be Bob or John or Mike? I was fortunate enough to annotate the last game of Bob and Howard, and Howard nearly pulled it off. If the rules had not been Dingle challenge, OXALISES would have won the game for Howard and thereby given John Holgate first place. This was not to be, so all credit to Bob for his clear win and large spread of points. A worthy mention must be made for Chris Hooks, the first reserve, who finished in fourth place. Quite some achievement, sunshine!



**The New Zealand team in civvies relaxing after the event - left to right:**

**Jeff Grant, Glennis Hale, John Foster, Lynne Powell, Chris Hooks (hidden), Peter Sinton, Lynn Wood, Patrick Carter, Denise Gordon, Sheryl Davidson, Mike Sigley, Kendall Boyd (absent Howard Warner)**

### Unusual Words

**CENOTES** (Michael Sigley) deep natural holes in the ground with pools at the bottom of them especially in the Yucatan peninsula, often used by the Mayas as a place of sacrifice.

**EUPNOEA** (John Holgate) normal respiration.

**PERSUES** (Alistair Kane) tracks of blood.

**KERATOSE** (Jeff Grant) having a horny skeleton.

**HEINIES** (John Holgate) a slang term for the buttocks.

**FLAVONE** (Paul Cleary) a crystalline compound occurring in certain plants, eg primrose.

**SALERINGS** (Howard Warner) enclosed areas for the parading of livestock.



**Mike Sigley (left) playing Bob Jackman (right) in a game annotated by Lynn Wood (centre)**



**The dramatic last round game between John Holgate and Jeff Grant. Jeff started with TAXOL (35), HOTHEADS (66), KERATOSE (74) and a lead of 175 to 54. John replied with (Q)UINONE (68), GENERALS (75), JIZ (53) and (S)CUTATE (74) to win 502 to 368.**

### Results

Player	Country	Wins	Margin
1 Bob Jackman	(AUS)	17	+710
2 John Holgate	(AUS)	16	+1285
3 Mike Sigley	(NZ)	15	+1250
4 Chris Hooks	(NZ)	15	-207
5 Peter Sinton	(NZ)	14	+678
6 Patric Carter	(NZ)	14	-135
7 Esther Perrins	(AUS)	13	+109
8 Joan Rosenthal	(AUS)	12	+449
9 Roger Blom	(AUS)	12	-7
10 Geoff Wright	(AUS)	12	-46
11 Paul Cleary	(AUS)	11	+52
12 Kendall Boyd	(NZ)	11	-292
13 Steve Sunter	(AUS)	11	-1048
14 John Foster	(NZ)	10	-125
15 Sheryl Davidson	(NZ)	10	-252
16 Carmel Dodd	(AUS)	10	-431
17 Alistair Kane	(AUS)	10	-572
18 Glennis Hale	(NZ)	10	-757
19 Howard Warner	(NZ)	9	+260
20 John Foley	(AUS)	9	+109
21 Denise Gordon	(NZ)	9	-67
22 Jeff Grant	(NZ)	9	-71
23 Lynne Powell	(NZ)	9	-384
24 Andrew Hamblin	(AUS)	8	-508

HIGH GAME: Geoff Wright 591

HIGH WORD: Peter Sinton 176 "BRIGADED"

Photos obtained from the IPI Trans-Tasman Challenge web site

# Filk

*My first filk, featured in issue 120, was timed to coincide with the word FILK's induction into our dictionary with CSW15. Although I have enjoyed writing a filk for almost every issue since then, I have received no feedback on my efforts... until now. They say that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, so I was thrilled to receive not only compliments on my own opuses, but a new song to gladden the hearts of Scrabblers everywhere.*

## Where Do I Begin (Love Story)

*A filk by Lyn Toka, set to the music of Francis Lai*

*(Adapted from lyrics originally written by Carl Sigman)*

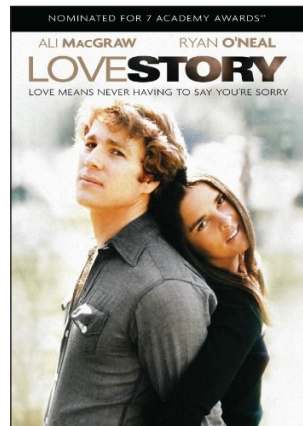
Where do I begin  
To tell the story of how great this game can be,  
The game of Scrabble, yes, it means so much you see,  
The simple truth about the joy it brings to me,  
Where do I start?

The first time that I played  
I fell in love with it forever and a day.  
There's never been another pastime quite like this:  
The most exciting and absorbing game to play.  
It stimulates - it fills my mind  
With very special words: with threes and fours  
And seven-letter words.  
It fills my soul and satisfies.  
And anywhere I go I'm never lonely.

I take my board, who could be lonely?  
I reach for the tiles; they're always there.

How long will it last,

This sweet infatuation for the lovely game?  
The mental stimulation - will it stay the same?  
I know I'll need it till the stars all burn away,  
And still I'll play.





# Snappy New Year!

It is to be hoped that everybody recognises their own accustomed playing venue, but how much attention do you pay to detail when you travel away from home for a tournament?

Can you correctly identify at which club's tournaments the following photos were taken?

Answers on p. 47.

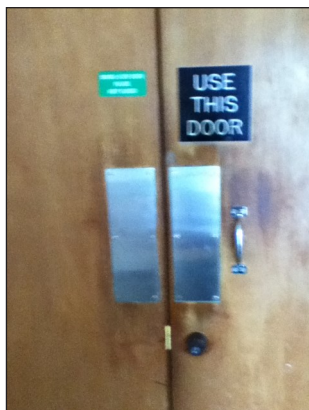
1



2



3



4



5



6





# Tournament results

## Otago Lion

12-13 November 2016

15 Games

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
<b>A Grade</b>				
1 Shirley Hol	CHC	14	1177	429
2 Marian Ross	DUN	11	623	399
3 Mo Wetere	DUN	8	260	390
4 Ruth Groffman	DUN	8	190	367
5 Carolyn Kyle	IND	8	-30	374
6 Colleen Cook	CHC	4	-724	369
7 Chris Handley	DUN	4	-768	353
8 Gabrielle Bolt	CHC	3	-728	347

### B Grade

1 Malcolm Graham	CHC	12	1209	405
2 Joanna Fox	CHC	11	626	379
3 Betty Don	NEL	7	-131	365
4 Anne-Louise Milne	DUN	6	-941	314
5 Judy Driscoll	KAP	5	-348	352
6 Marilyn Sinclair	CHC	4	-415	337



*Otago Lion winners Shirley Hol and Malcolm Graham*

## 11th Hour

19-20 November 2016

16 Games

Name	Wins	Spread
<b>A Grade</b>		
1 Alastair Richards	13	1070
2 Howard Warner	11	412
3 Lyres Freeth	10	306
4 Lawson Sue	8	-280
5 John Foster	6	-355
6 Olivia Godfrey	6	-825
7 Anderina McLean	5	-157
8 Cicely Bruce	5	-171

### B Grade

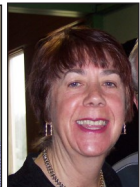
1 Lynn Wood	11.5	585
2 Jeanette Grimmer	9	175
3 Lorraine Van Veen	9	97
4 Murray Rogers	8.5	24
5 Jennifer Smith	8	-99
6 Val Mills	7	-87
7 Anna Hough	7	-188
8 Glenda Foster	4	-507

### C Grade

1 Hazel Purdie	12	570
2 Allie Quinn	11	751
3 Pam Barlow	10	208
4 Roger Coates	7	-14
5 Heather Landon	7	-271
6 Delcie Macbeth	7	-343
7 Karl Scherer	6	-371
8 Jean O'Brien	4	-530

### D Grade

1 Shirley Martin	12	787
2 Lynn Carter	9	3
3 Jena Yousif	8	191
4 Su Walker	7.5	-10
5 Betty Eriksen	7.5	-283
6 Ruth Groffman	7	32
7 Mary Gray	7	-101
8 Glenda Geard	6	-619



*11th Hour winners Hazel Purdie, Shirley Martin and Carole Coates*

	Name	Wins Spread	
<b>E Grade</b>			
1	Carole Coates	12	636
2	Bernie Jardine	11	668
3	Suzanne Harding	8.5	323
4	Ruth Godwin	8.5	102
5	Junior Gesmundo	8	-368
6	Tei Ngatai	6.5	350
7	Tim Henneveld	5.5	-800
8	Margaret Toso	4	-911

	Name	Wins Spread	
<b>F Grade</b>			
1	Anne Scatchard	12	772
2	Rodney Jardine	11	497
3	Joan Beale	10	29
4	Lynn Thompson	9	293
5	Janny Henneveld	8	-205
6	Joan Stanners	5	-229
7	Frances Higham	5	-511
8	Valerie Smith	4	-646

### Tournament Calendar 2017

Tournament	Location	Dates
Pakuranga	Auckland	28-29 January
Wellington	Wellington	4-5 February
Rotorua	Rotorua	25-26 February
Bounty Motel Bay of Islands	Paihia	18-19 March
Dunedin	Dunedin	8-9 April
# Masters	Auckland	14-16 April
South Island Championships	Christchurch	6-7 May
Nationals	Christchurch	3-4 June
Whangarei	Whangarei	1-2 July
Papatoetoe	Auckland	15-16 July
# Restricted entry		

### Nearly Xmas Promotion Demotion 10 December 2016

#### 9 Games

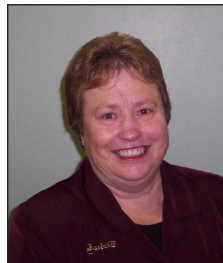
	Name	Wins Spread	
1	Lynn Carter	7	138
2	Alastair Richards	6	584
3	Patrick Carter	6	416
4	Pam Barlow	6	403
5	Joan Beale	6	145
6	Liz Fagerlund	6	-157
7	Merelyn Fuemana	5	429
8	Ernie Gidman	5	402
9	Jennifer Smith	5	234
10	Roger Cole-baker	5	65
11	Joan Stanners	5	11
12	Dianne Cole-baker	5	-94
13	Valma Gidman	5	-200
14	Lyres Freeth	5	-221
15	Shirley Martin	5	-256
16	Val Mills	4	156
17	Frances Higham	4	71
18	Lawson Sue	4	53
19	Anna Hough	4	20
20	Judy Cronin	4	-14
21	Julie Atkinson	4	-280
22	Su Walker	3	-12
23	Mary Gray	3	-145
24	Jena Yousif	3	-256
25	Jackie Reid	3	-307
26	Hazel Purdie	3	-346
27	Junior Gesmundo	3	-438
28	Valerie Smith	2	-401



*Lynn Carter*

# Rankings list as at 1 January 2017

	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%		Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%
1	Alastair Richards	2047	80.5	109	74%	49	Shirley Martin	1445	977.5	1926	51%
2	Howard Wamer (GM)	1962	2054.5	2742	75%	50	Glenda Foster (E)	1438	1085.5	2195	49%
3	Joanne Craig (GM)	1942	375.5	568	66%	51	Peter Johnstone	1432	179	342	52%
4	Lyres Freeth (GM)	1929	375.5	573	66%	52	Clare Wall	1432	319	611	52%
5	Nick Cavenagh (GM)	1873	410.5	682	60%	53	Roger Coates	1420	807	1697	48%
6	Patrick Carter (GM)	1872	771.5	1229	63%	54	Rosalind Phillips	1417	591	1138	52%
7	Blue Thorogood (GM)	1868	659.5	930	71%	55	Delcie Macbeth	1398	954.5	1823	52%
8	Jeff Grant (GM)	1841	1698	2251	75%	56	Heather Landon	1393	578	1131	51%
9	Peter Sinton (GM)	1828	740	1036	71%	57	Karl Scherer	1388	89	153	58%
10	Mike Sigley (GM)	1808	1004	1451	69%	58	Lynn Carter	1361	748.5	1455	51%
11	Lawson Sue (GM)	1798	897	1647	54%	59	Yvette Hewlett	1355	482.5	1006	48%
12	Anderina McLean (GM)	1760	756.5	1390	54%	60	Herb Ramsay	1354	181	296	61%
13	Lynne Butler (GM)	1757	919.5	1510	61%	61	Marian Ross	1329	609.5	1178	52%
14	Glenn Hale (GM)	1746	1502.5	2716	55%	62	Nola Borrell	1328	481.5	881	55%
15	John McNaughton (GM)	1744	157	248	63%	63	Leila Thomson	1318	602.5	1313	46%
16	Andrew Bradley (GM)	1741	854	1625	53%	64	Margaret Bullen	1301	133.5	235	57%
17	Liz Fagerlund (GM)	1734	1244.5	2362	53%	65	Jean O'Brien	1293	1196.5	2359	51%
18	John Foster (GM)	1723	1589.5	2794	57%	66	David Gunn	1285	1323	2690	49%
19	Denise Gordon (E)	1699	735.5	1525	48%	67	Yoon Kim Fong	1284	607	1210	50%
20	Olivia Godfrey	1698	797	1518	53%	68	Shirley Pearce	1263	110	221	50%
21	Lewis Hawkins	1688	203	318	64%	69	Lyn Toka	1247	574.5	1092	53%
22	Cicely Bruce (E)	1684	503.5	914	55%	70	Carolyn Kyle	1246	886	1804	49%
23	Paul Lister (E)	1680	832.5	1494	56%	71	Mo Wetere	1225	45.5	74	61%
24	Nick Ascroft	1679	181	335	54%	72	Paul Freeman	1224	81.5	153	53%
25	Lynn Wood	1678	1928	4001	48%	73	Bev Edwards	1221	263.5	501	53%
26	Steven Brown (GM)	1673	919	1724	53%	74	Mary Gray	1213	610.5	1241	49%
27	Scott Chaput (E)	1662	249	423	59%	75	Betty Eriksen	1205	1479	2916	51%
28	Vicky Robertson	1642	367.5	742	50%	76	Joan Thomas	1203	1129	2276	50%
29	Lois Binnie	1637	84	165	51%	77	Mary Curtis	1199	337	635	53%
30	Pam Robson	1635	581.5	1268	46%	78	Jena Yousif	1195	506	1007	50%
31	Jennifer Smith	1632	1122.5	2315	48%	79	Ruth Groffman	1189	568	1142	50%
32	Alex Leckie-Zaharic	1620	166	290	57%	80	Leanne Field	1182	179	331	54%
33	Murray Rogers (E)	1598	880	1665	53%	81	Roger Cole-Baker	1167	592	1155	51%
34	Lorraine Van Veen	1587	915	1815	50%	82	Barney Bonthron	1159	30	52	58%
35	Jeanette Grimmer	1582	183.5	335	55%	83	Barbara Dunn	1158	342.5	587	58%
36	Val Mills (E)	1566	1337	2763	48%						
37	Glenyss Buchanan	1565	696.5	1503	46%						
38	Rosemary Cleary (E)	1560	809	1756	46%						
39	Katy Yiakmis	1534	199	411	48%						
40	Allie Quinn	1528	1107.5	2252	49%						
41	Irene Smith	1520	207	423	49%						
42	Anna Hough	1501	747	1506	50%						
43	Shirley Hol	1489	721	1539	47%						
44	Selena Chan	1481	337.5	659	51%						
45	Anne Goldstein	1477	136	258	53%						
46	Pam Barlow	1476	761.5	1513	50%						
47	Hazel Purdie	1475	1163.5	2370	49%						
48	John Baird	1461	250	455	55%						



**Barbara Dunn**

	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%
84	Glenda Geard	1155	1103.5	2264	49%
85	Geoff Vautier	1155	125	331	38%
86	Faye Cronhelm	1137	882	1774	50%
87	Ernie Gidman	1129	427	856	50%
88	Dianne Cole-Baker	1119	557	1090	51%
89	Carole Coates	1109	689.5	1417	49%
90	Karen Miller	1101	571	1142	50%
91	Su Walker	1094	1071.5	2110	51%
92	Chris Handley	1081	403.5	797	51%
93	Bernie Jardine	1078	68.5	151	45%
94	Colleen Cook	1078	384.5	782	49%
95	Julia Schiller	1073	270	597	45%
96	Allison Torrance	1068	460	889	52%
97	Jean Boyle	1043	583.5	1105	53%
98	Gabrielle Bolt	1035	465	900	52%
99	Tony Charlton	1028	293	589	50%
100	Malcolm Graham	1020	484.5	952	51%
101	Roto Mitchell	1019	784.5	1564	50%
102	Jill Paterson	972	92	158	58%
103	Ruth Godwin	961	372	819	45%
104	Suzanne Harding	959	464	917	51%
105	June Mackwell	958	852	1874	45%
106	Jo Ann Ingram	956	263	516	51%
107	Judith Thomas	955	240.5	486	49%
108	Geoff Bonser	951	98	176	56%
109	Sheila Reed	947	281.5	586	48%
110	Sandra Cowen	943	79.5	162	49%
111	Yvonne McLaughlan	942	516.5	1065	48%
112	Joanna Fox	940	136	244	56%
113	Shirley Morrison	939	192	404	48%
114	Jenny Litchfield	897	68	120	57%
115	Tei Ngatai	894	52	98	53%
116	Joanne Morley	894	64.5	108	60%
117	Junior Gesmundo	878	138.5	277	50%
118	Agnes Rowland	850	124	241	51%
119	Antonia Aarts	800	273.5	575	48%
120	Merelyn Fuemana	797	25	63	40%
121	Sharron Nelley	796	56	104	54%
122	Kathleen Mori-Barker	783	387	780	50%
123	Tim Henneveld	779	493	1082	46%
124	Phyllis Paltridge	751	82.5	183	45%
125	Tobias Devereux	747	34	51	67%
126	Betty Don	742	254.5	543	47%
127	Hanna Dodge	717	107.5	222	48%
128	Margaret Toso	712	115	267	43%



*Judy Driscoll*

129	Judy Driscoll	696	222	575	39%
130	Anne-Louise Milne	690	156	464	34%
131	Pat Wood	677	147.5	276	53%
132	Stephanie Pluck	677	90.5	207	44%
133	Annette Coombes	646	787	1701	46%
134	Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell	641	646.5	1339	48%
135	Noelene Bettjeman	625	341.5	736	46%
136	Anne Scatchard	615	427.5	843	51%
137	Valma Gidman	608	716.5	1433	50%
138	Marilyn Sinclair	603	98.5	216	46%
139	Madelaine Green	593	121.5	228	53%
140	Joyce Mowbray	582	20	60	33%
141	Jillian Greening	578	354	746	47%
142	Dorothy Bakel	578	35.5	104	34%
143	Rodney Jardine	562	62.5	137	46%
144	Joan Beale	549	289	571	51%
145	Judith Bach	506	171.5	315	54%
146	Judy Cronin	501	114.5	328	35%
147	Lynn Thompson	498	303.5	703	43%
148	Ray Young	489	30	95	32%
149	Phil Andrews	485	14	41	34%
150	Dorothy Latta	437	158	385	41%
151	Gill Charlton	437	53	186	28%
152	Janny Henneveld	404	505	1064	47%
153	Frances Higham	404	209	587	36%
154	Susan Schiller	324	36	219	16%
155	Valerie Smith	214	48	207	23%
156	Trish Fox	104	36	275	13%

### **Answers from p. 43**

1. Whangarei; 2. Whanganui;
3. Remuera bridge club (Mt. Albert venue); 4. Kairangi bridge club (Wellington venue); 5. Tauranga;
6. Otago bridge club (Dunedin venue)

Club	Club Contact	Phone Number	Email	Meeting Day & Time
Christchurch (CHC)	John Baird	03 332 5996	john@jrbssoftware.com	12.30 Wed 6.45 Fri
Dunedin (DUN)	Chris Handley	03 464 0199	chris@redheron.com	7pm Tues
Hastings (HAS)	Yvonne Wilson	06 878 8229	-	1pm Tues
Kapiti (KAP)	Judy Driscoll	04 904 2049	judyd@paradise.net.nz	7pm Mon
Kiwi Scrabblers (KIW)	Jacqueline Coldham-Fussel	07 846 7422	jicoldham-fussell@hotmail.co.nz	1pm/7pm Alternate Thurs
Lower Hutt (LOH)	Glenyss Buchanan	04 569 5433	glenyss.buchanan@xtra.co.nz	7.30pm Tues
Mt. Albert (MTA)	Judy Cronin	09 626 6390	bvjac@ihug.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	ruthmgodwin@gmail.com	9am Thurs
Tauranga (TGA)	Barbara Dunn	07 544 8372	dunn.barbara44@gmail.com	9am Tues
Waitara (WTA)	Ngaire Kemp	06 754 4017	ngairelyndac@slingshot.co.nz	1pm Wed
Whanganui (WAN)	Lynne Butler	0274 285 758	scrabblyn@clear.net.nz	1pm Mon
Wellington (WEL)	Lynn Wood	04 387 2581	lynn.wood@iag.co.nz	7pm Tues
Whangarei (WRE)	Bev Edwards	09 430 2832	bevholo@xtra.co.nz	1pm Thurs
Ratings Officer	Steven Brown	021 164 4641	sgbrown@mac.com	
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