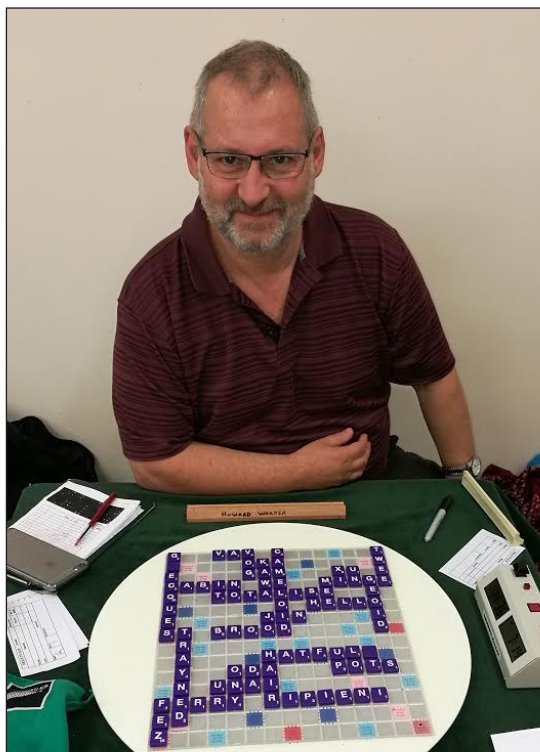


Forwords



Journal of the New Zealand Association of Scrabble® Players
No. 126 Autumn 2017



What's Howard crowing about in the Year of the Rooster?

Also in this issue:

Word Famous in New Zealand:
Hazel Purdie

2017 Year of the Rooster

Honesty Quiz

Talking Point: Should NZASP mix
politics with Scrabble?

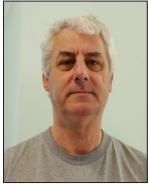
Obituary: Amnuay Ploysangngam

New Zealand Scrabble records

NZASP Executive

President

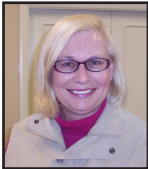
Paul Lister



128 Birdwood Avenue
Beckenham
Christchurch 8023
Phone 03 337 6005
Email
thelisterfamily@gmail.com

Vice President

Ruth Groffman



4 Wycolla Ave
St. Clair
Dunedin 9012
Phone 03 455 1777
Email
groffmanruth@gmail.com

Secretary

Frances Higham



9 Holden Place
Papatoetoe
Auckland 2025
Phone 09 278 4595
Email jambo@actrix.co.nz

Treasurer

Dianne Cole-Baker



9/435 Parnell Rd
Parnell
Auckland 1052
Phone 09 309 5865
Email drcb@xtra.co.nz

Web Master

Glenda Foster



1 Walters Street
Avalon
Lower Hutt 5011
Phone 021 918 742
Email
fostergb@ihug.co.nz

Table of contents

Editorial	3
President's Report	4
Word Famous in New Zealand:	
Hazel Purdie	6
Twenty Years Ago in <i>Forwards</i>	9
2017 Year of the Rooster	10
Talking Point.....	14
Obituary:	
Amnuay Ploysangngam	16
Club News	19
Neuro-plasticity.....	24
Honestly, how 'good' a Scrabbler are you?	26
Hall of Fame	30
Honestly, how 'good' a Scrabbler are you? Results	33
Mailbox.....	34
New Zealand Scrabble Records	38
Tournament Results	42
Tournament Calendar.....	43
Rankings List as at 7 May 2017	46
Club Contacts	48

*Scrabble is a registered trademark of JW Spear & Sons, England,
under licence in New Zealand to Mattel (NZ) Ltd.*



Editorial

Back in January I attended the Pakuranga tournament. This year, I was extremely excited to discover that it was to be a two-day, 15-game affair, rather than their usual two one-dayers with seven games being played per day. A whole extra game!

You might well ask why one extra game is such cause for celebration. It seems to me that many tournaments in New Zealand are a little thin when it comes to the number of games played. Many consist of only 13 games and if, for whatever reason, there is a bye, then the people in the affected grade get bumped down to 12 games. Indeed, I remember an occasion not so long ago when a couple of very late withdrawals resulted in attendees in my grade playing only 11 games each.

The reason I've often heard cited for having fewer games is to allow people who live outside the region time to travel the distance. This is certainly a valid argument but, likewise, many of us do travel a long way to get to these tournaments, at not inconsiderable expense. Personally, I would prefer to get the most bang for my buck, which is to say that I want to be able to play as many games as possible before the home-time bell rings. I feel that I've travelled a long way for Scrabble so I want maximum Scrabble prospects.

When I first started competing, many tournaments consisted of 15 games: Dunedin, Nelson, Christchurch, to name a few. Now the 15-game format seems to be a dying breed, rarely

seen in the wild anymore. One tournament that consistently has 15 games is the Nationals. However (and I know, I'm difficult to satisfy!), I personally believe that there should be even *more* games in this particular tournament, perhaps 18 or 20. After all, this is supposed to be our Association's flagship competition; it is after this tournament that we select players to represent New Zealand in the world and Trans-Tasman championships. Shouldn't there be something about this tournament that makes it stand out from the rest? I know that many people will point out that it's exhausting to play 15 games, so 18 or 20 would be nigh on impossible. Yet, is not stamina part of what makes a champion, whether she be in A Grade or G Grade? That laudable capacity and determination to get past that finish line, to win through despite the aching brain, muddled mathematics, and blistered tile-picking fingers.

Having spent most of this editorial bemoaning the paucity of games in tournaments, I should point out my delight at being able to attend the 11th Hour tournament organised by Liz Fagerlund and Lyres Freeth in November 2016. I know that, despite its last-minute appearance on the calendar, I was not the only one induced to participate by the higher number of games (16!). Yes, eight games per day was tiring, but I definitely went home afterward feeling like I had had my brains Scrabbled out. And a great feeling it was too!

Clearly, for me, a good tournament is a long tournament, but I know there'll be differing views on this. If reading this editorial bestirs a response within you, please write to the editors and tell us what you think. Do size and length matter to you... when it comes to Scrabble of course?

President's report

POLITICS, POLITICS

What has happened to my quiet, understated Scrabble pastime? Immediately after the earthquake that devastated Christchurch in 2011, I gave much of my focus to my other love, track and field athletics. I was helping out the Port Hills Athletic Club, which needed a great deal of support post-earthquake. From the time of regaining the NZASP presidency in 2016, however, I ceased my participation at Port Hills, but I couldn't help keeping an eye on the happenings in the track and field scene. I was nevertheless perplexed to receive a media release from Athletics NZ headed "Kenya no go" - Athletics NZ won't send a team to the World under-18 Athletics Champs in Nairobi in July due to safety concerns. The gist of this release was that athletes and Athletics NZ staff have been in the region recently, but the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade status for Kenya is currently high-risk, with kidnapping, hijacking, terrorism, and violent crime among major concerns. MFAT is currently advising against all tourist and other non-essential travel to Nairobi.

Putting athletics to one side for a minute and cutting back to Scrabble, my next political worry came in the

Should the Nationals have more games? Do you want to see longer tournaments in general, or are you the kind of person who dreams of home as you sit down for that lucky last 13th game?

Olivia Godfrey



Paul Lister

form of Mind Sports International (MSI), who are working to oust WESPA as the international rules and regulatory body for World Scrabble. It is believed that MSI's intention is to replace WESPA with a World Mind Sports Federation with officials appointed by, and answerable to, MSI. One of the upcoming Scrabble events on MSI's schedule is the "World Youth Scrabble Championship" to be held in Qatar using an expurgated dictionary. No-one from WESPA has or will be giving approval to this event.

What on earth is the link between athletics in Kenya and a non-WESPA approved Scrabble tournament in Qatar, you might ask. Well, as most of you will know, WESPA is holding its World Scrabble Champs in Kenya later this year. This has prompted a player, John Ryan, to forward an open letter to all Scrabble associations lamenting the fact that two major World Scrabble championship tournaments will be held in countries (Kenya and Qatar) that have no respect for LGBTQ persons' rights or the rights of the homosexual community. Indeed, these countries have laws criminalising people with non-heterosexual orientations. I mean no disrespect to the Scrabble

Associations in Qatar or Kenya at all, but at the extreme, it is basically illegal to be homosexual, and LGBTQ people frequently get jailed or even put to death. Mr. Ryan feels that the Scrabble world can make an impact by refusing to bring their most prestigious events to these countries.

As a Scrabble association in a country that espouses human rights for everyone including LGBTQ persons, should we, the members of the NZASP, discuss these issues and come to a position? Should we take a leaf out of Athletics NZ's book and refuse to send players to the World Scrabble champs in Nairobi, which is currently considered to be unsafe by our government? Should we do as John Ryan urges and make a political stand by refusing to encourage our members to play in countries where the human rights of LGBTQ persons are so flagrantly flouted? Part of me feels that I've completely blown my brief as NZASP president, which is simply to promote Scrabble. However,

prestigious Scrabble tournaments are scheduled for Nairobi and Qatar later this year and, already, several individuals and Scrabble associations have made responses for, against, or neutral to Mr. Ryan's call. So another part of me feels that we cannot simply ignore these issues, because we are part of a global Scrabble scene.

OK, enough political drama! On a different topic entirely, we have some great tournaments coming up, including the Nationals in Christchurch in June and the World Senior Champs, again in CHCH, scheduled for November. I would love to have as many players as possible participating. Check out our site:

<http://domatron42.wixsite.com/worldseniorsscrabble> for more information on the latter.

Looking forward to seeing many of you over the next eight months.

You can read the full open letter Paul refers to in our 'Talking Point' on pp. 14-15 - Eds

And for the record...

Collating the Scrabble records for publication in *Forwards* is an enormous and singularly thankless task. Accordingly, it's the first job we like to get out of the way when we begin preparation for each Autumn issue. This year, we tackled the task in its entirety on the Saturday night of the Rotorua tournament. Imagine, then, the disheartenment all round, when one of those records now cemented was broken the very next day!

Howard Warner provides his own version of those events on p. 36.

And on the subject of recently-broken records, this year's Masters also saw two noteworthy achievements: Lewis Hawkins became our youngest Masters competitor to date, beating the previous record-holder by a mere eight days. And that Howard guy again: although finishing in second place, he increased his own record for highest spread in the Masters to 2493.

The records published at the end of this magazine stand as at 1st of January, and those new records reported here will be published in next Autumn's issue of *Forwards*. Further reports from the 2017 Masters will appear in our Winter issue.

Word famous in New Zealand



Hazel Purdie



What do you remember of your parents and your childhood?

When I was born, my mother was 46 years old, and my father

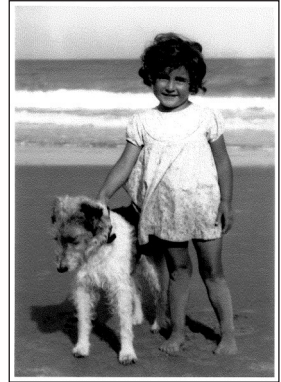
was in his sixties. I became an orphan when I was three years old. There was a custody dispute, and I ended up in the care of my mother's sister.

We lived in Newry, a market town in County Down in Northern Ireland. Some of my earliest memories are war-related: I can remember seeing the night sky ablaze with red during the blackout. The dockyards of Belfast were being blitzed barely 40 miles from where we lived. I can also remember the iron railings all around our house being sawn off to be donated to the war effort. A bit later on, I remember the town swarming with American troops. Their jeeps had girls' names, rather like the way pleasure boats do today. It was a popular pastime among the schoolchildren to collect the names of the jeeps, and compare who had seen which vehicles around town.

What happened when you finished school?

I was 17 years old, and I had to decide on a career. At the time I selected Occupational Therapy specifically because it was a relatively new discipline, and as such it wasn't yet possible to train for it in Ireland. I was keen to get away and spread my wings.

So suddenly there I was, in the mid-50s, in the heart of Liverpool. It was a heady city, absolutely marvellous, and so different from what I was used to, with its coffee



A young Hazel

shops and teddy boys and omnipresent skiffle groups. (It has been estimated that in the late 1950s there were 30,000-50,000 skiffle groups in Britain). Everybody had to be part of a "group" – the groups were everything and our social life revolved around them. We did a little bit of everything and went a bit crazy.

Every Saturday night there was the University Hop, where the local musicians would play while the students danced. Chris Barber and his jazz band were regular performers, and I'm sure I must've seen Cliff Richard there too, before he really hit the big time. There was just so much rock & roll... and if we stayed late and missed the last bus, our long walk home took us right along Penny Lane.

A friend and I joined the Youth Hostel Association, and hitchhiked all around the United Kingdom whenever we could. Sometimes the lorry drivers who picked us up would take us home to meet their families. With our backpacks and our tent, we explored the Lake District, the Trossachs



Horse-drawn gypsy-style caravan

(a group of lochs north of Glasgow), and North Wales. Other times we'd go to London, stay in a hostel, and see a show on the West End such as *Salad Days* or *My Fair Lady*. At the end of my training, four of us took a horse-drawn gypsy-style caravan around the Ring of Kerry in the South of Ireland. This holiday was a grand finale to our three years of study.

What brought you to New Zealand?

Despite my plan to study Occupational Therapy as a means to escape from Ireland, I'd had to apply for a government grant to fund my studies, and was bonded to return to Ireland to practise once I graduated. So my first professional job was in the County Asylum in the city of Armagh. It was a Victorian institution where the 'mentally retarded' were housed together with the 'mentally ill'. However, just as in Liverpool, I became caught up in a wonderful social life outside of working hours, and before long I met the man who would become my husband.

We were married in Ireland, but it was the time of the Troubles, and neither of us could tolerate all the politics and the segregation, so we made the decision to move to England.

There we settled in a pretty village near Oxford. My husband had come

originally from Ayrshire, and there was a general impression at the time that education in Scotland was far superior to that in the rest of the UK. So, five years and four children later, we moved again, this time to Edinburgh, for our eldest to start school.

The idea about education proved to be correct, and the children enjoyed fabulous learning opportunities. I remember the texts they brought home daily to practise reading, and a sentence that stuck out for me, something along the lines of, "At Christmas, the family picnicked at the beach under a pohutukawa tree". This preliminary glimpse of exotic life down under was provided by Sylvia Ashton-Warner, the New Zealand progressive educationalist. At the time she was still largely being ignored in her homeland, but her methods had successfully been exported all the way to us in Edinburgh.

While living in England, I got to know my half-brother and half-sister, who were a generation older than me. My sister worked for British Airways, and once a year had the opportunity to fly anywhere in the world for free, as a perk of the job.

In 1973, she invited me to join her on a trip to New Zealand, and we hired a



Hazel with three youngsters

car and spent two weeks touring around the North Island. When I went home again, I talked so much about how wonderful NZ was that my husband eventually suggested we should emigrate. So in 1975 we arrived in NZ, with four children (aged 14-10) and a black Labrador.

What work did you do here?

My first job in Auckland was with geriatrics and stroke rehabilitation at Greenlane hospital. I went on to specialise as a wheelchair therapist, and worked with Auckland District Health Board's wheelchair service for 15 more years until my retirement. In this role I had a huge caseload, covering the entire region between Mangere Bridge and Mercer. Every New Zealander is entitled to a wheelchair for free, if they meet the criteria and have a doctor's referral. My job was basically to look after the wheelchair users and monitor their changing needs.

What got you involved in the Scrabble scene?

Early in the 1980s I saw an ad in the *Central Leader* for Mt. Albert Scrabble Club, posted by David and Dorothy Pinner. The club had been going for about six weeks when I joined. I had previously played Scrabble semi-regularly with a friend, who was quite a good player but who steadfastly refused to visit the club with me, claiming that he had better things to do with his Friday nights.

I attended the club regularly, and soon joined the committee. The club was really thriving then; attendance of thirty or more on a club night was quite normal. I remember that during the time I was president of the club we had 58 members. Although I've usually only been a B-grade player, I've been a regular tournament attendee, and have participated in the Norfolk Island Festival of Scrabble six times.

What else is there in your life, besides Scrabble?

I have 10 grandchildren, all born during the 90s. I've been lucky in that my children have all settled either in Auckland or not too far from it. So when I retired I was available to do grandmother duties, and I thoroughly enjoyed it. Some of my grandchildren even served as tournament runners in the days before self-adjudication.



I'm a keen tennis player, and I'm on the committee for my tennis club. I enjoy doing embroidery, crossword puzzles, and Sudoku. I also do a lot of reading. And finally, nobody visiting my home could fail to notice that I'm rather fond of donkeys. My grandchildren used to enjoy counting them – current estimate would be somewhere around 70 ornaments. I remember my half-sister gave me my first donkey, a souvenir from her trip to Sicily, shortly before I finished boarding school. I enjoy reading stories about donkeys, and their relationships with their owners. They're very loyal animals, but so full of character.

Twenty years ago in *Forwards*

by John Foster, *Independent*

It is just 20 years ago that Nigel Richards burst onto the NZ Scrabble scene like a supernova, as recorded in this article from *Forwards* #46. Alongside are clippings of the results from his grades. If you find the averages scarcely credible, even for Nigel, it should be pointed out that we were then playing double challenge. There would surely have been more than a few instances of his opponents forfeiting turns for challenging his obscure plays.

To illustrate why this performance was such a shock, I am also sharing a clipping from the previous issue, of the results from Rodney's 1996 tournament. This was Nigel's only previous North Island tournament. Take note of current players Su, Annette, and Delcie, who earned perpetual bragging rights by outscoring Nigel with results of three, four, and five wins respectively to Nigel's single. Surely nobody else on the planet can fairly make such claims. As Nigel walked out the door at Rodney he remarked to me, "Oh well, back to the drawing board". And that was **just 11 weeks** before he exploded at Pakuranga.

That's Incredible!

LE

Nigel Richards of Christchurch set all sorts of records at the Pakuranga event in January. On Saturday he won 7/7 in F Grade with an amazing average score of 525 but that was only the curtain-raiser to an even more mind-boggling feat on Sunday when he again won all seven games, this time in E Grade averaging 584!

Over the weekend Nigel exceeded 600 four times, including a massive 676, the fourth-highest individual game ever in New Zealand tournament Scrabble. He averaged just over three bonus words per game including oddities such as AVULSION, VICINAL, SNUZZLES, UNIDEAED, CHORISIS, ARRIEROS, VOLUTOID and UROPYGIA. These would be hard to top in anyone's language, but Nigel managed it with the 9-letter curiosities EPULATION and the Maven-like SAPROZOIC!

On the strength of Nigel's incredible performances recently it would be no surprise to see him rise rapidly to the upper levels of competitive Scrabble.

Pakuranga Club 26 January 1997

7 Games

Grade F

1	Nigel Richards	CHC	7	3677	525	19
2	Naomi Gilmore	ROD	5	2698	385	5
3	Pam Barlow	PAK	4	2645	378	7
4	Olwen Skelton	ROD	3.5	2411	344	4
5	Margaret Forbes	PHC	3.5	2375	339	4
6	Margaret Mourant	MTA	3	2308	330	6
7	Trish Hellriegel	MTA	1	2355	336	2
8	Elise Joy	PHC	1	2171	310	4

Pakuranga Club 27 January 1997

7 Games

Grade E

1	Nigel Richards	CHC	7	4091	584	24
2	Faye Leach	AUS	6	2618	374	7
3	Sue Walker	MTA	5	2560	366	12
4	Hazel Purdie	MTA	4	2654	379	8
5	Irene Hague-Smith	MTA	3	2568	367	7
6	Jeanette Owler	PAK	1	2407	344	2
7	Trish Hellriegel	MTA	1	2340	334	3
8	Daphne Parker	IND	1	2250	321	4

Rodney Scrabble Club TOURNAMENT 9 NOVEMBER 1996

7 Games

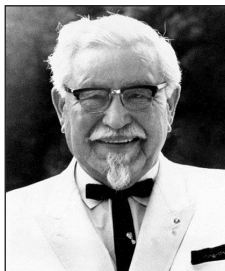
Grade E

1	Joan Pratt	MTA	6	2762	395	11
2	Delcie Macbeth	IND	5	2978	425	9
3	Margaret Simpson	PAK	4	2712	387	10
4	Bev Barker	MTA	4	2465	352	5
5	Annette Coombes	WKT	4	2351	336	6
6	Sue Walker	MTA	3	2607	372	10
7	Nigel Richards	CHC	1	2439	348	7
8	Hazel Purdie	MTA	1	2340	334	3

2017 Year of the Rooster

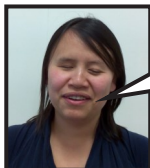


Besides sharing a love of musical theatre, books, and of course Scrabble, your coeditors have in common an undying passion for greasy junk food in general, but KFC in particular. Many a road trip to or from a Scrabble tournament has been ritually celebrated with a stop at a red and white building selling deep-fried chicken and salty chips. Together and separately we have enjoyed Colonel Sanders' hospitality in cities as far north as Whangarei and as far south as Dunedin, and even further afield in countries such as Vietnam, Germany, and South Africa. Now, as 2017 is the Year of the Rooster, we decided to contact the Colonel himself to ask him about his fried chicken empire. Below is a transcript of the fascinating interview that took place between me and the Colonel on Saturday 28 January 2017, the first day of the Year of the Rooster.



Colonel Sanders

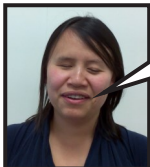
Hello Colonel Sanders. My name is Olivia Godfrey and I coedit a Scrabble magazine called *Forwards*, which is published by the New Zealand Association of Scrabble Players.



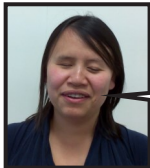
New Zealand eh? Ah yes, I have 98 stores in New Zealand. Or is that Australia? No, definitely New Zealand because I wanted to advertise Kentucky Fried Kiwi but my PR guys told me that the market wouldn't be open for that in New Zealand.



Ah... no, probably not. (pause). So I coedit a magazine for the NZ Scrabble Association...

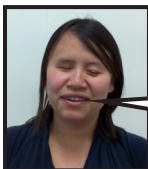


Ahhh, Scrabble! Y'all know that's my favourite game?



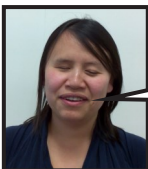
Really? I'm speechless!

My Pah-Pah 'n' me, we played it for hours. Learned all ma chicken recipes over them board 'n' tiles.



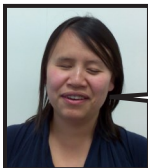
Wow! I never knew! KFC is my favourite junk... er... I mean, fast food.

(guffawing) Well honey, you're quite right, it is junk food, that it is, but you got mighty fine taste in junk y'know. Let me tell yer a secret. It ain't jus' ma 11 herbs 'n' spices that makes my chicken pretty fine, it's the types of chicken I use... all of 'em are Scrabble chickens!



Scrabble chickens? Goodness! Could you please explain what you mean, Sir?

Well, ma Pah-Pah, he always said that anything to do with Scrabble is mighty fine so stands to reason I'd only use chickens that you can use in Scrabble too.

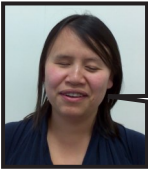


I don't know what to say.

Jus' listen then. So I tried out all sorts of breeds when I was firs' starting out, Australorp chickens, Cornish chickens, Catalana, and Cubalaya, but none of 'em tasted quite right, yer know? So then I had this brainwave: I'd find out if any of the breeds could be played in Scrabble and I'd try 'em all with the herbs 'n' spices. I didn't think there'd be so many, actually, but there're loads of 'em. Course, not all of 'em are in the dictionary 'cos they're fowl, but I'm sure you know that us Scrabblers, we ain't too fussy. It took me a few years to breed 'em 'n' try 'em all out, not to mention it took quite a bit of research.



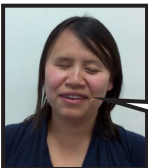
In my first year I didn't really know where to start, so I thought I'd just try those chickens that are named after places that are allowable Scrabble words yer know. So I started off with SUMATRA, MINORCA, and HAMBURG, all good bingos. I thought the HAMBURG ones would make great chicken patties, but none of 'em tasted quite right, plus they were all a bit small. I did a bit more research and found out the HAMBURG and MINORCA chickens are mostly used for egg-laying anyway, and the SUMATRA is mostly ornamental. Actually, a SUMATRA is one of those words that's a chicken breed but has nothing to do with chickens in the Scrabble dictionary. It's a violent storm blowing from the direction of Sumatra. Anyways, I ask yer, who looks at chickens and thinks, "good decorations for my garden!?" I look at chickens and think, "herbs 'n' spices should make you taste mighty fine!" (laughs).



Er... so what did you try next?



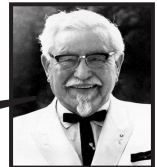
Well, I carried on experimenting with chickens with allowable place names. I tried COCHIN, HOUDAN, PEKIN, and NANKIN chickens. Now I bet you think all of 'em chickens are named after Chinese places, but COCHIN is in India, HOUDAN is in France, and PEKIN and NANKIN are counties right here in the good ole US of A. Turns out all 'em chickens are eggers or ornamental beasties too. And PEKIN and NANKIN are kinds of fabrics, by the way.



So, did any place-name chickens work out for you?



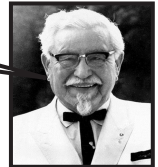
Oh yes. Third time lucky, y'know. The next lot of breeds I tried were WYANDOTTE (we got towns called Wyandotte in Oklahoma and Michigan, see), JAVA (as in the place in Indonesia), and HOLLAND. Turns out they're all good meaty chickens, perfect for putting in your Quarter Packs and Crowd Pleaser buckets.



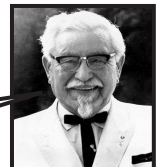
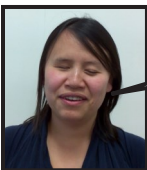


So I guess those are the three chicken breeds you use today?

No sirree! I didn't stop there. I was pretty keen on trying out more Scrabble chickens by now (though I had pretty much run out of interesting place-name ones), so I tested out a few more... LEGHORN, SILKIE, BRAHMA, DOMINIQUE, BUCKEYE, CHANTECLER... yer name it, I tried it. I got lucky with the last four, 'cos it turns out they're meat fowl too. I even tried out the Derbyshire REDCAP and the Croad LANGSHAN. Course DERBYSHIRE 'n' CROAD aren't allowed in Scrabble, but REDCAP and LANGSHAN are both good words. Glad I tried the REDCAP chicken since he's a juicy one. I make my best wicked wings from my Derbyshire REDCAPS. Funny thing too, y'know REDCAP means a policeman in the Scrabble dictionary. I like to think I'm frying up some policemen when I hear 'em wings sizzling away. (laughs uproariously).



(pause). Um... well, I'm frankly astonished by the ingenious way you chose your chickens sir. My friend and I will have a new appreciation for all your work every time we go to KFC now. Do you have any final words to say for our piece on the Year of the Rooster?



Jus' one thing honey... I'm gonna share a little secret with you folks since you love Scrabble like me. This year, being the Year of the Rooster as you say, I'm only using CHANTECLER chickens because that word is defined as "a rooster" in our dictionary. So go down to your nearest store and get some finger-licking good CHANTECLER sometime this year... and that's advice straight from the Colonel.

Talking Point

At the beginning of our co-editorship, we envisaged a regular feature called “talking point”, wherein we aimed to stimulate discussion within the NZASP community, on relevant and perhaps somewhat controversial topics. It’s been a long time since such a topic has presented itself, but we decided in the light of Paul’s comments (see pp. 4-5) to reproduce the letter below in its entirety. As always, you are encouraged to express your opinions, and we will publish them in the next issue of Forwards.

John Cunningham Ryan
7 Michael Sinnott Drive,
Castlebridge,
Wexford, Ireland
Y35 AH59
j.j.ryan2014@gmail.com

21st November 2016

An open letter to Scrabble Associations around the world.

It has recently come to my attention that the World English-Language Scrabble Players Association Championships (WESPAC) & the MSI World Championships for the next two years will be based in countries that have no respect for LGBTQ persons and have laws criminalising them. These countries as you know are Kenya & Qatar.

I have been working with and advocating for the LGBTQ community in Ireland for years. I have worked tirelessly over the last 10 years for LGBTQ rights and when I started playing Scrabble over 15 years ago, was delighted to find a group of people that were understanding & welcoming and to find that there were quite a few LGBTQ people in the Scrabble World. Also, bear in mind that even in a fantastic country like Ireland, seven out of ten young people in schools witness or experience bullying of a homophobic nature. Over half of LGBT young people have self-harmed, attempted or committed suicide. Whilst we were the first country in the World to legalise same-sex marriage by popular vote, there is still a lot of work to do.

Some of you may recognise me (either just in name or in person) as I have been involved with the Scrabble Association in Ireland for years but this is **MY** personal opinion and not a letter issued by the AISA.

Before I go any further, I do not wish to disrespect any person’s religious beliefs. And whilst I feel it is deplorable that LGBTQ people in these countries have no rights, I know I cannot change that. The thrust of my letter is to voice my concerns about the most prestigious events in the Scrabble World being located in these countries. My concern is the message the Scrabble World is

sending, in particular to the members of all the National Associations that are LGBTQ (or even their friends) and to the young people around the World. Neither is this a letter a comment on either Associations in Qatar or Kenya. There are a lot of people working around the World to end discrimination of all kinds.

In every walk of life there are LGBTQ people: in the workplace; in our schools (both pupils & teachers); on the football pitch, and sitting across the table opposite us when we play Scrabble.

In Kenya and Qatar, amongst many things there is no protection for those in the workplace (or anywhere else); foster and adoption is illegal; it is illegal to be a member of the armed forces; blood and organ donation is illegal; and in Kenya they use anal examinations to determine if a man is gay. Most frighteningly, conversion therapy is used in both of these countries. Basically it is illegal to be gay and people get jailed and put to death. To put it bluntly, their lives are a living hell.

I feel that the Scrabble World could make an impact – albeit a small one – by refusing to bring their most prestigious events to these countries. I understand the need to promote Scrabble on other continents, but if we are going to Africa, go to South Africa, the only country in Africa that recognises and protects LGBTQ people. As for Qatar, Qatar is not the worst in the Middle East. In Iran, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and Yemen, the laws state that if a person is found of engaging in same-gender sexual behaviour, the death penalty would be applied. In Qatar you will only be jailed and eventually sent back to your own country. Instead choose a Middle East country that it is legal to be LGBTQ.

Sometimes companies only pay attention if there is a chance of bad publicity and loss of money. So MSI/WESPA, if you are listening: What will you do if a couple of Scrabble Associations around the world refuse to send representatives and recommend to their members not to attend? What kind of publicity will this give you throughout the Scrabble World? Could you imagine in Kenya if a player was “examined” and jailed for being gay? Could you imagine press coverage for either WESPA or MSI then?

There have always been issues between those that own Scrabble and the players, but Scrabble is about the players – ALL the players. I would like to urge your Association/Club/League to decide if you are happy to support these events. Please consider the LGBTQ people currently playing Scrabble and those that may join in the future. What message do you want to send to them? If you are unhappy, please convey to both WESPA and the MSI that you will not support these events. If your Association is a member of WESPA, should you be?

Thank you

John Cunningham Ryan

cc. 1. MSI 2. WESPA

Obituary: Amnuay Ploysangngam

The president of the Thailand Crossword Game Club and the driving force behind Scrabble in the kingdom, Amnuay Ploysangngam, died on April 9th after suffering a heart attack earlier in the week.

This was sudden and unexpected and his loss will be felt not just by the tens of thousands of people in Thailand whose lives he touched but by countless friends throughout the entire world of Scrabble and beyond.

Thanks to Howard Warner for notifying Forwards editors of this sad event, and to Liz Fagerlund for providing us with access to the following eulogy, written by English-born Thai player Gerry Carter.

A personal farewell to Khun Amnuay – from someone who loved him

How do you replace the irreplaceable?

How do you come to terms with the loss of your best friend, your mentor, your inspiration, the person who literally saved you by helping you become a better person with an aim and a new direction in life?

How do you recover from the loss of a man who has supported and encouraged you through a quarter of a century of the greatest times anyone could hope to have?

When I was informed by text by one of the Thai players that there was sad news, just one thought entered my head – please, please, don't let it be him. But it was. Our beloved Amnuay had died. He passed away after suffering a heart attack on Sunday.

I can't begin to tell you what Amnuay Ploysangngam meant not just to me but the tens of thousands of others in Thailand and around the world whose lives he touched in so many ways.

He was quite simply the greatest

promoter of Scrabble the world has ever seen. He was an inspirational figure who through humility,

kindness and sheer humanity inspired several generations of people to take up the game. He inspired youth from every corner of Thailand to share his passion for the game, to come together in a spirit of sportsmanship, to develop themselves not just in English but mathematics and tactics and strategic thinking. He inspired everyone to be better people.

Simply put, and this is coming from a teacher of thirty years, he was the greatest educator I have ever known. A man who would never see himself as a teacher but one who was one in every sense of the word. Never cross but always focused – always caring and supportive.

And with the help of so many friends and colleagues, people in big business and government he made Crossword Game and all its spin-offs the sensational success that they all enjoy today.



Amnuay Ploysangngam

People gravitated to Amnuay. He inspired just with his personality. He didn't beg for your help. You just gave it because of him.

I interviewed Amnuay towards the end of 2015 for my book. We spent three hours over lunch as he told me everything in his past and his hopes for the future. He was the first person I had interviewed – I considered everyone after that of less significance when it came to a book about Scrabble. He told me in his usual humble way how everyone had helped him in his quest and how lucky he had been in his life to have so many great people around him. I didn't say it, but I thought it wasn't luck – everyone gravitated to Amnuay because he was who he was. The person we loved.

Everyone whose lives he touched will have their own personal recollections of his kindness, bonhomie and consideration. Whether it was the six-year-old beginner apprehensive at their first event, or the pro player visiting from abroad, Amnuay was considerate and understanding of their feelings. He was the benevolent uncle as he was referred to by so many in Thailand.

Indeed, while he had no children of his own the reality was that he had thousands. Tens of thousands. Children who went on to be better people whether they continued in the game or not. Children who went on to inspire others. Children who even went on to become world champions and bring honor to the kingdom that he cherished and loved.

For me, I owe Amnuay everything. I was an angry 29 year old looking for a new direction. Something to fill my

brain and give me purpose. Turning to Crossword game in Thailand gave me a life that I could only have dreamed of. And it was there, much to my surprise, because of Amnuay and the club of which he was the only president from day one.

Despite being born and raised in England I was never an outsider. He brought me into the Thai world like no other person before or since. There was never any quibble about representing the kingdom that I myself had grown to love even though I was not an official citizen.

When I first represented my new homeland in 1997 in Washington DC, I had such pride. Amnuay came too, as the manager, even though he was not playing. I had taken a place a selfish person could have taken for himself. He was the antithesis of selfish. His pride at my overseas win in 1998 was not really for me but for Thailand, for everybody here. He paid me the greatest compliment when organizing an award for services to the game that was presented to me by a princess. To receive that honor was one of the greatest moments of my life and it was because of Amnuay.

As the years past we formed a bond that flourished and developed. Whenever he called on me I would drop everything – of course, like thousands of others, I would help. How couldn't I?

Under his most excellent guardianship Thailand has become the leading name in the promotion of Scrabble especially among the youth. He took the game into schools and universities with training roadshows.

Tens of thousands came flocking to his tournaments every other weekend of the year.

He understood people's needs especially those of children. He invented the Primary School Crossword Game that introduced crossword gaming to so many little ones. He developed A-Math, the equations game that became a nationwide phenomenon. He introduced another invention, Kham Khom – Thai Scrabble – that helped to promote a language that some Thais were beginning to see as less important.

His way was to make everything open and friendly. Everyone could come and be a part of the fun. This was no clique. No closed shop. This was open – in shopping centers. Fun, noisy fun – a great thing to do on any weekend, creating friendships. Building lifelong bonds.

When you heard the crossword game song on the loudspeakers you knew you were in the right place!

Above all he gave the Thai youth an outlet to express themselves. A beneficial way of using their free time that wasn't just more school but was developing them in ways that extra lessons or cramming school could never accomplish.

Consequently he inspired big business to want a piece of the action that he and his team had created from nothing in a country hardly held in high esteem for its English abilities or even its educational system. Every sponsor wanted to be associated with Crossword Game. Not that he cared about money or fame – he was the

educator just hell bent on improving things, driven to succeed and make everyone's lives the better for it.

And it was also no surprise when he managed to secure the support of the greatest jewel – the patronage of the Thai Royal Family. The King's Cup became the most iconic tournament in the world as anyone who has played in it can attest. It grew from humble beginnings in 1986 to the international event that it is today and while many contributed to that there is no one who would say it could have happened without Amnuay.

There is enormous grief in Thailand that will be mirrored throughout the world by all those who came into contact with this great man. It is so sad that we shall never again get the chance for another game, with this so affable and talented player. I am tearful when I recollect I last saw him four weeks ago at a Bangkok tournament and told him that over the coming weeks I would be playing in Malaysia and Perth. And of course, I said, I would be representing the good name of Thailand. He put his arm around me and thanked me.

But it is I who should have thanked him – for I can't adequately express how much I am in his debt. Of course, I never thought to say goodbye. Because he was always there and seemingly always would be. Now I have lost not just my inspiration and my mentor. I have lost the person I respected most, not just in Scrabble but in every aspect of my life.

Together, we have lost a man we loved. And nothing will ever be the same again.

Club News

Nelson Club tournament 11th and 12th February

by Tony Charlton

February was going to be a very busy month, with the Wellington Club running its tournament in the first weekend and Rotorua in the third. Nelson therefore decided to hold its tournament in the second weekend of February, as it had done last year.

A couple of weeks before the event, numbers were well down on the last few years, so I sent around emails to all the people who had come in 2016 but hadn't yet registered for this year's tournament. Most of them had something else on so weren't able to make it. Just before the closing date, however, I received two surprise entries from Golden Bay. I had asked Murray Rogers to try and recruit some more players from his area and he had been successful. Barbara Cornell and Karen Brookes had decided to come over and my wife Gill and I were able to billet them.

With the addition of Barbara and Karen, we ended up with 10 entries, and if we split that into two even groups of five, we would end up having byes, which I don't particularly like. Murray had the great idea of having one group of four playing each other five times and a second group of six playing each other three times. I checked with Glenda and she was happy to set up the scoring macro and draw for us on that basis. Looking at the spread in ratings, it seemed best to have the group of four as the top grade.



On Day one, 10 competitors and Gill gathered at the JC Room in Founders Park, where we had competed last year, and play began. Gill was not competing this year but she was happy to organise refreshments and spot prizes.

In Grade A, Malcolm Graham shot into the lead, after beating Lynn Wood, and by lunchtime he was in second place, with highest-ranked player, Murray, in fourth place. In Grade B, Betty Don was leading by lunchtime. She and I had both won three games, but she had a much higher spread.

By afternoon tea time, Murray had got into first place, after winning two more games, and Betty still led Grade B. At the end of the day's play, Lynn was in the lead and Murray was back in fourth place, while Betty maintained her lead in Grade B.

For the first two games on Sunday morning, Lynn kept her lead and Murray had crept back up to second place, but he got back into first place by lunch. After morning tea, Betty was still leading, while Judy Driscoll was second.

During the morning, one of the spot prizes was for a “sports” word. Karen Brookes played FONDLED, and I cheekily suggested that she enter that for the sports category. It would be up to Gill, as judge, to decide whether it qualified. When she announced her decision, Gill explained that she had already checked the dictionary definition of SPORT: “activity for pleasure, competition or exercise”.

In line with that definition, she decided that FONDLED did qualify. As she had submitted the highest scoring sports word, Karen won that spot prize.

During the next few games, Murray kept his lead with Lynn staying in second place, but in Grade B, Betty began to lose ground and Judy Driscoll was coming in second.

At the prize-giving, it became apparent that something was wrong. Betty was down to fourth place with nine wins, and Barbara had passed her also with nine wins but a higher spread. Betty assured us that she had won 10, but only nine wins were showing up. After checking the results sheets, we ascertained that Betty had indeed won 10 games, so she was awarded second prize. After checking my own scores, I also found that one of my wins had not shown up. We put it down to a bug in the system, which Glenda would be able to correct when I sent the results back to her.

Ed note: The corrected results are printed on page 43.

Competitors left after enjoying another fun tournament in sunny Nelson. We would love to have a few more entries next year so please enter 10th and 11th February in your 2018 calendars. We

will also be holding the Masters Tournament at the same venue during Easter 2018.

Rotorua tournament 2017

by Val Isherwood

Needless to say, the weekend of 25/26 February was an extremely enjoyable one at the Rotorua Tournament. It started off with our new president Joanne Morley thanking Tim Henneveld, who stepped down as club president in 2016. Both Tim and his wife Janny have given many, many years of service to the club, organising and running it and hosting the meetings in their own home.

The Rotorua Club now meets at Parksyde (the ‘Older Persons’ Centre) and our numbers have grown over the last half year. We now regularly have 18 people playing. We were pleased that 10 of our club members played in the Tournament, including four who had not played in a tournament before. One of our new-to-tournament players, Wendy Anastasi, gained first place in the E grade, and our other newbies also acquitted themselves well and will, I’m sure, be back for more.

Altogether there were 66 players in five grades. The tournament was played over two days as a 13-game round robin.

The Rotorua Bridge Club premises, where the tournament was held, once more proved to be an ideal venue. Delicious morning teas were provided by the Rotorua Scrabble Club and its members, and for those not bringing lunch, there were plenty of options available nearby.

Three successful raffles were held, two for Grocery hampers and the other for one of Tim's fantastic wooden chopping boards. There was also a 'secret' free raffle for a donated prize, a lovely porcelain plate (which I didn't win - drat!).

One of the highlights of the weekend was when Howard Warner broke a NZ record for the highest individual game score, a record that had stood for many years. He achieved a game score of 752 points... and on his birthday, too! Way to go, Howard!



Howard Warner holding the results slip recording his score of 752 points

Great people, fantastic venue, amazing (even if I do say so myself) organisation.... What other positive phrases can I use to sum up a wonderful, warm weekend of Scrabbling in Rotorua? We look forward to seeing everyone again in 2018.

Ed note: Howard's description of his record-breaking can be found on page 36.

The Kaimai Challenge 2017

by Heather Landon, Tauranga

This year the annual Kaimai Challenge between Kiwi (Hamilton) and Tauranga clubs was held in sunny Tauranga on 8th April. Thanks to the Vintage Car Club who kindly let us use their club room, we were able to play Scrabble with a lovely view of the harbour on one side and what once was a bowling green on the other.

This year it was Tauranga's turn to host. We won quite handsomely by 63 games to 35. There were 14 members in each team divided into two sections.

A scrumptious morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea, were enjoyed by all. We look forward to the challenge again next year on Kiwi's territory!



Jennifer Smith hands the trophy won by Kiwi in 2016 back to Barbara Dunn

The inaugural Bay of Islands Scrabble tournament

by Bev Edwards, Whangarei

Photographs provided by Lyres Freeth, Dianne Cole-Baker, and Bev Edwards

The Association was approached by Paul Rowlands, Manager of the Bounty Motel in Paihia (who is a keen Scrabbler) regarding holding a Scrabble Tournament in the Motel. Dianne Cole-Baker and Ruth Groffman took on the job of making it happen. Nothing is easily accomplished long distance, so thanks to both of them for all their organisational efforts.

Accommodation was available at The Bounty plus other motels and hotels, of course, but there was a lot on that weekend in the Bay of Islands, so accommodation was at a premium. There was the Paihia to Russell swim, the Opuia Regatta and Markets, and a market on the Village Green for the huge cruise ship that was in, in addition to the usual holidaymakers and visitors making Paihia was a hive of industry.

We had 38 competitors making three divisions. The Breakfast Room at the



Paul Rowlands, proprietor of the Bounty Motel and instigator of the tournament, delights in his gifts from the NZASP

Bounty Motel was going to be the venue, but that changed three days before the Tournament was due to proceed. It really would have been too small and dark. Our venue switched to the Tanoa Hotel, only about five minutes away from the Bounty, which was imminently more suitable, so we were lucky that it was available.

Our tables were set up in the main foyer of the Tanoa, bright and airy, too hot for some, but overall a lovely place to be. There was a fabulous lounge area to relax in between games, morning and afternoon tea



Valma Gidman plays Anne Scatchard



Intense competition from all players in the sunny foyer



*The view from Flagstaff Hill,
Russell, looking back across the Bay
towards Paihia*

supplied, and endless cups of tea or coffee provided. Thanks to those Association members who contributed to the food content. Then at lunchtime we could sit outside by the pool, one person I know even went for a swim (I forgot my togs - damn)!

On the Friday evening Dianne organised a group booking for dinner at the Returned Serviceman's Club, where they also had a band performing. All who attended really enjoyed their meal and their evening, I heard through the grapevine that Allie Quinn was up dancing!

Paihia was the perfect postcard weekend, glorious days and nights, too many places to choose from for dining. On Saturday evening another group went across to Russell by ferry and dined over there. There were many options available on the Paihia side of the harbour too, as The Bounty is very central, within walking distance of everywhere.

After our hard day competing, we had a choice of three beaches to cool off in. It was a lovely social time, meeting for a barbecue, drinks on the terrace, roaming the streets, deciding what to

have for dinner, walking down the wharf, checking out what was available, and feeling very relaxed in this beautiful place. Where previously the wharf area included mostly car parks, it now has wide open spaces and plenty of seating along the waterfront - a wonderful improvement.

Those who attended this Paihia Tournament are looking forward to the next one – if possible. The Tanoa will no longer be available, as from the end of March it becomes a Hospitality training venue. So the hunt will be on for a comparable venue.

Whangarei club had a good turnout of 10 members at this tournament, as the travel time to Paihia is quite convenient for them, and several were mentioned in placings and spot prizes. I certainly will be a starter for the next one. Thanks again to Dianne and Ruth and helpers for making it happen.



*A-grade champion Alastair Richards
shares with Olivia Godfrey the view and
the history from Flagstaff Hill, Russell*

Neuro-plasticity and learning how to be a better Scrabble player

by Selena Chan, Christchurch

Research on neuro-plasticity is not new, going back 50 years or so. One of the main research projects which promoted this term revolved around helping stroke victims to relearn how to make basic physical movements through reconnecting brain neurons. At present, there is increased interest in the parameters of neuro-plasticity. What is possible, and how much improvement can be made, have become hot research topics. This is due to people's increased longevity; the more frequent need to 'retrain' due to advances in technology making some types of work obsolete; and the pace of modern life demanding mastery of new tools, apps, and appliances.

There is a large amount of information on neuro-plasticity on the internet. Read articles with caution, however, as some make very wide-ranging claims. Here are two recent articles which I recommend because they are backed by empirical studies.

You may have read a recent article (March 2017) published in the NZ Listener <http://www.noted.co.nz/health/health/barbara-arrowsmith-young-the-woman-who-changed-her-brain/> on the 'Arrowsmith programme'? This is now used in some NZ schools to assist students to surmount learning disabilities. Arrowsmith's methodology is based on the tenet that rewiring of the brain is possible with certain physical approaches. For example, students are asked to practise using

only one eye when writing out patterns, and they are given repetitive exercises such as tracing out complex patterns. In doing these things, the areas of the brain that are identified as 'weak' can be strengthened, leading to improvement in that area (e.g. an increased ability to understand and work with mathematical concepts).

Detractors of this methodology attribute the improvements to the 'placebo' effect giving learners more confidence, and the 'hawthorne' effect, whereby learners work to please their teacher. It also needs to be acknowledged that there is no 100% guarantee that the programme works for all learners.

Becoming an expert Scrabble player requires us to unlearn some unproductive revision or playing strategies, and relearn new ways to do things.

Check out this article <http://reset.me/story/neuroplasticity-the-10-fundamentals-of-rewiring-your-brain/> for fundamentals on neuro-plasticity.

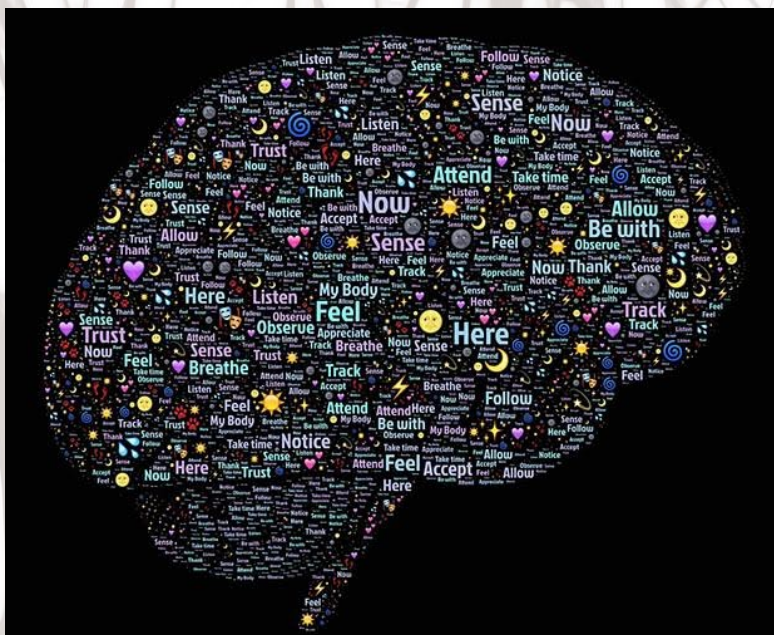
The recommendations include the following, which I have contextualised to playing Scrabble.

The first two are to do with our inner motivations to want to learn more. We need to be in the mood to improve. The harder we try, the more motivated and alert we become, and the potential for bigger brain change increases.

The next three deal with how the brain changes as the learning progresses. The brain strengthens the connection moment by moment in time, with learning driving the increases in brain connection. This is why we do not see measurable change if we just indulge in 'one offs'. We need to put in the practice time to ensure that the brain actually rewires. So if you struggle with tile tracking, for example, think about WHY you are struggling. Maybe you are not using the right sequence of tracking and need to work on finding one that flows better and that is matched to a sequence you are more familiar with. Once you find your flow, you need to practise frequently to anchor the activity into your brain patterns.

The next three refer to the need for persistence. Initial changes in your brain are temporary until the patterns are anchored. If you are unable to play Scrabble every day to practise tile tracking, mentally thinking through the sequence will also assist. This is because memory guides and controls learning. So if you are able to remember the tile tracking sequence through mental visualisation, you are well on the road to automating the process.

Lastly, every reiteration of the new skill helps to reduce the 'call' of the old. Remember though that brain plasticity is a two-way street. It is just as easy to embed bad habits as it is to learn better skills. The choice is yours to make.



Honestly, how 'good' a Scrabbler are you?



I'll be honest. My favourite part of all those trashy magazines I read as a teenager was always the multi-choice quiz that purported to determine some miscellaneous trivia about the reader. Which Disney prince would be my soulmate? What song would I walk down the aisle to? How well do I really know my Mom? ... I just couldn't resist anything that claimed to be able to analyse an aspect of my personality in a dozen questions or fewer, with those multiple choices that never reflected how I would have actually answered the question. I even did the 'boy' ones ("What's your testicle IQ?")! So, just as I couldn't resist doing those quizzes, I now can't resist writing one for my favourite magazine.

I feel quite strongly that there's more than one way to win a Scrabble game. I would never cheat, but at the same time, I firmly believe in playing to every advantage available. The following quiz presents a number of Scrabble-related scenarios. Record the letter next to the single statement that most closely resembles how you would respond to each scenario, then turn to page 33 to find out how "good" you really are when it comes to Scrabble.

1. Your opponent announces her score, but you notice she actually scored 10 points more than she said.

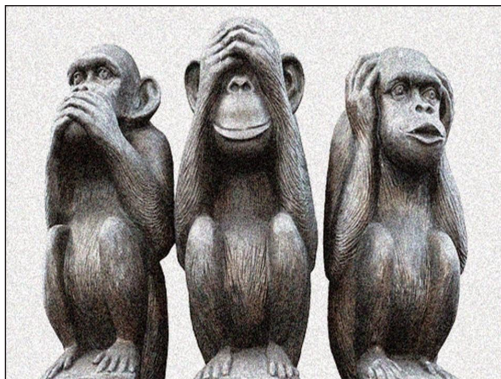
Do you:

- A) Courteously correct her, and make sure that you both agree on the score and the total
- D) Record the score that she announced
- H) Call an adjudicator to recount the whole game so far
- X) Record the correct score without discussion

2. You notice that you have three tiles in your hand just after playing a two-letter word.

Do you:

- J) Quickly drop one back in the bag and assume that your opponent hadn't noticed
- O) Lay the three tiles down on the table and invite your opponent to return one to the bag
- P) Place all three tiles onto your rack and invite your opponent to pick two and choose which one to throw back
- V) Call an adjudicator to make sure that you do the right thing



3. A player you don't know well contacts you to see if you can give him a lift to the tournament.

Do you:

- I) Arrange to pick him up
- M) Suggest another player who might be more conveniently situated
- Q) Request an excessive sum of 'petrol money'
- Y) Make an excuse about having to run another errand immediately afterwards and not wanting to inconvenience him

4. Near the end of the game, your opponent bemoans, "... and there's still a blank to come!", while you have it on your rack.

Do you:

- E) Let your opponent know that she shouldn't get too attached to the idea of picking up the remaining blank
- O) Pick up the results sheet to record the letter the blank will represent before playing any more tiles
- W) Feign surprise
- Z) Respond immediately with "... unless you have it already."

5. While playing at a board other than your own, you accidentally smudge a tile or two with ink from your indelible pen.

Do you:

- B) Make a perfunctory attempt to restore the tiles to their original condition
- F) Hastily retreat at the end of your game, and pretend you never played there
- K) Swallow the telltale tiles
- U) Locate the person who owns the set and ask them what forfeit they would like you to pay

6. You notice that your opponent has made a typing error while inputting his challenge into Zyzzyva.

Do you:

- A) Courteously point out the error
- G) Backspace and type in the correct spelling
- H) Traipse back to your table together and record what's on the board onto a piece of paper to take back to the adjudication station
- K) Wait until the challenge is completed (and not in your favour) before saying anything

7. During the break after Game Four, the scorer points out an anomaly in your favour from the results sheet of the previous game (Game Three).

Do you:

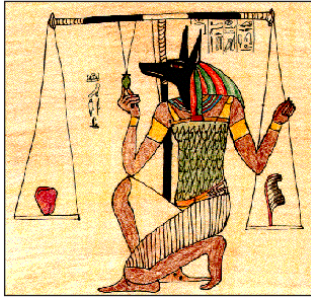
- C) Tell the scorer that it can stay as it is until your opponent from that game notices
- I) Go directly to your Game Three opponent to correct the results slip and both initial it again
- Y) Claim loudly that, as the results slip has been signed by both parties, it is now legally binding
- Z) Shoot the messenger and destroy the evidence

8. The host club has provided a complimentary pen for each player at the tournament.

Do you:

- B) Take and keep a new pen from each board you sit down at whenever one is available
- E) Use your own pen. Because how inconvenient is it when your pen looks identical to everybody else's?
- J) Go round during morning tea time collecting any spares lying around
- U) Take and keep a pen only from your starting position





The Egyptian god, Anubis, weighs a mortal's heart against a feather to decide whether he is worthy to enter the underworld

9. You're playing with an amateur opponent, and no access to CSW15 is available.

Do you:

- E) Stick to playing only "real" words that "everyone knows"
- G) Write down all the two- and three-letter words before you start for your opponent's reference
- Q) Play a few wrong words to keep your score shiny, fabricating obscure definitions for them
- W) No. You would never play under such conditions.

10. Your elderly opponent has challenged your play, which you know to be a word for an unorthodox sexual practice. Now she asks you what the word means.

Do you:

- D) Make no response. You are not required to define any word you play, and indeed may disadvantage yourself by doing so.
- I) Respond, "that's for me to know and you to find out", or maybe, "I could tell you, but then I'd have to kill you"
- M) Feign complete ignorance
- X) Tell her the correct part of speech, but invent a non-scandalous definition



Hall of Fame

by Jennifer Smith, Kiwi

Hello.

That's an insignificant little word these days, and one of the most frequently spoken (in one version or another). But more about that later.

I was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1847. My parents called me Alexander, but didn't give me a middle name.

I showed a gift for invention, having created a husking machine for a farming neighbour, who, in return, gave me and my two brothers a small workshop we could use to work on our inventions. My father gave our inventiveness all the encouragement in the world.

My father and grandfather had both been associated with work on elocution and speech, and my mother was deaf, as was my wife. All this profoundly influenced my life's work.

As a child, I worked tirelessly on coming up with new ways to communicate with my mother, including a system of tapping in her palm, and speaking to her by putting my lips to her forehead. She could feel the sound vibrations of my voice fairly well, and that success led me to devote myself to studying the spoken word.

The men in my family had poor health. I was sickly, my father had a serious illness, and after both of my brothers died in adulthood from tuberculosis, my parents emigrated to North America for the good of my health and that of my father. I was 23.

I became an expert in acoustics and speaking. Although I eventually became an eminent engineer, scientist and researcher, I always described myself as being a "teacher of the deaf".

Teaching my father's system, in 1872 I opened a School of Vocal Physiology and Mechanics of Speech in Boston, which attracted a large number of deaf pupils – Helen Keller was one of them. She came to me as a young child unable to see, hear, or speak.

Several influential people of the time, including me, believed that with resources and effort the deaf could be taught to speak with no need to use sign language, thus enabling their integration within the wider society. Owing to my efforts to suppress the teaching of sign language, I was often viewed negatively.

In 1873, I decided to give up my lucrative private Boston practice, retaining only two students (whose parents became my wealthy patrons) to concentrate on my inventions. One of those students was 15-year-old Mabel Hubbard who would become my wife.

I hired Thomas Watson as my assistant, and the two of us experimented with acoustic telegraphy. My research on hearing and speech led me to experiment with hearing devices, which eventually culminated in my being awarded the first US patent for the telephone in 1876. As with some other momentous inventions, there were a number of

claimants who reckoned they had been the first to invent the telephone, but after a decade of litigation, I finally won the credit and the patent.

My famous first words on the telephone were very ordinary and – quite literally – an accident. I had just invented the first working telephone on 10 March 1876, when I spilled some acid on myself and needed help. So the first words heard over my invention were: “Mr Watson – come here – I want to see you”, and my laboratory assistant was the one who heard them.

The Bell Telephone Company was created in 1877, and by 1886, more than 150,000 Americans owned telephones. I predicted that there would come a time when “friends converse with each other without leaving home”. I also predicted (about 1906) that “the day will come when the man at the telephone will be able to see the distant person to whom he is speaking”.

I went on to create other new inventions, including the photophone in 1880. This first wireless telephone transmitted sound on a beam of light instead of electrical wires, and is the



Bell on the telephone

forerunner of the modern cordless phone and telephone systems that use fibre optics. This was the invention that I considered my most important. However, history and public opinion disagree, so the telephone is my most famous invention.

You may be interested to know that I considered the telephone to be an intrusion on my real work as a scientist and I refused to have one in my study! Please note that I had this opinion almost 150 years before you readers are discovering it to be the case for yourselves!

I was a British subject throughout my early life in Scotland and later in Canada until 1882, when I became a naturalised citizen of the United States. I am proud to have been claimed as a “native son” by all three countries in which I resided: the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom. I was ranked 57th among the 100 Greatest Britons (2002) in an official BBC nationwide poll, in the Top Ten Greatest Canadians (2004), and one of the 100 Greatest Americans (2005). In 2006, I was also named as one of the 10 greatest Scottish scientists in history.

I died in Nova Scotia of complications arising from diabetes on August 2 1922, at age 75. At the end of my funeral, every phone on the continent of North America was silenced in my honour.

You know me as Alexander Graham Bell.

What did you say? Oh, yes, dear reader, you’ve remembered that my parents didn’t give me a middle name? When I was 10, I pleaded with

my father to be given a middle name like my two brothers, and for my 11th birthday he allowed me to adopt the name “Graham”, chosen out of respect for a family friend my father had treated.

To close relatives and friends, I remained “Aleck”. However, when Mabel became my fiancée, she asked that I use “Alec”, and from 1876, I signed my name “Alec Bell”. Sadly, history has ignored that.

Now, I promised to tell you more about the word “hello”. I had proposed that people should answer the telephone with the greeting “ahoy, ahoy”, the old seafarers’ hail, and that was used at first. But then my friend, the inventor Thomas Edison, suggested “hello”. He didn’t coin the word – it had been used for ages as a call to hunting hounds and to hail people from a distance – but it caught on quickly: so quickly that early telephone operators were called “hello girls”.

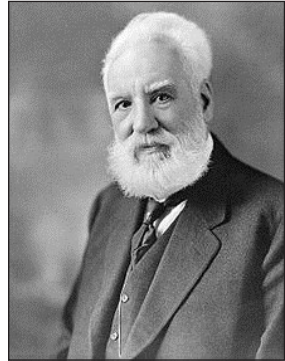
Spare a thought for Thomas Edison when you answer your telephone with HELLO, HALLO, HALLOO, HALLOA, HILLO, HILLOA, HOLLA, HOLLO, HOLLOO, HOLLLOA, HULLO, HULLLOA, or HULLOO.

Have you figured out my eponym yet? It’s obviously not a telephone... Nor a bell...

The words BEL and DECIBEL (one-tenth of a BEL)

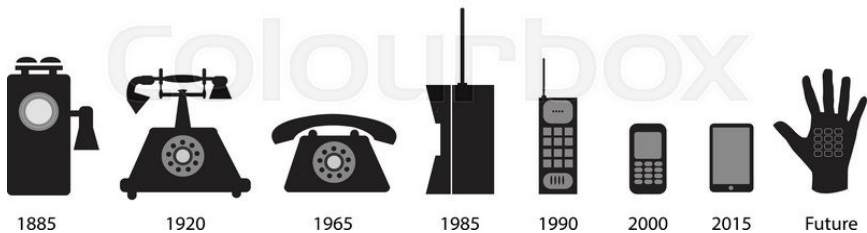
incorporate the abbreviated version of my name. A BEL, which is seldom used, is the least audible sound to the human ear. For you technically-minded people, DECIBEL is a unit used to compare two power levels on a logarithmic scale. People hear from 0 to 130 DECIBELS – above that, sound becomes painful to the ear. Most conversations take place at about 60 DECIBELS. Today, the DECIBEL is used for a wide variety of measurements in science and engineering, most prominently in acoustics and electronics.

Remember me, Alec Bell, when you play BEL(S) or DECIBEL(S).



Alexander Graham Bell

Evolution of telephones



Honestly, how 'good' a Scrabbler are you?

- Results

To find your score, complete the quiz on pp. 26-29 and record the letter next to the answer you would choose for each question. Then add up the points values of the letters for all your answers to obtain your total.

86-100

Aha!!! You are completely unscrupulous when it comes to anything Scrabble-related. You'll do whatever it takes to come out on top. How do we know this? Because you just falsified your results. The highest score you could legitimately have achieved in this quiz is 82.

71-85

If there is an advantage to be gained from a situation, you are likely to seize the opportunity, even if it requires bending the rules or embroidering the truth somewhat. Growing the New Zealand Scrabble culture? Role-modelling ethical behaviour in the Scrabble world? Everyone else can do that!!! You'd rather win!

41-70

You have no specific stance in Scrabble ethics, but rather decide how you will act on a case-by-case basis.

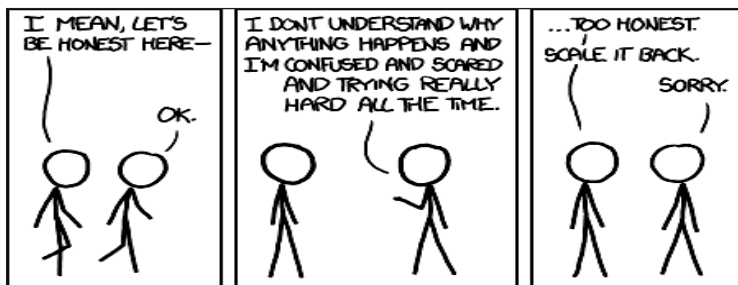
You tend to weigh up all the pros and cons of a given situation, and how your reputation will fare is just one of the many factors you'll consider before deciding what action to take. If others view your action as a little dishonest, well at least you'll be happy with your choice.

21-40

You are a stickler for the letter of the law. Typically you cannot be faulted for the decisions you make, but rules are there for a reason and you're going to uphold them even if it means that the adjudicator has to work triple-time.

0-20

You are a conscientious player and a people-pleaser. You believe in doing unto others as you would have them do unto you. You usually pick the path of least resistance, occasionally to your own detriment. You will sleep with a clear conscience even if you did lose that last game because you felt sorry for your opponent and didn't take 20 points off them for going over time.



Mailbox



Did you know you can receive Forwards by email? Contact Dianne Cole-Baker if you'd like to have this amazing publication delivered to your inbox in full colour, four times a year (pdf format). Here's what others are saying about the experience:

I thoroughly enjoyed reading *Forwards!* It's an excellent idea to have it in email format. It's great to have colour pics and the font size can be enlarged if necessary.

And we'll be saving all those trees too.



*Lynne Butler,
Whanganui*



*Clare Wall,
Independent*

Wow, what a difference the electronic version makes! I love that the photos are in colour and so crisp. I much prefer this version.

Forwards goes from strength to strength!

A bit of sad news from Whangarei Club

Whangarei Scrabble Club have lost one of their special members... Patricia Wright, who had recently taken on the role of Secretary, died on 23rd March 2017.

Pat travelled extensively off and on since she joined our Club, but about 15 months ago she had to return from her travels as she was having problems. Sadly, it was terminal. She battled this last year with a great deal of courage. Margie Hurly, another of our members, was a very helpful friend to her, and it was Margie who kept us up to date on her circumstances.

Pat had no family in New Zealand. R.I.P. Pat.

Jennifer Smith from Kiwi Club sent this item to us last November. In the Christmas rush, both editrices completely missed it in their inboxes. Huge apologies to Jennifer. We're hoping that you'll forgive our better-late-than-never editing philosophy.

A-what?

Ordinarily, I have Joan Thomas with me when I travel from Hamilton to Whanganui at Labour Weekend for Whanganui's annual tournament. In October 2016, however, Joan was visiting England, so I had to provide my own entertainment on the journey.

Just out of Taumarunui, I saw a sign saying "A-frame shed for sale", and almost immediately, another sign saying "No U-turns". So, for the rest of my journey, my mind was occupied trying to compile a list.

I came up with C-section, D-bolt, E-book, F-word, G-string, H-bomb, I-phone, K-bar, L-plate, O-ring, P-lab, S-bend, T-intersection, V-Day, X-ray, Y-generation, Z-Cars. (I'm disappointed that "Plan B" is not referred to as a B-plan. And there is a magazine called Q, but it's not written as Q-magazine, either.)

So I have a challenge for everyone:

If A is a frame, C is a section, D is a bolt, E is a book, F is a word, G is a string, H is a bomb, I is a phone, K is a bar, L is a plate, O is a ring, P is a lab, S is a bend, T is an intersection, U is a turn, V is a day, X is a ray, Y is a generation, and Z is cars – what are B, J, M, N, Q, R, and W?

It would be nice to have a complete alphabetical list.



A frame



L plate

If anyone can help Jennifer to complete her list, please write to the editors and we'll publish your ideas in the next issue. Similarly, if anyone has a list of words with "hidden meanings" of the kind discussed below by her, please send those to us here at the Forwards desk:

Words with hidden meanings

I had DRAPEB plus the blank on my rack, and, wondering whether BEDRAPE would be OK, I scribbled it down to look at it.

The way I wrote it, my messy writing gave it a gap between the D and the R. No way, I decided! I would have noticed a word that spells BED RAPE long before now if it were actually a word. But I still tried it, and it was fine.

So I've now added it to my list of "dubious" words, which includes:

THERAPIST (THE RAPIST),
and better still –
PSYCHOTHERAPIST
(PSYCHO THE RAPIST)
BEDRAPE (BED RAPE)
BROOMRAPE (BROOM RAPE – nasty!)

How to rack up 752

by Howard Warner, *Independent*

Some games, nothing goes right. Your opponent takes all your good spots while you set up spots for their bonus words. You get the right tiles at the wrong times, or the wrong tiles at the right times. But other games, everything just works out.

I seldom remember my own games, and almost never annotate them. But this one is worth reflecting on because EVERYTHING went right!

I opened my account with a deliberate dud — something I have very rarely done in all my years of playing. But I just had a feeling. The non-word was *COLEMIA (not quite COREMIA or CHOLEMIA which are both allowable). My opponent, Lawson Sue, duly challenged it off. He then played BROOD, allowing me to play CAMELOID for 92.

My next pick-up was lovely and it enabled me to play TOTALISE through an L—a double-double for 82.

With my next rack, I chose not to play the Q for a mere 12, instead playing TWEE for 21 to block a dangerous E on a triple line. Then came the pick-up that dramatically changed my fortunes: SU?. Now I was hoping that Lawson would hang out an E, I, or L, so I could make SQUEEGEE or SQUILGEE; or a D, G, or R for SQUEGGED/SQUEGGER. I didn't see the other possibility until he placed a C on the left-hand triple line. And suddenly I had GRECQUES for 226 (including the challenge).

I was now on 421 after four scoring turns. Lawson followed up with a bonus of his own: TRAYNED. I replied with FEZ for 53. My next three turns (FERRY, UNAI, and KAWA) yielded modest scores but were all about rack management. Then, while Lawson lost two turns with desperation plays (*OVERSAT and *OVERSEAT), I found a nice way to use three I's by paying RIPIENI (85). One more rack-managing turn and I had my fifth bingo, HATFULS (77). As Lawson appropriately commented, "I'd have played HATEFUL!" That brought my total to 727. And with my final four tiles, DEIO, I was able to play GEOID off a G, with the O end-hooking HELL. Lucky to the end!

So, the final score was 752 to 313. Later, Olivia Godfrey told me that the previous record for highest score in a tournament game (717) had been set back in 1990 — she knew because she and Anderina McLean had been updating all the records for *Forwards* just the day before. Indeed, my own previous best score (in a New Zealand rated tournament) of 702 went back 18 years. So it was a bit of a surprise, and nicely timed, given that it was my birthday and I had chosen to spend it playing Scrabble.

My condolences to Lawson for being on the wrong end of my birthday gift. It's always good to remember that when everything goes right for you, everything is probably going wrong for your opponent.

A final note: what goes up must come down. The very next game I lost to Anna Hough by five points.

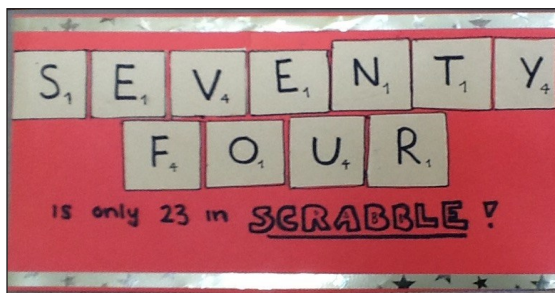


Thanks to the ever-generous Lawson for providing this photo, and the one on the cover



A number of Aucklanders commented on this advertisement, which appeared from January-March on billboards, buses, and bus stops around West Auckland suburbs. Did the advertisers know about the tournament in Christchurch in November? No – from other ads in the series, we surmise that they were just trying to challenge stereotypes about what kind of people support what kind of activities.

Lyn Toka, Kiwi, shared this picture of a handmade birthday card she received from her granddaughter, Olivia.



New Zealand Scrabble Records as at 1st January 2017

NZ Performances at the World Scrabble Championships

(held since 1991)

World Champion	Nigel Richards	2007, 2011, 2013
In the top 10 (other than 1st)	7th Mike Sigley	1993
	3rd Jeff Grant	1995
	6th Jack Dymond (Kendall Boyd)	1997
	8th, 2nd Nigel Richards	1999, 2009
Most frequent competitor	11 times Jeff Grant	1991-2015

NZ Performances at the World Youth Championships

Highest place	7th / 120	Lewis Hawkins	2014
Most frequent competitor	3 times	Lewis Hawkins	2013-2015

Trans-Tasman Challenge

Challenges won by NZ	3	1998, 2000, 2010
Individual Winners	Peter Sinton	1998
	Jack Dymond (Kendall Boyd)	2000
	Howard Warner	2002
	Joanne Craig	2010

Highest ten on international (WESPA) rankings

Nigel Richards	1st
Alastair Richards	12th
Howard Warner	67th
Jeff Grant	103rd
Patrick Carter	135th
Lyres Freeth	139th
Peter Sinton	189th
Blue Thorogood	191st
Lawson Su	269th

500 international games (WEPSA-rated)

Nigel Richards	3058
Alastair Richards	2042
Joanne Craig	1114
Howard Warner	964
Betty Eriksen	566
Jeff Grant	534
Liz Fagerlund	521

Masters Tournament (held since 1984)

Most games won	21/23	Jeff Grant	1993, 1997
		Mike Sigley	2002
Highest spread	2454	Howard Warner	2012
Most times winner	11 times	Howard Warner	2003-04, 2006, 2008-13
Most frequent competitor	33/33	Glennis Hale	1984-2016
Youngest competitor	12 yrs, 112 days	Alex Leckie-Zaharic	2013
Oldest Competitor	84 years, 288 days	June Mackwell	2008

The Nationals (held since 1980)

Most times National Champion	16 times	Jeff Grant	1990-91, 1993-96 1998, 2000-01, 2007-08
Youngest competitor	8 years, 151 days	Lewis Hawkins	2013
Oldest competitor	88 years, 359 days	June Mackwell	2012

Tournament Records

Highest game score	717	Mike Sigley	Nov 1990
Highest losing score	514	Pam Barlow	Jun 2010
Highest drawn score	487	Debbie Raphael & Lynn Wood	Feb 2004
Highest single turn	302	Lynne Butler	Oct 2011
Highest single turn non-bonus	135	Ruth O'Neil	Nov 1998
Highest combined score	1078	David Lloyd & Howard Warner	Mar 1997
Highest winning margin	493	Mike Sigley	Nov 1990

Highest add-on	58	Jeff Grant Lynn Wood	Mar 2012 May 2015
Most consecutive bonus words	5	Allie Quinn	Jun 1989
Most bonus words in a game (individual)	6	Nigel Richards	Aug 1998
	6	Yvette Hewlett	Nov 2001
	6	Howard Warner	Aug 2010
Most bonus words in a game (combined)	8	Mike Sigley & Glenyss Buchanan	Pre 1997
	8	Nigel Richards & John Foster	Aug 1998
	8	Paul Lister & Shirley Hol	May 2013
Highest average in a tournament	584	Nigel Richards	Jan 1997
Most tournament games played	4001	Lynn Wood	
Most tournament games won	2054.5	Howard Warner	

Milestones

4000 tournament games played

Lynn Wood 4001

2000 tournament games played

Betty Erikson 2916

John Foster 2794

Val Mills 2763

Howard Warner 2742

Hazel Purdie 2730

Glennis Hale 2716

David Gunn 2690

Liz Fagerlund 2362

Jean O'Brien 2359

Jennifer Smith 2315

Joan Thomas 2276

Glenda Geard 2264

Allie Quinn 2252

Jeff Grant 2251

Su Walker 2210

Glenda Foster 2195

2000 tournament games won

Howard Warner 2054.5

1000 tournament games won

Lynn Wood 1928

Jeff Grant 1698

John Foster 1589.5

Glennis Hale 1502.5

Betty Eriksen 1479

Val Mills 1337

David Gunn 1323

Liz Fagerlund 1244.5

Jean O'Brien 1196.5

Hazel Purdie 1163.5

Joan Thomas 1129

Jennifer Smith 1122.5

Allie Quinn 1107.5

Glenda Geard 1103.5

Glenda Foster 1085.5

Su Walker 1071.5

Mike Sigley 1004

Club Records

Highest game score	763	John Foster	Mt Albert	Jan 1993
Highest losing score	521	June Mackwell	Mt Albert	Jan 1989
Highest drawn score	482	Jeff Grant & Margaret Warren	Hastings	Mar 1994
Highest single turn	347	Neil Talbot	Wellington	Oct 2003
Highest single turn, non bonus	261	John Foster	Mt Albert	Jan 1993
Highest combined score	1106	Chris Hooks & Dawn Kitzen	Papatoetoe & Mt Albert	Mar 1992
Highest winning margin	590	Paul Lister	Christchurch	Nov 2008
Highest add-on	68	Andrew Bradley John Foster	Mt Albert Mt Albert	Pre 1990 Apr 1992
Most consecutive bonus words	5	John Foster Patrick Carter Paul Lister	Mt Albert Mt Albert Christchurch	Apr 1992 Apr 2003 Aug 2010
Most bonus words in a game (individual)	7	Jeff Grant	Independent	Sept 1997
Most bonus words in a game (combined)	8	Chris Hooks & Dawn Kitzen	Papatoetoe & Mt Albert	Mar 1992

Grand Masters

Andrew Bradley	Mike Sigley
Anderina McLean	Nick Cavenagh
Blue Thorogood	Patrick Carter
Glennis Hale	Peter Sinton
Howard Warner	Rogelio Talosig
Jeff Grant	Steven Brown
Joanne Craig	
John Foster	
John McNaughton	
Lawson Sue	
Liz Fagerlund	
Lynne Butler	
Lyres Freeth	

Experts

Chris Hooks
Cicely Bruce
Debbie Raphael
Denise Gordon
Glenda Foster
Karen Richards
Lynne Powell
Marianne Bentley
Murray Rogers
Paul Lister
Rosemary Cleary
Scott Chaput
Val Mills

Tournament results

Pakuranga

28-29 January 2017

15 Games

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
A Grade					
1	Cicely Bruce	WRE	12	984	441
2	Lawson Sue	PAK	10	606	400
3	Olivia Godfrey	WAN	10	293	410
4	Anderina McLean	MTA	9	374	432
5	John Foster	IND	9	263	411
6	Murray Rogers	IND	9	255	407
7	Liz Fagerlund	MTA	9	237	396
8	Patrick Carter	MTA	8	18	419
9	Val Mills	PAK	8	-13	409
10	Paul Lister	CHC	8	-329	375
11	Lynn Wood	WEL	7	423	409
12	Glennis Hale	IND	7	189	419
13	Jennifer Smith	KIW	4	-547	377
14	Lorraine Van Veen	IND	4	-813	369
15	Janice Cherry	IND	4	-1011	358
16	Pat Bryan	MTA	2	-929	371

B Grade

1	Shirley Martin	KIW	12	653	392
2	Julie Atkinson	MTA	12	473	402
3	Allie Quinn	WRE	10	392	399
4	Delcie Macbeth	IND	9	360	394
5	Heather Landon	TGA	9	-82	373
6	Ruth Groffman	DUN	8	79	374
7	Jena Yousif	WRE	8	-110	363
8	Katy Yiakmis	MTA	7	103	387
9	Roger Coates	KIW	7	-183	382
10	David Gunn	WKP	6	-131	381
11	Bev Edwards	WRE	6	-164	379
12	Mary Curtis	MTA	6	-286	388
13	Pam Barlow	PAK	5	-142	389
14	Hazel Purdie	MTA	5	-270	385
15	Mary Gray	MTA	5	-316	387
16	Betty Eriksen	WAN	5	-376	365

C Grade

1	Roger Cole-Baker	MTA	12	776	402
2	Su Walker	MTA	10	676	402
3	Dianne Cole-Baker	MTA	10	527	382
4	Glenda Geard	IND	10	361	385
5	Faye Cronhelm	IND	10	350	384
6	Barney Bonthron	KIW	9	274	389
7	Carole Coates	KIW	9	273	380
8	Joanne Morley	ROT	9	170	367
9	Margaret Cherry	PAK	9	-107	366
10	Karen Miller	IND	7	17	363
11	Suzanne Harding	WRE	7	-99	381
12	Bernie Jardine	PAP	6	48	375
13	Annette Coombes	WKP	5	-685	342
14	Antonia Aarts	MTA	4	-465	344
15	Ruth Godwin	ROT	2	-819	330
16	Tim Henneveld	ROT	1	-1297	299

D Grade

1	Janny Henneveld	ROT	13	539	355
2	Rodney Jardine	PAP	12	980	383
3	Joan Beale	PAP	12	960	376
4	Joan Stanners	PAP	11	281	324
5	Anne Scatchard	WRE	8	258	334
6	Jackie Reid	MTA	8	227	333
7	Judy Cronin	MTA	7	-79	329
8	Frances Higham	PAP	7	-229	323
9	Lynn Blaker	PAK	6	-202	316
10	Patricia Wareing	PAK	6	-478	336
11	Lynn Thompson	WRE	5	-122	332
12	Valerie Smith	MTA	5	-446	323
13	Susan Schiller	MTA	4	-755	293
14	Margaret Peters	WRE	1	-934	299



Pakuranga winners, Cicely Bruce and Shirley Martin

Wellington**4-5 February 2017****14 Games**

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
A Grade					
1	Howard Warner	IND	14	1350	447
2	Lyres Freeth	IND	10.5	449	419
3	Lawson Sue	PAK	10	431	406
4	Nick Ascroft	WEL	6	-181	397
5	Murray Rogers	IND	6	-268	387
6	Liz Fagerlund	MTA	4.5	-525	375
7	Vicky Robertson	WEL	4	-427	379
8	Lynn Wood	WEL	1	-829	364

B Grade

1	Val Mills	PAK	9	782	435
2	Rosemary Cleary	WAN	9	536	399
3	Glenyss Buchanan	LOH	9	490	412
4	Glenda Foster	WEL	7	-262	373
5	Shirley Hol	CHC	6	-100	390
6	Anna Hough	IND	6	-275	366
7	Yvette Hewlett	IND	6	-396	382
8	Anne Goldstein	CHC	4	-775	349

C Grade

1	Ruth Groffman	DUN	11	452	389
2	Leila Thomson	LOH	10	688	401
3	Betty Eriksen	WAN	9	59	378
4	Judith Thomas	IND	8	-101	370
5	Nola Borrell	WEL	7	227	407
6	Malcolm Graham	CHC	7	34	373
7	Tony Charlton	NEL	5.5	-260	341
8	Colleen Cook	CHC	5	-365	360
9	Sheila Reed	WEL	4.5	-391	362
10	Allison Torrance	CHC	3	-543	362



Wellington winners Val Mills and Ruth Groffman

Nelson**11-12 February 2017****15 Games**

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
A Grade					
1	Murray Rogers	IND	9	516	402
2	Lynn Wood	WEL	8	129	390
3	John Baird	CHC	8	9	382
4	Malcolm Graham	CHC	5	-654	363
B Grade					
1	Tony Charlton	NEL	11	831	360
2	Judy Driscoll	KAP	11	350	334
3	Betty Don	IND	10	630	361
4	Barbara Cornell	IND	9	607	361
5	Karen Brookes	IND	3	-930	289
6	James Flynn	NEL	1	-1488	273

Tournament Calendar

Nationals	Christchurch	3-4 June
Whangarei	Whangarei	1-2 July
Papatoetoe	Auckland	15-16 July
Kiwi	Hamilton	5-6 August
Tauranga	Tauranga	26-27 August
Canterbury Open	Christchurch	9-10 September
Mt. Albert	Auckland	7-8 October
Whanganui	Whanganui	21-22 October
Rodney	Warkworth	11 November
Otago	Dunedin	11-12 November
Mt. Albert	Auckland	12 November
World Senior Championships (WESPA)	Christchurch	21-23 November

Rotorua**25-26 February 2017****13 Games**

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
A Grade					
1	Alastair Richards	IND	11	1453	481
2	Lyres Freeth	IND	10	957	447
3	Cicely Bruce	WRE	10	540	420
4	Howard Warner	IND	9	1432	480
5	Anna Hough	IND	8	230	403
6	Olivia Godfrey	WAN	7	218	412
7	Liz Fagerlund	MTA	7	-329	387
8	Lawson Sue	PAK	6	-431	403
9	Delcie Macbeth	IND	5	-265	392
10	Anderina McLean	MTA	5	-590	368
11	Jeanette Grimmer	ROD	4	-747	372
12	Shirley Martin	KIW	4	-838	363
13	Lorraine Van Veen	IND	3	-781	370
14	Jennifer Smith	KIW	2	-849	355

B Grade

1	Roger Coates	KIW	9	514	401
2	Yoon Kim Fong	KIW	9	288	392
3	Amelia Carrington	IND	8	483	409
4	Betty Eriksen	WAN	8	229	387
5	Hazel Purdie	MTA	8	196	390
6	Rosalind Phillips	TGA	7	320	393
7	David Gunn	WKP	7	-257	381
8	Joan Thomas	HAS	6	188	382
9	Jena Yousif	WRE	6	-106	368
10	Nola Borrell	WEL	5	2	385
11	Yvette Hewlett	IND	5	-142	384
12	Lyn Toka	KIW	5	-252	380
13	Mary Curtis	HAS	4	-487	367
14	Heather Landon	TGA	4	-976	342

C Grade

1	Glenda Geard	IND	10	516	419
2	Su Walker	IND	10	389	413
3	Tei Ngatai	TGA	9	614	396
4	Carole Coates	KIW	8	601	411
5	Karen Miller	IND	7	43	370
6	Suzanne Harding	WRE	7	27	382

7	Faye Cronhelm	IND	6	-77	382
8	Sandra Cowen	TGA	6	-283	360
9	Jo Ann Ingram	TGA	6	-486	346
10	Jill Paterson	ROT	5	-19	385
11	Joanne Morley	ROT	5	-226	377
12	Bernie Jardine	PAP	5	-337	369
13	Ruth Godwin	ROT	4	-390	345
14	Chris Day	TGA	3	-372	373

D Grade

1	Rodney Jardine	PAP	10.5	351	376
2	Rosemary Wauters	TGA	8	338	374
3	Merelyn Fuemana	MTA	8	199	359
4	Tim Henneveld	ROT	8	57	333
5	Jillian Greening	KIW	8	-74	355
6	Joan Beale	PAP	7.5	122	347
7	Pat Wood Jacqueline	TGA	7	362	344
8	Coldham-Fussell	KIW	6	54	357
9	Janny Henneveld	ROT	6	-44	341
10	Judy Driscoll	KAP	6	-149	347
11	Noelene Bettjeman	TGA	5	-350	327
12	Annette Coombes	WKP	4	-100	357
13	Val Isherwood	ROT	4	-364	331
14	Dorothy Bakel	TGA	3	-402	324

E Grade

1	Wendy Anastasi	ROT	10.5	653	342
2	Anne Scatchard	WRE	10	573	343
3	Jackie Reid	MTA	8	164	341
4	Frances Higham	PAP	7.5	153	340
5	Jan Kite	ROT	7	-63	324
6	Judy Cronin	MTA	6	-75	336
7	Tricia Kenyon	ROT	5	-141	318
8	Pam Fulton	ROT	4	-371	313
9	Susan Schiller	MTA	4	-480	309
10	Joan Stanners	PAP	3	-413	297



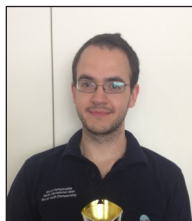
Bay of Islands 18-19 March 2017

13 Games

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
A Grade					
1	Alastair Richards	IND	12	2160	505
2	Lyres Freeth	IND	9	907	450
3	Jeff Grant	IND	8	319	417
4	Cicely Bruce	WRE	8	-66	395
5	Lawson Sue	PAK	7	496	409
6	Glennis Hale	IND	7	241	426
7	Liz Fagerlund	MTA	7	179	421
8	Anderina McLean	MTA	7	-199	379
9	Jennifer Smith	KIW	6	-371	386
10	Lynn Wood	WEL	5	-479	369
11	Jeanette Grimmer	ROD	5	-615	370
12	Olivia Godfrey	WAN	4	-787	369
13	Margie Hurly	WRE	4	-819	383
14	Allie Quinn	WRE	2	-966	370

B Grade

1	Karl Scherer	IND	11	727	416
2	Shirley Martin	KIW	8	542	394
3	Lynn Carter	IND	7	231	391
4	Bev Edwards	WRE	7	91	368
5	Dianne Cole-Baker	MTA	7	-355	361
6	Joan Thomas	HAS	6	-266	360
7	Heather Landon	TGA	5	-47	372
8	Ernie Gidman	ROD	5	-330	358
9	Roger Cole-Baker	MTA	5	-363	357
10	Ruth Groffman	DUN	4	-230	364



Tournament winners.

*Above: Alastair Richards and Scott Chaput
Left: Roger Coates and Glenda Geard*

C Grade

1	Julia Schiller	IND	11	856	391
	Jacqueline Cold-				
2	ham-Fussell	KIW	9	349	378
3	Suzanne Harding	WRE	8	542	378
4	Rodney Jardine	PAP	8	-39	349
5	Rebecca Pullman	WRE	8	-130	346
6	Bernie Jardine	PAP	7	300	397
7	Suzanne Liddall	WRE	7	199	373
8	Jillian Greening	KIW	7	159	363
9	Anne Scatchard	WRE	7	156	344
10	Valma Gidman	ROD	6	-91	350
11	Margaret Toso	WRE	4	-457	333
12	Jackie Reid	MTA	4	-604	320
13	Margaret Peters	WRE	3	-645	309
14	Susan Schiller	MTA	2	-595	312

Dunedin Lion 8-9 April 2017

15 Games

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
A Grade					
1	Scott Chaput	DUN	11	783	427
2	Olivia Godfrey	WAN	11	644	411
3	Lynn Wood	WEL	10	378	389
4	Karen Gray	DUN	9	162	411
5	Jean O'Brien	IND	7	-11	383
6	Betty Eriksen	WAN	6	-313	374
7	Marian Ross	DUN	4	-670	371
8	Carolyn Kyle	IND	2	-973	352

B Grade

1	Mo Wetere	DUN	10	879	395
2	Malcolm Graham	CHC	10	768	387
3	Grant Paulin	DUN	10	-174	353
4	Chris Handley	DUN	9	323	379
5	Anne-Louise Milne	DUN	4	-593	330
6	Bev Allen	DUN	2	-1203	318

Rankings list as at 7 May 2017

	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%		Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%
1	Alastair Richards	2157	132.5	172	77%	47	Lynn Wood	1460	1971	4110	48%
2	Howard Warner (GM)	2137	2109.5	2806	75%	48	Anne Goldstein	1457	149	286	52%
3	Peter Sinton (GM)	2023	758	1059	72%	49	Delcie Macbeth	1456	975.5	1865	52%
4	Glennis Hale (GM)	1982	1533.5	2767	55%	50	Hazel Purdie	1439	1185.5	2412	49%
5	Lyres Freeth (GM)	1973	427.5	650	66%	51	Roger Coates	1436	827	1732	48%
6	Joanne Craig (GM)	1942	375.5	568	66%	52	Clare Wall	1432	319	611	52%
7	Jeff Grant (GM)	1909	1711	2274	75%	53	Lynn Carter	1431	765.5	1482	52%
8	Patrick Carter (GM)	1905	789.5	1258	63%	54	Shirley Hol	1418	729	1567	47%
9	Lawson Sue (GM)	1895	952	1739	55%	55	Karl Scherer	1415	103	180	57%
10	Blue Thorogood (GM)	1883	669.5	944	71%	56	Rosalind Phillips	1412	598	1151	52%
11	Nick Cavenagh (GM)	1873	410.5	682	60%	57	Pam Barlow	1356	772.5	1542	50%
12	Andrew Bradley (GM)	1840	872	1655	53%	58	Herb Ramsay	1354	181	296	61%
13	Lynne Butler (GM)	1810	932.5	1533	61%	59	Peter Johnstone	1353	183	356	51%
14	Mike Sigley (GM)	1808	1004	1451	69%	60	Yoon Kim Fong	1351	619	1230	50%
15	Anderina McLean (GM)	1803	792.5	1461	54%	61	Yvette Hewlett	1340	493.5	1033	48%
16	Cicely Bruce (E)	1803	550.5	992	55%	62	Leila Thomson	1336	612.5	1327	46%
17	Liz Fagerlund (GM)	1757	1293	2454	53%	63	Betty Eriksen	1328	1514	2987	51%
18	Val Mills (E)	1756	1368	2822	48%	64	Ruth Groffman	1326	599	1198	50%
19	Steven Brown (GM)	1745	931	1747	53%	65	Margaret Bullen	1301	133.5	235	57%
20	John McNaughton (GM)	1744	157	248	63%	66	David Gunn	1301	1336	2718	49%
21	John Foster (GM)	1742	1616.5	2846	57%	67	Heather Landon	1298	602	1186	51%
22	Paul Lister (E)	1726	851.5	1532	56%	68	Glenda Geard	1289	1132.5	2306	49%
23	Olivia Godfrey	1711	833	1588	52%	69	Marian Ross	1287	613.5	1193	51%
24	Denise Gordon (E)	1699	735.5	1525	48%	70	Roger Cole-Baker	1277	619	1197	52%
25	Nick Ascroft	1687	187	349	54%	71	Jean O'Brien	1276	1207.5	2388	51%
26	Lewis Hawkins	1652	218.5	355	62%	72	Jena Yousif	1273	520	1035	50%
27	Lois Binnie	1637	84	165	51%	73	Shirley Pearce	1263	110	221	50%
28	Murray Rogers (E)	1630	919	1746	53%	74	Bev Edwards	1263	276.5	529	52%
29	Scott Chaput (E)	1628	268	461	58%	75	Nola Borrell	1259	493.5	908	54%
30	Alex Leckie-Zaharic	1620	166	290	57%	76	Mary Curtis	1225	356	677	53%
31	Anna Hough	1618	769	1547	50%	77	Malcolm Graham	1222	517.5	1010	51%
32	Glenyss Buchanan	1594	705.5	1517	47%	78	Lyn Toka	1217	580.5	1112	52%
33	Margie Hurly	1577	354	698	51%	79	Mo Wetere	1215	64.5	103	63%
34	Jeanette Grimmer	1576	192.5	361	53%	80	Su Walker	1205	1095.5	2145	51%
35	Jennifer Smith	1558	1148.5	2393	48%	81	Joan Thomas	1197	1145	2316	49%
36	Rosemary Cleary (E)	1551	825	1793	46%	82	Mary Gray	1196	615.5	1256	49%
37	Irene Smith	1537	213	437	49%	83	Dianne Cole-Baker	1187	581	1132	51%
38	John Baird	1537	269	484	56%	84	Leanne Field	1182	179	331	54%
39	Lorraine Van Veen	1519	922	1843	50%	85	Barney Bonthron	1158	39	67	58%
40	Shirley Martin	1507	1007.5	1981	51%	86	Barbara Dunn	1158	342.5	587	58%
41	Allie Quinn	1498	1119.5	2280	49%	87	Geoff Vautier	1155	125	331	38%
42	Pam Robson	1479	585.5	1291	45%	88	Ernie Gidman	1138	432	869	50%
43	Julie Atkinson	1471	264.5	501	53%	89	Faye Cronhelm	1134	905	1816	50%
44	Vicky Robertson	1470	375.5	779	48%	90	Carole Coates	1125	708.5	1452	49%
45	Glenda Foster (E)	1469	1098.5	2223	49%	91	Julia Schiller	1100	284	617	46%
46	Selena Chan	1465	341.5	673	51%	92	Carolyn Kyle	1091	893	1833	49%

Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%
93 Chris Handley	1077	412.5	812	51%	Jacqueline				
94 Karen Miller	1072	585	1170	50%	126 Coldham-Fussell	734	661.5	1365	48%
95 Colleen Cook	1051	396.5	810	49%	127 Kathleen Mori-Barker	719	394	794	50%
96 Allison Torrance	1045	471	917	51%	128 Tim Henneveld	718	502	1110	45%
97 Jean Boyle	1043	583.5	1105	53%	129 Mandy Thorogood	706	42	84	50%
98 Judith Thomas	1040	248.5	500	50%	130 Janny Henneveld	701	524	1092	48%
99 Tei Ngatai	1024	61	111	55%	131 Pat Wood	699	154.5	289	53%
100 Roto Mitchell	1019	784.5	1564	50%	132 Joan Beale	696	314.5	611	51%
101 Suzanne Ford	1004	224	411	55%	133 Jillian Greening	688	369	772	48%
102 Suzanne Harding	1001	492	972	51%	134 Hanna Dodge	674	114.5	236	49%
103 Tony Charlton	999	309.5	618	50%	135 Marilyn Sinclair	669	107.5	230	47%
104 Gabrielle Bolt	992	470	914	51%	136 Anne Scatchard	662	458.5	896	51%
105 Joanna Fox	987	143	258	55%	137 Anne-Louise Milne	660	160	479	33%
106 Joanne Morley	976	81.5	143	57%	138 Margaret Toso	630	119	280	43%
107 Jo Ann Ingram	970	269	529	51%	139 Annette Coombes	629	796	1729	46%
108 Sandra Cowen	960	85.5	175	49%	140 Valma Gidman	616	722.5	1446	50%
109 June Mackwell	958	852	1874	45%	141 Noelene Bettjeman	604	346.5	749	46%
110 Jill Paterson	955	97	171	57%	142 Madelaine Green	593	121.5	228	53%
111 Geoff Bonser	951	98	176	56%	143 Dorothy Bakel	509	38.5	117	33%
112 Shirley Morrison	939	192	404	48%	144 Judith Bach	506	171.5	315	54%
113 Sheila Reed	935	286	600	48%	145 Lynn Thompson	498	318	731	44%
114 Bernie Jardine	929	86.5	192	45%	146 Ray Young	489	30	95	32%
115 Yvonne McLaughlan	901	520.5	1079	48%	147 Phil Andrews	485	14	41	34%
116 Jenny Litchfield	897	68	120	57%	148 Dorothy Latta	437	158	385	41%
117 Junior Gesmundo	856	146.5	290	51%	149 Gill Charlton	437	53	186	28%
118 Rodney Jardine	832	93	178	52%	150 Frances Higham	433	227	622	36%
119 Merelyn Fuemana	809	33	76	43%	151 Judy Cronin	428	127.5	356	36%
120 Ruth Godwin	802	385	859	45%	152 Jackie Reid	382	23	50	46%
121 Sharron Nelley	796	56	104	54%	153 Joan Stanners	347	29	66	44%
122 Betty Don	782	264.5	558	47%	154 Margaret Peters	219	49	177	28%
123 Antonia Aarts	772	277.5	590	47%	155 Susan Schiller	182	48	267	18%
124 Phyllis Paltridge	760	91.5	197	46%	156 Valerie Smith	170	56	236	24%
125 Judy Driscoll	748	239	603	40%	157 Trish Fox	100	38	289	13%

A word to the faceless masses:

Are you sick of never seeing your face in *Forwards*? Or do you get chills when you *do* see your face in *Forwards*, because you can't stand the photo we have of you? **Be proactive!** Send an updated individual photo of your choice to

Lyres, our layout editor: lyresfreeth@gmail.com

Photo should clearly show your face, be a digital file (e.g. .jpeg), and ideally will have a plain background. Club officers are encouraged to take responsibility for providing a suitable photo of each club member each year. Or individuals are welcome to invite the *Forwards* team to take their photo in an opportune moment between games at a tournament.

Club	Club Contact	Phone Number	Email	Meeting Day & Time
Christchurch (CHC)	John Baird	03 332 5996	john@jrsoftware.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-Fussell	07 846 7422	jjcoldham-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	bjjac@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
Waikato Phoenix	David Gunn	07 855 9970		
Waitara (WTA)	Ngair 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	bevholaxtra.co.nz	1pm Thurs
Ratings Officer	Steven Brown	021 164 4641	sgbrown@mac.com	
Forwards Editors	Anderina McLean Olivia Godfrey	021 266 8399 021 413 697	anderinamclean@googlemail.com olivia.awhi@gmail.com	
Layout	Lyres Freeth	-	lyresfreeth@gmail.com	
Distribution	Lynn Wood	04 387 2581	lynn.wood@iag.co.nz	