

# For words



Journal of the New Zealand Association of Scrabble® Players

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Boynton

## Also in this issue:

Word famous in New Zealand:  
Dylan Early

Christchurch's Festival of Scrabble  
(Seniors championship)

It all sounds rather fishy

WESPAC Nairobi 2017

How I threw an amazing chance out  
the window

World Youth Scrabble Championship

I see red

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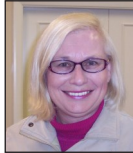
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# Editorial

What do my high school years and the first six months of my second pregnancy have in common? They are the only times in my life that I have been part of an ongoing team (debating and indoor volleyball respectively, in case you're wondering) ...until this November. That was when I joined up with six other Kiwis representing New Zealand in Scrabble at the WESPA championship in Kenya.

Scrabble is not generally perceived as a team sport. Indeed, we serious players tend to be horrified at the mere suggestion of playing in anything other than a one-on-one format. In our typical kind of Scrabble, it's every (m)anagram for himself.

In Nairobi, I spent a lot of time outside of the competition with my teammates. We got to know each other in quite intimate detail. The stories we told over many meals together extended beyond our Scrabble experiences. After a while, we started to share about our marriages, offspring, parents, siblings, religions, and digestive stability. Frequently somebody would be lacking the correct change or even the appropriate currency, but there was always a team member on hand to cover the shortfall. Over time, the careful accounting and "I'll pay you back" subsided towards the more familial casualness of "she'll be right" and "you can get the next one".

Demonstrably, the common interest that brought Nigel, Howard, Joanne, Val, Murray, Lawson, and me together in the first place was Scrabble. Yet

nothing could prepare me for the thrill I experienced when four of us went together to the Nairobi National Museum, and the others were just as avid about collecting words and their meanings as I was. In the museum we sighted WHYDAH/S, FINFOOT/S, WHIMBREL/S, JACANA/S, PINTAIL/S, TROGON/S, BARBET/S, HONEYGUIDE/S, BULBUL/S, QUELEA/S, TURACO/S, GREENSHANK/S, and many more bird species. According to Wikipedia, "the avifauna of Kenya include a total of 1105 species".

During the five days of competition, there was always another New Zealander waiting to hear about the triumphs and/or tribulations of the most recent game. Even when two Kiwis played each other, the others would rally around to hear how another win had been chalked up for our team. I always felt a little more relaxed if another of my teammates happened to be seated at the same competition table as me, believing that our shared camaraderie surrounded us and would surely overwhelm both of our opponents.

A not insignificant aspect of being part of the New Zealand team was the joy, (backed up by several lifetimes of rivalry across all codes), of being able to say "we beat Australia". According to official reckoning, (and I don't know what algorithm was used to account for their team being almost double the size of ours) NZ placed 13<sup>th</sup> and Australia placed 14<sup>th</sup>.

Yet for all that, I also have to say that Australia gave me a feel for what it

would be like to be part of an even larger team. NZ and Australia were inevitably connected through Joanne Craig, who has, as it were, a foot in both camps, but who was representing New Zealand on this occasion. We (New Zealanders and Australians) socialised together on numerous occasions, and they're lovely people, too.

throughout the year, awarded for participation as well as placings? So, at the risk of sounding like a job advertisement... if you're a team player full of bright ideas, with problem-solving skills and a 'can-do' attitude, then we'd love to hear from you!

*Anderina McLean*

So I've been reflecting on how we can incorporate this team spirit into regular New Zealand Scrabble play. We get a taste of it in a tournament when several members of the same club are competing, but I'm thinking of something more prolonged. Something like the model of school houses, perhaps, with allegiances randomly assigned but fiercely displayed? Or an ongoing tally of club points



*Team New Zealand at the WESPA championship*

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## NZASP Lifetime Awards

*by John Foster, Independent*

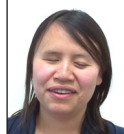
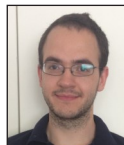
Any additions to the list of lifetime awards recipients are made at the end of each calendar year. This year there are three new awards. The NZASP heartily congratulates the following players:

**Alastair Richards, Grand Master.** This award corrects an apparent anomaly which has been commented on, but Alastair did not quite make the cut for 2017.

**Cicely Bruce, Grand Master.** Cicely did it the hard way, grinding out the requisite number of top placings over several years.

**Olivia Godfrey, Expert.** Olivia has made it with repeated top twenty placings over the last two years.

With the solid block of Grand Masters at the top of the ranking list, it gets more difficult every year for new players to qualify but, as these players have demonstrated, it is still possible to muscle in.





# President's report

## Musings, bouquets, and brickbats

*From the WESPAC in Nairobi and the World Senior Scrabble Champs (including Early Bird tournament) in Christchurch*

There is no doubt that the World Scrabble Champs in Nairobi were a success. Players were of the highest calibre, and gameplay was usually excellent. I particularly commend the optimal performance of John Chew, whose tournament coverage website was a brilliant masterpiece and a pleasure to follow. The NZASP have accordingly offered our congratulations to Kenyan organiser Daniel Machanje.

Far be it from me, as director of the then-upcoming World Senior Scrabble Champs, to offer any criticism of proceedings in Nairobi. I had many shortfalls as organiser myself, although I was rendered practically bulletproof by my brilliant committee and sub-committee. However, the following grievances need to be aired:

Lyn Dawson and several other competitors in the open grade believed WESPA were not being fair to those who entered in the non-Championship events, and who had paid US\$150 to participate. Lyn did not receive an invitation to the reception, was unable to procure a programme, did not receive a souvenir polo shirt despite having been asked twice for her size, and her name was not listed for the events in which she had entered. In addition, she was stood over to pay an extra US\$20 for tournament prize money.

Despite the entry fee being equivalent for both grades, onsite catering was only available for the championship grade; Lyn couldn't get so much as a cup of tea.

The biggest disappointment, however, was that none of the prize money was paid out at the end of the main event. No one plays Scrabble for money, we all play for love. However this non-payment is completely dishonourable, and discredits Scrabble. The cash prizes were eventually disbursed at the beginning of December, weeks after the event was over, but some unexplained 'admin fee' reduced the nett prize paid to the winners.

Concurrent with news from Kenya was the news of WESPA pillar Allan Simmons' cheating furore. Happily, none of the journalists who interviewed me regarding the Festival of Scrabble in Christchurch pressed me too much about Allan, and I was able to direct them to the true stars and stories in front of us like Lewis Hawkins and Joanne Craig.

In Christchurch, the tournament scoring booklets were a masterpiece. These were created by Lois Binnie, with coaching from Glenda Foster, and printed by Selena Chan. They featured in competitors' goodie bags alongside a cutesy dictionary of *New Zealand Scrabble Words: Te Reo Maori and Kiwiana* assembled by Lynley Jenness.



*Paul Lister*

In the World Seniors Championship, notable performances by foreign entrants included France's Robert Springer and the Phillipines' Odette Rio, not to mention a large bloc of Australians headed by evergreen Bob Jackman. On Day Two, Japan's John Ozag slept in, arrived for his round 11 game with seven minutes on his clock, yet still managed to win that game by 200 points!

The World Seniors Scrabble Champs banner was a much-photographed and appreciated welcomer at the entrance to the venue. The powhiri by the Te Kotahitanga Kapa Haka group was an eye-opener appreciated by overseas entrants and locals alike.

The media presence in Christchurch was excellent. They seemed impressed by the fact that all around the world, eight games of Scrabble are started every second, and loved things like the adjudication computer, and chatting about the inscrutable Nigel Richards. Sometimes I would spend hours with an interviewer and nothing would be published; another time the interview would take only 10 minutes but they would broadcast the lot. I included a throwaway line to TV1 to the effect that "Lydia Ko wouldn't be impressed by the prize money, but we are", and that was all they showed from me! Radio and newspaper features on the Festival of Scrabble had good depth, with a particularly insightful item by Kurt Bayer in the *NZ Herald* (which can be read on pages 14-17 of this issue).

### **The stuff-ups and brickbats:**

- In one interview I claimed that Chambers dictionary - not Collins - was our ultimate authority.
- The audio failed halfway through a promising Radio NZ interview - I was told the broadcast came across well in spite of this.
- Anne Goldstein found her black Profiles set absent at the end of the tournament - we will look to redress this if they don't reemerge soon.
- I was forewarned that if we did not award trophies, I would be skinned alive by Karen Richards. Shirley Hol and Lynley Jenness then produced the most beautiful trophies, and I initially neglected to pass any of them out! What a shemuzzle.

**And, the bouquets.** It'd be impossible to single out an individual from the committee, but:

- Frances Higham pushed everything along hard before relinquishing her office in June;
- Howard Warner was indispensable for all the hard yards he put in with communication and media setup;
- Lynley Jenness multitasked until she was dizzy;
- Malcolm Graham's transport services provided to entrants was a brilliant and appreciated touch;
- I would have been completely lost without the computer nous of Glenda Foster and John Baird, the brilliant mother/daughter

combination of Robyn and Georgina Moody, and Australia's excellent Barry Harridge;

- Our treasurer Dianne Cole-Baker provided great continuity before, during, and after the Festival of Scrabble.

With both of our competitions over, there was nothing left to do but to stage a hearty sendoff for Lewis Hawkins, on his way to the World Junior Scrabble Champs in Kuala Lumpur; and to announce the locations of the next two World Senior Scrabble Championships: Asia 2018 organised by Karen Richards, and England 2019 organised by Craig Beevers. Let's hope New Zealand can manage as good a turnout to both those events, or, if not, at least as good a result!

**Some of the award-winners from Christchurch's Festival of Scrabble:**



Early Bird tournament winner: Howard Warner



World Seniors Scrabble Champion 2017: Joanne Craig



Winner of the Rod Talbot/Jyoti Chandna prize for the best botanical word: Shirley Hol with CHERVIL



Winner of the prize for the highest-scoring word containing both N and Z: Murray Rogers with ZINCIER (98); Honourable mention goes to Blue Thorogood with NETIZEN (94)



Winner of the prize for the best word describing NZ: Hazel Purdie with PANORAMA



Winner of the prize for the best word from the Kiwiana/Maori word list: Keri Heart (Australia) with TAUWI



Highest scoring word: Malcolm Graham with DISQUIET (289); Honourable Mention goes to Lynn Wood with QUADDING (208)



Highest scoring word with S E N I O R in it - Peter Johnstone with REORIENTS (82)



# Word famous in New Zealand



## Dylan Early

*I first met Dylan at the Whanganui tournament in October 2017. The first word he ever played against me was SCOUTED, followed immediately by BOERTJIE for 116 points including the challenge. It was pretty clear to me, (not only from this word BOERTJIE which he told me how to pronounce properly, but also his accent), that he was from South Africa. As I can never quite set aside that Forwards editor part of me, I was pretty keen to get this guy talking, just in case he had an interesting Forwards story to offer. Little did I realise that I had just struck editor gold because Dylan revealed to me that he had been the editor of the South African Scrabble magazine. As I wrote in an email to him after that weekend, "You probably shouldn't have admitted having been an editor for the SA mag because I'll now be tempted to hit you up at every opportunity for contributions". And I wasn't lying. I immediately hit him up for a profile for this issue and, hallelujah, he agreed, and provided us with answers to some of my quickly-slapped-together questions.*



*Where were you born and where did you grow up?*

I was born in 1970 in Johannesburg, South Africa, where I spent my entire

life. Twenty-four years pre-apartheid, 23 years post-apartheid in the "New South Africa". My parents still live in the house I grew up in with all our childhood memories sentimentally displayed on the kitchen wall in all their sepia glory.

*Was there anything particularly unique/interesting about your childhood (extra-large family? brought up in a rural setting? family travelled a lot as missionaries?)*

No. I come from a family of five. I have an older brother (in SA) and sister (in Canada). My parents were, and still are, awesome, wonderful

people. I had a normal, middle-class childhood with kind, caring parents. I'm the product of suburban, post-colonial utopia.

*What do you do for a living and have you always worked in the same field?*

Now that's an interesting story. After dropping out of medical school and breaking my parents' hearts, I went through an ascetic, hippie phase, searching for the meaning of life. I gave up after a while and decided to find a real job. So I bought a newspaper, flipped to the jobs section, and started from A. After being declined for an apiarist, boot polisher, and car-wash superintendent, I eventually landed a job as a curriculum developer, writing training manuals for the motor industry.

Technical writing morphed into online help, business analysis, and ultimately IT project management, which is my current occupation.

*Who/what got you interested in Scrabble and why did you become hooked on the competitive Scrabble scene?*

My girlfriend and I were hiking in the Outeniqua mountains of South Africa in the 90s when a blizzard hit unexpectedly and we found ourselves snowed in with nothing to do. So, inspired by Arthur Dent in the *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* which I was reading at the time, I decided to make a Scrabble set from scrap paper, as one does when stuck in a log cabin with one's lover. That kindled a dormant love for the game, which I consummated by joining the Scrabble club at university. After being thoroughly beaten, my competitive nature took over, and I set about learning all those weird two-letter words that normal people don't care about. I came last in my first nationals and resolved to win it, which I did three years later.

*From your experience so far, are there many differences between the SA and NZ Scrabble scenes?*

No, not really. The Scrabble family is universal. I will say that the catering in NZ is superior, especially those Southland Cheese Rolls which Lynley Jenness so kindly made in Christchurch for the World Seniors Championship. Oh, and you have Nigel.

*What, if any, other hobbies do you indulge in apart from Scrabble?*

I like most board games especially Chess, Go, Backgammon, \*Othello, Trivial Pursuit, 30 Seconds etc. Howard Warner recently introduced me to the joys of Clabbers and Lonify.

I love Sudoku and my 76-year old mother is teaching me how to do cryptic crosswords. She's a wiz. My arm turns to rubber when I'm invited to join a pub quiz. I love hiking (despite previous misadventures), cycling, and squash. I was privileged to try zorbing recently which might make it onto my list of favourites. My wife and I are animal lovers, having had eight dogs of our own.



*BFFs forever*

*When and why did you decide to move to NZ?*

There's good news and bad news. The bad news is that the South African economy has been junked, unemployment is over 40%, and the government is as crooked as a barrel of fishhooks, so you might encounter many South Africans who are trying to find a better life for themselves elsewhere. The good news is that New Zealand has listed my occupation on the critical skills shortage list and the government made it easy to move. We decided in January 2017 and everything happened very quickly after that. New Zealand offers excellent educational and career opportunities for my children, which was another major factor in our thinking. However, the real reason for moving here is that I heard about this guy called Nigel whom I wanted to meet.

*Have you done much travelling and, if so, is there anywhere that particularly stands out for you?*

Most of my travel has been for Scrabble. I've been very lucky to represent South Africa at five World Championships: Australia, UK, Malaysia, Poland, and Czech Republic. My gorgeous wife won two trips overseas so I've also been to Spain, Greece, and Mauritius. The best of these was the Greek island of Santorini which is ineffably picturesque.

*What are some of your most memorable moments in general (met the queen? dined with Mandela? seen the sunset from the top of Everest? eaten snake at a dinner party in Malaysia)?*

I've shaken the hand of Nelson Mandela, who remains one of my heroes to this day. His granddaughter went to the same school as my son and he sat next to me at the Christmas play in 2000 for two hours. I've enjoyed a stimulating debate with the Dalai Lama on various spiritual matters. I vividly remember my wife agreeing to marry me, the bank loan I took for her ring, the birth of my children, and the first democratic elections in South Africa in 1994 where I worked manning one of the voting stations.



*With family in the Drakensberg mountains*

I remember the word I played to win my first South African National Championship in 1996 (TRUELOVE), and I remember scoring 727 against the African Champ at the Cape Town International in 2016.

*Since you've moved to NZ, what do you think has been the thing that strikes you as most different/interesting/surprising?*

The people. Without a doubt. Never mind the breath-taking scenery, Kiwis are probably the kindest, warmest people on the planet. Let me relate one of many anecdotes that epitomises the New Zealand spirit. One Sunday I boarded a bus in Wellington without realising that my bus card was empty. When the machine beeped rudely in my face "\$0.00", I disembarked forlornly knowing that I would have to wait an hour for the next bus home. Lo and behold, the bus driver parked the bus full of passengers, and waited for me to draw cash from the ATM. I ran to the ATM, withdrew the requisite amount of money, and reembarked (yes, REEMBARK is a word in CSW15) the bus, a very happy

passenger, not only to be en route home, but also to be part of the world's best culture. New Zealanders are the best people I have ever met.



# Twenty years ago in *Forwards*

by John Foster, Independent

This high score for a single hypothetical turn was published in *Forwards* issue 49. Seeing it again made me wonder: with all the new words we have had added to our dictionaries since then, would it be conceivable that another point or two could be squeezed out? Nothing springs out for me, but perhaps a more erudite player could pull it off.

## High Theoretical Single Turns

In the June 1994 *Forwards* Chris Hooks (MTA) showed how a score of 1690 is possible for a **single** move with the base-word PSYCHOANALYZING. This was a modification of previous efforts using terms from OSPD and Chambers, as allowed in New Zealand Scrabble.

In America, the OSPD backup dictionary is Webster's Collegiate, 10th edition, which lists OXYPHENBUTAZONE, an anti-inflammatory drug. Dan Stock of Ohio has devised a single move worth 1778 points using this word and others allowed in American Scrabble.

With a combination of British and American Scrabble references, as used at the World Champs, the board can be rearranged so that three extra points are gained when playing the seven tiles O, Y, P, B, A, Z, E. The final words formed are OPACIFYING (63), YELMS (10), PREINTERVIEWED (26), BLITHESOMENESS (63), AQUIVER (19), ZInKED (29), EJACULATING (63), and the 27-timer

OXYPHENBUTAZONE (1458). Add the 50-point bonus and you have a total of 1781 points.

The record for a theoretical single turn using terms from any source is 1970 points. Key to this move is the base-word BENZOXYCAMPHORS, found in Webster's unabridged 2nd edition.

Single turn scores of well over 2000 have been achieved with the inferred participle SESQUIOXIDIZING.



## Anagram Practice

Practice anagramming at any time there are words around you whose meaning you do not need to concentrate on. This will soon take over your life so that even reading the newspaper, SENATOR will translate to TREASON and ATONERS, deeply affecting your world view.

— Steve Alexander, US

# Christchurch's Festival of Scrabble

For the last three issues or so, increasing amounts of *Forwards* real estate has been dedicated to mentioning, highlighting, explaining about, and generally advertising the 2017 World Seniors Championships to be held in Christchurch in November. And finally, after months of organisation and preparation by a dedicated committee tasked with making New Zealand's first-ever truly international tournament happen, the time, the people, and the event arrived.

Not only has the Seniors Championship been featured in *Forwards*, but the mainstream media have taken notice too. Some of you would have heard the radio interviews of NZASP president Paul Lister, and one of the Championship organisers Howard Warner. We can't reproduce radio interviews here, but we can give you an idea of some of the print media coverage. Turn to pages 14-17 of this magazine to read an in-depth article reproduced from the *New Zealand Herald*, or visit <http://www.rivercitypress.co.nz/rcp-9-11-17.pdf> to read a write-up about Lynne Butler and Betty Eriksen on page three.

Now, while neither of the *Forwards* editors were eligible to enter the Seniors main event, we have still managed to obtain a report about it just for you. Thank you to Paul Lister for roping his formerly Scrabble-playing son, Dominic, into taking photos and writing up the championship for us. See pages 18-19 for Dominic Lister's very entertaining report.

Finally, Howard Warner, (one of the members of the Seniors Champs committee, and a player in both the Early Bird and main tournaments) sent us some of his personal highlights in respect of the main event. Turn to page 20 to read about what made the Seniors particularly memorable for Howard.

Being 35 and therefore exactly 20 years younger than the eligible entry age, I wasn't able to play in the main three-day event, but I consoled myself with a last-minute decision to enter the Early Bird Tournament. This took place during the weekend just before the main event. Apart from the slight disappointment (a disappointment I heard expressed by quite a few participants) that there were too few games for an internationally-rated tournament (there were only 14), the whole thing went off brilliantly.

This was my first, gentle introduction to playing Scrabble on an international stage. To be perfectly honest, it was so gentle an introduction that I'm sure I didn't even speak to someone with a non-New Zealand passport till after lunch on the first day, let alone play anyone from anywhere further afield than Auckland. In fact, my first game with a non-Kiwi was game six, when I had the pleasure of playing Rod Talbot from Australia. In 14 games, I managed to play 10 New Zealanders and four Australians and, guess, what, the Australians weren't all that different from the New Zealanders.

The indefatigable Lynley Jenness was in charge of the catering, and she did a fantastic job as always.

For \$10 a day, we were provided with endless cups of hot and cold beverage, savouries, sweetmeats, Subway, sushi, and succulent fruit, all efficiently supplied and served with a smile. I was lucky enough to also be billeted by Lynley and her family, along with three other competitors. I can assure everybody that Lynley is not only a brilliant hostess in the Scrabble room, she is a wonderful hostess at home too. Who could have blamed her if she had simply thrown takeaways menus at us as soon as we walked into her home? After all, she was planning and organising meals to keep 60 or so ravenous Scrabblers from beating down the pantry door. And she was not just catering for the Warmup Tournament, but the main event as well. Yet it was home-cooked meals every night, strawberries and yoghurt and salads in the fridge, and amazing selections of teas apparently brought back from a Scrabble tournament in Sri Lanka.

It's interesting the things that stay in your memory after a tournament. I remember very little about the games, including my own. There was one game where I was behind by about 40 points. With seven letters left, I had the uninspiring rack BMPVUUU. There were openings for bonuses on the board so, after some careful tile-tracking, I decided to take the risk and swap all seven of my letters for the seven remaining tiles. It was the right move, because those seven tiles made ORATING or ROATING. Unfortunately, there



*Players at the World Seniors  
Photo by David Walker - Stuff*

was nowhere to play either word and I eventually lost that game by about 25 points. But hey, at least I tracked right and the idea was good; the Scrabble gods just needed to keep their smiles turned on me for one more moment.

A couple of other moments from the Warmup tournament stand out for me. I remember sitting at a table next to where Paul Lister was playing his opponent. Paul was tournament director and adjudicator on the first day. He was called away to make a ruling at another game and apparently, while fulfilling his duties, he noticed that their board contained a word that he had on his own rack but had been unsure was valid. He came back to his own game and, with a heightened level of confidence, played RIVIERA. I guess them's the perks of being a playing adjudicator!

And of course, special mention must be made of Peter Sinton. On the Sunday of the Warmup tournament, he happened to turn 55, just in time to be eligible to play in the main event as the youngest player. Good timing, Peter!

So now I've had a taste of international Scrabbling, I want more. There are specialist tournaments for the young (World Youth Championship), the old (World Seniors Championship), and the brilliant (World Scrabble Championship). Can someone organise a tournament for the 21 to 54-year-olds who are just mediocre, to take place in New Zealand? I'm a definite starter.

# Strategy and wonderful words at the Scrabble world champs in Christchurch

*by Kurt Bayer (NZ Herald reporter, Christchurch)*

Adapted from [http://www.nzherald.co.nz/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=1&objectid=11947405](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=11947405)

Tiles rustle like pebbles on a receding tide. Hands burrow blindly in cloth bags, fingering hopefully for helpful letters. An all-purpose blank, a versatile S, or one of the four “power tiles”: J (8 points), X (also 8 points), Q, or Z (10 pointers).

The incessant tile clatter pervades the room. Banter is scant, the murmur of a downtown library. The players, known as Scrabblers (an appropriately brilliant word in itself), are deep in thought. It is a world championship after all. Strategising, racking deep memory crevasses for a four-letter word ending in B, marking cards, out-maneuvering opponents.

“It’s a real numbers game but there’s a yin and yang to it, some days you just can’t win,” says David Gunn, a Scrabble veteran with more than 2000 games and a 49 per cent win ratio.

The Hamiltonian adjusts his faded black Las Vegas cap and scans the room. Some of the world’s top Scrabblers are here, for the 5th World English Language Scrabble Players Association (WESPA) World Seniors Championships held at the Christchurch Bridge Club.

More than 100 players, aged 55-plus, from 12 countries. Some real guns too, including hometown favourite and reigning New Zealand champion

Joanne Craig. She tops the leaderboard early on day two and would eventually take top honours.

But everyone’s talking about the stellar move that Lynn Wood just played: QUADDING. An eight-letter blockbuster that spanned two triple-word scores, earning her 209 points – the most for one move so far in the tournament. She’s sitting pretty for the \$40 prize.

“That’s a really good score. The average score is probably 25-30, I suppose,” says an admiring Murray Rogers, who has just returned from the world championships in Nairobi, Kenya. Rogers earlier played a “triple triple”, forming “UNSPARED” with two blanks, gaining him 113 points. He talked it down as “not that impressive”, but he was chuffed all the same. “It doesn’t happen too often.”

Scrabble is one of the most popular board games in the world. The game, which dates back to 1938, is trademarked to Hasbro in North America, and Mattel everywhere else. Approximately 150 million sets have been sold worldwide. Roughly one-third of American and half of British homes boast a Scrabble set.

Most of us have played at some point. At home, around the kitchen table or on the lounge carpet in front of the fire. Sliding dodgy words past Granny at Christmas, discarding X with AXE: “Double word score: 20!” It’s a fun game for all abilities, especially with

the advent of junior and picture Scrabble.

But the world champs is something else altogether. Trying to join in would be like entering the Monaco F1 Grand Prix in a Suzuki Swift or playing tennis against Roger Federer with a stick of rhubarb. They've learned a different language. The words are exotic, fantastical, *recherche* even: TARAIRE, ETATISM, DEEN, \*RERHINED. The Collins dictionary, described by tournament director Paul Lister as the aficionado's bible, has 276,664 Scrabble words up to 15 characters long, the maximum allowed. And the players learn scrolls of helpful words. They know all the two-letter beasts: XI, OS, OO, DI etc., which can nestle into tight spots, and form multiple combinations, escalating scores appreciably.

In preparation for this competition, Rogers studied a print-out of more than 10,000 four-letter words. "I review that constantly," he says, "They come in handy."

Although they know an obscene number of words, Scrabble players don't always know their meanings. They don't need to.

The world's greatest player, Christchurch's own Nigel Richards showed that to a remarkable degree in 2015 by being crowned French Scrabble champion without barely speaking a word of French.

The multiple-world champion, now based in Malaysia, comes up a lot in between-match chit-chat. "Do you know he once entered a tournament in Dunedin, cycled the whole way from Christchurch, over those big hills,

won the tournament, and turned around and biked home? He's incredible," says Ruth Groffman, New Zealand Scrabble Association secretary.

Richards, with a photographic memory, is regarded as the Tiger Woods of Scrabble. But Gunn reckons that's unfair. "He's got a wickeder\* hit-rate than Tiger."

Square tables adorned by velvety maroon tablecloths are dotted around the room. Players hunch opposite each other, predominantly bespectacled, tiles guarded on their racks, some of which are personalised; wood-carved, name inscribed; others plain green box-issue. The boards are affixed to a spinning mechanism.

After a player's turn, the board rotates like dishes at a Chinese restaurant. They punch a clock. Each contestant gets 25 minutes to play their turns. Games, in theory, should then take less than 50 minutes.

The pace is quietly frenetic. It's all too much for some. A Japanese Scrabbler has slept in and missed his first match of the second day. "A world championship and you sleep in!" says a bewildered Lister, "but even Olympic sprinters have done that, I suppose."

Players can challenge words if they doubt their existence. "Challenge," they say, and both players slide back their chairs on the gaudy tartan card-themed carpet, and stroll over to one of two laptops. They punch in the disputed word and it either responds with a green tick of Acceptable or a red cross of Unacceptable. If it turns out not to be a word, the tiles are



removed and the player loses their turn. If it's a wrongful challenge, the opponent who laid the tiles correctly is gifted five points.

A missed challenge can cost you a match. Rogers later sips water and chides himself for missing a chance that he put down to a lack of attention. "I just knew it wasn't a word," he says, shaking his head.

Words evolve. New ones are constantly added. In 2015, Collins Official Scrabble Words updated with ONESIE, VAPE, TWEED, BEZZY and LOLZ.

But it's not to everyone's liking. "OBVS is allowed now, and that's not good," says a dismayed Gunn. "Do you know what a MOFO is? That's allowed now too."

Disbelieving, this reporter sprang over to the challenge computer and punched it in. A green tick. Five points, Mr Gunn.

They break for lunch. Supplied sushi and Subway rolls. Now they can relax and chat. Groffman sits with her left leg raised on another chair.

"What happened to you?" many gently ask as they pass with piled plastic plates. Groffman is sitting out matches after breaking her kneecap walking into a bollard in the still-chaotic Christchurch CBD days earlier.

But she managed to talk her way out of hospital to join the fun. It hasn't dampened her enthusiasm for the game. Like many players, Groffman started playing as a child. And as a mother, she played every evening with her kids. "Every night, they couldn't wait to play," she says,

especially given her incentives: a 20-point score was rewarded by a chocolate biscuit.

"It's a great way of bringing the family together and also a great way for kids to learn English, maths, and strategy, which is something that they often aren't taught until university," says Dunedin-based Groffman, who is responsible for youth Scrabble.

For the past 17 years, a primary school tournament, with four-player teams, has been held in Dunedin. She's seen the benefits of it, as a learning tool, but also as a way of keeping youngsters busy and out of trouble. She would love to see a similar tournament adopted in lower-socio economic areas, particularly in parts of Auckland.

"For some reason, Scrabble helps improve all their school subjects. To be able to think ahead and set things up in a certain way, it's quite a skill. It keeps the brain active, and that's why you see a lot of oldies here, it keeps the Alzheimer's away."

Groffman, like many others, enjoys playing online, competing against others from around the world. "The beauty of that is that I can play at 1am, if I want to."

For most players, it's their main hobby. A passion. Gunn, 63, and his partner Annette Coombes (who can lay claim to that rarest of things, a victory over Nigel Richards), play 4-5 games every night. They give each other a run for their money.

"Sometimes, Annette wins ten in a row," Gunn grins. "Yes but," Coombes replies, "I won't win for ages again."



The atmosphere, while quiet and studious, is collegial. Scrabblers respect each other and are quick to dole out compliments: “Wow, you’re on a roll, girl”. But they’re humble too: “Well, you know what happens next.”

After lunch, a few yawns are stifled. “It’s time for my afternoon nap,” one player says, sitting down to a new game.

On Table 9, a marquee match-up is under way. Two of the world’s top players, Auckland’s Patrick Carter and Australian Karen Richards (no relation to Nigel “Tiger” Richards), are settling in.

“Ready? Let’s enjoy,” Richards says. She holds the full tile bag above her \*eyeline, and in a signature gesture, shakes her hand before groping for seven starting tiles.

Her opening salvo is GYVE – 22 points. It takes her just 54 seconds to come up with the play. Carter is quick to respond with AGUIZE. Two words that this reporter has never heard of.

Waiting their turns, hands rest pensive on forehead, chin. Tiles are rearranged, always plotting, updating options.

A few moves in, and Carter stacks high with RESILED – 71 points. It appeared an impressive breakaway move. Richards, however, counters with JOINTER – 66 points. “Always a response,” Richards notes sagely. Carter says ruefully, “I did think about playing there.”

His next move proves a turning point in the match. He lays SHANKERS for a potential 72 points. But Richards isn’t having it. “Challenge,” she says

quietly. Both players start walking to the computer. Carter thinks a shanker is someone who mishits a golf ball. The computer disagrees. “That could cost you the game, that,” notes Richards, who would soon lose a challenge herself on ABDUCTER.

The game moves swiftly. Within 15 minutes, the board is filled with amazing words. The players are busy: writing scores, rotating the board, hitting the timer. Later, they start ticking off letters that have already been played. With no tiles left in the bag, they each know what letters their opponent is left with. Richards is up 377 to 368, with two extra tiles. She takes her time to play the killer blow: an ELECT-DOME double play that scores 28 and secures victory.

“Shankers,” Carter says afterwards. “It made sense to me, if you shank a golf shot. But I haven’t swotted it, so... Do you know what an \*EGOSURFER is? Someone who Googles themselves.”

\* I checked: wickeder is a word. Challenge Unaccepted. 5 points.



*Patrick vs. Karen  
Photo by Kurt Bayer*

# Like Tiddlywinks in Greenland

by *Dominic Lister*



*Dominic Lister*

Some people would consider Scrabble to be a small, niche game enjoyed by only a few. Those people might also say the same about New Zealand as a country.

What, then, are they to make of an

international Scrabble tournament held in New Zealand and reserved only for the small niche of “senior” players? It probably ranks up there with the international Tiddlywinks convention held in Greenland for people over six feet tall.

The word “obscure” means nothing to the participants of the World 2017 Senior Scrabble Championships however, except perhaps for its value as a seven-letter word. The Christchurch Bridge Club was packed with 86 players over the age of 55 ready to dive into a 24-game marathon of Scrabble across three days. Some had travelled across the world to compete, with players representing the Philippines, Sweden, Japan, France, and other strange and faraway places like Australia. They were all there for the love of the game, and they made it one of the biggest and best senior championships ever.



*Waiata - Photo by Dominic Lister*

While some players, like John Ozag (an American ESL teacher living in Japan), came just for the tournament, others like Odette Rio from the Philippines and Rocky Sharma from Australia had plans for travelling around New Zealand while they were visiting.

In that spirit of providing the full Kiwi experience, the tournament started with a powhiri and a long line of hongis. As is the way with Scrabblers, the meanings of these traditional Māori ceremonies were not necessarily understood, but the words were kept in the memory banks for later use.

Karen Richards of Australia demonstrated this Scrabbly characteristic perfectly when she managed to play the word POWHIRI in game 15. Even so, the spot prize for best Māori / Kiwiana word went to Keri Heart for TAUWI. Cheese rolls were also provided during lunch to culturally enrich or bewilder anybody living north of Picton.

Once players were reminded that only cheaters draw tiles from below eye level, game one commenced.

Australian Ivor Zetler initially prevailed, winning his first game with a spread of 81 points. Impressive as that might seem to the uninitiated Scrabbler, the biggest thrashing of the tournament was handed out by a different Australian,

Rod Talbot, who won game eight with a spread of 303. During game two Ivor got a taste of his own medicine, and had his spread reduced by 250 points by Canadian Mohammad Sulaiman, who claims he just got a few lucky blank tiles. In this way, players rose and fell in the ranks during the first day until a pattern emerged – Joanne Craig of New Zealand would simply not refrain from winning her games.

I managed to corner Joanne during Day Two, to ask her how many goats she had to sacrifice to remain undefeated for so long. Apparently, the secret to success in Scrabble isn't anything to do with satanic rituals at midnight; it is just studying and practising constantly. Go figure! It also helps if you are fresh out of a highly-competitive world tournament in Nairobi, while your opponents are fresh out of a game or two at the local club on Wednesday. Joanne wasn't alone in noticing that the tournament had a mixture of cutthroat competitive types and more casual players who were there for the cheese rolls as much as for winning every match. Rod Talbot, who eventually upset Joanne's winning streak in game 14, mentioned that the Trans-Tasman tournament which he won in 2001 had involved a higher level of competitive play.

This more relaxed environment was probably attributable to the fact that the young guns like Lewis Hawkins (12) and Nigel Richards (50) weren't eligible to compete. All the better for the oldest competitor in the tournament, Allie Quinn, who thinks that a tournament for senior players is a good idea. She ended up coming a very close second in the 80+ category at the end of the tournament, presumably by using her left earring

whenever a triple letter spot opened up next to an I. John Ozag also travelled all the way from Japan to experience a more relaxed Scrabble tournament with people around his age, even if that was offset by the anxiety of having to use the CSW dictionary instead of the more slender OSPD.



*Allie Quinn*

Joanne never truly lost her stranglehold on the top of the rankings, even right at the end of the tournament, when Howard Warner equalised her at 19 wins. For her efforts she was awarded with a nice koru trophy, a thousand bucks, and an interview with One News. Moreover, she was awarded all any Scrabble player really wants: a hard-earned victory. Well done to her, and everybody else who played so well in the tournament and made it such a successful event.

*Author's notes: The author would like to correct some statements that were made with a comedic rather than factual aim. Allie Quinn would never even think about cheating in a game of Scrabble, nor would Joanne Craig consider sacrificing goats in any kind of ritual, let alone one of a satanic nature. The Tiddlywinks tournaments are held in England or the United States, not Greenland, and I am sure that the organisers would never discriminate based on stature.*

# End of year honours

*by Howard Warner, Independent*

*It's the time of year when everyone's having awards. So Howard thought he'd do a few of his own, following the three international tournaments he'd just played in.*

**Biggest game:** This was a game in which I scored 649-374 against Australian Carol Johnsen, courtesy of a nine-timer (OUISTITI), three other bonus words, and several non-bingo big scores. Carol took it in very good spirit, even though I'd just wiped out her whole spread.

**Biggest heartbreaker:** This goes by the name of Joanne Craig (a.k.a. 'the Juggernaut'). I played her twice... and lost twice. The first time, I had three bonus words to her one but still lost by 14.



*With five games left to play, Joanne's crucial win over Howard in Round 19 gave her a three-game lead over him, and a sizable margin after scoring 167 points for THEOR(B) Os. She also played TRANCeS, TUTENAG, and REALEASE(R) to win 560-388 to Howard's LOWRIES and ENDOC(A)ST.*

*Photo provided by Joanne Craig*

**Biggest heartbreaker for my opponent:** In the very last game of the Seniors, I played Blue Thorogood. He was on a tear, playing WEARABLE (72), BANISHED (68), JO (53), and CHOWDERS (68) in quick succession at the start. I was trying desperately to hang onto his coattails. Then, with his penultimate rack, he played the lovely NETIZEN for 94. Fortunately, that gave me a small nine-timer spot where I could play INERTIAL for 122. Blue's final score was 504; mine was 542. I feel blue for Blue, but I'll take the win.

**Best word:** This is what journalists always ask. Honestly, I have no idea. But I can say that I scored three triple-triples across the three tournaments, (World Champs, Early Bird, and Seniors) all worth just 122. My biggest word score, 128 for BOOZIEST, against Aussie Rod Talbot, was just a normal bonus word. And it was still pretty ordinary compared to Lynn Wood's 208 for QUADDING or Malcolm Graham's 289 for DISQUIET.

**Most welcome overseas visitor:** All of them! I'm delighted that people came from far and wide to play Scrabble in our little country. And they all added to the two events—the Early Bird tournament and the main Seniors championship—making that week a particularly wonderful time in the annals of New Zealand Scrabble.

# How I threw an amazing chance out the window

*by Patrick Carter, Mt. Albert*

The scene was a Mt. Albert Club night. Many of us had recently returned from the Seniors Championship in Christchurch. I was playing Liz Fagerlund and she opened the game with WAPITI with the W on the double letter score. I had just picked up my nightmare rack – AEEFNRS.

It doesn't look like a nightmare I hear you say? But that is what nightmares do, they creep up on you when you least expect them. In this case there was no seven-letter bonus word, but the letter T on the board gave a chance for a play of eight letters. I quickly saw FASTENER and, of course, REFASTEN, and without giving it too much more thought I selected FASTENER. Oh what a foolish, foolish play!

Maybe, like me, you did not immediately spot the opportunity that was missed. As Liz eventually won the game I thought back through the choices that I had made, and suddenly realised that I knew a third anagram through the T. The other word was FENESTRA. Even though it did not score better than the alternatives it is a better play because I knew that FENESTRAE and FENESTRAL were good, as well as FENESTRAS. Having spots on the board where you know what to hook and your opponent might not is always an advantage, so that meant I had chosen an inferior play. That happens a lot, and is definitely not

nightmare material. But then I thought of the amazing play...

I do the occasional trivia quiz and have heard of the defenestrations of Prague. Could it be possible that the word would be allowed in Scrabble too? A walk to the computer and nervously typing in DEFENESTRATIONS got a green tick. If I had played FENESTRA, either Liz or I would only have needed the very common tiles of DETIONS to play DE-FENESTRA-TIONS from the Triple Word Square in the top middle of the board to the same square at the bottom of the board. I would like to think that the Scrabble gods would have been kind enough to give one of us the opportunity. I know I would have shamelessly fished for it if I had even a sniff of a chance, setting Liz up in other areas of the board to stop her blocking the spot. With the low-scoring tiles it wouldn't have been a record score, but surely it would have been the first time a player placed tiles on those two Triple Word Squares in the same turn. Like James T. Kirk, it would be going where no man has gone before.

Opportunities to set up a 15-letter triple-triple in a real Scrabble game must be as rare as hen's teeth. On that Monday night destiny called and found me sadly lacking. I hang my head in shame. DEFENESTRATION means to throw something or someone out of a window, and that is exactly what I did with my opportunity.



# Mailbox



*By now, many readers will have heard about Malcolm Graham's heroics at the Seniors Championship. Here is what Malcolm (CHC) himself had to say about one particularly magnificent word:*



I have become aware that the profile about me published in the Spring 2017 issue of *Forwards* included the word DISQUIET (p. 7). Having forgotten all about this, I played that very word at the

**Malcolm Graham**

World Seniors Tournament held in Christchurch last week, for a prize-winning highest single turn score of 289.

Just in case there is some ethereal connection between the use of the word in *Forwards* and my unbelievable score, (poor Shirley didn't believe it) I would be grateful if you would try to use words like XYLOPHONIC, ZOOPSYCHOLOGY, and QUIXOTIC in any future article in which I'm mentioned.

I look "Forword" to an improved performance in future tournaments.

*In response to a small feature in last issue's Mailbox, Lyn Toka from Kiwi Scrabblers sent us the following:*



*Lyn Toka*

Further to George Bernard Shaw's GHOTI (see page 29 of *Forwards* Spring 2017):

Melville Dewey, inventor of the library classification system, spelled one word

GHEAUGHTEIGHPTOUGH.

Thus: GH is P, as in hiccough;

EAU is O, as in beau;

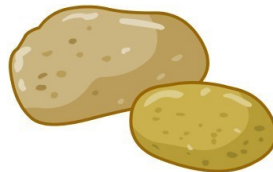
GHT is T, as in naught;

EIGH is A, as in neigh;

PT is T, as in pterodactyl;

OUGH is O, as in though.

That is, POTATO.



.....  
*[Ed note from page 21: I have heard of a story that may or may not be Scrabble urban legend. Apparently, in some amazing Nigerian move, Nigel Richards once managed to play MICROEARTHQUAKE, a 15-letter word that spanned three triple-word squares. We would love to hear from anyone who can verify or debunk this tale, with plenty of juicy details please!]*



We congratulate New Zealand master Scrabblers Lyres Freeth and Alastair Richards who were married near Auckland in November. Several Scrabblers attended the celebrations, and were delighted by the many decorative touches reflecting the happy couple's shared hobby.



*And here's what Lyres proudly wrote in about her new husband:*

Have you found that beating Alastair Richards is incredibly difficult? You are not alone.

I have found that it has become considerably harder to do well at Scrabble tournaments ever since Alastair moved to New Zealand. Not only do I have to try and beat Alastair as well as my other opponents, but I must hope that other players beat him too!

But this isn't at all easy, as can be seen from the fact that Alastair is currently on a 28 -game winning streak. This includes winning all 13 games at both the Tauranga and Mt. Albert Tournaments in the second half of 2017. But not only that, Alastair won all 13 games at Whangarei, as well as winning Rotorua, Bay of Islands, and the New Zealand Masters tournament. Prior to Alastair's winning streak, his last loss was at the Kiwi Tournament in August. I wonder who will be the first person to end Alastair's run in 2018?

.....  
*Shirley Hol from Christchurch writes:*

**Scrabble ESP**



Sometimes during a game I have a flash of insight as to what my opponent is about to play. I don't mean that extremely uncomfortable

feeling one gets when one has just opened up a triple letter and one knows that there are power tiles like

Z's and Q's still to come. Recently, I had a bit of a spooky experience when I was playing a game against Selena Chan at one of our Christchurch Club nights. She was taking some considerable time to make her first move. While waiting, I dreamily started thinking about Selena's daughter who is expecting her first child, Selena's first grandchild. So I asked Selena "How's your daughter coming along?" Selena responded "Oh fine, here she is," and, turning her rack around to face me, showed what she was about to play— JOANNA, her daughter's name. JOANNA is cockney rhyming slang for a piano.

*Footnote: Selena is now the proud grandma to a beautiful grandson!*



*Lawrence, 6 days old*

# World English-language Scrabble Players Association Championship

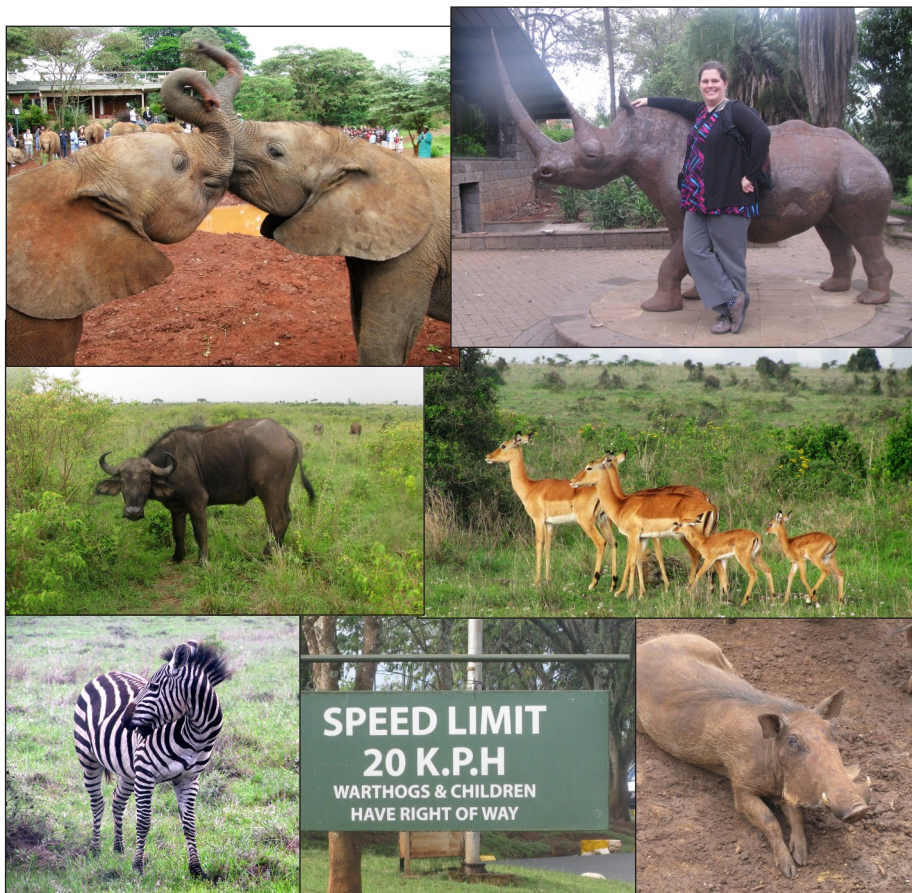
Nairobi, Kenya, November 2017



*I intended to write an introductory report telling you all about my time in Nairobi, with pithy observations and gentle humour, and while I'm about it, foreshadowing each of the other relevant contributions that follow over the next few pages.*

*But, time is short, I reckon the pieces are pretty self-explanatory, and I wrote about my experience in my editorial already. So instead, here is a collection of some of my favourite photos of African animals, from some of our tourism day trips (Giraffe Centre, David Sheldrick elephant orphanage, Nairobi National Museum, and Nairobi National Park).*

*Note that if you're wishing you could see these in colour, you should contact Dianne Cole-Baker about subscribing to Forwards by email.*





## Thoughts from a rookie WESPA championship competitor

by Val Mills, Pakuranga

1. If you ever get the chance to play for NZ at this level, take it – no matter what you think your shortcomings are.
2. There will be someone at the tournament who is at your level and sooner or later you will play that person and possibly win!
3. Pace yourself, and do all the right things – exercise, eat well, and sleep! I had not played four days of Scrabble in a row before. The night before the last day of competition we had nightclub music blaring till after 4am outside our hotel. I didn't sleep well, and arrived for the day's play with a headache. It affected my day and the way I played. If two different opponents in one day tell you "I can't believe I just won that game", you know you are off your game!
4. Do some preparation. Anything will be useful. I only started doing anything extra from the end of July, and all I could fit into my day was half an hour while eating breakfast. Alastair Richards and others helped me set up my Cardbox on Zyzzyva and this is



*UGALI*

how I revised, adding more words when I could.

Alastair suggested having more eight-letter words than seven-letter words in the Cardbox, and man, did I hate those eights! They seemed to take me forever to find, but I persevered, and gradually tried to make them my friends. One surprising result of this effort was that, when a seven-letter rack came up, it somehow felt 'easy' to find the bonus.



*NGOMA*

5. Try to enjoy it! I was very nervous for weeks before the tournament. If I had imagined how very enjoyable it was going to be, I could have saved all that nervousness for another time. It's fun being around that many people who are just as mad about Scrabble as you are, if not madder. It's fun being around the 'gurus' of Scrabble (at least three of whom were in our team!). It's so much fun playing all sorts of people from everywhere in the world, and being part of a team playing for your country. I loved all of this.
6. See and experience as much of the country you are in as you can. I would never have gone to Kenya if it had not been for the Scrabble, and also for the fact that 35 years ago, my partner Paul had worked there for four years. I wanted to see the things he had talked about. We were lucky to be able to go on safari; no-one can tell you



### *BANDA*

what a thrill it is to see animals in the wild until you experience it for yourself. We were also privileged to spend a day with one of Paul's Kenyan colleagues, seeing the geothermal power project Paul had worked on, and spending time with his colleague's family at their home. We also enjoyed exploring Nairobi with other team members, getting to know them better in a different setting, and playing Scrabble in the same tournament as the world's best - it was great!

7. Accept that you will make mistakes – here are a few of the crazy things I did:

- Failing to realise that there were two tiles in the bag at the end of the game, I only took one. I played it and said I was out. My opponent said “no, there is still a tile in the bag and it is yours.” So he got another turn, and I had to get the last tile and play it.....aargh!! The last two tiles were the Z and the O, and there was a place to cross the Z on a triple! I was short of time, hadn't tile tracked properly, the tile bags were way bigger than what we are used to, and it was hard to feel how many were in there – well, those are my excuses.
- In a similar scenario, running short of time and not checking my tile tracking or how many tiles were in the bag, I played four tiles and had to take the last four from the bag, which included J and K. My opponent went out with a bingo, got my tiles, and beat me by 10, when I had been over 100 points ahead.
- Persisting with playing a wrong hook for three moves..... I could have sworn \*SWIT was a word! I think my opponent thought I was mad.



*New Zealanders in Nairobi*



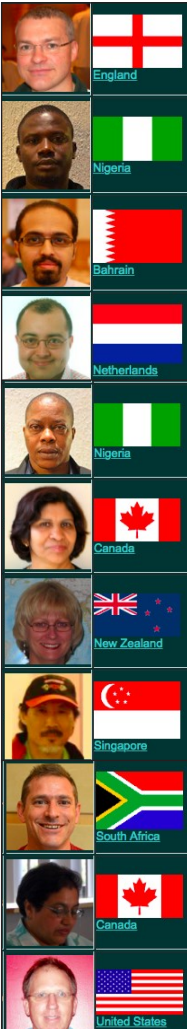
*DIKDIK*

## Travelling the world in a room full of Scrabble

by Murray Rogers, *Independent*

*In the 32 games of the WESPAC, my opposition represented 19 different countries. Ironically, the team I played the most (four games) were New Zealanders, all of whom beat me. I played a very consistent tournament, winning three, three, four, and four games on the four consecutive days. This added up to 14 wins in all, which I was quite satisfied with. My cumulative score for each day varied by a small amount, between 3936 and 3980. I lost to the overall champion by just 18.*

*I am very grateful for the opportunity to participate, as well as to experience the culture and sights of a very unique country, and to do so with such a supportive and fun team.*



From Auckland to Doha, hello Nairobi  
The World Scrabble Champs is going to be  
Four days at the Laico off Market Street  
I travel the world with the opponents I meet.

Start local, John and Charles introduce Kenya  
Explore the continent with Mushtak - Tanzania  
Bag swaying Quickpen, Dipo, Ojior in Nigeria  
Freedom-loving Malek Sherif - enter Liberia.

Emmanuel King - regal visit to Sierra Leone  
Quality of sights I learn to hone  
Isaac Mwape, a journey to Zambia  
Round out the continent - Andrew in South Africa.

Sanath and Junaid, Middle East treat, Oman  
Champion Akshay, give me Bahrain  
Eric of Dubai, United Arab Emirates  
Daniel, Paula, Tobey, charm me, the United States.

Christopher Thomas, Trinidad and Tobago  
The list of places starts to grow  
Priya and Yvonne, I see Canada  
Bob, John, and Karen, bound for Australia.

An excursion with Tony into Singapore  
The sights and sounds, there's always more  
Pierre Calendini with an accent on France  
Gives variety and pleasure another chance.

Anand Buddhdev, I visit the Netherlands  
This is much more than I had planned  
Christopher and David Webb, masters of England  
Finally with four friends, return to New Zealand.



## Overcoming challenges in international Scrabble

by *Anderina McLean, Whanganui*

Over many shared meals, perhaps prompted somewhat by the presence of a domineering editrix in their midst, the NZ team discussed who would focus on what aspect of the Nairobi experience in their write-ups for *Forwards*. It wouldn't do for us all to write the same kind of thing, would it? So, while Val provided an overview, Murray waxed poetical about the range of nationalities, and Howard got to write about Howard's favourite topic, I decided to do my piece about challenging.

On the following page is a table showing every challenge that I participated in during the 32 WESPAC games, i.e. challenges both for and against, and both lost and won. Although I think that the chart speaks for itself, I have a few questions for you to cogitate about:

1. Do you see words that you know on both sides of the table?
2. Would you have played any or all of these words?
3. Would you have challenged any or all of these words?

My point is, some of my correct words that were challenged seem really obvious to me. Even at World Championship level, people still challenge seemingly 'everyday' words. For whatever reason, doubt enters the mind, and five points can be gained. Or alternatively, there's only five points to be lost. NEVER be afraid of 'looking stupid' by challenging something you feel you ought to know.

Yes, I challenged a three-letter word at the World Championship. Yes, I should know better. But also, three times I challenged an S being hooked onto a three-letter word, and twice my opponent lost a turn accordingly. *They* should know better, too!

Three phonies played during my games do not appear on this chart, because three times somebody should have challenged, but didn't. Once it was me: I knew RONNIES, so when a higher-ranked player put down \*RONNY, it seemed plausible. Wrong! The singular of RONNIES is RONNIE.

Now let me tell you about Game 22. After five turns apiece, my opponent played a bonus, giving herself a 30-point lead. My rack seemed promising: AEHMNRT. I couldn't see a seven-letter word (because, as it turns out, there aren't any). However, after a long search, I joyfully recollected a previous Hall of Fame article of Jennifer Smith's, and played \*THERAMIN for 67. Later I hooked an S onto the end of it, scoring a further 34 points. I won that game by 79. If my opponent had challenged either of those spurious plays, the game could well have been hers.



*Not an African word, this is the therEmin*

Words I challenged:		Words I played that were challenged:	
✓	TOPWATER	TOPWATERS	X
X	SLEEKITS	SLEEKIT	✓
✓	ILLITES	ENCAKED	X
✓	SHIVES	EERIEST	✓
✓	QUODS	LOOSENER	✓
✓	POMBE	AUREATED	X
✓	EXACUM	RETHAWED	X
X	TAIE	ROID	✓
✓	FLARY	YAGE	✓
✓	ASTATINE	ICINGS	✓
X	AGERITES	BUOYANCE	✓
✓	JUNGLY	JOUAL	✓
✓	POORT	THIRL	✓
✓	OSTEOMA	FARRAH	X
✓	NELLIES	GEEP	✓
X	SNELLIES	NAMER	✓
X	DIMETAL	WETLY	✓
✓	BOH	TEMPI	✓
✓	TRIZONES	REFOLDED	✓
X	YAES	LATTE	✓
✓	NOMS	ACCUIED	X
✓	GALABEA		
X	MERRIED		
✓	SCRINES		
X	SAUS		
✓	MANG		
✓	GRONE		



*Left: KANGA/  
KHANGA/  
KANGHA*



*Right: MBIRA*

## End of year honours

by Howard Warner, *Independent*

*Having given us his list of New Year's Honours for the Seniors Champs, (see p 20), Howard Warner continues in the same vein and provides us with his honours awards for the World Champs.*

**Best run of five turns:** Against Goutham Jayaraman of India, I started with STREETY (80), LOTHARIO (77), SOLDADOS (69), ZEIN (94), and BEFIT (53).

**Biggest hiding received:** 312–509 against former World Champ Adam Logan of Canada. I have had a very good record against him over the years, so I guess this was due.

**New favourite player:** Edwin Boama of Ghana. A smile as wide as the Waterview tunnel. The most positive attitude I've ever encountered in a losing player. And he added "please" when announcing each score. Later he explained that he'd been raised by his grandmother, who would "slap me on my head" if he was ever less than polite.

**Most awkward moment:** Playing ASSWIPE against a fresh-faced Sri Lankan kid (Janul De Silva, who later went on to finish second in the World Youth Championships). I could have played WASPIES, but it would have scored less. He challenged.

**Most pleasing wins:** Scoring 461–416 against eventual champion Akshay Bhandarkar, despite his 140-point treble-treble NEGATONS.

Winning 431–391 against Nigel Richards, seated at the top table,

with video cameras relaying my every move to the online world, while I was so scared of revealing my total ineptitude.

**Closest game:** 465 tie against Nigerian Eta Karo. Only seconds after I announced the score for my ultimate play, settling for a tie, I saw the winning play. Rats!

**Weirdest statistic:** I played each of the six players representing Subcontinent countries India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. Also, most of the Subcontinentals representing other countries such as Bahrain's Akshay. Oddly, the only one of this group to whom I lost was (in the first round) Priya Fernando of Canada, who had by far the lowest WESPA ranking of them all. Go figure!

On the other hand, I didn't play a single Aussie – although there were 13 of them in the field.

**Most proud of:** Not having had a single word challenged *off* during the 32 rounds – as well as the 42 rounds that followed in the Early Bird and World Seniors tournaments. The losing finalist in Kenya, Nigerian Moses Moses Peter, had eight words challenged off in his best-of-seven series.



*MATATU*

## Playing with the new world champion

by Jeff Grant, Independent

The new WESPA World Scrabble Champion is 37-year-old Akshay Bhandarkar of Bahrain, who first played in the World Champs at the age of 15 in London in 1995. Akshay beat Nigeria's Moses Moses Peter 4-3 in a tense final in Nairobi, Kenya, on 12 November 2017.



*Akshay Bhandarkar*

### Anagrams

**AKSHAY = KHAYAS** (African trees related to mahogany)

Continuing the woody African theme, an old San bushman once said he was so tough that he used tree bark to wipe his nose (and probably other parts too).

How hard do you have to be to win a World Scrabble Championship?

**AKSHAY BHANDARKAR = HARD AS A BARK HANKY**



*MZEE*

Another transposition is the three-word **HARK! ARAB YAKHDANS**. The latter term refers to boxes for carrying ice on the backs of pack animals (perhaps the ice is clinking?). Unfortunately \*ARAB is not allowed in Scrabble.

### Word Surgery

**AKSHAY - A = SHAKY**

**AKSHAY + M = YASHMAK**

AKSHAY BHANDARKAR is the first world champion with a vocalic-invariant or 'univocal' name, using just A as a vowel. We will presume the Y is a consonant in this case, unlike the Y in MARK NYMAN (1993 World Champ), which is obviously a vowel.

Akshay's full name can be split in various ways into five Scrabble words with letters appearing in order (not all consecutively), e.g.:

**ASH, KAY, BAND, HARK, AR**

**ASHY, KAB, HAND, ARK, AR**

**AKA, SHY, BARK, HAND, AR**

Starting with the first A and taking every alternate letter of AKSHAY BHANDARKAR gives the fictional **ASA BADRA**, whose first name leads nicely into the next section...

**KIKUYU**Palindromes

When he was 2-3 down against Moses in the best-of-seven game final, someone suggested to Akshay that he 'put his skates on'. But could he stand the pace?

**Yah! Skates put on did not upset Akshay.**

(He won the next two games to claim the title.)

One of the questions Akshay was asked after the final was about his musical tastes.

Interviewer: What kind of music do you like?

**Akshay: OTB, Toyah, ska.**

(Out of The Blue (OTB) was a 1980s American jazz group, Toyah was an early British new wave band, and ska is a reggae-like Jamaican music.)

Word Square

**AKSHAY**, the big **KAHUNA** (top dog) in Nairobi, is not a **SHAMER** of lesser players, but a **HUMBLE** champion who knows that Fortune sometimes **ANELES** (anooints) the **YAREST** (best prepared).

A	K	S	H	A	Y
K	A	H	U	N	A
S	H	A	M	E	R
H	U	M	B	L	E
A	N	E	L	E	S
Y	A	R	E	S	T

*Photo of Akshay by James Muchiri*

In *Forwards* issue 128 (pp. 16-17) we published Jennifer's cryptic pop bands brain teasers from the 2017 Kiwi club quiz. Here are the answers:

- |                          |                              |                                |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Nine Inch Nails       | 11. Black Sabbath            | 21. One Direction              |
| 2. Pearl Jam             | 12. Electric Light Orchestra | 22. Split Enz                  |
| 3. Nirvana               | 13. U2                       | 23. When the cat's away        |
| 4. UB40                  | 14. ABBA                     | 24. Elemeno P                  |
| 5. INXS                  | 15. Queen                    | 25. Flight of the Conchords    |
| 6. Jethro Tull           | 16. KISS                     | 26. The Phoenix Foundation     |
| 7. Red Hot Chili Peppers | 17. The Police               | 27. Guns 'n' Roses             |
| 8. Led Zeppelin          | 18. The Sex Pistols          | 28. The Mamas and the<br>Papas |
| 9. Iron Maiden           | 19. Snow Patrol              | 29. The Doors                  |
| 10. The Rolling Stones   | 20. Coldplay                 |                                |



# It all sounds rather fishy

by Jennifer Smith, Kiwi Scrabblers

The LION and ZEBRA might live in the zoo,  
The WOLF and FOX, and BUFFALO, too.

The PUP, the DOG, and also the HOUND  
I suppose you think they live on the ground?

Well, perhaps they all ought'a –  
But add a fish to their name  
And they can live under water!

So there's LIONFISH and ZEBRAFISH  
And WOLFFISH, FOXFISH – get the idea?  
There are lots more land-animal-fish  
Than the ones I've mentioned here.

There's BUFFALOFISH and RATFISH  
HOUNDFISH and BATFISH  
GOATFISH, and CATFISH, too.  
There's PIGFISH and HOGFISH  
TOADFISH and FROGFISH  
PUPFISH and DOGFISH, to name but a few.

Most of them got their land-creature name  
'Cos some of their features seem much the same:

It's not hard to imagine  
How a PARROTFISH might look.  
Go look at an aviary  
Or any animal book.



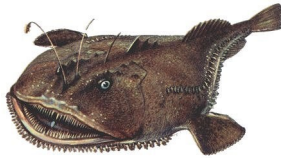
*Lionfish*



*Zebrafish*



*Parrotfish and Catfish*

*Goosefish*

The COWFISH is a mammal, and a big one at that  
Like the COW, familiar to humanity,  
It grazes marine grasses, is good-natured, and fat  
(You might know it as MANATI or MANATEE).

*Manatee*

The SNIPEFISH has a long slender snout  
Just like the long-billed bird.  
The SNAKEFISH is long and skinny no doubt,  
And the VIPERFISH, a predator, I've heard.

*Viperfish*

GOOSEFISH is a delicacy in Japan.  
And RABBITFISH have mouths like rabbits –  
One has its liver cooked up in a pan,  
And we smirk at the other's breeding habits!

ZEBRAFISH have black and white stripes,  
And the CATFISH is devoid of scales.  
Fish sure come in all creature types!  
But –

SNAILFISH *really are* snails!

*Rabbitfish**Snailfish**Snakefish*

# Political Bonuses

*Dylan Early, Independent, has provided the following mnemonics, which he created for all the bonus words that can be made featuring some stems currently pertinent to New Zealand's political scene.*

## ARDERN + 1

The stem ARDERN can be combined with any of the letters in “**GOSSIPY KIWI BIGWIG**” to make a valid seven-letter word. How many of the 15 seven-letter words can you find?

Blank	Word	Definition
B		A gridiron [n -S] / to cook on a gridiron [v -ED, -ING, -S] (Scots)
B		To change a product's name or image
G		To snarl (past tense)
G		Larger and more impressive
I		Someone or something that drains
I		Full of sexual desire
K		To snarl (past tense)
O		One who adorns
O		To adorn again
P		Partner or friend
S		One who mends holes in fabric or knitting
S		A short trip taken to attend to some business (plural)
S		To snarl (past tense)
W		To draw again
Y		An appellation applied after the manner of a proper name to the fox

## ENGLISH + 1

The stem ENGLISH can be combined with any of the letters in “**WILL FAILED, PETERS PREVAILED**” to make a valid eight-letter word. How many of the 21 eight-letter words can you find?

Blank	Word	Definition
A		Getting or making better
A		To hold by a leash or thong
A		A rough hut near summer pasture used as shelter by shepherds
D		Back legs
D		To cover with thin tiles of wood
E		The act of inclining laterally
E		To shell, husk, also SHALE, SHEAL, SHIEL (Shakespeare)
F		The distribution of the lean and fat on animals
F		To put on a shelf
I		A rough hut near summer pasture used as shelter by shepherds
I		A rough hut near summer pasture used as shelter by shepherds
L		To take out of a natural enclosing cover
P		Portions of food
R		The "hunger hormone" produced by the stomach
R		A young seatrout, a finnock
R		A person who shingles houses
S		To cover with thin tiles of wood
T		To shed light on
T		To reduce the weight of
V		Material for shelves
W		To fail to pay a debt

**PETERS + 1**

The stem PETERS can be combined with any of the letters in "**CAME UP WITH A SHREWDLY EXPERT PLAN**" to make a valid seven-letter word. How many of the 40 seven-letter words can you find?

Blank	Word	Definition
A		To shock complacent people (French)
A		To say or do again
A		To tape again
C		An idea or image formed by repeated similar perceptions
C		To have high regard for
C		To invest with royal authority
C		To invest with royal authority
C		A visible disembodied spirit
C		A visible disembodied spirit
D		To lend
E		To create waste as a tenant e.g. by cutting down trees
E		A vessel for steeping in
H		One who is hep, streetwise, (slang) also HIPSTER
H		A pedlar (Scots)
H		A long battleaxe, also SPARTH, SPARTHE (archaic)
H		To dispute
I		Annoying
I		To relieve temporarily
L		To shower blows or missiles
L		A kind of seabird
L		To spell again
L		Zinc in the form of ingots
M		To moderate by adding a counterbalancing agent



**PETERS + 1** continued

Blank	Word	Definition
N		A writer
N		To give or bestow formally
N		To regret and be sorry for a past action
N		A snake
P		One who steps
R		A priest
S		To bother
S		To set beforehand
T		Impudent, jaunty
T		One who pets
T		To give a preliminary test to
U		Punched or pierced
U		To consider to be as specified
W		An alloy of tin
X		To experience
X		An expert in sexual behaviour
Y		To type again

**GREENS + 1**

The stem GREENS can be combined with any of the letters in “**MOTIVATED BY VOTES**” to make a valid seven-letter word. How many of the 13 seven-letter words can you find?

Blank	Word	Definition
A		To make very angry
B		A type of large rucksack
D		A sexual group
E		To go back on a promise
I		A rock composed of quartz and mica

**GREENS + 1** continued

M		Something that serves as an origin
O		To pierce
O		A member of any of the dark-skinned peoples of Africa
S		A female negro
T		A ruler or manager
T		One who rules in place of a sovereign
V		An avenger (Spenser)
Y		A US marine (archaic)

**VOTERS + 1**

The stem VOTERS can be combined with any of the letters in “**ELIGIBLE CIRCLES**” to make a valid seven-letter word. How many of the 14 seven-letter words can you find?

Blank	Word	Definition
B		To turn, to show a different surface
C		Of a horse, to act friskily
C		A hiding place
C		To guide in flight by means of radioed directions
E		A common right to collect firewood, also STOVER
E		To upset; to disorder
E		To vote again
E		One who vetoes
G		A wrestling hold where the head is gripped and forced to the floor
I		Twisted
L		To rise up against authority
R		A type of legal action
S		The dried leaves and stalks of a cereal crop after harvest (archaic)
S		A female votary, also VOTARESS

# Hall of Fame

*by Jennifer Smith, Kiwi Scrabblers*

Allow me to introduce myself: you can call me Samuel. I was an English politician, and was born in Bristol in 1824.

Unlike most politicians of my times, I knew what it was like to be poor. I left school at an early age, worked as a clerk in a brewery, and rose to be manager. But in 1853, after a failed attempt to become a coal merchant in London, I was reduced to destitution. For a time, I lived in a common lodging. Through this experience, I could identify with the struggles of the poor, and when my good fortune returned, I resolved to devote my time to improving their condition.

After I was elected to Parliament in 1867, my social reform efforts were directed especially against what were known as “coffin ships”. A coffin ship was the name given to a (most often, unseaworthy) ship that was overloaded and overinsured and was therefore worth more to its owners sunk than afloat. Such vessels frequently carried emigrants escaping the Great Irish Famine or the Scottish Highland Clearances across the Atlantic. At this early stage of the insurance industry, insurance companies insured ships and cargos for what the owner **said** they were worth. Greedy, unscrupulous, and dishonest owners often lied about the value of their vessels and cargo, and knowingly risked the lives of their crews and emigrants by deliberately overloading them.

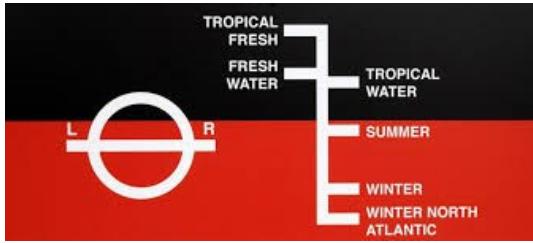
From the 1860s, there was an

increased loss of such ships – in one year alone (1873-74), more than 400 ships sank! I made many attempts to get a bill passed on a safe load line on ships. The main sticking-point was the number of ship-owning (and self-serving) Members of Parliament!

Eventually, on my motion, a Royal Commission was appointed, and in 1875 a government bill was introduced, which, though I thought it inadequate, I resolved to accept. But then the Prime Minister, Disraeli, announced that the bill would be dropped. I completely lost my self-control, called other members of the house “villains”, and shook my fist in the Speaker’s face. Disraeli moved that I be reprimanded, and I eventually had to apologise.

Many people, however, shared my view that the bill had been stifled by the pressure of the shipowners, and popular feeling forced the government to pass a bill, which in 1876 was amended to the Merchant Shipping Act. The Act made the load line mark compulsory, although the positioning of the mark was not fixed by law until 1894.

In 1906, laws were passed requiring foreign ships visiting British ports to be marked with a load line, but it was not until 1930 that there was international agreement for universal application of load line regulations. The mark that indicates the safe limit to which a ship may be loaded became generally known as the PLIMSOLL mark or line after me, Samuel Plimsoll.



line on a ship, if water got above the line of the rubber sole, the wearer's foot would get wet. Plimsolls were issued to the British soldiers (who called them "road slappers") until they were replaced by trainers in the mid-80s.

*The Plimsoll line: loading levels vary according to the density of the waters the vessel will be sailing in*

In Northern Ireland and central Scotland, plimsolls are sometimes known as GUTTIES.

Until I died in 1898, I continued to be involved in issues I felt passionately about. I was for some years the honorary president of the National Sailors' and Firemen's Union, and drew attention to the horrors of the cattle-ships that were transporting animals under appalling and overcrowded conditions. Later, I visited the United States to try to secure the adoption of a less bitter tone towards England in the historical textbooks used in American schools.

SANNIES (from "sandshoe") is the word for them in Scotland. In parts of the West Country and Wales they are known as DAPS or DAPPERS. In London they are known as PUMPS.

I was proud to have an iron-hulled merchant sailing ship that was launched in 1873 named **Samuel Plimsoll** after me. However, I'm not just remembered for the mark I made (literally!) on the shipping industry.

In South Africa, plimsolls are called TAKKIES or TACKIES (sing. TAKKY or TACKY).

An athletic shoe was also given my name. A PLIMSOLL, PLIMSOL or PLIMSOLE was developed as beachwear in the 1830s by the Liverpool Rubber Company. Plimsolls had solid rubber soles about eight or nine millimetres thick, to which the canvas upper was glued without coming up the sides. Originally called a "sandshoe", it acquired my name in the 1870s, supposedly because the coloured horizontal band joining the upper to the sole resembled the Plimsoll line on a ship's hull – or possibly because, just like the Plimsoll

So, remember me, Samuel Plimsoll, when you play PLIMSOLL(S), PLIMSOLGGS), and PLIMSOLE(S), or when you play the unusual – but useful – alternative words for my eponymous shoe, i.e. GUTTIES, SANNIE(S), DAP(S), DAPPER(S), TACKY, TAKKY, or TAKKIES.



*Memorial to Samuel Plimsoll on Victoria Embankment, London*

# World Youth Scrabble Championships

by *Lynley Jenness and Lewis Hawkins, Christchurch*

*Photographs provided by Lynley Jenness*

## Lynley

November was a big month for Lewis Scrabble-wise. On the 18-19 November he played in the Early Bird tournament that was held in Christchurch as a warmup for the World Seniors event. He had been hoping to play in the side tournament that was supposed to be taking place alongside the main Seniors event, but the side tournament was cancelled due to lack of numbers. He had already got permission from school to have those days off however, so when Olivia Godfrey, (who had been staying with us while she was playing in the Early Bird) said that her flight home wasn't leaving until Monday afternoon, Lewis persuaded me to let him take the day off school to entertain her. They had a seven-game mini tournament, which meant that Olivia got her wish for more Scrabble. She had been complaining that 14 games during the tournament just wasn't enough!

On Thursday Lewis decided to take the day off school again after the teacher said "What are you still doing here?" He played quite a few games with Paul Lister and caught up on all the Scrabble chat with players between games. He also had a long chat with the TV crew from TV1, and gave them some pointers on playing Scrabble. Unfortunately, the only thing they showed on TV that night was him saying "I know more words than the teachers". This was slightly awkward because, as far as his

teacher knew, he was already winging his way to Malaysia to play in the World Youth Championships.

On Thursday immediately after the Seniors prize giving ceremony, we rushed home to pack, waved goodbye to our remaining visitors whom we had been billeting, (Howard Warner, and Anne Hough from Australia), and headed to the airport.

When we arrived in Kuala Lumpur we had two days to acclimatise and settle into the time zone. We visited an elephant sanctuary on the first day, and enjoyed feeding them bananas and watching them frolicking in the river. On the second day we went to Sunway Lagoon, (a Disney-like water theme park) with Ronnie Bennett and Sam, his mum, from Australia. Lewis and Ronnie have been friends for a few years now and often meet up at the Australian Champs and World Youth tournaments.



*Sunway Lagoon*



Monday was the first day of the WYSC, which was held in the shopping mall attached to our hotel. We were very pleased that Karen Richards had changed the venue from the hotel in Johor Bahru that had hosted the Causeway tournaments. The new venue was a much more pleasant location.

This is Lewis' account of the highlights of his tournament.

## Lewis

Game One: I started off playing Shireeya Jayendran from Australia. My first rack of the tournament was AUAEUOI, which I exchanged. Later on I picked up UVULUIT, another unfortunate rack, but I ended up winning 471-268.

Game four: I played Aldo Setiawan from Indonesia. We were neck and neck until the last few moves. Then I played DETOUR, keeping a B and leaving one tile in the bag. Unluckily, I then picked up JZVCDN to go along with my B, and ended up losing that game by 42 points.

Game Nine: I played Michelle Eng from Singapore. For one of her moves she played JEE, leaving it open for me to play ZORIL onto JEE to make JEEZ for a total of 108 points. Immediately after that, I was able to play SOFTIES under JEEZ to make JEEZE for a total of 103 points. I won that game 669-200 in the end.



## *Lewis at play*

Game 10: My opponent from the Philippines had a fabulous name - Lear Jet de la Cruz. I was winning throughout the game, but then, right at the end, he played UNSIDED. He would have won, but I challenged it off, and played SPRINGY in the same spot for 97 points. This allowed me to go out and win the game.

Game 13: I played Liao Yi from Singapore and this was one of my closest games. Fortunately, I was able to win 419-406 thanks to being able to play VOIDEES for 78, followed by EZINE for 69.

Game 14: I was playing Nititorn Laimek from Thailand. I had 15 minutes left on my clock by the time I came to my last turn. I was behind at that point, and I had to go down to the very last second to retrieve a draw of 400-400.

Game 21: I played Mehul Arora from India. I was out for revenge after previously losing to him 479-450. Halfway through the game there was an E on the board and Mehul's rack was CIINSTZ. He played ZINCITES for 76 when he could have played ZINCIEST for 110, which helped me to win by 26.

Game 24: I played Daryl Hanming from Singapore. I was able to play SNEEZIER for 284 points. This score for one word helped me to achieve a total game score of 760 in the end.

I ended up in 17<sup>th</sup> place overall, and I won the high word and high game medals but, sadly, I didn't win the under-14 age group category.

## Lynley

After the tournament we were asked if Lewis could stay on and play in the Malaysian Open National tournament, which was being held in the same venue over the weekend immediately following the WYSC. Luckily we were able to exchange our air tickets for not too much, so Lewis got to play in the A grade (rating 1400+) in a field that included Nigel Richards! He didn't actually have a game against Nigel, but ended up a respectable 22<sup>nd</sup>. He is now apparently 39<sup>th</sup> on the

Malaysian Master ratings table for overseas players, and has a rating of 1862.

So two weeks and 62 tournament games plus seven Olivia games later, Lewis returned to school just in time for his school concert and to say goodbye to his friends as he heads off to Cashmere High School next year. And in two weeks time, I become the mother of a teenaged Lewis!!!



*Dinner - the biggest tom yum soup ever*

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## The DEEP RIVERS challenge

*In the last issue of Forwards, we published a poetic contribution by Jeff Grant. This poem was based on the words DEEP RIVERS, and every line of the poem featured a word or phrase resulting from the removal of one letter at a time from that phrase (see pp 26-27 of Forwards Spring 2017).*

*We challenged our readers to send in literary masterpieces of their own in the same vein. We were delighted to receive four contributions, and each of our contributors put their own unique spin on the challenge.*

*Jennifer Smith chose to stick as closely as possible to Jeff's style, though she used rhyming rather than blank verse. Lyn Toka opted to begin with a two-letter word then add letters one by one.*

*Murray Rogers tells us that his offering was inspired by his recent trip to Kenya to represent NZ at the World Champs. And finally we have Tony Charlton, who explained that he did not feel that his poetic skills were up to Jeff's standards, so he chose to write a couple of short stories instead.*

*What talented and creative people we have reading this magazine!*

## BONUS STING

by Jennifer Smith, Kiwi Scrabblers

*Removing one letter at a time  
To make a shrinking word rhyme*

BONUSSING is what I like to do!  
With one S (if I don't have two),

BONUSING Is OK, too.

BOUSING is great for my opening play  
must keep that up for the rest of  
the day.

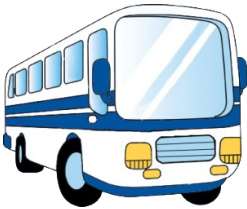
BUSING from the tourney,  
or USING my car for the journey.

to SING self praise,  
it's not a

SIN – it's the mood I'm

IN ☺!

I am a happy chappy.



## Dream team

by Lyn Toka, Kiwi Scrabblers

A cricketer, ace bowler, said  
I AM disturbed; my head spins round.  
Un ÂME troulée am I.  
The SAME unsettling dream recurs.  
I dream I SEAME my ball before  
I bowl a SEAMER. That's so wrong - bizarre.  
Our team is on a STEAMER among a fleet of  
STEAMERS bedecked with coloured  
STREAMERS, fluttering far.  
One STREAMER AS black as night. My heart is thumping.  
Then I find this STREAMER WAS a Black Caps' victory bunting.  
That's right. Delight!  
The troubling dream dissolves. Hurrah!



## JAMBOKS

by Murray Rogers, Independent

JAMBOKS whip the "S" around to make a front hook  
 JAMBOK hide the "S" to make it singular  
 JAMBO hello, we greet each other in Kenya  
 JAMB in the doorway of our hotel (After 40)  
 JAM packing 32 games into four playing days  
 JA yes, we did it, kept our quota!

Author's notes:

JAMBOK is a whip or riding crop  
 made of hide  
 SJAMBOK is the preferred spelling  
 JAMBO is Swahili for hello  
 JA means yes  
 After 40 is where most of the New  
 Zealanders stayed while in Nairobi  
 Keeping our quota refers to the fact  
 that our team performance means  
 NZ will be allowed to have seven  
 players again in the next World  
 Champs.

## YOU MUST BE JOKING

by Tony Charlton, Nelson

"You must be **JOE KING**," I said to the guitarist I had queued to meet after the gig by the rock band 'The Fray'. I was attending this gig in Texas earlier this year.

"You must be **JOKING**," he replied while he signed his autograph "I'm not even a member of the **JO KIN**, but I would love to **JOIN**".

"Perhaps I can conjure up a **JIN** to help you with that," I suggested. "That might help you get **IN**?"

"I think not," he said, as he turned to the next person in the queue.

A few weeks later, back in New Zealand, I stopped at a petrol station to fill up the tank and visit the restroom.

"Can I have the **JOHN KEY** please?" I said to the cashier after I had paid for the fuel. She was obviously feeling **JOKEY**, as she answered, "Sorry, the former prime minister isn't available".

When I returned the key, she told me about a new arrival at the nearby kangaroo enclosure.

"You should go and see the new **JOEY**, it's sure to bring you **JOY**". I rather liked this girl as she reminded me of my **JO** back in Scotland a few years ago.

"**O** thanks," I said, as I walked off to view the baby kangaroo.



# WESPA Whispers

by Howard Warner, Independent

## More Kiwis get global rankings

With three major WESPA international events having just finished, including two held in New Zealand, interest shifts to WESPA ranking changes. This is how New Zealanders' WESPA rankings currently look:

Position	Name	Rating
2	*Nigel Richards	2214
12	*Alastair Richards	2093
43	Howard Warner	1996
75	Joanne Craig	1913
162	Lyres Freeth	1806
163	Patrick Carter	1805
167	Nick Cavenagh	1803
170	*Dylan Early	1800
224	John Foster	1739
244	Blue Thorogood	1718
268	Peter Sinton	1697
397	Lawson Sue	1578
401	Lynne Butler	1576
428	Glenda Foster	1548
460	Glennis Hale	1515
522	Lewis Hawkins	1465
545	Liz Fagerlund	1451
563	Anderina McLean	1433
565	Val Mills	1432
599	Paul Lister	1403
605	Cicely Bruce	1396
685	Lynn Wood	1317
704	John McNaughton	1299

804	David Gunn	1190
808	Rosalind Phillips	1188
861	Yoon Kim Fong	1142
881	Hazel Purdie	1122
953	Lynn Carter	1047
966	Mary Curtis	1031
1000	Dianne Cole-Baker	1122
1003	Roger Cole-Baker	1001
1007	Anne Goldstein	997
1015	Ruth Groffman	990
1068	Betty Eriksen	944
1088	Mary Gray	925
1270	Annette Coombes	557

\* Nigel has been shown as a New Zealand representative for many years, despite having lived in Malaysia since 2000.

\* Alastair is still shown as an Australian, despite having lived, worked and played in New Zealand for the past year and now having married his Kiwi sweetheart.

\* Dylan Early migrated to Wellington (from South Africa) in September this year and has now shifted his WESPA allegiance to New Zealand.

Note, to get a full *ranking*, you need to have played 50 games in the past two years. Several Kiwis entered the rankings for the first time by playing both the Early Bird and the World Seniors Championship in Christchurch (42 games in total).



**Anderina McLean** was the biggest mover in the latest rankings after her very creditable 70th place in Kenya. She gained 114 points and is now 563<sup>rd</sup>, on 1433 points. **Joanne Craig**, after finishing the top woman player in Kenya (38<sup>th</sup>) and triumphing at the World Seniors in Christchurch, saw her WESPA ranking rise from 101<sup>st</sup> to 75<sup>th</sup> (1913) – her highest for five years.

**Howard Warner** moved up 63 points and 37 places to 44<sup>th</sup> (1996) after the three tournaments. After a very long run at the top, **Nigel Richards** has dropped to 2<sup>nd</sup> with the re-emergence of Malaysian legend **Ganesh Asirvatham**.

### Next WESPAC

At its biennial general meeting in Kenya, WESPA called for bids for the 2019 WESPA Championship (WESPAC). The smart money is on Canada, which is believed to have been originally slated to host the 2017 event. Canada has never hosted a world Scrabble championship in any form, yet has produced three world champions (Joel Wapnick, David Boys, and Adam Logan).

Already the WESPA tournament committee has released revised country allocations for WESPAC 2019.

New Zealand retains our allocation of seven places. Also of significance are:

- Australia retains its 13.
- Canada retains its 10 (despite having fielded only three players in Kenya).
- Nigeria gains an extra place, to have eight players. (Nigeria originally had seven places in

Kenya, but this was boosted to 15 through the ‘last chance qualifier’ event. They finished the top country overall on team standings.)

- Singapore, which had the same number of places as New Zealand, gains an extra place.
- South Africa, now missing ‘our’ Dylan Early, stays on two spots.

We players in Kenya had wondered how the revised allocations would be worked out, given that many countries didn’t send their strongest team or even fill their quota.

The committee explains that every country whose average performance was in the top half were allocated one additional place. That applied to only seven countries: Nigeria, India, Uganda, Sri Lanka, Kenya, Ghana, and Canada. All other quotas remain unchanged.

Interestingly, the minimum allocation has been raised from one to two. Those countries getting two places include some long-standing participants at this level (e.g. the Philippines, South Africa, Romania, and Wales); some that have only played once but without much success (Austria, Norway, and Sierra Leone); and some that have never played (China, Mauritius, Vietnam, and Malawi).

In percentage terms, Bahrain is the ultimate winner. On the strength of producing 2017 champion Akshay Bhandarkar, it gets two places. And two is the tiny Middle Eastern nation’s entire Scrabble-playing population. Imagine that!

# I see red, I see red, I see red

by Jennifer Smith, Kiwi Scrabblers

At the end of a game which I was losing by 20 points, I had RED left for my final turn. I played it for eight points. Unfortunately, it wasn't until later that I realised I could have played REDACTOR (an editor) for 33, extending ACTOR that my opponent had just played on the right-hand middle triple. That would have won me the game.

So I've been looking at words that take a prefix of RED this week. It's been fun!

Lots of creatures take RED in front of them: BIRD, BUG, FISH, HORSE, ID, and OX. Mind you, REDBIRD, REDBUG, REDFISH, REDHORSE, REDID, and REDOX are not all fauna! Can you pick the odd one or ones before you read on?

REDOX is some sort of chemical reaction, and REDID is a verb. REDHORSE, contrary to my expectations (and perhaps yours), is a fish, not a horse.

And there are a lot of animals that have RED starting their name as a descriptor: REDBACK (spider); REDBELLY, REDEAR, REDEYE, REDFIN, REDFISH (all fish);



*Redshank*

REDBREAST, REDHEAD, REDPOLL, REDSHANK, REDSTART, REDTAIL, REDWING (all birds – “start” is an old word for “tail”).

There are many seemingly red parts of a person's or animal's body: REDBACK, REDBELLY, REDBONE, REDBREAST, REDEAR, REDEYE, REDFIN, REDFOOT, REDHEAD, REDLEG, REDNECK, REDSHANK, REDSKIN, and REDWING; but some do not mean what you'd expect.



*Redbone*

In America, a REDLEG is a term for a poor person descended from original white settlers, while a REDNECK is a poor white farm labourer in the South-West states, or a politically reactive person. A REDSKIN is a non-PC word for an American Indian. A REDBONE breed of dog has a red coat, not red bones. Apparently, it was named for an early breeder, Peter Redbone.

There are some horrible “red” diseases, even apart from scarlet fever. REDFOOT is a fatal disease of newborn lambs, where the skin on their hooves, limbs, and ears sloughs off. REDWATER is a tick-borne disease of cattle – you can guess its predominant symptom! And REDEYE is a painful bacterial infection that can

cause blindness in cattle (although it can also be a fish or an early morning flight).

You can be caught REDHANDED, but if you had your hand in a jar of jaffas, you would only have a red hand, not a \*redhand!



*Redstreak*

REDCAP, REDCOAT, REDSHIFT, REDSHIRT, REDSHORT, and REDTOP sound like clothing, but only some of these words refer to actual clothes – and then, only indirectly. A REDCAP is a member of the military police, and a REDCOAT is a British soldier in some colonial countries. A REDSHIRT was a supporter of Garibaldi when he wanted to conquer Sicily. In modern times, a REDSHIRT is also a US college athlete who is withdrawn from university sporting events for a year to develop their skills and extend their period of playing eligibility by a further year at that level of competition. It can also be a verb in that sporting context.

REDTOP is a type of pasture. Other red words also name vegetation: REDBAY, REDBUD, REDCURRANT, REDWOOD, and REDROOT (shrubs or trees), REDSTREAK (type of apple), and REDWARE (edible seaweed).

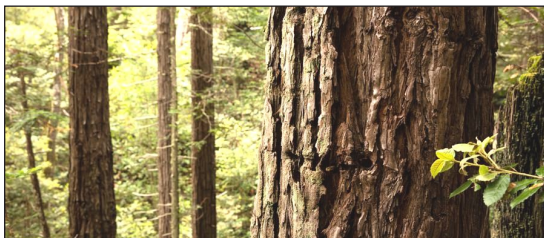
REDSHORT is brittle at red-heat, as are REDSEAR, REDSHARE, and REDSHIRE. And REDSHIFT is the scientific word for the replacement of the light a receding object emits.

You know what a BLACKOUT and a WHITEOUT are, but did you know that a GRAYOUT (not \*GREYOUT) is a temporary blurring of vision, and a BROWNOUT is a partial blackout? If you're an astronaut or pilot you could also experience a REDOUT, when you get a reddening of vision caused by blood being forced to the head in low gravity conditions.

REDLINE (a boundary that shouldn't be crossed) has other interesting meanings as a verb: to drive an engine beyond its recommendations, or to refuse a house loan to someone because it's in an area deemed to be a poor financial risk.

I assumed the literal meaning of REDBRICK, but it actually refers to a British university founded in the late 19th or early 20th century, and with buildings of brick, as distinct from the older universities built of stone. It was originally a derogatory term, but not now.

The biggest surprises to me were the words ARGUE, EMPTION (the act of buying), ESCRIBE (to construct a circle through the three points of a triangle), and INTEGRATE.



*Redwood*

They can be extended to REDARGUE (to refute), REDEMPTION, REDESCRIBE, and REDINTEGRATE (to make whole again, restore).

Compare REARGUE with REDARGUE and REINTEGRATE with REDINTEGRATE. Interesting how the D gets introduced into what seem to be RE- prefixes – perhaps because the meanings don't *quite* mean doing it again? Note that \*REESCRIBE and \*REEMPTION do not exist.

Since most of the above meanings are fairly boring, I prefer to make up some of my own definitions:

REDNECK - somebody who got a hickey last night

REDACTOR - a film star who is embarrassed at his poor performance

REDARGUE - to argue until you are red in the face

REDDISH - chili con carne?

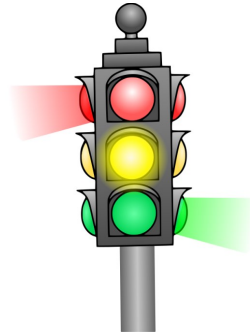


REDPOLL - one conducted by the Labour Party

REDRAW - undercooked meat; or badly chafed legs

REDSHARE - a commune

REDSTART - to run the traffic lights, and . . .



REDSTREAK - . . . somebody doing it at speed (or the police car chasing it)!

REDWARE - kitchen appliances in the latest fashion colour

REDWATER - a derogatory term for an inferior red wine

REDYES - a vote for the communist party

REDBAIT - to taunt a communist (but, hang on! . . . that's its actual meaning!)



*Split Enz – the NZ pop band known for  
I see red*

# Tournament results

## Rodney

11 November 2017

7 games

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
<b>A Grade</b>					
1	Cicely Bruce	WRE	5	90	393
2	Liz Fagerlund	MTA	4	562	424
3	Andrew Bradley	MTA	4	68	402
4	Jeanette Grimmer	ROD	4	-2	389
5	Glennis Hale	IND	4	-82	391
6	Jennifer Smith	KIW	4	-111	380
7	Patrick Carter	MTA	3	130	417
8	Lynn Wood	WEL	0	-655	328

## B Grade

1	Allie Quinn	WRE	5	676	457
2	Julie Atkinson	MTA	5	135	394
3	Hazel Purdie	MTA	5	80	393
4	Pam Barlow	IND	5	42	374
5	Lynn Carter	IND	3	-160	370
6	Stan Skinner	TGA	2	-163	358
7	Shirley Martin	KIW	2	-228	349
8	Yoon Kim Fong	KIW	1	-382	359

## C Grade

1	Ernie Gidman	ROD	5	174	397
2	Joan Thomas	HAS	4	168	370
3	Mary Gray	MTA	4	77	398
4	Glenda Geard	IND	4	55	370
5	Mary Curtis	MTA	4	-68	375
6	Su Walker	MTA	3	-11	374
7	Julia Schiller	IND	2	-77	360
8	Delcie Macbeth	IND	2	-318	349

## D Grade

1	Merelyn Fuemana	MTA	4.5	210	381
2	Suzanne Harding	WRE	4	215	382
3	Junior Gesmundo	PAP	4	127	366
4	Joan Beale	PAP	4	-102	366
5	Margaret Toso	WRE	3.5	-62	332
6	Jenny Litchfield	WRE	3	-49	382
7	Ruth Godwin	ROT	3	-226	336
8	Anne Scatchard	WRE	2	-113	358

## E Grade

1	June Dowling	WRE	7	668	384
2	Lynn Thompson	WRE	5	126	344
3	Elvie Perrin	ROD	5	105	343
4	Eveline Seddon	ROD	5	58	327
5	Linda Moore	ROD	4	233	357
6	Valma Gidman	ROD	4	74	328
7	Kate Leslie	ROD	3	-38	309
8	Joan Stanners	PAP	3	-147	292
9	Pam Bosch	ROD	2	-152	299
10	Frances Higham	PAP	2	-212	314
11	Vivienne Mickelson	ROD	1	-346	304
12	Susan Schiller	IND	1	-369	278

## Mt. Albert

12 November 2017

7 games

	Name	Wins	Spread
<b>A Grade</b>			
1	Patrick Carter	7	468
2	Andrew Bradley	4	310
3	Liz Fagerlund	4	119
4	Pat Bryan	3	100
5	Glennis Hale	3	36
6	Jennifer Smith	3	-88
7	Cicely Bruce	3	-145
8	Lynn Wood	1	-800



**B Grade**

1	Yoon Kim Fong	6	336
2	Lorraine Van Veen	4.5	431
3	Hazel Purdie	3.5	-133
4	Julie Atkinson	3	171
5	Delcie Macbeth	3	29
6	Lynn Carter	3	-133
7	Glenda Geard	3	-313
8	Shirley Martin	2	-388

**C Grade**

1	Mary Curtis	5	605
2	Dianne Cole-Baker	5	249
3	Joan Thomas	5	227
4	Su Walker	3	-13
5	Roger Cole-Baker	3	-83
6	Mary Gray	3	-184
7	Julia Schiller	3	-270
8	Robert Springer	1	-531

**D Grade**

1	Merelyn Fuemana	6	569
2	Junior Gesmundo	5	50
3	Antonia Aarts	4	154
4	Suzanne Harding	4	62
5	Judy Cronin	4	-64
6	Joan Beale	3	-68
7	Ruth Godwin	2	-208
8	Lynn Thompson	0	-495

**E Grade**

1	Lyn Blaker	6	128
2	Joyce Mowbray	5	479
3	Rosemary Balme	4	202
4	Frances Higham	3	-191
5	Valerie Smith	2	-327
6	Susan Schiller	1	-291

**International Festival of Scrabble****Early Bird****18-19 November 2017****14 games**

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Wins</b>	<b>Spread</b>
1	Howard Warner	12	1511
2	Patrick Carter	11.5	668
3	Ron Baginski	10	969
4	Murray Rogers	10	391
5	Peter Sinton	10	299
6	Dylan Early	10	192
7	Rod Talbot	9	922
8	Blue Thorogood	9	852
9	Lynne Butler	9	627
10	John Foster	9	559
11	Lewis Hawkins	9	502
12	John Barker	9	399
13	Glenda Foster	9	141
14	Barry Harridge	8.5	-36
15	Karen Richards	8	701
16	Paul Lister	8	345
17	Pam Robson	8	263
18	Lynn Wood	8	210
19	Allie Quinn	8	124
20	Jean O'Brien	8	101
21	Olivia Godfrey	8	23
22	Lois Binnie	8	-48
23	Anna Brouwer	8	-62
24	Carolyn Kyle	8	-65
25	Cicely Bruce	8	-95
26	Yoon Kim Fong	8	-270
27	Heather Landon	8	-351
28	Jeanette Grimmer	7	258
29	Jyoti Chandna	7	188
30	Keri Heart	7	47
31	Shirley Hol	7	31

32	Robert Springer	7	10
33	Scott Chaput	7	7
34	Peter Johnstone	7	-39
35	Roger Cole-Baker	7	-71
36	Colleen Cook	7	-114
37	Valma Gidman	7	-156
38	Anne Hough	7	-209
39	Selena Chan	7	-438
40	Nola Borrell	6	220
41	Rosalind Phillips	6	205
42	Mary Curtis	6	49
43	Anne Goldstein	6	19
44	Ernie Gidman	6	-15
45	Dianne Cole-Baker	6	-81
46	Jena Yousif	6	-205
47	Arnold Appelhof	6	-223
48	Betty Eriksen	6	-228
49	David Gunn	6	-236
50	Joanna Fox	6	-332
51	Hanna Dodge	6	-499
52	John Baird	5	271
53	Ruth Groffman	5	-128
54	Mary Gray	5	-220
55	Marja Luukas Takala	5	-297
56	Betty Don	5	-332
57	Phyllis Paltridge	5	-523
58	Andrew Campbell	5	-681
59	Annette Coombes	5	-699
60	Mandy Thorogood	5	-818
61	George Khamis	4	-397
62	Tony Charlton	4	-501
63	Malcolm Graham	4	-589
64	Kathleen Mori-Barker	4	-675
65	Frances Higham	4	-865
66	Llane Hadden	2	-606

## International Festival of Scrabble World Seniors Championship

21-23 November 2017

### 24 games

	Name	Wins	Spread
1	Joanne Craig	19	1790
2	Howard Warner	19	1475
3	Bob Jackman	17	1542
4	Rod Talbot	16	1185
5	Odette Rio	16	786
6	John Barker	16	266
7	Blue Thorogood	15	803
8	Mohammad Sulaiman	15	715
9	Patrick Carter	15	683
10	Rocky Sharma	15	544
11	Jane Brown	15	429
12	Ron Baginski	15	207
13	Peter Sinton	15	108
14	Lynne Butler	15	22
15	John Foster	14.5	569
16	Lois Binnie	14	813
17	Cicely Bruce	14	633
18	Karen Richards	14	504
19	Carol Johnsen	14	306
20	Norma Fisher	14	216
20	Rosalind Phillips	14	216
22	Ivor Zetler	14	184
23	David Gunn	14	38
24	Anna Brouwer	13.5	971
25	Hazel Purdie	13	469
26	Liz Fagerlund	13	451
27	Barry Harridge	13	354
28	Val Mills	13	346
29	Nola Borrell	13	336
30	Jeanette Grimmer	13	95

31	John Baird	13	54
32	Pam Robson	13	-14
33	Allie Quinn	13	-46
34	Pam Barlow	13	-48
35	Glenda Foster	13	-60
36	John Ozag	12.5	421
37	Murray Rogers	12	525
38	Mary Curtis	12	313
39	Shirley Hol	12	181
40	Arnold Appelhof	12	176
41	Irene Smith	12	117
42	Lynn Wood	12	101
43	Ernie Gidman	12	77
44	Dianne Cole-Baker	12	-67
45	Paula Messer	12	-86
46	Anne Hough	12	-93
47	Yoon Kim Fong	12	-268
48	Robert Springer	12	-402
49	Roger Cole-Baker	11.5	25
50	Jean Rappitt	11	293
51	Lynn Carter	11	203
52	Anne Goldstein	11	112
53	Peter Johnstone	11	34
54	Jena Yousif	11	-115
55	Keri Heart	11	-142
56	Sheila Reed	11	-184
57	George Khamis	11	-249
58	Ruth Groffman	11	-319
59	Annette Coombes	11	-336
60	Julie Atkinson	11	-525
61	Heather Landon	11	-571
62	Joanne Morley	11	-636
63	Antonia Aarts	11	-823
64	Carolyn Kyle	10	-82
64	Mary Gray	10	-82
66	Betty Eriksen	10	-170



*Joanne Craig accepts her award as the World Seniors Champion*

67	Allison Torrance	10	-368
68	Malcolm Graham	10	-387
69	Suzanne Harding	10	-525
70	Noeline Monsef	10	-683
71	Rob Hutchinson	10	-694
72	Joanna Fox	10	-994
73	Gabrielle Bolt	9	-291
74	Madelaine Green	9	-350
75	Marja Takala	9	-353
76	Tony Charlton	9	-598
77	Phyllis Paltridge	9	-620
78	Llane Hadden	9	-655
79	Valma Gidman	9	-892
80	Marion McLean	8	-531
81	Betty Don	8	-597
82	Liz Jackman	8	-755
83	Anne Scatchard	8	-833
84	Sharon McKenzie	7.5	-1344
85	Frances Higham	6.5	-1152
86	Dorothy Latta	5	-1746

## Tournament Calendar 2018

Wellington	Wellington	20-21 January
Pakuranga	Auckland	27-28 January
Nelson	Nelson	10-11 February
Rotorua	Rotorua	24-25 February
March Marathon	Palmerston North	10-11 March
# Masters	Nelson	30 March - 1 April
Dunedin	Dunedin	7-8 April
Nationals	Auckland	2-3 June
Whangarei	Whangarei	30 June - 1 July
Tauranga	Tauranga	25-26 August
Papatoetoe	Auckland	22-23 September
Otago	Dunedin	10-11 November
# Restricted entry		



***World Seniors winners: Howard Warner (2nd), Joanne Craig (1st), and Bob Jackman (3rd). Photo by David Walker - Stuff***

# Rankings list as at 31 December 2017

Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%
1 Alastair Richards (GM)	2258	182.5	225	81%	41 Rosalind Phillips	1546	629	1217	52%
2 Howard Warner (GM)	2209	2172	2886	75%	42 Vicky Robertson	1536	392.5	806	49%
3 Joanne Craig (GM)	2156	408.5	607	67%	43 Jeanette Grimmer	1534	236	457	52%
4 Lyres Freeth (GM)	2062	477.5	716	67%	44 Anna Brouwer	1533	798.5	1600	50%
5 Peter Sinton (GM)	1981	794	1112	71%	45 Lorraine Van Veen	1524	949	1903	50%
6 Patrick Carter (GM)	1975	826	1310	63%	46 David Gunn	1504	1395	2823	49%
7 Jeff Grant (GM)	1958	1729	2300	75%	47 Lynn Wood	1499	2039	4256	48%
8 Dylan Early	1950	27	41	66%	48 Karl Scherer	1490	112	192	58%
9 John Foster (GM)	1901	1662	2923	57%	49 Pam Robson	1480	614.5	1342	46%
10 Glennis Hale (GM)	1899	1560.5	2822	55%	50 Nola Borrell	1458	529.5	975	54%
11 Blue Thorogood (GM)	1885	711.5	1011	70%	51 Allie Quinn	1446	1161	2379	49%
12 Nick Cavenagh (GM)	1873	410.5	682	60%	52 Clare Wall	1442	332	640	52%
13 Andrew Bradley (GM)	1865	896	1695	53%	53 Helen Sillis	1437	748	1516	49%
14 Mike Sigley (GM)	1852	1013	1465	69%	54 Selena Chan	1430	354.5	702	50%
15 Lynne Butler (GM)	1851	962.5	1585	61%	55 Julie Atkinson	1427	283.5	539	53%
16 Lawson Sue (GM)	1829	970	1780	54%	56 Roger Coates	1415	846	1771	48%
17 Liz Fagerlund (GM)	1815	1361	2587	53%	57 Shirley Martin	1407	1035.5	2062	50%
18 Anderina McLean (GM)	1794	826.5	1530	54%	58 Shirley Hol	1388	761	1634	47%
19 Karen Richards (E)	1791	91.5	165	55%	59 Robert Springer	1365	20	45	44%
20 Cicely Bruce (GM)	1779	626.5	1125	56%	60 Glenda Geard	1364	1162.5	2359	49%
21 Steven Brown (GM)	1770	938	1761	53%	61 Jean O'Brien	1363	1264.5	2484	51%
22 John McNaughton (GM)	1744	157	248	63%	62 Mary Curtis	1360	392	742	53%
23 Lewis Hawkins	1732	244.5	398	61%	63 Peter Johnstone	1357	221	423	52%
24 Val Mills (E)	1728	1398	2901	48%	64 Pam Barlow	1351	805.5	1599	50%
25 Olivia Godfrey (E)	1700	863	1657	52%	65 Dianne Cole-Baker	1345	633.5	1231	51%
26 Denise Gordon (E)	1699	735.5	1525	48%	66 Yvette Hewlett	1340	493.5	1033	48%
27 Nick Ascroft	1687	187	349	54%	67 Leila Thomson	1336	612.5	1327	46%
28 Murray Rogers (E)	1672	965.5	1826	53%	68 Roger Cole-Baker	1332	670.5	1296	52%
29 Glenda Foster (E)	1671	1139.5	2290	50%	69 Anne Goldstein	1330	182	364	50%
30 Scott Chaput (E)	1662	292	503	58%	70 Delcie Macbeth	1326	989.5	1905	52%
31 Lois Binnie	1659	125	245	51%	71 Yoon Kim Fong	1323	687	1356	51%
32 Jennifer Smith	1657	1200	2502	48%	72 Jena Yousif	1317	554	1112	50%
33 Paul Lister (E)	1640	877.5	1588	55%	73 Joan Thomas	1316	1194	2398	50%
34 Pat Bryan	1637	282	523	54%	74 Lynn Carter	1315	804.5	1558	52%
35 John Baird	1603	304	551	55%	75 Su Walker	1295	1138.5	2226	51%
36 Glenyss Buchanan	1594	705.5	1517	47%	76 Ruth Groffman	1289	622	1248	50%
37 Margie Hurly	1589	360	711	51%	77 Heather Landon	1285	650.5	1291	50%
38 Rosemary Cleary (E)	1575	841	1822	46%	78 Lyn Toka	1281	603.5	1153	52%
39 Irene Smith	1565	244	490	50%	79 Ernie Gidman	1281	455	914	50%
40 Hazel Purdie	1554	1242.5	2514	49%	80 Bev Edwards	1263	276.5	529	52%



	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%	
81	Mary Gray	1254	677.5	1375	49%	125	Tim Henneveld	828	519	1136	46%
82	Carolyn Kyle	1249	955	1939	49%	126	Valma Gidman	781	742.5	1491	50%
83	Shirley Pearce	1235	121	247	49%	127	Pat Wood	770	167.5	315	53%
84	Marian Ross	1212	625.5	1222	51%	128	Madelaine Green	750	130.5	252	52%
85	Margaret Bullen	1211	148.5	274	54%	129	Suzanne Liddall	749	28	52	54%
86	Betty Eriksen	1205	1568.5	3106	50%	130	Mandy Thorogood	747	62	127	49%
87	Mo Wetere	1183	76.5	132	58%	131	Judy Driscoll	726	242	617	39%
88	Lyn Dawson	1173	402	763	53%	132	Ruth Godwin	721	422	939	45%
89	Joanne Morley	1161	116	205	57%	133	Wendy Anastasi	721	28.5	44	65%
90	Carole Coates	1148	720.5	1478	49%	134	Sharron Nelley	717	62	130	48%
91	Joanna Fox	1133	171	325	53%	135	Joan Beale	716	347.5	678	51%
92	Faye Cronhelm	1128	924	1855	50%	136	Janny Henneveld	712	540	1118	48%
93	Suzanne Harding	1109	549	1089	50%	137	Kathleen Mori-Barker	706	412	837	49%
94	Barbara Dunn	1108	346.5	600	58%	138	Barbara Cornell	706	68.5	160	43%
95	Barney Bonthron	1105	58	106	55%	139	Dorothy Bakel	700	50	129	39%
96	Colleen Cook	1103	417.5	853	49%		Jacqueline				
97	Julia Schiller	1100	289	631	46%	140	Coldham-Fussell	699	695	1429	49%
98	Chris Handley	1077	412.5	812	51%	141	Rodney Jardine	692	124.5	242	51%
99	Karen Miller	1072	585	1170	50%	142	Margaret Toso	673	132	312	42%
100	Sheila Reed	1070	307	638	48%	143	Llane Hadden	665	14	52	27%
101	Tei Ngatai	1067	70.5	124	57%	144	Marilyn Sinclair	664	119.5	259	46%
102	Ray Goodyear	1046	259.5	541	48%	145	Betty Don	663	277.5	596	47%
103	Jean Boyle	1043	583.5	1105	53%	146	Phyllis Paltridge	662	116.5	264	44%
104	Judith Thomas	1040	248.5	500	50%	147	Anne-Louise Milne	660	160	479	33%
105	Merelyn Fuemana	1040	69.5	128	54%	148	Jillian Greening	656	392	811	48%
106	Leanne Field	1035	186	357	52%	149	Anne Scatchard	646	493.5	979	50%
107	Malcolm Graham	1030	569	1143	50%	150	Noelene Bettjeman	608	360.5	774	47%
108	Suzanne Ford	1023	231	425	54%	151	Judy Cronin	553	146.5	389	38%
109	Roto Mitchell	1019	784.5	1564	50%	152	Jan Kite	544	32	58	55%
110	Gabrielle Bolt	998	493	967	51%	153	Jackie Reid	534	32	63	51%
111	Shirley Morrison	995	201	417	48%	154	Judith Bach	527	178.5	330	54%
112	Bernie Jardine	986	122	256	48%	155	Phil Andrews	485	14	41	34%
113	Allison Torrance	980	506	983	51%	156	Lynn Thompson	484	343	798	43%
114	Junior Gesmundo	980	178	344	52%	157	Frances Higham	469	260.5	713	37%
115	Jenny Litchfield	979	92	167	55%	158	Ray Young	448	35	108	32%
116	Jo Ann Ingram	970	269	529	51%	159	Gill Charlton	437	53	186	28%
117	Geoff Bonser	963	105.5	189	56%	160	Dorothy Latta	432	170	424	40%
118	Antonia Aarts	963	316.5	672	47%	161	Joyce Mowbray	423	34	93	37%
119	Jill Paterson	955	97	171	57%	162	Joan Stanners	406	50.5	114	44%
120	Annette Coombes	935	838	1821	46%	163	Hannah Roberts	379	23.5	64	37%
	Yvonne					164	Karen Brookes	237	31	137	23%
121	McLaughlan	862	525.5	1094	48%	165	Margaret Peters	195	52	189	28%
122	Tony Charlton	849	322.5	656	49%	166	Valerie Smith	150	64	269	24%
123	Sandra Cowen	840	91.5	201	46%	167	Susan Schiller	69	53	294	18%
124	Hanna Dodge	833	136.5	279	49%	168	Trish Fox	44	38	303	13%

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)	Joan Thomas	06 878 2418	thomas.joan@xtra.co.nz	1pm Tues
Kapiti (KAP)	Judy Driscoll	04 293 8165	judydriscoll5@gmail.com	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	lynnypinny49@gmail.com	7pm Wed
Whangarei (WRE)	Bev Edwards	09 430 2832	bevhol@xtra.co.nz	1pm Thurs
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