

# for words



Journal of the New Zealand Association of Scrabble® Players  
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Jenny Litchfield

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Trans-Tasman report

Alchemist Cup report

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# Editorial

One of the small number of advantages of the position of *Forwards* editor is the opportunity to use this platform to have my say. In my editorial columns I have grumped, I have applauded, I have mused, I have hypothesised, and I have rambled. This time round, I have some advice to advise. And it is this:

*When you decide to play in a tournament, ENTER THE TOURNAMENT.*

Now, I realise that this seems rather anticlimactic advice. Isn't that, like, the natural progression of events? Yes, of course it is. And yet, in my relatively short competing career, I have thrice been involved with tournaments where a player's failure to formalise their entry on time caused significant distress to either the player, or the tournament director, or both.

Person One booked return flights, and arranged to stay with relatives, but decided to enter the tournament after the preceding tournament was over and done with. Unfortunately for Person One, this particular tournament had a closing date more than a fortnight in advance of the tournament date. The full round robin draw had already been finalised. Person One would make the numbers uneven. Although the host club asked around, another player could not be persuaded to play, so Person One did not get to participate in that tournament.

Person Two's story is similar. Flights were booked, elaborate transport planning ensued. A billet was

arranged. A few days before the tournament, well after the closing date, Person Two's billet noticed that Person Two's name did not appear on the list of entrants. As it turned out, Person Two had neglected to submit an entry form. Once again, despite considerable effort on the part of the club to even up the numbers to include the latecomer, this was ultimately not possible, so Person Two spent a lot of money but did not even end up making the trip.

Person Three's story, yet again, involved flights and lodgings being booked and paid for in advance, but no entry form was submitted. Person Three informed the organiser of their intention to play less than 12 hours before play was due to commence. I was a fly on the wall as the organiser bent over backwards to accommodate this person's tardy entry. Later, I had the opportunity to address Person Three directly as we sat down to play our match: "So, you're the cause of all this brouhaha?" "Yes", Person Three admitted ruefully, "and not one of my opponents today has failed to remind me of that!"

Although I have never personally been in charge of organising a tournament, it doesn't take much imagination to understand that, from an organiser's point of view, it would be advantageous to receive timely, or even early, entries. As a basic example, in this era of predominantly cash prizes, the overall number of entrants could well impact the way the cash is to be divvied up.

Why do so many of us put off the basic task of submitting our entry form? Have we become complacent now that the age of 'snail mail' is behind us? Email is instantaneous communication, so there's no longer any need to be organised in advance? Or is there a thought process involved along the lines of, "there'll be no point entering if I can't get cheap flights and accommodation". Perhaps we are so focused on those 'big-ticket' items that we overlook the courtesy of declaring our intentions to the organiser?

I know I'm not the only person who, at this time of year, looks over the Tournament Calendar, considering which tournaments I expect to attend during the coming months. Let me encourage you, as I have already admonished myself (who may possibly have been one of the Persons in the foregoing anecdotes), that 2019 should be the year in which we all submit our entries as soon as we decide to play.

*Anderina McLean*

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## Words from the President

*by Howard Warner*



*Howard Warner*

"Nostalgia ain't what it used to be," wrote American satirist Peter De Vries. Or maybe it is? In my last column, I talked about new ways of approaching competitive

Scrabble. Since then, I've come across a few reminders of the good old ways.

At the Mt. Albert tournament last October, John Foster, a great servant of New Zealand Scrabble, ceremonially handed over four long-standing functions to Liz Fagerlund. These are:

- Maintaining records of hosting clubs and participants at the annual Masters
- Custodianship of the *Forwards* archive, and producing those fascinating '20 Years Ago'

contributions for the magazine

- Deciding whether a NZ Shield challenge is viable for each Masters and Nationals
- Administering the Lifetime Awards of Expert and Grand Master.

John, a former NZASP president, is a tradition-setter from way back. He was a key instigator of the long-running biennial Trans-Tasman Challenge. He started the fun and fiercely-contested 'President's bottle of wine' for the first person to reach their expectancy at the Masters.

Though these traditions are still very much alive, it got me thinking about some that have quietly faded away, such as:

- Drunken speed Scrabble in the evenings at the National Champs, back when it was always held in Hamilton

- A multitude of raucous entertainments at the Nationals prize-giving dinner
- The ‘battle of the bridge’ – the quarterly Jenny Ward trophy contest between Mt. Albert and the North Shore
- Schlepping a heavy boxful of analogue clocks around the country to the next tournament
- Child ‘runners’ carrying scribbled challenges to a stern-faced ‘adjudicator’.

You will no doubt have your own fond memories of how things used to be. (I’m sure Olivia and Anderina would be delighted to hear about them for a

future *Forwards* issue.) In fact, it may not be long before printed copies of our flagship magazine go the same way, given the increase in online subscriptions.

John’s archiving efforts (soon to be Liz’s) have helped to preserve these ‘quirky’ traditions. But there are many other unsung heroes doing valuable work behind the scenes. They don’t seek glory or reward – it’s out of their innate helpfulness and love of the game. My point is that seeking new ways of doing things is a constant challenge, but the old ways are not to be forgotten or discounted. New isn’t better than old, or vice-versa. They are just *right* for their time.



## The countdown is on

Olivia and Anderina are announcing to our loyal readers that this will be our final year as coeditors of *Forwards*. This is the Summer 2018/19 issue, and after this there will be four more issues during 2019, with the last issue that we will be editing being Summer 2019/20. This is our non-negotiable end date.

We’ve deliberately decided to give plenty of notice, in order to facilitate a smooth handover to the new editor/s,

whomever they may be. We hope that one or more members of New Zealand’s Scrabble whānau will step forward to fill this important role. We are both more than happy to be approached in person, by email, or even by phone, to discuss what is involved in editing *Forwards*, and to answer any questions any potential successors may have.

If nobody is willing to volunteer, then we will be sorry to say that publication of *Forwards* will be discontinued as of the end of 2019.



The photo on the cover of this issue of *Forwards* is attributed to Dan Stock, and was sent to us by a New Zealand Scrabbler, who found it on a Scrabble group website. We have been unable to make contact with Dan to obtain his permission for our use of his photo, but we would like to give full credit to him for his artistry.

We trust that he does not object to us using his photo in this non-commercial manner.

## Time to say goodbye

Sadly, we are required to announce that John Foster, unofficial Scrabble record-keeper and archivist extraordinaire, has decided to hang up his historian's boots. Readers of *Forwards* will be familiar with the "Twenty years ago in *Forwards*" column, which John has contributed to every one of our publications for the entirety of our tenure as editors. John was also contributing this column during the time of our predecessor, Jennifer Smith. This means that he has likely been hunting around every three months for interesting snippets from the *Forwards* archives for around a decade.

Not only have we been able to rely on John to fill at least a page or two for us each issue, but he's always been the first person we turn to anytime we have a question about anything to do with how things were done or who did what in times past. When we needed to find some answers for a reader about the Georgie Trophy, it was John who knew everything. When we needed an explanation about how the old challenge rules worked, or how the Trans-Tasman Challenge began, John was our man. This kind of historical knowledge is invaluable and,

shockingly, not always available on the internet. This is why we agreed that Anderina should nominate John for a life membership to the Association back in 2015.



*John Foster*

Keeping track of records and old resources, remembering how things were done and why, and recalling the who's who of Scrabble is not a glamorous or even recognised job, but so very important. After all, where would we as individuals or an organisation be without our memories?

John has now passed the torch onto Liz Fagerlund from Mt. Albert Club. So, while this is the last issue to feature one of John's Twenty Years Ago columns, we're hopeful that Liz will carry on the tradition and we aren't going to see the end of these little trips down memory lane just yet. And, of course, anytime you want to send in any kind of contribution, John, we'll be delighted to receive it. So it's au revoir to John and bienvenue to Liz.

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## NZASP lifetime awards

by John Foster, Independent

Any additions to the list of lifetime awards are added at the end of each calendar year. At the end of 2018 the only new recipient was Dylan Early, who is our latest Grand Master. The NZASP heartily congratulates Dylan. He has made quite an impact in a very short time since arriving in New Zealand from South Africa!



*Dylan Early*



## Ryman Healthcare comes on board

We are very pleased to announce a corporate sponsorship agreement with Ryman Healthcare.

Ryman, the NZSE-listed elder care giant, consider us a great fit with their core demographic and interest in community-based leisure activities. For us, the relationship will boost our activities at local, national, and international levels.

The sponsorship gives us:

- a contribution towards prize money for our two major annual tournaments, the Nationals and Masters
- a contribution towards our World Championship fund
- potential free use of venues throughout New Zealand for club tournaments and meetings.

In return, we will:

- advertise Ryman in *Forwards*
- promote Ryman at events through signage and other methods
- help Ryman retirement villages with their Scrabble setups.

We will be communicating with clubs about how the sponsorship relationship can operate at the local level.

Please join us in welcoming Ryman Healthcare on board with New Zealand Scrabble.

***The NZASP Executive***

*Ryman Healthcare are proud supporters of the New Zealand Association of Scrabble Players.*

*Ryman Healthcare offer the very best of retirement living and care, priding itself on offering some of the most resident-friendly terms in New Zealand.*

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*[rymanhealthcare.co.nz](http://rymanhealthcare.co.nz)*



# Word famous in New Zealand



## Jenny Litchfield



I credit Miss Jelly for nurturing my love affair with English literature and written language at Matamata College in the early 1960s. Classically educated

herself, she taught with academic rigour and with sense and sensibility. No excuse for not being exposed before the age of fifteen to Jane Austen and the Brontë sisters, Jules Verne, H. G. Wells, Oscar Wilde, Percy Bysshe Shelley, and writers of other genres who simply dazzled my mind with their ways with words. Miss Jelly taught us to understand how words can be grammatically structured; how a sense of meaning can be conveyed by the position, the punctuation, and by the shape of words: Lessons I have not forgotten. The Oxford dictionaries showed the Latin and Old English derivations and gave multiple meanings. Useful knowledge for an embryonic Scrabbler.

I cannot remember learning to read, write, or spell. What I do recall is my first day at Sunday School. I was three and terrified. All those kids! The world was suddenly a bigger place than the paddocks. Dad sat with me

while Mrs Gillingham told us amazing stories about an ancient world and prophets.

I was aged four when I was sent to Walton Primary School. That was not so scary as I already had two older cousins there. At 7.30 a.m., I would catch the school bus at the farm gate, something I would repeat until I left college in 1963. Church, extended family, no television, R.S.A., rural community, tennis and hockey, and school life sums up my childhood experience.

Life was not all about cousins, milking cows, church, and schooling though. Mum was a war-bride born and educated in England. She had a great memory and easy way with words. As she shredded cabbage for dinner, Mum might be heard to recite a Tennyson poem, or sing Vera Lynn or *My Fair Lady* songs, or mimic a radio comedian. She entertained in the community, but sadly, her gifts did not filter down to her shrinking violet offspring.

Dad's laconic sense of humour, and his use of NZ army and rural vernacular was a strong countering factor in our early years. What both my parents had in common was that they socialised, played sport, and they read widely. My two brothers, sister, and I did the same.

Leaving home at seventeen to start nursing training at Waikato Hospital in January 1964 was a big deal. One hundred and four hopefuls entered the doors of the now demolished Ryburn



Nurses' Home. Three months later, 50 of us survived the prelim training and began the serious journey towards NZ State Registration of Nursing. Despite the hierarchical and disciplined approach to providing medical care, we formed strong lifetime friendship bonds.

Romance created trouble for the matron and her cohort of Sisters-in-Charge. By the time most of us turned 20, gorgeous guys had sussed out our shift schedules and how to get round the nurses' home rules and regulations.

My friend's fiancé had some mates in Auckland who were into sailing. I tagged along one weekend... and met Denis. Denis was very forgiving of my seasick episode into the wind, and of my utter ignorance of being all at sea in a heeling yacht. So forgiving, in fact, that we got married 50 years ago. Yachting took somewhat of a backseat, though, while Denis and I lived and worked in Auckland and Sydney, before raising our two sons in Hamilton in the early 1970s. My mother-in-law visited a lot and we played Scrabble while the toddlers napped.

I ventured into academia at Waikato University when our youngest son started kindergarten. Wow! A whole new world! I was the only adult student in many of my lectures. It was a time of social change and changing values.



*Jenny, newly engaged, graduated NZSRN at Waikato Hospital in 1968*

My mother voiced her worry about how I would find time to cook Denis's dinner when he got home from work...

But I persevered, and graduated with a BA in literature and language. This led to a job as a secondary teacher of English in 1981. The Scrabble set made its way onto my classroom shelf as I worked with many students who struggled with literacy. I channelled Miss Jelly during my lessons. At home, I was relegated to playing two-handed Scrabble by myself. My sons and Denis flatly refused to play.

In 1993, I entered a *Sunday News* Scrabble competition and was one of 50 top scorers. I won a Scrabble set. I still have that set today.

A life opportunity had us heading north to Whangarei in 1999. We bought a lifestyle (some would say 'no lifestyle') block to watch grass grow and cattle eat the grass. I took up one of the newly- created positions as a Resource Teacher of Learning and Behaviour (RTLb) based at

Whangarei Boys' High.

This specialist role was designed by the government to address the needs of students who had specific learning needs.

I worked with secondary students across different schools, and the work involved post-graduate studies and qualification. Once established into the role, my interest and research into student

mentoring lead to a thesis towards my MA. What a difference 20 years of technological change makes. After the hard grind at Waikato, I did all my post-grad work online with Auckland University.

In the WBHS staffroom, in the bottom corner of the back page of a weekly education paper, was a little ad in small font. Cognition Education wanted qualified teachers for a project in the Middle East. Thus it was that, on 29 January 2009, Denis and I flew to Dubai.

We were assigned to live in Al Ain in the Abu Dhabi emirate. Our accommodation was a two-bedroom apartment, one of four inhabited by other NZ couples, in the Al Muwajji district. Our neighbours were local Emirati and Pakistani workers. For six months, I drove, or carpooled with other NZ teachers, daily through the desert to the Al Mafraq Girls' Secondary School on the outskirts of Abu Dhabi.

The brief essentially was to support the Arab women teachers to deliver a contemporary curriculum and to develop teaching and learning



*Jenny with two Emirati students from Al Mafraq Girls' School in Abu Dhabi in 2009*

strategies using written and spoken English language. We set up a spelling bee and introduced Scrabble to the students, which proved to be popular. Many of the girls were the first generation of their families to go to school. This is significant because, traditionally, these girls would have been engaged to marry at a young age. Later, I was assigned to Al Manaseer Girls' School in Al Ain near the Oman border. Less travelling to work, same brief, and the opportunity to nip over to Oman regularly.

We loved every aspect of our tenure in the UAE. It did not matter that we had exchanged our leafy lifestyle block with its free-flowing stream for desert temperatures in the 40s, ancient falaj-irrigated oases, and sandy dust.

Once the women got to know us, we had so much fun. They taught us Muslim ways and we talked about beliefs. I knew and respected my teachers' prayer times. We learned to pronounce basic greetings and people's names.

In Jordan on Christmas Day 2010, I pinched myself as I stood at the archaeological site of St. John the Baptist's church, where he baptised Jesus. We dipped our hands in the waters of the River Jordan. I stood on Mt. Ebos where Moses looked at the Promised Land. Sunday School came to life. Egypt and Sri Lanka were absolute highlights.

The contract ended in 2011. Eight years later, here we are, retired, Himself and I back to gazing at our cattle, grass, and trees.

Back in Whangarei, while flicking through the pages of the local paper, I read the Scrabble Club contact details in the community notices. I lucked into a wonderfully sociable group of Scrabblers. Scrabble has now pervaded our family life. My 11-year-old grandson at after-school programme takes on the supervisor at Scrabble. When she accused him of cheating, his reply was "it is a word on Nana's list". They now have copies of the two- and four-letter word lists, my



*Jenny looking across the River Jordan at Israel on Christmas Day, 2010*

old Scrabble dictionary, and Scrabble set. Other kids are now playing Scrabble. For me, Thursday afternoon club days are sacrosanct. Denis is forgiving when I mention the 'T' word. Tournament dates have made their way onto our Google calendar.

When I retired, I planned no more committees, no more paperwork, and no more responsibilities. Oooops! Now I seem to have become the Whangarei Scrabble Club Secretary.

## Trans-Tasman Challenge 2018

*by Liz Fagerlund, Mt. Albert*

Last year it was New Zealand's turn to host the biennial Trans-Tasman challenge. The venue this time was Dunedin.

I was going to Dunedin to be tournament director for this prestigious event. However, things didn't go entirely to plan! One of the Kiwi contingent, Cicely Bruce, was admitted to hospital the weekend before, and was unsure if she would be out in time to play in the event. I had set my mind to just directing, not playing, but in the end there was every chance that Cicely would be out and ready to play on days two and three, but not the first day. After checking with Bob Jackman, the

Australian team captain, it was decided that I would play on the first day and Cicely would take over once she was able. After all, it was a team event, and for the NZ team to be giving away nine games if nobody played in Cicely's place on day one would put us in a very difficult position! Luckily, Anne Goldstein was there for the Dunedin tournament, which didn't start until the next day, so that meant she could input the scores on day one.

The welcome was great, with both John Foster and Bob Jackman speaking, as the instigators of the inaugural Trans-Tasman Challenge held in 1996. The Aussies were

worried that they would get a haka from us (they didn't – we needed Blue Thorogood for that!) so Graeme Lock Lee had written a song which he sang for us, accompanied on his ukulele!

The competition was very tough! I had some close games, but only managed one win out of the nine I played — an easy win against Bob Jackman. I was pleased to take up my original role of director when Cicely was able to play on days two and three.

After the nine games on Day One, Australia were 14 wins ahead of New Zealand, so our team had some work to do. At the halfway point (12 games down), Australia were leading 83 wins to 61.

At the end of Day Two (18 games played), Australia were increasingly demonstrating their dominance with a lead of 122.5 – 93.5.

Day Three we had some great rounds, getting more wins than Australia in a few of them, but their lead was too great for us to catch them. However, Dylan Early had a wonderful final day, winning all six games, pushing Ron Baginski out of the individual leader position to take out the individual winner prize. Dylan finished with 19 wins, three games clear of Australians Ron Baginski and Tony Hunt who were

on 16 wins each. Our Howard Warner finished in fourth place on 15 wins. *(For full results, see pp. 43-44.)*

Scott Chaput's wife Katie did a great job every day in the kitchen, and the morning and afternoon teas were enjoyed by all and, in fact, I really had to move them along to get back in the room to play Scrabble. It sometimes felt like rounding up a bunch of slightly disobedient schoolchildren! Those Aussies in particular really like to talk over their tea breaks!

Congratulations to Australia once again for a very decisive team win. Despite Team New Zealand's sound loss, it was still a lovely weekend of Scrabble and the camaraderie was wonderful. Great games of Scrabble, good sportsmanship, and friendship should be a big part of what it's all about – as it certainly was!



*Massive thanks to Bob Jackman, who was able to provide this, when none of the Kiwi team were able to!*

*Back L-R: Howard Warner, Joanne Craig, Peter Sinton, Andrew Bradley, Cicely Bruce  
Middle: Glenda Foster, John Foster, Lynne Butler, Patrick Carter, Lawson Sue  
Front: Scott Chaput, Dylan Early*

## Let it never be said I lack the gall to play...

by *Cicely Bruce, Whangarei*

My Trans-Tasman experience in November 2018 didn't start well.

A week before the tournament, I was staying in the Catlins south of Dunedin when I felt (very) unwell. A quick trip to the local GP, an urgent drive to Dunedin hospital, a procedure to dislodge a stuck gallstone, and an operation to remove my gallbladder followed in short order. This left me marooned in Ward 4A, wondering dismally if I would get to the tournament at all. As this was the first time I was able to compete in the TT, and had driven all the way down from Whangarei to play, this was quite a depressing thought. Luckily for me, Liz Fagerlund stepped into the breach and played in my stead on Day One of the three-day event. I was discharged from the hospital on Day One and able to play on Days Two and Three.

The Trans-Tasman was a 24-game double round robin, with a team of 12 players from each country, meaning we played each member of the opposing team twice. Having missed the first nine games on Day One, I only played a total of 15 games. I won eight of these, so felt reasonably happy with my performance. I did find the Aussies had a different vocabulary to us in some ways. The Māori words were obviously less familiar to them, for example I was surprised to have TAPU challenged. By the same token, I learnt plenty of new words, not necessarily ocker in origin. I had never come across NGWEE before (a Zambian monetary unit), or seen

OEILLADE or SPAEMEN. One of the joys of Scrabble – always coming across new and interesting words! I also found they tended to play faster than us Kiwis, so I kept a closer eye on the clock than usual.

In general I found the Australians a pleasure to play against and very affable. The tourney organisation seemed to go smoothly – if there were any hitches during the three days then they must have been dealt with quietly behind the scenes. It did seem a pity that the Dunedin club tourney being held over the same weekend wasn't able to be held at the same venue, as that surely would have added to the atmosphere and the players' enjoyment.

Thanks are due to all the organisers and particularly to Scott Chaput for all the work put in to make the event go well. Already looking forward to the next one!



*Cicely vs John Holgate, featuring NGWEE. Can you spot the tile out of place, forming an incorrect word?*



# Media Round Up

*Between the time we finalised the content to be included in the Spring 2018 issue of Forwards and the end of 2018, Scrabble enjoyed a minor media frenzy in New Zealand, with a number of articles appearing in a range of publications.*

*For your summer reading and reference pleasure, we have rounded up the highlights and reproduced them here.*

## **Adroit use of 'android' wins Scrabble tourney**

by John Lewis, Otago Daily Times, 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Source: <https://www.odt.co.nz/news/dunedin/adroit-use-%E2%80%98android%E2%80%99-wins-scrabble-tourney>

Anyone who has ever played Scrabble will know the frustration of finally being able to make a seven-letter word, but having nowhere to put it on the board. Dylan Early seldom has that problem, which is why he won the Trans-Tasman Scrabble tournament in Dunedin at the weekend.

He came up with ANDROID, and because it was on a double word score and placed among other words already on the board, it was his best word of the tournament.

"That was my winning play. It wasn't a massive score — just 77 or 78 points for the word.



*Dylan Early (48) won the Trans-Tasman Scrabble individual tournament by three games in Dunedin at the weekend. Photo: Gregor Richardson*

Mr Early was humble about the win, but it is fair to say he is not your typical squabbling family Scrabble player. He once scored 725 points in a game, which is one of the top 10 competition scores in the world.

The Wellington-based IT project manager said Scrabble started out as just a fun family game for him 25 years ago. But after joining a Scrabble club at university, he got the bug.

"It piqued my interest and I realised people took it quite seriously. My competitive spirit just took over and I started getting very involved in the game."

He said Scrabble was "massive" in New Zealand and there were about 20 tournaments around the country each year.

Mr Early was one of 12 New Zealanders who competed against 12 Australian Scrabble players in the Trans-Tasman tournament, also known as the Bledisloe Cup of Scrabble.



Unfortunately, his individual win was not enough to help New Zealand win the team event in the competition. The powerful Australian team has won most of the biennial clashes, which began in 1996.

Mr Early said he now aimed to qualify to represent New Zealand at the World Scrabble Championships next year.

## **Not Dead Yet: Scrabble queen Shirley Hol reigns supreme**

by Maddison Northcott, Stuff,  
15<sup>th</sup> December 2018

Source: <https://www.stuff.co.nz/the-press/news/109090076/not-dead-yet-scrabble-queen-shirley-hol-reigns-supreme>

*Not Dead Yet: This series aims to celebrate the many older people in our community defying their years to do amazing things.*

Modern words like VAPING, SELFIES, and ONESIES don't bother Scrabble veteran Shirley Hol.

At 84, she is no purist. In fact, when sitting down to play a round of the classic word game, she'll take any advantage she can get. That includes using modern lingo her competitors might not yet have heard of.

Hol, a former Christchurch Scrabble Club president, is one of a dozen players gathered in Sydenham's modest community hall on Wednesday for the club's twice-weekly meet. After more than three decades competing and 26 years as



*Shirley Hol*

president, Hol has become part of the club's furniture. In that time, she has been placed in national competitions, held numerous Canterbury Scrabble titles and competed in two Masters events.

She regularly competes at tournaments around the country and helped host the World Senior Scrabble Championship last year, where more than 170 top Scrabblers battled it out for the top prize.

"It's not only about words, it's the score and the strategy ... and it's always new; with Scrabble every game is different."

Hol said she became interested in Scrabble as a youngster, but it was not until her older years that she found the time to dedicate to playing.

"It certainly became a passion and I think when you're retired that's the secret really, finding something that you enjoy."

While travelling, Hol suggested she and husband Kees Hol bring a Scrabble board with them. Despite the often major language differences, Hol played everywhere she went, always referring to her trusted dictionary for

confirmation on controversial words. A well-thumbed copy is kept in the hall at all times, and often called upon.

The word DUX, meaning the top pupil in a school or class, caused great debate when challenged by international players who had "never even heard of the word", but Hol said the dictionary always had the final say.

"It's very common here in New Zealand and I'm sure it's used overseas but when we went to look it up, it wasn't there, so that's that."

EXTINES, her highest scoring word on record, once earned her 116 points thanks to the letter X falling on a triple point square.

According to the Official New Zealand Scrabble Records 2017, Hol can also claim the shared title of Most Combined Bonus Words in a Game from a 2013 match with Paul Lister.

Hol said she had "always just noticed words".

"They fascinate me ... when most people are reading a book, they may not know the meaning of a word so they'll look it up in the dictionary.

"I read a lot. I find when I'm reading, I see a word that I know, but now I know the meaning of it."

When the word \*STREETIE, referring to a homeless person, appeared on the front page of The Press, Hol said she was compelled to look it up. Modern words, like VAPING, \*DUNGA, SMOKO, and JAFFA, and text language that had made its way into the dictionary should be encouraged, she said.

"Some people come [to the club] and they are quite precious about language. They don't like words to be used in that way ... I don't mind at all though, language is always changing and we just have to keep up with it."



IAIN MCGREGOR/STUFF

## War of the Words: why the new Kiwi Scrabble edition has Scrabble fans furious

By Joel MacManus, The Spinoff, 24<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Source: <https://thespinoff.co.nz/society/24-10-2018/war-of-the-words-why-the-new-kiwi-scrabble-edition-has-scrabble-fans-furious/>

It probably seemed like a good idea at the time to produce a local version of beloved board game Scrabble, featuring Kiwi slang and te reo words. But then the Scrabble diehards played it.

New Zealand is a country with a proud history in competitive Scrabble. At this year's Alchemist Cup, the world's richest, most prestigious teams Scrabble tournament, New Zealand enters as the fourth seeded country.

Anchoring the side will be Christchurch's Nigel Richards, widely considered to be the greatest Scrabble player of all time. He's a three-time World Champion (the only

person to win more than once), and famously won the French-language World Championships despite not speaking French (he memorised every word in the French Scrabble dictionary in nine weeks).

So it seems only appropriate that the current flagship product of The Warehouse would be Kiwi Scrabble, a fitting homage to our nation's success in what players call the “\*mindsport”.

But all is not well in the Scrabble world. Competitive players are furious with the new version, and with its creator, Mattel, who they see as a money-grubbing, heartless machine with no appreciation for our country, te reo, or the people who love the game.

Kiwi Scrabble was launched in September with a huge marketing push across TV, radio and online. Facebook and Youtube have been plastered with ads starring an annoyingly cheerful grandmother (played by celebrity chef Jo Seagar), who beams about it being “Chockablock full of Kiwi-isms”, while an eerily quiet David Tua plays the word \*OWESOME on two double letter spaces for 19 points.

To celebrate the launch, the Manukau branch of The Warehouse changed its storefront signage to spell out ‘The Warewhare’ in Scrabble tiles, and stores across the country now feature cardboard signs in random aisles which all point you in the direction of the board game.

The Warehouse head of marketing Becki Butler said the new version of the game “gives us a chance to shine a light on our inimitable language, and do it with purpose and reason.”

But to Howard Warner, president of the New Zealand Scrabble Players Association, and the #2 ranked Scrabble player in New Zealand, it's an atrocity.

“It's a very cynical ploy to sell more sets in a saturated market. It's not a new game, no one who plays the game seriously would want it,” he said. “The words you use are irrelevant, it doesn't alter the game. It's a con.”

There's serious bad blood between Mattel, which owns the licence to the game outside of the North American market, and the competitive Scrabblers who devote their lives to the sport.

“They hold our sport back a lot,” said Warner. “We consider the players to really own the sport; Mattel just sells the equipment. It's like if Nike owned the rights to all of world tennis.

“[Mattel] does nothing for the sport. They used to sponsor the world champs, but now they don't even do that. We have a players' body, but Mattel are constantly putting up barriers, it's awful.”

The new Kiwi Scrabble is clearly aimed at the regular kitchen table Scrabblers, not experts, but for some it's a matter of principle.

Anderina McLean, coeditor of *Forwards*, a quarterly NZ Scrabble magazine, and herself a Scrabble Grandmaster who represented New Zealand at last year's world champs in Nairobi, Kenya, said the game is “fine as it is”.

“I'm in favour of anything that encourages new people, but if you've already got the game then there's not

a lot of point,” she said. “Scrabble already exists, we don’t need to keep reinventing it. The game hasn’t been changed since it was patented 70 years ago, it works fine.”

Warner agreed. “It’s fabulous as it is. Nothing needs changing except to get the malicious influence of Mattel out of it.”

But The Warehouse and Mattel clearly think there’s a market for a ‘Kiwi-fied’ version of the game. They’ve added some cards to spice things up. Each player gets one ‘Kia Ora’ card, which they can play at any time, and certain tiles give you the right to pick up a ‘Yeah Nah’ card. The cards give you certain bonuses like extra points, the ability to steal other players’ tiles, and the chance to change tiles without skipping a turn.

The cards are the aspect that pisses McLean off the most. “I’m going to be scathing about that. It’s not Monopoly, you don’t need a community chest. Scrabble has enough going for it, it’s not a card game. I’ve got card games, Scrabble isn’t one of them.”

You also get 10 bonus points for playing any word from their ‘Kiwi Words List’, an idea that garnered a derisive laugh from Warner. “Big deal. Ten points is nothing. There’s no way any serious player would go out of their way for that.”

The ‘Kiwi Words List’ provided in Kiwi Scrabble features 300 words including slang, te reo, and words that are just particularly common in New Zealand, such as MATE, BRO, and MULLET.

But according to a quick cross-reference I did, 251 of the 300 words are already in the Collins Official

Scrabble Words list, including CHOCKABLOCK, which Seagar emphasises in the ads, and all five of the words featured on the front of the box (CHOICE, DAIRY, TA, BACH, and HONGI).

And of the 49 new words added, many of them are controversial among purists because, well, they’re not words. Fourteen of the ‘words on the list are actually phrases, including SWEETAS, BILLYT, ONIT, and THEWAREWHARE, all of which anyone with a grasp of the English language will notice normally require a space in the middle of them, and therefore are two words, not one.

“There’s no way in the world that any form of Scrabble should have phrases. It’s stupid, it’s just plain dumb.” says Warner.

Also, CUZZY is on the list, despite there being only one Z tile in a pack.

But it’s the half-hearted attempt at incorporating te reo that grinds the experts’ gears most of all. There are 50-odd te reo or te reo-influenced words in the Kiwi Scrabble word list, but no change in tile design or letter distribution to reflect that.

For example, there is only one K tile in a standard English Scrabble set, and it is worth five points. But considering K is a very common letter in te reo, a genuine attempt at encouraging te reo words would need to adjust the set to include around six tiles, each worth two points.

“It’s a bit of an insult. I care about New Zealand’s official languages, and they’ve imposed themselves upon the language in kind of a colonial way,” said Warner.

‘NG’ and ‘WH’ would also need to be their own separate tiles, because in te reo they are considered to be one letter, and A,E,I,O,U would need tiles with and without macrons.

As McLean points out, “You could argue that a word like KORERO should have a macron, so if you play it without, are you spelling it wrong?”

And while the addition of some te reo into the game may seem innovative, it’s not. Several hundred te reo words are already considered official Scrabble words, mostly place names, animals, and very common terms such as POI, HAKA, and HANGI.

It’s a nice advantage for New Zealanders in international competition, because it means they have access to a few more words that they know from everyday life.

Anderina remembers a game in her first international tournament where KETE was on the board, and she was able to rack up big points by simply turning it into KETES, because her Australian opponent didn’t know it was a legitimate option.

A particularly popular te reo word in Scrabble (McLean and Warner both mentioned it independently without being asked), is the fish WAREHOU, which was first made an official word in 2012. It’s valuable because you can tack an S on and make the plural WAREHOUS (officially sanctioned by the word list, despite te reo not using -S to designate plurals), and then tack on an E and turn it into WAREHOUSE, creating three distinct scoring opportunities.

But there are some frustrations among players with the current te reo

and \*kiwiana words available, and Kiwi Scrabble does actually offer some improvement.

There are several te reo words which are still not official Scrabble words, despite being a big part of the Kiwi vernacular – mahi, wharepaku, pukana, and patero are a few. They can all be found in the Kiwi Scrabble word list.

And there are two Kiwi words that are currently allowed in Scrabble that some argue really shouldn’t be: JAJA (Just Another F\*cking Aucklander) is one. “Acronyms shouldn’t be allowed, it’s just incorrect” said Anderina. The other is RONZER, (Rest of New Zealand-er), which is doubly blasphemous because it is both an acronym and a term that no one has ever used, ever. They are not included in Kiwi Scrabble’s list.

And McLean does admit the new black and white design isn’t too bad. “I suppose the silver fern packaging is alright, it might make a nice Christmas present or souvenir.”

Despite her issues with the game, she hopes it is a big seller, because at the end of the day more people buying Scrabble sets has to mean more people playing Scrabble, although “if someone went to the Warehouse to buy it I would still say buy the green one, not the black.”





## Kiwi Nigel Richards wins World Scrabble Championship title for fourth time

Stuff, 30<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Source: <https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/108203167/kiwi-nigel-richards-wins-world-scrabble-championship-title-for-fourth-time>

Christchurch-born Nigel Richards has won the World Scrabble Championship in London on Sunday.

It is the fourth time Richards, who is now based in Malaysia, has taken the title in a game at a mall in West London.

As Scrabble fans marked 70 years of the world-famous board game, the 51-year-old secured victory when he played the word GROUTIER to win.



*Nigel Richards (right) from New Zealand shakes hands with American Jesse Day after defeating him in the World Scrabble Championship final in London.*

The word, which is the comparative form of GROUTY and can be defined as cross, sulky or sullen, scored 68 points, allowing Richards to win by 575 points to 452 over Californian Jesse Day.



*Scrabble world champion Nigel Richards from New Zealand displays the final winning board following the world championship match in London.*

.....

*Editor's note: Articles have been edited (which is more than I can say for the originals!) to conform with Forwards' established style, e.g. words that are not currently allowable plays are preceded by an asterisk (excepting names, or where the context makes it clear enough). In so doing, I have also seen fit to correct blatant errors of gameplay, fact, ambiguity, missing possessive apostrophes, and (twice!) the spelling of my own name. Any discrepancies which remain are probably the fault of the nationwide scourge of underpayment in the copyediting industry. Some articles here have also undergone minor abridgements. In all cases, the link to the online source has been provided.*



# South African English

by Dylan Early, Independent

## IF THE SJOE FITS...

Word	SJOE
Variations	None
Definition	Interjection: expressing surprise or admiration
Synonyms	PHEW, GOSH, BLIKSEM, and similar to OMG
Pronunciation	ʃu
Rhymes with	SHOE. SJ sounds like the SH in SHOE OE sounds like the OO in OOPSY DAISY
Origin	Afrikaans
Is it commonly used?	Yes, it's a common, everyday word
Used by whom?	English and Afrikaans speakers in South Africa
Examples	Sjoe! That was close (describing a near miss, very common in traffic). Sjoe! That weta in my shoe nearly got the better of me. Sjoe, Alastair, that's your seventh bingo in a row (although somewhat less surprising than the other two examples).

Just in case you thought Collins' lexicographers had gone off the rails by introducing a weird-looking word like SJOE, I'm here to defend their sanity with a little explanation.

Sjoe expresses surprise but almost has an element of resignation to it. Whereas OMG can be used before, during, or after a shocking event, sjoe can only be said afterwards when there is no chance of changing the outcome. It is often accompanied by a gesture in which the utterer touches their forehead.

Sjoe is a lighthearted expression that may be followed by a relieved chuckle or even a whistle. When the Wellington wind dispatches your hat to the South Island, sjoe would be an appropriate response. As long as we allow exclamations in Scrabble, sjoe is as worthy an entry as gosh.



# Mailbox



*John Foster, Independent, sent in the following response to Olivia's editorial in the Spring edition of Forwards:*

Dear Editrixes,

I totally agree with Olivia's conclusion that there is no place for resignation in the tournament game. It is a viable option in social games, indeed it was not an uncommon occurrence between Patrick and myself when we used to play for \$10 per game.

However in the tournament game there is always something to play for, even if it is only to attempt to minimise the spread. In the endgame a player must decide at some point to stop trying for a miracle play and go into damage control mode. Personally, I am reluctant to make this decision and generally leave it too late, gifting my opponent an even bigger spread by creating openings. Still, I wouldn't have it any other way, and on rare occasions I have actually found the miracle play.

*John also sent in this enquiry:*



Dear Eds,

When watching *The Chase* a

couple of nights ago, I spotted the beautiful word \*AIBOHPHOBIA which is defined as "The fear of palindromes". Not yet allowable for Scrabble, but it is listed by Collins as "pending investigation" after being submitted in early 2016 by "Tikitaka". Just wondering, could this be yet another pseudonym of Jeff Grant?

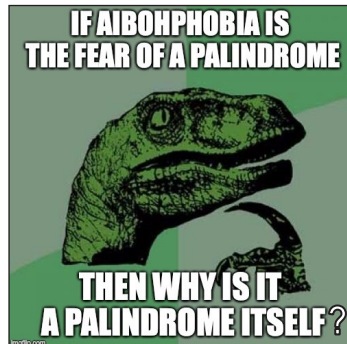
*...and the immensely knowledgeable Jeff responded:*

Hi John

No, it certainly wasn't me. I would never submit such an obviously contrived term to any dictionary, even one that has shown a propensity to entertain rather than inform. On second thoughts, maybe I would do that to prove a point (but I haven't - yet).

I'm familiar with AIBOHPHOBIA, and listed it in *The Palindromicon* (1991 and 2002, 2nd ed.). It appeared in *Word Ways* magazine in May 1983, where it was quoted as being first used in an American newspaper. The concocted terms \*AILIHPHILIA (love of palindromes) and AINAMOMANIA (a mania for palindromes) also exist.

Interestingly, 'Tikitaka' is a pair isogram (two of each letter), like HORSESHOER and \*SCINTILLESCE. That's another type of wordplay I've written about, so I can see why the clues lead in my direction. Not guilty this time though.



*And Vicky Robertson, Independent, was impressed by fellow Wellingtonian Howard Warner's recent performance:*

### **The Legend Played On**

Taking inspiration from Nigel Richards, who famously biked 300kms from Christchurch to a Dunedin tournament, Howard decided to use pedal power to get to and from January's Wellington Tournament, biking the three kilometres from his home to the venue in Miramar.

Unfortunately, on the morning of Day Two, just as he arrived, he came off his bike, when he braked suddenly to avoid a car coming out of a driveway, badly hurting his arms. Despite this he bravely persevered and played the six games that day, before Lynne Butler kindly took him to the hospital. He was x-rayed and found to have not one, but two broken arms. Parallels have been drawn with the heroic performance of All Black Colin Meads, who famously played a test match with a broken collarbone.

We wish you a speedy recovery, Howard - and get back on that bike when you are fully recovered.



*Joan Beale, Papatoetoe, sent us the following observation:*

At Pakuranga Tournament on Sunday 27th February, I had two games in a row where my opponent and I had exactly the same result:

Game 13 Joan B 395 Jillian G 366

Game 14 Joan B 395 Cheryl P 366

Does this happen very often?

### **Quick quiz: Unlucky for some**

# 13

Can you name 13 words that take both a Z and a J front hook? Count singular and plural forms as one word, and all verb forms as one. And watch out for traps with plural bases or pluralised hooks.

Answers on page 41.



# Turning global Scrabble into gold: Report on the Alchemist Cup

*by Howard Warner, Independent*

It was the longest, toughest, most prestigious tournament of the year. New Zealand was delighted to get an invite. And I felt very proud to be part of Team New Zealand.

The inaugural Alchemist Cup was held over five days in early December, in Penang Island, the food capital of Malaysia. The venue was a friendly, smooth-running five-star hotel where Malaysian Scrabble player K.C. Tang is a manager.

The tournament was dreamt up and organised by Singapore-based business dynamo Michael Tang, and named after his online handle. The format was similar to Tang's former Causeway Challenge – 10 invitational teams of five players each. There were seven national teams (Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Singapore, and Thailand) and three composite ones (Asia, East Africa, and Rest of World). Each player took on every other player except their

team members. That came to 45 games in total.

But there were some differences from the Causeway concept. The main innovation was the points system for determining the top country. If a team won three or more games in a round, that was worth one point. This helped us maintain a keen interest in how our teammates were doing. (After all, the prizes were heavily focused on team performance not individual.)

For the first day, Team New Zealand struggled to win points after a number of 2-3 rounds. We were languishing around ninth place. But from day two, we picked up our act. For most of the tournament we were in sixth place, challenging Team Thailand for fifth. After round 30 we drew even with Thailand (on 16 points) for the first time.



*Team  
New Zealand:  
Joanne Craig,  
Howard Warner,  
Lyres Freeth,  
Alastair Richards,  
Nigel Richards*

However, our total team spread was just +1. What are the odds, after 150 games!

Another innovation was that teams would all face the same way each round, to avoid any hint of collusion from teammates.

Three times we had a clear 5–0 round. Only once, that I'm aware of, were we drubbed 0–5. That was against the old foe Australia, the eventual winners.

Two key strategic learnings emerged for me. Firstly, the great players know precisely “when to fold ‘em and when to hold ‘em” – to open bingo spots or go for points in a tight endgame. Secondly, often my opponents snatched a win at the death by finding a cleverly concealed outplay or end-game combo I hadn't seen myself. Clearly my endgame could do with more in-depth analysis.

The tournament was superbly organised by the unflappable Tang, who has now been appointed to helm 2019's WESPA World Champs in Goa.



*Michael Tang presents Nigel with the 2nd individual prize*



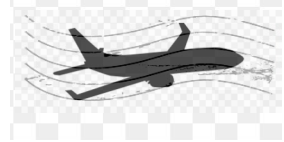
*NZ vs. Australia  
Alastair plays David Eldar  
Lyres plays Edward Okulicz*

Each round, several annotated games were shown and one feature game was broadcast live. I hope some of you were following these – it's a great way to improve your own game.

There's no doubt the Alchemist Cup concept was a huge success. Tang has promised to run the event every two years. The 2020 version will be the same, except for greater prize-money. Also, the bottom one or two teams (East Africa and Asia) will be relegated, most likely replaced, by power nations UK and Canada. For our part, we're very happy to retain our place at the top table. We'll be doing everything we can over the next two years to live up to this honour.



# I've Been Travelling



## Scrabble words spotted in Penang

by Howard Warner, Independent

*Note: These words come mostly from Malay and other regional languages. A few are English words from the settlement's colonial history – Joanne Craig and I spotted them when visiting the local history museum. All alternative spellings of words are included here.*

**BABIRUSA:** A wild pig

**CHARPAI, CHARPOY:** An Indian wooden bed

**COLUGO:** A gliding lemur

**CREESE, CRIS, KREESE, KRIS:** A dagger with a wavy-edged blade

**GAMBIA, GAMBIER, GAMBIR:** A dye used in tanning

**GOGLET, GUGLET, GURGLET:** An earthenware water jar

**HEGIRA, HEJIRA, HEJRA, HIJRA, HIJRAH:**  
The flight of Mohammed from Mecca

**JAK, JAKFRUIT:** A breadfruit

**JAMBOLAN, JAMBOLANA, JAMBOOL, JAMBU, JAMBUL:** The rose-apple tree

**KEBLAH, KIBLA, KIBLAH, QIBLA:** The direction of Mecca, for praying  
(written on the ceiling of our hotel rooms)

**MAJLIS, MEJLIS:** A Muslim assembly or council

**MASJID, MUSJID:** Mosque

**PENANG:** A cotton fabric

**PINANG:** A palm

**PRAHU, PRAO, PRAU, PROA:** A swift sailing ship

**SALADANG, SELADANG, SLADANG:** A wild bison

**TELEDU:** The stink badger

**TIFFIN:** (To take) lunch

**VAKEEL, VAKIL:** An Indian lawyer

**WAYANG:** Javanese puppet theatre



*PINANG*



*TELEDU*



*Howard Warner isn't the only Scrabbler who has recently been struck by words from foreign lands. Lorraine Van Veen, Independent, provided the following list of vocabulary that she found in a travel brochure. All of the words below are allowable in CSW15, although their definitions there may differ from those here. However, all words defined here as verbs take the predictable verb inflections in CSW15.*

### **Newfoundland Words:**

**BALLYRAG:** To abuse

**BAYMAN:** Anyone not from St. John's

**CHUCKLEHEAD:** A stupid person

**CHINCH:** To stow tightly

**DROOK:** A valley with steep wooded slopes

**DUCKISH:** Between sunset and dark

**DULSE:** A kind of seaweed

**DUDEEN, DUDHEEN:** A pipe

**FADDLE, FARDEL:** A bundle of firewood

**FRAPE:** A rope with blocks to moor a boat

**GANDY:** A pancake

**LASHINS:** Plenty

**LONGERS:** Rails for a fence

**MAUZY:** Misty

**MUMMER:** A visitor in disguise at Christmas time

**TOUTON:** Fried bread dough

**YAFFLE:** An armful of dried fish



***DULSE***



***TOUTON***



***MUMMER***

# Improving your anagramming skills

by Selena Chan, Christchurch



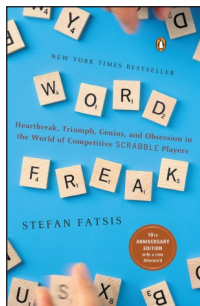
Selena Chan

*Note: The word \*ALPHAGRAM (and its plural), used throughout this article, is NOT allowable in CSW15.*

At the 2018 Nationals prize-giving dinner, Lawson Sue organised an entertaining quiz event. He skilfully facilitated a series of activities, drawing on and showcasing several specialised Scrabble skills. One of those was anagramming. Alastair Richards wowed everyone with the ease with which he found words from a collection of alphagrams, most of which were more than eight letters in length. There were many others in the audience who were exhibiting this skill as well.

In the book *Word Freak*, Stefan Fatsis describes several occasions when Scrabblers performed astonishing anagramming feats. Many other \*logophilic activities, such as crossword-puzzle solving, also require anagramming skills to be utilised.

These examples of anagramming wizardry caused me to think about how Scrabblers attain the expertise to be able to look at a string of random letters and work out the anagrams in a matter of seconds.



The skill of being able to reorganise a collection of letters into a meaningful word is actually something we learn from a young age. The literature on literacy states that there is a connection between the ability to anagram and to read proficiently. See for support:

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/BF01027726>

Deloche, G., Ott, M., & Tavella, M., (1995). Anagram solving and reading abilities in children. *Reading and Writing*, 7(4), 395-496.

The link provides only the abstract, but it summarises the main concepts.

Suffice to say, the ability to anagram is taken well beyond the norm in competitive Scrabble. Most Scrabblers will, with conscientious application and time, attain fluent anagramming skills for words up to eight letters long. My colleagues always find it interesting that I can easily and rapidly spot several anagrams on the daily Word Circle puzzle published in the local Christchurch paper. Given that there are only five or six letters to be anagrammed, the Word Circle puzzle is not much of a challenge for average Scrabblers.

So what does it take to increase the cognitive gymnastics required to anagram a longer string of letters? To begin, let us explore how we go about learning how to anagram. You can check out this article on 'variable practice' as an introduction:

<https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.3758/PBR.15.3.662.pdf>

Goode, M. K., Geraci, L., & Roediger, H. L. (2008). Superiority of variable to repeated practice in transfer on anagram solution. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*, 15 (3), 662-666.

In summary, varied practice, where letters are presented in different arrangements (as opposed to constantly using one arrangement such as alphagrams) is more effective. The authors provide the example of learners only seeing one variant at practice sessions (e.g. DFLOO) as compared to those who were exposed to a variety (e.g. DOLOF, FOLOD, OOFLD etc.). Therefore, if you anagram using alphagrams (i.e. DFLOO), try varying this with more random selections as well.

The point is that learning anagrams using alphagrams favours rote learning and pattern recognition, whereas varied practice promotes greater agility in the brain's ability to find and make meanings of patterns. This is due to learners practising the underlying skills required to anagram (e.g. identifying letter pairs, suffixes, prefixes, and so on) rather than just relying on a memory of fixed sequences of letters to identify and recall words.

Here is another longer article, worth reading if you are interested in how light bulb moments occur:  
<http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/02724980244000288>  
 Novick, L. R. & Sherman, S. J. (2003). On the nature of insight solutions: Evidence from skill differences in anagram solution, *The Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology*, 56A(2), 351-382.

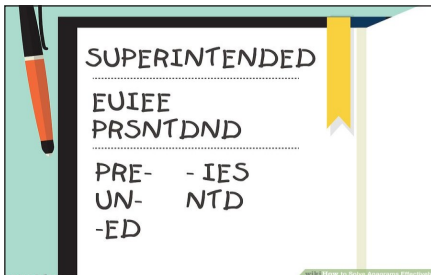
With considered or deliberate practice, anagramming skills become automated. By looking at a random collection of up to seven or eight letters, the cognitive process kicks in and the 'ah ha' moment results in the anagram coming through into your mind's eye in a matter of seconds. 'Insight solutions' come about through the brain quickly churning through many options, whereas reliance on rote learning leads to a 'serial hypothesis-testing' process. This is where the brain checks if the pattern encountered, i.e. in the form of an alphagram, triggers recognition and eventual recall.

The Novick and Sherman 2003 study concurs with the above Goode, Geraci and Roediger, 2008 article on varied practice. That is, in the longer term, varied practice promotes better anagramming skills than reliance on alphagrams, and rote pattern recognition and retrieval. Additionally, older brains (i.e. the majority of NZ Scrabblers) require much more input to achieve rote learning. The huge number of high probability bingo alphagrams requires a massive investment in terms of time and effort. Therefore, due to a lack of time to put into rote learning alphagrams, I have always favoured the varied practice method.

We can now compare the above recommendations from the academic learning psychology literature with what Uncle Google comes up with when we ask it to find items on "learning to anagram".

Wikihow is always useful for questions of this nature: <https://www.wikihow.com/Solve-Anagrams-Effectively>. The recommendations are:

1. Reorganise the anagram into a pattern – this is where alphagrams may help as alphabetising the string of letters helps us to sort the letters and untangle familiar patterns.
2. Putting letters together into common associations – CH, WH, TH, FL, etc. to pick up common suffixes and prefixes. Awareness of these patterns assists with our brain's processes of elimination which will help facilitate the 'ah-ha' moment.
3. Separating vowels and consonants can be helpful for longer words.



Word grabber <https://www.word-grabber.com/printable-word-games/seven-simple-ways-solve-an-anagram> recommends similar strategies but also includes the need to PRACTISE.

Finally, word-buff also concurs <http://www.word-buff.com/solving-anagrams.html> and adds the use of picture words to remember anagrams. I used the "picture word" concept recently when I had SEALION on my rack, which I knew was not a valid Scrabble word.

Eventually, after the game was long over, the one and only anagram ANISOLE surfaced in my head (aargh!). Although the word was in my mental vocabulary, intuition or insight was obviously not able to make the right associations to bring the word up at the required time. Now, to aid the process, I use the image of a sea lion wearing shoes with different tread patterns on each flipper. I am still awaiting the opportunity to see if my word picture helps me out, as SEALION has not appeared on my rack since (sigh).

So in summary, alphagrams are useful but require effort and time to learn. Relying on the varied practice method exercises your brain and hones the mental gymnastics required to work out anagrams. If you have done the hard yards with alphagrams, and your recall mechanisms are good, then this method, especially with the high probability bingo words, may be more effective. Regardless of which method you use, insight is still reliant on the ability to tap into an existing database of 'known' words.

Happy anagramming!



# Club News

*Lynn Thompson, Whangarei, sent the following item regarding Papatoetoe's "pearl" tournament last September, narrowly missing the deadline for inclusion in the Spring issue of Forwards:*

We decked ourselves out wearing lovely pearls  
 Seven nice and glamorous girls  
 Giving support to Papatoetoe's celebrations  
 We could have done better, there were temptations  
 But we decided to honour their special day  
 And they all seemed so pleased we went out of our way.  
 We're all so glad we could get there, it was two great days.

.....

*Whangarei Club secretary Jenny Litchfield also sent us these brief notes about the latest doings of NZ's northernmost club:*

Our boards and tiles were set up again on 10th January 2019 after a three-week break. Our club day is every Thursday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Bridge Club rooms in North Street. Everybody is always welcome.

We got into the spirit (well, wine actually), in the lead-up to Christmas. Lunch at the Grand Thai Restaurant was delicious. We made it back to the club room in time for an afternoon of Scrabble. Perfect!



*Margaret Peters with her new bamboo toothbrush prezzie*



*Back: L to R. Cicely Bruce, June Dowling, Anne Scatchard*

*Front: Lynn Thompson, Sue Harding, Bev Edwards, Jena Yoosif*

We must have been very good in 2018. At our final 2018 club-day afternoon tea, we found a sackful of prezzies that Santa must have wrapped for us. Margaret Peters earned herself a special reward for the member with the most improved aggregate scores during the year.

We wished three club members all the best as they move on. We welcomed three others into our fold: Sue Harris, Annette Caisley, and Jason Simpson.





*June Dowling and Allie Quinn at Christmas lunch*

The rest of us continue to dream and scheme about how to play winning Scrabble. We shuffle racks of tiles. Just seven tiles. How hard can it be to form or hook a word? Those pesky vowels and consonants we love to hate did not take a holiday over the festive season.

Tournaments are our motivation. Whangarei tournament is set for the first weekend of July 2019. Happy Scrabbling!

.....  
*Ruth Groffman from Dunedin Club informs us that one of their members had more than just Christmas to celebrate at the end of 2018. Ruth writes:*



Grant Paulin, our newest Dunedin Scrabble Club member, got married to Karen Kennedy on the 15th of December 2018.

Grant is an avid Scrabble player and will be competing in tournaments in Christchurch and the 2019 Nationals, in addition to the ones in Dunedin.

.....  
*Mt. Albert club has more sombre news to impart about its members' milestones. The club president, Mary Gray, writes:*

Mt. Albert Scrabble Club would like to remember two of its members who died recently.

Bev Barker was a very early member of the club and served many years as its treasurer. She was a lively presence and we were sad when she could no longer attend our evening meetings.



*Bev Barker*

Khin Saw Khine was our other member who sadly died in October after a short illness. Khine was Burmese and loved to come along to club when she was living with her son here for several months each year. She played in our tournament and had a lifelong passion for Scrabble.



*Khin Saw Khine*

And finally, Jeff Grant, *Independent*, compiled the following item regarding the recent Wellington tournament:

## Wellington Words

There were many interesting words played at the Wellington Tournament in January. The A Grade had possibly the highest average rating ever for a New Zealand open event (2110), and there were lots of great moves. Of course, not all of them were allowed. Here are 10 words from my games, five allowed and five not:

ANATEXES: Pl. of ANATEXIS, the partial melting of rocks. A nice find by Alastair Richards in the first round.

\*COLOUREE: One that is coloured, e.g. "Holi Festival of Colours is celebrated in 30 cities across six countries, where you become both coloured and **colouree**." (Net)



*Holi Festival*

\*HAIRWAVE: A hairdo featuring a wave. There are masses of Google hits. Many, but not all, are proper nouns. "This lady wants a shampoo, **hairwave**, face massage, and manicure." (*Poor Young People*, M Edginton, 1939)

MUNTINGS: Joanne Craig cleverly played MUNTING one short of a triple word line. She later added the S. MUNTINGS (or MUNTINS) are vertical framing pieces between door panels, nothing to do with MUNT or MUNTED.

OXLAND: One eighth of a CARUCATE, which is the amount of land a team of oxen could plough in a season. A lovely 60-point play by Lynne Butler. Variants OXGANG and OXGATE are also allowed.

RATHRIPE: An early ripening fruit. A nice move, but Lynne jumped on it with QUARTERN (a type of loaf) through the second R for a double-double worth 123 points!

TEUGHER: From an opening rack of EEHRTU + blank. Dylan Early found this Scots form of 'tougher'. Together with its variant TEUCHER, it is the only allowable word in these letters.

\*UNFIERCE: Not fierce, listed in the big *Webster's* dictionary. A rather desperate try.

\*UNWHITES: According to the online 'Wiktionary', this is the plural of UNWHITE (which is allowed), a rare synonym of the noun NONWHITE.

\*WANTINGS: An obvious word with thousands of examples in English literature going back over 300 years, e.g. British writer C.S. Lewis wrote in 1954, 'Our best havings are **wantings**.'



*A door with  
MUNTINGS*

# Golden Bay Youth Scrabble Tournament

*by Murray Rogers, Independent*

On Tuesday 20 November I held a tournament for two of the four primary schools in Golden Bay, Motupipi School and Takaka Primary School. There were six players from each school, mostly Year Six students with no student older than 11. As I had only worked with the Motupipi kids this year, it was no surprise that they won 13 of the 18 games. I had given the Motupipi kids about 15 90-minute sessions throughout the year.

The format of the tournament involved every student playing three games each, and their opponent was always someone from the other school. For the first game they were paired up according to ability. After that, I used a Swiss-draw format with the proviso that no-one played the same opponent twice. Three girls, all from Motupipi, won all three of their games — Lola with a spread of +163, Bella C with a spread of +75, and Maren with a spread of +73. Lola achieved the highest game score of 271.

I allotted 60 minutes total per game. We didn't use individual clocks, but

the students were encouraged to play reasonably quickly. We used all the WESPA rules bar one. A player's turn could be challenged without a penalty. If the challenged word was incorrect, they were allowed another go. If this was challenged and also incorrect, then the player forfeited his/her turn. This encouraged the students to play something they were not sure about without the fear of losing a turn.

I was taken aback by the many strange words that were played. For instance, one student played \*QU which was not challenged. Only one game was completed with no tiles left in the bag. This was a game involving Bella C. She had to give her opponent who went out first a total of 30 points, but Bella still won by seven points. For all the other games where there were still tiles left in the bag when the 60 minutes were up, a player going second was allowed to have one more turn so that they had played the same number of turns as their opponent. The player had to make that final move within two and a half minutes.



*Students at play*

In terms of the sessions which I delivered to the Motupipi kids during the year, all the students (all year six girls) were chosen because of their keenness and their teachers' desire to extend them. None of them had ever played before. I

initially did exercises at the beginning of each session, which included activities like identifying the front and back hooks for particular words, and looking for anagrams for common seven-letter words arranged in \*alphagrams. After a few of these sessions I decided to incorporate these exercises during actual play, engaging all the students each time. After a few more sessions, I alternated between guiding them during the game (one full game per session) and not helping them at all. During the games when I did not help them, I would write on a whiteboard many examples of the things they didn't see during play, and they would try to determine the answers later. To teach them how to find seven- and eight-letter words, I stressed that they look for common endings such as -ING, -ER, -ERS, -ES, -IES, -ED, etc. I also stressed strategies such as taking advantage of the power spots, two-letter words for the power tiles, reminding them that V is the only letter that doesn't appear in a two-letter word and C only being in the word CH.



*Murray Rogers with the winning team from Motupipi School*

Again, I was not surprised that Motupipi kids were the ones who scored all three bingos played on the day of the tournament — Maren with BEAVERS, Aliana with DITCHER, and Iyla with STARING. I have

held a similar tournament twice before and this was the first one where bingos were played. The students remembered to use rack-management strategies like holding onto a blank. Each time that a bingo was played, I was so chuffed, and I announced it to the room immediately.

There was one parent helper from each school who manually helped to check the challenges and make sure the scores matched. There was positive feedback from all the children and I feel that it was a good experience for them to be extended this way.



*Submitted by Dylan Early*

# I've Been Reading

*Previously, Forwards articles under this heading have featured one or more books read by one or more Scrabblers, who have noticed in the book an unusually high number of instances of specialist vocabulary relevant to the setting or topic of the book. These words are allowable in Scrabble, but generally less familiar in everyday life, so the book has placed them in a particular context for our reader, who has decided to share them with a wider audience (i.e. Forwards' subscribers).*

*In this issue of Forwards, we are featuring two books being read by Scrabblers, and another from somebody's "To Be Read" pile, who all wanted to share what they've been (or will be) reading, not specifically for the vocabulary used in the book, but for its attitude and contribution towards wordplay.*

*First up, a recommendation from Dylan Early (Independent):*

Here are some of my favourite definitions from *The Foolish Dictionary*, by Gideon Wurdz, an ebook freely available from Project Gutenberg (<http://www.gutenberg.org/>)

**ACCIDENT:** A condition of affairs in which presence of mind is good, but absence of body better.

**ADVICE:** Something old men give young men when they can no longer give them a bad example.

**HINDSIGHT:** A tardy sense of prudence that prompts one to try to shut his mouth about the same time he has put his foot in it.

**ALCOHOL:** A liquid good for preserving almost everything except secrets.

**BIGAMY:** A form of insanity in which a man insists on paying three board bills instead of two.

**BORROW:** To swap hot air for cold coin.

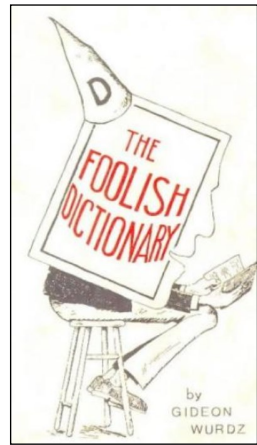
**BRIMSTONE:** A little bit of Hades, which finds its match on earth and smells to heaven. Better to strike it here than in the hereafter.

**CANNIBAL:** A heathen hobo who never works but lives on other people.

**CHRISTMAS:** A widely observed holiday on which neither the past nor the future is of so much interest as the present.

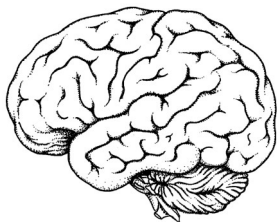
**CONSCIENCE:** The fear of being found out.

**BRAIN:** The top-floor apartment in the Human Block, known as the Cranium, and kept by the Sarah Sisters—Sarah Brum and Sarah Belum, assisted by

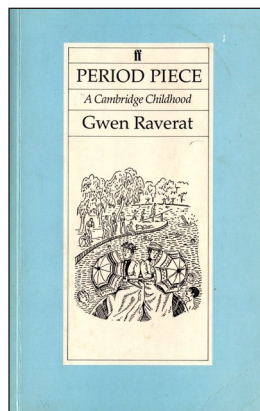




Medulla Oblongata. All three are nervous, but are always confined to their cells. The Brain is done in gray and white, and furnished with light and heat, hot or cold water, (if desired), with regular connections to the outside world by way of the Spinal Circuit. Usually occupied by the Intellect Bros.,—Thoughts and Ideas—as an Intelligence Office, but sometimes subtlet to Jag, Hang-Over & Co.



for the game to be finished in the morning. Many an expert must have blessed the sound education given him by the Letter Game when, later in life, his self-respect obliged him to do *The Times* Crossword every day.



.....

*Secondly, Shirley Hol (Christchurch) sent us the following extract from Period Piece: A Cambridge childhood by Gwen Raverat, whose grandfather was Charles Darwin. Shirley comments, "Of course I was interested in the family word game all her uncles and family played. How they would have loved Scrabble! A little more confining though..."*

*This book was first published in 1952, five years before the author's death at the age of 71, and just a few years after Scrabble was first published under that name. Note that many of the words in this extract are not allowable Scrabble words.*

Our chief intellectual exercise was the Letter Game: word-making and word-taking. At this we became practically professional; and sometimes, in the holidays, the game would have gone on all night, if the teams had not been sent to bed in a state of exhaustion, while the letters were left on the table,

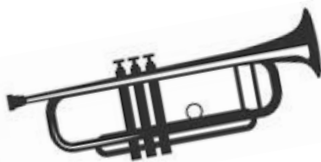
We gradually developed a regular word-game technique, and the rules were perfected to cover all exigencies. Any dictionary word was allowed, but no proper names, and a word could be stolen by adding a letter *and* changing the meaning. Many words known only to dictionaries were of great value: such as ZAX (a slate-cutter's tool); and other words such as PYX or WAX which were held to be practically unstealable. It was a recognized fact, for instance, that the only steal for FOX was CRUCIFIXION—which needs eight extra letters, most unlikely to occur simultaneously. Then there were regular expected sequences of steals, such as MIX, MINX, MIXEN, EXAMINE; and as any part of a verb was allowed, provided the meaning was changed, by the end



ZAX

of a hard-fought game, the board would be strewn with such splendid words as (thou) REASSESSDST; or (he or she) DECONTAMINATETH. The finest play of the game lay in the ETHS and EDSTS of the verb endings.

This game can be very embarrassing at times. Suppose, for instance, that one side had the innocent word TRUMPET, and an S was turned up, you could see all the older people getting red in the face in their efforts not to say STRUMPET. Heavens! how Aunt Bessy's fingers did fumble and flutter, when Margaret (it *would* be Margaret) shouted in triumph: 'STRUMPET; what does that mean?' But Aunt Bessy replied, with her usual dignity: 'It's a word we don't generally use'. (I should guess that she did not quite know herself what it meant.) The word was probably forbidden for Aunt Bessy's sake; but it is such a good example of the way a word might run, if it were to follow its own natural and licentious course, that I give it here. It would probably start as RUM; and go on RUMP, TRUMP, TRUMPET, STRUMPET, (thou) TRUMPEDST, (he or she) STRUMPETED, (thou) TRUMPETEDST, (thou) STRUMPETEDST; and I cannot get it any farther, though a real virtuoso, such as Charles, might be able to do so.



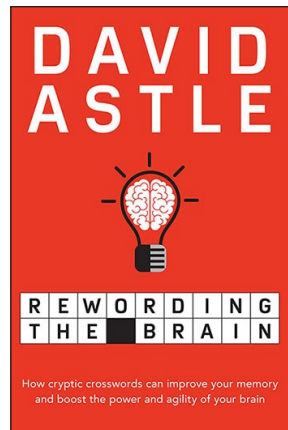
Lastly, Vicky Robertson, *Independent*, listened to a radio interview about Rewording the brain: How cryptic crosswords can improve your memory and boost the power and agility of your brain by David Astle, published last October. The following extracts are from the RadioNZ write-up of that interview, which can be read in full at: <https://www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/ninetoon/audios/2018671820/cryptic-crossword-creator-david-astle-on-the-brain-benefits-of-puzzles>

(The link to the half-hour audio segment can also be found on the same page).

Crossword puzzles are a workout for the brain using both creativity and logic - and we're only just learning the mechanics of how they help maintain mental fitness into old age, puzzle designer David Astle says.

Astle, a Melbourne-based writer and a full-on word nerd - something of a dictionary expert - is a legend in Australian crossword circles ... His latest book *Rewording The Brain* explains how the mind responds to tackling word puzzles and the benefit that can bring, including increasing brainpower and cognitive capacity.

"What cryptic crosswords in particular and puzzles in general help us do is



think in different ways. So much of the challenges that we face in life we often tackle in the same default thinking mode that we may have.

"It's called a focal fixedness ... but if we're doing more and more of these sorts of puzzles like cryptic crosswords that dish up anagrams and homophones and puns, you can't afford to think like that.

"What puzzles encourage us to do is to think in both a logical way and in a creative and intuitive way. If you can think in both those spheres, and have those two modes interconnect so that there is this constant crossover between the two, it creates a lot more agile and adaptive ways of not just solving problems but also living your life.

"Puzzle play rewards both those modes of thinking. You can't have one without the other and too often when we go through life we either rely purely on intuition or purely on logic.

"Puzzles, amongst other pursuits, remind us that we need to have the two in concert to have a fully functional version of the mind."

[Astle] says polyphony is, in his experience, the most difficult type of puzzle to solve.

"If you think of a word like 'steeper' - which is not always referring to the gradient on a hill, but actually could be a teabag because that's something that steeps in hot water.

"It's called transgressive grammar, which is the fancy term - it's basically letting go of all those school day lessons and those school day



rigmarole and just looking at words in a much more open way.

"Flower ... you suddenly realise that 'flower' could be referring to a river, not a blossom. And if you can't make that little jump, if you can't look at the alternative identity of a word, then a lot of people get very frustrated by that."

He says there's a reason 'cheating' is an anagram of 'teach'.

"I do believe if you look at the answer to a cryptic clue and you're just starting and you just want to know how they work, find the answer then look back at the clue.

"If you could see possibly how ... a word like 'screen' is clued by 'blind test' - you think hang on, it's a double meaning, because screen is like a blind, and it's also a test.

"So that's kind of a double meaning clue - that kind of working back from the answer to the clue will give you those penny-drop moments to help you to decipher the formulas involved.

"Hopefully your brain will be flexing and jumping and somersaulting thinking 'this is fun, I didn't realise this playground was available'."

# Hall of Fame

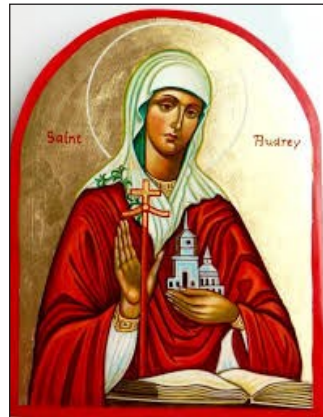
by Jennifer Smith, Kiwi

May God be with you, as He is with me. My name is Etheldreda or Audrey – you might know me as St. Audrey.

I'm guessing that you haven't read about any saints in your renowned *Hall of Fame* articles before, but I think you'll find my life an interesting one. (Some of you will already be racking your brains or word lists for Audrey-like words, but you'll never be able to guess my eponym.)

I was born in Anglo-Saxon times, about 636AD, one of four daughters of the Northumbrian Queen Anna of East Anglia. We were all very pious; each of us went on to found an abbey in later life. I made an early vow of perpetual virginity, but that didn't prevent me from being married off when I was very young. However, I managed to persuade my husband to respect my vow. When he died about three years after we were wed, I retired to the Isle of Ely.

About five years later, I was forced to wed Ecgfrith in a political union. Initially, he agreed that I could continue to remain a virgin, so I led the life of a nun, until a couple of years after he became King in 670, when he decided he wanted to consummate our marriage. He even tried to bribe the Bishop of York to convince me to succumb to him. When that failed, Ecgfrith then tried to take me from the cloister by force. I ran back to Ely, chased by Ecgfrith, but was helped by two nuns and the good Lord, who caused the tide to rise miraculously between us.



*St. Audrey*

It was not long before Ecgfrith found somebody more willing to be his wife, thank the Lord, and I went on to establish the great abbey of Ely, where I lived an austere and holy life. I died shortly before my 50th birthday of an enormous and unsightly tumour on my neck, which I gratefully accepted as Divine retribution for all the necklaces I had so fondly worn in my youth.

Sixteen years after my death, one of my sisters exhumed my body and discovered that it was uncorrupted. (There is a Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox belief that divine intervention allows some human bodies, specifically saints, to avoid the normal process of decomposition after death – this 'incurruptibility' is taken as a sign of holiness.) And furthermore, my coffin and clothes proved to possess miraculous powers. I was buried again, but this time in a white marble coffin.

For centuries, I was one of the most loved and venerated saints England ever had. My shrine became a principal site of pilgrimage in England, and a fair was held annually in my honour on my feast day, 17 October. That's when my name was simplified to St. Audrey.

At these fairs various kinds of cheap knickknacks were sold, along with a type of necklace called St. Audrey's lace, or TAWDRY lace, after me. My devout admirers bought the lacework to wear to preserve their modesty. But by the 17th century, a time when the Puritans of eastern England looked down on any form of lacy ornamentation, my eponymous lacework had come to be seen as old-fashioned, or cheap and of poor quality. To my everlasting distress, TAWDRY came to describe anything cheap and gaudy that might be found at these fairs or anywhere else. As a saint, of course, I'm resigned to suffering that indignity.

Please remember me in your prayers. And remember me also when you play TAWDRY, TAWDRIER/EST, TAWDRIES, TAWDRILY, and TAWDRINESS/ES.



*Tawdry lace*

## Tournament Calendar 2019

Tournament	Location	Dates
St Patrick's Weekend Tourneys	Auckland	16 & 17 March
Dunedin	Dunedin	13-14 April
# Masters	Whanganui	20-22 April
Christchurch	Christchurch	4-5 May
NZASP National Championships	Wellington	1-3 June
Whangarei	Whangarei	6-7 July
Kiwi Scrabblers	Hamilton	10-11 August
Tauranga	Tauranga	24-25 August
Christchurch	Christchurch	7-8 September
Mt. Albert	Auckland	12-13 October
Whanganui	Whanganui	26-27 October
Rodney	Rodney	9 November
Otago	Dunedin	16-17 November
# Restricted entry		

### Answers to Quick quiz (p. 23)

- |             |                   |
|-------------|-------------------|
| 1. AG(S)    | 8. IGGED IGGING   |
| 2. AMBO     | 9. ILL(S)         |
| 3. EE       | 10. IN(S)         |
| 4. ERK(S)   | 11. INKED, INKING |
| 5. EST(S)   | 12. ONES          |
| 6. ESTER(S) | 13. OUK(S)        |
| 7. IFF      |                   |

Well done if you found all 13!



# Twenty years ago in *Forwards*

by John Foster, *Independent*

Finding this article on Glenda's remarkable performance stirred memories of both this occasion, and other similar ones in which I have been involved. I sympathise with David as, on the rare occasions that I have had to start my opponent's clock, it has not gone well for me either.

Consequently, I am reluctant to take this action, and tend to wait a few minutes for my opponent to arrive. I recall a game in the Trans-Tasman at Sydney in 2008 when I was playing John Holgate and he was late arriving. On this occasion, the tournament director Wilma Vialle came over and started his clock herself. As I remember, that time did work out alright for me. John was only a few minutes late, and the game was played at a normal pace, resulting in a win for me.

I do wonder, though, if our rule should be changed so that it is the director's responsibility, rather than the opponent's, to start the clocks of any missing players. This would dispel any lingering doubts about the opponent taking an unfair advantage.

## **FAST FORWARD Award 1998**

by Sue McRae  
Capital Scrabble Club

This must surely go to Glenda Foster of Capital Club for her stunning 0 - 505 in just 5 minutes during the Wanganui Tournament held over Labour Weekend.

Here's how it all happened:

An avid cricket watcher, Glenda was enjoying coverage of the NZ vs Zimbabwe match on Sky TV late on the first day of the tourney. She watched the first innings which ended about 11pm and decided to pass up the second innings for the sake of getting some sleep. However, she awoke about 2am and turned on the set to see how NZ was doing, got hooked and watched until the glorious end about 5am.

Picture the worried glances from fellow Capital Club members when Glenda failed to show for the 8.30am start on Sunday morning. A quick cellphone call to her unit took some time to rouse her out of a deep sleep, but Glenda kept her cool, taking a shower, then pausing to consider checking out (but the queue

was too long), before arriving at the venue with just 5 minutes playing time left on her clock.

Her opponent, David Lloyd, had rather apologetically started the clock, as he was fully entitled to do, and looked decidedly embarrassed at having such an advantage; but he reckoned without the Foster Fast Forward phenomenon: Her first play, WINNER, should have warned him what was in store, as it was quickly followed by COSSETS (3 x "S" and a blank), SILENTER on a double/double, and (somewhat appropriately to describe her now winded opponent), JADED on a triple for another handy score.

To cut a long story short, Glenda finished the match on 505 points to poor David's 335, losing only 10 points for a one minute time penalty, making the final score 495-335.

So much for the "get a good night's sleep" theory — our advice to David Lloyd: watch more cricket.....

# Tournament results

## Whanganui

20-21 October 2018

15 games

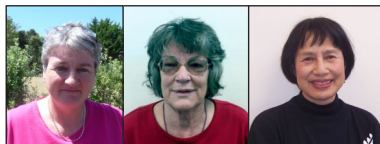
	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
<b>A Grade</b>					
1	Dylan Early	IND	12	700	423
2	Howard Warner	IND	8	231	425
3	Nick Ascroft	WEL	8	109	413
4	Mike Sigley	WAN	7	70	412
5	Lynne Butler	WAN	7	12	404
6	Anderina McLean	WAN	7	-132	391
7	Cicely Bruce	WRE	6	-468	400
8	Liz Fagerlund	MTA	5	-522	400

### B Grade

1	Rosemary Cleary	WAN	10	287	383
2	Lewis Hawkins	CHC	9.5	-92	380
3	Glenda Foster	WEL	9	267	393
4	Murray Rogers	IND	8	225	386
5	Lynn Wood	WEL	8	-10	383
6	Olivia Godfrey	WAN	6.5	-157	388
7	Jennifer Smith	KIW	5	-193	377
8	Helen Sillis	NPL	4	-327	359

### C Grade

1	Glenyss Buchanan	LOH	14	951	419
2	Jean O'Brien	IND	9	391	399
3	Nola Borrell	WEL	8	298	394
4	Ruth Groffman	DUN	8	-56	364
5	Leila Thompson	LOH	6	-142	382
6	Yvette Hewlett	IND	6	-205	374
7	Joanne Morley	ROT	5	-714	359
8	Chris Bell	WEL	4	-523	351



	Name	Club	Wins	Spread
<b>D Grade</b>				
1	Betty Eriksen	WAN	12	707
2	Fran Lowe	IND	11	1063
3	Sheila Reed	WEL	10	456
4	Bernie Jardine	WRE	9	515
5	Malcolm Graham	CHC	5	-469
6	Judith Thomas	IND	5	-682
7	Rodney Jardine	WRE	5	-801
8	Judy Driscoll	KAP	3	-789



## Trans-Tasman Challenge 16-18 November 2018

24 games

Team Results	Wins
Australia	157
New Zealand	131

### Individual Results

	Name	Wins	Spread
1	Dylan Early	19	776
2	Ron Baginski	16	970
3	Tony Hunt	16	387
4	Howard Warner	15	885
5	John Holgate	15	647
6	Rod Talbot	14.5	292
7	David Vanzyl	14	850
8	Andrew Bradley	14	579
9	Adam Kretschmer	14	100

*L-R: Whanganui winners  
Rosemary Cleary, Glennys Buchanan,  
Betty Eriksen*

	Name	Wins	Spread
10	Ryan Sutton	13.5	-150
11	Joanne Craig	13	713
12	Lawson Sue	13	-16
13	Bob Jackman	13	-17
14	Karen Richards	12	-90
15	Lynne Butler	12	-401
16	Patrick Carter	11	-35
17	Victor Tung	11	-263
18	Peter Sinton	11	-370
19	Graeme Lock Lee	9	-254
20	Dianne Brumby	9	-1153
21	Cicely Bruce	8(+0)	-11(+0)
22	Scott Chaput	7	-686
23	John Foster	5.5	-826
24	Glenda Foster	1.5	-1556
25	Liz Fagerlund	1(+0)	-371(+0)



*Trans-Tasman Champion,  
Dylan Early*

**Dunedin**

**17-18 November 2018**

15 games

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
<b>A Grade</b>					
1	Karen Gray	DUN	9	70	381
2	John Baird	CHC	8	193	395
3	Murray Rogers	IND	8	-4	384
4	Jean O'Brien	IND	7	181	395
5	Olivia Godfrey	WAN	7	-171	386
6	Margie Hurly	WRE	6	-269	372

**B Grade**

1	Shirley Hol	CHC	10	238	390
2	Sharon Sorensen	AUS	9	60	381
3	Martin Waterworth	AUS	8	377	393
4	Ruth Groffman	DUN	7	-173	354
5	Carolyn Kyle	IND	6	-210	364
6	Betty Eriksen	WAN	5	-292	368

**C Grade**

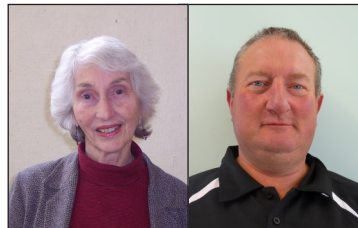
1	Paul Freeman	DUN	9	388	385
2	Anne Goldstein	CHC	8	442	395
3	Gabrielle Bolt	CHC	8	-190	367
4	Barney Bonthron	KIW	7	65	366
5	Marian Ross	DUN	7	-211	378
6	Allison Torrance	CHC	6	-494	353

**D Grade**

1	Malcolm Graham	CHC	10	613	391
2	Chris Handley	DUN	9	55	373
3	Grant Paulin	DUN	9	-202	345
4	Joanna Fox	CHC	8	184	374
5	Marilyn Sinclair	CHC	5	-208	341
6	Phyllis Paltridge	CHC	4	-442	340

**E Grade**

1	Hannah Dodge	CHC	12	815	378
2	Sharon Teasdale	DUN	9	264	355
3	Sharon McKenzie	CHC	9	234	329
4	Llane Hadden	NEL	8	312	358
5	Anne-Louise Milne	DUN	5	-610	306
6	Bev Allen	DUN	2	-1015	290



*Dunedin winners:  
Shirley Hol & Malcolm Graham*

**Nearly Christmas****1 December 2018**

9 games

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Wins</b>	<b>Spread</b>
1	Alastair Richards	8.5	1292
2	Junior Gesmundo	6.5	93
3	Sala Jones	6	223
4	Lynn Wood	6	194
5	John Foster	5.5	35
6	Mary Gray	5	220
7	Mike Currie	5	57
8	Lyres Freeth	5	35
9	Jeanette Grimmer	5	17
10	Su Walker	5	-54
11	Jean O'Brien	4	+123
12	Cathy Casey	4	+34
13	Pam Barlow	3.5	-19
14	Joan Beale	3	-174
15	Frances Higham	3	-196
16	Liz Fagerlund	3	-280
17	Cicely Bruce	2	-758
18	Ian Cutcher	1	-842



*Nearly Christmas winners:  
1st Alastair Richards,  
2nd Junior Gesmundo*

**Wellington****19-20 January 2019**

14 games

**A Grade**

1	Dylan Early	IND	11	481	448
2	Jeff Grant	IND	9	340	409
3	Alastair Richards	IND	7	241	427
4	Howard Warner	IND	7	-10	405
5	Lynne Butler	WAN	6.5	-39	417

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Club</b>	<b>Wins</b>	<b>Spread</b>	<b>Ave</b>
6	Joanne Craig	IND	6	87	416
7	Anderina McLean	WAN	5.5	-490	389
8	Lyres Freeth	IND	4	-610	388

**B Grade**

1	Nick Ascroft	WEL	9	18	403
2	Rosemary Cleary	WAN	8	212	397
3	Murray Rogers	IND	8	-248	372
4	Val Mills	PAK	7	156	388
5	Anna Brouwer	IND	7	105	378
6	Lynn Wood	WEL	7	-166	381
7	Glenda Foster	IND	6	152	380
8	Glenyss Buchanan	LOH	4	-229	375

**C Grade**

1	Anne Goldstein	CHC	10	370	386
2	Ruth Groffman	DUN	10	110	379
3	Nola Borrell	IND	8	-6	379
4	Helen Sillis	IND	7	170	368
5	Carolyn Kyle	IND	7	-8	367
6	Jean O'Brien	IND	7	-23	382
7	Vicky Robertson	IND	6	170	393
8	Leila Thomson	LOH	1	-783	347

**D Grade**

1	Malcolm Graham	CHC	11	884	358
2	Chris Bell	WEL	11	304	317
3	Tony Charlton	NEL	8	-79	304
4	Sheila Reed	WEL	8	-111	307
5	Betty Eriksen	WAN	7	59	312
6	Judith Thomas	IND	6	-49	309
7	Judy Driscoll	KAP	5	-308	292



*Wellington winners:  
Nick Ascroft & Anne Goldstein*

# Rankings list as at 24 February 2019

	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%		Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%
1	Alastair Richards (GM)	2335	282	352	80%	44	Lynn Wood	1505	2173	4569	48%
2	Howard Warner (GM)	2230	2296	3060	75%	45	Clare Wall	1486	358	689	52%
3	Dylan Early (GM)	2202	120	172	70%	46	Allie Quinn	1486	1194	2452	49%
4	Joanne Craig (GM)	2127	431.5	651	66%	47	Vicky Robertson	1482	429	893	48%
5	Lyres Freeth (GM)	2105	592.5	886	67%	48	Anne Goldstein	1474	245	483	51%
6	Jeff Grant (GM)	2093	1783	2382	75%	49	Karl Scherer	1460	133	236	56%
7	Patrick Carter (GM)	2090	872.5	1375	63%	50	Ruth Groffman	1445	705	1410	50%
8	Peter Sinton (GM)	2075	821	1150	71%	51	Selena Chan	1439	378.5	745	51%
9	Blue Thorogood (GM)	1981	733.5	1040	71%	52	Stan Gregec	1438	192	350	55%
10	Andrew Bradley (GM)	1972	949	1788	53%	53	Helen Sillis	1433	792	1617	49%
11	Lawson Sue (GM)	1930	1102	2018	55%	54	Pam Barlow	1433	870	1724	50%
12	Anderina McLean (GM)	1909	899	1674	54%	55	Shirley Hol	1430	793	1692	47%
13	Lynne Butler (GM)	1905	976	1614	60%	56	Nola Borrell	1429	583.5	1092	53%
14	John Foster (GM)	1891	1739.5	3070	57%	57	Julie Atkinson	1427	283.5	539	53%
15	Cicely Bruce (GM)	1889	730.5	1333	55%	58	Rosalind Phillips	1414	661.5	1296	51%
16	Glennis Hale (GM)	1876	1608.5	2916	55%	59	Jeanette Grimmer	1413	286	587	49%
17	Nick Ascroft	1856	227	409	56%	60	Roger Cole-Baker	1407	718	1396	51%
18	Liz Fagerlund (GM)	1841	1455	2778	52%	61	Jean O'Brien	1400	1387.5	2726	51%
19	Lewis Hawkins	1813	294	487	60%	62	Dianne Cole-Baker	1392	669	1302	51%
20	Scott Chaput (E)	1808	312	541	58%	63	Peter Johnstone	1387	243.5	466	52%
21	Karen Richards (E)	1791	91.5	165	55%	64	David Gunn	1381	1456	2972	49%
22	Rosemary Cleary (E)	1781	914	1953	47%	65	Su Walker	1380	1220.5	2391	51%
23	Val Mills (E)	1761	1505.5	3100	49%	66	Robert Springer	1365	20	45	44%
24	Steven Brown (GM)	1755	949	1784	53%	67	Carolyn Kyle	1362	1032	2086	49%
25	Glenda Foster (E)	1731	1191.5	2388	50%	68	Lynn Carter	1347	840.5	1628	52%
26	Paul Lister (E)	1707	904.5	1641	55%	69	Mary Gray	1347	750.5	1520	49%
27	Jennifer Smith	1693	1263	2628	48%	70	Joanne Morley	1345	165	303	54%
28	Murray Rogers (E)	1690	1065	2029	52%	71	Yvette Hewlett	1318	515.5	1082	48%
29	Olivia Godfrey (E)	1671	948.5	1835	52%	72	Jena Yousif	1309	601.5	1202	50%
30	Pat Bryan	1670	293	538	54%	73	Yoon Kim Fong	1306	710	1397	51%
31	Lois Binnie	1654	159	324	49%	74	Bev Edwards	1303	298.5	572	52%
32	Anna Brouwer	1614	850.5	1712	50%	75	Joan Thomas	1289	1245	2503	50%
33	John Baird	1595	343	623	55%	76	Chris Bell	1277	19	40	48%
34	Glenyss Buchanan	1592	734.5	1585	46%	77	Lyn Dawson	1276	430.5	818	53%
35	Margie Hurly	1579	381	768	50%	78	Heather Landon	1276	710.5	1416	50%
36	Pam Robson	1579	648.5	1410	46%	79	Lyn Toka	1247	620.5	1192	52%
37	Karen Gray	1573	310.5	589	53%	80	Barbara Dunn	1246	371.5	641	58%
38	Delcie Macbeth	1567	1069.5	2048	52%	81	Shirley Pearce	1225	154	315	49%
39	Irene Smith	1528	253	518	49%	82	Barney Bonthron	1221	100.5	175	57%
40	Lorraine Van Veen	1524	988	1995	50%	83	Bernie Jardine	1214	202.5	386	52%
41	Shirley Martin	1521	1088.5	2173	50%	84	Leila Thomson	1208	625.5	1371	46%
42	Roger Coates	1519	904	1883	48%	85	Betty Eriksen	1204	1695.5	3366	50%
43	Mary Curtis	1509	430	811	53%	86	Marian Ross	1203	632.5	1237	51%



Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%
87 Faye Cronhelm	1202	969	1940	50%	130 Hanna Dodge	786	182	361	50%
88 Gabrielle Bolt	1195	526	1025	51%	131 Jacqueline				
89 Karen Miller	1187	647	1271	51%	Coldham-Fussell	780	753.5	1538	49%
90 Mo Wetere	1183	76.5	132	58%	132 Pat Wood	770	174.5	328	53%
91 Margaret Bullen	1156	165.5	313	53%	133 Judy Driscoll	769	280.5	710	40%
92 Joanna Fox	1153	203	397	51%	134 Joan Beale	759	383.5	745	51%
93 Carole Coates	1149	769	1588	48%	135 Anne Scatchard	748	566.5	1117	51%
94 Chris Handley	1135	429.5	842	51%	136 Ruth Godwin	724	491	1075	46%
95 Allison Torrance	1134	536.5	1038	52%	137 Barbara Cornell	722	83.5	188	44%
96 Suzanne Harding	1111	629	1256	50%	138 Janny Henneveld	701	585	1198	49%
97 Jenny Litchfield	1110	137	239	57%	139 Sharon McKenzie	700	37.5	81	46%
98 Ernie Gidman	1105	468.5	945	50%	140 Dorothy Bakel	691	75	185	41%
99 Malcolm Graham	1105	669.5	1346	50%	141 Llane Hadden	666	36	95	38%
100 Grant Paulin	1099	25	45	56%	142 Tim Henneveld	661	544	1203	45%
101 Glenda Geard	1091	1234.5	2513	49%	143 Valma Gidman	642	757.5	1537	49%
102 Sheila Reed	1090	342	713	48%	144 Marion McLean	631	23	51	45%
103 Tei Ngatai	1087	85.5	150	57%	145 Betty Don	622	288.5	622	46%
104 Suzanne Ford	1065	242	458	53%	146 Kathleen				
105 Colleen Cook	1053	433.5	896	48%	Mori-Barker	612	424	864	49%
106 Jo Ann Ingram	1040	299	582	51%	147 Anne-Louise Milne	591	173	506	34%
107 Julia Schiller	1027	332	725	46%	148 Val Isherwood	583	73	158	46%
108 Merelyn Fuemana	1022	129.5	247	52%	149 Jillian Greening	569	427	889	48%
109 Junior Gesmundo	1019	248.5	496	50%	150 Margaret Toso	563	169	385	44%
110 Ray Goodyear	1017	273.5	569	48%	151 Judy Cronin	562	208.5	500	42%
111 Leanne Field	1008	207	395	52%	152 Tricia Kenyon	554	29	62	47%
112 Rosemary Wauters	967	180.5	368	49%	153 Faye Leach	544	142	362	39%
113 Wendy Anastasi	956	98.5	156	63%	154 Jackie Reid	515	91	190	48%
114 Annette Coombes	914	893	1931	46%	155 Frances Higham	502	296.5	792	37%
115 Sharron Nelley	905	96.5	183	53%	156 Joyce Mowbray	483	80	194	41%
116 Suzanne Liddall	899	81	150	54%	157 Jan Kite	460	59.5	123	48%
117 Antonia Aarts	884	345.5	750	46%	158 Pam Fulton	456	21	49	43%
118 June Dowling	882	94	161	58%	159 Noelene Bettjeman	450	368.5	801	46%
119 Andrew Campbell	874	22	56	39%	160 Lyn Blaker	450	33	65	51%
120 Phyllis Paltridge	852	157.5	334	47%	161 Joan Stanners	436	95.5	212	45%
121 Marilyn Sinclair	842	166.5	342	49%	162 Karen Brookes	370	39	165	24%
122 Madelaine Green	838	156.5	291	54%	163 Lynn Thompson	322	359	852	42%
123 Tony Charlton	835	370.5	786	47%	164 Hannah Roberts	289	38.5	107	36%
124 Rodney Jardine	833	172	358	48%	165 Fay Wenzlick	271	27	76	36%
125 Sandra Cowen	826	115.5	256	45%	166 Valerie Smith	211	84.5	343	25%
126 Yvonne McLaughlan	810	531.5	1107	48%	167 Bev Allen	158	64.5	283	23%
127 Mandy Thorogood	798	73	141	52%	168 Trish Fox	60	42	329	13%
128 Noeline Monsef	792	36	80	45%	169 Susan Schiller	10	75	399	19%
129 Judith Thomas	791	268.5	575	47%					

<b>Club</b>	<b>Club Contact</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Meeting Day &amp; Time</b>
Christchurch (CHC)	John Baird	03 332 5996	john@jrbssoftware.com	12.30 Wed 6.45 Fri
Dunedin (DUN)	Chris Handley	03 464 0199	chris@redheron.com	7pm Tues
Hastings (HAS)	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	bvjac@ihug.co.nz	7pm Mon
Nelson (NEL)	Tony Charlton	03 545 1159	tonycharlton44@gmail.com	7pm Wed
Pakuranga (PAK)	Jeanette Owler	09 534 4453	cliffordo@xtra.co.nz	12.30pm Tues 7pm Thurs
Papatoetoe (PAP)	Frances Higham	09 278 4595	jambo@actrix.co.nz	1pm Mon
Rodney (ROD)	Linda Moore	09 425 4959	colin.linda@clear.net.nz	1pm Mon
Rotorua (ROT)	Ruth Godwin	07 349 6954	ruthmgodwin@gmail.com	9am Thurs
Tauranga (TGA)	Barbara Dunn	07 544 8372	dunn.barbara44@gmail.com	9am Tues
Waikato Phoenix (WKP)	David Gunn	07 855 9970	-	-
Waitara (WTA)	Ngairé Kemp	06 754 4017	ngairelyndac@slingshot.co.nz	1pm Wed
Whanganui (WAN)	Lynne Butler	027 428 5758	scrabblyllyne@gmail.com	1pm Mon
Wellington (WEL)	Lynn Wood	04 387 2581	lynnypinny49@gmail.com	7pm Wed until end March
Whangarei (WRE)	Jenny Litchfield	022 106 3857	jen.e.litchfield@gmail.com	1pm Thurs
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