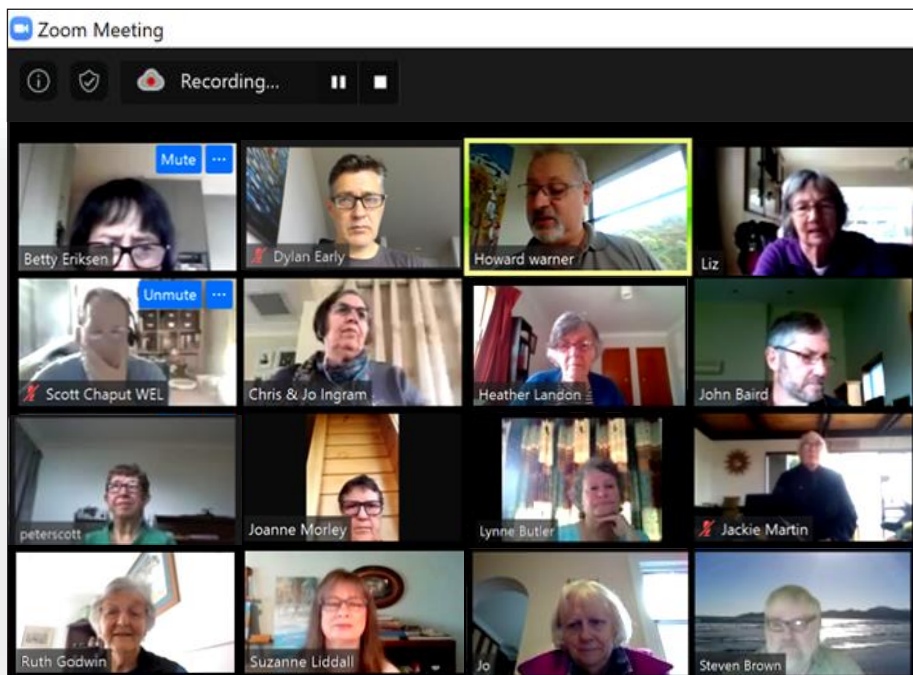


# forwords



Journal of the New Zealand Association of Scrabble® Players  
No. 138 Winter 2020



## *The AGM, but not as we know it*

### **Also in this issue:**

Word Famous in New Zealand:  
The President

Hero Worship - 'O' my!

So you think your tiles are bad!

Onesie Scrabble

New experts

Puzzle pozzy

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# Editorial

Tēnā kotou katoa.

It is with pleasure I bring you this first briefing. These are unprecedented times, this being my first editorship of anything. I'm not going to mask my diffidence but I know I am not taking on this role in isolation. With our team of 300 plus I'm looking forward to going hard and going fast in getting this magazine out to you.

I would like to start by thanking our essential workers, both past and current. Anderina and Olivia have now washed their hands and left me with big shoes to fill! A huge thanks to them both for the hours of work they have put in to the editorship of the magazine over the past six years. *Forwards* has grown in size over their tenure and the content has reflected their styles and personalities.

However the magazine would not be what it is without the regular contributions from many of our current members so a shout out to all of you as well. Thanks to all who have contributed to this issue, and huge thanks to Lyres, for all the help she has been.

We are all in this together.

There certainly has been no opportunity to get together in our clusters, resulting in limited club and tournament news in this issue.

But even with physical and social distancing, there has been community transmission. I have not had to do much contact tracing. Many of you

have been working from home and have sent through contributions, into which you have put intensive care, and which you must have had shovel ready.



*Val Mills*

There have not been too many underlying issues and not much sanitizing, disinfection or swabbing has been required. In addition, there are already several confirmed and probable articles for the next issue.

So as we emerge from our bubbles please stay safe and please be kind. Its time now for me to zoom and start dealing with some of those covid-kilos. Unfortunately the curves have been fattening.

Any questions can be emailed to me and I will go out to Steely Dan's "Hey Nineteen".

*Val Mills*



# Words from the President

by *Howard Warner*



*Howard Warner*

The past few months have been challenging times for New Zealand Scrabble. Our game has been overshadowed by a single event – the COVID-19 pandemic.

The most immediate effect was the cancellation of our Masters and – as the long-term implications became clearer – the Nationals. This was unprecedented and your executive didn't come to this decision lightly. We took into account the danger of large gatherings, age of our membership, uncertainty over flights – and of course government advisories.

Then, as the whole country went into enforced lockdown, there was the closure of club meets. Also, I feel hugely disappointed for the many Kiwis who had planned to combine a European holiday with playing in the World Seniors in Malta in May. That was definitely off.

The few lucky players over this time were those who shared a bubble with another scrabblers. The rest of us had to find other ways to get our Scrabble fix and maintain contact with our Scrabble family. Here's a few things I enjoyed:

- Weekly Zoom gatherings, open to all players, in which we did quizzes, solved puzzles, played consensus games against random opponents online, or just simply

chatted (a huge thanks to Dylan for getting us all Zoom-savvy)

- Lawson's lockdown version of the game, called Racocon (an anagram of 'Corona'), which required two people, two boards (one each), four sets of tiles (two each), and an unlimited mobile phone account
- A return to Internet Scrabble Club, which I had last tried about 15 years ago and which didn't appear to have changed (it still uses the quaint old term SOWPODS!).

Via ISC, I had the good fortune to be involved in two hastily organised international tournaments. First the CURE4 tournament, which brought together North American and Asia-Pacific players. And then the old foe South Africa issued a challenge for a "virtual test". Read more about these in my article on page 12.

Back to the national scene.

Unfortunately, with the loss of our two flagship tournaments, we had to turn down the substantial prizemoney contributions from our sponsor Ryman Healthcare. Another thing that took a back seat was our promotional push to attract new members. That should resume as we emerge from seclusion.

In fact, I'm interested in sleuthing out those bubble-dwellers who dragged out their old board games and discovered a new-found love of Scrabble. Hopefully, they're tired of beating their nearest and dearest and will be seeking new challenges.

In the NZASP, we entered new territory, hosting our AGM via Zoom. The executive farewelled Clare Wall, standing down from the webmaster role. Given the renewed online presence of Scrabble, Clare's successor will have her work cut out.

I'd like to give a huge vote of thanks to Anderina and Olivia, who delivered their very last Forwards issue during lockdown. Their co-editorship has been a tour de force. We were very concerned the magazine would

disappear for want of a replacement. Fortunately, Val stepped forward (or is that forward?). It's a big, tough job and I wish her well. Also, thanks are due to Lyres for her creative, colourful layouts and Lynn for sending out printed copies.

By the time you're reading this, I hope we'll have things nearly back to normal. Maybe not jetting around the world, but certainly moving around New Zealand and playing our favourite game face to face.

---

## Twenty years ago in *Forwards*

by Liz Fagerlund, Mt. Albert

*We all know of course, how great this game of Scrabble is. I expect that in the last few weeks during lockdown, many of you will have been walking to exercise, and at least have had some scrabble games online or via the phone, to exercise your minds – some may even be lucky enough to have been in lockdown with another Scrabble player. I do hope I am still up for a game of Scrabble when I am 96! (if I get to there).*

### **EXERCISING THE MIND**

"Scrabble develops our ability to use language. Exercising the mind is as important as exercising any of the body's muscles at any age. It is a basic requirement which science is increasingly showing helps avoid conditions like Alzheimer's. Without regular exercise the brain becomes as brittle as an unused limb.

Games of any kind increase people's ability to cope with life, their ability to find solutions to problems, and their understanding of situations. Games (like Scrabble) are not in themselves inherently useful, but the skills they teach are invaluable."

from an editorial in the *Bahrain Tribune*, reported in *Scrabble Squibs*, August 1997

### **CAN SCRABBLE IMPROVE THE MEMORY?**

Alexander McGregor of Chicago relates this thought-provoking experience in the November 1996 issue of the *American Scrabble News* magazine.

"Some years ago my father-in-law (then aged 81) suffered a severe stroke that erased a great deal of his vocabulary (though no syntax patterns, fortunately). My wife and I had the happy idea of playing Scrabble games with him to build up his vocabulary again. Whether playing the game jogged his memory, or simply allowed him to learn basic words all over again, we don't know, but it certainly worked (in conjunction with other therapy too), and his vocabulary returned to normal after a couple of years. No-one would ever have guessed that he had had a stroke. He is now 96, and a Scrabble game is still the high point of his day when we spend summer with him."

# Word Famous in New Zealand



with Howard Warner

*Through this long-standing regular Forwards article, we have enjoyed getting to know a variety of scrabblers. This time we decided to shine the spotlight on one of New Zealand's high-profile players. Howard Warner reluctantly agreed to be interviewed.*

## Howard Warner



*A young Howard Warner*

There are many things Howard cherishes in life, including books, music, travel and family history. But Scrabble is undoubtedly very high on the list.

Howard was born in Wanganui and raised from the age of nine months by his dad Gerald (later a very popular Scrabble player). Sometime later, Gerald formed a relationship with Anne – many of you will remember her too – who brought a daughter of her own. The now five-strong family (including Howard's older natural sister) moved to South Auckland when Howard was three.

Later they shifted closer in to Auckland. Howard attended the prestigious Auckland Grammar School and showed strong academic prowess, particularly in languages. But on leaving school, he failed to kick on – until deciding to study journalism at ATI (now AUT) a few years later.

The seeds of Howard's word passion date back to his early teens. Gerald, a high-school language teacher, had been designing and compiling puzzles since university, and Howard caught the bug. At 15 he created his first puzzle, called Lettergram, which his father sold to the Watford Observer in England. For the next ten years Howard produced puzzles for a number of New Zealand newspapers. He only stopped when he found competitive Scrabble.

For most of his life Howard has worked as a print journalist: reporter, feature writer, subeditor and editor. His career began with stints in New Plymouth and Dunedin, before he spent two years in England, as editor of the expatriates' newspaper New Zealand News UK.

After travelling extensively in Europe, Howard returned to a series of newspaper/magazine roles in Wellington, Melbourne and Auckland. While in Melbourne, he also enjoyed his first experience of teaching, as a part-time tutor in RMIT's professional writing and editing program.

Some years later, while back living in Auckland, Howard took this interest in teaching a step further, moving into teaching English as a second language (ESL) to adults. He did this

for four years and completed a Graduate Diploma of Language Teaching at UNITEC at the same time. When the ESL industry collapsed, in the early 2000s, Howard was forced to reinvent himself again.

Plain English had been a lifelong passion of his. So he set up a consultancy business called Plain English People, involving workplace writing training and document editing. He did this for seven years, working with many big organisations in both the public and private sectors.

Howard's more recent shift back to the capital was a chance to enjoy one last fling in news subediting before that role disappeared forever. Fairfax had just set up a 'remote hub' for production of their many Australian titles. From his base in Wellington, Howard worked on the Sydney Morning Herald, Melbourne Age and Canberra Times. After five years or so, Fairfax disbanded the operation, replacing it with templates. That effectively spelled the end of quality control in the media – a loss which Howard still feels keenly.

This brings us to the present day, with Howard now producing a range of internal and external communications for the Parliamentary Counsel Office (New Zealand's legal drafters).

Anyone who has been to Howard's home won't have failed to notice his vast book collection. Howard has always been a massive reader, of both fiction and non-fiction. His love of classical music started with piano lessons from the age of six.



*Howard as a child*



He studied to ATCL level and admits he could easily have chosen a career in music instead of words. He still plays a bit most days, just for himself – though he does occasionally accompany singers and instrumentalists.



Other activities Howard has enjoyed include swimming, cycling and overseas travel – before his involvement in international Scrabble tournaments started dictating his choice of passport stamps.

For the past few years, Howard has volunteered at the New Zealand Holocaust Centre. As some of you may know, Gerald was a Holocaust survivor, having been sent as a child from Berlin to Scotland on the Kindertransport in mid-1939. Most of his family did not survive. Gerald shifted to New Zealand as a young man, had a family and established a fulfilling teaching career. For many years he successfully protected his New Zealand family from this traumatic background. Howard just wanted to "pay something back" for the good life New Zealand had given to Gerald.



*Gerald and Howard*

Howard's love of Scrabble started in childhood – the family had been into various board and card games. When he came to the capital in the 1980s, he joined the Wellington Scrabble Club. (It wasn't his first choice, but no 500 or backgammon club existed!) At his first tournament, in Wanganui, he won the B grade. From that moment he was hooked.

While in Melbourne, he came under the mentoring wing of Geoff Wright, a top Australian player at that time. Geoff was a "crafty" player, who introduced Howard to good strategies, particularly in relation to defensive play. That was when Howard first started learning words – the manual way, as there were no computer aids around then. He absorbed the small words – twos, threes and fours – by rote learning. And he made up lists of seven and eight letter anagrams on which he tested himself constantly. When Zyzzyva came along, he shifted to anagram learning based on probability, and intensive revision by 'Cardboxing'.

Howard won a big tournament while in Melbourne, but it was another eight years before he would capture his first New Zealand title, in Hastings. By then Nigel was around, making things a little more difficult for everyone.

The year 1999 was a good one for Howard. He won the National Champs, from one of the strongest fields ever assembled, and reached the number one ranking. Based on a challenge from his then flatmate David Lloyd, he made a personal vow to win five tournaments each year including one 'major'. And he surprised himself by achieving that for the next 17 years straight – until the arrival of Alastair!

For Howard the joy of Scrabble is all about "completing a puzzle". Each move and each game require solving, using the racks he gets. When a game is finished, he quickly forgets it and moves on to the next.

Some interesting facts about Howard.

- His first full-time job (for three years) was as a claims adjuster in a medical insurance company.
- He played a whole day at a Wellington Scrabble tourney with a broken left wrist and also a broken right elbow!
- He has six siblings, all of different parental combinations (and a range of ethnicities)
- He has won a total of 156 tournaments, including four in Australia and six internationals.



*Howard and Nigel Richards at WESPAC Goa in 2019*



# New Experts

*by Jeff Grant, Independent*

*Ed- With so many Grand Masters in the top 20 now it has got a lot harder to achieve an Expert (E) or Grand Master (GM) title*

Big congratulations to our two newest expert players from 2019 :



**NICK ASCROFT** (Wellington) gained the title of Expert, with five rankings in the top 20 from Jun 2016 to January 2019, and



**LEWIS HAWKINS** (Christchurch) gained the title of Expert with three rankings in the top 20, all gained in 2019.

NICK has many meanings. My favourite is 'a hidden bottom in a beer tankard'. ASCROFT transposes to FACTORS and FORCATS, convicts condemned to hard labour. No relation to 'forpets', fourths of a peck measure.

NICK ASCROFT has anagrams connected with various activities:  
 CONFIT RACKS - cookery  
 SOCKIN' CRAFT - boxing  
 STOCKCAR FIN - car racing

CRACKS ON, FIT - running  
 SNICK FACTOR - cricket  
 CRACK OF TINS - shooting  
 FROCK ANTICS - acting  
 Fantasy appeals but then FACT  
 ROCKS IN, revealing of course the  
 CAN OF TRICKS - magic? Scrabble?

In Scrabble, a LEWIS is a freemason's son. There are four transposals: WILES, WEILS (whirlpools), WIELS (ditto) and LWEIS (Angolan money). The slang term 'Hawkins' refers to 'very cold weather'. There are no Scrabble anagrams of \*HAWKINS, but \*WANKISH, despite negative connotations, is also an old Scots word meaning 'to twist, interlace, entwine', and \*INKWASH painting is a type of East Asian brush painting that uses black ink in different concentrations.

LEWIS HAWKINS transposes to the cryptic WELSH \*KIWANIS and KIWI NEWS LASH (looks like an F is missing). Showing strong yet smooth play HE SAW SILK WIN and was able to WALK HIS SINEW. On the avian theme, even with a SWANLIKE WISH Lewis has HAWK WILINESS.

*Ed –Thanks Jeff for letting me shoulder tap you for this contribution and for coming up with it so promptly. The combination EILNOSSW comes up in my card box – LEWISSON(S) and it got me thinking about LEWIS words. LEWIS is fine as is LEWISES and LEWISIA (S), also LEWISITE(S). The word PALEWISE has LEWIS in the middle!*

# Off the rack

(what Scrabblers have been up to)



## Lorraine Van Veen

Cruise Consultant of the year.

In February this year Lorraine van Veen was named Cruise Consultant of the Year. This is an award given across all travel brands and the winner is decided by the votes of individual cruise lines.

Lorraine said “The nomination process is a bit ambiguous, not only based on sales but marketing, training, relationships - a whole heap of stuff really”

This year there were more nominations than ever before. The award ceremony was at the Star Casino in Sydney and was quite an affair. There was an audience of more than 500 travel agents, cruise line representatives and partners who had all gathered to acknowledge the most dedicated members of the Australian and New Zealand travel trade.

CLIA Australasia’s 2019 Cruise Awards recognised 71 finalists from across Australia and New Zealand, vying to win 18 accolades. This year’s event featured more than 560 nominations, more than any other year.



Lorraine won the Cruise Consultant of the Year and in her words says – “ I was totally elated. With my passion for cruising and the internal House of Travel Awards I have won, this was totally the cream on top of my best sales year ever - in excess of 3 million! Honestly, the week after was like the Oscars. I had more champagne and gift baskets delivered than ever before. it was quite something. Reflecting now, it is so hard to believe it was only 3 months ago, in a whole different world. Now I sit here wondering what the future holds for me and the job I love!”

Well done Lorraine!

## Lyn Toka

Recently Lyn Toka won the Wordsworth competition in the Listener. Her winning entry was printed in the March 7 issue. The brief was to create an alliterative synopsis for a well-known film. Here is Lyn's entry -

*Transatlantic trip turns to tragedy. Two teenagers – top-class tottie, third-class transient; their talking takes them to torrid trysts. Titanic tips; travellers tumble to their turbulent tomb. Teenagers tossed through the turmoil towards timber too tiny to take two. Tears trickle, teeth tremble, torpid thumbs touch tenderly, then trail.*

---

## John Foster

Recently John Foster won the North Shore Times Kind Neighbour Award. John says he had no input to the copy and that there are a few inaccuracies!



World Masters Championship in Goa India. John Foster, right, with Bob Jackman, from Australia. Together they started the Trans Tasman Scrabble Championship that has been running for more than 10 years.

### JOHN FOSTER, NOMINATED BY LYNN EARL, FROM TOTARA VALE, AUCKLAND

"John Foster has been my neighbour for many years. When he had a vegetable garden, he would pass produce on to me and when he stopped doing his garden, he gave me his compost bin in exchange for our lawnmower! He now puts his grass clippings into the compost bin. John is also very good at helping me with cutting my hedge or wayward branches and also passes on his newspapers so I can give them to the local Hospice Shop for wrapping items. John isn't just kind; he is also smart and is a Scrabble champion. He has recently been to Goa for the World Championships and brought home a trophy from Brisbane. While I pass on a jar of marmalade or home preserves to him, I would like to nominate him for the kind neighbour recognition award."

---

## Olivia Godfrey

Olivia is the proud owner of a new Scrabble bag made by her partner's mother, Anne Aitken. Anne started work on the bag in September last year and thought she wouldn't finish it till Christmas this year, but coronavirus lockdown has given her loads more time. So, here it is. Olivia says she can't wait to start using it.



# A virtual feast of competition

by Howard Warner, *Scrabble Wellington*

I was enjoying my Scrabble at all levels – weekly club nights, casual sessions with friends, club and national tournaments, the occasional overseas jaunt. Then the coronavirus hit and everything changed.

Luckily, technology provided a solution. The world of competitive Scrabble was probably going to embrace remote, virtual methods within the next few years anyway. But isolation hastened the arrival.

Two opportunities arose: an international virtual tournament called CURE4 and a “virtual test” challenge from our old foe South Africa. Both would use the long-established Internet Scrabble Club (ISC) program, which I’m sure many *Forwards* readers will know well.

The CURE (Computer Users’ Remote Event) concept was devised by a tech-savvy breakaway North American players association called the Collins Coalition (CoCo for short). CoCo is dedicated to linking the top American players with the wider ‘world’. Though they’ve only been in existence for six months, this was already the fourth international event they’d organised (hence CURE4).

It was held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May, designed with the Asia-Pacific region in mind. Naturally this necessitated a bit of timezone juggling.

The event attracted 50 players from 13 countries. Americans accounted for about a third of the field. We picked up

the draw from CoCo’s website and matched our opponents on ISC. There was also a dynamic site where players could interact between games, the public could follow the action, and round-by-round results and stats were posted. Games were shortened to 15 minutes per person, so we completed the seven-game tournament in around four hours.

The event, despite having been organised hastily, ran very smoothly. Jennifer Clinchy, the young American tournament director, proved a natural.

Not being a fan of online play, I’d only registered for ISC a week before. But I found it easy to manage, and finished a creditable eighth (five wins out of seven). The other two Kiwis in the field, Dylan Early and Stanley Ngundi, finished 10<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. The overall winner was American superstar Jesse Day, runner-up to Nigel in the past two World Championships.

A fun feature was the “award” (non-monetary, pride only) for “best COVID word”. LIBERATE, which has been central to American back-to-work demonstrations, was voted the winner. It squeezed out my NEEZED (a Scottish version of sneeze).

This event was certainly a CURE for the COVID blues and I enjoyed it thoroughly – especially the opportunity for top-level competitive play against Americans. Here’s hoping it becomes a regular feature.

A week later (11 May), I was back on ISC. South Africa had issued the challenge after playing “tests” against the UK and Kenya on previous weekends. Despite some initial resistance from Kiwi players, we ended up with a strong line-up of Alastair, Dylan, Patrick, Blue, Stanley, Lynne Butler, Cicely, Anderina, Val and myself.

The time difference was an awkward ten hours. So the “Bingo Boks” started playing at 8.00 am on a Sunday and we “All Blanks” at 6.00 pm, going through to midnight.

It was the same technology (15-minute-per-person games on ISC) but with a few new features added. WhatsApp was the main forum for communication between the two countries. We Kiwis also had a continuous ‘Zoom room’ for team talks. An independent person (from Kenya) collated scores and ran a dynamic, continuously updating results site. And UK great Craig Beevers ran a live commentary for the public, analysing one feature match-up each round.

After ten rounds, South Africa’s Harry Wiggins had won the individual accolade, on 8–2. He was just a few spread points ahead of a rampant Lynne, winding back the years. But it was all about the team. The Blanks had pulled out to a commanding 12-game lead at the halfway mark. But in the second half, the Boks “woke up” and we “wilted”, as Lynne so elegantly put it.

In the end, it was a narrow four-game (52-48) win to New Zealand.

This test proved a fun and stimulating format. The team talks between rounds were a highlight – we probably “saw” more of our teammates than we would at a World Champs or Trans-Tasman Challenge.

Following the success of this format, I hope we will keep up the momentum by issuing challenges to other, more timezone-friendly countries, such as Australia, India, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand. Maybe more players will be willing to give it a try?

The beauty of these two tournaments was that they required no venue, no travel or accommodation, no entry fee. (In fact, they didn’t cost a cent.) They move along more quickly than face-to-tournaments, so you can also squeeze in a lot more games. They can be organised, promoted and run at very short notice. The technology for delivering results, statistics, commentary and lives streaming are already in place.

It took a global crisis like COVID-19 to get the Scrabble world started on virtual tournaments. Given the uncertainty around international travel, this could be the future of our global

game. And the technology certainly makes it all much more accessible for everyone – especially those of us in the remotest country on earth.



# The Year of the Rat

by Patrick Carter, Mt. Albert

*“Everybody needs to know it’s the year of the rat  
Everyday we’ve got to hold on  
Cause if we hold on we could find some new energy.”*

It is the Chinese year of the Rat. Those are the lyrics from the second verse of ‘The Year of The Rat.’ A song by Badly Drawn Boy, an English singer/songwriter.

Have a look at those lyrics again. Doesn’t it sound like a motto for this year?

An esteemed editor of *Forwards* contacted me and asked me if I could do an article on RAT words. I hadn’t really considered looking at that sub-word, but there are some related seven and eight letter words. My questionable sense of humour added some more as well:

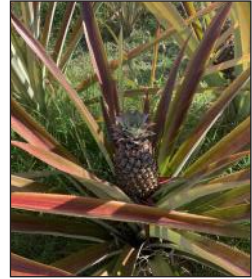


|          |   |
|----------|---|
| BACCARAT | To bet on a rat. (A French card game)                                 |
| DERATTED | To have got rid of rats.  |
| MAJORAT  | A high ranking rat. (The status of being firstborn)                   |
| MUSHRAT  | A large North American rodent.  |
| MUSKRAT  | A large North American rodent.  |
| QUADRAT  | Four rats. (A piece of type metal used for spacing)                   |
| RATABLE  | Capable of being a rat. (Able to be rated)                            |
| RATAFEE  | The cost of a rat. (An almond liqueur)                                |
| RATAPLAN | For organising rats. (A rapidly repeating sound as on a drum)         |
| RATBAGS  | Luggage for rats. (Eccentric people)                                  |
| RATBITE  | As in ratbite fever. DOESN'T take an S.                               |
| RATFINK  | Someone who tells the police about a rat. (A contemptible person)     |
| RATFISH  | A type of fish that looks like a rat.                                 |
| RATHOLE  | A hole made by a rat.   |
| RATHOUSE | Accommodation for rats. (A mental asylum)                             |
| RATICIDE | A substance for killing rats.   |
| RATIONS  | Particles of electrically charged rats. (Distribute in fixed amounts) |



**MUSHRAT/  
MUSKRAT**  
*Sergey Uryadnikov/  
Shutterstock*

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| RATLIKE  | Like a rat.  |
| RATLINE  | A queue of rats. (Small rope used in the rigging of ships)           |
| RATPACK  | A group of rats (A show business clique)                             |
| RATPROOF | Impervious to rats.  |
| RATSBANE | Rat poison. White arsenic.   |
| RATTAIL  | The tail of a rat. (Any of a group of long tailed fishes)            |
| RATTANS  | The result of rat sunbathing. (Climbing plants with long thin stems) |
| RATTEEN  | A juvenile rat. (A rough dress fabric)                               |
| RATTERS  | Animals used for catching rats.                                      |
| RATTERY  | A place where rats are abundant.                                     |
| RATTIER  | More infested with rats.   |
| RATTIEST | Most infested with rats.   |
| RATTILY  | Somewhat infested with rats.   |
| RATTING  | Hunting for rats.  |
| RATTISH  | Like a rat.  |
| RATTONS  | Another name for rats – no joke about rat weights needed!            |
| RATTOON  | A cartoon about rats. (To sprout from a seed planted last year)      |
| RATTRAP  | A trap for catching rats.  |
| WOODRAT  | Another name for the pack-rat.                                       |
| ZIGGURAT | Shouted to a rat being shot at. (A Babylonian temple tower)          |

***RATTOON***

The fact that I found most remarkable was zyzzyva's definition of RATBAGS. Eccentric? Really? If I called someone a ratbag I would be intending it to be a bit harsher than that!

*Ed – thanks Patrick for coming up with this at short notice!*

***ZIGGURAT***  
*Getty Images*

# Practise, Practise, Practise

by Selena Chan, Christchurch

The most effective way to learn is to practise in such a way that:

1. is consistent,
2. is focused, and
3. targets the edge of your ability.

Let's look at how each of the above components of effective deliberate practice can improve our Scrabble game.

## Consistent practice

For most Scrabblers, this is the easiest objective. We consistently practise Scrabble by playing many games. The key is to learn from each game.

Ignore the luck element, such as drawing both the blanks. What did you do to bring about a win?

It's useful to analyse the games you've lost. What could you have done to stem your opponent's luck factor? Should you have played a more defensive game? If so, what strategies would have allowed you to score well, whilst blocking your opponent's stream of high scoring plays?

Note these lessons down and try the strategies out. Firstly, test the strategy to ensure it's sound and secondly, help embed this way of thinking by using it in your game play. Remember that this is a long-term approach, and success will probably only occur in small increments.

## Focused practice

A learning plan will help you focus. What should you work on?

1. Knowledge – such as, which four letter words ending in AE take an S;
1. Skills – like tile tracking more effectively during the end game; or
2. Other factors – eg. how can I move from a terrible game to the next difficult game in a long tournament?

Focusing on a distinct learning goal allows you to isolate it and work on it systematically.

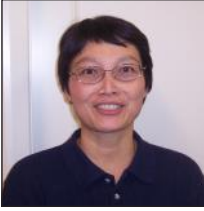
## Aiming beyond your ability

Effective deliberate practice is not just repetitive learning. Identify the items you struggle with and which require further work for you to master them. Mindful and reflective learning will improve your knowledge and performance.

You need to push the envelope of capability. To do this you need to be aware of your present level of skill and your end goal. In education, this gap between what you can already do and what you aspire to reach, is called the 'zone of proximal development'. Your task as the learner is to work out where you currently stand and to then make the appropriate learning plan to reach the learning objective.

An example in Scrabble may be to work on remembering four and five





*Selena Chan*

letter words which cannot be pluralised. Using Zyzzyva's cardboard quiz is an ideal learning tool to help improve this aspect of word knowledge.

The non-digital method is to use flash cards and to put aside the cards with the words which you get wrong, as you cycle through them. Working through these again will help consolidate the memory of the 'no-S' words into your neural network. ☺

Neuro-psychology suggests you need to encounter a conceptual process at least three times before the process or concept becomes 'memorable'. See [this article](#) for an explanation and examples from school-based learning.

However, remember that it is not just rote-learning, but the opportunity to

process the concept, activity or strategy at least three times, perhaps through different avenues of learning, which allows the learning to stick.

To start with, you could:

1. Use Zyzzyva's cardboard or flash cards to introduce the words.
2. Write out the words to reinforce the shape/visual cues and support the recognition of patterns.

For example, there are four four-letter words ending in AE that do not take an S (FRAE, THAE, UVAE and VIAE), but all the others do (BLAES, BRAES, CLAES, SLAES, SPAES and TWAES). Bringing up these words in your mind's eye, and then deciding whether to play or challenge a word will consolidate the message in your memory and help you remember which of these words do and which don't, take an S.

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## Hall of fame

*by Jennifer Smith, Kiwi Scrabblers*

### **Bellini**

Ciao. My name is Giovanni Bellini, a 15th century Italian Renaissance painter who lived from 1430-1516.

I was probably the best known of the Bellini family of Venetian painters. My father, my brother and my brother-in-law were all painters. In fact, my brother Jacopo was more highly regarded than I was in our time, though the reverse is true these days.

Art experts believe I revolutionised Venetian painting, moving it towards a more sensuous and colouristic style. Through the use of clear, slow-drying oil paints, I created deep, rich tints and detailed shadings. My sumptuous colouring and fluent, atmospheric landscapes had a great effect on the Venetian painting school, and especially on my pupils, one of whom was Titian, who has had his own eponymous word featured elsewhere in these articles.



*Giovanni Bellini*

To tell you about my eponym, I first have to introduce you to two men, Giuseppe Cipriani and Harry Pickering. Fast forward to Venice 500 years on . . .

Giuseppe was the bartender of Hotel Europa in Venice, where Harry was a very regular patron. One day, Harry told Giuseppe that he would not be coming to the bar again because his family had found out about his drinking habits and had cut him off financially. He was flat broke.

On hearing this, Giuseppe lent him 10,000 lire (about \$500 US, or \$7,839 in 2015 dollars).

Two years later, Harry returned to the hotel bar, ordered a drink, and gave Cipriani 50,000 lire in return. "Mr. Cipriani, thank you," he said. "Here's the money. And to show you my appreciation, here's 40,000 more, enough to open a bar. We will call it Harry's Bar."

And that's how Harry Cipriani founded Harry's Bar in Venice.

(Incidentally, it's a lot posher than the word "bar" would suggest. It has long been frequented by famous people: conductor Arturo Toscanini, inventor Guglielmo Marconi, Charlie Chaplin, Alfred Hitchcock, James Stewart, Orson Welles, Baron Philippe de Rothschild, Princess Aspasia of Greece, Humphrey Bogart, Aristotle Onassis, George Clooney, Woody Allen, and it was a favourite of Ernest Hemingway.)

In the late 1930s to early forties, Giuseppe invented a cocktail consisting of pureed white peaches mixed with champagne or PROSECCO (an OK word). The original recipe has a small amount of raspberry or cherry juice added, to give it a subtle rose glow. The drink is the embodiment of Italian summers – fresh, sweet, sun-ripened peaches with dry, crisp prosecco.

The creation went from a seasonal delight to a year-round favourite; from a secret of Venice to a globally known cocktail. It found its way to Harry's Bar in New York, and eventually its popularity spread.

I was Giuseppe's favourite painter, so since the cocktail's light pink colour reminded Giuseppe of the colour I often used in my paintings, he gave his concoction the name BELLINI.

Just look at the selection of my paintings (on Google) and compare their colours with the pictures of Giuseppe's cocktail. Delish! I think I would have enjoyed a glass or two half a millennium earlier when I was painting throughout those long hot Italian summer days.

Remember me, Giovanni Bellini when you play BELLINI /S. But also remember two generous and honourable men whose actions created such a flattering (and refreshing!) memorial to me.



*BELLINI*

# So You Think Your Racks are Bad!

## (This Couldn't Happen to Nigel...Could It?)

*By The Phantom*

[Cross-tables.com](http://Cross-tables.com)

[Matthew vs. Nigel](#)

Dictionary: CSW19

This game was brought to my attention by our very own AB (unfortunately not an All Black, but a World Championship competitor none the less). The above game is worth spending five to ten minutes of one's time to review. I strongly recommend to go to the above link and replay the entirety of the annotated game.

We have all bemoaned bad racks, unlucky pick-ups, seemingly unassailable opponent leads and a cruel, cruel Tile God. This never happens to the top players, right?

This particular annotated game, Matthew vs. Nigel, is a revelation for Scrabble players of all abilities and ratings. This is a game that I wish I could play if the opportunity arose. I am unsure as to when and where the game was played, but the lexicon is CSW19 so it must be recent. I am guessing the opponent is either Matthew O'Connor or Matthew Tunnicliffe, from America.

I will not be going through the whole game, but rather just noting of the opening racks. The end game, however, is a masterclass lesson in brilliance and of never giving up. It is shown in the photos of the boards at the end of this article.

I enjoyed the online commentary that went with the game but here is my commentary. Lets begin!

1. Matthew starts and has "IQRRTTU". Plays QUIRT for 48 points.
2. Nigel's opening rack is "**EEIIIOO**". Decides to exchange all seven, EEIIIOO.
3. Matthew's rack reads "HIIIORT". Plays HIOI for 19 points.
4. Nigel's rack (believe it or not is exactly the same as before), "**EEIIIOO**". Instead of exchanging again, decides to play OORIE, through the R, for seven points. (Scores are M 67 v 7 N).
5. Matthew has "CHILPRT". He plays CH for 47 points.
6. Nigel's third rack is "**EEIIIOU**". (I wonder if this has happened to him before?). Instead of exchanging again, Nigel decides to play EUOI, for seven points. (Scores are M 114 v 14 N).
7. Matthew's rack is "ILLPRT". He plays PRILL for 25 points.
8. Nigel's fourth rack is "**AAEEIOU**". (Now this is getting ridiculous). He opts to play AUA for 17 points. (Scores are M 139 v 31 N).
9. Matthew's rack now reads "**NNNNNT**". (This was bound to happen if your opponent is drawing all the vowels, but all six N's?). Interestingly, Matthew decides not

to change but plays one of the N's to make qIN/Nape, for 18 points.

10. Nigel's fifth rack is (now this is crazy), "AEEEEEU". (Yes, he has had five racks in a row of only vowels). He manages to play EuOUAE, through a spare U, for 12 points. (Scores are M 157 v 43 N).

Wow, Nigel's first five racks were all vowels. Who has experienced this or seen the same thing happen to anyone else? It is interesting that Nigel decided to play through four of the five racks. Most players would have exchanged several times by now, but Nigel chose to play and take low scores. (Let's hope he plays like that when I get an opportunity to play against him, haha!).

Our Scrabble God is not a god after all. He is as mortal as you and me. Bad luck is not just bestowed on us underlings but is shared with all who play this ugly and most beautiful game.

Now, can we write this game off for Nigel?

The middle part of this game is worth searching out. There are more interesting racks and wonderful plays. I don't want to spoil it for you, but this middle part is as surprising and lovely as a good chocolate fondant - goey and yummy, sweet and satisfying, building up to a good finish!

Moving on now to the end game and the boards shown below. Matthew's last rack is "AIJNRST" and Nigel's final rack is "EEFGILN". The scores are, M 485 v 389 N. It is Matthew's turn now.

Matthew plays INSTAR, leaving himself with the J and actually nowhere to play it! His reasoning might have been that Nigel had FEELING which he could play on a triple word score, making FEELINGS, and if he did this, even taking into account the 16 points he would have to give Nigel, he would win.

But did Nigel do this? Look at the boards below, and marvel at Nigel's one point win!



Nigel's Rack: EEFGILN Scores: M 498 v 389 N



Nigel's Rack: EEFGILN Scores: M 498 v 397 N

**3**

|    | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O |
|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 2  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 3  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 4  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 5  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 6  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 7  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 8  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 9  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 10 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 11 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 12 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 13 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 14 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 15 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

Nigel's Rack: EEFL Scores: M 498 v 406 N

**4**

|    | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O |
|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 2  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 3  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 4  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 5  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 6  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 7  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 8  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 9  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 10 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 11 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 12 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 13 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 14 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 15 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

Nigel's Rack: EEFL Scores: M 498 v 419 N

**5**

|    | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O |
|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 2  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 3  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 4  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 5  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 6  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 7  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 8  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 9  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 10 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 11 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 12 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 13 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 14 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 15 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

Nigel's Rack: EFL Scores: M 498 v 434 N

**6**

|    | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O |
|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 2  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 3  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 4  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 5  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 6  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 7  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 8  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 9  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 10 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 11 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 12 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 13 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 14 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 15 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

Nigel's Rack: FL Scores: M 498 v 447 N

**7**

|    | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O |
|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 2  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 3  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 4  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 5  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 6  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 7  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 8  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 9  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 10 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 11 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 12 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 13 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 14 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 15 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

Nigel's Rack: F Scores: M 498 v 461 N

**8**

|    | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O |
|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 2  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 3  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 4  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 5  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 6  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 7  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 8  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 9  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 10 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 11 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 12 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 13 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 14 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 15 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

Add-on +16 (J). Final Scores: M 498 v 499 N

# Hero Worship

by Anno Mosso (aka Jennifer Smith, Kiwi Scrabblers)

My cousin DINO, a RELLO from Australia, has been staying with us for the last two weeks, and much as I love him, I have to say I was glad to see him go. He never stopped talking!



He had an endless supply of anecdotes about his mates with names like TOMO this and BOBO that, JOCKO this and KENO that; and they were all WACKO or WEIRDO.

One of his friends is an ASPRO (associate professor), and others have occupations like MILKO, GARBO, MUSO, SERVO, SHEEPO or RABBITO (milkman, musician, garbage collector, service station attendant, sheep-farm worker or seller of rabbit meat). His RABBITO friend is DEVO (devastated) about the introduction of MYXO for controlling rabbits.

He had no sympathy for anyone he described as a DERO, PSYCHO, PLONKO, ALKO, PERVO or SICKO who would go BERKO or AGGRO and too easily get into a BIFFO (aggressive fight) with BUCKOS, DRONGOS, NARCOS, DESTRUCTOS and THUGGOS (bullies, no-hopers, drug dealers, destructive people and thugs) – especially after they'd been drinking STINGO, BOMBO, METHO or KERO (strong ale, CHEAPO wine, methylated spirits, or kerosene). I've never had so many CONVOS (conversations) about – or heard so many words to describe – drinks and drunks: all the above, plus BLOTTO,

STINKO, WINO, ALCO, DERRO and DIPSO (dipsomaniac). Dino reckons if you drink like that, you're a THICKO, DUBBO or DUMBO.

I heard all about his love life: the LESBO girl with the AFRO who was NUTSO, the NYMPHO who couldn't get enough RUMPO (sex), the VEGO who counted every CARBO because she didn't want to become a FATSO, and the sporting BIMBO who played TRUGO and VIGORO (a game like croquet, and a ball game for women) – all gorgeous women, according to DINO – not a DRACO (unattractive woman) among them. DINO himself, I learned, is a YARCO, because he's a young working-class person who dresses in casual clothes, and he's proudly MACHO.



He was DEFO and HYPO about everything. His unrelenting GUSTO was as exhausting as BILLYO – morning, ARVO and EVO. The meals I served him (that he called BEANOS) were DEFFO YUMMO, and everything else was EXO, BRILLO, PERFECTO, MAGNIFICO or FANTASTICO, although sometimes he would label an unpleasant incident or food item as YUCKO.

He had strident opinions about the latest elections in Australia, and the role that DELOS, COMMOS,





POLITICOS and even the REFFOS (delegates, communists, politicians and refugees) played in it. JOURNOS only make things worse, he believes.

I hardly understood his LINGO at times as he talked a whole lot of BIZZO (irrelevant talk) about this GISMO or that THINGO that he needed for his RESTO (the old car he's restoring) so it could get a REGO or REGGO.

Unfortunately, this O-nonsense didn't stop when DINO said CHEERO and went back to Australia.

My young son Michael had by this time developed a severe case of HERO-worship, which he continues to manifest in the way he speaks. He now insists on being called MICO, and has taken to calling his father DADO, his baby sister Kay, KAYO or BUBO, and me the Cockney rhyming-like \*Mumbo-DUMBO. He uses Dino's word, BARRO (embarrassing) to describe anything that hasn't received DINO's blessing. And (like DINO) he only ever goes to the BRASCO or KYBO these days, never the toilet or loo like the rest of the family.

But worst of all, he's not just using DINO's LINGO, but is inventing his own O-words. One moment he's a young lad inviting the BOYO next door to play with his TOYOS. The next, he's telling me he wants to grow up to be a CHICO MAGNETO like DINO.

I tried to tell MICO that he shouldn't just make up words, but he replied,

"Who's to say they're not REALO words, \*Mumbo?"

He woke up the other day not feeling well. "I'm feeling SICKO," he told me. "I think I'm going to VOMITO" – and proceeded to do just that. Then, "I think I'll stay in my BUNGO and RESTO until you can get an appointment with our DOCO or some other MEDICO."

To keep himself amused while he was home sick, he picked up my Scrabble word list and started looking for words ending in O. To his delight, he found all the words he'd been using (except the \*Mumbo of \*Mumbo-DUMBO), and more besides. "RIGHTO, \*Mumbo," he promised, "I'll only use REALO words from now on."

**But . . .**

Our Scrabble word list doesn't include **meanings**, does it?!

So, at mealtimes, he asks me to pass the pepper and SALTO or the FIGO jam. He likes CORNO chips, and doesn't like SKIMO MILKO. He asks me WHATSO for tea and HOWSO it coming along. And when I tell him it's fish, he asks if I'm cooking it in BATTERO. When he's watching TV, and I ask him to set the table, he says he's heard my COMMANDO, and he'll do it in a SECONDO or MOMENTO.

He comes out in the morning wearing one sock and asks me "WHEREESO my other SOCKO, \*Mumbo?" He dresses in his favourite jeans with CUFFOS, styles his hair with a COMBO, puts his father's aftershave on his CHINO, and goes off to a



friend's BASHO (not a kid's birthday party) thinking he looks BUFFO.

Purchases cost so many BUCKOS and CENTOS, and if the seller is asking too much, the vendor is a BANDITO, whereas, if it's CHEAPO, it's SOLD0.

Rich people have POSHO houses, with their conservatories and DECKOS, but our house is a SHACKO; his bike is a PEDALO, and its buckled wheel is BENTO; he's a FANO of the current FADO in music, not CLASSICO; he's even been away at a school CAMPO to Ruapehu for a SKIO trip – and he still thinks DINO is

the most wonderful cousin who ever LIVEDO.

IO CANTO put UPO with MUCHO more of this CRUDO.

And now, to my horror, I find it's all rubbing off on me and I'm doing the same thing with words – when I look at my last sentence, FLAMINGO HELLO, I could SCREAMO!!!!

*The author, ANNO MOSSO, cautions: All of Dino's (mostly Aussie) slang words are legit, but (unlike Mico's and his mother's) they're not always words without the O.*

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# Onesie Scrabble

(or, Whatever gets you through the night is all right)

**by Anderina McLean, Whanganui**

Sometimes, you just don't realise what your life has been missing, until circumstance thrusts it upon you. In the past two months, I've played quite a bit of Scrabble, though in total probably neither more nor fewer games than I would usually play in any 'normal' two-month period. But here's what I loved, and will miss terribly if we ever get back to 'normal': As all of these games were played either online or over the phone, my opponents could not see me, so instead of my usual garb of dazzling colours with matching earrings, I played almost all of them wearing my onesie.

The word ONESIE entered our lexicon with the CSW15 update, although long before that it signified the short-

or long-sleeved bodysuit that forms the basis of a baby's wardrobe, usually fastened with domes over the top of a nappy. But lately there's been an influx of such garments for older children and adults. Onesies for bigger people are always long-sleeved and long-legged, and usually omit the foot covering common in the infant version. There is so much I could write in praise of my onesie, but apparently this publication is the journal of the NZ Association of Scrabble Players, not of Onesie Wearers, so I guess I should try to focus on the more pertinent topic.

I have been a longtime user, though never a fan, of the EA Scrabble app, which I access through Facebook on my cellphone. As I write this, that app



has only a little over a week left to live, and is currently bombarding me with ads for its planned replacement, Scopely's ScrabbleGO, which I have been using for three months already.

Although very different in appearance, both these apps are similar in that the player can challenge an opponent, e.g. a Facebook friend, to a game of Scrabble. That game is then played out over the course of days or weeks, each player making a move when it suits them to log on, then awaiting their opponent's next move. There is no requirement that the two players be online at the same time. There is no time limit, and no challenge function (both apps will just tell you if your play is unacceptable, and you have to take it off and find a better one).

This kind of Scrabble is unquestionably better than the prospect of no Scrabble at all. It's quite well suited to the lifestyle of a full-time working mother, who ordinarily would find it impossible to commit to a whole game on any given day. However, early on in the lockdown I realised I was finding playing on these apps increasingly frustrating.

I used to appreciate that if a rack looked promising, there was no time pressure, and I could take as long as I wanted to cudgel my brains into finding a playable bingo. But this aspect became a nuisance once I had all the time in the world, as I slowed each game to a glacial pace while searching for the optimum move. Even worse, there's no continuity. Making one move in each of 2-10



*ONESIE*

separate games over breakfast and again last thing before bed at night can leave one pretty confused about whether or not there's still a Q to come. Not to mention what it does to one's chances of remembering to utilise a particular hook or hotspot. I lose all sense of the game's flow, and couldn't tell you who'd played which bonus

word, or even, half the time, who had the higher score.

I was chatting about this with my fellow Scrabble addict, Olivia, shortly after, in desperation, I had rejoined ISC (Internet Scrabble Club) after almost a decade's hiatus. ISC has been a part of the Scrabble world longer than I have, and it shows. The interface has a primitive appearance, and much of the process of playing and socialising is less intuitive than that to which I have become accustomed (executed primarily by entering 'commands' into a small text box). However, ISC allows you to play an entire game, with a timer and an optional challenge function, against a live opponent, and I was finding that much more satisfying.

"What's the difference?" Olivia asked me, being unable to access any of these computerised platforms herself. And it wasn't until I started articulating it all to another person who understood my jargon that I realised how many differences there were. ISC shows each player's tiles in a different coloured font on the board. ScrabbleGO does nothing special to signify a blank once it's on the board (you have to peer at the tiny print to find a letter tile with no score value indicated). All three interfaces will do tile tracking for you, but how the

information is presented is vastly different. EA Scrabble has a 'Teacher' function which will show you the 'best' (i.e. usually highest-scoring) move for your tiles and position after you've played yours – what's the etiquette for using that? ScrabbleGO will frequently let you exchange tiles with no loss of turn if you watch an advertisement first – will my opponent know when I utilise that option? And Olivia was amazed, and of course not a little envious that I was getting some Scrabble action when she could not.

"There has to be a way we can play together over the phone", we agreed. And before too long, we'd devised and revised not one, but two methods, which satisfied us throughout the remainder of the lockdown. Our shortest game was completed in perhaps ninety minutes, with our longest stretching to half a week or more as we were interrupted and struggled to find a mutually agreeable time to resume. But, being a firm believer myself in doing as I would be done by, and knowing how much I'd hate to have no Scrabble outlet available, I was willing to persevere.

It didn't take us long to figure out we'd need a board at each end of the phone connection, each reflecting the moves played, so that each of us could look at our board and decide what to do next. It took many hours of cogitation to overcome the problem of drawing tiles: How could she remove the tiles that were on my rack from her bag, so that she wouldn't end up putting them on her own rack, without knowing what my tiles were?

The solution, obviously, was to enlist a third person in our games, as a non-playing assistant. Here's an extract

from a piece of descriptive writing crafted during our lockdown homeschool by my eight year old daughter, Bronwyn:

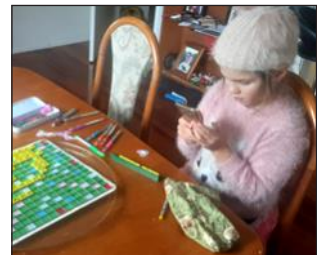
*Scrabble is a word game. Scrabble has a board and some letter tiles that look like little morsels of cheese.*

*At the moment I am learning a different way to most. I am learning by helping Mummy play Lockdown Scrabble with a friend of hers who is blind, called Olivia. Do you want to know how we do it?*

*I grab seven tiles for each player, then I text Olivia to tell her what her tiles are and then I delete the text so that Mummy does not know what Olivia's tiles are. Next Mummy will have her turn. How does she take her turn? By using some of the tiles from her rack to make a word, and then she texts Olivia her word. (That is why I carefully deleted Olivia's rack before). Mummy scores her word. Mummy and Olivia take turns doing these things.*

In addition to Bronwyn performing this function for us, on other occasions the tiles were drawn and texted by the other adult members of our two lockdown bubbles, to whom we both remain very grateful. We learned that, by having our partners use their own cellphones to text the tiles drawn, Olivia and I could be on a telephone call to each other for the duration of the game.

In this manner we were able to discuss how frightful our racks were;



*Bronwyn texting Olivia*

what a ghastly number of vowels were yet to come; exactly how the board came to be quite so terrible; and even occasionally to congratulate each other on a good play!

Our other method of long-distance Scrabbling did not require a third human party, but was strongly reliant on the computer program, Quackle. We decided to have a go at Duplicate. I'd played once, a long time ago, when Mt. Albert Scrabble Club decided to give it a go in honour of Bastille Day. And having sampled it there, a smaller group (myself included) decided to give it another go a few weeks later, to see if we could improve the efficiency of the process. Happily, Duplicate is established enough that it was easy to find descriptions online to fill in the gaps in my memory.

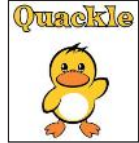
Again, Olivia and I would each have our own board at either end of the phone line, but we'd set all the tiles out face up adjacent to the board, because Quackle was determining for us which tiles we'd draw. So I'd tell her on the phone which seven tiles we'd both put onto our racks (and now I know the Phonetic Alphabet! Hooray!), then we allowed three minutes to each select and commit our play. While our individual scores for the game were the sum of each of our successive individual plays, we used Quackle to determine the optimal play for each turn, and that was the move that remained on our two boards (and determined how many new tiles would replenish our next rack).

What I came to enjoy most about Duplicate was the discussion after each move: about what we'd chosen

to play; what we'd thought about playing but decided not to (and on what basis); what traits and trends we perceived in each other's play, and, all too often: how the BLEEP did we both miss that?! We both became a trifle obsessed with the question, "What would Quackle do?" And before too long, we'd anthropomorphised her: "Quackle is not going to approve of this move" and "She's being very judgemental lately" and "She'd prefer us to play off more consonants" and suchlike. No wonder a single game could take us three hours or more to complete!

The point of Duplicate is to greatly reduce the 'luck of the draw' element in Scrabble, by having each player grapple with the same board position and tiles simultaneously, thereby creating a fairer comparison of the skill level of all the players involved. While I appreciate this in theory, I'm certain I wouldn't want to make Duplicate my main mode of competition; more often than not I need the luck of the draw! But I will want to continue to play Duplicate from time to time even after we can return to playing Scrabble face-to-face, because there is so much a player can learn from it. And because it lends itself so well to being played in a onesie!

*Ed – during lockdown I have satisfied my Scrabble addiction by enjoying games of Lawson Sue's invention, Raccoon, playing in one online tournament and taking part in the consensus game that Steven Brown has had running on Slack. I imagine this would be a bit like playing duplicate Scrabble. I love seeing what other players come up with.*



# Club News

## Kiwi

*By Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell*

Fay Wright passed away on 16 April. Fay was in her eighties. She joined Kiwi Scrabblers in 2007. Fay lived in a villa at the Ryman Hilda Ross Retirement Village. We will sadly miss Fay at our club meetings. She was a faithful member. She is seen here with Liz Fagerlund at the Christmas Party at Hilda Ross Retirement Village.



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## Mt. Albert

### Marianne Patchett Obituary

*by Mary Gray, Judy Cronin and others*

Marianne, a longstanding member of the Mt. Albert Scrabble Club, passed away on 11 April 2020. She joined around 1992 and played her first tournament in 1993 at the North Shore Bays. Over her more than twenty years of Club Scrabble she played in around 50 tournaments, a total 605 tournament games. Her last tournament was (appropriately) a Mt. Albert memorial tournament on 15th March 2015. She was active in the Mt. Albert club and served as President for six years from 2000 - 2006.

She also ran a Scrabble group on Wednesday afternoons at the Blockhouse Bay Community Centre for a number of years where she used her expertise to encourage new players. At least two people joined Mt. Albert Scrabble Club from this group. In recent years, after her

husband became seriously ill she was unable to play in tournaments and her attendance at club nights became sporadic.

Marianne was a well-known member of Blockhouse Bay community. She was a loyal parishioner of the Church of the Saviour. Her faith was a great comfort during her husband's illness. She particularly enjoyed yoga and meeting people at the Blockhouse Bay Ladies Probus group and the Blockhouse Bay garden group.

More recently Marianne suffered from cancer and sadly died during our Covid-19 lockdown.

Marianne will be remembered as a gentle, discreet, capable person with a great sense of humour.



*Marianne Patchett*

*And from Su Walker*

### **A Glimpse**

On Thursday April 23rd I happened to catch a glimpse of a promo on TV3's the Project, and I recognised the person in the photo shown! No names were mentioned so it was by pure chance I was looking at the screen.

It was none other than a past President of Mt. Albert Club, Marianne Patchett, who sadly had passed away mid April this year.

Due to the Corona Virus an online funeral was organised by one of Marianne's granddaughters, who's living in Mexico incidentally. She organised around 70 people in five different time zones to get together online at the same time the funeral was conducted in Auckland.

What a mammoth effort! The family plans to have a celebration of Marianne's life when large groups are again allowed to gather.

You may still be able to see this clip on TV on demand TV3, April 23, 2020, the story was on at 7.04pm.

*Ed – I was able to watch this on demand and here is a screenshot from the program.*



*Zoom funeral*

.....

### **Mt. Albert one day tournaments 21 and 22 March**

*by Liz Fagerlund*

Mt. Albert hosted 2 one day tournaments on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> March in unprecedented circumstances.

Covid-19 was sweeping the world, and New Zealand was not immune to this Pandemic. This was quite likely the last Scrabble competition weekend anywhere in the world for quite some time! (We will get back to them I'm sure).

Mt. Albert Scrabble club was very much looking forward to its first tournaments at a Ryman Village. We had limited the numbers to fit the space available, and Mary Gray and I had been liaising with Ryman in

Campbell Road for a while. With worries about their residents, Ryman Nationwide had decided no outside groups could come in to their premises and they were disappointed to have to tell us this eleven days before the tournament. They very generously still supplied some morning and afternoon tea food, blocks of chocolate for spot prizes and some raffle prizes.

I quickly tried Mt. Albert Bridge club where we play on Monday nights (and a couple of other options) and they were able to let us have that venue for a reasonable cost – we were very grateful for that. Many players felt unsure about playing and, of course, we had no problem accepting withdrawals and refunding if they wished.



*Mary Gray gives instructions at the Mt. Albert tournament*

ahead successfully, albeit with fewer players than had originally entered. There were 36 players on Saturday, and 30 on Sunday.

I found it all quite nerve-wracking and we worried about going ahead, with New Zealand Covid-19 cases increasing a bit each day. I advised players they needed to take extra health measures – withdrawing if at all unwell, hand sanitiser, extra soap, frequent hand washing, boards, tiles bags and racks to be clean, measures when challenging, where we asked people to avoid using fingers on the computers used for adjudicating, and instead using the end of their pen (thanks for the idea Patrick), keeping distances at break times. Draws were done a few times with frequent withdrawals. Eventually we went

Before the end of the weekend I had to announce that the Masters tournament at Easter was cancelled, and by the end of the weekend we knew we were getting close to the country being in lockdown!

New Zealand is doing well with keeping this pandemic under control now, so let's hope that by the time you are reading this in the magazine we have started playing at least at clubs again, and maybe in tournaments.

Thanks to all the tournament players who abided by the measures and hopefully still enjoyed the weekend.

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## Bye bye Wellington Scrabble Club

*by Lynn Wood, Independent*

On 13 March 2019, the eve of my 70th birthday, the Wellington Scrabble club closed the door on 34 fantastic years of Scrabble, mainly at 5 Tully Street. Nick Ascroft renamed the club Scrabble Wellington and shifted the venue to Vogelmorn.

Tully Street was in the Chisholm family for 95 years, but as I had retired, I felt I needed to downsize and

have a freer life. Going to tournaments could be extended time wise, with no necessity to be home on a Wednesday night. The two guys who bought my home lived at number 9, and they had been after the place for several years. On my birthday this year, 2020, I had a guided tour of the place and the changes which had occurred were astounding. The hallway was no longer an ice

chamber as the entire house had been insulated. A new kitchen was put in, a new dining room and changes to the bedrooms. The money spent must have been substantial, but well worth it.



*Scrabble at Tully Street*

I miss the home I owned for 42 years, but the view from my new apartment and the wonderful sunshine I get, outweigh this.

My Scrabble life began at the Cosmopolitan club in Takapuna, Auckland. There I met Lynne Powell and May Quigley, and so began my love of the game at a competitive level. Previously I had played with my grandmother and mother, Thelma, from age ten till I started work. In 1985 my husband and I returned to Wellington, and on finding the only club was in Lower Hutt, I decided to start one myself. Not many weeks after start up, we shifted to the Plunket rooms in Kilbirnie and played on a Tuesday night. It was on one of these nights that Plunket required the rooms, so I set up tables in the top lounge at Tully St, and that is where the club remained. The late Marjorie Heads said we should play there permanently as the room was far superior. To this I had to agree. No more setting up trestle tables and washing up supper dishes by hand. Bliss. Frank Robinson is the only player from the early days, and a stalwart member. Others have left, died or given up on Scrabble.

The club won the team trophy at the Nationals twice. The first time with

Kate Henderson, Jeff Owens and Sue McRae at the helm. The second occasion the late Glenda Foster, Nola Borrell and John McNaughton did the honours. I was immensely proud of this achievement.

Glenda sold her car in 2018 to ride a motorised scooter, and therefore could no longer come to Scrabble. She brought Nola when she came, so that was goodbye to her too.

The members had their subs and mags paid every year. It was my thing for them coming to my home to satisfy my hobby. I just wish more people would partake of the wonderful mag produced.

We played interclub with Lower Hutt in the early years, always on a Saturday.

The Wood cup was contested with Masterton club, alternating between Wellington and at various locations in Wairarapa. Notable players Lucy Bright, Marg Batchelor and Aliette Hay are unfortunately all deceased.

With Covid -19 taking a toll on Scrabble playing, I look forward to level 2 and the return of a few tournaments. Scrabble has been, and still is, my life and I am proud to wear my life membership badge. Thank you John Foster for nominating me for this honour, I will ever be grateful.

No doubt I will see some of you on the Scrabble circuit when time permits. Till then, cheers to the best game in my world.

# Do you give a shit?

by Jennifer Smith, Kiwi Scrabblers

I was surprised and disappointed to discover recently that \*COWDUNG isn't acceptable in Scrabble. However, COWFLAP, COWFLOP, COWPAT, COWPIE and COWPLOP are all OK.

The Scots have a couple of extra words for cow shit: SHAIRN and SHARN. And TATH is another word for it that you may not have heard.

So, apart from us humans, that makes the cow the creature who has the dubious honour of having the most words for their excrement.

We humans excrete SHIT, FAECES, FECES, DEJECTA, EXCREMENT, ORDURE, STOOLS, TURDS, POO, POOP, CRAP, DOODIES, JOBBIES, KAK/CAK/CACK/CACA and all sorts of other slang when we DEFECATE or DEFAECATE or STERCORATE or SCUMBER (or simply take a DUMP) – but so does every other creature.

Some shitty words apply generally to several types of animals. You'll be familiar with DROPPINGS (of pests, rodents and birds), DUNG (of animals whose shit makes good manure), and GUANO (the accumulated shit of seabirds or bats); but perhaps not so familiar with FUMET, the shit of deer and hares (it can also be spelt FEWMET or FUMETTE), and FRASS, the shit of insects.

Words like SCAT, DUNG, SPOOR and DROPPINGS are used specifically for animals that are hunted or tracked. PELLETS is the word used for

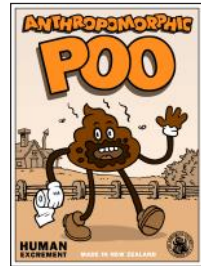
animals whose shit is that shape, like sheep, rabbits and deer.

Some creatures — horses, bulls and chickens — get singled out to have their shit labelled more specifically: HORSESHIT, BULLSHIT and CHICKENSHIT. However, as we know, their shit has other meanings when applied to or by humans.

A hawk defecates SLICINGS, while a falcon defecates MUTES. How do they qualify to have their very own special word for their shit? Well . . . perhaps that's not so remarkable, since those words have other meanings in English.

But I'd like to know why the otter gets to have exclusive use of the word SPRAINT for its shit? Does it get special treatment because it's a threatened species?

The dinosaur had exclusive rights to the word COPROLITE for its fossilised shit. Aah . . . but then, its shit has long since ceased to stink, a characteristic universally recognised as the mark of a superior being!







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# Ask And-dream-a

## Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell 's Dream:

I had a dream of being at a Scrabble tournament.

In this dream Kim, Jennifer and Shirley were playing in the tournament.

I was waiting in a foyer to go for morning tea. While waiting I was talking to Kim, who was showing me her score card. She had played Jennifer and Shirley and had not done very well against them. I said they have not been very nice to you with the tiles. We then saw a lady coming upstairs who we asked about the morning tea.

She did not know when morning tea would be ready. So we then asked a man who was one of the tournament organisers. He said there was no morning tea and we would have to wait until lunch time. I was not very happy about that and wondered how I would get through until lunch time. We then proceeded into the playing room.

The room was packed with players. I had to find my opponent. It must have been an international tournament because two of my opponent's had foreign names that looked the same. I was in the G grade. When I did sit down opposite my opponent we were playing on laptops.

And that was the end of my dream.



## And-dream-a's interpretation:



Indubitably, this dream shows the influence of the unusual circumstances of the pandemic lockdown. In addition to a proliferation of

articles about dreaming, the news media have been overusing the word “unprecedented” to an extraordinary degree... and yet we have just come through a literally unprecedented situation.

Your dream shows familiar elements, such as a Scrabble tournament with your familiar co-competitors. But there is likewise much that is unfamiliar: unknown opponents with indistinguishable names; playing on a computer instead of a board; and the elimination of morning tea. Your brain is expressing its discombobulation at the juxtaposition of the familiarity of home with the unfamiliarity of the necessary restrictions of the nationwide lockdown.

Aspects of your dream that would have been perfectly commonplace in the Before Coronavirus era (e.g. a packed room, and the anticipation of a shared meal) are disconnected from our current day-to-day reality. So as you sleep, your subconscious is sorting through these experiences, like a librarian renumbering resources to align with a newly-revised classification system.

In addition to reports about dreams during the lockdown, you may have also noted reports about unprovoked acts of racism against Asian people,

supposedly because of the Covid-19 virus having originated in China. Could this be why it is Kim for whom things “have not been very nice”?

Although it is improbable that the Everly Brothers' great song was written about our beloved game, their lyrics certainly seem perfectly apt for this scenario of Scrabble deprivation:

*I need you so that I could die  
I love you so, and that is why  
Whenever I want you  
All I have to do is dream.*

*Ed - I am certain that, during the past two months, many scrabblers have found themselves dreaming of playing real games again! Many will have been wistful daydreams, and I certainly hope that those dreams will be coming true for you in the near future. But if, like Jacqueline, you dream of Scrabble while you're sleeping, remember to record as many details as you can, and send them in to Forwards for And-dream-a's mystical analysis.*

### ***Found in Translation!***

Ef yar phreaking owt about the  
Coronae varus, hearsay feu hents fer  
rident out the globule paan demic.

Firths: Navar tuchun nother pur sen  
oyer facies.

Secund: Cleanup yer hausen yaird.

Thirled: Bi a lota toilette peeper.

Forth: Wair a garlicky necklets.

Viffed: Practise guid hijinks.

Sext: Wotcher hansa lot.

Savin nth: Wark fem heaume.

Ait: Goanna whirled cruse. (Sike!)

Naan: Eat chirr veges.

Tein: Stey seif!

# Mailbox



*from Murray Rogers, Independent*

Does the player going first have an advantage? I believe most of us think so, but only intuitively. Very rarely I meet someone who prefers to go second. I have heard various statistics one of which is that the player going first wins 55% of the time, all things being equal. Since lockdown I have played 103 solitary games playing for both players and pretending, as much as possible, not to take into account the other player's rack, except when the bag is empty. The first player won 60, and lost 43 (there were 2 draws however) for a 58.3 percentage.

I started to ponder the difference from a statistical perspective. Take for example the letter Z. Other than the blanks and possibly the S's, it is probably the most favoured tile. The

first player has a 7% or a 0.07 chance of picking it up on the first draw. The second player has a 0.061 chance of getting it on the first draw. (If you get lost at this point, don't worry, just believe me). Calculated, 0.061 is 7 chances out of 93 or 0.0753 probability minus 0.0143 (the probability of the first player already having it). Therefore, if one player gets the Z, the first player gets it 53.4% of the time, the second player 46.6% or the ratio of 0.07 to 0.061. Interesting. I am not sure how much Scrabble has been analysed statistically from this point of view, but this is one example of many, a very complex analysis indeed. I suppose if one has an outstanding knowledge of eight letter words that would be a potential reason for wanting to go second, but I will leave that statistic to someone else.

*from Alastair Richards, Independent:*

During lockdown, Lyres and I played a few games of Scrabble over the Easter Weekend. Our rather dramatic first game ended with a final score of Lyres 617 – Alastair 508. The aggregate (1125) is higher than the current New Zealand tournament record of 1078. It is not often you lose by so much despite scoring over 500! Lyres' triple triple seems appropriate in the current environment with CURATIVE (167).



from the Phantom

## “Virus infects scrabble dictionary”

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| *COVID      | obviously short for covid-19  |
| *HOUSEPARTY | one of the social media Apps used   |
| *ZOOMBOMB   | to gatecrash a zoom meeting   |
| *PPE        | personal protective equipment   |
| *PUI        | person under investigation  |
| *PUM        | person under monitoring   |
| *REMDESIVIR | an antiviral that may work against coronavirus                              |
| *MERS       | Middle East Respiratory Syndrome  |
| *CFR        | Case Fatality Rate  |
| *CDC        | Centre for Disease Control  |
| *PAPR       | Powered Air-Purifying Respirator  |
| SARS        | Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome,<br>actually, (Scots) to savour           |
| ARDS        | Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrom,<br>actually, a kind of primitive plough |



From Patrick Carter, Mt. Albert

Just looking at another player's games on the internet and I came across this one.

How about this for a highest losing score - 544?  
All I can say is they started with the right word - FECK.

# Puzzle Pozzy



## Cryptogram

By Steven Brown, Kapiti

*Ed – During the lockdown, Steven Brown posted a few cryptograms to Slack. Here is one for you to try and a few hints from Steven on where to begin.*

The first step towards solving would usually be to count up how many times each letter occurs in the \*cyphertext - there will usually be one that occurs around one and a half times as often as the next most common one. This will almost always be the letter that encrypts the E in the plaintext. Similarly, if you just look at the letters ending words, the two most common will usually be E or S. If there's a letter that doesn't end many words, but when it does, those words mostly end in the same three letters, this is likely to be -ING. If you can correctly guess an E, I, N, and G, then it should start to be obvious what some of the other letters must be to make words (e.g. there is likely to be more than one word ending in -IEST, or IER).

For example, if you have IWWQWFQ in your \*cyphertext, and have established that w is the most common letter in the \*cyphertext as a whole, you can do a pattern match in zzyyvva on ?EE?E?? and then check through the 57 matches to find that the only ones where the fourth and seventh letters are the same are MEETEST and WEETEST. So you now know that not only does w becomes E, but q becomes T and f becomes S. If you had SWVFWWF in the same \*cyphertext, this would now be filled in as \_E\_SEES, where the only word that matches is PENSEES, giving you s becomes P and v becomes N.

*Ed – If I'd realised it was ok to use Zzyyvva, it would have been whole lot easier!*

(Answer on page 42).

## Slack

*For those of you having difficulty getting to grips with Slack, the following two links will be useful.*

[How to use Slack and receive email notifications.](#) All info is on the NZASP website.

[How to get desktop notifications from Slack.](#) Here is a link to the Slack guide.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| y | o | c | t | q | j | s |
| f | n | j | o | c | d | c |
| m | p | y | s | r | y | i |
| x | q | s | d | y | p | j |
| m | o | y | c | d | e | d |
| p | j | o | s | q | d | o |
| c | o | y | x | q | s | y |
| y | v | d | p | y | c | i |
| l | q | i | j | a | y | b |
| o | y | i | d | j | c | d |
| b | q | p | q | d | i | c |
| o | j | x | m | j | o | c |
| y | a | d | o | p | j | m |
| z | j | s | l | o | y | p |
| o | d | m | y | o | c | i |
| l | j | s | v | d | o | i |
| g | n | o | j | s | d | i |
| m | q | j | s | q | s | y |
| j | h | y | c | y | n | i |
| z | y | o | j | v | d | i |
| v | o | q | i | c | j | d |
| c | t | d | o | q | j | s |
| k | n | x | j | o | d | l |
| c | q | o | y | s | q | v |
| e | p | d | j | x | d | o |

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| c | y | w | p | j | s | l | i |
| j | s | s | n | p | j | c | d |
| l | q | i | e | j | a | d | p |
| v | t | j | c | p | q | s | d |
| x | y | s | q | p | q | j | d |
| t | j | o | c | d | s | d | l |
| i | p | j | s | c | q | s | e |
| c | q | o | d | i | y | x | d |
| l | y | o | r | q | d | i | c |
| m | j | s | c | q | s | d | i |
| l | y | n | j | s | q | d | o |
| q | s | l | d | a | y | n | c |
| p | q | d | s | c | d | o | w |
| i | n | e | j | o | q | d | o |
| m | o | y | d | c | c | d | i |
| z | q | d | p | l | q | d | o |
| i | t | y | d | c | o | d | d |
| v | n | o | j | c | q | s | e |
| j | p | n | x | q | s | d | i |
| g | n | s | s | d | p | d | l |
| c | o | y | m | j | o | q | j |
| c | d | c | o | j | u | y | s |
| i | s | q | c | c | q | d | o |
| c | j | q | p | g | j | s | i |
| v | j | p | j | x | q | c | d |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| a |  |
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| y |  |
| z |  |

## Cryptic Clues

by Lyres Freeth, Independent

I was working on a Lovatts cryptic crossword during lockdown and came across a clue related to Scrabble:

"End an argument and be the only one left who can add to the Scrabble Board?" (4,3,4,4). (Answer on page 42).

|  |   |  |   |  |  |   |   |  |   |  |  |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|---|--|--|---|---|--|---|--|--|--|---|--|
|  | A |  | E |  |  | E | L |  | S |  |  |  | R |  |
|--|---|--|---|--|--|---|---|--|---|--|--|--|---|--|

I got in touch with Lovatts to see if they had any other Scrabble related cryptic clues in their database. While they weren't able to access Scrabble in their database, they have kindly given us four Cryptic Crossword books to give away as prizes. Thanks Lovatts!

*Ed-And totally by coincidence the following was received!*

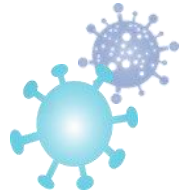
## COVID CROSSWORD

by Another Handle

*Ed - Another Handle says this is the first crossword she has compiled since her schooldays and that it was fun creating it. She would have liked to have fitted more words in, but it was hard enough to make even these words fit together!*

### ACROSS

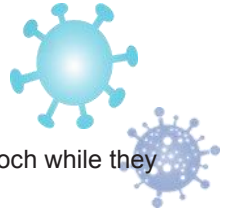
3. On gizmo for lessons
4. & 11 down. Free up - not! (4,4)
7. Banned in level 4
9. Gloria Gaynor did this
13. This 'saint' could be a host of golden daffodils as he has words worth listening to
16. Banned but still makes the news daily
18. Handle gently. You always want them and their contents around
22. "Facts I intend you to know" clumsily spoken by a sterile Trump
24. Roughly speaking you can get what you want with the sanest lies



### DOWN

1. Reverse flog – not allowed
2. What we do in these times to make it better
5. & 14 down. Shakily what rapid voices do to sing (5,8)





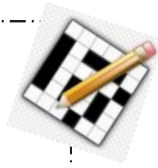
6. Banned in level 4
8. Foils elations caught in isolation
10. To keep spaced out you need to do this often
11. See 4 across
12. & 20 down. Sloppy holes where the kids casually mooch while they work (4,6)
14. See 5 down
15. Insect follows sandwich but not the rules
17. Last of breathing asps
19. Watching over all who pass by
20. See 12 down
21. One of the many that we applaud during this time
23. Number of scrabble tournaments held since lockdown

|    |   |    |   |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |  |  |    |
|----|---|----|---|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|--|--|----|
|    | 1 |    |   | 2  |    |    |    |   |    |    |  |  |    |
| 3  |   |    |   |    |    |    |    | 4 |    | 5  |  |  |    |
|    |   |    |   |    |    | 6  |    |   |    |    |  |  |    |
|    | 7 |    | 8 |    |    | 9  |    |   | 10 |    |  |  | 11 |
|    |   |    |   |    | 12 |    |    |   |    |    |  |  |    |
|    |   | 13 |   |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |  |  |    |
| 14 |   |    |   |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |  |  |    |
|    |   |    |   |    |    |    |    |   |    | 15 |  |  |    |
| 16 |   | 17 |   |    |    |    | 18 |   | 19 |    |  |  | 20 |
|    |   |    |   |    |    | 21 |    |   |    |    |  |  |    |
| 22 |   |    |   | 23 |    |    |    |   |    |    |  |  |    |
|    |   |    |   |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |  |  |    |
| 24 |   |    |   |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |  |  |    |
|    |   |    |   |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |  |  |    |

Answers will be in the next issue of *Forwards*. All correct entries received by **18<sup>th</sup> July 2020** will go into the draw to win one of the four Lovatt's Cryptic Crossword books.

### Puzzle Pozy Solutions

#### Cryptogram (from pp. 38-39)



|   |   |
|---|---|
| a | V |
| b | W |
| c | T |
| d | E |
| e | G |
| f | Q |
| g | F |
| h | Z |
| i | S |
| j | A |
| k | J |
| l | D |
| m | P |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| n | U |
| o | R |
| p | L |
| q | I |
| r | K |
| s | N |
| t | H |
| u | X |
| v | C |
| w | Y |
| x | M |
| y | O |
| z | B |



Mary Curtis



Julia Schiller

#### Cryptic clues (from page 40)

Have the last word

*We're waiting for the new Aussie slang to be born in the next few months. Early guesses are:*

- SANNY*      *hand sanitiser*
- IN ISO*      *self isolation / lockdown*
- THE \*RONA*      *(self explanatory)*
- MAGPIE*      *supermarket hoarder (also verb)*

*In a sentence:*

*"Me boss tested pozy for the \*rona so now I'm in iso. Popped down to Woollies for some sanny but it's been bloody magpied."*

# Tournament results

## Mt. Albert - Saturday

21 March 2020

7 games

|                | Name                   | Club | Wins | Spread | Ave |
|----------------|------------------------|------|------|--------|-----|
| <b>A Grade</b> |                        |      |      |        |     |
| 1              | Alastair Richards (GM) | IND  | 6    | 303    | 451 |
| 2              | Andrew Bradley (GM)    | MTA  | 5    | 241    | 436 |
| 3              | Lyres Freeth (GM)      | IND  | 5    | 221    | 441 |
| 4              | Cicely Bruce (GM)      | WRE  | 3    | -29    | 394 |
| 5              | John Foster (GM)       | IND  | 3    | -218   | 394 |
| 6              | Lawson Sue (GM)        | PAK  | 2    | -26    | 396 |
| 7              | Patrick Carter (GM)    | MTA  | 2    | -218   | 386 |
| 8              | Glennis Hale (GM)      | IND  | 2    | -274   | 377 |

### B Grade

|   |               |     |   |      |     |
|---|---------------|-----|---|------|-----|
| 1 | Chris Higgins | IND | 4 | 316  | 421 |
| 2 | Val Mills (E) | PAK | 4 | 249  | 424 |
| 3 | Carolyn Kyle  | IND | 4 | 91   | 398 |
| 4 | Lynn Wood     | IND | 4 | 11   | 393 |
| 5 | Pam Barlow    | IND | 4 | -35  | 383 |
| 6 | Karl Scherer  | IND | 3 | -23  | 417 |
| 7 | David Gunn    | WKP | 3 | -181 | 381 |
| 8 | Jean O'Brien  | IND | 2 | -428 | 369 |

### C Grade

|    |                  |     |   |      |     |
|----|------------------|-----|---|------|-----|
| 1  | Roger Cole-Baker | MTA | 6 | 589  | 434 |
| 2  | Betty Eriksen    | WAN | 5 | 267  | 398 |
| 3  | Lynn Carter      | IND | 5 | 187  | 380 |
| 4  | Jeanette Grimmer | ROD | 4 | 256  | 395 |
| 5  | Su Walker        | IND | 4 | 45   | 387 |
| 6  | Suzanne Liddall  | WRE | 3 | -68  | 394 |
| 7  | Merelyn Fuemana  | MTA | 3 | -195 | 368 |
| 8  | Mary Gray        | MTA | 2 | -9   | 397 |
| 9  | Julia Schiller   | PAP | 2 | -478 | 355 |
| 10 | Mary Curtis      | IND | 1 | -594 | 352 |

### D Grade

|   |                              |     |     |      |     |
|---|------------------------------|-----|-----|------|-----|
| 1 | Anne Scatchard               | WRE | 6   | 300  | 361 |
| 2 | Awhina Taikato<br>Jacqueline | WAN | 5.5 | 227  | 362 |
| 3 | Coldham-Fussell              | KIW | 5   | -33  | 345 |
| 4 | Ian Handricks                | IND | 4   | 113  | 358 |
| 5 | Jackie Reid                  | MTA | 3.5 | -105 | 330 |
| 6 | Annette Coombes              | WKP | 3   | 141  | 348 |
| 7 | Tara Hurley                  | IND | 3   | 87   | 362 |

|    |                |     |   |      |     |
|----|----------------|-----|---|------|-----|
| 8  | Susan Schiller | MTA | 3 | -309 | 313 |
| 9  | Faye Leach     | KIW | 2 | -104 | 340 |
| 10 | Cheryl Parsons | MTA | 0 | -317 | 306 |

## Mt. Albert - Sunday

22 March 2020

7 games

|                | Name                   | Club | Wins | Spread | Ave |
|----------------|------------------------|------|------|--------|-----|
| <b>A Grade</b> |                        |      |      |        |     |
| 1              | Alastair Richards (GM) | IND  | 7    | 345    | 427 |
| 2              | Lyres Freeth (GM)      | IND  | 5    | 183    | 421 |
| 3              | Glennis Hale (GM)      | IND  | 4    | -5     | 387 |
| 4              | Cicely Bruce (GM)      | WRE  | 3    | 50     | 409 |
| 5              | Lawson Sue (GM)        | PAK  | 3    | 34     | 383 |
| 6              | Patrick Carter (GM)    | MTA  | 3    | 32     | 414 |
| 7              | Lynn Wood              | IND  | 2    | -337   | 341 |
| 8              | John Foster (GM)       | IND  | 1    | -302   | 358 |

### B Grade

|   |               |     |   |      |     |
|---|---------------|-----|---|------|-----|
| 1 | Val Mills (E) | PAK | 6 | 620  | 430 |
| 2 | David Gunn    | WKP | 4 | 377  | 420 |
| 3 | Mary Gray     | MTA | 4 | 15   | 376 |
| 4 | Carolyn Kyle  | IND | 4 | -61  | 376 |
| 5 | Pam Barlow    | IND | 4 | -127 | 387 |
| 6 | Jean O'Brien  | IND | 3 | -34  | 389 |
| 7 | Chris Higgins | IND | 2 | -543 | 352 |
| 8 | Karl Scherer  | IND | 1 | -247 | 359 |

### C Grade

|   |                 |     |   |       |     |
|---|-----------------|-----|---|-------|-----|
| 1 | Su Walker       | IND | 5 | 284   | 418 |
| 2 | Lynn Carter     | IND | 5 | 246   | 408 |
| 3 | Mary Curtis     | IND | 4 | 417   | 426 |
| 4 | Merelyn Fuemana | MTA | 4 | 323   | 406 |
| 5 | Betty Eriksen   | WAN | 4 | 179   | 394 |
| 6 | Suzanne Liddall | WRE | 4 | 11    | 386 |
| 7 | Julia Schiller  | PAP | 2 | -412  | 341 |
| 8 | Hairi Effendi   | IND | 0 | -1048 | 292 |

### D Grade

|   |                |     |   |      |     |
|---|----------------|-----|---|------|-----|
| 1 | Awhina Taikato | WAN | 7 | 469  | 377 |
| 2 | Anne Scatchard | WRE | 5 | 370  | 344 |
| 3 | Tara Hurley    | IND | 4 | 187  | 371 |
| 4 | Jackie Reid    | MTA | 3 | 224  | 361 |
| 5 | Cheryl Parsons | MTA | 2 | -453 | 308 |
| 6 | Susan Schiller | MTA | 0 | -797 | 282 |

# New Zealand Scrabble Records



When taking on the editorship of *Forwards* I was told that the worst part of the job was keeping the records up to date. I have a huge thanks to give to Liz Fagerlund who has made the updates for us, this year. Please note that in keeping the Records up to date we rely on each of you as well, so;

1. Please let us know if any records are broken at Club play.
2. Please let us know if any records are broken in tournaments you may be running.
3. Please check the Records for this year as they relate to you and let us know if any changes need to be made.

I thought this might be a good time to remind you of the criteria required for achieving the status of Grand Master and Expert.

## **Grand Master**

*Players who have five separate post-tournament rankings in the top 10 over a five year period or three in the last 12 months.*

## **Expert**

1. *Players who have five separate post-tournament rankings in the top 20 over a five year period or three in the last 12 months.*
2. *Players who have represented NZ in the Trans –Tasman Challenge more than once.*

New awards will be made at the end of each calendar year and announced in the summer edition of *Forwards*. The appropriate letters will be added beside each player's name in both the online and printed ranking lists.



*Hairi Effendi plays Suzanne Liddall at the Mt. Albert tournament*

| Tournament Calendar 2020  |                     |           |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| Tournament                | Location            | Dates     |
| Whangarei                 | Whangarei           | 4-5 Jul   |
| Kiwi                      | Hamilton            | 8-9 Aug   |
| Christchurch              | Christchurch        | 5-6 Sep   |
| Tauranga                  | Tauranga            | 12-13 Sep |
| Wellington Swiss          | Wellington          | 19-20 Sep |
| Mt. Albert                | Auckland            | 10-11 Oct |
| Whanganui                 | Whanganui           | 24-25 Oct |
| # Trans-Tasman Tournament | Canberra, Australia | 13-15 Nov |
| Otago                     | Dunedin             | 28-29 Nov |
| # Restricted entry        |                     |           |

# New Zealand Scrabble Records

## as at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020

### NZ Performances at the World Scrabble Championships, now WESPAC (held since 1991)

|                          |               |                |                        |
|--------------------------|---------------|----------------|------------------------|
| World Champion           |               | Nigel Richards | 2007, 2011, 2013, 2019 |
| In the top 10            | 7th           | Mike Sigley    | 1993                   |
| (other than first)       | 3rd           | Jeff Grant     | 1995                   |
|                          | 6th           | Jack Dymond    | 1997                   |
|                          |               | (Kendall Boyd) |                        |
|                          | 8th, 2nd, 3rd | Nigel Richards | 1999, 2009, 2017       |
| Most frequent competitor | 11 times      | Jeff Grant     | 1991-2015              |

### NZ Performances at the World Youth Championships

|                          |         |               |           |
|--------------------------|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Highest place            | 7th/120 | Lewis Hawkins | 2014      |
| Most frequent competitor | 4 times | Lewis Hawkins | 2013-2017 |

### Trans-Tasman Challenge

|                      |                            |  |                  |
|----------------------|----------------------------|--|------------------|
| Challenges won by NZ | 3                          |  | 1998, 2000, 2010 |
| Individual winners   | Peter Sinton               |  | 1998             |
|                      | Jack Dymond (Kendall Boyd) |  | 2000             |
|                      | Howard Warner              |  | 2002             |
|                      | Joanne Craig               |  | 2010             |
|                      | Dylan Early                |  | 2018             |

### Highest ten on international (WESPA) rankings

|                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Nigel Richards    | 2 <sup>nd</sup>   |
| Alastair Richards | 7 <sup>th</sup>   |
| Howard Warner     | 83 <sup>rd</sup>  |
| Lyres Freeth      | 132 <sup>nd</sup> |
| Blue Thorogood    | 142 <sup>nd</sup> |
| Joanne Craig      | 147 <sup>th</sup> |
| Jeff Grant        | 163 <sup>rd</sup> |
| Dylan Early       | 187 <sup>st</sup> |
| Patrick Carter    | 216 <sup>th</sup> |
| Steven Brown      | 234 <sup>th</sup> |

### 500 international games

#### (WESPA-rated)

|                   |      |
|-------------------|------|
| Nigel Richards    | 4005 |
| Alastair Richards | 2189 |
| Joanne Craig      | 1845 |
| Howard Warner     | 1285 |
| Liz Fagerlund     | 752  |
| Betty Eriksen     | 718  |
| Jeff Grant        | 580  |

**Masters Tournament (held since 1984)**

|                          |                       |                           |                                |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Most games won           | 21/23                 | Jeff Grant<br>Mike Sigley | 1993, 1997<br>2002             |
| Highest spread           | 2493                  | Howard Warner             | 2017                           |
| Most times winner        | 12 times              | Howard Warner             | 2003-04, 2006<br>2008-13, 2018 |
| Most frequent competitor | 36/36                 | Glennis Hale              | 1984-2019                      |
| Youngest competitor      | 12 years,<br>104 days | Lewis Hawkins             | 2017                           |
| Oldest competitor        | 84 years,<br>288 days | June Mackwell             | 2008                           |

**The Nationals (held since 1980)**

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

**Tournament Records**

|                               |      |                                     |                      |
|-------------------------------|------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Highest game score            | 756  | Dylan Early                         | April 2019           |
| Highest losing score          | 514  | Pam Barlow                          | Jun 2010             |
| Highest drawn score           | 487  | Debbie Raphael<br>& Lynn Wood       | Feb 2004             |
| Highest single turn           | 302  | Lynne Butler                        | Oct 2011             |
| Highest single turn non-bonus | 135  | Ruth O'Neil                         | Nov 1997             |
| Highest combined score        | 1078 | David Lloyd<br>& Howard Warner      | Mar 1997             |
|                               | 1078 | Alastair Richards<br>& Lyres Freeth | Mar 2019             |
| Highest winning margin        | 493  | Mike Sigley                         | Nov 1990             |
| Highest add-on                | 58   | Jeff Grant<br>Lynn Wood             | Mar 2012<br>May 2015 |
| Most consecutive bonus words  | 5    | Allie Quinn                         | Jun 1989             |

|   |        |                                |          |
|---|--------|--------------------------------|----------|
| Most bonus words in a game (individual) | 6      | Nigel Richards                 | Aug 1998 |
|   | 6      | Yvette Hewlett                 | Nov 2001 |
|   | 6      | Howard Warner                  | Aug 2010 |
| Most bonus words in a game (combined)   | 8      | Mike Sigley & Glenyss Buchanan | Pre 1997 |
|   | 8      | Nigel Richards & John Foster   | Aug 1998 |
|   | 8      | Paul Lister & Shirley Hol      | May 2013 |
| Highest average in a tournament         | 584    | Nigel Richards                 | Jan 1997 |
| Most tournament games played            | 4801   | Lynn Wood                      |          |
| Most tournament games won               | 2395.5 | Howard Warner                  |          |

### Milestones

4000 tournament games played  
Lynn Wood 4801

2000 tournament games won

Howard Warner 2395.5  
Lynn Wood 2287.5

3000 tournament games played  
Betty Erikson 3602  
Val Mills (E) 3222  
Howard Warner (GM) 3189  
John Foster (GM) 3151  
Glennis Hale (GM) 3072  
David Gunn 3068

1000 tournament games won  
Jeff Grant (GM) 1822  
Betty Eriksen 1820.5  
John Foster (GM) 1774.5  
Glennis Hale (GM) 1685.5  
Val Mills (E) 1566.5  
Liz Fagerlund (GM) 1513  
David Gunn 1508  
Jean O'Brien 1499  
Jennifer Smith 1325.5  
Su Walker 1272  
Glenda Geard 1263.5  
Joan Thomas 1245  
Allie Quinn 1208  
Lawson Sue (GM) 1197  
Carolyn Kyle 1150  
Shirley Martin 1139.5  
Murray Rogers (E) 1127  
Delcie Macbeth 1091  
Lorraine Van Veen 1037

2000 tournament games played  
Jean O'Brien 2960  
Liz Fagerlund 2908  
Jennifer Smith 2744  
Glenda Geard 2568  
Su Walker 2507  
Joan Thomas 2503  
Allie Quinn 2480  
Jeff Grant (GM) 2442  
Carolyn Kyle 2321  
Shirley Martin 2285  
Lawson Sue (GM) 2197  
Murray Rogers (E) 2146  
Delcie Macbeth 2103  
Lorraine Van Veen 2100  
Rosemary Cleary (E) 2027  
Annette Coombes 2021

**Club Records**

|   |      |                              |                        |           |
|---|------|------------------------------|------------------------|-----------|
| Highest game score                      | 763  | John Foster                  | Mt Albert              | Jan 1993  |
| Highest losing score                    | 522  | Stanley Ngundji              | Scrabble Wellington    | Aug 2019  |
| Highest drawn score                     | 482  | Jeff Grant & Margaret Warren | Hastings               | Mar 1994  |
| Highest single turn                     | 347  | Neil Talbot                  | Wellington             | Oct 2003  |
| Highest single turn, non bonus          | 261  | John Foster                  | Mt Albert              | Jan 1993  |
| Highest combined score                  | 1106 | Chris Hooks & Dawn Kitzen    | Papatoetoe & Mt Albert | Mar 1992  |
| Highest winning margin                  | 590  | Paul Lister                  | Christchurch           | Nov 2008  |
| Highest add-on                          | 68   | Andrew Bradley               | Mt Albert              | Pre 1990  |
| Most consecutive bonus words            | 5    | John Foster                  | Mt Albert              | Apr 1992  |
|   |      | Patrick Carter               | Mt Albert              | Apr 2003  |
|   |      | Paul Lister                  | Christchurch           | Aug 2010  |
| Most bonus words in a game (individual) | 7    | Jeff Grant                   | Independent            | Sept 1997 |
| Most bonus words in a game (combined)   | 8    | Chris Hooks & Dawn Kitzen    | Papatoetoe & Mt Albert | Mar 1992  |

**Grand Masters**

|                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Alastair Richards | John Foster    |
| Andrew Bradley    | Lawson Sue     |
| Blue Thorogood    | Lynne Butler   |
| Cicely Bruce      | Lyres Freeth   |
| Dylan Early       | Mike Sigley    |
| Glennis Hale      | Patrick Carter |
| Howard Warner     | Peter Sinton   |
| Jeff Grant        | Steven Brown   |
| Joanne Craig      |                |

**Experts**

|                |
|----------------|
| Glenda Foster  |
| Lewis Hawkins  |
| Nick Ascroft   |
| Olivia Godfrey |
| Paul Lister    |
| Scott Chaput   |
| Val Mills      |



# Rankings as at 1 May 2020

|    | Name                   | Rating | Wins   | Games | %   |    | Name              | Rating | Wins  | Games | %   |
|----|------------------------|--------|--------|-------|-----|----|-------------------|--------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1  | Alastair Richards (GM) | 2397   | 366    | 455   | 80% | 41 | Irene Smith       | 1529   | 266   | 546   | 49% |
| 2  | Howard Warner (GM)     | 2282   | 2395.5 | 3189  | 75% | 42 | Delcie Macbeth    | 1528   | 1091  | 2103  | 52% |
| 3  | Lyres Freeth (GM)      | 2163   | 674.5  | 1017  | 66% | 43 | Peter Johnstone   | 1527   | 274.5 | 516   | 53% |
| 4  | Joanne Craig (GM)      | 2147   | 452.5  | 687   | 66% | 44 | Margie Hurly      | 1526   | 402   | 817   | 49% |
| 5  | Dylan Early (GM)       | 2144   | 160    | 245   | 65% | 45 | Pam Barlow        | 1519   | 914   | 1809  | 51% |
| 6  | Patrick Carter (GM)    | 2115   | 911.5  | 1432  | 64% | 46 | Rosalind Phillips | 1517   | 694.5 | 1358  | 51% |
| 7  | Jeff Grant (GM)        | 2105   | 1822   | 2442  | 75% | 47 | Carolyn Kyle      | 1490   | 1150  | 2321  | 50% |
| 8  | Blue Thorogood (GM)    | 2100   | 776    | 1099  | 71% | 48 | Allie Quinn       | 1480   | 1208  | 2480  | 49% |
| 9  | Peter Sinton (GM)      | 2010   | 827.5  | 1172  | 71% | 49 | Stan Gregec       | 1472   | 217   | 406   | 53% |
| 10 | Stanley Ngundi         | 1984   | 23     | 42    | 55% | 50 | Roger Coates      | 1455   | 928   | 1947  | 48% |
| 11 | Andrew Bradley (GM)    | 1980   | 997    | 1873  | 53% | 51 | David Gunn        | 1453   | 1508  | 3068  | 49% |
| 12 | Lawson Sue (GM)        | 1955   | 1197   | 2197  | 54% | 52 | Selena Chan       | 1440   | 399.5 | 795   | 50% |
| 13 | Cicely Bruce (GM)      | 1948   | 830.5  | 1511  | 55% | 53 | Clare Wall        | 1436   | 378   | 740   | 51% |
| 14 | Lynne Butler (GM)      | 1940   | 997.5  | 1659  | 60% | 54 | Jason Simpson     | 1422   | 31    | 47    | 66% |
| 15 | John Foster (GM)       | 1868   | 1774.5 | 3151  | 56% | 55 | Anne Goldstein    | 1414   | 266   | 532   | 50% |
| 16 | Anderina McLean (GM)   | 1847   | 933    | 1748  | 53% | 56 | Yoon Kim Fong     | 1406   | 769   | 1503  | 51% |
| 17 | Steven Brown (GM)      | 1841   | 981    | 1835  | 53% | 57 | Dianne Cole-Baker | 1406   | 713   | 1390  | 51% |
| 18 | Glennis Hale (GM)      | 1840   | 1685.5 | 3072  | 55% | 58 | Jean O'Brien      | 1401   | 1499  | 2960  | 51% |
| 19 | Lewis Hawkins (E)      | 1832   | 314    | 523   | 60% | 59 | Chris Higgins     | 1398   | 144   | 257   | 56% |
| 20 | Murray Rogers (E)      | 1822   | 1127   | 2146  | 53% | 60 | Karl Scherer      | 1390   | 144   | 264   | 55% |
| 21 | Liz Fagerlund (GM)     | 1813   | 1513   | 2908  | 52% | 61 | Roger Cole-Baker  | 1388   | 766   | 1491  | 51% |
| 22 | Paul Richards          | 1807   | 43     | 76    | 57% | 62 | Jeanette Grimmer  | 1384   | 325.5 | 662   | 49% |
| 23 | Nick Ascroft (E)       | 1785   | 253    | 468   | 54% | 63 | Paul Freeman      | 1383   | 107.5 | 197   | 55% |
| 24 | Jennifer Smith         | 1772   | 1325.5 | 2744  | 48% | 64 | Yvette Hewlett    | 1362   | 535.5 | 1119  | 48% |
| 25 | Scott Chaput (E)       | 1765   | 336    | 592   | 57% | 65 | Helen Sillis      | 1361   | 832   | 1707  | 49% |
| 26 | Lois Binnie            | 1719   | 178    | 361   | 49% | 66 | Shirley Hol       | 1350   | 819.5 | 1742  | 47% |
| 27 | Rosemary Cleary (E)    | 1715   | 947    | 2027  | 47% | 67 | Mary Gray         | 1348   | 810.5 | 1644  | 49% |
| 28 | Olivia En (E)          | 1691   | 957    | 1850  | 52% | 68 | Joanne Morley     | 1345   | 203   | 380   | 53% |
| 29 | Paul Lister (E)        | 1685   | 913.5  | 1662  | 55% | 69 | Ruth Groffman     | 1336   | 738   | 1490  | 50% |
| 30 | Herb Ramsay            | 1673   | 239    | 388   | 62% | 70 | Jenny Litchfield  | 1327   | 188.5 | 325   | 58% |
| 31 | Val Mills (E)          | 1655   | 1566.5 | 3222  | 49% | 71 | Leila Thomson     | 1322   | 657.5 | 1422  | 46% |
| 32 | Vicky Robertson        | 1645   | 447    | 922   | 48% | 72 | Lynn Carter       | 1314   | 869.5 | 1687  | 52% |
| 33 | Lynn Wood              | 1637   | 2287.5 | 4801  | 48% | 73 | Nola Borrell      | 1312   | 626.5 | 1186  | 53% |
| 34 | Karen Gray             | 1588   | 320.5  | 604   | 53% | 74 | Joan Thomas       | 1289   | 1245  | 2503  | 50% |
| 35 | Pam Robson             | 1588   | 655.5  | 1424  | 46% | 75 | Barney Bonthron   | 1285   | 121.5 | 211   | 58% |
| 36 | Shirley Martin         | 1581   | 1139.5 | 2285  | 50% | 76 | Mary Curtis       | 1270   | 459   | 887   | 52% |
| 37 | John Baird             | 1568   | 363    | 667   | 54% | 77 | Lyn Toka          | 1242   | 649.5 | 1253  | 52% |
| 38 | Lorraine Van Veen      | 1559   | 1037   | 2100  | 49% | 78 | Barbara Dunn      | 1237   | 377.5 | 654   | 58% |
| 39 | Glenyss Buchanan       | 1554   | 765    | 1659  | 46% | 79 | Carole Coates     | 1233   | 798   | 1642  | 49% |
| 40 | Anna Brouwer           | 1539   | 906.5  | 1842  | 49% | 80 | Merelyn Fuemana   | 1232   | 186   | 344   | 54% |

|     | Name                | Rating | Wins   | Games | %   |     | Name                          | Rating | Wins  | Games | %   |
|-----|---------------------|--------|--------|-------|-----|-----|-------------------------------|--------|-------|-------|-----|
| 81  | Heather Landon      | 1229   | 763    | 1522  | 50% | 122 | Judy Driscoll                 | 792    | 328.5 | 817   | 40% |
| 82  | Shirley Pearce      | 1225   | 154    | 315   | 49% | 123 | Judith Thomas                 | 791    | 268.5 | 575   | 47% |
| 83  | Bev Edwards         | 1224   | 327    | 637   | 51% | 124 | Llane Hadden                  | 789    | 61.5  | 137   | 45% |
| 84  | Jena Yousif         | 1222   | 637    | 1280  | 50% | 125 | Jacqueline<br>Coldham-Fussell | 771    | 797.5 | 1620  | 49% |
| 85  | Gabrielle Bolt      | 1219   | 576.5  | 1119  | 52% | 126 | Janny Henneveld               | 769    | 597.5 | 1224  | 49% |
| 86  | Betty Eriksen       | 1212   | 1820.5 | 3602  | 51% | 127 | June Dowling                  | 764    | 107   | 196   | 55% |
| 87  | Bernie Jardine      | 1196   | 237    | 455   | 52% | 128 | Anne Scatchard                | 743    | 643.5 | 1257  | 51% |
| 88  | Su Walker           | 1190   | 1272   | 2507  | 51% | 129 | Awhina Taikato                | 739    | 57.5  | 133   | 43% |
| 89  | Malcolm Graham      | 1186   | 719    | 1441  | 50% | 130 | Anne-Louise Milne             | 721    | 191   | 536   | 36% |
| 90  | Grant Paulin        | 1180   | 66.5   | 125   | 53% | 131 | Dorothy Bakel                 | 714    | 96    | 224   | 43% |
| 91  | Chris Bell          | 1178   | 44     | 91    | 48% | 132 | Rodney Jardine                | 706    | 188.5 | 399   | 47% |
| 92  | Faye Cronhelm       | 1178   | 980    | 1968  | 50% | 133 | Phyllis Paltridge             | 704    | 179   | 376   | 48% |
| 93  | Lyn Dawson          | 1165   | 437.5  | 847   | 52% | 134 | Kathleen Mori-Barker          | 669    | 433   | 877   | 49% |
| 94  | Joanna Fox          | 1160   | 238.5  | 463   | 52% | 135 | Aaron Peries                  | 628    | 31    | 51    | 61% |
| 95  | Suzanne Liddall     | 1135   | 139    | 249   | 56% | 136 | Joan Beale                    | 616    | 405.5 | 797   | 51% |
| 96  | Allison Torrance    | 1134   | 536.5  | 1038  | 52% | 137 | Judy Cronin                   | 610    | 231.5 | 541   | 43% |
| 97  | Joy Jones           | 1112   | 29.5   | 41    | 72% | 138 | Sharon McKenzie               | 600    | 51.5  | 108   | 48% |
| 98  | Colleen Cook        | 1099   | 469    | 961   | 49% | 139 | Marilyn Sinclair              | 587    | 190.5 | 407   | 47% |
| 99  | Chris Handley       | 1086   | 443.5  | 872   | 51% | 140 | Tim Henneveld                 | 560    | 554   | 1229  | 45% |
| 100 | Karen Miller        | 1086   | 686    | 1352  | 51% | 141 | Margaret Toso                 | 543    | 176   | 399   | 44% |
| 101 | Glenda Geard        | 1067   | 1263.5 | 2568  | 49% | 142 | Frances Higham                | 540    | 308.5 | 815   | 38% |
| 102 | Ray Goodyear        | 1060   | 280.5  | 583   | 48% | 143 | Joyce Mowbray                 | 530    | 89    | 208   | 43% |
| 103 | Jo Ann Ingram       | 1060   | 308    | 595   | 52% | 144 | Jan Kite                      | 528    | 67.5  | 136   | 50% |
| 104 | Sheila Reed         | 1058   | 374    | 779   | 48% | 145 | Valma Gidman                  | 522    | 760.5 | 1551  | 49% |
| 105 | Marian Ross         | 1044   | 674.5  | 1332  | 51% | 146 | Jillian Greening              | 504    | 454   | 942   | 48% |
| 106 | Tony Charlton       | 1039   | 405    | 837   | 48% | 147 | Joan Stanners                 | 474    | 109.5 | 241   | 45% |
| 107 | Suzanne Harding     | 1037   | 693    | 1381  | 50% | 148 | Dael Shaw                     | 458    | 33    | 66    | 50% |
| 108 | Sharron Nelley      | 994    | 137.5  | 252   | 55% | 149 | Jackie Reid                   | 449    | 141.5 | 294   | 48% |
| 109 | Wendy Anastasi      | 953    | 113.5  | 183   | 62% | 150 | Pam Fulton                    | 445    | 35    | 76    | 46% |
| 110 | Antonia Aarts       | 951    | 375    | 806   | 47% | 151 | Faye Leach                    | 418    | 173   | 429   | 40% |
| 111 | Julia Schiller      | 920    | 372    | 819   | 45% | 152 | Noelene Bettjeman             | 399    | 384.5 | 840   | 46% |
| 112 | Shalisha Kunaratnam | 907    | 26     | 53    | 49% | 153 | Tara Hurley                   | 394    | 17    | 41    | 41% |
| 113 | Ruth Godwin         | 884    | 565.5  | 1194  | 47% | 154 | Lynn Thompson                 | 366    | 373   | 880   | 42% |
| 114 | Cathy Casey         | 878    | 37     | 72    | 51% | 155 | Bruce Weatherall              | 197    | 10.5  | 41    | 26% |
| 115 | Noeline Monsef      | 855    | 57     | 115   | 50% | 156 | Bev Allen                     | 150    | 66.5  | 298   | 22% |
| 116 | Rosemary Wauters    | 850    | 191    | 395   | 48% | 157 | Valerie Smith                 | 137    | 91.5  | 371   | 25% |
| 117 | Sandra Cowen        | 842    | 125.5  | 270   | 46% | 158 | Trish Fox                     | 23     | 46    | 355   | 13% |
| 118 | Hanna Dodge         | 838    | 228    | 434   | 53% | 159 | Cheryl Parsons                | 17     | 7     | 58    | 12% |
| 119 | Annette Coombes     | 803    | 932.5  | 2021  | 46% | 160 | Susan Schiller                | 0      | 92    | 496   | 19% |
| 120 | Junior Gesmundo     | 799    | 295.5  | 618   | 48% |     |                               |        |       |       |     |
| 121 | Sharon Teasdale     | 797    | 38     | 67    | 57% |     |                               |        |       |       |     |

| Club                      | Club Contact               | Phone Number | Email                           | Meeting Day & Time         |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Christchurch (CHC)        | John Baird                 | 03 332 5996  | john@jrbssoftware.com           | 12.30 pm Wed<br>6.45pm Fri |
| Dunedin (DUN)             | Chris Handley              | 03 464 0199  | chris@redheron.com              | 7pm Tues                   |
| Hastings (HAS)            | Fran Lowe                  | 021 055 4897 | lowefran66@gmail.com            | 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<br>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@5star.kiwi.nz             | 7pm Mon                    |
| Nelson (NEL)              | Tony Charlton              | 03 545 1159  | tonycharlton44@gmail.com        | 7pm Wed                    |
| Papatoetoe (PAP)          | Frances Higham             | 09 278 4595  | jambo@actrix.co.nz              | 1pm Mon                    |
| Rodney (ROD)              | Vivienne Mickelson         | 09 902 9207  | vivienne.moss20@gmail.com       | 12.45pm 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)             | Ngairi Kemp                | 06 754 4017  | ngairelyndac@slingshot.co.nz    | 1pm Wed                    |
| Whanganui (WAN)           | Lynne Butler               | 027 428 5758 | scrabblylne@gmail.com           | 1pm Mon                    |
| Scrabble Wellington (WEL) | Nick Ascroft               | -            | nick_ascroft@hotmail.com        | 7pm Wed                    |
| Whangarei (WRE)           | Jenny Litchfield           | 022 106 3857 | jen.e.litchfield@gmail.com      | 1pm Thurs                  |

|                 |              |              |                        |
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