



Also in this issue:

Word Famous in New Zealand:
Marian Ross

Optimising Learning in the Brain

An A-Z of Weird Words

Gestating a Tourney

Ask Liz

Puzzle pozzy

NZASP Executive

President



Howard Warner

Phone: 021 215 3962
Email:
thathowardguy@gmail.com

Vice President



Jenny Litchfield

Phone: 022 106 3857
Email:
veep.nzasp@gmail.com

Secretary



Liz Fagerlund

Email:
scrabbliz@inspire.net.nz

Treasurer



Scott Chaput

Email:
treasurer.nzasp@gmail.com

Web Master



Suzanne Liddall

Email:
webmaster.nzasp@gmail.com

Table of contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Editorial..... | 3 |
| Words from the President | 4 |
| Word famous in New Zealand: Marian Ross..... | 6 |
| Club News | 7 |
| Gestating a Tourney | 10 |
| Twenty years ago in <i>Forwards</i> | 13 |
| An A-Z of weird words..... | 14 |
| Only on a Scrabble board | 16 |
| Hall of fame..... | 17 |
| How Scrabble blew its big moment | 20 |
| Off the rack | 21 |
| The rules of Coronaspak | 24 |
| Ask Liz | 26 |
| Alan's Roadtrip | 28 |
| Tournament Calendar | 29 |
| Optimising learning in the brain..... | 30 |
| In the news | 32 |
| Mailbox | 34 |
| Puzzle Pozzy | 36 |
| Tournament Results..... | 39 |
| Rankings as at 31 December 2020 | 42 |
| Club contacts | 44 |

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Editorial

Increasing my Word Knowledge

I didn't seriously start to learn words until I made the team for the WESPA Championship 2017 in Nairobi, Kenya. Having made the team I didn't want to let them down, so about 6 months prior to the event, I started on Zyzzyva Cardbox. Alastair and Lyres helped set me up. Alastair said I needed to start with the most probable sevens & eights, but with more eights than sevens, and then because I would get sick of being tested on long words I should also add in some fives, for fun.

Cardbox works by testing you on all the words that you put in it. As you get words right it brings them up less often, as you get them wrong it tests you everyday on them until you start getting them right. If there is more than one word in a particular alphagram, you need to find them all, every time, before it will let you move on from that set of letters. Gradually, the number of words that come up each day lessens, and that's when you add in more words. I try to add words each month but if I am not down to 100-150 words a day, or getting close to 90% right, I don't add more until I get to those levels. I don't have all day to be doing Cardbox! It helps to keep a manual note of the words you have put in, for example, 1 -100 most probable seven letter words.

The thing about it, is that it is relentless and is a real discipline. If you miss a day, then those words are added to the next day and soon there

are hundreds of words to get through. You can, however, put it on hold if you know you are not going to be able to do it, say if you are on holiday, or sick. There are also various ways of doing Cardbox – you can type in the correct answers, but a quicker way is to use the flashcard method.

There is real satisfaction in seeing the increasing percentage of words you are getting right, and for words to just come to you when you see a certain letter combination on your rack. Somehow the number of anagrams also sinks in, so you know to keep looking if you haven't seen them all. Also, you know to stop looking if you have seen the only word and there is nowhere to put it.

I find learning eights hard. When I am playing, I have to write down my letters with the extra letter on the board, in alphabetical order, before I can spot any words. Of course, I still miss them!

Thinking about learning words has made me take more notice of the articles that Selena Chan writes for the magazine. One thing about being the editor is that you have to read the whole magazine, not just skip through and read what interests you! Looking at her Practise, Practise, Practise article in *Forwards* issue 138, I note that the Cardbox method does give consistency to your learning, you can focus it on whatever words you want to learn and it does extend your word knowledge. She says that the research shows you need to encounter something three times before it sinks in.

I wish that were the case for me!

The alphagram EILNOSST has come up over 100 times for me and I have only seen the word SONLIEST 50% of the time.

Selena's article in this issue applies to me in a number of ways, too. Words that you can relate to a particular person do stick. Margaret Cherry played EUOI on my first night at the Pakuranga club, Patrick Carter taught me VINCA, Peter Jones taught me POSAUNE (after I tried SUBPOENA, without the B!!). These words have stuck.

I also find that with some combinations, the non-word always comes first, before the right one – I always want to play *LANATES before seeing SEALANT.

I love letter combinations with anagrams that kind of go together like SENATOR and TREASON (ATONERS, SANTERO), NEUROTIC and UNEROTIC, RESIDENT and NERDIEST (INSERTED, TRENDIES, SINTERED), LISTENER and SILENTER (ENLISTER, REENLIST).

I enjoy learning the less common anagram of a common word such as NOPALITO for OPTIONAL.

I am no Cardbox expert and I would love to receive any tips from the pros out there. I would also be interested in receiving articles on the various ways you learn words and what works for you. I have not tried the mnemonic way that Dylan Early has written about – where you learn a phrase and each letter in that phrase combines with a certain stem to make another word (for example, see his Political Bonuses article in *Forwards* issue 129). I'm sure there are many other interesting ways of learning.

One thing that has made Cardbox easier for me is discovering that I can alter the size of the font and make it bold, in the preferences tab. No more squinting at the screen!

We're coming to the end of a year like no other and as we get in to the holiday season I encourage you to keep those brain cells active and do something to increase your word knowledge. Happy Christmas and holidays to you all.

Words from the President

by Howard Warner, Scrabble Wellington

Lucky for us

It's no easy task to look back on the year in Scrabble. Not when a deadly pandemic has been dominating all thinking around the world.

Here in New Zealand, we can consider ourselves very lucky to be

holding tournaments at all. At last! This return to the "old normal" was kickstarted by New Zealand emerging from level 2 restrictions in September (Auckland in October).

It's encouraging to see individual players setting up tournaments on short notice, to compensate for those

cancelled earlier in the year. Olivia's Halloween-themed marathon (18 games) affair in Palmerston North was scarily fun. Alastair and Lyres are likewise organising an event at short notice, on Auckland's North Shore. We're lucky to have such go-getters among our number.

It was also encouraging, in these tricky times, to see a new club start up in Masterton recently. It was third time lucky for organiser Sue McRae, who'd seen her previous efforts stymied by COVID-19. But persistence paid off in the end. She attracted 25 people to the grand opening, and has another 10 people on a list of interested participants.

Other countries have not been so lucky. Face-to-face competitive Scrabble is pretty much shut down around the world, except for Australia. (Though I hear they are still drawing low numbers to tournaments.) It's also sad – though not unexpected given the state of the world – to see next year's WESPAC tournament cancelled.

Abroad, we've heard no more about dictionary expurgation - not since all the world's player nations convened via Zoom in September to express their unanimous disapproval. Presumably it will die down as the United States finds other causes to rally around.

You'll have seen the lengthy, comprehensive piece in Sports Illustrated about the decline of North American Scrabble over the past decade. The article focuses on overambition, mismanagement and undemocratic practices at executive level. It also taps into the

#BlackLivesMatter and #MeToo zeitgeist.

There is barely a mention, though, of the long-standing divide between North American and world Scrabble. North America seems more entrenched and isolationist than ever. Which makes me very sad.

However, the breakaway Collins Coalition (CoCo) goes from strength to strength, particularly in the realm of virtual tournaments. Worth checking out their excellent website (cocoScrabble.org), if you haven't already. They've only been in existence for one year but already have achieved so much.

I'd like to pay tribute to Lynne Butler (Whanganui), my capable, hard-working offsider as NZASP vice-president. For reasons of ill health, she reluctantly stood down from the role. We were very lucky to get Whangarei's Jenny Litchfield as a temporary replacement.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer. And I hope we all stay lucky.



Howard Warner



Word Famous in New Zealand



by *Marian Ross, Dunedin*

Marian Ross

When Val asked if I could contribute my story to Word Famous in New Zealand, my immediate thought was "What on earth could I say?", but then thought, "Why not", so here goes.

I'm a born and bred Dunedinite except for about seven years when my children were aged from six to 14 years and we lived in Arrowtown.

It was lovely up there, and a great place for my daughter and three sons. Circumstances dictated a move back to Dunedin, then Twizel for a couple of years and eventually back to Dunedin.

I have outlived two husbands, although I was divorced from one of them when he passed away.

When I retired in 2006 I started volunteer jobs. The most interesting of those was on the Taieri Gorge Railway, which unfortunately, thanks to Covid-19, is now mothballed. We would meet the ships at Port Chalmers and take people up the gorge. I loved the trip up there but had to give it up after ten years as it really is a job for a younger person.

I have also picked up people and taken them to a day programme at a rest home. At the same time I volunteered at the Hospice Shop for ten years, but I'm afraid age has crept up on me and I fill in my time with grandkids now.

As far as Scrabble is concerned I had

never played it until my sister's mother-in-law passed away and she gave me a game similar to Scrabble.

I can't remember the name, but I started playing on my own and then thought that there could be people in the same position as myself that wanted others to play with, and so I contacted the NZ Scrabble Association. Having learned the rules, I then decided to advertise for people who might be interested in starting a Scrabble club in Dunedin.

At our first meeting around ten people turned up, and the Dunedin Scrabble Club was formed in 1985. I had a lot of help from fellow players Ian Patterson and Anne Stewart. Over the years, we have had some interesting trips to Christchurch. Anne drove while Ian and I sat in the back, playing travel Scrabble. It was a bit awkward when we had to use a torch to play in the dark!

I haven't been to the club in a while as I'm not too keen on driving at night. We did try to set up a daytime club, but got no interest. Ruth and Michael Groffman are doing a fantastic job of running the club now.

Things have gone full circle and I still play at home, mostly against myself, as I want quality play and intelligent conversation!



Marian Ross

Club News

Mt. Albert Tournament

9-10 October

By Mary Gray, Mt. Albert

It was great to be back to scrabbling with friends, especially after we Aucklanders experienced a second lockdown. Numbers were down on previous years, but 42 stalwarts turned out for some fun and a battle over the boards.

A battle it was too, with the A grade having just one game separating the whole grade at the end of day one. Scores ranged from four, three and a half, to three wins across the whole eight players. The rivalry didn't stop there. The grade was won by Andrew Bradley, with nine wins and a spread

of 386, separated by only one point in spread from Patrick Carter second, on nine wins and a spread of 385!

Other highlights included the highest word score from Su Walker with 'carpeted' for 194. Lyres Freeth had the highest game score with 602, and the highest losing game score was awarded to Jenny Litchfield with 464 (winner was Mary Gray on 469). Two high non-bonus words scoring 90 points were QUIZ from Su Walker and GRANITES from Pam Barlow. Finally, in deference to our current situation the apt words for our spot prize of best Covid or post-Covid words included 'viral' and 'quelling' but the prize went to myself for 'vax'. We're all waiting for it!

Papatoetoe Nonagenarians call it a day

by Frances Higham, Papatoetoe

Papatoetoe Club May Meads and Mary Smyth have decided to call it a day as far as Scrabble is concerned.

May Meads, who will be known to many in the Scrabble world has been playing for 37 years, and was an active tournament player. She hosted the Masters tournament in the 1980s. She was very supportive of all members. Mary Smyth has been with the club for many years (too many to remember) but can still play a mean game!



May Meads, Frances Higham and Mary Smyth

Papatoetoe members are sad to lose these two stalwarts, but wish them well in the future.



Wellington Tournament

At the Wellington Tournament in September 2020 Clare Wall was presented with a beautiful potted orchid in recognition of her hard work after her retirement as webmaster and Executive member

Left: Howard Warner and Clare Wall

Masterton Club

by Sue McRae, Masterton

Sue, a long-ago Wellington Club member who retired recently to the sunny Wairarapa, sent this report to the NZASP executive the day after the event.

It was “third time lucky” for the new Masterton Club launch, in the local library’s Learning Centre on 28 October. We had 24 keen players from as far afield as Featherston, Martinborough and Greytown (plus one visitor from Auckland), and half a dozen more registering interest who couldn’t make it but fully intend to come next week.

The library has agreed to let us use its new facility for a month as a trial and then we will review the arrangement (and hopefully make it a permanent one!). At the moment we pay nothing for venue hire, and they supply tea, coffee and biscuits.

It is still early days, so our numbers are bound to fluctuate. So far I have about 35 contacts of attendees and interested players, so we will see how it goes. I am trying to take a softly, softly approach with lists,



Players on club opening night

rules, time taken to complete turns and games etc. In the meantime, I am distributing tips and FAQs to anyone interested.

There is quite a range of talent in the mix, from incapable of adding up any word score at all to thumping down of bonuses with gusto. I didn’t get to play with many players yesterday, but witnessed some fine competitive instincts and skills. A few spot prizes were given out, which seemed quite sought-after. I may keep that up for a while to encourage people back.

Fran Lowe (longtime Hastings player newly shifted to Featherston) came, and may continue to attend periodically.

There is potential that the players from South Wairarapa may form



Themed refreshments

a breakaway group, but that's to be expected. Once word gets around, I hope to keep the potential playing pool at around 40, with an average of 20 playing in Masterton each week. I've already had a few emails from people who thoroughly enjoyed it and are keen to return. They are lapping up the word lists!

Doreen Davies and Hilda Scott (last surviving members of the original Masterton club) saw the article in the *Midweek* newspaper a couple of weeks ago. Doreen phoned me to say she has some vision problems now and neither of them are very mobile, so she probably wouldn't make it to the launch. But she seemed very happy someone was trying to revive the idea of a club. I offered to pick her up in my car, but she declined.

To my surprise, both of them appeared at the library with a couple of other elderly women. Hilda's husband came too, to sit and watch as her support person and driver. I seem to remember him doing that at tournaments all those years ago, so he must have great stamina. We had two male players and the rest were women. Ages ranged from 38 to 88.

Doreen and Hilda meet up with another elderly woman at Doreen's house most Friday afternoons and have invited me to join them so they have a foursome. Doreen has just bought a new jumbo set with extra-



Hilda Scott and Doreen Davies, both in their late 80s, playing at Doreen's home.

large tiles to help her see better, and her love of the game is undiminished. The funniest part of that story – she lives just around the corner from me, less than a few hundred metres away. I had

spent so long looking for people to play with in Masterton and searched high and low for any signs of an existing club, without success – only to find she was there all the time. She has no email or internet connection, so if it hadn't been for the newspaper article, she would never have known about the launch. She did say they disbanded the club many years ago.

Anyway, the deed is finally done. I have asked anyone returning to bring their own board if they have one. A few commented that they had an old set at home but with incomplete tiles. When cleaning up afterwards, I found three tiles from one new member's deluxe set on the floor, so I'll have a chat next week about checking each set at the end of the game. I think some of the more arthritic fingers have trouble putting them back into the bag. I'm glad I spotted them, as they would have gone up the library's industrial-strength Hoover.

** Howard Warner challenges any other former club members who have shifted to a new town to take a leaf out of Sue's book.*

Gestating a Tourney

by Olivia En, Whanganui

Reflecting upon the No Tricks All Treats tournament after it was all over, I came to the realisation that organising a tournament is much like pregnancy and childbirth. This is only the second time I've organised a tournament, but I've done the baby thing four times, and the similarities are truly striking.



Spooky Scrabble players
Back: Dylan Early; Middle L-R: Lawson Sue, Suzanne Ford, Awhina Taikato, Howard Warner, Betty Eriksen;
Front: Liz Fagerlund, Anderina McLean

Anyone who has had at least two children should recognise the pattern here. You have your first baby; you think it's wonderful and you're grateful that it's healthy, but there's no way you're going to do the labour thing again. Your partner agrees wholeheartedly because a

First, there was the conception. I didn't actually mean to organise a tournament this year. In the immediate aftermath of the March Marathon tournament, which I ran in 2018, my boyfriend Hamish (he did a huge amount of the heavy lifting especially in the kitchen for that one) and I agreed that we were never doing something like that again. Sure, it was great that it had turned out well and everything had gone off pretty much without a hitch and loads of people were asking me when the next one was coming, but we were exhausted and didn't want to push our luck promising a second tourney. But then, some two and a half years later, after seeing so many tournaments cancelled in 2020, including my Whanganui Club's one, I said to Hamish "I think I should organise a tournament in Palmerston North again", and he said "Yeah, why not!"

grumpy, stressed-out lady-love is still so fresh in his memory. But a couple of years later and all that seems to have been miraculously forgotten and, somehow, both of you think it's a good idea to do it again!

Then there's the pregnancy and labour. You get those big-ticket items sorted reasonably quickly: find a venue, locate a midwife, write up and post an entry form, tell all your friends and family the good news, get some early indicators of who might turn up, get a couple of scans to see a heartbeat... Then it's a matter of letting things bubble away until nearer the time.

But in that last week before the tournament, it's all go. Have you got enough boards and clocks? Do you have enough bedding for the basinet? Who's bringing the computer for

scoring and who knows how to use it anyway? Do you have someone organised to come rushing over to look after the other kids when you're about to pop? Get to the supermarket to buy stuff for morning tea; cook some meals for the freezer because you know there won't be time to cook after the baby comes home; pick up the key for the venue; check the car seat actually fits in your car; pay some bills... it's all happening and it's exciting, but it's stressful and not a little painful. Of course you're worried all the time that something will go wrong. The baby is in the wrong position and your tournament timetable never runs to schedule, or the baby will have extra fingers and toes and your tournament budget is completely blown out.

And there's always a little twist before the baby actually arrives. You wait too long at home and the baby gets born in the doorway to the hospital (that actually happened with my third child). Players withdraw or enter at the last minute. You have odd numbers and have to desperately ring around to beg someone to come in to make up your numbers (thank you to my club mate Suzanne Ford for stepping up there).

In the case of this tournament, the rather stressful surprise turned out to be a catering issue. Since the venue I had organised was not particularly convenient for



Halloween lucky number chart

people wanting to buy lunch, I had arranged with some local eateries to take pre-orders for lunch which would then be delivered at the appointed time each day. However, when I rang on the Thursday afternoon

before the tournament to put in the orders for Saturday's lunches, the establishment (which shall remain nameless) informed me that it was not going to be open on Saturday, as it usually would be. Somehow, they had forgotten to let me know of their decision. Needless to say, I was not particularly happy on that Thursday afternoon, possibly not quite as grumpy as a woman in labour being denied an epidural that she had been counting on, but close. It all turned out ok though. I managed to ring around and organise a different establishment who could guarantee that orders would be ready by 1:35 p.m. on Saturday. I emailed all those affected with the news that an emergency lunch option had to be organised and

they all obligingly got back to me with their new orders within the hour. Thank goodness for the Black Pearl Cafe and the easygoing nature of those scrabblers!

And finally, there is the baby. The tournament arrived safe and healthy over a two-day period starting 31 October. Twenty-two players played 18 Swiss-Draw



Maid 'Marianderina'



Thematic gingerbread tiles baked by Anderina McLean

games, ate lots of delicious food prepared by Hamish and my friend Melissa Downey, and some of us dressed up for the Halloween occasion. Howard Warner took out the tourney, just pipping Dylan Early at the last minute. Betty Eriksen was voted as the winner of the best costume competition. I must give a special shoutout to Anderina McLean, though, for her costumey efforts. She wore a different costume each day and I was especially appreciative of her genie-in-a-bottle costume. All those tinkling bells meant that I always knew exactly where she was. Not many people consider the needs of their blind hosts when they dress up for a tournament!

They say that it takes a village to raise a child. And while I've been labouring to push my analogy of tournament organising with producing babies (yes, the pun was intended), I truly do feel that it took a village to organise this

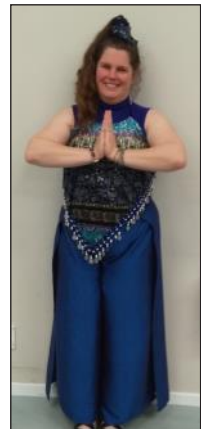
particular tournament. There was Liz who adjudicated and did a huge amount of work with entering results, Dylan and Lawson who helped out with the scoring, Anderina who arranged the Halloween-themed gingerbread Scrabble tiles, all my Whanganui club mates who helped with setting up and packing down the venue, my non-Scrabble friend Melissa who helped with morning teas, and of course Hamish who venue-hunted and shopped and chopped and reheated and baked and cleaned and delivered lunches. Even people who didn't attend the tourney helped out. Lyres Freeth created the awesome Halloween lucky number

chart for us, while Rosie Cleary organised for all the booklets, results slips, and spot prize sheets to be printed. Thank you to all of you. Without you, I wouldn't have been able to make such a beautiful tournament baby.



Betty Eriksen & Liz Fagerlund

PS. On Sunday night, after it was all done and dusted, Hamish and I were sitting on the couch after putting our actual baby to bed, and we both agreed that the tourney had gone off pretty well but WE ARE NOT GOING TO DO THAT AGAIN!!!



Anderinie-genie

Twenty years ago in *Forwards*

provided by Liz Fagerlund, Mt. Albert

Forwards No. 60 – September 2000

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

Day 1 of the North American National Scrabble Champs was marked by the following events reported by Sherrie Saint John :

“In the arriving fashionably late department, two division 1 players, on West Coast time, tie for the prize. Jeff Widengren had only 5 minutes left on his clock when he arrived this morning. He finished the game with 1:05 remaining and defeated Scott Appel, 449 – 253. Like Scott, Steve Olinger ran into similarly bad luck with his late opponent. Adam Logan had only 40 seconds remaining on his clock when he arrived late from oversleeping. He went on to score a 480! After adjusting for going over on his clock by 3:55 (which meant a 40-point score reduction), Adam won the game 440 – 293.”

I'm sure there have been a few cases in NZ scrabble when someone has won after arriving late and only having a small amount of time left to play. I can remember Glenda Foster arriving late due to sleeping in after watching cricket late into the previous night – then soundly defeating her opponent!

.....

Forwards No. 61 – December 2000

WORLD CHAMP ON DEFINITIONS

Canadian Joel Wapnick is the current World Scrabble Champion. He has this to say about word definitions in his CD-ROM A Champion's Strategies (1999):

“It is true that expert players often play words that they cannot adequately define. So? Do you know how your car engine works? Would you be willing to forgo using it until you find out? I am grateful that the proper beating of my heart doesn't depend on my knowing how or why it beats.”

Yes, there are players who want to know what every word means! This is Scrabble – if it's an allowable word, that's what matters. Some words look particularly interesting and may prompt me to check the meaning later – but if someone asked what that same word meant some time later, there's no guarantee I would remember!

An A – Z of Weird Words

by Mike Curry, Mt. Albert

dedicated to Lawson Su, the champion of weird words

An AZULEJO's a blue glazed tile depicting Portuguese history.



AZULEJO - as featured in the board game 'Azul'

To BLOVIATE's to talk at length, inflatedly and pompously.

CODOLOGY's a science studied by jokers and leg-pullers

And the 12 paladins of Charlemagne were also known as DOUZEPERS.

EUSOCIAL's just like ants or bees who work together co-operatively



HERISSON

And FIREFANG's overheated dung which has been dried excessively.

A GUNKHOLE's hard to navigate: a shallow watercourse and HERISSON means hedgehog yet is a wooden horse.

IGARAPES are Amazonian streams, wide enough for a canoe to go



JEREPIGO

And some of you may well have sipped on the sweet wine JEREPIGO.

KAROSHI's death by overwork as only the Japanese could



MRIDANG

While a LIRIPOOP's archaic now: the tail of a graduate's hood.

A MRIDANG is an Indian drum made for Carnatic music

While NIDOR is the burning stench of flesh which makes you too sick.

An OLYCOOK's a doughnut, my sweet and fattening friend



OLYCOOK

And PLONGD means PLUNGED and like ZAFTIG has no hooks at either end.

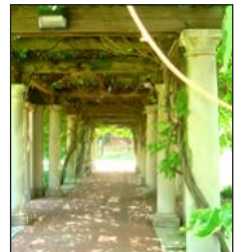
A QUBYTE's short for quantum byte, composed of 80 QUBITS

And a RUDESBY's a turbulent MADBRAIN, full of spleen and rude bits.

SMAZE is a mix of smog and haze, like TURDUCKEN a portmanteau

And TUTTI's 'played by everyone' (don't confuse it for TANTO.)

ULULANT is screaming so ULULATE's to scream



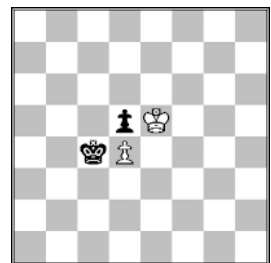
XYST

And VERT is French, like ROUGE or NOIR, a 'heraldic shade of green.'

A WILLIWAW's a violent wind that from the mountains blows,

Which can be blocked by Grecian XYSTS or 'covered porticos'

And now this cursed verse is over shout YIP, YEP, YUP or YES.



ZUGZWANG

Oh and ZUGZWANG's a compelled move (not in Scrabble but in chess.)

Only on a Scrabble Board

Ed: Please send me in photos of any amazing boards you come across such as the following:

Chris Hawkins posted this board on *Scrabble Snippets* (a Facebook group) and had this to say: "When I played OLOGISTS for a 135 point 9-timer on move seven, I immediately spotted the potential for a 15 letter bonus, especially as I'd picked up the second blank. It nearly didn't happen though as it took to the last fish of the game (DUMB, hoping for and R or a T) to happen. I can die happy now!"



An 8-letter match up

Hall of fame

by **Jennifer Smith, Kiwi Scrabblers**

The legendary Trojan War between the Greeks and the people of Troy began after the Trojan prince, Paris, abducted Helen, the wife of Menelaus of Sparta.

Historians today still argue about whether the war was mythical or actual, but one way or another it produced many eponymous characters. As is usual in our Hall of Fame articles, these famous characters will tell you about themselves in their own words.



I was the first born of King Priam and Queen Hecuba of Troy, and one of the greatest heroes of the Trojan war, leading my people against the Greeks for nine years until I was killed by Achilles, who speared me in the throat.

My name is Hector and historians agree that I was one of the greatest warriors of antiquity, the first among Troy, and the leader of the city's defences during one of the most epic wars ever fought. Throughout my life I was at admired by friend and foe alike for my courage, strength, nobility, and devotion to my people, my family, my friends and my deities.

After he killed me, Achilles dragged my body behind his chariot, but eventually gave in to my father's pleas and returned my body to him for a hero's funeral. After my death Troy didn't stand a chance against the Greeks.

In honour of me, the name HECTOR/S was originally given to heroes, but like the word DUNCE, underwent a change over time. By the early 17th century, it had come to mean a braggart or bully and was used to describe a gang of London

youths, and hence, gradually, HECTOR became a verb meaning to talk to somebody in a bullying way. Remember me when you play any of the verb forms of HECTOR, or HECTORER, HECTORLY, HECTORISM, HECTORSHIP, etc. (But please remember me more favourably than the word now implies. Perhaps the HECTOR butterfly, a magnificent red-bodied swallowtail, is a nicer tribute?).



HECTOR butterfly

Credit: J M Garg

*

I am a young Trojan prince in Greek mythology, the son of King Priam and Queen Hecuba of Troy. It had been prophesied that Troy would never fall if I reached the age of 20. But alas, the writing was on the wall for my Trojan people – I was still just a boy when the Greek warrior Achilles ambushed me and killed me as I was drinking from a fountain.

Remember me: my name is Troilus. I didn't live long enough to make a

name for myself as a war hero like my brother Hector, but along with him and many other Greek heroes, I have also given my name to a butterfly, TROILUS /TROILUSES.

*

My name is Achilles, and as Hector has recounted, I too featured in the Trojan War, fighting for the Greeks. I was very proud to have dispatched Hector to the afterlife, and so hasten the eventual defeat of the Trojans.

As for myself, there wouldn't be anyone who hasn't heard the story of how I was killed, with an arrow in my heel – everyone has heard of the Achilles heel and the Achilles tendon. But I have to tell you, scrabblers, that although the Achilles tendon is named after me, the word Achilles is NOT in your Scrabble word list. (That was a real shock to my writer, who once confidently played the eight-letter word in a tournament, and was surprised to have it challenged off.)

I have had a butterfly named for me, too, but inexplicably, it has never become acceptable without the uppercase A.



ACHILLEA

However, a flowering plant of the yarrow family was named after me because my soldiers used it to treat their wounds. Commonly called ALLHEAL or BLOODWORT, ACHILLEA/S is



TROILUS butterfly

Credit: Greg Hume

playable in Scrabble. When all's said and done, I'm happy that my eponym means something positive, rather than a weakness like a person's Achilles heel.

*

As a Herald of the Greek forces during the Trojan war, my job was to encourage the Greeks to fight. This required a loud voice because I had to be heard above the noise of battle. My name is Stentor, and that is how STENTOR/S became the noun for a person with an unusually very loud voice. STENTORIAN means extremely loud.

I'm proud that in the Iliad, Homer says my voice was as powerful as 50 voices of other men. (I'm mortified, though, that somebody started the rumour that I died after losing a shouting contest with Hermes, who was known as the divine trickster and the patron of thieves.) Remember me and my mighty voice when you play the high probability word STENTOR.

*

Lots of now-nameless people took part in the Trojan war. I did too. You don't need to know my name – nobody remembers us individually,

but I belong to a group of belligerent people from Thessaly called the Myrmidons, who followed Achilles into the Trojan War.



SPARTAN apples

Our clan name has become eponymous for someone who carries out orders obediently, without question – in other words, MYRMIDON is a lackey. Remember us when you play that word.

*

I am a woman in a nation of female warriors, tall, strong and powerful, known as the Amazons in Greek mythology. We are famous for helping Priam defend his city of Troy in the Trojan war.



No men were allowed to live with us, but once a year we would visit a nearby tribe to have sexual intercourse. If the resulting babies were female, we raised them ourselves, but male babies were killed, sent to their fathers, or left to die in a forest.

An AMAZON/S or AMAZONIAN/S is a warlike, powerful, ruthless or aggressive woman, depending on how you like to regard women like us.

*

You don't need to know my name either. I belong to a group of people who inhabited Sparta, in Greece. We were traditionally believed to be indifferent to comfort or luxury, so we were valued when we joined with other Greek soldiers to fight in the Trojan war – we didn't mind icy winters,

terrible conditions and the deprivations of army life.

Until the early 15th century, Spartan referred to a citizen of Sparta, but from the 1580s onwards, SPARTAN came to signify a person who was frugal and courageous. (The name SPARTAN is also used for a hardy red-skinned apple bred in Canada to withstand long winters, just like us Spartans!)

Note: TROY and PARIS are also acceptable Scrabble words, but they don't owe their origins to characters in the Trojan War.



Testiculate

To wave one's arms about while talking bollocks



How Scrabble Blew its Big Moment

Many of you will have read the above article printed in Sports Illustrated. If not, this is the link to it.

<https://www.si.com/more-sports/2020/10/26/how-scrabble-blew-its-big-moment>

It sets out the reasons for the current state of the North American Scrabble scene – from declining numbers, a dysfunctional governing body, problems with Hasbro, and mis/non handling of allegations of sexual misconduct. It paints a sorry state of affairs.

The article has created discussion within the Scrabble community around the world and, in particular, has been responded to by CoCo. CoCo stands for Collins Coalition and is a new group that has been set up to “build a bright future for tournament Scrabble in the United States and Canada”. We will be hearing more from this group, which has already run on-line tournaments during Covid. Use this link, <https://www.cocoScrabble.org/news/the-full-story> to access the CoCo blog, written by Jennifer and Evans Clinchy. This blog gives some background to the Sports Illustrated article from scrabblers who are willing to actually do something about the situation. It explains why it was not possible to work with the existing North American Scrabble structure and why they felt it was necessary to set up a completely new organisation.

One of the conclusions of the Sports Illustrated article is that the future of Scrabble can only be secured by growth in the numbers of younger people playing the game. We know this already, but how this can be achieved seems to be a major challenge!

I received the following comments from Malcom Graham in response to the article.

“Of course the author either failed to recognise or failed to mention that online Scrabble is organized. Scrabble's biggest threat - after Covid -19 obviously.

The deaths of our older members is an unpalatable fact and they're simply not being replaced. If the young have any interest in our game at all, they play online. Changing the online mindset isn't going to be easy. The way we play the game is going to have to change and adapt so that it is in the same world as that occupied by young people today – the online world.”

Howard Warner has commented on this article on Slack and also in his Words from the President in this issue.

Off the rack

(what Scrabblers have been up to)



Howard Warner

Bringing Scrabble in house

I work at the Parliamentary Counsel Office, a small government department that drafts the laws Parliament passes. A number of our staff have revealed themselves to be keen domestic or on-line Scrabble players.

While the House was not sitting over the election and post-election period, we had a bit of a quiet spell. So I thought I'd organise a Scrabble tournament, an idea which the social committee supported.

First I developed some "guidance materials" (government bodies are into that kind of thing) and posted them on the office intranet. Then, in order to ease people into competition practices, I ran a couple of lunchtime workshops. These also introduced a few basic strategic tips. Hooking and parallel plays proved popular, as did the principle of "play the board, not the rack".

The tournament attracted a dozen people. They played five games over two weeks, which everyone found quite manageable.

I decided not to be too tough on time-keeping. Participants were told to aim for 30 minutes each per game – and to feel free to give their opponent a nudge if they seemed to be "hogging the time". Again, they coped fine with this.

For challenges, I allowed two free ones each ("take back your tiles and have another go") per game. After that, they'd just lose their turn for a false word if challenged. Some players were using their free challenges quite strategically, I noticed. I also distributed 2- and 3-letter word lists for players to check, though not for scouring. These were well used. And everyone downloaded ULU onto their work phones.

In the end, there was one very clear winner – on five wins, with the highest spread as well. Then one on four wins, and a clutch of players on three. Only one player failed to win a game, but he wasn't outclassed – most of his losses were very close. And one player was lucky enough to win two games by 1 point.

Much to the players' delight, our social committee stumped up prizes (chocolate bars etc): 1st, 2nd, 3rd, plus highest word score (96), highest game score (456) and most interesting word as judged by me (YUZU, just ahead of FLENSER).

Overall, it went very well, I think. All players strove to complete their games by the deadline. No one quibbled over words or word source. They were happy to have a 'professional' tournament structure and clear ground rules. As adjudicator, I only fielded a few queries.

Game scores, word scores, number of bonus words etc were keenly reported. And there was much discussion all around the office of this cool, quirky thing that was happening.

Earlier, some people had come to the workshops out of interest, but didn't want to compete because they didn't think themselves good enough. Hopefully, they'll join the fun for our next tournament.

Now there's interest among the players in starting a regular in-house club or ladder. We might even challenge Nick Ascroft's group at MBIE, down the road, to a



Tim and Sara competing in the PCO lunchroom

Scrabble-off. Also, a couple of players are keen to try out the Wellington club.

Dianne Cole-Baker's 80th Birthday Scrabble in the Country

A group of keen scrabblers celebrated Dianne Cole-Baker's 80th birthday in fine style at her daughter Sheena's beautiful country home. A lively round robin between two teams saw 12 of us fighting it out over the boards in between bouts of beautiful food and wine. The winning team with 21 wins was Cicely Bruce, Chris Higgins, Su

Walker, Dianne, Roger Cole-Baker and Liz. Fagerlund. The runner-ups were Lawson Sue, Mary Curtis, Mary Gray, Bernie Jardine, Rodney Jardine and Glennis Hale with 15 wins. The best players were Lawson, Cicely and Chris, who all won five out their six games. I bet they wish they could keep up this win rate at REAL tournaments!

Su presented Dianne with a beautiful book from us all on the lives of famous women.



Dianne playing Rodney Jardine

Time out was spent watching the antics of two delightful thoroughbred foals, both under two weeks old, in the adjacent paddock, along with their doting mothers.

Murray Rogers

Golden Bay Primary Schools Scrabble tournament

Golden Bay held its annual Primary Schools Scrabble tournament on Friday 13 November. Three schools participated - Motupipi with nine students, Takaka with six students, and Collingwood with five students. I divided them into two grades based on ability with a Swiss draw format, three games each, and always playing someone from a different school. Fifty-five minutes were allotted to a game. Players were allowed to have another go the first time a word was challenged and invalid, but would lose a turn if their second try was challenged and invalid. It was surprising to see how many phoneys were played even without a penalty. Once again, Motupipi won easily - 26 wins and one loss. Takaka had three wins out of 18 and Collingwood had one win out of 15, even though I tried to give adequate guidance to all schools during the year. Most children leave primary school the following year, but Motupipi always wins! Why? More of a competitive spirit, natural teamwork, nurturing from staff, greater focus, playing between lessons - these could all be factors. Now back to my own swotting.



The students at play

Above & Left: Wiremu on the left, the overall winner. Please note his opponent is partially distracted by the Rubik's cube.

Photos courtesy of Golden Bay Weekly

The Rules of Coronaspeak

How to coin a new word that has a chance of catching on

*Ed: Jennifer Smith's son sent this article to her from The Economist
27 June, 2020*

Necessity, they say, is the mother of invention. Perhaps boredom is its father, and—in the world of language and its coinage—social media the incubator. The coronavirus pandemic has produced a vast number of new terms, serious and (mostly) playful, to describe the predicaments of lockdown.

Start with the *coronaverse, which people everywhere now inhabit, or the *quarantimes, the era in which they now live. Early fears of the total breakdown of society in a *coronapocalypse have proved, thankfully, too pessimistic. But viral anxiety reigns, as do complaints of Zoom fatigue. Participants appear on screen for meetings with a *quaransheen of unwashed sweat on their faces. Feelings seem to be on an emotional *coronacoaster. Meanwhile, *coviots are spurning lockdown restrictions in ways likely to make the pandemic worse, amid an *infodemic of dodgy news and half-informed *coronasplaining. At least there is a *locktail hour at the end of the week (or, for many, at the end of most days).

Most of these *coronacoinages—whether you have encountered them before or not—make sense on their face. But why exactly do they work? To answer that, it helps to look at

some efforts that do not. What, for example, is a *morona?

A *pancession? *Smizing? Along with the new terms above, these appear on a list collected by Tony Thorne, a linguist at King's College London. But chances are high that most readers don't know them, and fewer still will be using them.

There are various ways to form new words

One is to repurpose an old one: the pandemic has yielded new meanings for bubble and circuit breaker, for instance. Then there is shortening, on which Australians seem particularly keen, having coined *pando (pandemic), iso (isolaton) and *sanny (hand sanitiser)

But the most creative category in Mr Thorne's collection – and the largest, at nearly 40% of the total – are portmanteau words. A portmanteau is a term like brunch, in which two words are combined, usually one or both being shortened. If neither word is truncated, as in *coronacranky, the result is more an old fashioned compound than a true portmanteau.

The first rule of a successful new portmanteau is that it points to a thing worth naming. This may seem obvious, but perhaps not so to the coiners of *infits – a decent pun on

outfits, but as a term for the clothes worn inside during lockdown it is a solution in search of a problem

The second rule is that a portmanteau should be transparent; ie, the words that went into it should be obvious. Few English words end in -tini, with the result that if someone invites you for a *quarantini, you know what to expect. The more of the original two words you can use, the better. This, in turn, is much aided if the distinctive sounds in those words overlap, making the result more compact. Think sext, an instant hit. The “teen” sound in *quarantini (shared by both quarantine and martini) is key to its success.

By contrast, *loxit, for the much-hoped-for exit from lockdown, is a dud. Lose the distinctive vowel at the beginning of exit and you have something that sounds as though it has to do with brined salmon. *PanceSSION fails for a different reason. It stands for “pandemic recession”. But neither of its elements is sufficiently distinctive. Too many words start with pan- or end with -cession for the meaning to jump off the page.

An overlooked rule of portmanteaus is that the second element is more important than the first. That is because it is the core of the word: an XY is a type of Y, not a type of X. This explains the weakness of *morona, a synonym for *covidiot, from corona moron. It obeys the overlap requirement above (in the sharing of -oron-), but falls at the sequencing hurdle, since a *morona is not a type of corona. Ditto for *smizing, which is supposed to mean smiling with your

eyes, while your mouth is hidden by a mask. It is not a kind of *eyezing.

Dictionary websites often have a notice to would-be word-coiners: please don’t send us your neologism and ask to have it included. Dictionaries record not useful words, but used ones, which are actually spoken or written long or often enough to convince the lexicographers that they have found a place in the language. If you want your contribution to *coronaspeak to take off, you need to lobby not the dictionary-writers, but your friends and colleagues, and get them to use and publicise it. Good coinages are much rarer than failed ones, but pay attention to usefulness, transparency and sounds, and your invention may find its way into the *panglossary.

*Ed: Send in any other examples of *coronaspeak you have come across for printing in the next issue.*



Ask Liz

by Liz Fagerlund, Mt. Albert



Liz Fagerlund

Forfeiting a game

At a recent tournament a player refused to complete a game in progress.

It was near the end of the game, and the defaulting person decided to not complete that game which they were going to lose by a big margin. At this stage the defaulting player was 267 points behind, with no chance of winning. The player was spoken to by the tournament director and asked to continue the game. The player refused to continue and gave the reason of forfeit as the opponent playing “weird” words and therefore should have been in a higher grade.

Grading - Placement in a grade is determined by current ratings. The only times a player can be put in a grade other than indicated by their rating is if they have not played in a rated game in NZ for at least two years (the tournament organiser and player may agree they should then be placed in a higher or lower grade than indicated by their historic rating), or when a player has no NZ rating (this would apply to an overseas player or new player). The tournament organiser can then have discretion on grade placement – the player may have an overseas rating to base placement on, or a new player may have been reported by their club or other player to be suitable for a grade other than the lowest grade.

Sometimes the difference between the highest and lowest rated player in a grade can be quite large (but it should be a challenge to try to beat someone with a rating substantially higher than yours).

When scoring a forfeited game the only thing that could be done according to our rules are to give the forfeiting player a loss and -50 spread points, the other player a win, +50 spread points and average bonus words added.

Our rules don't really fully cover what happened – one circumstance for forfeiting a game is *Rule 10.1.2 Where player must leave a game in progress and both players are not able to finish that game at an arranged time later.*

The forfeiting player chose not to stay in the game, as opposed to this rule which would apply in an emergency (e.g. sickness); however, at the time a decision had to be made that most fitted with our rules.

Our rules covering this need to be looked at and I will be discussing with the rest of the rules committee.

WESPA rules cover this incident much better:

5.7 Resigning

- (a) A player may not resign a game except in an emergency.
- (b) A resigned game is forfeited and cannot be resumed.
- (c) The game margin in a properly resigned game is the greater of the

following: (i) 50 points, (ii) the non-resigning player's lead at the time of resignation plus 50 points.

(d) The Tournament Director will determine an appropriate margin for an **improperly** resigned game.

If we had been able to apply this, the “winner” would have been awarded at least 317 spread points! (this wasn't an emergency, therefore I would deem it an improperly resigned game).

The impact on the player who wished to complete the game was most distressing for them - it could have affected their chance to win their grade, as at that stage (game 11) they were equal on wins but 2nd on spread – this game only awarded +50 spread points when they were leading by 267 points at the time the game was stopped. It also denied the player

a chance of the highest game score in the grade.

Stopping a game because you are losing by a large margin is unethical, and NOT okay. Losing by a big margin can happen at any level, and yes, we might wish for a game like that to hurry to a conclusion but don't deny your opponent a win with a good spread and a possible highest tournament score!

At any level our opponents might play what we consider “weird” words, simply because they are not known by us. Of course, if you don't know them, don't be afraid to challenge – it may be wrong (even the best players sometimes play wrong words), or if it's right they are only getting five more points.



Alan's Roadtrip—continued



Waking early to try and see the AURORA AUSTRALIS in the SOUTHEN SKY, and with the SHEEN of the DEW still on the outside BRASIER I see the GARDENER tending to the ASTERS, SAGE and LAUREL.. Although I have a BITTER taste in my mouth I'm feeling FRISKY, so WOLF down a plate of BEANs and an ECLAIR.



AURORA AUSTRALIS

I DART out to my ROADSTER, but now I wish I had bought the JAGUAR, LOTUS or even the JEEP. These have more THRUST and TRACTION than the ALUMINIUM TESLA. I have

no choice but to continue with the ENDURANCE of this COMPACT. Could be in for some RANGE(ER) anxiety.

I decide to follow the coastal route and reaching the SUMMIT of the HEADLAND I look down and see DOLPHINS and SEALS in the bay, racing the CLIPPER boats. There is just a ZEPHYR of a BREEZE, although GALE force winds are predicted. PETRELS and KESTRELS fly overhead.. Waking from my REVERE I put her into TURBO mode and continue on my CAVALIER way, not too FAST to notice the birds though - CRANES, STORKS and

HERONS, EAGLES, HAWKS and FALCONS, SWANS and CROWS and even TINY STARLINGS.



The MARITIME landscape continues until I reach METROPOLITAN Auckland. Not wanting to stop anywhere in this SUBURBAN sprawl, I head on to RAGLAN. for the night. The CRICKETS sooth me to sleep but I wake to the buzzing of WASPs on the window. At least they're not HORNETs or LOCUSTs!. I grab a HERALD and, never one to take a DIRECT route, I drive to Hamilton via MERCURY Bay, I hear there is a great zoo there.

I'm not disappointed: WOLVERINES, VIXEN and a FOX; PANTHERs, LIONS, CHEETAHs, a LYNX, and a PUMA; BOBCATs, COYOTES, PYTHONs, and GIBBONS. In the farm section there was a RAM, a FAUN (unimaginately called BAMBI), NAGs, STALLIONS, BUFFULO and BULLOCK -, even a cave in the hillside where I saw a FIREFLY. Best of all a PANDA on loan from China.



RAGLAN, NZ

It's a beautiful drive through NATIONAL park, the ALPINE scenery is stunning as ever. Truly the CLIMAX of this trip.



It sure beats TENTING! I see the LABOUR LEADER on the way in and manage to score a QUICK SELFie, Good KARMA I thought!

I've decided to end this journey in the CAPITAL, WELLINGTON. I just don't have the IMPETUS to go further. I DODGE most of the rush hour traffic and reach my destination, the GRAND COLONIAL CLARENDON Hotel, in the COMMERCE QUADRANT.

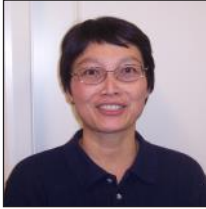
NELSON, the EXCELSIOR in Christchurch, the fields of BARLEY on the CANTERBURY plains, CORONET Peak and the CROWN Range will just have to wait for another RALLY.

Tournament Calendar 2021

| Tournament | Location | Dates |
|--------------------|------------|---|
| Independents WOW | Auckland | 30-31 Jan |
| Nelson | Nelson | 20-21 Feb |
| Rotorua | Rotorua | 27-28 Feb |
| Mt Albert | Auckland | 13 & 14 Mar |
| #Masters | Tauranga | Fri, Sat & Sun 2nd, 3rd & 4th April |
| Dunedin | Dunedin | 17-18 April |
| Nationals | Hamilton | 5-7 June |
| Whangarei | Whangarei | 3-4 July |
| Kiwi Scrabblers | Hamilton | 7-8 August |
| Wellington Swiss | Wellington | 18-19 Sept |
| Dunedin | Dunedin | 13-14 Nov |
| # Restricted entry | | |

Optimising Learning in the Brain

by Selena Chan, Christchurch



Selena Chan

The application of principles of neuroscience into teaching practice has been patchy. Additionally, there have been instances of

'neuromyths'. Studies made in specialised contexts have been promoted as the 'answer to everything' through clever marketing and support by charismatic promoters. Therefore, it is important to read claims made through the media with caution.

Here is an article which provides a good summary of evidence-based neuroscience understandings which are relevant to learning.

van Kesteren, M.T.R. & Meeter, M. (2020). How to optimize knowledge construction in the brain. *npj Science of Learning*. 5(5). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41539-020-0064-y>

The article provides a clear explanation of how human memory works with some guidelines as to how to maximise the learning of knowledge. High level competitive Scrabble requires players to attain a large word knowledge along with acquiring an understanding of Scrabble game strategy. Therefore, the five recommendations provided in Box 1 are useful. Do read the entire article as this provides the background information towards understanding and applying the recommendations.

Here is a summary of the recommendations within the Scrabble playing context.

1. Elaborate, where possible, the encoding and retrieval of knowledge. That is, to anchor the learning with as many of your senses as possible. For example, many scrabblers tell stories of how they learnt a 'strange' word during a tournament from another player. As these words 'standout' they become forever cemented into your neural network.
2. Draw on prior knowledge to connect the learning of new words or to consolidate new strategies. I find the learning of hooks to two, three, four, and five letter words to be useful as it draws on my memory of each set of words and extends them by the addition of just one more letter.
3. Use breaks in learning wisely. It is important to 'space' your learning and to allow for sufficient repetition to anchor new learning. Repetition allows you to connect new learning to as many nodes in your neural network as possible, thus strengthening the links and improving retrieval.
4. Track 'detail loss' during retrieval to ensure you revise the words which you should know but rarely use. A revolving list of 'words to learn' or 'words to revise every so often' helps with this process. Use Cardbox on the app Zyzzyva to

target and hone your word knowledge.

you might need to add it to your 'list of words that do not take 's'!

5. Spot false memories and misconceptions as these add to your cognitive load and waste neural space. If you are continually making the same mistake e.g. pluralising a word wrongly, then

Our Scrabble journey is made the richer by our continual learning. Efficient, targeted and application of evidence-based research towards maintaining effective learning are important.

Please find enclosed an article I found in an old book of children's games (The Jolly Book of Playcraft by Patten Beard, published in 1918 and dedicated "to all little children") - it gives an idea of Scrabble before Alfred Butts.

The Game of Scrabble

MATERIAL—A small shallow box lid with rims not more than a quarter of an inch deep, two long pencils with rubber at the ends, six flat white buttons and six flat black buttons

THE Game of Scrabble is played by two players upon a long table that is covered with a thick cloth.

Place the small shallow box lid that you wish to use for play at one end of the table opposite the starting place at the other end. All buttons, both black and white, are put in a row at the starting place.

At a given signal, each player starts his buttons; one at a time, toward the goal, using nothing but the rubber end of his pencil to guide them.

Any button that falls off the table must be started at the beginning again when picked up from the floor.

By pressing the rim of buttons hard with the rubber end of the pencil, buttons may be made to hop up and into the shallow box lid at the goal.

The first to get his six buttons into the goal wins.

Play is not made in turn. It is as rapid as can be. No player may touch his button with fingers unless taking it from the floor where it has rolled.

More than two players may play, if sufficient different kinds of buttons may be found. If a bit of coloured thread is sewed in the holes of buttons, this will be a good way to distinguish them when more than two play.

Some pencils and some buttons,
A box lid—and just see
How these will make a jolly game
And fun for you and me!

Ed: Interesting, but sounds more like tiddlywinks to me!

In the News

Ed: Here is the transcript of an article, written by Howard Warner, printed in the Dominion Post, The Press and Stuff, in October 2020.

Scrabble squabble over slur words threatens global divide

As social movements such as BlackLivesMatter and MeToo spread, the tiny arcane world of competitive Scrabble has found itself being challenged too, as Howard Warner explains.

Some weeks ago the social media was abuzz with the ‘news’ that the English-language Scrabble dictionary was to be purged of hundreds of ‘offensive’ words. Apparently this was a sympathetic response to various social movements sweeping through America.

However, it was news to most competitive Scrabble players around the world – and possibly rather premature.

In fact, the possibility had been raised by Hasbro, the Scrabble brand owner in North America. The games conglomerate hastily assembled a list of 280 “slur words” relating to ethnicity, sexuality, gender politics, religion, body parts and body functions. (There were only about 80 ‘unique’ words. The rest were extensions, such as FARTS, FARTED, FARTING; BUTTHEAD.)

North American players conducted a poll on the “shit list”, voting overwhelming against any dictionary expurgations. Since then, the 30-odd countries comprising the World

English-language Scrabble Players Association (WESPA) have polled their local members’ views. All countries – including the ethnically diverse ones of Asia and Africa – are adamant they do not want the global players’ dictionary censored in any way.

Hasbro’s cites “protecting family values” as the reason for its move to ban words. But Hasbro is a corporate entity. The cynical view is that it is really protecting sales. What is really wants is to sell more Scrabble sets and dictionaries into families and schools.

The players, in both North America and the World, say it’s nothing to do with societal values. Words played on a Scrabble board do not reflect players’ views or language used elsewhere. At the competitive level, these are not so much words as combinations of letters that score points. Besides, definitions of ‘offensive’ vary from one country, milieu or socio-political movement to the next.

What hampers global Scrabble is that it’s a proprietary game (unlike bridge, chess or poker), with a divided ownership structure across the English-speaking world.

Hasbro runs the game – and players’ association – with an iron fist in North America. It also owns the official Merriam-Webster-derived word list.

World Scrabble comes under the umbrella of multinational toy-and-games marketer Mattel, which licences Collins to publish a dictionary and word list for competitive players. But WESPA is independent, set up by the players for the players.

Through Collins Scrabble Words (CSW), we World players have some 40,000 more words to play with than Americans do. These include Old

English, Shakespearean, Spenserian and Commonwealth-derived words. But we've fought hard to expand this lexicon over the years and we don't want to go backward – especially not on the sudden whim of a separatist American company.

Hasbro has stated that it intends to put out a new, expurgated edition of the North American players' dictionary in October, regardless of whether competitive players will use it. WESPA has made its views very clear. And Mattel, perhaps more sensitive to players, has made no noises about following Hasbro's lead.

This means that, in all likelihood, New Zealand players won't have to 'unlearn' a bunch of words. We can continue playing the game we love as we always have.

Howard Warner is president of the New Zealand Association of Scrabble Players and a founding member of the World English-language Scrabble Players Association.

THIS WEEK IN MIDWEEK



Scrabble player Sue McRae. PHOTO/ELI HILL

Third time lucky for scrabble club

Scrabble strategists, and word lovers will have the chance to play competitively and share their love of the game from the end of October with the launch of the Masterton Scrabble Club.

Despite setbacks – including its launch being cancelled twice because of covid-19, club organiser Sue McRae said there was good interest in the club.

"I've been out of the scrabble scene for a while, but I used to play in a club in Wellington.

"When I started living here in Wairarapa I started looking through the club lists online, looking for a scrabble club. The last recorded story about scrabble was in 2007 or something."

So McRae thought she'd have a go at setting up a club.

Article in Wairarapa Times-Age, 14 October 2020.

To read the full article, visit <https://times-age.co.nz/third-time-lucky-for-club/>

Mailbox



from the Ed, writing to herself!

Even though the Tauranga tournament was cancelled Lynn Wood decided to keep the flight she had booked and came up to Auckland anyway. A few of us got together at Lorraine van Veen’s house for some Scrabble to compensate in some way for what we were missing out on. Here is a photo of Jennifer Smith and Lynn Wood in full Covid Scrabble playing gear.



.....

A New Grand Master

from Liz Fagerlund, Mt. Albert



Stanley Ngundi

Congratulations to Stanley Ngundi who bypassed gaining the Expert status and gained Grand Master status by attaining four post tournament finishes in the top 10 in the previous 12 months (five top 10 finishes in five years or three top 10 finishes in the previous 12 months are required for Grand Master). Stanley only just played the 40 required games to get on the rankings list after the Rotorua tournament and went immediately to number 10. This was followed by 10th after the September

Wellington Saturday tournament, 9th after the September Wellington Sunday tournament and remained in 10th place after the Palmerston North tournament.



Spotted on 'The Chase'

A tribute to the late Simon Holdsworth

25 June 1949 – 14 November 2020

from Glennis Hale, Independent



Simon Holdsworth

Simon was the patron of the Mt. Albert Scrabble Club in the 1980s and 90s. For many years, Thos Holdsworth and Sons (now Holdson) supported the club in many ways. Prizes of puzzles and

games were provided generously every year. Tiles and Scrabble sets were made available. For this the club will be forever grateful.

Roy Vannini remembers these occasions well..... “always a smile and best wishes from him in all our dealings.”

John Foster recalls a meeting with him to discuss sponsorship for the third World Champs in 1995. After fully sponsoring the travel and accommodation for the first two World Championships this unfortunately came to an end with Mattel NZ taking over.

Jeff Grant recalls a lasting memory. “During the first World Scrabble Champs in London in September 1991 the New Zealand and Aussie teams went out for dinner one evening at an exclusive restaurant featuring some very exotic dishes. We were joined by Simon Holdsworth and his

wife, and everyone enjoyed a most entertaining meal and more than a few drinks. The prices weren't cheap though and some of us were wondering how much we would have to fork out. At the end of the night, Simon picked up the tab and paid the lot – over 500 pounds! It may have been ‘business expenses’, but still a very generous act and certainly my most enduring memory of Simon Holdsworth.”

Lynne Butler recalled that night. She said she'll never forget her amazing salmon meal, quite something. The first and only time she had the pleasure of meeting Simon.

Providing the NZ Masters trophy, ‘The Holdsworth Shield’, was another one of his fine gestures, along with the usual stack of games and puzzles for both the Masters and the National tournaments every year. There will be many scrabblers out there with a Holdsworth and Sons jigsaw puzzle or game in their homes as a result.

I, personally, have memories of meeting him round the company Board table while President of both the Mt. Albert club and the NZASP.

A more professional and amenable person I have never met. Always so accommodating and helpful. A true gentleman.

Our thoughts go out to his family and all those involved with Holdson's as I know how much they respect and adore this man.

R.I.P Simon.

Puzzle Pozzy



Jig-Words

by Jennifer Smith, Kiwi Scrabblers

Here's a brain teaser and perseverance tester for you! It's not quite a crossword – more like a jigsaw. So I've called it a Jig-Words.

The crossword-style grid below has space for 32 five-letter words containing an X, and the Xs have been placed already. Using only five-letter words containing an X, and trial and error, "match" them by jiggling options to fit into the grid. There are several possible solutions because there are two or three places where several (or many) words could fit, but that doesn't mean it's easy.

Tips:

It will be a big help to have a list of all the five-letter X words. Use a pencil and rubber, preferably a rubber with plenty of rub-out-ability left!

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|----|---|---|---|----|----|---|---|
| X | | | | 8 | | 9 | | | 11 | | X |
| | | | | | | X | | | | | |
| 7 | | X | | | | | | | X | | |
| | | | | 10 | X | | | | | | |
| 6 | | | | X | | | | X | 10 | | |
| | | | X | S | O | L | V | E | X | | |
| 5 | | X | | | | | | 12 | | X | |
| | | | | W | O | R | D | S | | | |
| X | | | | 2 | | 1 | | | | | X |
| | | | | X | | | | X | | | |
| | | X | | | | | | 3 | X | | |
| | | | | | | X | | | | | |
| | | | X | | | | | 4 | | X | |

You should be able to identify the only word possible in one place immediately, so start there, and when you get stuck, use the meagre clues to help you make progress. There are several places where there are multiple workable options – choose the word you like best, preferably one you didn't know before attempting this puzzle. Do not use the same word twice.

Clue 1. Starts and ends with a vowel.

Clue 2. Starts with a vowel.

Clue 3. An S inserted in this word doesn't change its pronunciation or meaning.

Clue 4. Religious orders knew this word even before we got mobile phones.

Clue 5. On a boat or the map of USA.

Clue 6. (across) Has two other anagrams.

Clue 7. If you think this puzzle is a pile of shit, use this word to describe it!

Clue 8. Takes an end hook of E.

Clue 9. Are you having a fit of these yet?

Clue 10. (Look for 10 across & down) Anagrams, and they mean the same.

Clue 11. You can spell this person's occupation in two ways.

Clue 12. Despite its meaning, it has five letters, not six.

By the time you've solved this Jig-Words, you should know more of the 287 five-letter X words than you did before. For further practice, use the same grid, ignore where the Xs have been placed, and do your own mixing and matching to fit. Remember, **every** word must contain an X.

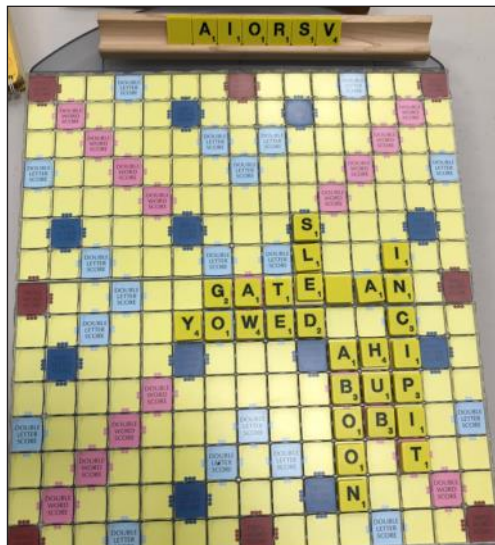
Answers will be in the next issue of Forwards.

Work out the best Move

by Dylan Early, Independent

In my game against Stanley at the Palmerston North tournament, he had this rack. What was the best play for 92 points?

Answer on page 41





The Ryman Difference

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**Continuum
of care**



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Ryman difference phone Josie on 0800 000 290

www.rymanhealthcare.co.nz

Tournament results

Wellington Swiss - Saturday

19 September 2020

7 games

| | Name | Wins | Spread |
|----|-----------------|------|--------|
| 1 | Anderina McLean | 6 | 479 |
| 2 | Stanley Ngundi | 6 | 430 |
| 3 | Dylan Early | 5 | 364 |
| 4 | Gil Quiballo | 4 | 475 |
| 5 | Howard Warner | 4 | 399 |
| 6 | Murray Rogers | 4 | -62 |
| 7 | Nick Ascroft | 3 | 158 |
| 8 | Nola Borrell | 3 | -6 |
| 9 | Trisha Bennet | 3 | -81 |
| 10 | Olivia En | 3 | -151 |
| 11 | Chris Bell | 3 | -264 |
| 12 | Tony Charlton | 3 | -448 |
| 13 | Judith Driscoll | 1 | -448 |
| 14 | Clare Wall | 1 | -845 |

Wellington Swiss - Sunday

20 September 2020

7 games

| | Name | Wins | Spread |
|----|-----------------|------|--------|
| 1 | Anderina McLean | 7 | 545 |
| 2 | Dylan Early | 5 | 197 |
| 3 | Murray Rogers | 5 | 116 |
| 4 | Nick Ascroft | 4 | 400 |
| 5 | Howard Warner | 4 | 285 |
| 6 | Stanley Ngundi | 4 | 178 |
| 7 | Chris Bell | 4 | 75 |
| 8 | Nola Borrell | 4 | 45 |
| 9 | Clare Wall | 4 | -123 |
| 10 | Gil Quiballo | 3 | 213 |
| 11 | Olivia En | 3 | -143 |
| 12 | Sheila Reid | 3 | -377 |
| 13 | Judith Driscoll | 2 | -310 |
| 14 | Marcus Henry | 2 | -329 |
| 15 | Tony Charlton | 1 | -344 |

Mt. Albert

10-11 October 2020

14 games

| | Name | Club | Wins | Spread | Ave |
|----------------|---------------------|------|------|--------|-----|
| A Grade | | | | | |
| 1 | Andrew Bradley (GM) | MTA | 9 | 386 | 417 |
| 2 | Patrick Carter (GM) | MTA | 9 | 385 | 430 |
| 3 | Lyres Freeth (GM) | IND | 8.5 | 523 | 435 |
| 4 | Glennis Hale (GM) | IND | 8.5 | -80 | 403 |
| 5 | Cicely Bruce (GM) | WRE | 6 | -97 | 416 |
| 6 | Liz Fagerlund (GM) | MTA | 6 | -102 | 400 |
| 7 | John Foster (GM) | IND | 6 | -336 | 392 |
| 8 | Val Mills (E) | IND | 3 | -679 | 377 |

B Grade

| | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|-----|---|------|-----|
| 1 | Jennifer Smith | KIW | 9 | 400 | 394 |
| 2 | Jeanette Grimmer | ROD | 9 | -28 | 400 |
| 3 | Delcie Macbeth | IND | 8 | 216 | 395 |
| 4 | Lorraine Van Veen | IND | 8 | 50 | 395 |
| 5 | Lynn Wood | IND | 6 | 45 | 382 |
| 6 | Peter Johnstone | CHC | 6 | -187 | 384 |
| 7 | Karl Scherer | IND | 5 | -138 | 379 |
| 8 | Pam Barlow | IND | 5 | -358 | 382 |

C Grade

| | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|-----|----|------|-----|
| 1 | Heather Landon | TGA | 10 | 272 | 389 |
| 2 | Mary Gray | MTA | 9 | 552 | 414 |
| 3 | Lynn Carter | IND | 9 | 317 | 384 |
| 4 | Jena Yousif | WRE | 7 | 185 | 404 |
| 5 | Mary Curtis | WRE | 7 | 86 | 394 |
| 6 | Dianne Cole-Baker | MTA | 6 | -397 | 358 |
| 7 | Chris Higgins | IND | 5 | -726 | 378 |
| 8 | Jenny Litchfield | WRE | 3 | -289 | 373 |

D Grade

| | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|-----|----|------|-----|
| 1 | Su Walker | IND | 10 | 504 | 413 |
| 2 | Suzanne Liddall | WRE | 8 | 528 | 414 |
| 3 | Merelyn Fuemana | MTA | 8 | 83 | 375 |
| 4 | Faye Cronhelm | IND | 7 | 16 | 372 |
| 5 | Megan Scherer | IND | 7 | -25 | 375 |
| 6 | Bernie Jardine | MTA | 7 | -27 | 396 |
| 7 | Julia Schiller | PAP | 6 | -230 | 376 |
| 8 | Betty Eriksen | WAN | 3 | -849 | 354 |

| Name | Club | Wins | Spread | Ave |
|-------------------|------|------|--------|-----|
| E Grade | | | | |
| 1 Junior Gesmundo | PAP | 12 | 658 | 367 |
| 2 Ruth Godwin | ROT | 10 | 579 | 355 |
| 3 Joan Beale | PAP | 10 | 374 | 350 |
| 4 Frances Higham | PAP | 9.5 | 490 | 354 |
| 5 Rodney Jardine | MTA | 9.5 | 412 | 375 |
| 6 Judy Cronin | MTA | 9 | 357 | 350 |
| 7 Jackie Reid | MTA | 4 | -439 | 329 |
| 8 Antonia Aarts | MTA | 3 | -154 | 345 |
| 9 Susan Schiller | MTA | 2 | -903 | 293 |
| 10 Valerie Smith | MTA | 1 | -1374 | 281 |

No Tricks All Treats**31 October - 1 November 2020**

18 games

| Name | Wins | Spread |
|---------------------|------|--------|
| 1 Howard Warner | 14 | 1513 |
| 2 Dylan Early | 13 | 1430 |
| 3 Nick Ascroft | 12.5 | 785 |
| 4 Lawson Sue | 12 | 469 |
| 5 Olivia En | 11 | 679 |
| 6 Anderina McLean | 11 | 659 |
| 7 Cicely Bruce | 11 | 521 |
| 8 Stanley Ngundi | 10.5 | 238 |
| 9 Lynn Wood | 10 | 198 |
| 10 Liz Fagerlund | 10 | 176 |
| 11 Murray Rogers | 10 | 97 |
| 12 Nola Borrell | 9 | -228 |
| 13 Jenny Litchfield | 9 | -229 |
| 14 Clare Wall | 8 | 140 |
| 15 Bernie Jardine | 8 | -220 |
| 16 Suzanne Harding | 7 | -477 |
| 17 Anne Scatchard | 7 | -717 |
| 18 Betty Eriksen | 7 | -728 |
| 19 Suzanne Ford | 6 | -648 |
| 20 Judy Driscoll | 5 | -973 |
| 21 Rodney Jardine | 5 | -1640 |
| 22 Awhina Taikato | 2 | -1045 |

Dunedin**28-29 November 2020**

15 games

| Name | Club | Wins | Spread | Ave |
|-------------------|------|------|--------|-----|
| A Grade | | | | |
| 1 Herb Ramsay | CHC | 10 | -116 | 380 |
| 2 Lynn Wood | IND | 8 | 422 | 389 |
| 3 Murray Rogers | IND | 8 | 317 | 398 |
| 4 Peter Johnstone | CHC | 7 | -92 | 373 |
| 5 Karen Gray | DUN | 6 | -94 | 369 |
| 6 John Baird | CHC | 6 | -437 | 365 |

B Grade

| | | | | |
|------------------|-----|---|------|-----|
| 1 Paul Freeman | DUN | 9 | 520 | 407 |
| 2 Anne Goldstein | CHC | 9 | 420 | 395 |
| 3 Helen Sillis | WTA | 8 | -122 | 383 |
| 4 Carolyn Kyle | IND | 7 | -114 | 373 |
| 5 Jean O'Brien | IND | 6 | -333 | 378 |
| 6 Shirley Hol | CHC | 6 | -371 | 388 |

C Grade

| | | | | |
|------------------|-----|----|------|-----|
| 1 Betty Eriksen | WAN | 12 | 748 | 398 |
| 2 Ruth Groffman | DUN | 8 | 260 | 359 |
| 3 Joanna Fox | CHC | 8 | 3 | 376 |
| 4 Grant Paul Fin | DUN | 7 | -125 | 374 |
| 5 Gabrielle Bolt | CHC | 5 | -254 | 356 |
| 6 Malcolm Graham | CHC | 5 | -632 | 342 |

D Grade

| | | | | |
|--------------------|-----|---|------|-----|
| 1 Marian Ross | DUN | 8 | 691 | 382 |
| 2 Llane Hadden | NEL | 8 | -188 | 349 |
| 3 Michael Hyndman | DUN | 8 | -205 | 347 |
| 4 Michael Groffman | DUN | 7 | 361 | 371 |
| 5 Sharon Teasdale | DUN | 7 | -279 | 357 |
| 6 Madelaine Green | CHC | 7 | -380 | 340 |

D Grade

| | | | | |
|---------------------|-----|------|------|-----|
| 1 Kim Clifton | DUN | 12.5 | 747 | 375 |
| 2 Phyllis Paltridge | CHC | 10.5 | 641 | 349 |
| 3 Marilyn Sinclair | CHC | 9 | 89 | 366 |
| 4 Francisco Araya | DUN | 8 | 74 | 305 |
| 5 Steve Wood | DUN | 6 | -564 | 326 |
| 6 Tara Hurley | IND | 5 | -252 | 346 |
| 7 Anne-Louise Milne | DUN | 5 | -435 | 318 |
| 8 Sue Hensley | DUN | 5 | -300 | 341 |

Nearly Christmas**5-6 December 2020**

14 games

| | Name | Wins | Spread |
|----------------|-------------------|------|--------|
| A Grade | | | |
| 1 | Alastair Richards | 11 | 765 |
| 2 | Lyres Freeth | 10 | 637 |
| 3 | Andrew Bradley | 8 | 55 |
| 4 | Cicely Bruce | 5 | -397 |
| 5 | Liz Fagerlund | 5 | -434 |
| 6 | John Foster | 3 | -626 |
| B Grade | | | |
| 1 | Delcie Macbeth | 12 | 913 |
| 2 | Val Mills | 10 | 513 |
| 3 | Jason Simpson | 8 | 182 |
| 4 | Lynn Wood | 7 | 20 |
| 5 | Margie Hurly | 6 | -114 |
| 6 | Karl Scherer | 5 | -214 |
| 7 | Roger Coates | 4 | -424 |
| 8 | Lorraine Van Veen | 4 | -876 |
| C Grade | | | |
| 1 | Mary Curtis | 12 | 780 |
| 2 | Lynn Carter | 10 | 574 |
| 3 | Betty Eriksen | 8 | 277 |
| 4 | Merelyn Fuemana | 7 | -66 |
| 5 | Suzanne Liddall | 6 | -344 |
| 6 | Su Walker | 5 | 66 |
| 7 | Megan Scherer | 5 | -642 |
| 8 | Bernie Jardine | 3 | -645 |
| D Grade | | | |
| 1 | Junior Gesmundo | 12 | 596 |
| 2 | Glenda Geard | 9 | 285 |
| 3 | Rodney Jardine | 8 | 467 |
| 4 | Cathy Casey | 7 | 384 |
| 5 | Awhina Taikato | 4 | -576 |
| 6 | Jackie Reid | 2 | -1156 |

Puzzle Pozy Solutions**Work out the best move***(from page 37)*

TRAVOIS/ISLED for 92 points.

Ironically, travois means a type of sled. Stanley played SAVIORS/ISLED. The TRAVOIS move was found during the post mortem of the game.



Lynn Wood and Liz Fagerlund at the Nearly Christmas tournament where Lynn was presented with a gift for service as Forwards distributor



Lunchtime Scrabble workshop run by Howard Warner at the Parliamentary Counsel Office From pp 21-22

Rankings as at 31 December 2021

| | Name | Rating | Wins | Games | % | | Name | Rating | Wins | Games | % |
|----|------------------------|--------|--------|-------|-----|----|-------------------|--------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1 | Alastair Richards (GM) | 2393 | 388 | 483 | 80% | 34 | Margie Hurly | 1554 | 419 | 845 | 50% |
| 2 | Howard Warner (GM) | 2269 | 2431.5 | 3235 | 75% | 35 | Glenyss Buchanan | 1554 | 765 | 1659 | 46% |
| 3 | Lyres Freeth (GM) | 2184 | 704 | 1059 | 66% | 36 | John Baird | 1552 | 369 | 682 | 54% |
| 4 | Joanne Craig (GM) | 2147 | 452.5 | 687 | 66% | 37 | Anna Brouwer | 1539 | 906.5 | 1842 | 49% |
| 5 | Dylan Early (GM) | 2142 | 183 | 277 | 66% | 38 | Peter Johnstone | 1530 | 287.5 | 545 | 53% |
| 6 | Patrick Carter (GM) | 2112 | 920.5 | 1446 | 64% | 39 | Rosalind Phillips | 1517 | 694.5 | 1358 | 51% |
| 7 | Jeff Grant (GM) | 2105 | 1822 | 2442 | 75% | 40 | Jeanette Grimmer | 1502 | 342.5 | 690 | 50% |
| 8 | Blue Thorogood (GM) | 2100 | 776 | 1099 | 71% | 41 | Jason Simpson | 1481 | 53 | 89 | 60% |
| 9 | Andrew Bradley (GM) | 2029 | 1022 | 1915 | 53% | 42 | Allie Quinn | 1480 | 1208 | 2480 | 49% |
| 10 | Stanley Ngundi (GM) | 1969 | 43.5 | 74 | 59% | 43 | Pam Barlow | 1476 | 919 | 1823 | 50% |
| 11 | Lynne Butler (GM) | 1940 | 997.5 | 1659 | 60% | 44 | Stan Gregec | 1472 | 217 | 406 | 53% |
| 12 | Glennis Hale (GM) | 1906 | 1707.5 | 3114 | 55% | 45 | Roger Coates | 1453 | 942 | 1975 | 48% |
| 13 | Anderina McLean (GM) | 1897 | 962 | 1794 | 54% | 46 | Lorraine Van Veen | 1445 | 1059 | 2156 | 49% |
| 14 | Lawson Sue (GM) | 1887 | 1220 | 2243 | 54% | 47 | Anne Goldstein | 1445 | 275 | 547 | 50% |
| 15 | Cicely Bruce (GM) | 1883 | 865 | 1585 | 55% | 48 | Selena Chan | 1440 | 399.5 | 795 | 50% |
| 16 | Steven Brown (GM) | 1841 | 981 | 1835 | 53% | 49 | Mary Gray | 1432 | 829.5 | 1672 | 50% |
| 17 | Lewis Hawkins (E) | 1832 | 314 | 523 | 60% | 50 | Paul Freeman | 1426 | 116.5 | 212 | 55% |
| 18 | John Foster (GM) | 1825 | 1783.5 | 3179 | 56% | 51 | Carolyn Kyle | 1421 | 1163 | 2350 | 49% |
| 19 | Nick Ascroft (E) | 1814 | 272.5 | 500 | 55% | 52 | Mary Curtis | 1419 | 493 | 943 | 52% |
| 20 | Paul Richards | 1807 | 43 | 76 | 57% | 53 | Helen Sillis | 1416 | 848 | 1736 | 49% |
| 21 | Murray Rogers (E) | 1786 | 1154 | 2193 | 53% | 54 | Yoon Kim Fong | 1411 | 776 | 1517 | 51% |
| 22 | Liz Fagerlund (GM) | 1770 | 1543 | 2982 | 52% | 55 | Karl Scherer | 1397 | 169 | 320 | 53% |
| 23 | Scott Chaput (E) | 1765 | 336 | 592 | 57% | 56 | Clare Wall | 1397 | 391 | 772 | 51% |
| 24 | Olivia En (E) | 1757 | 986 | 1896 | 52% | 57 | Lynn Carter | 1384 | 894.5 | 1729 | 52% |
| 25 | Rosemary Cleary (E) | 1715 | 947 | 2027 | 47% | 58 | Nola Borrell | 1381 | 642.5 | 1218 | 53% |
| 26 | Herb Ramsay | 1709 | 249 | 403 | 62% | 59 | Jean O'Brien | 1370 | 1512 | 2989 | 51% |
| 27 | Val Mills (E) | 1700 | 1594.5 | 3278 | 49% | 60 | Heather Landon | 1349 | 781 | 1550 | 50% |
| 28 | Jennifer Smith | 1694 | 1344.5 | 2786 | 48% | 61 | Jena Yousif | 1345 | 663 | 1322 | 50% |
| 29 | Pam Robson | 1683 | 666.5 | 1438 | 46% | 62 | Shirley Hol | 1331 | 825.5 | 1757 | 47% |
| 30 | Vicky Robertson | 1645 | 447 | 922 | 48% | 63 | Chris Higgins | 1329 | 149 | 271 | 55% |
| 31 | Delcie Macbeth | 1635 | 1115 | 2145 | 52% | 64 | Leila Thomson | 1322 | 657.5 | 1422 | 46% |
| 32 | Lynn Wood | 1586 | 2330.5 | 4890 | 48% | 65 | Bev Edwards | 1320 | 337 | 651 | 52% |
| 33 | Shirley Martin | 1572 | 1145.5 | 2299 | 50% | 66 | Dianne Cole-Baker | 1318 | 730 | 1432 | 51% |

| | Name | Rating | Wins | Games | % | | Name | Rating | Wins | Games | % |
|-----|---------------------|--------|--------|-------|-----|-----|-------------------|--------|-------|-------|-----|
| 67 | David Gunn | 1315 | 1517 | 3096 | 49% | 102 | Anne Scatchard | 903 | 666.5 | 1303 | 51% |
| 68 | Lyn Toka | 1312 | 665.5 | 1281 | 52% | 103 | Michael Groffman | 880 | 307 | 619 | 50% |
| 69 | Ruth Groffman | 1300 | 746 | 1505 | 50% | 104 | June Dowling | 874 | 118 | 210 | 56% |
| 70 | Joanne Morley | 1297 | 209 | 394 | 53% | 105 | Liane Hadden | 850 | 69.5 | 152 | 46% |
| 71 | Roger Cole-Baker | 1290 | 776 | 1519 | 51% | 106 | Hanna Dodge | 838 | 228 | 434 | 53% |
| 72 | Jenny Litchfield | 1281 | 214.5 | 385 | 56% | 107 | Rosemary Wauters | 835 | 196 | 409 | 48% |
| 73 | Betty Eriksen | 1280 | 1866.5 | 3691 | 51% | 108 | Rodney Jardine | 826 | 227 | 473 | 48% |
| 74 | Chris Bell | 1249 | 51 | 105 | 49% | 109 | Sharon Teasdale | 821 | 45 | 82 | 55% |
| 75 | Barney Bonthron | 1239 | 126.5 | 225 | 56% | 110 | Judy Driscoll | 809 | 336.5 | 849 | 40% |
| 76 | Merelyn Fuemana | 1226 | 207 | 386 | 54% | 111 | Ruth Godwin | 792 | 581.5 | 1236 | 47% |
| 77 | Su Walker | 1209 | 1303 | 2563 | 51% | 112 | Dorothy Bakel | 779 | 105 | 238 | 44% |
| 78 | Joanna Fox | 1188 | 246.5 | 478 | 52% | 113 | Phyllis Paltridge | 775 | 189 | 390 | 48% |
| 79 | Grant Paulin | 1173 | 73.5 | 140 | 53% | | Jacqueline | | | | |
| 80 | Faye Cronhelm | 1170 | 987 | 1982 | 50% | 114 | Coldham-Fussell | 744 | 804.5 | 1634 | 49% |
| 81 | Gabrielle Bolt | 1144 | 581.5 | 1134 | 51% | 115 | Joan Beale | 708 | 415.5 | 811 | 51% |
| 82 | Lyn Dawson | 1143 | 443.5 | 861 | 52% | 116 | Janny Henneveld | 676 | 602.5 | 1238 | 49% |
| 83 | Suzanne Harding | 1141 | 717 | 1427 | 50% | 117 | Marilyn Sinclair | 650 | 199.5 | 422 | 47% |
| 84 | Malcolm Graham | 1122 | 724 | 1456 | 50% | 118 | Judy Cronin | 639 | 240.5 | 555 | 43% |
| 85 | Suzanne Liddall | 1120 | 165 | 305 | 54% | 119 | Frances Higham | 629 | 330.5 | 855 | 39% |
| 86 | Carole Coates | 1109 | 801 | 1656 | 48% | 120 | Aaron Peries | 628 | 31 | 51 | 61% |
| 87 | Megan Scherer | 1104 | 35 | 54 | 65% | 121 | Antonia Aarts | 625 | 380 | 834 | 46% |
| 88 | Colleen Cook | 1099 | 469 | 961 | 49% | 122 | Margaret Toso | 616 | 183 | 413 | 44% |
| 89 | Bernie Jardine | 1096 | 270 | 529 | 51% | 123 | Annette Coombes | 613 | 941.5 | 2049 | 46% |
| 90 | Karen Miller | 1086 | 686 | 1352 | 51% | 124 | Awhina Taikato | 612 | 77.5 | 193 | 40% |
| 91 | Sharron Nolley | 1077 | 147.5 | 266 | 55% | 125 | Anne-Louise Milne | 594 | 196 | 551 | 36% |
| 92 | Julia Schiller | 1062 | 396 | 861 | 46% | 126 | Jillian Greening | 498 | 461 | 954 | 48% |
| 93 | Sheila Reed | 1060 | 377 | 786 | 48% | 127 | Dael Shaw | 458 | 33 | 66 | 50% |
| 94 | Glenda Geard | 1052 | 1281.5 | 2596 | 49% | 128 | Faye Leach | 446 | 180 | 441 | 41% |
| 95 | Joy Jones | 1052 | 33.5 | 55 | 61% | 129 | Tara Hurley | 411 | 29 | 68 | 43% |
| 96 | Tony Charlton | 1032 | 409 | 851 | 48% | 130 | Lynn Thompson | 391 | 380 | 892 | 43% |
| 97 | Marian Ross | 995 | 682.5 | 1347 | 51% | 131 | Jackie Reid | 292 | 151.5 | 334 | 45% |
| 98 | Trisha Bennett | 986 | 16 | 43 | 37% | 132 | Valerie Smith | 42 | 92.5 | 385 | 24% |
| 99 | Junior Gesmundo | 982 | 332.5 | 674 | 49% | 133 | Cheryl Parsons | 17 | 7 | 58 | 12% |
| 100 | Wendy Anastasi | 953 | 113.5 | 183 | 62% | 134 | Susan Schiller | 6 | 100 | 534 | 19% |
| 101 | Shalisha Kunaratnam | 907 | 26 | 53 | 49% | | | | | | |

| Club | Club Contact | Phone Number | Email | Meeting Day & Time |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Christchurch (CHC) | John Baird | 03 332 5996 | john@jrbssoftware.com | 12.30 pm Wed 6.45pm Thurs |
| Dunedin (DUN) | Chris Handley | 03 464 0199 | chris@redheron.com | 7pm Tues |
| Kapiti (KAP) | Judy Driscoll | 04 293 8165 | judydriscoll5@gmail.com | 7pm Mon |
| Kiwi Scrabblers (KIW) | Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell | 027 304 8061 | jjcoldham-fussell@hotmail.co.nz | 1pm/7pm Alternate Thurs |
| Lower Hutt (LOH) | Glenyss Buchanan | 04 569 5433 | glenyss.buchanan@xtra.co.nz | 7.30pm Tues |
| Mt. Albert (MTA) | Judy Cronin | 09 626 6390 | bjjac@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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|-----------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Ratings Officer | Steven Brown | 021 164 4641 | sgbrown@mac.com |
| Forwards Editor | Val Mills | 027 248 1701 | valmillsnz@gmail.com |
| Forwards Layout | Lyres Freeth | - | lyresfreeth@gmail.com |