Give me strength in the Year of the Ox!

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

Recently I have been giving Roger and Dianne Cole-Baker a hand with a Scrabble group they are setting up in the Summerset Village that they have moved to. They meet on Wednesdays at 1.30 pm and so far, there have been three meetings.

Going to these sessions has made me realise just how much is involved in playing Scrabble and how much we take for granted. It is not always easy to see a word on your rack, it's not always obvious where to place that word, scoring the turn can be tricky, and keeping score even trickier! Time must to be allowed for the board to be looked at and for elderly fingers to place the tiles. Why isn't it okay to dump a handful of tiles down in front of you, pick out your seven and put the rest back? Why do I have to add up my score before I replenish my rack? And what's this funny tile with no number on it?

Most people have had a go at the game before, some not for a number of years, but others play regularly online. How hard is it to not play the person's game for them! Some want help and others don't. I'm trying to learn to just let a player play their own game and maybe offer one or two hints at the end - but it is not easy for me to do that!

When I got to Rotorua I discovered a tile missing, having last had my board out at Summerset. Putting the magazine together this week and reading Sue McCrae's contribution (page 8), reinforced to me how important is to check your tiles when packing up your board. Luckily, my tile has been found!

To change the subject… I'm listening to the audio version of Hilary Mantel's trilogy of Wolf Hall books and have heard the use of a couple of words that I've been learning in my card box. Firstly MENIALS (ISLEMAN MALINES SEMINAL). What? Isn't MENIAL an adjective? How can you 'S' it? But no, MENIALS are a low-class of people who do the work. Secondly SARCONET (ANCESTOR ENACTORS SORTANCE), a type of silk. Thomas Cromwell was a fabric importer/merchant. I love the descriptions of various fabrics that were available in the 16th century. How about some contributions to a 'What I've Been Reading' article? We haven't had one in a while. Note down new words in books you are reading and let us know.

Meanwhile, the expurgation issue is not going away. See the article from Nick Ascroft (page 30), and the letter from Clare Wall (page 27).

Val Mills

Words from the Acting Vice-President

by Jenny Litchfield, Whangarei

Promote, Encourage and Foster the Growth of Scrabble

Long ago, having been involved with literacy development during my time as a teacher, I learned to organise a mentoring programme. Social support of youthful, experienced learners became my go-to peer group strategy to develop confident readers. What I discovered was that over time, the student partners built rapport and confidence as they cultivated a sense of enjoyment of and ability in a shared authentic language activity. Both the mentor and the mentee in their own ways, became more confident as learners and developed a sense of belonging. I learned to listen. As I listened, I learned a lot about what it means to be responsive as a support person. Fitting into a new club may be an unsettling experience for novice Scrabble players. Many of us already are that support person.

As much as Scrabble is a social activity it is also the stuff of anagrams and word puzzles. In terms of competitive and club play, it takes time to build word knowledge and strategic expertise in the game. Seven tiles drawn at random from a tile-bag that contains 100 tiles - what could go wrong! There is so much to think about when trying to make a word from seven tiles on a rack whilst playing under the pressure of time and complex rules. Experienced Scrabble players' chat and insights are windows to how they think and decide to play certain letters

Jenny Litchfield

and know where to make the move on the board.

One stated aim in our NZASP Constitution is to: 'Promote, encourage and foster the development and growth of Scrabble and Scrabble Clubs in New Zealand.' The question is, what are we doing about it? How can we as NZASP members promote our Scrabble community? We know the basics of playing Scrabble. How can we as Scrabble coaches get started? It will take a community at different levels and in different ways to foster the growth of our Scrabble community.

Start locally. Get your nearest school involved. It has happened in the Nelson and Dunedin areas because Ruth and Murray as Scrabble players got involved. In this world of online gaming, how do we on the other side of the digital divide engage youngsters in playing a board game?

There is no magic answer. Schools are accustomed to planning for Mathex and Spelling Bee competitions between schools. Why not Scrabble?

Talking with the teachers is the important first step to getting started. Ask: what word games and online activities are already in use in the classroom? What resources are needed? How might these be provided? Here's a tip. Plan to do yourself out of the expert advisor/ trainer role. Offer to coach a small team of older students in Scrabble game skills and knowledge to lead groups of younger players. Years ago, my studies in peer mentoring showed older students are well suited to train younger students when they learn and talk together. Four years ago, my then eleven year old grandson grabbed my old Scrabble board/tiles and dictionary to set up a friendly game with the after school care supervisor. When she challenged a word, his authority was Nana's two, three and four letter word list. I had nothing to do with the organisation. Grandson and the supervisor sorted the scoring and rules over time. Grandson checked with me at times. Younger kids were drawn in. From an informal student-directed beginning, it has become one of the activities the kids choose to do.

Secondly, go neighbourly. Post a flyer about your club in the local free newspaper, at your Citizens Advice Bureau or library. Playing Scrabble with others in settings beyond the usual club setting and chatting about words and sharing game highlights is how we as players can share our love of and spread our knowledge of the game. Local solutions for local situations.

Thirdly, think nationally and beyond. The NZASP website has several useful online resources available. A Google search of youth Scrabble for example, brought up Graham Wakefield's tutorial, *Beginners Guide to Playing Scrabble* edited in 2015 by Karen Richards of Australia. On *Youtube*, expert Scrabble players share their thoughts and move decisions during games in action. Share the relevant online links with youthful and community contacts. Listen to their needs. What do they need to best help them to take ownership of forming their group? Promoting the growth of Scrabble in New Zealand will take time.

Word Famous in New Zealand

By Mary Gray, Mt. Albert

Mary Gray

My interest in travelling was kindled when I was about seven years old. An aunt had taken a pilgrimage to Rome in 1952 and brought back photos that were viewed in a handheld viewer. To my young eyes they were quite wonderful and exotic and my sights, from then on, were set on seeing some of what the world had to offer.

After getting my BA, I had a false career start at teaching - one year was enough for me (there must be better ways to earn a living, I thought). The next goal was to save up and head off on my OE. With my girlfriend Gwen we sailed away on the 'Angelino Lauro' intent on a stop-over in South Africa. This stopover turned into our African adventure – hitch-hiking north through the continent. Highlights included visiting the Victoria Falls, the Wanke game park with its lions, wildebeest, zebras and various antelope species, the Zimbabwe ruins in what was then Rhodesia, a three day boat trip up Lake Malawi sleeping on deck, a two-day ride in a truck up the 'hell run' from the Tanzanian border to

Dar-Es-Salaam along with five other fellow hitch-hikers, and then on to climb Kilimanjaro.

We continued on through Nairobi, Murchison Falls national park in Uganda and then by air to Ethiopia, Somalia, Egypt, Cyprus, Israel, and Greece. From here it was back to hitch-hiking as we made our way across Europe to England.

After a winter in Britain, earning money waitressing, it was back to the continent for more travels and a winter living in Spain. Then it was time to head across Asia, as family events called me home. In all I had three years away. This was certainly a good start on seeing first-hand the wonderful variety of cultures, treasures and social extremes of the world we live in. My love of travel has remained with me and taken me further afield over the years.

Having given away teaching, my task on returning to New Zealand was to find a new career. This turned out to be in social work. First, I was employed by the

L-R: Mary as a baby,
Mary around age 14

Department of Social Welfare, as it was then known, in a variety of roles.

These included being a front-line social worker, a supervisor, a couple of advisory roles and then a move to Auckland in 1990 to a role as social work manager in the Takapuna office. In

Mary with her brothers and sisters, holding the baby

between I had completed a Diploma in Social Work and had set up a Family Support service for Barnardos. Later roles included teaching in the Unitec Social Practice programme and my final career move was managing a counselling agency for 11 years. I still have a small, private practice keeping up my professional skills and interests.

On the more personal side I was one of eight children and grew up on a farm in South Canterbury. I have an extensive whanau as Dad was one of ten and Mum one of four. I was married for ten years until my husband Roger was struck down by cancer in his early 50s. I have two step-children and several nieces and nephews whose children now and again benefit from a stint with my knitting needles. I recently showed a photo of a new great

Kilauea crater, Hawaii, steaming behind Mary in 2017

-nephew, modelling my latest knitting creation, to my sister. She recognised the garment as identical to one I had knitted for her now twenty-three year old son. I have stuck to the same knitting pattern!

How did Scrabble get into my life? When I was in my thirties living in Christchurch the mother of a girlfriend taught me to play. I used to visit her monthly and we would have some games. It wasn't until after I moved to Auckland, that I discovered club Scrabble and joined the Mount Albert club around 1992. The club had a steady flow of newcomers in those days as well as a cohort of more experienced members such as John Foster and Glennis Hale.

My memory isn't the best, so even now I get three letter words wrong - as many of my opponents will recognise. But the challenge of every game, learning and playing new words and the ongoing possibilities that every rack brings, provides the perfect intermittent reinforcement that encourages addiction, as any good scientist will attest!

A wonderful addiction to have.

The Problem of the Missing Tiles

by Sue McCrae, Masterton

Since I started a new club here in Masterton I have had a recurring problem with tiles left on the floor after everyone has gone home. The problem seems to stem from older (arthritic?) hands struggling to scrabble (pardon the pun) all the tiles off the board before putting them back in the tile bag a handful at a time. Perhaps while engaging in a spirited post mortem of the recently completed game and not concentrating on the manual task at hand!.

Amongst all my old scrabble stuff, including out-of-date dictionaries and yellowing word lists, I found a strange-looking piece of fabric I nearly threw away, until I remembered I had once used it as a tile collector. Not sure who invented the idea, but it would have been at least 30 years ago that I acquired it. I had a play with the design and ran up a few on my sewing machine, using remnants of curtain material from our recent house moving exercise.

Long story short, they work really well for gathering up the tiles after a game is complete. They cut down the time involved and greatly improve the chances of all 100 tiles making it back into the bag. I've found I need two sizes (one to accommodate the standard board size and one for deluxe models), so I made a "pattern" for both, in case anyone else is interested. (Orders taken for fabric-deprived or sewing-machine-challenged players…..I still have quite a bit of striped fabric left!).
Here are the instructions:

Scrabble tile collector

Purpose: to collect all 100 tiles up in one easy movement, with less chance of tiles falling on the floor.

Cut a piece of lightweight fabric like lace curtaining, white cotton, stretch fabric, or lightweight curtain fabric about 56 x 43 cm (or 60 x 50 cm for a deluxe board), then sew a narrow hem around all sides by turning under 0.52 cm and sewing it down, then turning it down again and sewing once more to neaten the edges.
See photos 1-3.

1

2

3

With wrong side facing, fold down about 12-14 cm of one end of the long length and sew a seam as close as possible along each edge (photo 4), to avoid tiles getting caught up in the folds later. Leave the bottom edge of the cover open so it can act as a funnel when you use the tile collector to tip the collected tiles into your tile bag (photo 7).

4

When the game is over, slip the tile collector over the board with the pocket hooked over one end (photo 5).

5

Left: Lace option, nice and transparent

Then lift the board, bang it lightly on the table to shake all the tiles down into the pocket, removing any stubborn ones with your hand (photo 6).

6

Fold the full pocket in half and tuck the open end into your tile bag to act as a funnel (photo 7).

Shake & voila! (photo 8)

8

7

Boring words don't exist

Jennifer Smith, Kiwi Scrabblers

*Every day is a day of learning for a Scrabble player, much of it accidental.
Take one day from my life recently as an example:*

- I got in the shower with a new jar of body wash, and couldn't get the damned thing open. I had to get out of the shower, put on my glasses, and search the bottle for instructions on how to get it flowing. No such instructions anywhere, but I learned the word BERGAMOT. The internet tells me, it's an oily substance from a dwarf variety of Seville orange, used to flavour some types of tea, particularly Earl Grey. Not many words end with -MOT: BERGAMOT, PHILAMOT, PHILOMOT, FILEMOT, FOLKMOT(E), HALIMOT(E), COMMOT(E), MARMOT, MOTMOT, GEMOT(E). All take S, and quite a few take an E.

BERGAMOT
*scented
body wash*

- I meant to message my niece, CHRISTIE, but absentmindedly typed her name into my open ULU app instead of my messaging app. Lo and behold, it's a word! It's some sort of a turning manoeuvre in skiing, developed by skiers from the Christiana area in Norway. (So it's a TOPONYM, I remind myself – a word named after a place.) It can also be spelt CHRISTY.

- Christie replied to my eventual message: "OBVS" (and included an emoji). I checked, and OBVS is OK to play in Scrabble, but it must have the S. (We can *play* it, but how on earth would one *pronounce* it, I wondered.) Somebody should write an article on text-speak that we can play.

OBVS ☺
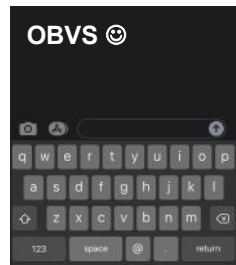
- I visited a sick friend in hospital, who was trying to make sense of a medical report that contained the word OBSTIPATION. It's severe constipation, and I'm guessing the term developed as a sort of cross between obstruction (or obstinate!) and constipation. Too many letters to be useful in Scrabble, though – it's unlikely I'd ever be able to play it by adding to existing letters on the board. CONSTIPATE(D) is a word, but *OBSTIPATE(D) isn't.

- It happened to be the day of the Melbourne Cup. Another visitor, who breeds race horses, said BISHOPED in conversation. I thought, "If a pope

made somebody a bishop, he may have bishoped him, or somebody playing chess could have bishoped their opponent's piece, but what on earth does it mean in connection with horses?" BISHOPING is tampering with its teeth to make a horse seem younger, she told me, and I confirmed the word in our word list later. (In reference to pigeons, it can also mean having white shoulder patches or wing margins.) I've been unable to find the origin of either meaning, but somewhere in history, there must have been a bishop who was a pigeon fancier or a crooked horse-dealer (or both)!

- I listen to *RadioNZ* most of the day, and note that Jesse Mulligan seems to have eliminated the words WORK/EFFORT/PERFORM/MAKE/PRACTISE from his vocabulary altogether, replacing all of them with the Maori word *mahi. Could it be useful? No! It's not in our word list. (Next updated word list, perhaps?) Worth remembering that – somebody else under the influence of *NewsHub*, *Seven Sharp*, *The Project*, or various breakfast shows might try it against me sometime!

- Browsing a website, I saw a ring with a "half-karat diamond ring". Surely that should be CARAT? I checked, and not only is KARAT correct, but so is CARRAT. Good old Google tells me that the word comes from the Arab word for the carob seed, which was used throughout history to measure jewellery as it was believed that there was little variance in their weight. But this is not true – their weight varies as much as any other seeds. The current metric KARAT/CARAT/CARRAT (equivalent to 200 mg) was adopted in 1907.

KRAKEN
Pierre Dénys de Montfort, 1801

- Off to pub quiz. Is *CAYUGA a duck, snake or turtle? A duck. I committed it to memory, but (fortunately) checked it out when I got home. Not in our word list. It's always spelt with a capital letter.

- Just before bedtime, I caught up on a comedy TV show, *Live at the Apollo*, where a comedian joked about a beast called a KRAKEN. A check in our dictionary revealed that it's a mythical sea monster in Norwegian folklore.

(The stand-up was funny, but I think he could do something even funnier with the phrase "anal wink" that I discovered when I looked up the meaning of obstipation. Who says words aren't interesting!!)

Club News

Dunedin Tournament November 2020

We had very interesting results in the A grade after round 1:

- The top three players won, and the bottom three players lost.
- Spreads were 5, 3, 2 and -2, -3 -5.
- There were no bonus words.

A Grade after Game 1

Pos.	Name	Wins	Spread	Bonus Words
1	Murray R	1	5	0
2	Peter J	1	3	0
3	John B	1	2	0
4	Herb R	0	-2	0
5	Karen G	0	-3	0
6	Lynn W	0	-5	0

High Game: 410 – John B
High Aggregate Game: 818 – John B/Herb R
High Winning Margin: 5 – Murray R

Rotorua:
Reflections on our Rotorua Tournament

By Ruth Godwin, Rotorua

It was October and our AGM. Traditionally this was the time we set the wheels in motion for the preparation of our annual tournament to be held in the last weekend of February. However, a lot had happened since our 2020 tournament with Covid-19 turning our country upside down and inside out.

We wondered if the entry numbers would be down to a degree that would affect the flow of the tournament – if indeed the tournament happened at all.

Many clubs seemed to be dealing with the reduced numbers by playing grades of only eight members and after seeking some feedback from the Mount Albert club and Liz Fagerlund

we decided to take the bull by the horns and go for a 14-game double round robin. We were warned that it would be more expensive to run, and that proved to be very true, but it was good to see the results reflecting close abilities in each grade. Our worry had been that if we had stuck to our traditional 13-game round robin, the range of ability in each grade would be too extreme, leaving players in a position where, for some of them, their chance of a win or two would be very remote and the stronger players would be deprived of any challenge from many of their opposition.

Entries flowed in and, as they were very slow for a start, and we breathed a sigh of relief that we had opted for the smaller grades. Then a last minute rush saw numbers rise considerably and I began to wonder if we had made the correct decision.

All the members of our committee rallied round and the preparation was

a shared effort which I really appreciated. They proved to be a great team. The support from the usual family team who manage the kitchen was as good as always in spite of health problems being experienced by some of the family.

Players at Rotorua tournament

her willingness to be prepared for interruptions to her own games is always appreciated.

It was good to know that some of the competitors had come to Rotorua a day or two before the tournament to enjoy some of the special experiences available in this town. We hope you enjoyed your extended visit.

Health problems for a number of members have actually had quite an impact on both the regular club days and the organisation of the tournament, so everyone's support is all the more remarkable.

After a brief panic when I discovered I had arrived with a computer and printer which functioned perfectly at home without any connecting leads but wouldn't work at the venue because there was no internet available, I dashed home, unearthed the disused lead and we were in business. The weekend went smoothly, with competitors completing games within the time frame and Diane recording results accurately. Following the arrival of Janny (who hadn't been able to play) and family on Sunday, her son-in-law Andy sorted our problems with the air conditioning so that we finished the weekend in comfort rather than being overheated or chilled. He was really very 'andy! As usual Liz was willing to adjudicate during the tournament –

It is always a pleasure to welcome back players who have regularly come to play at our tournaments – your support is appreciated.

As expected, competition was pretty close in most grades and our new recruits from Rotorua managed to win a few games each, which was pleasing to see, and we hope it gives them the confidence to go to more tournaments in the future. Also, Howard Warner hit the high scores with a word CANEWARE (*ED: against me unfortunately!*) involving a triple triple worth 194 points.

I hope the trip back to Auckland, or through Auckland, wasn't too arduous for those travelling that way and dealing with a road block. Also for everyone else, I hope your journey home was smooth and uneventful and we look forward to seeing you all next year.

Auckland War Of Words

Lots of fun was had at the Auckland WOW tourney this January. Run by Lawson Sue and me (with heaps of help from others) it was held to continue the long-standing tradition of the Pakuranga Club

Lawson (right) with Lorraine Van Veen at Auckland WOW

tourney on Auckland Anniversary weekend. The Howick Bridge Club, where it is held, was very pleased to see that the tournament would still be run. They were always very supportive of the Pakuranga club.

When the idea of the tourney was mooted I was an independent member of the Association so we decided to make it a tournament in which independents could get involved. We asked all independents attending to bring a something for morning and afternoon teas. This worked really well, and as usual there was plenty of food! We also asked entrants to bring their own score sheets.

This made for a very easily run tournament and meant that we could make good cash prizes, and also have a little left over for the Association. As the grades were large, we had six prizes per grade but of course, where Lawson is involved, there were a few surprises with the sixth prize being randomly decided!

Also Lawson never does anything by halves….. I cadged a ride back to Auckland with him after the Wellington tournament and we stopped at the 'Windmill' Dutch shop at Foxton. On the counter were packets of chocolate letters on 'special' as they were left over from December when they are given as presents on St Nicholas Eve, the 5th of December. We bought some big ones for spot prizes and a couple of packets of the little ones as well, which contained the whole alphabet. Was Lawson happy with this…no! He decided that as a receipt to everyone for their entries we should give them their initials in chocolate. This meant that the day before the tourney Lawson called every Dutch shop in Auckland, trying to source more of the little letters. The shop that had them was in Henderson, so off he went to get nine (!) packets – he had worked out that this is what we would need. That evening was spent by him (and friend Sharon, I suspect, who was up from Wellington) sorting out the letters into everyone's initials and putting them in wee bags! Thanks Sharon!

Dutch chocolate letters

It's not poppycock

by Jennifer Smith, Kiwi Scrabblers

COCK has several meanings: it's a male bird, the valve of a faucet, a fellow/mate/leader, part of a firearm, and a penis; and, of course it appears in many expressions such as, going off half-cocked, cocking your hat, being cocky, cock-of-the-roost, cocking an ear, etc.

The more prurient aspects of the word are most interesting.

You may not know that in the southern United States in the 1920s, COCK was common as the vernacular for vulva or vagina. This came about during the French influence in Louisina, from the French word COQUILLE, meaning shell, which the French use for vagina.

The male of the domestic fowl is associated in many cultures with male vigour, and the word COCK has been used for the penis since the seventeenth century and perhaps as early as the fifteenth. Goodness knows why, because in 97% of bird breeds, the male, or COCK, does not even have a penis! (I'll leave you to find out how eggs get fertilised, if you're interested).

This slang word for the penis has led to the word COCK being avoided, especially during the nineteenth century (the good old Victorian age).

And so ROOSTER became the polite word for the farmyard COCK, HAYCOCKS came to be called HAYSTACKS, and WEATHERCOCKS became WEATHER-VANES.

And that's also about the time the ABRICOCK or APRICOCK (still OK Scrabble words) became an APRICOT, and a COCKHORSE became a ROCKING-HORSE.

COCK in a surname was usually in reference to an occupation (from *de COCK*, the Dutch for COOK). Nevertheless – probably due to embarrassment – many such surnames have morphed into -COX or -COT or -COTT.

Famously, Louisa May Alcott's father, the deeply pious Amos Bronson Alcott, was born ALCOX, but changed his name to Alcott. (The family name had already undergone changes from Alcock to Alcocke before that.)
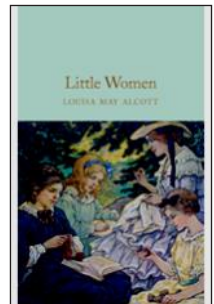
Next time I read *Little Women*, I'll pay attention to the March family's food. I wonder if they ate apricots rather than apricocks, and if they ever had spatchcock chicken or cockle shells?

Stanley Ngundi - Grand Master

by Jeff Grant, Independent

Stanley Ngundi

Congratulations to new Scrabble Grand Master Stanley Ngundi of Wellington.

A **Stanley** knife is a utility knife often used as a box-cutter. **Ngundi** is a language of Congo, and the name of plains in Zambia.

*STANLEY transposes to STANYEL, variant of 'staniel', a kestrel, while NGUNDI becomes *NUDING (*Oxford English Dict.*), stripping.

STANLEY TANSLEY of DeSoto, Mississippi, was recorded in the 1940 US Census.

There are no Scrabble anagrams of NGUNDI, but it combines with various letters to make a potential bonus word:

+B BUNDING
+E ENDUING
+F FUNDING
+G DUNGING, NUDGING
+I INDUING
+K DUNKING
+N DUNNING
+O UNDOING
+R DURNING
+T DUNTING, TUNDING
+W WINDGUN
+Y UNDYING

So NGUNDI goes with 12 different letters. Not a bad stem!

There are 11 different letters in Stanley's full name, more than anyone else in the top 10.

The longest word out of STANLEY NGUNDI is the 11-letter UNSTEADYING. There are 450 7- and 8-letter words, including DALGYTE, GYNNIES, SNIGLET, UNSLAIN, ANTIDUNE, LANGSYNE, SEDULITY and UNINSTAL.

STANLEY NGUNDI has some interesting anagrams, such as ENGLAND'S UNITY, SAINTLY GUNNED and UNTANGLED YINS.

Near the end of a long Scrabble tournament it can feel as if you've SAT UNENDINGLY or spent DAYS TUNNELING, but it can also be rewarding - YA LED? STUNNING! You just need to finish well and enjoy the glow of success - GET IN, SUNNY LAD! (I, SUNNY GENT, LAD).

Stanley plays Gil Quiballo at Janniversary tournament, Wellington 2021

Colours
(from AERO to ZAFFRE)

by Mike Currie, Mount Albert

*After luxuriating in The Secret Lives of Colours by Kassia St Clair as part of my beach and bush reading this summer, I decided, as I often do, to mine it for Scrabble potential and while ULU did not recognise the heady delights of *JAZZBERRY JAM or *PHTHALO BLUE, there were a number of additions to my Scrabble palette.*

RED

I discovered various red pigments such as COQUELICOT, the hue of a wild corn

MINIUM

poppy, SINOPIA, named after the Turkish city of Sinop, CINNABAR (or mercury sulphide) and H(A)EMATITE (iron oxide or more commonly rust.) Other reddish synonyms are RUFOUS, CLARET, the heraldic red GULES ((K)LUGES/GLUES/GUSLE) as well as ALIZARIN dye, extracted from the MADDER(S) plant and found in fabrics from Tutankhamun's tomb and medieval curtains. MINIUM, also known as red lead, is a bright orange red pigment that was widely used in the Middle Ages for the decoration of manuscripts and for painting. Commoner scarlet tones are CARMINE, CARNELIAN and AMARANTH, a flower also known as prostrate PIGWEED, whose garlands were used to honour Achilles as its everlasting blooms are symbolic of immortality.

YELLOW

GAMBOGE or the GUMMI GUTTA pigment is a saffron, MUSTARDY sap from the Indonesian GARCINIA tree, used to dye Buddhist monks' robes and in 1908 to prove the theory of Brownian motion. Another canary yellow hue, ORPIMENT, was used to illuminate The Book of Kells and decorate the walls of The Taj Mahal. Naples Yellow, also known as ANTIMONY yellow, as it's made from lead ANTIMONATE is one of the oldest synthetic yellows, purportedly mined from Mount Vesuvius. Some yellows derive their names from liqueurs, like CHARTREUSE, others from gems, like CITRINE quartz and others still from songbirds, like the ICTERINE warbler (from the ancient Greek *ikteros* meaning 'jaundice.') Other shades of sunshine include GOLDENROD, FULVOUS, XANTHIC, XANTHOUS and UNMELLOW yellow. Quite rightly.

ICTERINE

GREEN

PERIDOT is an ancient gem of the mineral OLIVINE. PERIDOT also yields DIOPTER, DIOPTRE and

PERIDOT

PROTEID (E). PERIDOT can take an E as a back hook too. ERINITE is another green gem - a hydrous copper ARSENIATE. KOMBU green is seaweed green, VIRID vividly green, and VIRIDIAN dark green, originally from VERDANT (meaning green, of course.) VERT is French for green and is an acceptable loan word like NOIR or ROUGE or even FELDGRAU (field-grey in German,) which was used to refer to the greenish uniforms of the German armies. VERDIGRIS is another borrowing (originally 'green of Greece' – *vert de Grece)* and is the BLUEY green patina of copper carbonate coating the Statue of liberty. My favourite green, however, is CELADON, now a glaze but once an Asian ceramic and before that a lovelorn shepherd from a seventeenth century pastoral comedy, who influenced a generation to dress in SYLVAN green.

BLUE

AERO and ZAFFRE, from my A-Z title, are both blues as is the medieval ULTRAMARINE,

ZAFFRE

expensively ground from LAPIS LAZULI and used to paint Mary's blue veil in Renaissance art. AZURE is sky blue (and AZURY is fine too). CERULEAN was Picasso's blue,

OXFORD blue is dark blue whereas Cambridge blue is light blue, also known as PERIWINKLE. AQUA, TOPAZ and TURQUOISE are all common enough shades of blue. King Charles I walked to the scaffold in a waistcoat of WATCHET blue and CELESTE is a celestial, sky blue used in heraldry and can be seen in the Peruvian coat of arms just behind the llama.

BROWN

BISTRE

BISTRE is a brownish yellow pigment made from the tarry remains of burnt BEECHWOOD. Not to be confused with BISQUE as in lobster. ECRU, from the French meaning 'unbleached' is the colour of unbleached linen and was once considered a shade of beige but is now more a greyish yellow. BEIGE is not a name many favour and when found in paint sample tins tends to be labelled UMBER, BOLE, METALLIC SUNBURST or TAUPE (French for 'mole') or something enticingly rustic like NUTWOOD timber or burnt SIENNA. In fact when the universe was declared a shade of beige by a team of astronomers from Johns Hopkins University in 2001, it didn't take them long to rechristen it COSMIC LATTE. CAPPUCCINO is playable too by the way and so is CAFÉ NOIR but not *AU *LAIT. Incidentally, the only browns that made the cut in Joseph's Amazing Techniclor Dreamcoat were RUSSET and OCHRE.

PINK

TERRA COTTA, from the Italian for baked earth, is reminiscent of Tuscan farmhouse roofing tiles whereas CERISE, PHLOX and CYCLAMEN are all vibrant shades of pink derived from flowers. ROSE is the colour halfway between red and MAGENTA (MAGNATE/GATEMAN) on the HSV colour wheel, also known as ROSE BONBON or *THULIAN pink (THULIA, however is acceptable.) PUCE is the French word for flea. The colour is said to be that of bloodstains on linen or bedsheets, even after being laundered, from a flea's droppings, or after a flea has been crushed.

PHLOX

PURPLE

GLAUCOUS, like LAVENDER, will add some oomph to your garden. A HELIOTROPE is a plant turning towards the sun and signifying devotion in florology, often worn by Victorian widows. WISTERIA is also a stunning shade of floral purple as is FUCHSIA, the bane of spelling bee entrants for years. But my favourite purple is Tyrian purple, extracted from the tiny mollusc SPINY DYE MUREX and used to colour the togas of Roman senators. Tyrian purple may first have been used by the ancient Phoenicians as early as 1570 BC and it has been suggested that the name Phoenicia itself means 'land of purple'.

WHITE

ISABELLINE

GESSO is a white paint mixture consisting of a binder mixed with chalk, GYPSUM and pigment, used in artwork as a preparation for wood panels, canvas and sculpture as a base for paint and other materials that are applied over it. The classic LEWIS CHESSMEN, with tombstones for pawns, were originally made from Scandinavian walrus IVORY. CERUSE, or white lead, was a highly toxic skin cosmetic used by Elizabeth I. Another regal white is ISABELLINE, a greyish off white. In 1601, so the story goes, Archduke Albert VII of Austria began a siege of Ostend and his faithful wife, Isabella, thinking it would be a short-lived attack, refused to change or wash her underwear until the siege was over. Sadly it lasted for three years. So ISABELLINE is the shade of dirty UNDIES.

MUREX dyes
Credit: MEE/ Tom Westcott

Super Learning

by Selena Chan, Christchurch

Here is a good overview of maximising learning with good tips for scrabblers:

The Observer
Neuroscience

Fail productively... how to turn yourself into a super-learner

Whether you're taking up the oboe or finessing your Finnish, scientific research offers tips to aid learning

https://www.theguardian.com/science/2020/feb/16/neuroscience-become-a-super-learner
-scientific-research-better-learning-long-term-memory?
fbclid=IwAR2djVZq4vIdS8RRJ6CWHwP9Cr4kfb6nDvdH7QqJzDdyPvyLBm55gs6MeSE

Check out the links embedded in the article as well, to extend your understanding of how to learn more effectively. Although the article uses language learning as a context, recent neurological and psychological research concur on the principles presented in the article. As always, I have contextualised the principles towards learning to become a better Scrabble player.

Fail productively by learning from your mistakes and undertaking a pre-test to gauge your knowledge before embarking on more learning. Making a mistake and then becoming motivated to correct the error enhances learning. The 'error' provides the brain with something to hang the new learning on. After each game, it is important to record future 'learning goals'. For example, word knowledge is always added to or reinforced whenever you are unsure of a word or hook. This triggers a 'need to know' niggle in your brain. Ensuring you find out whether the word or hook exists, quietens the niggle but also reinforces the nascent node already formed when you started mulling whether the word/hook existed.

Teaching a word/strategy to someone else further solidifies learning. Therefore, after checking if the word or hook exists, share it with our opponent or club members. In doing, you will have revisited the item THREE times which is one way to cement new concepts/knowledge into your neural network. The article recommends the use of 'flash cards' (zyzzyva cardboard for scrabblers) but to create your own, rather than rely on the app. The action of creating the contents of the quiz, means added interaction with the new learning.

Mixing it up to engage with learning is encouraged. Therefore, use a range of learning activities. Zyzzyva cardboard is especially useful for

Now listen up! We're going to do this alphabetically!

visual learners. Juggling the words using real tiles or on screen tends to work for kinaesthetic learners. Recording of words may work better for aural learners. Recording the words or writing up the list also means you need to sort through your word lists and collate the words which you may have identified as 'need to learn'. Again, it is important to not have one approach but to use a range to bring interest and variety into your learning routine.

Get moving brings in the importance of scheduling your learning around a fitness plan. The brain produces a wide range of 'feel good' neurotransmitters. Drawing on these after a bout of physical activity ensures your learning is boosted.

Change your environment refers to how heavily connected our memories are to the contexts within which these are formed. Therefore, it is important to study in a range of places. This is to ensure recall is not slowed down when the need to bring up learnt items occurs in a different environment to the one in which the study takes place. I would think that many of us indulge in studying Scrabble words in a quiet environment. Yet, quite often, we need to dredge up rarely used vocabulary when playing in sometimes noisy places, are distracted by our opponent's coffee-housing, or stressed due to the need to win the game or by time pressure!

The last item, **do nothing**, encourages learners to take 'down time' to allow the brain to consolidate learning. This 'wakeful rest' requires us to 'daydream' rather than do what most people now do when they find time on their hands, that is to watch Netflix or play a game on their phone.

Many of you will be doing many of the above already. However, it does take some effort to move out of comfortable habits.

Did you know today's date is both a palindrome and an ambigram? This means you can read the date from left to right, from right to left and also upside down! 🙃

12022021

In the News

Man files human rights complaint against Scrabble over racist slurs in game dictionary

The maker of popular board game Scrabble is facing a human rights complaint for including racist slurs against Aboriginal people as playable words.

By Emily Cosenza, NCA NewsWire

Published on January 6, 2021

https://www.news.com.au/lifestyle/real-life/news-life/man-files-human-rights-complaint-against-scrabble-over-racist-slurs-in-game-dictionary/news-story/b66af909b7b7154ebb62a33d65cd04bc

A Northern Territory man has filed a formal complaint against the owners of popular board game Scrabble for including racist slurs against Aboriginal people in the game's dictionary of playable words.

Aboriginal activist Stephen Hagan lodged the complaint to the Australian Human Rights Commission against international toy maker Mattel for allowing the words "abo", "coon" and "boong" to be played.

He said he was "absolutely flabbergasted" the company permitted the use of such offensive words.

"My wife and I never encouraged our children, when they were young, to experiment with racially offensive words or slurs whenever they played Scrabble," Dr Hagan wrote in his complaint, obtained by NCA NewsWire.

"I would like to think that when they have children they would also explain the importance of not using racially offensive words to gain points in Scrabble."

Dr Hagan, from Darwin, said the popular board game company, which has an office in Melbourne, failed to reassess its values following the global Black Lives Matter movement and made little effort to audit products with potential to cause offence.

"I know that with COVID-19, more people are looking at board games and families actually talking over dinner together," he told NCA NewsWire.

"It's appalling that Mattel promotes teaching kids that it is OK to use a racial slur if that's what it takes to win a Scrabble game.

"That's when kids start using them in backyards and schools."

According to collinsdictionary.com — which is endorsed by Mattel and the World English-Language Scrabble™ Players' Association — all three words are valid in the game.

Under the definitions, an "abo" is "an offensive name for an Aborigine".

The word "boong" is defined as "an offensive name for a Black person".

Aboriginal activist Dr Stephen Hagan
Photo credit: Brenda Mau, NCA NewsWire

"It's time for fair-minded Australians to make a stand by not buying Scrabble or any of Mattel's products until such time as they cease validating racial slurs abo, boong and coon."

Mattel is now in the process of conducting a comprehensive audit with its dictionary partner of all words in the Scrabble dictionary.

"Offensive or racist language has no place in the Scrabble game," a Mattel spokesperson said.

While "coon" is validated, the word is defined as a raccoon in the Collins dictionary.

Dr Hagan is calling for the words to be removed from the Scrabble dictionary and for the company to conduct an audit to identify other words that may be offensive to ethnic groups.

He also wants a formal apology and $150,000 in compensation for hurt and humiliation.

"They have a responsibility to be accountable for their actions," he said.

"It's not an oversight. It's in their written dictionary so they know very well what's in there.

"I object to overseas companies making financial gain by peddling bigotry in their products to Aussie families, especially First Nations families.

Tournament Calendar 2021		
Tournament	**Location**	**Dates**
Nationals	Hamilton	5-7 June
Whangarei	Whangarei	3-4 July
Kiwi Scrabblers	Hamilton	7-8 August
Tauranga	Tauranga	21-22 August
Christchurch	Christchurch	4-5 Sept
Wellington Swiss	Wellington	18-19 Sept
Mt Albert	Auckland	9-10 October
Dunedin	Queenstown	16-17 October
Whanganui	Whanganui	23-24 October
Rodney	Snells Beach	6 November
Dunedin	Dunedin	13-14 November
# Trans-Tasman Challenge	Canberra	19-21 November
# Restricted entry		

Year of the Ox

Ed: Thanks to both Patrick Carter and Jenny Litchfield for responding to my request for someone to write something on this subject.

Words Beginning with OX and COW

By Patrick Carter, Mt. Albert

There are 102 words of 5-8 letters that start with the letters OX, but a lot of them like OXAZEPAM obviously have nothing to do with oxen. I have chosen the words where the remaining letters after OX are a word by themselves. That makes them look as though there is an OX connection, even if it is tenuous.

OXBLOOD	A dark reddish brown colour
OXBOW	A horseshoe shaped loop in a river
OXCART	A cart pulled by an ox
OXEYE	A chrysanthemum with a relay disc and white rays
OXFORD	A soft durable, plain woven, cotton
OXGANG	As much land as one ox could plough
OXGATE	As much land as one ox could plough
OXHEAD	A blockhead, a stupid person
OXHEART	A large heart-shaped cherry
OXHERD	Someone who looks after oxen
OXHIDE	Leather made from the hide of an ox
OXLAND	As much land as one ox could plough
OXLIKE	Like an ox
OXLIP	A flower like the cowslip
OXPECKER	An African bird
OXSLIP	A flower like the cowslip
OXTAIL	The tail of an ox, especially when used in soups
OXTONGUE	Any of several plants with rough tongue-shaped leaves

Some nice front hooks for the above words involve turning OXLIKE into either BOXLIKE or FOXLIKE and to turn OXTAIL into FOXTAIL

In the year of the OX we should not overlook the COW. So the following is a list of COW words that meet the same criterion that the remaining letters are also a valid word:

COWAGE	A leguminous climbing plant. (Also spelled COWHAGE)
COWBANE	The water hemlock, often poisonous to cattle
COWBELL	A bell worn around a cow's neck
COWBERRY	The red whortleberry
COWBIND	A species of bryony (a climbing plant)
COWBIRD	A species of American starling often associated with cattle
COWBOY	Can be used as a verb meaning to behave like a cowboy
COWFISH	An aquatic mammal also known as the manatee
COWFLAP	A dropping of cow dung
COWFLOP	A dropping of cow dung
COWGIRL	A female ranch worker (cannot be used as a verb)
COWGRASS	A type of red clover
COWHAND	Someone who looks after cows
COWHEARD	An old spelling of COWARD
COWHERB	A flowering plant related to the carnation
COWHERD	Someone who looks after cows
COWHIDE	A verb meaning to flog someone with a leather whip
COWHOUSE	A building to house cows
COWINNER	One of two of more winners
COWISH	A type of plant (so COWISHES is good)
COWITCH	A plant with sharp stinging hairs
COWKING	Vomiting. A form of the verb COWK
COWLICK	A lock of unruly hair
COWLIKE	Resembling a cow
COWLING	A covering for an aircraft engine
COWMAN	Someone who owns cattle
COWMEN	Men who own cattle
COWPAT	A dropping of cow dung
COWPEA	A leguminous Asian plant
COWPIE	A dropping of cow dung
COWPING	Overturning. A form of the verb COWP
COWPLOP	A dropping of cow dung
COWPOKE	A cowboy
COWPOX	A cattle disease
COWPUNK	Music that combines country and western with punk rock
COWRITE	Collaborate in writing. (Also COWRITER and COWROTE)
COWSHED	A shelter for cows
COWSKIN	The hide of a cow
COWSLIP	A flowering plant
COWTOWN	A rural town or a city in a cattle raising area
COWTREE	A South American tree of the mulberry family
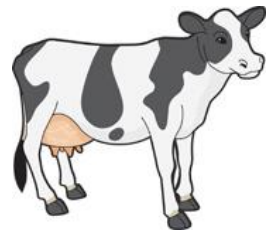
Words that end in OX

By Jenny Litchfield, Whangarei

Call them kine, steers, oxen or cows. We know cattle to be a diverse group of delightful creatures. Ruminants chewing their cuds as they peer over the fence hoping for a treat.. Friendly. Placid. Curious. In Chinese culture, oxen are admired for being intelligent, strong and hardworking. And we know this to be true. Bullock teams historically hauled logs from New Zealand forests. People born in the Chinese Year of the Ox are thought to reflect these bovine characteristics. However, oxen can be stubborn and stuck in their ways!

3 letter words
BOX COX DOX FOX GOX HOX
LOX NOX POX SOX VOX WOX

4 letter words
FLOX

5 letter words
DETOX EMBOX INBOX PHLOX REDOX RETOX UNBOX XEROX

6 letter words
BOLLOX CARFOX COWPOX DOGFOX HATBOX HAYBOX HOTBOX ICEBOX
JAWBOX LUMMOX MAGNOX MUSKOX NITROX OUTBOX OUTFOX
PEGBOX SKYBOX TEABOX TOYBOX VOLVOX

7 letter words
AIRPROX BANDBOX BEATBOX BOOMBOX CAKEBOX CASHBOX
COALBOX EQUINOX FAREBOX FEEDBOX FIREBOX FLUMMOX FOWLPOX
FUZZBOX GEARBOX HELLBOX JUKEBOX KICKBOX LISTBOX LOCKBOX
MAILBOX PARADOX PILLBOX POORBOX POSTBOX PRINCOX SALTBOX
SANDBOX SEEDBOX SHOEBOX SHOWBOX SOAPBOX SONOVOX
TALKBOX TOOLBOX TUCKBOX WOODBOX WORKBOX

8 letter words
BOBBYSOX BRAINBOX BREADBOX CHECKBOX CLACKBOX CLANGBOX
ECONOBOX GLOVEBOX HOMEOBOX HORSEBOX HORSEPOX
LOOSEBOX LUNCHBOX MATCHBOX MONEYBOX ORTHODOX PAINTBOX
SAUCEBOX SCRUMPOX SMALLPOX SMOKEBOX SNEAKBOX SNUFFBOX
SOUNDBOX SWEATBOX SWINEPOX WATCHBOX WATERPOX

9 letter words
GOOGLEBOX HETERODOX HOMOEOBOX LETTERBOX MONKEYBOX
PEPPERBOX RATTLEBOX SHADOWBOX STRONGBOX TINDERBOX
TUCKERBOX

10 letter words
CHATTERBOX CHICKENPOX GROUNDPROX PRATTLEBOX
THUNDERBOX UNORTHODOX

Mailbox

Clare Wall, Wellington, on the issue of expurgation:

I've read with interest the various discussions around the proposal by Mattel to purge their wordlist of 'offensive' words, and NZASP's stance opposed to this action. I have to say that I find myself very torn about it. I view the words in a Scrabble context mainly as collections of point values. I don't know the definitions of many (most?) of the words I play. I gleefully play all the four letter words and absolutely love it when one of my senior opponents (who is often otherwise polite and seemly to a fault) plays one against me.

But some of these words we play have horrible histories. They've been used to hurt, oppress, abuse and exclude people. How many times has someone turned up to play at a Scrabble club for the first time, encountered such a word, and never returned?

On the other hand language is fluid, and what we might think is absolutely harmless today could be unacceptable in the future. And who decides what is 'offensive'? There are so many edge cases - words which offend someone, however small in number those people might be.

I'm really struggling to make up my mind on this. In the coward's way out, I'm happy for the NZASP to make this decision for me.

Jennifer Smith, Kiwi Scrabblers, shares a recent tournament experience:

At the Rotorua Tournament at the end of February, I had more than my usual number of 'brain breakdowns'.

During one of the worst ones, when I was coping with rack after rack with no vowels, I finally bit the bullet, said, "Change seven", and stopped my clock – without stopping to consider whether there were enough tiles in the bag. Of course, there weren't!

My opponent, oozing sympathy, said, "Oh, you poor thing. Forget you said that, and play what you can, anyway."

"I can't do that," I said. "I've stopped my clock, so my turn is finished. It's your turn." (I was quite resigned – I know the rules, and it was my own stupid fault, anyway.)

Quick as a flash, my opponent said, "Pass", and stopped their clock. "NOW it's your turn."

That kind, sporting gesture made my day.

Hall of fame

by Jennifer Smith, Kiwi Scrabblers

Yeah, gidday!.

My name is John Furphy, engineering blacksmith, and founder of J. Furphy & Sons of Shepparton, Victoria, Australia. I lived from 1842-1920.

My firm produced a variety of agricultural implements that I designed, specialising in modifications to suit local farming conditions. One of my patents was a grain stripper that won first prize at the Grand National Show in 1884. It was very popular before the development of the combine harvester.

My most distinctive product was a simple invention which I never patented: a watercart with a 180-gallon (818 litres) cylindrical tank, mounted horizontally on a horse-drawn wooden frame with cast-iron wheels. Our steel and cast-iron tanks were first made in the 1880s and were used on farms and by stock agents.

The name Furphy was painted in

Soldiers gathered around a FURPHY watercart

large capitals on both sides of the tank. These carts, generally known as furphies, were ideal for the transport of water on farms, and an estimated average of 300 were produced annually for about forty years.

John Furphy

They were used in large numbers by the Australian army in World War I to take water to Australian Army personnel throughout Australia, Europe and the Middle East. The carts, with "J. Furphy & Sons" written on their tanks, became popular as gathering places where soldiers could exchange gossip, rumours and fanciful tales – much like today's water cooler discussion. Thus, a furphy has become Australian slang for an erroneous or improbable story that is claimed to be factual. It's is a little bit more than just idle rumour – furphies are supposedly 'heard' from reputable sources, sometimes secondhand or thirdhand, and widely believed until discounted

By coincidence, my brother Joseph, who wrote *Such is Life* while employed at the foundry, had used

the penname of 'Tom Collins', which among bushmen at the end of the 19th century meant the same as what furphy means now.

In his book *Memories of a Signaller*, Harold Hinckfuss reckoned that a "furphy" was a rumour of pending movements of troops among servicemen awaiting transfer to the French lines from Egypt. He reckoned troops used the word furphy for a fart; farts are heard in toilets, and rumours are heard in toilets. "Every day in the tent someone would come up with a 'furphy' that he had heard whilst down at the latrines."

We human family of Furphies don't believe that particular furphy! We know those furphies would have originated alongside one of our watercarts.

I had a strong sense of service to my community. The first religious service in Shepparton was held by the United Free Methodists in my cottage behind the blacksmith's shop in 1873. In my

thirty-five years of unbroken association with the Methodist Church in Shepparton I filled every office open to laymen and people said I was an effective preacher.

Even my watercarts reflected my moral earnestness. Cast in the metal of one end was a rhymed exhortation to do one's best, and above it an inscription in shorthand warning of strong drink and urging the reader to stick to water.

My wife Sarah and I had five sons and four daughters. I died in 1920, but my descendants still operate the foundry I created. Please remember us all when you play the word FURPHY / FURPHIES.

---

*Blursday (noun)

    When you are not sure what
    day of the week it is.

WESPA News

Severing ties with Mattel or expurgating slurs from the word list

By Nick Ascroft, Wellington

The NZASP asked us all last year if we agreed with cutting slur words and other offensive terms from the official word list. (Because this is happening in the States.) The result was that something like 95% of NZ players were against removing words from the list. This was taken to the world Scrabble body WESPA and echoed by every other Scrabble playing nation from Uganda to Thailand. Then Mattel (the owner of Scrabble everywhere but America) made an announcement that it was changing the box set rules, so that 'hate speech' slurs were no longer allowed. They also stated that WESPA would be changing its rules and word list accordingly (they did not ask WESPA) as would Scrabble Go. Mattel worked with Collins to compile a list of 400 words for removal. (They did not consult the WESPA dictionary committee.) They have not made this list public.

For some this was the last straw with Mattel. They have been working against players for some years now, most famously when they banned the world youth championship from using the words 'Scrabble World Championship' which they had trademarked. Whatever the feeling on whether certain words should be cut from Scrabble, certain members of WESPA thought that decisions of this kind should've at least involved consultation with Scrabble players. So an Extraordinary/Emergency General Meeting was held. National associations were asked to vote on whether to cut ties with Mattel, and then brand ourselves 'Crossword Game' or similar to avoid their trademark. Having already asked players about the cutting of words and getting a clear response, NZASP voted to cut ties. However, the vote in the end was won by those wanting to stick with Mattel, which also entails going along with the expurgation of words. WESPA will still try to work with Mattel on the final list of words to be cut.

I have tried to write the above being as matter-of-fact as I can. I just want people to know the state of play. But both the Mattel and WESPA decisions have made a number of Scrabble players very angry, and some Facebook Scrabble groups have become a bit scary, with vicious back-and-forth responses from various points of view. The two main members of the WESPA dictionary committee have resigned. Others are trying to still break from Mattel, perhaps with a rival world organisation. NZ may too consider breaking away.

Off the rack

(what scrabblers have been up to)

Vicky Robertson, Wellington
Family fun day at Te Papa - paper flower making

This event took place on Wellington Anniversary Weekend. This meant that unfortunately I wasn't able attend the Wellington Scrabble Tournament, but I had a good excuse.

As part of the Wow Up Close exhibition, I was asked by Te Papa to come up with, and host, an activity that families and people of all ages could do, which at the end of it, would become a wearable art created by the public. So I came up with paper flower making, attaching each flower to a premade framework.

Vicky Robertson hosting her paper flower making activity

During the course of the day, we had around 700 people come though. Luckily Te Papa provided assistants.

The highlight of the day for me was a wee boy in a wheelchair, who persevered with the making and folding using the back of his wrist. I helped him with the cutting and wiring and once he was finished, he gave me the biggest smile, which melted my heart. Then he asked "can I make another one?" And he did.

It was a full on day, but as you can see, very rewarding.

Left:
Members of the public working on their paper flower creations

Right:
Attaching a paper flower to the premade framework

Val Isherwood, Rotorua Club President
Being a Thespian

I am always flattered when people compliment me on my microphone skills when emceeing the Rotorua Tournament. I know that many people shy away from standing up in front of a group and using the mic, but for me it's second nature. For I....am a Thespian!!!

Val Isherwood, tournament emcee

I have been involved in acting since school and college days and was a member of several Amdram groups in the UK. When I arrived in Rotorua in September 1991 my first thought was to seek out and join the local Little Theatre. I was in my first play at The Shambles Theatre, Rotorua in March 1992, '*Stepping Out'* and in my first musical for the Rotorua Operatic (as it was then, now the Musical Theatre) in August 1992, *'A Funny thing happened on the way to the Forum'.* I have performed in many productions since, and in 1995 branched out as a director of the musical '*Annie'* at Rotorua Girls' High School.

Val onstage in 'Caramba's Revenge', November 2020

Since then I have directed several shows at the Shambles (Rotorua Little Theatre), the latest of which (and the reason for my absence from tournament) is a stage version of three episodes of the unforgettable 1980s BBC show '*Blackadder II'*. This follows some of the adventures of Lord Edmund Blackadder during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, and has such unforgettable characters as Baldrick and Nursie. It has been great fun to do, with a very talented cast. However, it has also caused headaches, as a TV script it is split into many small scenes, the camera cutting seamlessly from one to the other, which is sometimes difficult to organise on stage. However, I'm confident that we have a great show to entertain our audiences. The season runs from the 5th until the 20th of March 2021.

I haven't kept up my subscription for the Scrabble Club. Now they've started sending me threatening letters.

Threatening letters
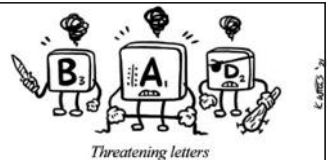
Only on a Scrabble Board

Starting as I mean to Continue
by Anderina McLean, Whanganui

I know that, like myself, plenty of Scrabblers of my acquaintance were ushering in the New Year by playing Scrabble. I know, because the app I use, ScrabbleGO, puts a little green dot to show when another player is logged in. Virtually every one of my regular online opponents who is also a NZASP member was showing that little green dot as midnight approached on December 31st, 2020.

One of my opponents in particular, who graciously consented to be named despite the circumstances, shared my memorable start to the year (but possibly did not enjoy it quite as much as I did). As the fireworks started to sound over Doubtless Bay, I played my fifth consecutive bingo against Cathy Casey. It was not to be my last of the game, and I finished with my personal best score for the year: 628. Cathy played valiantly, but could not possibly compete against the onslaught of my incredible good fortune, and finished with just 54% of that score.

ScrabbleGO handles the tile take-off at the end of the game in accordance with the published rules of the board game, i.e. by taking the tiles' value from one player and adding it on to the other's score; rather than our constitutional practice (and Quackle's) of giving twice that total to the player who has gone out. This explains the discrepancy between the scores shown in the photos here.

Current NZ tournament and club records both show five to be the highest number of consecutive bonus words. Maybe, in this era where face-to-face Scrabble is a privilege New Zealand but few other nations can currently experience, we should also consider keeping records for online games?

Left: Anderina and Cathy's game

Right: Scoresheet generated by Quackle

	Anderina		Cathy	
1	H7 NOX	+20/20	G8 ZO	+33/33
2	I8 OO	+26/46	J6 BUN	+24/57
3	K2 QUOTE	+32/78	7J (U)RP	+20/77
4	10A INTRADA	+76/154	4J D(O)GGY	+22/99
5	A5 BEAUT(I)ES	+83/237	8G (ZOON)S	+30/129
6	D8 WA(R)PInGs	+82/319	15A CAY(s)	+24/153
7	B2 LORINER	+80/399	E2 MEDIATE	+75/228
8	10I HEAVIER	+73/472	O6 FILE(R)	+24/252
9	C1 JOKE	+46/518	14B HA(G)	+29/281
10	N1 WIN(Y)	+20/538	1L MO(W)S	+36/317
11	6D C(A)F	+16/554	M9 V(I)NED	+26/343
12	12H LEARI(E)ST	+70/624		
13	2*(ILTU)	+8/632		
Final		632		343

A 15-Letter Word

Originally posted in Scrabble Snippetz *Facebook group by Mike Handley*

A few weeks ago, I was playing the lovely Jill Bright and we ended up with a 15-letter word on the board.

I initially played PARTI(S)AN for 80 points. A few moves later, I played BI (PARTISAN) for 39 points.

With five tiles left in the bad and with three S's unseen I had a rack of ? HIP***. I debated whether to hang on to ?HIP in the hope of picking up one or more of the three S's, but knowing how unkind Scrabble GO is to me, I decided to extend BIPARTISAN to BIPARTISANsHIP for 21 points. I didn't think Jill could score enough to catch me if she did play the S. I was pretty sure she didn't have a bonus, and I'd rather see a 15-letter word than risk Jill blocking it.

As it worked out, Jill played BEDS, hooking her S to make BIPARTISANSHIPS for a rather nice 96 points. Ironically, after I played – sHIP I picked up two S's!

The game was played on the 20th of January, Inauguration Day. I thought this was quite apt, given the lack of bipartisanship over the last four years.

Go inside and out on this board!

Twenty years ago in *Forwords*

How things change! Which of the following words have NOT made it into our dictionary yet?

Answers on page 42.

DICTIONARY LIMITATIONS

Every Scrabbler at some time experiences a feeling of disbelief on having a word that seems common to them challenged off the board. Let's face it, our dictionaries are limited. Here are 26 examples (from A-Z) of words that could be allowed in Scrabble, but aren't.

APPRO	In the phrase 'on appro', so not allowed.
BEDSOCK	Only BEDSOCKS is allowed! Obviously a single 'bedsock' is possible, but the dictionaries don't sanction it.
CRAY	A common NZ contraction of 'crayfish'.
DOGEND	You can have DOGEAR, DOGLEG, DOGDAYS and all manner of other doggy words, but 'dog-end' is hyphenated.
EELING	Fishing for eels, a popular pastime for Kiwi kids.
FARMLET	A small farm, still not allowed in Scrabble.
GOLDMINE	You can play COALMINE, COALMINER and even GOLDMINER, but not 'goldmine'!
HOONING	We've all gone 'hooning' around at some time, but not on the Scrabble board.
IWI	A Maori tribe, well known to New Zealanders, this word would be very handy. At least IWIS is allowed, but it's an old word meaning 'certainly', not a plural of 'iwi'.
JAILABLE	Armed robbery is a 'jailable' offence.
KOKAKO	The NZ wattle-bird, now quite scarce.
LIVERIER	'livery' means 'irritable' — we're allowed SHIVERIER and QUIVERIER, so why not 'liverier'?
MOANINGS	You may hear the 'moanings and groanings' of the losers. Well, GROANINGS is OK, but not 'moanings'.
NETBALLER	A glaring omission from the dictionary.
OLDLY	The American Scrabble reference OSPD defines 'agedly' as 'oldly', but 'oldly' isn't allowed in Scrabble!
PREM	We can now have AMNIO for 'amniocentesis', but the more common 'prem' (as in 'prem' babies) is still barred.
QUEAZILY	QUEAZY is a variant of QUEASY. We're allowed QUEASILY, but not 'queazily'.
RECARPET	People often 'recarpet' their houses.
SCONED	Have you ever been 'sconed'? That is, hit on the head. Not in a Scrabble game hopefully.
TOADIER	More 'toady', dirtier, fairly common nowadays.
UGLI	Just deleted from our lists because *Chambers* has capitalised it, but it's not capitalised in *Random House* or the *Oxford*.
VEALLESS	Your meal can be BEEFLESS, but not 'vealless'.
WHARFIE	YACHTIE, TRUCKIE and BOATIE are OK, but 'wharfie' hasn't gained acceptance yet.
XAT	A carved totem-pole of various native American peoples. Maybe not common, but wouldn't it be useful!
YOUS	Slang form of 'you' with plural noun (yous jokers, etc.) same as YOUSE.
ZAC	More common spelling of ZACK, a sixpence.

Ask Liz

by Liz Fagerlund, Mt. Albert

Clocks

We all know the use of clocks is compulsory in tournament play, but there are a few things to do with clocks that I would like to remind you of.

Liz Fagerlund

1. **Starting the clock at the beginning of the game.** The first player's clock is started when that player has at least one tile on their rack or there are at least three tiles showing face up which the first player can see. (In other words a player cannot avoid having their clock started by looking at them all but not putting them on their rack! I don't think that happens much really).

2. **When a player has taken too many tiles** the clock must be neutralised until the extra tile is returned to the bag by the opponent.

3. **When a word is challenged the clock is neutralised.** The clock may not be restarted until both players are seated, tiles are uncovered or back on racks and any incorrect word is removed from the board. At a recent tournament I saw a player who had played a wrong word come back to the table and start the opponent's clock before the incorrect word was taken off the board or the other player had put the tiles back on the rack – that player should not have their clock going until they can see their tiles and there are no challenged words to be removed.

4. **End of game.** A player attempting to play out must neutralise the timer, rather than starting the opponent's timer. The opponent must then either: accept the turn by revealing his or her unplayed tiles; call 'hold'; or challenge the turn.

5. **Right to restart the timer.** If a player has attempted to play out, and the opponent fails to accept the turn within approximately five seconds, then the player is entitled to restart the opponent's timer while awaiting the opponent's action. If an opponent's timer is so started, the opponent must neutralise the time after deciding either to accept the turn or to challenge. Do not start your opponent's clock after you have played out - neutralise it, and only restart it if they have failed to accept your turn within approximately five seconds.

6. **At the end of the game do not reset the clocks until you are sure the game is complete** and both players have ascertained there are no time penalties for either player. I was called to a game where the clock had been reset by one player, and the other player was sure that the player who reset the clock had gone over time and should have lost 10 points. There was nothing I could do as it was one person's word against the other. Luckily it didn't affect the outcome of the winner of the game. The player who played out also couldn't be sure if they had neutralised the clock on going out, which means they could have pushed their opponent over time.

There was a game called Scrabble

Where has it gone, our Scrabble addiction?
The covid arrived causing scrabble affliction
We had no words to describe desolation
We silently grieved in isolation

Our empty boards looked lost and depressed
Sad and lonely as they lay in the press
The exciting words they used to display
Now, no more they are all gone away

They relived the words that they proudly bore
Strategically placed to get maximum score
Words like zonules, addax and ojime
Then clocks being pressed to conserve the time

Nine-timers were played causing whoops and "oh no"
They witnessed all games the highs and the low
Now they are lying unused here and there
Life can be cruel, life isn't fair

But now 2021 has arrived at last
Let's forget 2020, it's gone, it's past
The vaccine is coming, help is at hand
We'll soon be playing all over Ireland

By Eileen Meghen, Ireland

Puzzle Pozzy

Jig-Words - Z

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 a Z, and the Zs have been placed already. Using only five-letter words containing a Z, 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 Z words. Use a pencil and rubber, preferably a rubber with plenty of rub-out-ability left!

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. Takes an end hook of Z
Clue 2. Still a word without the first letter.
Clue 3. First three letters are a word.
Clue 4. (down) Reverses the first three letter of Clue 3.
Clue 5. Contains 4 vowels.
Clue 6. I'd say "bless you" if you played its front hook.
Clue 7. Add an R somewhere to get a tan or something that's very good.
Clue 8. Takes an end hook of E.
Clue 9. (across) Has two other anagrams.
Clue 10. Still a word if you replace the Z with an X.
Clue 11. It's a 3-letter word followed by a 2-letter word going down, and a
　　　　 3-letter word followed by a 2-letter word going up.
Clue 12. You could have a few choices here. If so, choose one where the Z is a
　　　　 back hook for the first four letters.

By the time you've solved this Jig-Words, you should know more of the 356 five -letter Z words than you did before. For further practice, use the same grid, ignore where the Zs have been placed, and do your own mixing and matching to fit. Remember, *every* word must contain an Z.

Answers will be in the next issue of Forwords.

....

Work out the best move
by Lyres Freeth, Independent

In this game against Alastair, I am leading 388 to 363. I have just played JUG for 28 points in an attempt to stop Alastair from bonusing. I now pick up the last tile (an A), leaving me with AHNRS.

Alastair's rack is EIIGRT + blank.

What did he play to win the game?

Riddle

I am the first on Earth, the second in Heaven.

I appear two times in a week but you can only see me once in a year, although I am in the middle of the sea.

I am not found in a month, but I am in February, June, September, October, November and December.

What am I?

Answer on page 42.

Where are you from? (Part 2)
By "the Fun-Tom" (The Phantom's whimsical side)

Remove one letter from each of these valid CSW19 words and anagram to the name of a town or city that you would find in New Zealand.

Example: GRANOLA - "O" = RAGLAN

SHAFTINGS	ATHEROMA (2 words)
UTOPIA	AMOKURA
OUTROARS	WAKANDA
HUMATES	GOMER
BANALLY	ASSORTMENT
TIKTAALIK	RAWHEAD

Answers on page 42.

A question from The Chase.
The contestant went for Polish beer.

Puzzle Pozzy Solutions

Jig-Words
From *Forwords* issue 141 Summer 2020-21

X	E	N	I	A		E		U	N	T	A	X
	E		N	I	X	E	R		A			
M	I	X	E	N		I		B	O	X	L	A
		T		E	X	E	M	E		O		
D	E	S	E	X		S		X	E	R	I	C
E			X	S	O	L	V	E	X			O
T	E	X	A	S		X		H	E	X	A	D
O			C	W	O	R	D	S	E			E
X	Y	S	T	I		O		E	M	B	O	X
		I		X	E	R	O	X		O		
W	O	X	E	N		I		O	X	L	I	P
		T		A	U	X	I	N		I		
P	R	E	X	Y		A		S	E	X	T	S

Work out the best move (from page 38)

bIG(GI)TIER through GI for 79 points. This used up all Alastair's remaining tiles, so he also received +16 from my rack.

Final score 458 - 388 to Alastair.

Riddle *(from page 40)*
The letter E.

20 Years Ago
(from page 35)

None of the following words are allowable Scrabble words…yet!

DOGEND FARMLET GOLDMINE LIVERIER OLDLY QUEAZILY SCONED TOADIER UGLI VEALLESS XAT ZAC

Where are you from? *(from page 40)*

Word	Letter removed	NZ Town/City
SHAFTINGS	F	HASTINGS
UTOPIA	I	TAUPO
OUTROARS	S	ROTORUA
HUMATES	U	THAMES
BANALLY	L	ALBANY
TIKTAALIK	L	KATIKATI
ATHEROMA	M	TE AROHA
AMOKURA	K	OAMARU
WAKANDA	D	WANAKA
GOMER	M	GORE
ASSORTMENT	S	MASTERTON
RAWHEAD	D	HAWERA

Tournament results

Janniversary
23-24 January 2021
14 games

	Name	Wins	Spread
A Grade			
1	Nick Ascroft	11	127
2	Dylan Early	9	675
3	Stanley Ngundi	8	111
4	Anderina McLean	7	347
5	Gil Quiballo	7	-84
6	Liz Fagerlund	6	-271
7	Lawson Sue	5	-110
8	Murray Rogers	3	-795
B Grade			
1	Lynn Wood	10	247
2	Val Mills	9	132
3	Olivia En	8	643
4	Rosemary Cleary	8	192
5	Helen Silis	7	-254
6	Jennifer Smith	5	83
7	Carolyn Kyle	5	-744
8	Lorraine Van Veen	4	-299
C Grade			
1	Chris Bell	9	267
2	Ruth Groffman	8	261
3	Clare Wall	8	65
4	Nola Borell	7.5	146
5	Marcus Henry	7	-274
6	Betty Eriksen	6.5	-17
7	Jean O'Brien	5	-177
8	Gabrielle Bolt	5	-271
D Grade			
1	Patricia Bennett	11	468
2	Tara Hurley	10	670
3	Alison Holmes	10	373
4	Judy Driscoll	8	148
5	Malcolm Graham	7	299
6	Tony Charlton	7	232
7	Sheila Reed	7	-23
8	The Davidsons	5	-698
9	Judith Thomas	3	-682
10	Awhina Taikato	2	-787

Rosemary Cleary received her 2000 games badge at Janniversary tournament

Chris Bell and Nick Ascroft, C and A grade winners

Patricia Bennett, D grade winner, shakes hands with Nick Ascroft

Auckland WOW
30-31 January 2021
16 games

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave

A Grade

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
1	Patrick Carter	MTA	15	1424	436
2	Val Mills	IND	13	1304	440
3	Jeff Grant	IND	11.5	1160	450
4	Glennis Hale	IND	11	180	388
5	Anderina McLean	WAN	10	888	439
6	Liz Fagerlund	MTA	10	181	405
7	Lawson Sue	MTA	10	130	404
8	Cicely Bruce	WRE	8.5	163	407
9	Helen Sillis	WTA	8	-61	386
10	Murray Rogers	IND	7	153	401
11	John Foster	IND	7	-293	394
12	Jeanette Grimmer	ROD	6	-322	394
13	Margie Hurly	WRE	6	-557	381
14	Roger Coates	KIW	6	-816	375
15	Delcie Macbeth	IND	5	-690	378
16	Jason Simpson	WRE	4	-921	369
17	Lynn Wood	IND	3	-897	344
18	Pam Barlow	IND	3	-1026	358

B Grade

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
1	David Gunn	WKP	12.5	725	410
2	Mike Currie	MTA	12	511	415
3	Anne Goldstein	CHC	10	466	406
4	Chris Higgins	IND	9.5	560	414
5	Mary Gray	MTA	9.5	553	397
6	Jenny Litchfield	WRE	9.5	101	398
7	Su Walker	IND	9	213	392
8	Lynn Carter	IND	9	-132	377
9	Mary Curtis	WRE	8	229	402
10	Lorraine Van Veen	IND	8	66	393
11	Merelyn Fuemana	MTA	8	-42	378
12	Bev Edwards	WRE	8	-147	371
13	Betty Eriksen	WAN	7	-120	374
14	Heather Landon	TGA	6	-513	370
15	Dianne Cole-Baker	MTA	6	-986	354
16	Karl Scherer	IND	5	-280	372
17	Jean O'Brien	WTA	5	-503	365
18	Roger Cole-Baker	MTA	2	-701	350

C Grade

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
1	Bernie Jardine	MTA	14	1238	416
2	Karen Miller	IND	13	1303	412
3	Julia Schiller	PAP	12	493	389
4	Malcolm Graham	CHC	11.5	758	390
5	Megan Scherer	IND	11	854	395
6	Glenda Geard	IND	11	532	372
7	Junior Gesmundo	PAP	10	232	366
8	Carole Coates	KIW	9.5	190	377
9	Rodney Jardine	MTA	8	157	373
10	Cathy Casey	MTA	7	362	359
11	Jackie Reid	MTA	6	-936	315
12	Ruth Godwin	ROT	5	-371	338
13	Frances Higham	PAP	5	-806	319
14	Awhina Taikato	WAN	5	-819	335
15	Cheryl Parsons	MTA	4.5	-1052	312
16	Judy Cronin	MTA	4	-650	333
17	Anne Scatchard	WRE	4	-729	317
18	Annette Coombes	WKP	3.5	-756	331

Nelson
20-21 February 2021
15 games

Name	Wins	Spread

A Grade

	Name	Wins	Spread
1	Murray Rogers	12	710
2	John Baird	10	207
3	Ruth Groffman	8	54
4	Lynn Wood	7	141
5	Gabrielle Bolt	6	-270
6	Marcus Henry	2	-842

B Grade

	Name	Wins	Spread
1	Malcolm Graham	10	527
2	Alison Holmes	9	603
3	Llane Hadden	9	105
4	Judy Driscoll	6.5	-253
5	Tony Charlton	6	-580
6	Hanna Dodge	4.5	-402

C Grade

	Name	Wins	Spread
1	Awhina Taikato	12	633
2	Marilyn Sinclair	11	747
3	Tara Hurley	10	748
4	Barbara Cornell	8	161
5	Karen Brookes	3	-908
6	Genie Em	1	-1381

Rotorua
27-28 February 2021
14 games

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave

A Grade

#	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
1	Howard Warner	WEL	13	1780	498
2	Cicely Bruce	WRE	10	582	441
3	Lawson Sue	MTA	8	537	408
4	Val Mills	MTA	8	-476	393
5	Stanley Ngundi	WEL	6	-370	406
6	Liz Fagerlund	MTA	5	-780	372
7	Glennis Hale	IND	4	1	413
8	Jennifer Smith	KIW	2	-1274	360

B Grade

#	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
1	Lynn Wood	IND	9	484	397
2	Carolyn Kyle	IND	8	505	392
3	Helen Sillis	WTA	8	-16	381
4	David Gunn	IND	8	-156	375
5	Delcie Macbeth	IND	6.5	160	401
6	Shirley Martin	KIW	6	-41	385
7	Roger Coates	KIW	5.5	-402	365
8	Mary Gray	MTA	5	-534	368

C Grade

#	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
1	Jean O'Brien	IND	10.5	790	423
2	Mary Curtis	WRE	9	121	395
3	Su Walker	IND	7.5	-27	393
4	Lorraine Van Veen	IND	7	351	402
5	Betty Eriksen	WAN	6	-131	350
6	Barbara Dunn	TGA	6	-237	378
7	Minuri Undugodage	ROT	6	-461	363
8	Joanne Morley	ROT	4	-406	380

D Grade

#	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
1	Bernie Jardine	MTA	11	562	422
2	Jo Ann Ingram	TGA	9	64	369
3	Karen Miller	IND	8	418	393
4	Suzanne Harding	WRE	7	-26	376
5	Glenda Geard	IND	7	-128	368
6	Carole Coates	KIW	5	-199	359
7	Junior Gesmundo	PAP	5	-518	360
8	Jill Paterson	ROT	4	-173	373

E Grade

#	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
1	Judy Driscoll	IND	9.5	484	361
2	Antonia Aarts	MTA	9	556	386
3	Dorothy Bakel	TGA	8	118	342
4	Judith Kuchler	ROT	8	87	354
5	Awhina Taikato	WAN	8	84	356
6	Anne Scatchard	WRE	7.5	-51	333
7	Rodney Jardine	MTA	7	-50	347
8	Frances Higham	PAP	6	-573	319
9	Judy Cronin	MTA	4	-113	335
10	Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell	KIW	3	-542	322

F Grade

#	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
1	Dael Shaw	TGA	12	784	345
2	Tim Henneveld	ROT	11	679	352
3	Jillian Greening	KIW	10	419	349
4	Annette Coombes	IND	10	316	331
5	Faye Leach	KIW	7	23	336
6	Noelene Bettjeman	TGA	7	-192	306
7	Fay Wenzlick	TGA	5	-177	313
8	Jenny Miller	ROT	3	-324	304
9	Maria Quigg	ROT	3	-352	306
10	Margaret Webb	TGA	2	-1176	261

'At a Scrabble tournament we can still play SNAP' - Anne Scatchard and Pam Barlow at Auckland WOW
Credit: Cathy Casey

New Zealand Scrabble Records
as at 1st January 2021

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			500 international games (WESPA-rated)	
Nigel Richards	1st		Nigel Richards	4005
Alastair Richards	6th		Alastair Richards	2189
Howard Warner	72nd		Joanne Craig	1877
Lyres Freeth	110th		Howard Warner	1285
Blue Thorogood	119th		Liz Fagerlund	752
Jeff Grant	136th		Betty Eriksen	718
Dylan Early	158th		Jeff Grant	580
Joanne Craig	183rd			
Steven Brown	193rd			
Andrew Bradley	219th			

Masters Tournament (held since 1984)

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

The Nationals (held since 1980)

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

Tournament Records

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

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

Milestones

4000 tournament games played

Lynn Wood	4890

3000 tournament games played

Betty Erikson	3691
Val Mills (E)	3278
Howard Warner (GM)	3235
John Foster (GM)	3179
Glennis Hale (GM)	3114
David Gunn	3096

2000 tournament games played

Jean O'Brien	2989
Liz Fagerlund	2982
Jennifer Smith	2786
Glenda Geard	2596
Su Walker	2563
Joan Thomas	2503
Allie Quinn	2480
Jeff Grant (GM)	2442
Carolyn Kyle	2350
Shirley Martin	2285
Lawson Sue (GM)	2243
Murray Rogers (E)	2193
Delcie Macbeth	2145
Lorraine Van Veen	2156
Rosemary Cleary (E)	2027
Annette Coombes	2049

2000 tournament games won

Howard Warner	2431.5
Lynn Wood	2330.5

1000 tournament games won

Jeff Grant (GM)	1822
Betty Eriksen	1866.5
John Foster (GM)	1783.5
Glennis Hale (GM)	1707.5
Val Mills (E)	1594.5
Liz Fagerlund (GM)	1543
David Gunn	1517
Jean O'Brien	1512
Jennifer Smith	1344.5
Su Walker	1303
Glenda Geard	1281.5
Joan Thomas	1245
Allie Quinn	1208
Lawson Sue (GM)	1220
Carolyn Kyle	1163
Shirley Martin	1145.5
Murray Rogers (E)	1154
Delcie Macbeth	1115
Lorraine Van Veen	1059
Andrew Bradley	1022

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 Patrick Carter Paul Lister	Mt Albert Mt Albert Christchurch	Apr 1992 Apr 2003 Aug 2010
Most bonus words in a game (individual)	7	Jeff Grant	Independent	Sept 1997
Most bonus words in a game (combined)	8	Chris Hooks & Dawn Kitzen	Papatoetoe & Mt Albert	Mar 1992

Grand Masters

Alastair Richards (GM)
Howard Warner (GM)
Lyres Freeth (GM)
Joanne Craig (GM)
Dylan Early (GM)
Patrick Carter (GM)
Jeff Grant (GM)
Blue Thorogood (GM)
Peter Sinton (GM)
Andrew Bradley (GM)

Cicely Bruce (GM)
Lynne Butler (GM)
John Foster (GM)
Anderina McLean (GM)
Steven Brown (GM)
Glennis Hale (GM)
Liz Fagerlund (GM)
Stanley Ngundi (GM)

Experts

Lewis Hawkins (E)
Murray Rogers (E)
Nick Ascroft (E)
Scott Chaput (E)
Rosemary Cleary (E)
Olivia En (E)
Paul Lister (E)
Val Mills (E)

Rankings as at 1 April 2021

	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%		Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%
1	Alastair Richards (GM)	2401	400	497	80%	37	Jeanette Grimmer	1541	356.5	720	50%
2	Howard Warner (GM)	2289	2444.5	3249	75%	38	Anna Brouwer	1539	906.5	1842	49%
3	Lyres Freeth (GM)	2170	712	1073	66%	39	Lynn Wood	1534	2366	4963	48%
4	Patrick Carter (GM)	2152	944.5	1476	64%	40	Shirley Martin	1531	1151.5	2313	50%
5	Joanne Craig (GM)	2147	452.5	687	66%	41	Peter Johnstone	1526	294.5	559	53%
6	Dylan Early (GM)	2129	192	291	66%	42	Rosalind Phillips	1517	694.5	1358	51%
7	Blue Thorogood (GM)	2100	776	1099	71%	43	Allie Quinn	1480	1208	2480	49%
8	Jeff Grant (GM)	2093	1833.5	2458	75%	44	Stan Gregec	1472	217	406	53%
9	Andrew Bradley (GM)	2050	1027	1922	53%	45	Carolyn Kyle	1459	1182	2392	49%
10	Lynne Butler (GM)	1940	997.5	1659	60%	46	Anne Goldstein	1459	285	563	51%
11	Stanley Ngundi (GM)	1937	57.5	102	56%	47	Jason Simpson	1458	57	105	54%
12	Nick Ascroft (E)	1900	283.5	514	55%	48	Roger Coates	1448	953.5	2005	48%
13	Glennis Hale (GM)	1896	1727.5	3151	55%	49	David Gunn	1442	1542.5	3140	49%
14	Anderina McLean (GM)	1891	979	1824	54%	50	Selena Chan	1440	399.5	795	50%
15	Cicely Bruce (GM)	1880	887.5	1629	54%	51	Pam Barlow	1429	925	1846	50%
16	Lawson Sue (GM)	1870	1248	2301	54%	52	Paul Freeman	1426	116.5	212	55%
17	Val Mills (E)	1855	1627.5	3329	49%	53	Lorraine Van Veen	1418	1087.5	2214	49%
18	Steven Brown (GM)	1841	981	1835	53%	54	Mary Gray	1412	852	1716	50%
19	Lewis Hawkins (E)	1832	314	523	60%	55	Yoon Kim Fong	1411	776	1517	51%
20	John Foster (GM)	1829	1800.5	3209	56%	56	Clare Wall	1391	399	786	51%
21	Paul Richards	1807	43	76	57%	57	Mary Curtis	1381	514.5	987	52%
22	Scott Chaput (E)	1765	336	592	57%	58	Lynn Carter	1378	910.5	1759	52%
23	Liz Fagerlund (GM)	1744	1564	3033	52%	59	Jenny Litchfield	1378	232.5	415	56%
24	Olivia En (E)	1739	994	1910	52%	60	Ruth Groffman	1370	762	1534	50%
25	Murray Rogers (E)	1730	1176	2238	53%	61	Chris Higgins	1368	158.5	287	55%
26	Herb Ramsay	1709	249	403	62%	62	Nola Borrell	1367	650	1232	53%
27	Rosemary Cleary (E)	1706	955	2041	47%	63	Jena Yousif	1345	663	1322	50%
28	Pam Robson	1683	666.5	1438	46%	64	Shirley Hol	1331	825.5	1757	47%
29	Vicky Robertson	1645	447	922	48%	65	Bev Edwards	1324	345	667	52%
30	Jennifer Smith	1598	1353.5	2821	48%	66	Bernie Jardine	1324	306	573	53%
31	Helen Sillis	1584	880	1794	49%	67	Leila Thomson	1322	657.5	1422	46%
32	John Baird	1571	379	697	54%	68	Chris Bell	1317	60	119	50%
33	Karen Gray	1567	326.5	619	53%	69	Lyn Toka	1312	665.5	1281	52%
34	Delcie Macbeth	1561	1126.5	2175	52%	70	Heather Landon	1293	787	1566	50%
35	Margie Hurly	1556	425	861	49%	71	Karl Scherer	1291	180	350	51%
36	Glenyss Buchanan	1554	765	1659	46%	72	Su Walker	1288	1325.5	2607	51%

	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%		Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%
73	Jean O'Brien	1274	1536.5	3047	50%	110	June Dowling	874	118	210	56%
74	Dianne Cole-Baker	1270	739	1455	51%	111	Cathy Casey	844	61	116	53%
75	Merelyn Fuemana	1255	223	416	54%	112	Rosemary Wauters	835	196	409	48%
76	Barney Bonthron	1239	126.5	225	56%	113	Sharon Teasdale	821	45	82	55%
77	Barbara Dunn	1231	383.5	668	57%	114	Dorothy Bakel	789	113	252	45%
78	Joanne Morley	1221	213	408	52%	115	Ruth Godwin	788	592.5	1259	47%
79	Betty Eriksen	1220	1893	3749	50%	116	Hanna Dodge	786	232.5	449	52%
80	Gabrielle Bolt	1197	592.5	1163	51%	117	Phyllis Paltridge	775	189	390	48%
81	Joanna Fox	1188	246.5	478	52%	118	Awhina Taikato	746	104.5	252	41%
82	Grant Paulin	1173	73.5	140	53%	119	Marilyn Sinclair	727	210.5	437	48%
83	Faye Cronhelm	1170	987	1982	50%	120	Tara Hurley	721	49	97	51%
84	Roger Cole-Baker	1152	785	1549	51%	121	Joan Beale	708	415.5	811	51%
85	Lyn Dawson	1143	443.5	861	52%	122	Antonia Aarts	702	396	862	46%
86	Jo Ann Ingram	1123	317	609	52%	123	Rodney Jardine	700	248	517	48%
87	Karen Miller	1120	713	1396	51%	124	Anne Scatchard	678	684	1347	51%
88	Suzanne Liddall	1120	165	305	54%	125	Janny Henneveld	676	602.5	1238	49%
89	Colleen Cook	1099	469	961	49%	126	Barbara Cornell	672	99.5	218	46%
90	Megan Scherer	1097	46	70	66%	127	Annette Coombes	647	963	2093	46%
91	Julia Schiller	1097	408	877	47%	128	Aaron Peries	628	31	51	61%
92	Chris Handley	1086	443.5	872	51%	129	Margaret Toso	616	183	413	44%
93	Malcolm Graham	1081	758.5	1515	50%	130	Frances Higham	604	344.5	892	39%
94	Sharron Nelley	1077	147.5	266	55%	131	Jacqueline				
95	Suzanne Harding	1073	729	1455	50%		Coldham-Fussell	602	807.5	1648	49%
96	Glenda Geard	1066	1299.5	2626	49%	132	Sharon McKenzie	600	51.5	108	48%
97	Joy Jones	1052	33.5	55	61%	133	Anne-Louise Milne	594	196	551	36%
98	Patricia Bennett	1051	27	57	47%	134	Tim Henneveld	584	571.5	1255	46%
99	Carole Coates	1014	815.5	1686	48%	135	Dael Shaw	581	45	80	56%
100	Junior Gesmundo	1001	353.5	718	49%	136	Jillian Greening	538	471	968	49%
101	Marian Ross	995	682.5	1347	51%	137	Judy Cronin	507	253.5	599	42%
102	Sheila Reed	985	384	800	48%	138	Jackie Reid	454	162.5	364	45%
103	Wendy Anastasi	953	113.5	183	62%	139	Faye Leach	402	187	455	41%
104	Llane Hadden	938	78.5	167	47%	140	Lynn Thompson	391	380	892	43%
105	Shalisha Kunaratnam	907	26	53	49%	141	Noelene Bettjeman	346	391.5	854	46%
106	Tony Charlton	906	422	880	48%	142	Cheryl Parsons	158	11.5	74	16%
107	Judy Driscoll	896	360.5	892	40%	143	Fay Wenzlick	156	36	104	35%
108	Jill Paterson	894	113	211	54%	144	Valerie Smith	42	92.5	385	24%
109	Michael Groffman	880	307	619	50%	145	Susan Schiller	6	100	534	19%

Club	Club Contact	Phone Number	Email	Meeting Day & Time
Christchurch (CHC)	John Baird	03 332 5996	john@jrbsoftware.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	jicoldham-fussell @hotmail.co.nz	1pm/7pm Alternate Thurs
Lower Hutt (LOH)	Glenyss Buchanan	04 569 5433	glenyss.buchanan @xtra.co.nz	7.30pm Tues
Masterton (MAS)	Sue McRae	027 4490 601	Sue.mcrae.nz@gmail.com	1pm Wed
Mt. Albert (MTA)	Liz Fagerlund	027 627 6089	scrabbliz@inspire.net.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)	Ngaire Kemp	06 754 4017	ngairelyndac @slingshot.co.nz	1pm Wed
Whanganui (WAN)	Lynne Butler	027 428 5758	scrabblynne@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

Ratings Officer	Steven Brown	021 164 4641	sgbrown@mac.com
Forwords Editor	Val Mills	027 248 1701	valmillsnz@gmail.com
Layout	Lyres Freeth	-	lyresfreeth@gmail.com

www.scrabble.org.nz