



Journal of the New Zealand Association of Scrabble® Players
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2023 Masters - Whangarei

Also in this issue:

Word Famous in NZ:
Liz Fagerlund

ANZAC - Digger speak

What the F...

Corker Words

The Singularity and Future of
Scrabble

Ten More Wicked Words

NZ Scrabble Records

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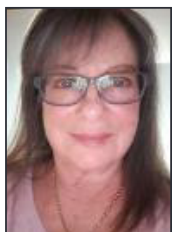
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Table of contents

Editorial	3
President's Musings	4
Word Famous in New Zealand	6
Ask Liz: About Liz	
ANZAC - Digger Speak	10
Only on a Scrabble Board	11
Corker Words	12
In the News	13
The Singularity and Future of Scrabble ...	16
What the F	18
The Schlong and Short of Yiddish Words	20
What I'm Reading	22
Blank Moment	24
Puzzle Pozzy	25
Hall of Fame	26
Theoretical 1787-point Scrabble move ...	27
Ten more wicked words you'd seldom squeeze on a Scrabble board	28
Twenty years ago in <i>Forwards</i>	30
Club News	32
Mailbox	36
In the News	30
Scrabble Players Handbook:	
How to Play Good Scrabble	38
Tournament Calendar	41
New Zealand Scrabble Records as at 1st January 2023	42
Puzzle Pozzy Solutions	46
Tournament Results	47
Rankings as at 14 May 2023	50
Club Contacts	52

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Editorial

It's a stunning clear blue day here in Blenheim. What better time than to start putting the mag together. I got back to my son's place last night from the Nelson tournament, feeling pretty good having managed to squeak in with a win in my last game to win the grade. It was tight at the top, and if I'd lost there would have been three of us on 10 wins so it would have come down to spread, which was also pretty close. My last game was one of those where nothing went right at the start and all of a sudden I was 130 or so points behind. It's in that situation that I have to tell myself to not give up hope. I managed to find a couple of bonuses that could be played and the tide changed with it coming down to who could go out first at the end. Luckily for me, I could.

I had just been finalising the summer mag and reading the chapter from the *Scrabble Player's Handbook*. I like the way this chapter acknowledges the 'luck' element in the game but focuses more on the skill elements, of which there are way more than the single luck element, and of which we can be in control. I especially liked the comment about trying to find a bonus in every rack. You might say 'that's impossible' but it's got to be a good place to start when looking at our racks. Jenny Litchfield used this

premise in her game with the AEPRTY? rack (See her *Blank Moment* article on page 24) and it worked for her!

As usual I'm very grateful to all of those who have sent in articles for this issue. I especially like the way Jenny Litchfield thought ahead as to when this magazine might be published and sent in an article relating to ANZAC day and "war" words.

I'm in awe of people like Mike Curry who writes – "Hi Val, please find attached three articles (plus photo) which I've written this afternoon – What? How does he do that?"

I like the way Jennifer Smith says, 'I love it when a new experience helps me to expand my Scrabble word repertoire' (See her '*Corker Words*' article on page 12). I also love it when I come across a 'Scrabble' word that know, in my daily life. For example, I had just learned the APOLLO/PALOLO combination and then in my French class we were asked 'What is the most unusual food you have eaten?' Malcolm replied that when he was in Samoa he had eaten PALOLO. I nearly fell off my chair! It's a worm found in coral. On my last night in Blenheim we went to a Brazilian restaurant. When I saw

FEIJOADA GF, Vegetarian on Request

Traditional Brazilian dish, Smokey Black Bean stew with spicy chorizo, pork ribs, Manuka smoked bacon hock, Manuka smoked bacon pieces with a side of white rice. Silverbeet, orange slices and homemade cassava fries. 40.⁹⁰



FEIJOADA

FEIJOADA (fei-jwa-da) on the menu I just had to have it! I've known the DA hook for FEIJOA for ages, but wasn't expecting to find it in a menu. Its Brazilian comfort food.

Before I finish I just want to give a big shout out to Lyres. Not only does she manage to put together a magazine

that looks great from the pile of articles that I send her, she also often adds her skill as photographer. I told her what I was wanting for the cover of the summer edition - a summery rabbit photo!! She found some of Ariel's toys and set up a shot on her deck. Copyright issues often stop me from using a photo that I want to use, but Lyres always manages to find something generic that we are allowed to use. I know this takes a lot of time. She somehow makes the articles fit into a number of pages divisible by four (this has to be the case for the printed issue) and comes up with suggestions when I'm stuck. So... thank you Lyres!!

Val Mills

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President's musings

by Howard Warner, Scrabble Wellington

It has been a terrible few months of biblical weather events for a substantial part of our Scrabbling population. Huge sympathies to those regions from the rest of the country. And I can't praise Whangarei enough for throwing everything into hosting the Masters this Easter.

The dictionary expurgation issue is still bubbling away. I'm aware that the French-language Scrabble world is facing similar dictionary sanctions from Mattel. It is well known how much the French hate outside

interference in their language. Especially from an American corporate, I'd imagine. So that will be an interesting battle to watch.

Of course, Scrabble is not the only milieu currently being subjected to language control. Did you see the recent news story about Te Pūkenga, the new New Zealand-wide mega-polytech? It has issued a 30-page style guide in which it bans the use of several apparently offensive words.

These include:

- ‘students’ (who should now be called ‘our people’),
- ‘staff’ (‘learning facilitators’ or ‘public servants’),
- ‘colleagues’ (‘work friends’ or ‘whānau’),
- trainee, merger, even ‘mega-polytechnic’ (‘merge’ – although that describes the founding process rather than the organisation, duh!).

All commenters interviewed by the media, including educators and politicians, have rubbished this move. They describe it as a gagging of the academic freedoms espoused in the very legislation (Education and Training Act) under which Te Pūkenga was set up. I see strong parallels between this and the efforts of Mattel/Collins to control the words we use in our little game. When will this madness end, I wonder.

I heard about a one-day women’s tournament held in Adelaide recently, to support International Women’s Day.

An interesting concept – though not one we’ve entertained in New Zealand. Some competitive brain sports, such as chess, do have a



Howard Warner

separate women’s circuit. But in Scrabble, I reckon, women are perfectly capable of beating up men. And often do. Incidentally, the tournament was won comprehensively by our Joanne Craig.

As an aside, how often do we come across non-scrabblers invoking the name of our game in association with random long words. The other day I saw someone describing Iceland’s capital Reykjavik as a “brilliant play in Scrabble”. Well, it’d only work if you played around a floating JA and used a blank as the second K. But then you’d get challenged off anyway, as *Reykjavik is a name, not a word. Maybe not so brilliant!

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Cover Photo: Participants at the 39th NZ Masters

Standing L-R: Mike Currie, Andrew Bradley, Lawson Sue, Jason Simpson, Howard Warner, Val Mills, John Foster, Lois Binnie, Murray Rogers, Bev Edwards, Mary Curtis, Lorraine Van Veen, Cicely Bruce, Dylan Early, Rosemary Cleary

Seated L-R: Stanley Ngundi, Anderina McLean, Jane Walton, Shirley Martin, Jennifer Smith

Kneeling L-R: Liz Fagerlund, Margie Hurly

Word Famous in New Zealand: Ask Liz - About Liz



By Liz Fagerlund, Mt. Albert

So, Liz, where did you grow up?



A young Liz

I was born on the Isle of Wight, but lived in London with my parents and older sister until I was nine years old. We

had a teacher at our school from NZ and my parents thought it sounded like a good place to move to, though initially they had considered somewhere in Australia (Toowoomba, I think). We travelled to New Zealand by ship, an Orient Line ship, SS Orsova. It took 5 or 6 weeks from memory. I loved it, and, unlike my sister, never got seasick! I still have souvenirs from the journey – several ship menus, a certificate from “Neptunus Rex” on crossing the equator and some castanets from our stop in the Canary Islands.

Our first home in NZ was in Mt. Eden, Auckland, but then my dad got an accounting job in Palmerston North. I loved that we had a house with a huge lawn. In London we just had a concrete yard with not a blade of grass. Our property also backed on to

PN Hospital and with no fence, and we used to sneak over to use their staff swimming pool. I didn't learn to swim until we came to NZ so it was great to have a pool to practice my new skills in. I also had never been on a bicycle, and all the other kids my age could ride bikes, so I had to learn that skill too. After a few spills I got the hang of it and eventually got my own which I rode to and from Intermediate and High school.

People talk about windy Wellington, but I think “Palmy” is just as windy. I'm sure there were many days when I struggled with a head wind going to school and then the wind would change and I'd get a head wind going home too! I did okay at school. My favourite high school subject was French, perhaps because my sister didn't take French and she got top of her class in all the maths and science subjects. I managed a fifth form first in French! No help now. I can't carry out a conversation in French or remember much of it. In those days it wasn't really conversational French, more



1957 equator crossing



*Liz with her sister in
the UK*

just rote learning of words. After School Certificate and University entrance years I left school and attended Palmerston North

Teachers Training College. It was a two year course then and I was only 16 when I started there. I remember one of my “sections” in my first year was at an intermediate with some in the class who were 13 and bigger than me (no surprise there!).

How about your working life?

Working life started with teaching. I was quite young, turning 19 near the start of my first teaching year which was in Palmerston North. I had moved out of home to go flatting with my best friend from school and another couple of young women. I learnt to like a lot of food that I didn't think I liked when I lived with my family. We all took turns at cooking so it was either eat what had been made or go hungry. I opted for eating whatever was made.

Near the start of that first year my mum died. She was only 55 years old, so it was quite a shock. After another year teaching in the North Island I applied for a teaching job in Kaiapoi, north of Christchurch. The only place in the South Island I had been to

previously was Curious Cove in the Marlborough Sounds on a training college art trip, but my school friend and PN flatmate had moved to Christchurch so it seemed like a great decision. I moved into a flat with her and another friend we both knew.

I met my future husband in that first year in Christchurch. We got married the following year (1970), and as he had got a job in Wellington, that's where we moved to. It was part way through the year, so I got a job at a photographic shop/studio. The photographer there used to photograph at pubs, clubs, socials etc. and I remember the quite well-known transvestite Carmen and friends would come in regularly to check out the photos taken at their venue. Very colourful characters that I'd never seen the likes of before. They were always friendly and polite.

The following year I got job at Linden school near Porirua. It was quite a big class, and hard work! My husband and I both loved Christchurch and were keen to get back. He got a job at an accounting firm there, and I got a teaching job back at my old Kaiapoi school. We bought our first house with a small amount of land in Tuahiwi. A few years later we moved to Ohoka and had about 11 acres of land.

I stopped full time teaching during 1974 when we started our family, only doing a small amount of relieving teaching after that. Once my two children were at school I had a couple of child-minding jobs. Looking after

just two children was easier than a whole class of children, but not well paid. By the time my children were at high school my husband and I parted and I moved into Christchurch, buying a house in South Shore where I had beach access. I got a job in the Automobile Association call-centre in Christchurch. In 2002 the call-centre there closed down and it was all centralised in Auckland. I made the move to Auckland and retired in 2014 after 17 years with the AA.

What other interests did you have prior to Scrabble?

Growing up I had always wanted a dog and a horse. My parents never obliged! I got my first dog, a German Shepherd, when flatting in Christchurch. I did a basic obedience course with her, and on my return to Christchurch after two years in Wellington, I went back to a club and started competing in obedience events. I was hooked.

My second dog was a Border Collie, and as I started training and competing sooner with him, I had more success.

When my old Shepherd died, I wanted another dog. The next Border Collie, Holly, was super smart, and I competed very successfully



Tux Wonder Dogs teams with Liz's three collies

with her in obedience, agility, and tracking trials. She was also great at rounding up the sheep and the hens that we had in Ohoka. I bred four litters from her and many of them went on to do very well too. I kept a puppy from her third litter. Three Border Collies kept me very busy and fit. They all became obedience champions, and Holly also became a breed show champion, working trials champion and attained the title of Agility Dog Excellent. I was very proud when I got a letter from the Kennel club congratulating me for having the most decorated dog in the history of the NZ kennel club (the title of Agility Champion came in after I had retired her from competition, otherwise she could have been the first quadruple champion in the world!) All my Collies were in TV ads. My first Border Collie was in a dramatised documentary series called Pioneer Women in NZ, playing the role of Nurse Maud's faithful dog. My youngest Collie, Charlie was immortalised in a school journal – Flyball Champion Charlie (it was his favourite thing!) He was also in a team in Tux Wonder Dogs on TV

– that was so much fun! I was also an obedience and agility judge, judging for clubs and at National events.

Living in Ohoka there

was plenty of room for even more animals. There were sheep (for the wool that I spun and knitted), my own horse at last, a couple of other people's horses that were grazing



Sunrise on the beach

there, a friend's donkey, a goat, hens, roosters (more than one, until some of them started picking on our lovely tame original rooster, and also they started competing with each other for being the first to crow in the morning, sometimes as early as 4am!) The children had pet mice, guinea pigs, and my son had a pet rat. I wasn't so keen on that. Then there was the turkey that my friend and I found on the roadside while out riding our horses. We took the car back to pick it up. It was only a few weeks before Christmas and it had apparently fallen off a truck, along with a lot of others, most of which were retrieved and put back in their cages and on the truck. We called our turkey "Roast" but lucky for her, she never did become Christmas dinner!

I miss having lots of animals, especially dogs. I now just have my lovely cat, Basil.

So how did Scrabble come on the scene?

We had a Scrabble set when I was growing up, and I remember sometimes the family would play. There were other games too,

especially card games. As a family, when my children were growing up, board games and card games were on the agenda in preference to watching much on TV – not really

Scrabble though. I started playing Scrabble with a friend when I moved into Christchurch. One game and a glass of wine or two would take all evening. When he announced he had a job in Alexandra, I asked who I would play Scrabble with now? He said I could join a Scrabble club. I laughed and said I expected there was no such thing. How many of our scrabblers thought the same before finding out about and joining a club? Anyway, I checked it out at the library and sure enough I found out about and joined the Christchurch Scrabble Club. They were friendly and encouraging and I'd only been going a few weeks before entering a non-rated club tourney, and then an official tourney. I did pretty well in those. I was hooked and I still am!

What about family?

My daughter is a photographer, living in Rangiora and my son is a lawyer in Lower Hutt. I have three lovely grandchildren. My daughter's two girls are now teenagers and my son's boy is seven. We all love to play various board and card games when we get together. I think it must be in the genes!

ANZAC - DIGGER SPEAK

by *Jenny Litchfield, Whangarei*

War historians, including Glyn Harper (QSM), Professor of War Studies at Massey University recorded how soldiers returned from World War I using words that came into everyday use in New Zealand. Soldiers who 'slung the bat' spoke the jargon of camp or BARRACK life. WW1 soldiers called themselves DIGGER. We already know many of the words that came into common use from WWI: BREAKTHROUGH, BOMBARD, BARRAGE, BUNK, CRUMMY, LOUSY, PONG, SECTOR, TOMMIES and TRENCH. A chap was called JOHNNY. BLIGHTY was the home country. We BINGE when we drink too much. Sick of BUMF or official forms and paperwork? This word was thought to be a contraction of bum fodder, slang for toilet paper. An easy, undemanding CUSHY life in Britain's Indian Army evolved from the Hindu word 'kushi' that meant pleasure. Colonial troops were known to be impudent and to BACKCHAT. DINGBAT is a halfwit and during WWI, an officer's batman. DOOLALLY is madness. This word is thought to have its genesis from the name of the

mental hospital at Deolali, near Bombay. GUTSER, usually a disappointment is expressed as 'to come a gutser'.



As kids, we never fully understood the full impact of the BATTLEFIELD place names, the war events or the jargon Dad used. "I SURVIVED!" That's how Dad summed up his World War II experience. Like other Returned Service VETERANS, he said very little about the fighting in North Africa. Once, he described the spectacle and the sound of the opening SALVOES of ARTILLERY GUNFIRE at Al Alamein. A PANZER TANK DIVISION CAPTURED the NZ INFANTRY who were ARMED only with RIFLES at Sidi Rezegh. They and their TOMMY ALLIES were IMPRISONED in the HELLHOLE that was Benghazi TRANSIT camp. From Dad, we learned KHAZI was a LATRINE perched on the steep rocky sides of a WADI. There was no escaping the STENCH and the FLIES.



Men became LOUSY with LICE and had a daily DELOUSING routine. RATIONS were few and the lack of GRUB and clean water meant the hungry men became ill. Dad was sent to a STALAG, a work camp at Milowitz in Poland. Red Cross PARCELS and MAIL from HOME boosted MORALE despite content being CENSORED. The men craved BACCY. Tobacco was a trading currency. During the long march across Europe to escape the Russian ARMY ADVANCE, old soldiers recalled how a trigger-happy GESTAPO GUARD shot men at point blank range. LIBERATED by the YANKS, the KIWIS were REPATRIATED.

25 April ANZAC Service Words:

ANTHEM, BRAVE, BUGLE, CENOTAPH, DEFEND, FALLEN, FLAG, HERO, HONOUR, MARCH, MATESHIP, MEDALS, MEMORIAL, NATION, POPPY, PARADE, PEACE, PREDAWN, REMEMBER, RETURNED, REVEILLE, SALUTE, SERVICEMEN, SERVICEWOMEN, SILENCE, SPIRIT, WREATH.



Only on a Scrabble Board



Well in this case, 'Only on a Scrabble Rack'.

Su Walker's rack, while sitting next to Lawson Sue, at a recent home scrabble night.

Corker Words

by Jennifer Smith, Kiwi Scrabblers

I love it when a new experience helps me to expand my Scrabble word repertoire.

Last year I was fortunate enough to go on a Cork Farm Safari in Portugal to learn about the farming, harvesting and making of cork products.

The first new word I heard was SUBER, the bark of a cork tree. (How have I never come across this little word before? Perhaps because I've never studied the fives? – I'd certainly have challenged it if anyone had played it against me. The layers of plant cells that make cork are called PHELLEM.

The cork tree is a type of oak, and it is very compatible with the "live" or HOLM oak (which loses its leaves gradually all year round), so they are usually found growing in the same area together.

There are other species of trees that produce cork and are called "cork trees", but the cork oak is the only tree whose bark can be stripped off and the tree will regenerate and produce more cork. Trees live to 300 years old.

It takes 25 years before a tree can be harvested, and they are harvested in 9-12 year cycles. The cork is harvested in May - July when there is



a lot of moisture. When the tree sweats, it creates a layer of SUBERIN between the cork and the tree's core, called the CAMBIUM, which allows the cork to detach easily.

Trees are harvested by very skilled men called strippers, using only an axe. He (there don't seem to be any female strippers) makes splits in the bark one meter apart, then uses the axe handle to lever off the bark and pull it off. These sheets of bark are called "planks".

By law, they are not allowed to strip cork any higher than the first leaf-bearing branch, and there are other rules to protect the trees and ensure sustainability of the cork industry, eg. cork trees are protected - a farmer has to get permission even to cut down a dead tree. Also, if the CAMBIUM should get damaged (eg, if the stripper cuts too deep), the tree has to be retired and can't be used for cork ever again.

After being harvested, cork is left to dry for 15-20 days before being weighed. Another Scrabble word I learned that day is ARROBA. It's a measurement that's used exclusively for cork, and is the amount of 11.5 - 13.5 kg, different for Spain and

Portugal (surely that must cause problems?). This year, growers received three euros per ARROBA.

And here's the cute fact; the abbreviation for ARROBA is @, and both Spain and Portugal use that word for the "at" sign in email addresses.

Corker anagrams

- SUBER: BURSE, REBUS, RUBES
- SUBERIN: BURNIES, RUBINES
- ARROBAS: RASBORA, a tropical fish



The farmer's "Big Mama", a 200 year old tree. It yields five to six ARROBAS per harvesting, which makes 6000 cork stoppers over 10 years. (Good quality cork stoppers cost anything from 25c to five euros per stopper.)

Note: All corker words in this article pluralise with an S.

In the News

Ed: The following two links were sent to me by my ever vigilant brother-in-law, Geoff Pound. The first one is pretty much on point as far as Selena Chan's article is concerned, and I like the idea of the second one! I have included a snippet from both articles.

How Board Games Changed in Today's Tech-Dominated World

David Thompson, Tech Times | 30 January 2023, 11:01 am

From Tech Times: <https://www.techtimes.com/articles/286964/20230130/how-board-games-changed-in-today-s-tech-dominated-world.htm>

The introduction of online versions of board games has completely changed the game industry. Now, people can

easily play old favorites like Monopoly, Scrabble, and Chess from their own homes on any device (with chess, in particular, becoming hugely popular as a result). This has opened up a vast new market for game developers, as well as for players. Consequently, with online board games, you can

save progress mid-game and come back to it later; choose from different computer difficulty levels; customize the look, feel, or even game rules.

Moreover, you can invite friends to play worldwide; or join an online community of players who can discuss strategies and provide helpful advice.

Fostoria teacher's love for Scrabble and a good beer leads to unique competition

Author: Mark Bickle, Cheyenne Kastura

Published: 8:04 PM EST March 5, 2023

Updated: 10:32 PM EST March 5, 2023

From WTOL: <https://www.wtol.com/article/life/heartwarming/beer-scrabble-lead-to-unique-competition/512-a4da7927-8715-4f77-bd0d-cfef4cc60335#lewd8eftnmzg1q1skhh>

FINDLAY, Ohio — For some, weekends are for kicking back with a few beers. Others relish the opportunity for friendly competition

that a game of Scrabble can offer.

But who would have thought the pastimes would go together like chocolate and peanut butter?

On Saturday, the Findlay Brewing Company hosted a Beer-Fueled Scrabble Tournament.

Scrabble on the move

March 15, 2023 1 comment

Wellington.Scoop report by Lucy Cooper

*Submitted by Nick Ascroft,
Scrabble Wellington*

By Lucy Cooper

From Wellington Scoop: <https://wellington.scoop.co.nz/?p=151150>

Scrabble Wellington is on the move after four years at the Vogelhorn Bowling Club. From April, members of the word game club will exchange tiles and balance their racks at Victoria Bridge Club in Thorndon.

It's a move the club's founding president and treasurer Nick Ascroft hopes will help Scrabble Wellington grow and be more accessible.

"I want to create a comfortable home for Scrabble in Wellington," Ascroft said.

The new room at the bridge club is set up for game play with good lighting and the right sized tables for the game boards, tiles and Scrabble clock.



Nick Ascroft

Before settling on the bridge club, Ascroft explored playing club Scrabble in local cafes, pubs and even a cinema. While they can be fun venues, “they are not universal for everyone”, he said.

For Ascroft, making Scrabble Wellington attractive to more people is key. Scrabble Wellington’s total membership is about 50, with club nights attracting between eight and 20 players.

Ascroft wants to “grow the club ... attract students, older people.” He’s also got his eye on converting those playing Scrabble or similar word games on mobile apps to face-to-face play.

The apps are free but they drive you crazy, Ascroft said. “You constantly have to close the ads to keep playing.”

It’s a strategy club member Jez Partridge endorses. “You need to play people. You can’t replicate that experience on a computer or app.

It’s more enjoyable than being on your own in front of a screen,” Partridge said.

Jeremy Macey, secretary of the Vogelmorn Community Group Charitable Trust which owns the land

and buildings of Scrabble Wellington’s former home, is sad to see them go.

“It’s like a kid leaving home, but it’s part of the natural cycle of things,” Macey said.

Weekly club nights will shift from Wednesday to 7pm on Thursdays when Scrabble Wellington moves to the Victoria Bridge Club in April.

Ascroft said members play tournament style Scrabble in a welcoming atmosphere.

“You can leave halfway through your first game. Or stay on till the last person leaves.”



The new club venue

The Singularity and the Future of Scrabble

by Selena Chan, Christchurch

One of my other hobbies, apart from Scrabble, is reading. Although much of my present reading centres on my academic disciplines, I have always been an avid reader of science fiction and space operas. Across the summer, I had the time to do a bit of a catch up on non-academic reading. Many predictions into the future, are based on the concept of 'technological singularity' (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Technological_singularity). That is, a time when technological growth becomes difficult to control, irreversible and having unforeseen consequences on human civilization. In this article, I thought it would be interesting to see what impact technology would have on the game of scrabble.

To provide some background, one of the topics I study is 'the future of work'. You may have caught up with some of the news articles on the topic. Suffice to say, the focus on the 'future of work' is mostly about 'no work'! Ha. You would think, we have been there before. Computers and robots will take our jobs and yet, many of us still work long and challenging hours.

Will it be different this time around? Various statistics are floated around but in general, between 40 to 50% of current jobs will cease to exist or

change due to 'technology'. (see <https://www.mckinsey.com/featured-insights/future-of-work/jobs-lost-jobs-gained-what-the-future-of-work-will-mean-for-jobs-skills-and-wages> for a summary).

Advances in technology exemplified by robotics, self-driving vehicles, 'artificial' intelligence (AI) etc. will mean many types of work including 'white collar' and professional jobs will have to adapt. For example, accountants have to become strategic advisers rather than bean counters as the counting of beans is prone to automation. Doctors deal with the more complex and esoteric illnesses as general diagnosis is taken over by artificial intelligence agents. Lawyers' critical thinking skills will be at the forefront as analysis of cases can be achieved with specialised AI.

What robots and AI cannot quite do (yet) is deal with complex, fuzzy problems, often revolving around human relationships. Jobs focused on these areas are seen to be least likely to be affected. We see this presently with the advent of ChatGPT (<https://chat.openai.com/>) a 'chatbot' which is able to generate answers to questions posed to it using natural language. It continually learns from its interactions and educators around the world, are



Selena Chan

working through their assessment protocols so that students cannot use the chatbot to plagiarise material for their essays or assignments. ChatGPT is able to provide uncannily human responses, but its prose is sometimes stilted, and its answers are not always right. Therefore, using it still requires human evaluation and 'rewriting' but many occupations (e.g. marketers, copy writers, journalists writing on specialised topics etc.) now use it to increase their productivity.

Many of us already play online. We can play each other, using a platform which provides us with the mechanics of the game, or we can play 'the computer' which is set at various levels of expertise. Already, many of us find it difficult to win against the computer when it is set at expert level as the computer has smooth access to the dictionary and has instructions (the algorithm) to find the highest scoring word for each play. Playing against a 'chatbot' will add 'conversation' to the experience, much like playing a human opponent. We already have a chat facility on most scrabble playing platforms. The technology to play an avatar is also available (see <https://www.synthesia.io/>), as is the ability to enter a virtual playing area using virtual reality (VR) technology. Perhaps, not in the too distant future, we would play

each other, especially if we are physically separated geographically, through a VR scrabble room! See the picture created by Dall-e (<https://openai.com/dall-e-2/>) which was given the prompt – 'playing Scrabble in a virtual environment'. It took six seconds to generate the image below. The image is a first draft, and a paid account will allow the image to be tweaked, so that the scrabble tiles are authentic and a board may be added to the image. It will be interesting to see if the scenario the picture paints is already available and if not, when this will eventuate. I am not sure if I would play scrabble in a VR environment but from the sustainability point of view, international tournaments held using VR gaming technology will help save some carbon emissions.

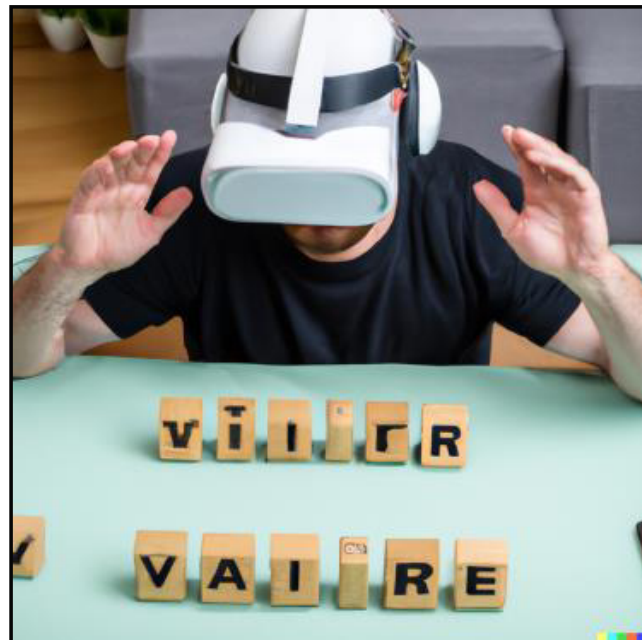


Image created by Dall-E with the prompt 'playing Scrabble in a virtual environment'

WHAT THE F...



Recently while *cardboxing, a couple of seven and eight letter words ending in F caught my interest. If there was a F sitting at the top right hand triple

word square, would we even think about finding an 8-letter word ending in F? For example: Shall I have an APERITIF before my meal, followed by a DIGESTIF? You wouldn't think I was SPORTIF if I did that! Maybe I should sit down at my organ which luckily has a POSITIF feature so that my neighbours are not disturbed. On the other hand I could get out the FIXATIF and have a go at renovating that old painting I got from my aunt. You get the picture!

Of course there are lots of words ending in FF but it's the words ending with just one F that I'm interested in.

So, working through the vowels and looking at five to eight letter words, here are some words ending in F.

AF

There are only five 5-letter words ending in AF. We know DECAF , PILAF (yum!) and SHEAF. Some of you will know the DARAF/FARAD combination but I didn't know KENAF.

There are two 6-letter words. ASHRAF and the weird, I think, UNDEAF, to be free from deafness!!

The seven and eight letter words are all compound words ending in LOAF or LEAF, except SEMIDEAF, so you can look those up if you're interested.

EF

You will all know BRIEF, CHIEF, GRIEF, PRIEF (maybe) and THIEF but GANEF, GONEF, and SKEEF may be new. There are multiple spellings for the GONEF/GANEF words.

BELIEF and RELIEF are the only two sixes

There are five sevens. DEBRIEF we know, CANTREF, CURCHEF (alternate spelling for kerchief) INDYREF and SHEREEF are the others. I'd never seen INDYREF - a referendum on independence.

Again only five eights, three of them 'CHIEF' words - KERCHIEF, MISCHIEF and SUBCHIEF the other two are NECKBEEF and UNBELIEF.



APERITIF



PILAF



IF

Nine 5-letter words - CALIF and KALIF and another version of GONIF. PREIF, (you can have it both ways

IE or EI) and METIF and MOTIF. QUOIF and SERIF you will know but TREIF may be new.

From the 6-letter words ROSBIF was new to me as was HAIRIF and HUSSIF, dialect for housewife. KHALIF and KHARIF, SHARIF and SHERIF are all Arabic/ Indian words. MASSIF is French, a mountain mass.

The sevens are FIXATIF, POSITIF, and SPORTIF and the eights APERITIF, DIGESTIF, and SANSERIF. These are all French words.

OF

All the 5-letter words end in - OOF except GONOF, another spelling! GROOF, KLOOF and WHOOF (alternate spelling for WOOF) were new to me

Of the sixes, JOLLOF (no end hooks) was interesting and the other four words are BEHOOF, HEREOF, REROOF, and UNROOF.

The sevens all end in OOF except THEREOF and WHEREOF. It's interesting how the F often replaces '-IVE' or '-VE' as in

APPROOF and REPROOF (also BEHOOF, above) SHADOOF, SUNROOF and WITLOOF are the remaining three sevens.

All the eights end in PROOF/ROOF except FOREHOOF. They are compound words and DISPROOF is another example of the F being used instead of -VE.

UF

Only two fives ending in UF. The French word for beef BOEUF and GROUF which has the same meaning as GROOF above, one's face.

There is only one 6-letter word ending in UF, SAHDUF, an alternate spelling for SHADOOF.

There are no sevens and one eight - LANGLAUF, a cross country ski run.



FOREHOOF



LANGLAUF

I hope some of these words ending in F are useful next time there is a F floating round on the board.

The Schlong and Short of Yiddish Words

by Mike Currie, Mt Albert

This article (and title) were inspired by a recent game with Lawson Sue at Mount Albert Scrabble Club, in which he played SCHLONG on his first turn and then proceeded to parade the board around the rest of the club like a waiter offering canapes. Giggles and quips were quick to follow (Lawson wants to show everyone his schlong!) and it made me wonder how many other well-known words of Yiddish origin have entered English.

Many of these, like SCHLONG, are mainstream and have the unusual 'SCH' prefix. SCHLEP (P), SCHMALTZ(Y), SCHMOOZ(E/Y), SCHMUCK(S/Y), SHTICK, SCHNOZ(Z) and SHTUM. Many others have entered via New York delis or Barbara Streisand movies.

Acceptable Yiddish NOSH includes:

- **BABKA** (anagram- KABAB):
A dense bread that's swirled with chocolate or cinnamon and often topped with nuggets of cinnamon-sugar streusel.
- **BAGEL/BEIGEL**: a delicious boiled-then-baked roll with a hole,



Mike Currie with the 'SCHLONG' board

perfect topped with cream cheese and LOX (smoked salmon.)

- **BLINTZ**: A thin, crepe-like pancake usually rolled up around fruit or sweet cheese.
- **GEFILTE Fish**: Ground fish mixed with MATZAH meal and other ingredients and rolled into balls or cylinders, which are then poached or boiled. Traditionally served on PASSOVER and SABBATH.

- MATZA(H/S) or MATZO(H/S/T): Unleavened bread traditionally eaten on PASSOVER. (Patrick Carter once crucified me with MATZO in the triple lane and later hooked a T onto it, then an H to make MATZOTH.)
- SCHAV: A cold sorrel soup.

Interestingly, SCHMALTZ is also related to cuisine. The literal meaning is 'the rendered fat of poultry,' a substance that is much in use in traditional Jewish cooking. The extended meaning of schmaltz was later applied to popular music of a cloying, or overly sentimental, nature.

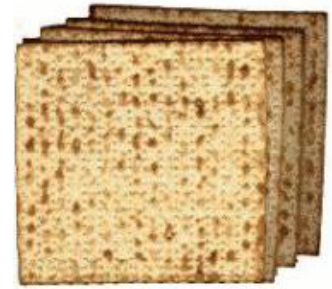


The Yiddish word BUBKES, meaning nothing or only of a small amount, is thought to be derive from the Yiddish for 'goat droppings'. CHUTZPA (H) with a silent C is one of the most well-known words of Yiddish origin we have in English, meaning supreme self-confidence or audacity (like someone who has no qualms in playing SCHLONG). GLITCH(Y) also derives from Yiddish but as Mary Gray learned to her peril, has not undergone the process of VERBING yet in CSW19 (so *GLITCHED is wrong.) KLUTZ(Y), meaning a clumsy



person, is a common Scrabble word. Carl Reiner explained the meaning of the

word to the Los Angeles Times: "[a klutz is] a dancer who dances as good as he can, but instead of just applause he also gets laughter." It comes from the Yiddish word *klots, which means 'wooden beam.'



**MATZA(H)/
MATZO(H)**

There are many different kinds of -niks, a handy word ending which comes from the Yiddish suffix of the same spelling and denotes a person who is connected to a group or a cause. Among the more common words that utilize this are BEATNIK, NEATNIK, PEACENIK NUDNIK, and one I'd never heard of before- NOGOODNIK (a ne'er-do-well).

KVETCH(Y) is to complain constantly and provides an interesting front hook on VETCH, a herbaceous plant of the pea family. ZAFTIG comes from the Yiddish word *zaftik, meaning 'juicy or succulent' and has been used to describe a voluptuous, rounded Rubenesque woman.

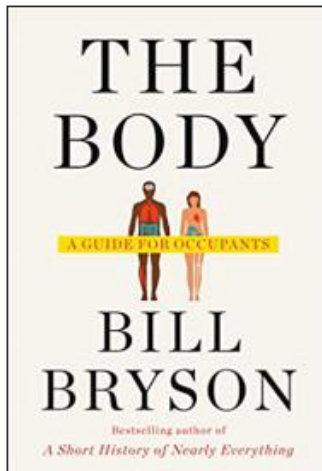
And finally, FUTZ is a Yiddish verb and common currency to scrabblers. So FUTZING and FUTZED are also permissible. It is thought to have come from a modification of the Yiddish phrase *arumfartsn *zikh, the literal translation of which is 'to fart around.'

What I'm Reading

Editor in my case, What I'm Listening to.

***The Body (A Guide for Occupants)* by Bill Bryson**

By Mike Currie, Mt. Albert

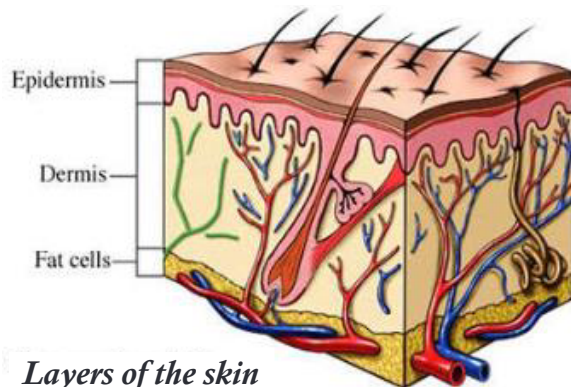


If you're an eclectic fact ferreter like me, then you'll love this book. You have a metre of DNA packed into every cell, so if you formed all the DNA in your body into a single strand it

would stretch 10 billion miles, to beyond Pluto. Heap all the earth's microbes into a pile and it would be 25 times greater than all other animal life. CACOSMIA is a condition in which everything smells like poo. We have 10,000 taste buds in our mouth but they're also found in the heart, lungs and testicles. The LANCET was named after an instrument for opening veins. Plague, T.B., flus and COVID all vaulted from goats, pigs and cows into us. By one estimate, 60% of all infectious diseases are ZOO NOTIC.

The facts and words below I have garnered from *Chapter 2: The Outside (skin and hair)*.

1. We each exfoliate about half a kilo of SQUAMES (or skin flakes) every year.
2. Skin, like hair, is largely composed of KERATIN.
3. Beneath the epidermis, lies the more fertile DERMIS where you will find hair follicle roots, nerve fibres and blood and LYMPH vessels.



Layers of the skin

4. Follicles secrete SEBUM which mixes with sweat to form a layer of oil.
5. Most sweat is produced by ECCRINE glands, but the groin or armpits (AXILLAE) exude APOCRINE sweat which is thicker and stickier.



- 6. The smooth hair on a baby's cheek is known as VELLUS hair.
- 7. Hairless skin on lips, nipples and the bottom of feet and hands is called GLABROUS.
- 8. Sunburn is known technically as ERYTHEMA (L/S).
- 9. Pregnant women frequently undergo darkening of nipples and AREOLAE as a result of increased production of melanin in a process known as MELASMA.

- 10. As our first immunity barrier, the skin can be host to thousands of conditions, blemishes and diseases, of which the following may be of interest to scrabblers- MORPHEW, ECZEMA, PYODERMA and VITILIGO.

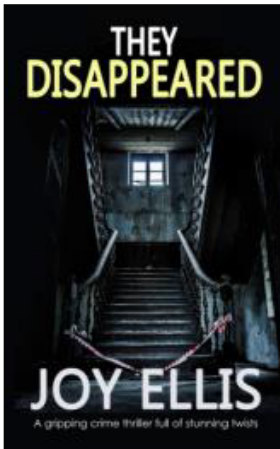


A baby has VELLUS hair

.....

They Disappeared by Joy Ellis

by Val Mills, Mt Albert



Recently I've been listening to a series of crime novels by Joy Ellis and one of them, called '*They Disappeared*', was about URBEXES. I've always liked the word URBEX because you can

also have EXURB but I've never bothered to find out what URBEX meant. So I was quite surprised to find a novel written about these urban

explorers who like to find disused buildings and photograph them, often in the middle of the night when the moon and the light are just right.



NITRILE GLOVES

Other words in this book that interested me are:

- NITRILE : a type of plastic, as in 'he put on his nitrile gloves'.
- SPOLIATE: to plunder, rob or ruin.



Blank Moment

By Jenny Litchfield, Whangarei

It was my turn to play a word in game two against Anne on club day. I had AEPRTY, plus a blank tile on my rack. I sensed a bingo in the making, but nothing obvious sprang to mind. The only place to play a seven-letter word on the board was next to a consonant that could hook A, E, I or O. Many blank moments... I had no luck with words starting with E, I or O. Lacking divine inspiration it was back to more tile shuffling using A to start. APTERY+X. Yes! If I recall correctly, I scored 69 points. This is what I love about Scrabble. Don't give up. Try rethinking letter combinations such as PT- and the placement of Y when forming words. Less commonly used words just have to be flushed from the furthest recess of the brain.

I wasn't finished with this bird species APTERYX AUSTRALIS word. There's a playable vocabulary that Scrabble players might like to add to their own word lists. APTERYX is the genus name derived from ancient Greek meaning without wings. KIWI is the DEMONYM the nickname people use when referring to New Zealanders.

Our little flightless national treasure has a unique relationship with other RATITES such as the RHEA, OSTRICH, EMU and CASSOWARY. They have no UROPYGIAL gland - the PREEN gland. The 'parson's nose' is

scientifically labelled the UROPYGIUM, the main component of which, the PYGOSTYLE, is small as KIWI have no tail feathers. Tiny VESTIGIAL wings are hidden under hair-like feathers that have no BARBULES. Unlike the sharp-sighted predatory eagle, KIWI have poor sight and less of a comb-like structure called PECTEN in their eyes - scientifically labelled PECTEN OCULI. As nocturnal birds, they rely on smell, touch and tactile senses for foraging and survival. VIBRISSEAE near the GAPE, the open beak, are tactile sensory whiskers. The nostrils at the end of their long beak are sensitive to smell.



Over time, KIWI thrived in New Zealand's PODOCARP forest habitat in the absence of egg-eating ground predators. They developed PRECOCITY. These birds evolved to lay large eggs relative to their body size. Chicks could hatch, able to begin independent life fortified with a store of extra egg yolk and the physical strength to evade flying predators.

There are eleven more seven-letter words that can be formed using AEPRTY? What are they?

Answers are on page 46.

Puzzle Pozzy



Eight-letter anagram pairs

by Patrick Carter, Mt. Albert

These are all clues to a pair of eight-letter words which are anagrams of each other and also make sense when you read them together as a pair.

An example would be: End of the line for public transport (TT)

The (TT) gives you the first letter of both words.

The answer is TRAMLINe TERMINAL.



See how you go with the 20 clues below:

1. One supporter of a monarchy (SR)
2. Unsafe, but lucrative job that requires little or no work (IS)
3. The more idiotic of two people quarrelling (SD)
4. The most inadequate gambler (MG)
5. Large trees that are nice to look at (PP)
6. Scolding a musician (RO)
7. Send water the wrong way (MM)
8. A non-static sparkling decoration on a dress (AD)
9. A tropical fruit wearing a type of headgear (TB)
10. A more ordinary inferior person (MU)
11. A more congenial trainee (BB)
12. A squabble about a precious metal (AA)
13. Celebrating a dancer (TT)
14. A coarse linen that has been pounded repeatedly (BD)
15. Someone who lives near an Aztec pyramid temple (TL)
16. An assessment of the people working on a computer system (LR)
17. A very intelligent person who is almost 100 (NE)
18. Decorative trimming used in a brothel (CS)
19. Unlucky hippies (SB)
20. A cemetery which has not been looted (UU)



Answers on page 46.

Hall of Fame

by Jennifer Smith, Kiwi Scrabblers

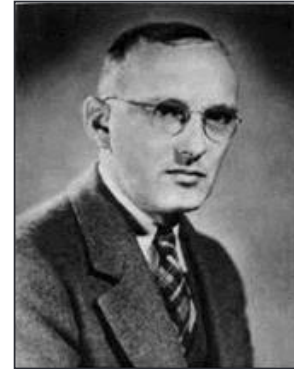
My name is Karl Guthe Jansky. I'm a Czech-born American radio engineer, born in 1905. In 1932, I was the first to discover radio waves emanating from the Milky Way, so scientists have credited me for giving birth to a new branch of astronomy, radio astronomy.

Until the 1930s, the only information we knew about the heavens had come what we could see or photograph - we'd been deaf to the radio sounds of the universe. But I changed all that.

I was working for Bell Telephone Laboratories, where I was given the job of investigating sources of static that might interfere with radio voice transmissions. To do this, I built a large antenna, 30m in diameter and 6m high, to record signals. (I wasn't a stranger to such technology – my brother, Cyril, who was ten years older than me, had helped build some of the earliest transmitters in the USA.) With my antenna, I was able to classify three different types of static: nearby thunderstorms, distant thunderstorms, and a faint steady hiss of unknown origin.

It took me a year to conclude that this hiss was radiation coming from the Milky Way, so I called it "star noise". However, it was some years before I got support for this theory from other astronomers.

Eventually, when my theory gained acceptance, the expression "Jansky noise" was used for high frequency static of cosmic origin, and my name was given to the SI unit used to measure the strength of radio waves in astronomy, JANSKY/S.



Karl Jansky

I didn't have great health. I developed a kidney condition as a young adult, and died quite young (age 44) of a heart condition. Others have pointed out that I achieved my work while in my 20s with only a bachelor's degree in physics, but in fact, I had done all the course work for a Masters degree except for the thesis. I died in 1950 at the age of 44.

I'm honoured by having a crater on the moon named after me, and also an asteroid, the "1932 Jansky". But my greatest pleasure is the very large radio telescope in Mexico that bears my name.

Remember me, Karl Jansky, when you play JANSKY or JANSKYS. I should warn you Scrabblers, that although *JANSKIES is used in my scientific world, it's not acceptable in your Scrabble world. (But I think you'll be glad to have a Y-ending-J-word that can be pluralised with an -S!)

Theoretical 1787-Point Scrabble Move

by Jeff Grant, Independent

In the September 2007 edition of Forwards (p33), a theoretical 1785-point Scrabble move was described. This was based on the 15-letter word OXYPHENBUTAZONE, an anti-inflammatory drug.

With some modification after the addition of XED to the Scrabble lexicon, two more points can be achieved (scrabulizer.com, DejMar, 14/1/2016).

By playing the letters O, X, P, B, A, Z and E, the final words formed are as follows: OPACIFYING (63), XED (11), PREQUALIFIED (30), BRAINWASHING (63), AMELIORATIVE (17), ZOOGAMETES (32), EJACULATIONS (63) and the 27-timer OXYPHENBUTAZONE (1458).

With the 50-point bonus this makes the total 1787 points. Remarkably, the two blanks are the only tiles not used.



Theoretical 1787-point move

Ten more wicked words you'd seldom squeeze on a Scrabble board

by Mike Currie, Mt. Albert

As a self-professed logophile (or lover of words), I like to look up the words I play. I'm a big fan of the award-winning podcast Something Rhymes with Purple with Susie Dent and Gyles Brandreth which invites you to enhance your vocabulary and uncover the hidden origins of language. I love books which celebrate our weird and wonderful lexicon like Bill Bryson's Mother Tongue, David Crystal's Words, Words, Words and The Word Museum by Jeffrey Kacirk.



The words in this poem are probably too long for a Scrabble board (except BIBBLE) but to be honest I chose these words because of their amusing sounds or their unusual meanings.

If you boast deceitfully and vainly like Pinnochio

Then you are partial to artful BRAGGADOCIO.

And if your eyes prance from side to side

You suffer from NYSTAGMUS or "dancing eyes."

My bed's left unmade when I get up late.

At least the sheets are MULTICUSPIDATE.

And if you've chomped into a MALAKATOONE while not stating the reason

You'll have chomped into a juicy peach that came late in the season.

TESTUDINARY's like a tortoise, smooth,
shell-like, of slow status

But if you flutter by like a butterfly

You are PAPILIONACEOUS.



If a knife is shaped more like a sword to wound horrifically

Then this knife must, to cut and thrust, be called a SNICKERSNEE.

A petty lie or twaddle is called a TARADIDDLE.

If you chomp and slurp McDonalds, then you are said to BIBBLE.

And if you're eating Scottish turnips and potatoes mashed in clumsy lumps

Then you're grumbling and struggling to eat the dish RUMBLEDETHUMPS.



Scrabble Quilt

*Ed: Posted on Facebook group Scrappy Quilts –
I couldn't believe it when I saw this.
My two favourite hobbies combined.
I need some of that scrabble fabric!*

Twenty years ago in *Forwards*

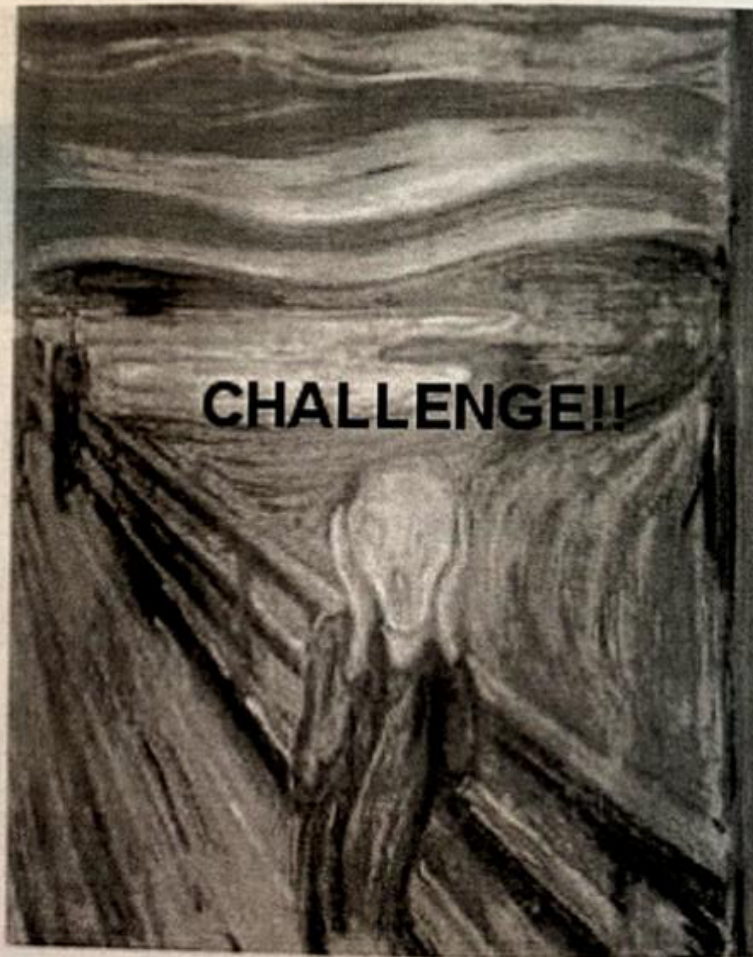
From Forwards edition 69, December 2002.

Art — the Real Meaning Behind the Painting

by Alan Medhurst

Forwards will be featuring a series of famous paintings viewed through the eyes of a Scrabblor...

Number 1 — The Scream by Edvard Munch



EDUARD MUNCH

THE SCREAM

From Forwards edition 70, March 2003.

Art — the Real Meaning Behind the Painting

by Alan Medhurst

No 2 The Mona Lisa by Leonardo da Vinci



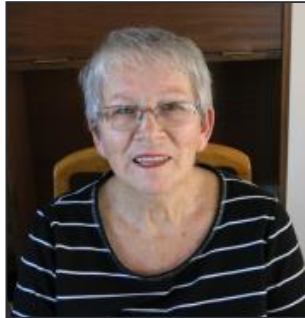
The reason for that smile — SATIRE □

Club News

Kiwi Scrabblers:

Elaine Moltzen

by Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell



Elaine Moltzen

Elaine passed away in Mt. Maunganui on 20 January 2023 surrounded by family. She was a treasured nana to Tyla & Jahra.

Seven members of Kiwi Scrabblers and Helen Sillis from Inglewood travelled over to Tauranga for Elaine's funeral on Friday 27 January 2023.

Elaine started playing Scrabble in the Hamilton Scrabble Club in 1987. She served on the committee until 1992, becoming vice president in 1992 and taking over the Presidency when John Moor, who served as President from 1981 – 1992, moved from Hamilton to Auckland. John and his wife Rita did a lot for the Hamilton Scrabble Club in the early days. Elaine had big shoes to fill and she did an excellent job until she had some conflict with members of the club and left.

Having left the Hamilton Scrabble Club Elaine was at a loss, as she loved her Scrabble. Elaine, Marj Baillie and myself got together and decided to form another club. We formed Kiwi Scrabblers in 2002.

We have fond memories of when Elaine was in the club. In the early days we met in member's homes until our membership increased. Then we had to start hiring venues. Tony and Elaine hosted us many times in their home in Aloma Way. Elaine served as Kiwi Scrabblers President from 2002 2010. She and her husband moved to Tauranga in 2014.

Elaine helped to host many of our tournaments and also National tournaments. Her input into Hamilton Scrabble events has been missed.

I, and many of the Kiwi Scrabblers, will miss her.

Whangarei Scrabble:

A Game for all Ages

By Jenny Lichfield, Whangarei



Louisa Hosking

A shout out for this Northland nonagenarian who has played Scrabble for eighty-four years. And no, it's not Allie Quinn. Louisa

Hosking has played Scrabble since she was about 12 years of age. "We lived in the country and I just played games with my family, they're good" she said. Louisa played her first club day game when she became a member of the Whangarei Club about two years ago.

During a recent club day game against Cicely, Louisa earned 176 points on the thirteenth turn with UNLEVELS as a triple-triple scoring word played through the L placed on 14A. The pressure was on with Louisa on 469 to Cicely's 344 points. Three turns later, Cicely was lamenting the solitary "I" tile remaining on her rack as Louisa played the game out with TE for four points. Two more points to Louisa. Final score: Louisa 475-Cicely 435.



Louisa and Cicely's game

Nelson Tournament

By Tony Charlton, Nelson

Last year we had arranged to hold the tournament in the clubhouse at Waimea Plains Village. We have two members of the Nelson Club living in the village, Judy Cronin and myself. We had also arranged for some of the ladies in the village to provide morning, afternoon teas and lunches at a very reasonable price. The COVID "traffic light system" was then in force but unfortunately we moved into the red light stage so we had to find other accommodation. I introduced Elixs, Murray Landon's excellent scoring software, and had most of the tournament organisation done before I had an accident and ended up in hospital. Fortunately the other club members were able to take over and run a very successful competition, which I missed. I spent my first day in the hospital ward mostly on the phone with other

members, and the other people in the ward thought I must be a high-powered executive.

This year we had permission to use the clubhouse and have food provided by those lovely ladies, all residents in the village. I started the organisation early and had the software downloaded onto one of the clubhouse computers, ready for our new scorer to use. The last day for entries was the Friday of the weekend before the tournament, but I jumped the gun a bit by doing the draw on the Thursday and printing it out for everyone. Fortuitously, I was on the phone to Llana Hadden in our club who was helping with the tournament, and discovered there were two more people entering and staying with her, who had forgotten to let me know. So I had to redo the draw—so just about everything was ready. The following day I got a phone call that one of the entrants had to cancel because of



family illness, and this was closely followed by another withdrawal, the

result of ferries being cancelled because of Cyclone Gabrielle which was wreaking havoc in the North Island. We now had 19 entries and this would result in having a few byes, but by then there was severe flooding in the North and were we going to get any more cancellations?

Thankfully, there were no more cancellations so we ended up with 19 people: six each in A and B, and seven in C, leading to byes in C grade. It was very pleasing to get entries from two new members of the Nelson Club, and this was the first tournament for both of them.

The venue proved to be ideal. The room we chose was the outside extension which had been added to the clubhouse last year because there wasn't enough space for all the new residents to attend functions. It has an adjustable louvred roof which could be altered to keep out rain and sun and let in the right amount of light. It also had walls made from a type of closely woven netting which could be pulled down or pushed up depending on the amount of wind blowing. We had the option of going outside to sit under umbrellas for our breaks, but most people ate inside. We were all very impressed with the quality and quantity of the food provided by the

two ladies, both volunteers, from the "*Eating-well Pillar*" in our village.

By close of play on Saturday, Peter Johnston lead the A Grade with six wins, Murray Rogers was 2nd with five wins, and Lynn Wood 3rd with five wins. In B Grade, Megg Hewlett was in 1st place and Malcolm Graham in 2nd, both with six wins, and Ruth Groffman was 3rd with five wins. In C Grade Marilyn Sinclair was 1st with seven wins and Hanna Dodge and Noeline Monsef had six wins each.

The Nelson Club has tried to run our tournament on the same weekend as Opera in the Park, which was on the Saturday evening. I provided this information in our flyer, encouraging people not to miss this iconic Nelson event. At previous tournaments we have had some players attend the show, but I was the only one this year. It was an enjoyable concert, with two top New Zealand opera singers and several others singing more popular songs.

By lunchtime on Sunday Murray was in the lead in A Grade followed by Val and Peter, all with eight wins. In B Grade, Megg was still in the lead followed by Ruth, both with nine wins and Malcolm with eight. Hanna led C Grade, followed by Marilyn both with 10 wins, while





*A Grade winners:
Val Mills (1st), Murray Rogers (3rd)
& Peter Johnstone (2nd)*

Noeline was 3rd with nine. We finished play in good time and had afternoon tea while our scorer finished entering the results.

We soon had the prizegiving underway, and I announced the winners, while Judy presented the prizes. I worked backwards starting with 3rd in Grade C - and there were no surprises with Hanna, Marilyn and Noeline placing in that order. In B Grade Megg, Ruth and Malcolm placed in that order, having maintained their positions. In A, Val moved into the lead after winning her last four games, finishing on 11 wins, to be the overall winner. In 2nd and 3rd places were Peter and Murray with 10 and nine wins respectively. We also made presentations to our scorer and food ladies. Everyone seemed to have enjoyed the tournament and were impressed with our facilities and quality of the food.

The next day I got an email from Kelly Thomas, one of the newer Nelson Club members in C Grade. She had only just noticed, after receiving the new ratings, that she had only been given four wins (not counting byes) when she had actually won five. Accordingly, I checked all the results sheets and it soon became apparent that some results had been incorrectly entered on the computer. In game 12 which Kelly had won, the results sheet showed an extra win for her opponent. This made a difference to the order of winners and the person awarded first prize should have been third. As the three winners are all in the Christchurch Club, I have notified the president and asked him to get the money redistributed to the correct people. I have made the necessary corrections, uploaded the new results to Slack and passed them onto the Ratings Officer who quickly redid the rating changes and put them onto Slack.

Ed: Reading this bought home some of the frustrations and challenges for those of us running tournaments. Last minute cancellations can't be helped but do mean last minute adjustments. Correct inputting is vital but it's also up to competitors to check the results after each game so that any mistakes can be quickly put right!

Mailbox



More on Queen of the Tiles

From John Foster, Independent

This book, reviewed by Murray in Forwards 148, is available for free from Auckland Libraries and I have already placed a hold on it. However it is not the first novel to be centred around Scrabble. There are at least two prior novels , both of which I possess copies. The first is ONE WORDY GUY by William R. Webster (1995) and the second is the Scrabble classic WORD FREAK by Stefan Fatsis (2001). This latter work is perhaps more autobiography than novel as it is an account of the Author’s journey from novice to expert (from nowhere to 180th in the North American rankings), which he achieved by taking a year off work and doing nothing else but learn words and work on his game.

John also sent in this article about Bill Webster (see right page).

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Scrabble aliases

From Lyn Toka

After I had been to Elaine Moltzen’s funeral I was browsing through some back copies of Forwards, reminiscing about Elaine’s long involvement with Scrabble. I was transported back to earlier times when many of the regular contributors had very clever Scrabble aliases: anagrams of their given names, some incorporating second names to give more options for anagramming.

Jeff(rey) Grant was Jaffer Gentry, Ian Patterson became Otarine Pants, Peter Jones popped in as Open Jester, John (Alfred) Foster as Jethro Snafflerod, Rob(ert) Talbot was Robot Blatter, to name a few.

I had two noms de plume that I used occasionally: Katy Nol and (using my full name of Lynette) Letty Keaton.

Once I submitted a piece on a Kiwi Tournament and Elaine phoned me all upset when she read her *Forwards*.

“Something terrible has happened!” she cried.

I braced myself for misfortune.

“They’ve printed your tournament report in the magazine, but under someone else’s name. I’ve never heard of Letty Keaton and she’s certainly not a Kiwi member.”

I’ve stuck to my proper name ever since.

(Ed: me, sillier Val)

One Wordy Guy



Webster can scarcely be described. Today he plays solo daily, regularly matches wits with a challenging friend, and takes on top players at tournaments in Arizona (Webster lives in Carefree) and elsewhere. His top score was more than 600, a figure that commands awe on the Scrabble circuit, and he's particularly proud of having played the score-boosting "zaibatsu," "although I didn't know what it meant."

Scrabble was a natural game for Webster, who's been mixing letters up for more than six decades. "When I was seven years old, I saw the word sacred and read it as scared," says Webster. Today, Webster can't even glance at a menu without rearranging the words into new ones, and he writes entire short stories in anagrams. His first, "Thaw?" ("What?"), contains sentences like "Ton cines slat eyra" ("Not since last year").

It's not enough to just know the words, or to jumble them up — Webster likes to count them, too. It is he who counted the numbers of words with three letters and four letters, and he has also made a list of 1,224 words to which one can add the letter "y" to make a new word. He shares information like this with fellow lexeme lovers via the *Scrabble Players News*.

Scrabble is above all a thinker's game, which is probably why Webster enjoys it so much. Angry scenes and sore losers are rare at tournaments, though Webster heard some particularly common four-letter words from a Texan he defeated at a competition in Glendale, Ariz. When Webster took first place, he reports, his sour-tongued opponent grumbled, "I'm happy for you, Bill, but I didn't fly 1,500 miles to lose." 📧

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Somebody recently told Bill Webster, "You sure know a lot of four-letter words." He does indeed — about 3,856 of them, as well as 961 three-letter words and 94 two-letter words. He also can spell most of the nearly 100,000 words of five, six, seven and eight letters. Webster may not have written the dictionary — his ancestor Noah did that — but he knows his way around it as well as anyone.

You see, even the obscurest words come in handy when you're a Scrabble buff. And Webster, who retired from Power Operating and Maintenance as a senior clerk in 1976, is no ordinary fan of the game — he's an officially ranked Expert Player who has won awards in tournaments since he started competing 12 years ago.

In his first bout with serious Scrabblers, Webster had not seen the *Official Scrabble-Player's Dictionary*, nor taken to memorizing peculiar words from it. "I lost every game," he recalls. But the passion those little wooden squares stirred in

Scrabble Players Handbook: How to Play Good Scrabble



“Good Scrabble” can be defined as the game played by those who know not only the basic game rules but who follow the principles which separate the Scrabble that a

casual player might enjoy playing with family members from the advanced game you will understand by the end of this book. As with every game there are occasions in which those principles should be ignored, but in order to identify such moments you first need to learn the principles themselves. Here are the top tips which will immediately start you on your journey towards Scrabble stardom.

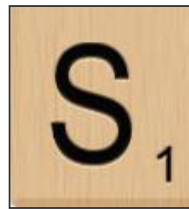
For every potential play, the letters left behind on the rack are just as important as the score

Success at Scrabble is achieved by assessing a board position with a rack of seven tiles and then compiling a list of candidate moves before deciding to play the one which seems best. In the overwhelming majority of positions during the first half to two-thirds of every game of Scrabble you will ever

play, the two most important factors to consider are:

- the score
- the quality of the rack leave

Rack leave refers to the tiles you are choosing not to play on this turn and which will therefore form the basis of your next rack. When expert players are asked by journalists or other non-Scrabble players for the single most important piece of advice a new player could be given, almost all of them will say that appreciation of the importance of rack leave rather than simply going by score alone is the thing which will most immediately improve anyone's ability to play Scrabble. The ability to evaluate “score vs. rack leave” and pick a move offering a good balance of both is the backbone of Scrabble move selection.



Blank and S are the most valuable tiles in the game

The value of each tile in the Scrabble set can be

measured in two ways. The most obvious value is the nominal point value printed on the physical tile itself (E is worth one point, Q is worth 10 points, etc.). However, each tile also has an intrinsic value to you as a player with the goal of building words

and playing bonuses; this is what the tile is actually 'worth' when kept behind to form part of your next rack.

These two kinds of values usually have a negative correlation – JQXZ might have a high face value but they make building words more difficult, while the most useful tiles (AEINRST) are only 'worth' one point each, or even zero in the case of the most useful tile, the blank (which is usually printed as a question mark, thus “?”) but these tiles are the key to orienting one's rack towards those crucial bonus plays.

Whilst beginners might complain that the blank “doesn't score anything” and therefore should be dispensed with as quickly as possible, this is strategically disastrous as the blank's ability to act as the missing link to complete any promising-looking rack gives it enormous value. It should rarely be used in a non-bonus play, the only exception to this being when a move using the blank scores substantially

higher than any other available move. The usual rule of thumb is that the blank has an actual



value of 20-30 points depending on the stage of the game, which means that you should not use the blank unless doing so adds at least that number of points to your move score. For example, if you can score 24 points whilst keeping the tiles EIRT? or score 40 points whilst keeping only EIRT, you should take the lower score and retain the blank. You are simply not getting enough value out of the blank by using it to gain only 16 points.

The same principle applies to the S, which has an actual value of around 10 points. This is because it is the most commonly appearing consonant in bonus plays; one-eighth of the words in the English language begin with the letter S and it is the letter most commonly used to pluralise or inflect words, allowing you to hook your own play onto an existing word on the board more easily. When considering a move which uses the S on your rack, ask yourself whether you can score within 10 points of that move whilst retaining the S for your next turn. If you can, do.



The high-scoring tiles JQXZ are usually more of a hindrance than a help, and holding on to them is the road to ruin

The tiles JQXZ appear once in the tile distribution and they are the ultimate double-edged swords in Scrabble. They can occasionally score well due to their high face value and can often be placed on a double or triple score for over 40 points with relative ease, but their appearance on the rack also usually ruins one's attempt to turn a promising rack leave into a bonus play.

There is common belief amongst beginners that it is “not worth” using JQXZ unless one can achieve a sizeable score with them. This leads to endless clunky non-bonus racks while the player waits for the mystical super-play to appear, which it usually doesn't. Meanwhile their opponent has dumped their difficult tiles for a lower score and then played a bonus to take a comfortable lead. Keeping any of JQXZ will immediately harm the value of your rack leave, thus as soon as one of these tiles appears on your rack you should look to play it for whatever is available and only choose not to do so if there is a substantially

higher-scoring play available elsewhere which will compensate for the damage done to your rack leave. Even a simple QI for 11 points will often prove to be a superior move than a 25-30 point play elsewhere that leaves you stuck with the Q for the next turn.

Full knowledge of the four-letter words with JQXZ (there aren't too many) and a smattering of useful fives will help you to shed these heavyweights with ease and allow you to carry on towards your next bonus.

Size doesn't matter

One of the most often repeated pieces of poor advice passed around amongst new players sounds like this:

“If you've played 55 of the tiles at the end of the game and your opponent has only played 45, that means you'll have scored more points. Turn over as many tiles as possible on every turn and you'll have a better chance of getting the blanks and S's.”

There is a correlation between winning and playing more tiles than your opponent, but this is because winners tend on average to play more bonuses than losers. These bonuses have appeared as a consequence of



Submitted by Dylan Early, Wellington

the player managing their rack well throughout the game. The crucial point which advocates of “tile turnover” fail to realise is that the quality of any rack leave is far more important than the simple number of tiles played or retained. Picking more tiles from the bag provides an increased chance of picking unhelpful tiles just as much as it increases the chance of picking helpful ones.

The key to successful rack management is avoidance of keeping duplicate letters and understanding which letter combinations have high degree of “synergy”; put simply, how well they work together. Quality over quantity.

Avoid passing

Beginners will sometimes spot the possibility of a spectacular move which is almost playable, if only the board position was slightly different. They decide that passing their turn, scoring zero and keeping the same tiles, is strategically sound. This is simply inaccurate.

In most situations, any sensible opponent will (at the very least) simply use your pass as an opportunity to exchange their own tiles, thereby leaving you facing the same starting position and an opponent with a stronger rack! Yes, your opponent might not know that exchanging is the correct counter play to a pass, but as a general principle you should

avoid making poor plays to match your opponent's likely ignorance.

While there exist a few exceptions (especially in a Scrabble endgame, where far greater knowledge of the opponent's rack comes into play), passing in general is a huge mistake.

The Scrabble Player's Handbook is available for free download at

<https://strataji.files.wordpress.com/2020/08/scrabblehandbook.pdf>

Tournament Calendar 2023		
Tournament	Location	Dates
Nationals	Howick, Auckland	3-5 June
Whangarei	Whangarei	1-2 July
Kiwi	Hamilton	12-13 August
Tauranga	Tauranga	19-20 August
Christchurch	Christchurch	9-10 September
Mt Albert	Auckland	7-8 October
Dunedin	Queenstown	14-15 October
Whanganui	Whanganui	21-22 October
Dunedin	Otago	18-19 Nov

New Zealand Scrabble Records

as at 1st January 2023

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

World Champion		Alastair Richards	2021 (online)
		Nigel Richards	2007, 2011, 2013, 2019
In the top 10 (other than first)	7th	Mike Sigley	1993
	3rd	Jeff Grant	1995
	6th	Jack Dymond (Kendall Boyd)	1997
	8th, 2nd, 3rd	Nigel Richards	1999, 2009, 2017
Most frequent competitor	11 times	Jeff Grant,	1991-2015
		Howard Warner	1999-2021

NZ Performances at the World Youth Championships

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

Trans-Tasman Challenge

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

Highest ten on international (WESPA) rankings

Nigel Richards	1st
Alastair Richards	14th
Howard Warner	30th
Virgilio Quiballo	49th
Dylan Early	105th
Blue Thorogood	106th
Jeff Grant	163rd
Joanne Craig	202nd
Lyres Freeth	236th
Steven Brown	237th

500 international games

Nigel Richards	4022
Alastair Richards	2234
Joanne Craig	1975
Howard Warner	1330
Liz Fagerlund	775
Betty Eriksen	740
Jeff Grant	625

NZ Masters (held since 1984)

Most games won	21/23	Jeff Grant Mike Sigley	1993, 1997 2002
Highest spread	2529	Alastair Richards	2021
Most times winner	12 times	Howard Warner	2003-04, 2006 2008-13, 2018
Most frequent competitor	38/38	Glennis Hale	1984-2022
Youngest competitor	12 years, 104 days	Lewis Hawkins	2017
Oldest competitor	84 years, 288 days	June Mackwell	2008

National Championship (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 &	Aug 1998
	8	John Foster Paul Lister & Shirley Hol	May 2013
Highest average in a tournament	584	Nigel Richards	Jan 1997
Most tournament games played	5315	Lynn Wood	
Most tournament games won	2569.5	Howard Warner	

Milestones	<i>2000 tournament games won</i>	
<i>5000 tournament games played</i>	Howard Warner	2487.5
Lynn Wood 5315	Lynn Wood	2431
<i>4000 tournament games played</i>	Betty Eriksen	2063
Betty Erikson 4100		
<i>3000 tournament games played</i>	<i>1000 tournament games won</i>	
Val Mills (E) 3558	Jeff Grant (GM)	1900
Howard Warner (GM) 3416	John Foster (GM)	1846.5
Glennis Hale (GM) 3328	Glennis Hale (GM)	1816.5
Jean O'Brien 3318	Val Mills (E)	1737
John Foster (GM) 3297	Jean O'Brien	1674
David Gunn 3226	Liz Fagerlund (GM)	1645
Liz Fagerlund 3188	David Gunn	1582
Jennifer Smith 3006	Jennifer Smith	1437.5
<i>2000 tournament games played</i>	Su Walker	1396.5
Su Walker 2740	Lawson Sue (GM)	1339
Glenda Geard 2702	Glenda Geard	1335.5
Carolyn Kyle 2599	Carolyn Kyle	1284.5
Jeff Grant (GM) 2554	Murray Rogers (E)	1239.5
Lawson Sue (GM) 2480	Shirley Martin	1197
Shirley Martin 2405	Delcie Macbeth	1182.5
Lorraine van Veen 2381	Lorraine Van Veen	1172.5
Murray Rogers (E) 2361	Andrew Bradley (GM)	1106
Delcie Macbeth 2303	Olivia En (E)	1049
Annette Coombes 2143	Anderina McLean (GM)	1041
Rosemary Cleary (E) 2135	Cicely Bruce (GM)	1020
Andrew Bradley (GM) 2081	Helen Sillis	1007
Roger Coates 2069		
Helen Sillis 2052		
Olivia En 2034		

Club Records

Highest game score	763	John Foster	Mt Albert	Jan 1993
Highest losing score	522	Stanley Ngundji	Scrabble Wellington	Aug 2019
	522	Nick Ascroft		Sept 2022
Highest drawn score	482	Jeff Grant & Margaret Warren	Hastings	Mar 1994
Highest single turn	347	Neil Talbot	Wellington	Oct 2003
Highest single turn,	261	John Foster	Mt Albert	Jan 1993
Highest combined score	1106	Chris Hooks & Dawn Kitzen	Papatoetoe & Mt Albert	Mar 1992
Highest winning margin	590	Paul Lister	Christchurch	Nov 2008
Highest add-on	68	Andrew Bradley	Mt Albert	Pre 1990
Most consecutive bonus words	5	John Foster	Mt Albert	Apr 1992
		Patrick Carter	Mt Albert	Apr 2003
		Paul Lister	Christchurch	Aug 2010
Most bonus words in a	7	Jeff Grant	Independent	Sept 1997
Most bonus words in a game (combined)	8	Chris Hooks & Dawn Kitzen	Papatoetoe & Mt Albert	Mar 1992
	8	Dylan Early & Nick Ascroft	Scrabble Wellington	Sept 2022

Grandmasters

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)

Lawson Sue (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)
 Gil Quiballo (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)
 Karen Richards (E)

Puzzle Pozzy Solutions

Eight-letter anagram pairs - answers *(From page 25)*



- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. SOLITARY ROYALIST | 11. BENIGNER BEGINNER |
| 2. INSECURE SINECURE | 12. ARGENTUM ARGUMENT |
| 3. STUPIDER DISPUTER | 13. TOASTING TANGOIST |
| 4. MEAGREST GAMESTER | 14. BATTERED DRABETTE |
| 5. PLEASANT PLATANES | 15. TEOCALLI LOCALITE |
| 6. ROASTING ORGANIST | 16. LIVEWARE REVIEWAL |
| 7. MISROUTE MOISTURE | 17. NINETIES EINSTEIN |
| 8. ANIMATED DIAMANTE | 18. CATHOUSE SOUTACHE |
| 9. TURBANED BREADNUT | 19. SNAKEBIT BEATNIKS |
| 10. MUNDANER UNDERMAN | 20. UNRIFLED URNFIELD |

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Blank moment - answers *(From page 24)*

AEPTRY? Anagrams

PARTYER - Someone who parties

PEARTLY - Lively

PEATARY - Area covered with peat

PEATERY - Same as PEATARY

PEYTRAL - Breastplate of a horse's armour, also PEYTREL

PRELATY - Prelacy

PTERYLA - The feathered area on the skin of a bird (pl. PTERYLAE)

THERAPY - Curing treatment

TYPEBAR - A bar on a typewriter that carries type and is operated by keys

YAPSTER - A dog



Tournament results

Nelson

17-18 February 2023

15 games

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
A Grade					
1	Val Mills	MTA	11	486	423
2	Peter Johnstone	CHC	10	421	399
3	Murray Rogers	IND	9	419	406
4	Lynn Wood	IND	9	144	382
5	Shirley Hol	CHC	3	-465	374
6	Carolyn Kyle	IND	3	-1005	349
B Grade					
1	Megg Hewlett	CHC	11	561	399
2	Ruth Groffman	DUN	10	348	379
3	Malcolm Graham	IND	10	121	380
4	Judy Driscoll	IND	6	-492	353
5	Joanna Fox	CHC	5	2	371
6	Llane Hadden	NEL	3	-540	355
C Grade					
1	Marilyn Sinclair	CHC	12	742	372
2	Noeline Monsef	CHC	12	588	351
3	Hanna Dodge	CHC	11	846	378
4	Tony Charlton	NEL	9	362	349
5	Kelly Thomas	NEL	7	-306	325
6	Lynette Matheson	NEL	5	-954	290
7	Judy Cronin	MTA	4	-528	319



Dunedin

24-25 March 2023

15 games

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
A Grade					
1	Lynn Wood	IND	11	712	394
2	Paul Freeman	DUN	9	182	388
3	Ruth Groffman	DUN	8	44	381
4	Carolyn Kyle	IND	7	136	376
5	Karen Gray	DUN	7	-244	368
6	Tobias Devereux	DUN	7	-277	379
7	Betty Eriksen	WAN	7	-391	343
8	Marian Ross	DUN	4	-162	357
B Grade					
1	Malcolm Graham	IND	10	680	389
2	Grant Paulin	DUN	10	234	365
3	Megg Hewlett	CHC	9	350	377
4	Sue Hensley	DUN	9	58	347
5	Hanna Dodge	CHC	8	441	370
6	Chris Handley	DUN	6	-59	348
7	Anne-Louise Milne	DUN	6	-352	335
8	Marc Van Hoecke	DUN	2	-1352	312



Above:

*Nelson C grade winners:
Hanna Dodge (3rd), Marilyn Sinclair (1st)
& Noeline Monsef (2nd)*

*Left: Nelson B grade winners:
Ruth Groffman (2nd), Malcolm Graham
(3rd) & Megg Hewlett (1st)*

Masters Championship**8-10 April 2023**

23 games

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
1	Andrew Bradley (GM)	MTA	20.5	1410	441
2	Dylan Early (GM)	WEL	19	1344	458
3	Howard Warner (GM)	WEL	17	1996	465
4	Val Mills (E)	MTA	17	892	412
5	Anderina McLean (GM)	WAN	14	587	413
6	Cicely Bruce (GM)	WRE	14	415	403
7	Murray Rogers (E)	IND	14	-143	392
8	Stanley Ngundi (GM)	WEL	13	1119	434
9	Lawson Sue (GM)	MTA	12.5	214	409
10	Liz Fagerlund (GM)	MTA	12	308	407
11	Jason Simpson	WRE	12	-101	394
12	Mike Currie	MTA	12	-288	399
13	John Foster (GM)	IND	10	-62	398
14	Rosemary Cleary (E)	WAN	10	-121	380
15	Jennifer Smith	KIW	10	-183	398
16	Lois Binnie	CHC	9	-297	394
17	Jane Walton	KIW	9	-376	385
18	Lorraine Van Veen	IND	9	-512	389
19	Shirley Martin	KIW	8	-452	397
20	Margie Hurly	WRE	8	-843	378
21	Lynn Wood	IND	8	-1233	364
22	Mary Curtis	WRE	7	-1139	376
23	David Gunn	IND	7	-1288	369
24	Bev Edwards	WRE	4	-1247	360



Forwards Autumn 2023



Cathy Casey presents Dylan Early with second place at the Masters Championship

Whangarei Countryside Tournament**16 April 2023**

8 games

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
A Grade					
1	Cicely Bruce (GM)	WRE	7	933	469
2	Jason Simpson	WRE	6	518	444
3	Bev Edwards	WRE	6	147	385
4	Suzanne Liddall	WRE	5	11	395
5	Cathy Casey	WRE	3	-236	374
6	Jenny Litchfield	WRE	2	-150	396
7	Jena Yousif	WRE	2	-462	376
8	Jill Paterson	WRE	1	-761	351
B Grade					
1	Suzanne Harding	WRE	7	752	401
2	Anna Scatchard	WRE	5	114	324
3	Margaret Toso	WRE	5	93	330
4	Lynn Thompson	WRE	4	305	348
5	Annette Caisley		4	-295	296
6	Graeme Quinn	WRE	3	-81	309
7	Sue McQuade	WRE	2	-416	303
8	Barbara Derrick	WRE	2	-472	284

*Left: Andrew Bradley holding the winners shield for first place at the Masters Championship
- with Cathy Casey*

*Cathy Casey awarding the Masters
place getters:*



Howard Warner—3rd place



Val Mills—4th place



Anderina McLean—5th place

Christchurch

6-7 May 2023

14 games

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
A Grade					
1	Blue Thorogood (GM)	IND	12	1678	478
2	Lois Binnie	CHC	10	311	412
3	Peter Johnstone	CHC	7	-117	394
4	Herb Ramsay	IND	7	-616	386
5	Paul Lister (E)	CHC	6	-205	404
6	Murray Rogers (E)	IND	5	-86	385
7	Lynn Wood	IND	5	-504	372
8	Helen Sillis	WTA	4	-461	363

B Grade

1	Sue McRae	MAS	11	446	399
2	Laura Griffiths	CHC	9.5	825	413
3	Carolyn Kyle	IND	9.5	432	383
4	Anne Goldstein	CHC	6	-386	368
5	Roger Cole-Baker	MTA	5	-160	368
6	Dianne Cole-Baker	MTA	5	-253	358
7	Ruth Groffman	DUN	5	-374	363
8	Betty Eriksen	WAN	5	-530	354

C Grade

1	Joanna Fox	CHC	9	441	387
2	Mandy Thorogood	IND	9	251	385
3	Lyn Dawson	CHC	8	341	391
4	Malcolm Graham	IND	7	64	370
5	Colleen Cook	CHC	7	-388	354
6	Megg Hewlett	CHC	6	-45	374
7	Sue Hensley	DUN	5	-315	356
8	Marian Ross	DUN	5	-349	365

D Grade

1	Hanna Dodge	CHC	11	1030	382
2	Marilyn Sinclair	CHC	10	502	355
3	Tony Charlton	NEL	10	322	360
4	Michael Marwood	IND	9	193	350
5	Llane Hadden	NEL	8	709	368
6	Noeline Monsef	CHC	7	-45	342
7	Frances Higham	PAP	7	-50	335
8	Leanna Christie	IND	5	-134	346
9	Lynette Matheson	NEL	2	-1043	289
10	Trish Fox	CHC	1	-1484	258

Rankings as at 14 May 2023

	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%		Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%
1	Alastair Richards (GM)	2386	456.5	570	80%	35	Peter Johnstone	1613	386	749	52%
2	Howard Warner (GM)	2229	2586.5	3439	75%	36	Mike Currie	1613	122	215	57%
3	Jeff Grant (GM)	2182	1911	2568	74%	37	Lynn Wood	1588	2605	5424	48%
4	Dylan Early (GM)	2175	307	453	68%	38	Margie Hurly	1561	538	1103	49%
5	Joanne Craig (GM)	2123	485.5	745	65%	39	Yoon Kim Fong	1543	840	1630	52%
6	Patrick Carter (GM)	2105	979	1532	64%	40	Helen Sillis	1542	1011	2066	49%
7	Lyres Freeth (GM)	2091	741.5	1132	66%	41	Shirley Martin	1540	1219	2456	50%
8	Blue Thorogood (GM)	2091	875	1245	70%	42	Lorraine Van Veen	1530	1194.5	2432	49%
9	Andrew Bradley (GM)	2061	1140.5	2125	54%	43	Jeanette Grimmer	1528	405	825	49%
10	Peter Sinton (GM)	2050	851.5	1216	70%	44	Karen Gray	1526	362.5	694	52%
11	Gil Quiballo (GM)	1962	123.5	208	59%	45	John Baird	1522	416.5	776	54%
12	Nick Ascroft (E)	1905	333.5	603	55%	46	Vicky Robertson	1514	494	1041	47%
13	Stanley Ngundi (GM)	1904	137.5	248	55%	47	Yvette Hewlett	1505	574.5	1184	49%
14	Anderina McLean (GM)	1898	1063	1985	54%	48	Chris Higgins	1502	198.5	350	57%
15	Karen Richards (E)	1884	129	231	56%	49	David Gunn	1501	1589	3249	49%
16	Scott Chaput (E)	1879	377	673	56%	50	Mary Curtis	1481	589.5	1141	52%
17	Lawson Sue (GM)	1876	1372.5	2545	54%	51	Pam Barlow	1479	955	1902	50%
18	Glennis Hale (GM)	1849	1820.5	3342	54%	52	Paul Freeman	1469	150.5	272	55%
19	Paul Richards	1841	65	120	54%	53	Stan Gregec	1456	242	455	53%
20	Olivia En (E)	1841	1067	2062	52%	54	Su Walker	1443	1408.5	2761	51%
21	Cicely Bruce (GM)	1822	1048	1930	54%	55	Bernie Jardine	1435	380	707	54%
22	Val Mills (E)	1806	1780	3631	49%	56	Selena Chan	1422	435.5	866	50%
23	Liz Fagerlund (GM)	1799	1667.5	3239	51%	57	Roger Coates	1410	981.5	2069	47%
24	John Foster (GM)	1767	1867.5	3362	56%	58	Jean O'Brien	1400	1674	3318	50%
25	Lois Binnie	1760	277.5	545	51%	59	Barney Bonthron	1398	164.5	289	57%
26	Herb Ramsay	1726	341	590	58%	60	Mary Gray	1382	906	1821	50%
27	Jason Simpson	1721	169	312	54%	61	Clare Wall	1381	431	850	51%
28	Murray Rogers (E)	1717	1277.5	2427	53%	62	Laura Griffiths	1377	28.5	42	68%
29	Rosemary Cleary (E)	1708	1012	2172	47%	63	Carolyn Kyle	1365	1304	2643	49%
30	Paul Lister (E)	1638	941	1726	55%	64	Bev Edwards	1363	384	762	50%
31	Jennifer Smith	1638	1455.5	3043	48%	65	Suzanne Liddall	1361	220	391	56%
32	Glenyss Buchanan	1631	791	1718	46%	66	Anne Goldstein	1357	358	723	50%
33	Jane Walton	1622	342.5	714	48%	67	Delcie Macbeth	1355	1192.5	2331	51%
34	Marianne Bentley (E)	1620	339.5	755	45%	68	Nola Borrell	1300	693	1325	52%

Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%
69 Karen Miller	1295	753	1469	51%	104 Judy Driscoll	849	411.5	1020	40%
70 Jena Yousif	1285	746	1492	50%	105 Tony Charlton	828	481.5	1012	48%
71 Heather Landon	1282	835	1657	50%	106 Chris Handley	821	492.5	983	50%
72 Shirley Hol	1264	924.5	1959	47%	107 Junior Gesmundo	802	410.5	835	49%
73 Jenny Litchfield	1261	250.5	465	54%	108 Llane Hadden	772	117.5	258	46%
74 Tobias Devereux	1259	84	125	67%	109 Ruth Godwin	764	671.5	1414	47%
75 Roger Cole-Baker	1241	891.5	1738	51%	110 Steve Wood	763	32.5	60	54%
76 Betty Eriksen	1225	2096	4171	50%	111 Rodney Jardine	748	312	650	48%
77 Lynn Carter	1218	925.5	1801	51%	112 Sharon Teasdale	731	84	167	50%
78 Ruth Groffman	1218	883.5	1796	49%	113 Noeline Monsef	713	110	235	47%
79 Cathy Casey	1193	142	262	54%	114 Dorothy Bakel	707	155	329	47%
80 Lyn Toka	1179	710.5	1367	52%	115 Anne Scatchard	701	794	1564	51%
81 Alison Holmes	1175	275.5	487	57%	116 Margaret Toso	695	207	464	45%
82 Dianne Cole-Baker	1150	826.5	1645	50%	117 Frances Higham	668	397	1010	39%
83 Barbara Dunn	1134	394.5	696	57%	118 Tim Henneveld	665	594.5	1295	46%
84 Tara Hurley	1122	162.5	299	54%	119 Madelaine Green	654	196.5	384	51%
85 Mandy Thorogood	1117	126	225	56%	120 Jackie Reid	603	203.5	457	45%
86 Joanna Fox	1087	315	616	51%	121 Anne-Louise Milne	585	234.5	651	36%
87 Jill Paterson	1068	154.5	289	53%	122 Jacqueline				
88 Michael Hyndman	1059	237.5	452	53%	Coldham-Fussell	572	856.5	1754	49%
89 Malcolm Graham	1058	892.5	1764	51%	123 Sharon McKenzie	560	76.5	163	47%
90 Merelyn Fuemana	1041	278.5	534	52%	124 Jillian Greening	551	521	1072	49%
91 Marian Ross	1019	787	1535	51%	125 Graeme Quinn	480	50.5	133	38%
92 Sheila Reed	984	404	842	48%	126 Dael Shaw	465	69	135	51%
93 Glenda Geard	984	1345.5	2716	50%	127 Annette Coombes	457	983	2143	46%
94 Megg Hewlett	978	91	157	58%	128 Marc Van Hoecke	455	104	222	47%
95 Grant Paulin	977	110.5	235	47%	129 Margaret Peters	418	97	278	35%
96 Alexander Gandar	977	24.5	42	58%	130 Lynn Thompson	405	398	941	42%
97 Suzanne Harding	968	820.5	1610	51%	131 Fay Wenzlick	317	47	131	36%
98 Patricia Bennett	947	46	106	43%	132 Judy Cronin	314	270.5	660	41%
99 Colleen Cook	946	517	1075	48%	133 Genie Em	233	9	56	16%
100 Sue Hensley	913	99.5	180	55%	134 Trish Fox	25	51	397	13%
101 Hanna Dodge	884	338	627	54%	135 Margaret Webb	0	8	67	12%
102 Marilyn Sinclair	876	286.5	573	50%					
103 Antonia Aarts	855	465	979	47%					

Club	Club Contact	Phone Number	Email	Meeting Day & Time
Christchurch (CHC)	John Baird	03 332 5996	john@jrsoftware.com	12.30 pm Wed 6.45 pm Thurs
Dunedin (DUN)	Tobias Devereux	03 453 1108	tobias.devereux13@gmail.com	7 pm Tues
Kapiti (KAP)	<i>In Recess</i>	-	-	-
Kiwi Scrabblers (KIW)	Barney Bonthron	027 466 1970	Barney.Bonhron@gmail.com	1 pm/7 pm Alternate Thurs
Lower Hutt (LOH)	Glenyss Buchanan	04 569 5433	glenyss.buchanan@xtra.co.nz	7.30 pm Tues
Masterton (MAS)	Sue McRae	027 4490 601	sue.mcrae.nz@gmail.com	1 pm Wed
Mt. Albert (MTA)	Helen Scott	027 433 3339	helenruthscott@hotmail.com	7 pm Mon
Nelson (NEL)	Tony Charlton	03 545 1159	tonycharlton44@gmail.com	7 pm Wed
Papatoetoe (PAP)	Frances Higham	09 278 4595	jambo@actrix.co.nz	1 pm Mon
Rodney (ROD)	Vivienne Mickelson	09 902 9207	vivienne.moss20@gmail.com	12.45 pm Mon
Rotorua (ROT)	<i>In Recess</i>	-	-	-
Tauranga (TGA)	Fay Wenzlick/ Pam Fulton	021 164 8180 (Fay)	fultonrp@xtra.co.nz (Pam)	9.20 am Tues
Waitara (WTA)	Ngairi Kemp	06 754 4017	ngairelyndac@slingshot.co.nz	1 pm Wed
Whanganui (WAN)	Lynne Butler	027 428 5758	scrabblynne@gmail.com	1 pm Mon
Scrabble Wellington (WEL)	Nick Ascroft	-	nick_ascroft@hotmail.com	7 pm Thurs
Whangarei (WRE)	Anne Scatchard	09 435 0137 027 660 1763	annescatchard@yahoo.com	1 pm Thurs

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