

## Contact Information

Clubs (Nth to Sth)	Contact Person	Phone	Meeting Day/Time	Meeting Place
Rodney (ROD)	Ruth Munnings	09-425-6398	Mon (alt) 1pm & 7.15pm	Totara Park, Warkworth
Nth Shore Bays (NSB)	Marge Dalzell	09-478-6248	Tues 10am	Campbell's Bay Methodist Church Hall
	Allie Quinn	09-483-7806	Thurs 7.15pm	Takapuna Senior Citizen's Hall
Mt Albert (MTA)	Shirley Wyatt	09-828-09891	Fri 7.15pm	Mt Albert Senior Citizen's Hall
Pakuranga/Howick (PAK)	Jeanette Owler	09-534-4453	Thurs 7pm	St Matthias Church Hall, Panmure
Papatoetoe/Holy Cross (PHC)	May Meads	09-278-5155	Mon 1pm	64 Fairview Rd.
Hamilton (HAM)	Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell	07-846-7422	Tues 7.15pm	Hearing Assoc Building 40 Wellington St
Waikato (WKT)	Pam Robson	07-856-6449	Wed (alt) 7.30pm	St Aidans Church Hall Cnr Heaphy Tce & Thames St
Kiwi (KIW)	Elaine Moltzen	07-843-5108	Thurs 7pm	Sunningdale Hall
Mt Maunganui / Papamoa (MMP)	Ngair Steel	07-542-1035	Any time - ring	
Tauranga (TGA)	Noel Maisey	07-576-3218	Tues 7.20pm	
Tokoroa (TOK)	Lesley Edgeler	07-886-8374		
Taupo (TPO)	Gwen Robb	07-378-9409		
Waitara (WTA)	Trixie Neil	06-754-8745	Wed 1.30pm	
New Plymouth (NPL)	Helen Sillis	06-758-8001		
New Plym YWCA (NPY)	Shirley Tozer	06-758-2936		
Stratford (STR)	Sharon Clarke	06-765-5653		
Hastings (HAS)	Jeff Grant	06-878-6654	Thurs (alt) 7pm	Hastings RSA
Waipukurau (WPK)	Ann Grindrod	06-858-7493		
Wanganui (WAN)	Andrée Prentice	06-344-6343	Mon 7pm	Cosmopolitan Club
Masterton (MAS)	Aliette Hay	06-377-3273		
Avalon (AVA)	Eileen McLennan	04-567-1289	Thurs 1pm	
Lower Hutt (LOH)	Glenyss Buchanan	04-569-5433	Tues 7.30pm	
Wellington (WEL)	Lynn Wood	04-387-2581	Tues 7.30pm	5 Tully St, Kilbirnie
Capital (CAP)	Sue McRae	04-475-7899	Wed 7pm	Turnbull House, Bowen St.
Nelson (NEL)	Ann Hough	03-545-0077	Wed 7pm	Golden Links Hall, 93 Vanguard St
Christchurch (CHC)	Margaret Lyall	03-332-5963	Fri 7pm	Sydenham Community Centre
Dunedin (DUN)	Marian Ross	03-473-8579	Mon 7pm	Dunedin Bridge Club Rooms
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# FORWORDS



Official Journal of the New Zealand Association of Scrabble Players  
**Number 47**  
**June 1997**

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## Editor's Note

The 14th NZ Masters Championship in Hamilton at Easter was most successful. Our thanks to the organisers for putting on such a great show. The venue was superb, and some nice touches like the individual souvenir packs and lollies on the tables made it a truly memorable weekend for the 24 competitors. My own performance was particularly gratifying after the 'bombout' in Sydney (thanks for the support, Pat).

Well done to Fae Olson (STR) who at the Masters finally passed sister Reeva Pearson's total of most rated games played. Fae will probably be the first one to crack the 1000 mark later this year. Chris Hooks (MTA) followed up his good Trans-Tasman result with a creditable 5th in the Masters, while top move went to David Lloyd (MTA) with 185 points for REPAYING.

The World Champs in Washington DC are now only five months away. Congratulations to Kendall Boyd (DUN) and Lynne Butler (NPL) who join Mike Sigley (WAN) and myself in the NZ team. We hope to get heaps of support (like last time), so please sell lots of raffle tickets!

Nigel Richards (CHC) continues his meteoric rise. Wins at North Shore and the South Island Champs earned him a place in A grade at the Nationals in Hamilton, where he kept up his phenomenal run of success by taking the title at his first attempt. Nigel won 11 out of 13 games, with a record 493 average score. Against John Foster, he racked up 649 points in only 10 moves, including the excellent play of MEGILLAH (a lengthy account, not a gorilla). Nigel also helped Christchurch

become the first South Island club to win the team prize. It was particularly pleasing to see ten South Islanders at the event this year.

I have heard of a number of players Scrabbling on the Internet. Bernice Vannini has four different opponents, including a lady in Nova Scotia, Canada, who apparently didn't even know there were such things as Scrabble clubs!

Association president John Foster has settled into his retirement in Whangamata. In fact he is quickly becoming known as a worthy opponent on both the golf course and the snooker table. John tells me he also has a small group of Scrabblers under his wing.

The Norfolk Island Scrabble Festival in late September is filling up fast. Take it from me, this is a great place to have a Scrabbling holiday. Why not join us for eight days of fun!

Thanks to Bill Grigg (DUN) and Audrey Plane (WAN) for sending us copies of their newsletters. Your efforts are I'm sure much appreciated by all club members.

Also, thanks to everyone who has submitted material for the magazine. All items are gratefully received, but we would particularly like more Scrabble photos.

Last, but not least, special thanks to Glenda, our layout editor. Glenda and her husband Bryan have recently celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary in Vanuatu — congratulations!

Closing date for the September issue is 25 August.

**Happy Scrabbling  
Jeff**

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# MAIL BOX

## Eight Bonuses

**by Dawn Kitson**  
**Papatoetoe-Holy Cross**

When Chris Hooks and I played our record-breaking combined score game (club) back in 1992 we had eight bonus words between us. We weren't actually aware that we had broken a record so didn't try to reconstruct our board until days later.

At the end of the game when I went out with QUEUERS I put the R on the rack first, then the E to the left of it, then the S to the right. Next was the U then E then Q. I said to myself, "Gee, all I need is the U to make QUEUERS." When I turned over the last tile to find that indeed it was just that, I went into shock and couldn't even add up my score.

[We have included Dawn and Chris's 8-bonus game in the NZ records. — Ed.]

## From Across the Waves

How nice to hear from you and to receive your newsletter. I really do enjoy reading it and hearing about the Scrabble world in New Zealand.

**Jane Ratsey Williams**  
**National Scrabble Association, US**

Thanks very much for sending *Forwards* each quarter. We enjoy and look forward to each issue. Keep up the good work!

**Ron and Donna Thompson**  
**Amagasaki, Japan**

Please renew our subscription to *Forwards*. Wishing you all the best from Leyton.

**Diane and Mauro Pratesi**  
**London**

It looks like Ron has made the World Champs based on rating, but we're not packing just yet. The procedure and formula is pretty convoluted! The cut-off date for getting in on rating is April 30, and the one qualifying tournament is June 13-15. We're not going to that but will be in Washington either participating or observing, so we'll at least be able to see everyone. Much love to all the Kiwis.

**Ron and Susie Tiekert**  
**New York**

[Ron was 5th in the 1st World Champs in London, 1991. — Ed.]

I enjoy *Forwards* very much  
**Cherry Carter**  
**Queensland**

## New Year Scrabble

**by Nigel Richards**  
**Christchurch**

I would like to respond to Pam Robson's challenge about the first game of Scrabble played in 1997. Liz Fagerlund and I started playing Scrabble about 8pm on December 31, 1996. We were still playing at around 3am on January 1, 1997. At midnight we were part way through a game, so I would think that this is the first game of Scrabble played in 1997. Or at the very least it would be first equal with anyone else playing at midnight.

## Nelson 1998

**by Bob Johnstone**

Please note that the 1998 Nelson Scrabble Tournament will be held on the weekend of February 14-15. This earlier date avoids too close a proximity with the Wellington and Hastings events, as occurred this year. We hope this will encourage more North Islanders to come down and enjoy Nelson's summer sunshine.

## Only a Game?

Top English player Clive Spate posted this on the Internet:  
For those of you who never get past page 3 in *The Sun* (or never read it in the first place), this story appeared on page 30 recently:

"A woman leapt to her death after playing a game of Scrabble in which she spelled out the word GONER.

Depressed Alison Hill, 31, stormed out of a hospital where she was being treated while playing the board game with staff and other patients. Minutes later she hurled herself off the roof of the multi-storey carpark at Nottingham's Queen's Medical Centre, an inquest was told. Unmarried Alison had threatened to kill herself just hours before the tragedy. Verdict: suicide."

Clive comments that this report is about three times as long as the same paper's coverage of the British National Scrabble Championship!

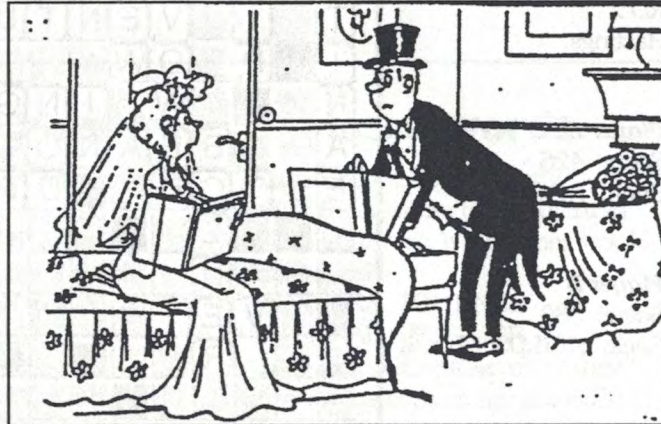
## Young Stars

A 10-year-old Canadian boy named Leon Fernandes won Division 4 at his first tournament in Calgary in March. Leon won 10 out of 12 games with one of his losses being to 6-year-old Michael Lool!

## Blankety-Blank

At the Nationals Jeff Grant pulled out eight tiles at the start of his game with Howard Warner. Howard promptly picked two tiles off Jeff's rack and found he had — **both** blanks! He returned one to the bag, but got it back later, using it to go out and win by five points.

**NZASP Correspondence**  
*Association secretary Allie Quinn will be overseas from July 5 to September 14. Please send all correspondence during that time to:*  
**Bev Barker**  
**3/7 Flavia Pl**  
**Lynfield**  
**Auckland 1004**



"Did you pack the Scrabble, dear?"



**Scrabble Contest No 47**

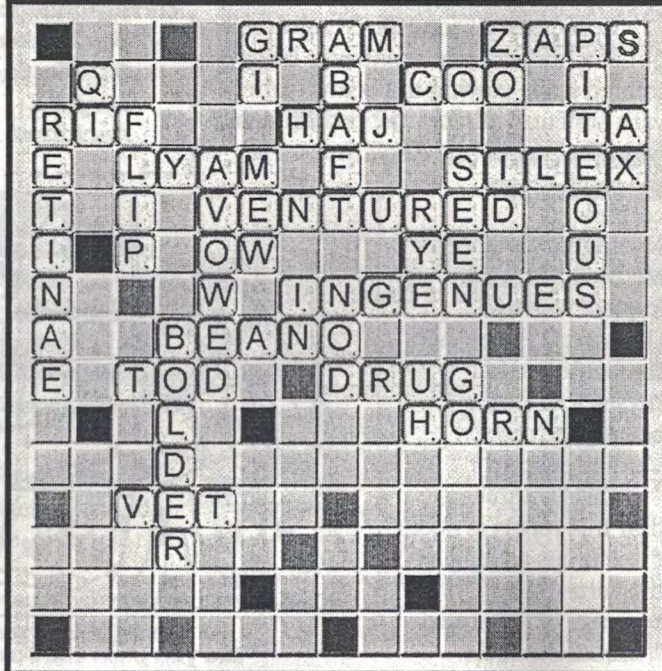
This endgame situation arose during one of Blue Thorogood's solo practice games. Circumstances have dictated a break from the tournament scene for Blue, but he definitely hasn't lost his interest or his ability, as Lynne Powell will attest after a recent Scrabble session in Wairoa.

In the game below it is Player A's turn. What is the best result A can achieve, assuming no mistakes?

The closing date is August 20 and the winner will receive a book prize. Good luck!  
 Entries to be sent to:  
 Jeff Grant  
 Waipatu Settlement Rd  
 RD 2  
 Hastings.

**Player A**  
 Score: 426  
 Rack: ACEIKST

**Player B**  
 Score: 380  
 Rack: AEILOS + blank



**Solution: Scrabble Contest No 46**

- |               |                     |
|---------------|---------------------|
| 1. dreamt     | 6. supersede        |
| 2. hazardous  | 7. cleanse, expanse |
| 3. fuchsia    | 8. coercion         |
| 4. rinse      | 9. parishioner      |
| 5. rendezvous | 10. corps           |

Many entrants got eight or nine correct, including Leila Thomson (LOH), who provided no less than 17 words ending in -dous! Three people got all ten answers — Alveen Seon (MTA), Nigel Richards (CHC) and Cherry Carter (Southport, Queensland). First name out of the hat was Alveen — congratulations!

**Hard to Swallow**

It is reported that in 1980 John Turner, who finished 6th in the American nationals became so frustrated with his inability to place a Q that he ate it!

by Rosie Cleary Wanganui

After ten years doodling around in the D Grade I found myself, somewhat mysteriously, at the 1997 NZ Masters (as second to bottom seed).

Life in the rarefied air at the top of the ladder isn't all that different really, except that there are a lot more male players. And the funny thing is that they mostly have saint's names — Michael, Peter, David, Christopher, Patrick, John, Andrew. I guess Howard and Gerald are Church of England or something. I thought Jeff was God's first name and got quite humble about such proximity to Him — but it turned out that He is not infallible. I was deeply gratified that Jeff played two 'bad' words (just like in D Grade) in winning our game by a measly four points!

While the men are saintly, the women are pretty 'ellish'. If you look at the list of names you can see that it helps to have an 'l' in your name to get in the Masters. I did wonder about Denise, but it turns out that her middle name is Lorraine. Poor Doreen

(Margaret) O'Shea had tiles from hell, rotten rack after rotten rack. She said that she tried everything except S-E-X. I reckon that if she changes her name before the next Masters to St Ellie or St Lulubelle or something, she'll get in the top ten places, no sweat!

Some games were a bit fraught as players vied for a spot in the World Scrabble event in Washington DC later this year. There was a mad scramble until Lynne Butler cleared out from the other contenders to join Jeff Grant, Kendall Boyd and Wanganui's own Mike Sigley.

Everyone, however, was a winner in Hamilton (more or less) and the local clubs presented each player with a lovely package which included a commemoratively labelled bottle of Zespri wine — lovely! It was a grand Easter.

"We cannot all be masters" (Othello)  
 [from the Wanganui Club newsletter, April 1997]

**Tramontane Musters**

David Lloyd (MTA) set his computer anagram programme to work on MASTERS TOURNAMENT. Among others, it came up with the 2-word phrases ENTRUSTMENT AROMAS, ATTORNMENT MASSEUR, MATUREST ORNAMENTS and RESTAURANT MOMENTS — there were some 'memorable' ones at Memory Lane on the Sunday night!

**Masterwords**

The following bonus words were played at the Masters tournament in Hamilton at Easter. Which ones would you challenge?

- DONNERS TOUTINGS
- INFERRAL SEASIDER

They look reasonable, don't they? However, **none** of them are allowed!

## Well Well Well

The American recreational linguistics journal *Word Ways* (May 1995) reports on the challenge to write a grammatically correct and readily understandable statement containing the same word four or more times in a row, eg:

"That Texan can't drill a well well. Well, well drilling isn't easy."

Of course, trivial solutions were rejected — this contest is very, very, very, very easy (or hard); here, kitty, kitty, kitty, etc.

Some of the submissions were quite ingenious. Here are a few of the best examples. The last two are old chestnuts that you may have heard before.

- ◇ Should the 'the' the The rock band begins its name with also be capitalised? (Yes, there is a group called The The!)
- ◇ While searching for a word to use, I looked at 'at' at at least three different libraries.
- ◇ Before we go shopping for another room fixture, let's check and see if the heavy dark lamp and the light light light light up the room adequately together.

- ◇ He's so so-so, so I'm told, he should be in the Guinness Book of Records.
- ◇ After Bob yelled 'echoed', the canyon he expected to have echoed 'echoed' echoed 'echoed ... echoed'.
- ◇ Before 'was' was 'was', 'was' was 'is'.
- ◇ Anyone who can can-can can can can after can of peaches as well.
- ◇ The owner of the Pig and Whistle pub cautioned the sign-painter to allow enough space between 'Pig' and 'and' and 'and' and 'Whistle'.
- ◇ Identical twins Dudley and Hadley had written an almost identical answer, except that Dud, where Had had had "had' had had 'had had' — 'had had' had had the teacher's approval.

The judges awarded the grand prize to the following entry which uses four different meanings of ROSE:

- ◇ "Rose worked for years to develop the most beautiful flower in the deepest shade of pink. And finally at the flower show when her name was announced for the most rose rose, Rose rose to accept the award."

### CALVIN and HOBBS



This somewhat cynical comic strip was sent to us by Jo Ann Ingram of Tauranga

## Zespri Decor

Hamilton really turned on the sunshine and the hospitality for the 14th NZ Masters Tournament at Easter. All contestants received a 'goody pack' containing such things as Easter eggs, calendars, pens and coasters, as well as a special souvenir bottle of 'Zespri Chardonnay' — kiwifruit wine.

Zespri is the new computer-generated name for marketing kiwifruit. Perhaps a blend of 'zest' and 'esprit', it is particularly apt for Scrabblers

because by swapping the two halves of the word you end up with PRIZES!



## Think About It Again

Here are some more excerpts from an item found on the Internet by Bernice and Roy Vannini.

- ☺ Why is it that when you transport something by car, it's called a shipment, but when you transport something by ship, it's called cargo?
- ☺ Why is it so hard to remember how to spell MNEMONIC?
- ☺ If someone invented instant water, what would you mix it with?
- ☺ Why is it called a TV 'set' when you only get one?
- ☺ Why do noses run and feet smell?
- ☺ Why does a clock 'go off' when it starts ringing?
- ☺ If pro is the opposite of con, is progress the opposite of congress?
- ☺ Why is it called a 'building' when it's already built?
- ☺ Why do they call them 'apartments' when they're all stuck together?
- ☺ If you keep trying to prove Murphy's Law, will something keep going wrong?
- ☺ Why do flammable and inflammable mean the same thing?
- ☺ Shouldn't there be a shorter word for 'monosyllabic'?
- ☺ Do kamikaze pilots wear helmets?
- ☺ What is another word for 'thesaurus'?
- ☺ Why are they called 'stands' when they're made for sitting?
- ☺ Why do 'slow down' and 'slow up' mean the same thing?
- ☺ When they ship styrofoam, what do they pack it in?
- ☺ Why doesn't 'onomatopoeia' sound like what it is?
- ☺ Why is it when two planes almost collide it's called a 'near miss'? Shouldn't it be a 'near hit'?
- ☺ What does Geronimo say when he jumps out of a plane?
- ☺ How can someone 'draw a blank'? (Ask any Scrabble player!)

## This Crazy Language

The following article was reprinted in the December 1996 issue of Christchurch Scrabble Club's Newsletter. Parts of it have appeared before in *Forwards*, but I'm sure you will enjoy the piece anyway.

English is the most widely used language in the history of our planet. One in every seven humans can speak it. More than half the world's books and three-quarters of international mail is in English. Of all the languages it has the largest vocabulary — perhaps as many as two *million* words. Nonetheless, let's face it — English is a crazy language. There is no egg in eggplant, nor ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine in pineapple. English muffins weren't invented in England, or French fries in France. Sweetmeats are candies while sweetbreads, which aren't sweet, are meat.

We take English for granted. But if we explore its paradoxes, we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square, and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.

And why is it that writers write, but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce, and hammers don't ham? If the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn't the plural of booth, beeth? One goose, two geese. So one moose, two meese?

Doesn't it seem crazy that you can make amends, but not one amend, that you comb through the annals of time, but not a single annal? If you have a bunch of odds and ends, and get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it?

If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught? If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat? If you wrote a letter, perhaps you bote your tongue?

Sometimes I think all the English speakers should be committed to an asylum for the verbally insane. In what language do people recite at a play, and play at a recital? Ship by truck, and send cargo by ship? Have noses that run, and feet that smell?

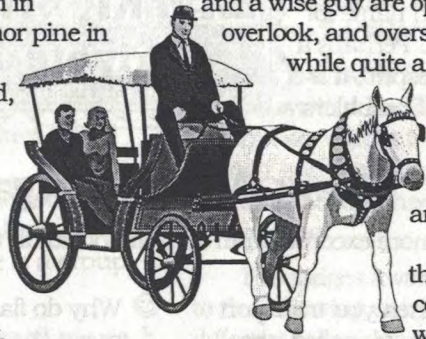
How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites? How can overlook and oversee be opposites, while quite a lot, and quite a few are alike? How can the weather be as hot as hell one day, and cold as hell another?

Have you noticed that we talk about certain things only when they are absent? Have you ever

seen a horseful carriage, or a strapful gown? Met a sung hero, or experienced requited love? Have you ever run into someone who was: combobulated, ept, grunted, ruly or peccable? And where are all those people who *are* spring chickens or who would *actually* hurt a fly?

You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language in which your house can burn up as it burns down, in which you fill in a form by filling it out, and in which an alarm goes off by going on.

English was invented by people, not computers, and it reflects the creativity of the human race (which, of course, isn't a race at all). That is why, when the stars are out, they are visible, but when the lights are out they are invisible. And why, when I wind up my watch, I start it, but when I wind up this essay, I end it.



a horseful carriage?

## Scrabble Assault

From an article published in the *Miami Herald* submitted by Doreen Ogston (CHC) and Rhoda Cashman (ROD)

The one board game that I still play is Scrabble. I like it because, unlike most other board games, which basically are pointless time-consumers, in Scrabble you can do something mentally stimulating and worthwhile: make naughty words.

There is nothing quite like the sense of intellectual accomplishment that comes from spelling out, say, 'b - o - s - o - m', knowing that it will be sitting on the board for hours, staring up at your opponents.

The problem with Scrabble is that it leads to arguments like this:

First player: g, l, e, e, t — there!

Second player: 'gleet?' What the hell is 'gleet'?

First player: I have no idea, but if you can use 'pood', I can use 'gleet'.

The thing is, according to the dictionary, both 'gleet' and 'pood' really are words, as are 'kloof', 'fremitus' and 'woomera'. It turns out that if you have a big enough dictionary just about everything is a word, which means that you can put down any old letters you

want and claim it's a legal move.

Of course you have to be careful who you're playing with. The number of violent Scrabble-related incidents is on the rise. I have here a news item from the November 29, 1996, Hagerstown, Maryland, *Morning Herald*. Here are the first two sentences of this item, which I am not making up:

"Smithsburg — A Hagerstown woman was charged with second-degree assault on Wednesday night after her husband was struck on the forehead with a Scrabble board, according to the Washington County Sheriff's Department. The incident happened when the man tried to restrain the woman after she threw the Thanksgiving turkey into the yard."

The item doesn't state why the woman threw the turkey, but I wouldn't be surprised to learn that a word like 'gleet' had something to do with it. I would also not be surprised if, next Thanksgiving, this couple leaves the Scrabble in the closet and just throws the turkey, which sounds like more fun.

## An Aging Saga

The Saga tournament planned for Durham, England, in August sounds like fun. A round robin will be played over six evening sessions, with competitors split into groups according to ability. There will be lots of prizes, exhibition games, hints and help on improving your play, as well as a couple of excursions. The only drawback is that you have to be 50 or over to take part!

### CLEARANCE SALE — WORDS, WORDS, WORDS

Thousands for sale. Many hardly used.

Big range including:

vizcacha, shtchi, furfur, byssus, liblab,  
wryneck, zemstvo, riffraff, dyarchy,  
huzzah, qaimaqam, sucuruju, ryotwari,  
avadavat, kolkhozy, yglaunst, tzatziki.

Contact M Vnuk, Queensland

## A Poem for Scrabble Players

by Ann Clark  
Croyden Scrabble Club, England

### The Amah and The Zambo

"Come, let's upgo," the amah said  
to her couthy zambo mate  
"Let's leave this fetid, miasmatic shed  
before we macerate."

They left the old familiar carse  
To find some sheifing new  
They took some viands and divers  
jars  
And bid the oont adieu.

They put their pelf into a grip  
And in the mirk upwent,  
They had no troika for the trip  
The cart a thief had hent.

An ollav met them on the way  
A mirifical man  
He wore a byssine coat of grey  
Which quemed his deep suntan.

He pointed to a distant cleve  
Where stood an urdy tower.  
He shone his teade. "Come we  
must leave,  
Or I shall lose my arcane power."

Amah and Zambo straight uprist  
So anserine were they.  
The ollamh said, "We must not  
frist."

And swiftly yod away.  
Anoesis overcame their fear.  
With phatic words the zambo said,  
"We'll follow you, our Great  
Ameer.

In yonder fleche we'll make our  
bed."

An ostiary stood beside the door  
Ane anelace in his hond  
He saw at once his signior.  
An urbane smile he donned.

They entered in the ferly place  
Where dwelt the ollav's pheere  
Who poked poor Amah in the  
face  
And paiked her on the ear.

Shilpit Zambo turned to flee  
Not pheeze the awful fiere  
But with a ghashtly murgeon she  
Consumed the doiled pair.

[From the UK Scrabble magazine  
Onwords November 1996]



amah  
and  
zambo



## Strange as it May Seem

One of the least-known members of this year's UK World Scrabble Champs team is David Webb, who is profiled in the March 1997 edition of *Scrabble Club News*:

David is a 35-year-old forensic accountant from Harpenden in Hertfordshire. He enjoys competing on game shows, and has won a house and a trip to Australia. His dream is to play the 9-letter OLOLIUQUI (a woody-stemmed Mexican wine) at the World Champs in November. Unfortunately he can't play it before then because it's only listed in Webster's Collegiate, the American back-up dictionary.

You would be hard-pressed to come up with a stranger 9-letter word without moving beyond our Scrabble references. Two of my personal favourites are HOUYHNHNM, a horse having human characteristics (Oxford Dictionary), and MLECHCHHA, a non-Hindu (Websters 2nd Ed.).

## English Jus Ain Twat Tizwas

This is the title of a light-hearted book written by South African Scrabbler Arlene Fine, mother of Steven Gruzd, who came 6th in the last World Championship.

If you are having trouble learning words conventionally, this could be just the thing. The book has various stories employing unusual words, and there is a glossary at the back with all the meanings. Here is a sample:

CLEEKIT is an UNREEL, ACCITING ballgame, BETA than rugby with ALLOD less EFFETE. It is PAPULAR all over the WHORLED.

The OBJET of DEGAME is to try

## Overheard in Passing

I couldn't help but earwig on a conversation two boys were engaged in while they stacked shelves in Sainsburys:

Stacker 1: Darren dumped Tracey last week.

Stacker 2: What! She's well tasty — why'd he do that?

Stacker 1: It was what Natasha and her made him do when they went back to her house on Saturday night.

Stacker 2: Natasha's quite tasty too ... were Tracey's Mum and Dad in?

Stacker 1: No — but even if they were it wouldna stopped 'em.

Stacker 2: Gawd, what did they make him do?

Stacker 1: Play Scrabble — twice!

[Christina French in Britain's APSP  
Newsletter, April 1997]

and MAKAR SIXSCORE when you SENSUM balls OVERTOPS of DEFENSES. One must also HITTER ALLOT of FOURSSES, when the ball will POPOVER and land on the BOUNTREE — in other words VACKED hard. If the ball WOODLAND in the right PLAICE, YULE SCAUR FORERUNS.

In the field you have to be AGOOD KUCHCHA and CACHALOT. CATCHEN is DESKILL to master. One has to UPCATCH for the VEERY HIGHBALLS. You PLACEMEN to COVERALL the gaps.



## World Champs Update

The New Zealand team to compete at the World Scrabble Championship in Washington DC later this year was finalised following the Masters event at Easter.

The players selected are Jeff Grant (HAS), Mike Sigley (WAN), Lynne Butler (NPL) and Kendall Boyd (DUN). Jeff and Mike have been to all three previous world events, and Lynne played in 1991 and 1993. Kendall is our 'new gun' on the international scene.

A number of countries have requested increased numbers at the World Champs, while several new ones have inquired about representation. They may all have valid cases but the matter isn't a simple one. There are space and budgetary requirements to be considered, and then there is the issue of balanced competition. (Note: the current 'formula' for deciding a country's team numbers is a vague one based on the strength of the Scrabble scene and past performances at the

World Champs).

One school of thought argues that the level of play shouldn't be diluted to the point where a bunch of novice players from inexperienced countries are getting hammered by seasoned experts. Even three or four novices in a large group can give a big advantage to the experts who get to play them.

An opposing viewpoint is that the World Champs is as much about celebrating the game and being in the competition as it is about winning.

There will be a historic meeting in Washington to try and come up with a formula for World Champs qualifying that includes the right blend of a country's population, Scrabble activity and overall competitive ability. Should be interesting!

## Scrabble Glossary

The American National Scrabble Association has published a list of terms frequently encountered in club and tournament play in Canada and the US. Here are some examples:

- ALPHAGRAM** the alphabetical arrangement of a group of letters, eg BEGNU is the alphagram of BEGUN.
- BRAILLING** trying to feel a specific tile in the bag — a strictly forbidden practice naturally!
- COFFEEHOUSING** small talk meant to distract your opponent.
- HOT SPOTS** high-scoring places on the board.
- NONGO** a bonus word on your rack that won't go on the board.
- SIMULATION** computer analysis to



Kendall Boyd



Jeff Grant



Mike Sigley



Lynne Butler



## An International Dictionary

The International Scrabble Players Dictionary (ISPD) is now a real possibility. The main work on this major project is being undertaken by a small group of dedicated Australians — Lesley Mack, Geoff Wright and Barry Harridge. Remember, it was the Aussies who blazed the trail several years ago with the *Griffon Word List*.

Lesley has been typing the first draft of ISPD for nearly 2 years! Although much reliance is being placed on computer programs to check for possible errors, various people around the world are being recruited to help with the checking, including Jeff Grant and John Foster from New Zealand.

The ISPD format will feature all 2-8 letter words allowed in international Scrabble, plus their extensions, in strict alphabetical order. Each entry will have a 'part of speech' label followed by a brief definition.

It is hoped that this dictionary will be published by 'Redwood', who is also doing an updated *Griffon*. The time-scale is uncertain at this stage, but interest in the project is sure to be high, so we'll let you know how this progresses.

### Holy Scrabble

"I learn the grace of humility when I play Scrabble."

— Dr George Carey,  
Archbishop of Canterbury  
[Quoted in *The Dominion*, March 15, 1997]

## Scrabble is Cool in Connecticut

Scrabble News (US) reports on a team tournament held in Enfield, Connecticut. Apparently a blizzard knocked out power lines on the Saturday night and the emergency generators at the hotel slowly died one by one. Player John Chew reports: "My roommate Larry Sherman (2nd in the 1995 World Champs) mentioned in the morning that there was no hot water for his shower, which I can only assume he found refreshing. Certainly the room temperature became invigorating ten hours into the power outage. My favourite moment came on Sunday morning when most players were braving the unlit darkness of the tournament while a few with weak eyesight were playing in the brighter area outside. Someone called from out there "Challenge! Hallway!" to which a player inside the room replied without missing a beat "HALLWAY is acceptable!"

## Flying Start

William Webster of Arizona recently began two games in a row with the bonus word VAROOMS for 82 points. Unfortunately he lost on both occasions!

## Buffalo Tournament

The November 1996 edition of *US Scrabble News* reports that 70 competitors attended the annual Buffalo tourney. The winner, Bernie, a Black Longhair from Bison, Oklahoma, won a year's free grazing at the exclusive Buffaloville resort in Indiana.



## Norfolk Island

S<sub>1</sub> C<sub>3</sub> R<sub>1</sub> A<sub>1</sub> B<sub>3</sub> B<sub>3</sub> L<sub>1</sub> E<sub>1</sub>®

## Festival

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ANAGRAM  
CORNER

Scrabblers  
are dab  
hands at  
transposing

letters, for example THOSE to ETHOS and MANSION to ONANISM. On a higher level NIGHT WANED to reveal THE DAWNING. Here are half-a-dozen Scrabblers' anagrams. Keep watching and maybe your name will appear.

HEATHERPORT	HERTOPHEART
RUTHMUNNINGS	HUNTINGMRSUN
KEVINTREGUNNO	KEENROVINGNUT
PAULASTAPEL	PAPALSALUTE
JULIECOOK	JUICELOOK
NIGELRICHARDS	RICHRED SIGNAL

## Pythagorism

An Indian chieftain had died. He was well-known and respected throughout the world. Having been an avid hunter, he possessed many trophies from the safaris he had been on, as evidenced by various exotic cured animal skins which carpeted his Grand Tepee. At the gathering of those who might benefit from the sharing of his many assets there were three wives and their families who had survived him.

In the tepee, the wife who sat on a leopard skin had one son. Similarly, the wife who sat on an impala skin had one son, but the wife who sat on the hippopotamus skin had two sons.

Thus it was quickly established that the squaw on the hippopotamus was equal to the sons of the squaws on the other two hides.

[Submitted by  
Jack Tayler, Hastings]

15  
Unpolitically Correct

The *Sunday News* paper of November 17th 1996 contains the following sentence in its 'Letters' column:

"If you weren't so unPC and had got past the pictures, you might have read most people think Di looks fabulous."

Under our current rules, if 'unPC' was listed in *The Chambers Dictionary* it would be allowed in Scrabble!

## Taken for a Ride

The October 1996 issue of Bahrain's newsletter *Scrabble Squibs* reported that a prize at the 1996 New Zealand 'national open' was a camel ride with breakfast. Now that would be something to see, especially in Hamilton! Actually this novel prize was awarded at the *Australian Open* in Alice Springs.

**Dazzling  
Dozen**

Scrabblers know the value of hooking a letter in front of a word on the board to make a new word, eg HAM to SHAM and HEIR to THEIR. Sometimes you may come up with a really clever one such as putting a G before REENGAGE. It is rare for one of the 'big four' (JQXZ) to be used as a front hook, so here are a dozen examples to dazzle your opponents.

J/NANA	Q/UEY	Z/OBO
J/APERY	Q/AID	Z/HOMO
J/OWLY	X/EROTIC	Z/OOLOGY
J/UDDERED	X/YLEM	Z/ONETIME



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MOST POPULAR  
GAME

PEOPLE September 30, 1989

[Published in the Australian Scrabble magazine Across the Board, March 1997]

## A Dro(II) Story

by VW



COMPUTER  
SCRABBLE

### LeXpert Update

In the last issue Patrick Carter reviewed the personal computer program LeXpert. You can now download LeXpert directly from the World Wide Web (URL: <http://www.math.utoronto.ca/~jjchew/lexpert>), or if you know someone who can download it, you can get them to copy it onto a diskette so that you can install it on your own machine. You can also download it from Bob Jackman's sowpods home page (URL: <http://www.ozemail.com.au/~rjackman/>)

### E-mail Register

There are now many Scrabblers in New Zealand with access to the Internet. Lynne Butler of New Plymouth has suggested that it would be a good idea to set up an e-mail register so that people can contact each other.

If you have an e-mail address and you want to go on the list please send your details to Allie Quinn, or after July 5 to Bev Barker (addresses inside front cover).

### Forthcoming Article

Chris Hooks and Glenda Foster are collaborating on an article about Internet Scrabbling and related topics for the next *Forwards*. Watch this space.

### False Start

It's your start and you pick out your first seven tiles — A, E, S, R (this is looking good), I, Y, **Blank** — great! SAILERY? YARDIES? PAYRISE? (I wish) There must be dozens of words here, right? WRONG — there are *none!*

The DROW (drizzling mist) caused the DROSOMETER (dew measuring instrument) reading to go right off the scale, as a DROGER/DROGHER (coastal vessel) crewed by DROOGS (gangsters) clad in DROGUET (ribbed woollen fabric) sailed towards a fleet of DROMONS/DROMONDS (swift mediaeval warships).

Back on land, DROSSY (worthless) DROLES (knaves) DROILED (drudged) DRONISHLY (lazily) and DROWSILY (sleepily) among the DROSERA (sundew plants) at the DROMOS (pl DROMOI) (race-course), preparing a DROSKY/DROSHKY (Russian carriage) display in DROUTHY (very dry) conditions. The nearby stream was but a DROPPLE (trickle) and a DROOKING/DROUKING (drenching) looked unlikely.

In a nearby DROSTDY (sheriff's house) DRONGO(E)S (birds) were being driven out by DROICH/Y (dwarf/ish) folk beating loudly on DROOMES (old drums). What DROLLERY (comedy)!

### Topical Tableau

Dan Stock (Ohio) made up the following clever tableau in praise of new American Scrabble champion Adam Logan of Canada. It uses all 100 tiles, with the blanks being an R and S.

UTILIZING THE JUICY WORDS  
A QUIET FAN OF MATH  
ADAM LOGAN  
OVERPOWERED OUR  
SCRABBLE ELITE  
EVOKING PRAISES  
YONDER IN TEXAS

# CLUB NEWS

## Dunedin Newsletter

by Bill Grigg

### March

Happy birthday to Alice Doust and Marian Ross, who reckons she's still 21. Marian Ross and Daisy Madden had a drawn game (365). In the Round Robin competition Kendall Boyd beat Marian Ross twice and scored 468 exactly both times. Peter Sinton represented Dunedin Club at the NZ Masters tournament in Hamilton. He finished 9th with 13 wins (Ave 426, B/W 50). Elvira Steel was away on her travels again, and Glen Madigan married Heather Cowie of Cromwell.

### Quiz

What words can you make from these racks?

1 SNOGGLE 2 SHOPIER 3 GOOLLIS  
4 PROVIMS 5 TAITION

(answers at end of newsletter)

### Special Mention

Congratulations to Nigel Richards (CHC) who has done magnificently in such a short time, heading for the top! Great scores, many unusual words, and any loss a rarity. Keep up the excellent work.

### Good Scores

564	Peter Sinton	R/R
556	Kendall Boyd	R/R
533	Marian Ross	R/R
532	Kendall Boyd	R/R

### Competitions

R/R		P	W	A	B/W
1	Kendall Boyd	21	18	446	46
2	Peter Sinton	18	15	447	36
3	Bill Grigg	23	7	363	29

### Chall

1	Glen Madigan	1	1	454
2	Glennie Jamieson	11	8	398
3	Bill Grigg	10	8	388

### Ladder

1	Marian Ross	12	7½	410
2	Glennie Jamieson	5	4	381
3	John Bell	9	4	352

### Dict

1	John Bell	3	3	399
---	-----------	---	---	-----

2	Glen Madigan	1	1	398
---	--------------	---	---	-----

3	Dorothy Latta	1	1	394
---	---------------	---	---	-----

### April

Alice Doust got 2 B/Ws in a game (these are unusual for Alice). Bill and Shirley Wood off to Timaru again. Club is still surviving, but increased members would help. Welcome to Howard Feldstein on holiday from USA. He previously visited Christchurch Club. In R/R competition in four games with me, Kendall and Peter scored 556, 507, 460, 499. That's 2022 points, average 506. Also included 10 B/W. Who said Scrabble is a fun game? By the way, I scored 1295 points.

### Congratulations

To Kendall Boyd on being selected in the team to represent New Zealand at the World Championship in Washington DC in November this year.

### May

Nigel Richards (CHC) continued on his winning way in the S Island Champs being undefeated over 11 games (ave 478). Kendall Boyd (DUN) was 2nd and Fae Olson (STR) 3rd. Elsie Malkin (CHC) won B Grade and Julie Giles (CHC) C Grade. Julie tells me she is going to borrow the Lancaster Park lights to illuminate the trophy in her lounge! A big thanks to Shirley Hol and her club for a very enjoyable tournament and great hospitality. (PS Thanks to Mary and Elsie for those hugs) See you all again soon.

### Tournaments

Dunedin Open  
November 1-2 1997  
All welcome to enter.

### Quiz Answers

1 LEGONGS 2 ROSEHIP 3 LOLIGOS  
4 IMPROVS 5 NOTTITA

Happy Scrabble to you all.

## Hamilton Newsletter

by Pam Robson

I am forever trying to dream up 'novelty' ideas for the Scrabble clubs and a few months ago came up with one which has proved to be quite interesting and has provided us with a few laughs.

I donated a little 'trophy' — the cutest little bunny with porcelain head, feet and hands and a really floppy body which seems to collapse in a heap with an attitude that really matches the bewildered expression on his face! He is called the 'Bogus Bonus Bunny' and these words are actually written under his hat which he holds close to his body.

At the end of each month I go through the score sheets and check all bonus words played to establish those which were incorrect, but of course went unchallenged (most of our games are challenge games). The player responsible for the most incorrect bonus words receives the dubious 'honour' of taking the bunny home for the month, and a penalty provides for the recipient



Bogus Bonus Bunny

to bring supper one night during that period as well. We've had some nice suppers!

Without mentioning any names of course, it is interesting to note that of the six months we've been awarding this trophy the bunny has resided at one player's home for over half of that time. Suffice to say it's a male player who seems to have developed this obsession for the bunny (at least that lets all of us girls off the hook!). The award really has provided us with some laughs. It is always given and received in good spirits, and although none of us want the 'honour' of taking him home, we all agree the bunny is a gorgeous little creature.

## New Record

The record for highest single turn at club level of 284 set by Sheryl Davidson has been equalled by Shirley Wyatt (MTA). On 13 June Shirley played SQUELCHY in a game against Sue Walker at the Mount Albert Club.

## OSPD2 — GOING CHEAP

We have hardback copies of OSPD2 for sale at only \$25.00.

This is \$10 below cost price! There are only limited stocks, so get in quick.

If you want a copy, please contact:

Bev Barker  
3/7 Flavia Place  
Lynfield  
Auckland 1004  
(ph 09-626-6830)

## The Thin Blue Line

Rowan Atkinson as Inspector Fowler in *The Thin Blue Line*.

"What about last night then?"

Flatulation on top of fornication — you don't often see that."

Sergeant Dawkins (female bed- and workmate):

"I found it rather boring actually."

Fowler:

"Well, it was the best Scrabble score I've ever had."

## Expert Auction

For the second year a school in New York held a fund-raising auction with one of the 'lots' being Scrabble instruction from their resident expert David Stone, who tutors many of the students. Last year, parents of a 6th grader paid \$US850 for an afternoon's tuition. This year, two adults vied against each other with \$1000 bids and wouldn't budge! Stone comments: "I agreed to 'split' the package, so both of them will get afternoons in the near future, and I'll probably have to do their laundry for them too!"

from *US Scrabble News*,  
April 1997

## The Superfan

In America, true Scrabble fans have created a definitive subculture. One devotee has designed Scrabble drapery and has a Scrabble waste-paper basket, bedspread and pajamas. A former national champion had a Scrabble-theme wedding with a Scrabble-board cake, while another expert reportedly proposed over the Scrabble board, setting up letters to form "Will you marry me?" It isn't known if the lady in question accepted.

## Scrabble Trivia

Did you know?

- ❖ Scrabble inventor Alfred Butts cut his first set of tiles with a pocket knife.
- ❖ Before Scrabble, the game was called (among other things) It.
- ❖ Alfred's first royalty cheque in 1949 was for \$38.48.
- ❖ His other game, released in 1985, is called 'Alfred's Other Game'.
- ❖ The word 'scrabble' derives from Dutch.
- ❖ Dutch Scrabble sets contain two Z's.
- ❖ Singapore refuses to allow 'swear words' to be played or uttered at its National Scrabble Championship.
- ❖ Bart Simpson once played the word KWIJIBO, defining it as 'a big dumb balding South American ape with no chin and a short temper'.

## Scrabble in Memoriam

This Chicago resident was obviously a Scrabble-lover during her lifetime. A photo of the tombstone memorialising her passion appears in the November-December 1996 issue of *Scrabble Squibs*, the newsletter of the Bahrain Scrabble League.



## Are You Bored by Playing Qi Yet?

by Val Worth  
Tokoroa

Try reaching for a higher score by learning the hook possibilities of common 3-, 4- and 5-letter words. Here are some examples:

( DING	QUI ( VERY	QUAN ( TIC/S	COE ( QUATE
( PLEX	QUA (	QUAR ( TILE/S	TOR (
( RANT		QUIN (	
QUAD ( RAT	E/QUIP ( PER		COT ( QUEAN
( RATE		( AGE	
( RIGA	QUAA ( LUDE	QUAY ( LIKE	BAS ( QUINE
( ROON		( SIDE	MES (
	( CHED		
( GAS	QUAT ( ORZE	( AI	
QUAG ( GIER	( RAIN	( AIA	
( MIRE		QUILL ( ET	
( MIRY		( MAN	
		( ON	
		( AJA	

## Mind Sports Olympiad

The 1st World Mind Sports Olympiad is being held in London on August 18-24, 1997. Not only are there two Scrabble tournaments included, but also competition in traditional games like chess, draughts, go, backgammon and bridge, as well as more esoteric pursuits such as Dama, Continuo, Owari, Twixt and Zatre.

Also featured are crossword and jigsaw puzzle competitions, speed reading, mental calculations, computer programming and creative thinking tests.

For those who want to try the ultimate challenge, there are multi-event Pentamind and Decamentathlon contests.

If anyone would like more information on the Mind Sports Olympiad contact Jeff Grant or John Foster.

## Politically Challenged

In this age of political and cultural correctness, people are not blind, short and stupid, but visually, vertically and intellectually challenged. Here are some other dicey terms and their acceptable alternatives.

BORING	differently interesting
CLUMSY	uniquely co-ordinated
DISHONEST	ethically disorientated
DRUNK	sobriety deprived
VAGRANT	directionally impoverished
DEAD	terminally inconvenienced

## Eccentric Definitions

American Steve Olinger extracts an informative definition from OSPD:

PLAGE a bright region on the sun.

He wonders if there are also words for wet parts of the ocean, or striped regions on a zebra!

For those with a more schoolboyish sense of humour Barry Grossman (UK) recommends the *Chambers* definition of SPATANGOID.



**Junior Foot Scrabble Champion, Lucy, 3-year-old grand-daughter of Nola Steevens, Hastings.**

### Spectator Sport

American Scrabble identity Joe Edley reportedly has a pet project. He would like to videotape a game between a couple of Masters, using two commentators. One, an expert Scrabbler, would talk about the players, their strengths and weaknesses, with the other providing some upbeat humour and anecdotes, adding a bit of colour to the commentary. Joe believes this would affirm that Scrabble can truly be a sport for spectators. An interesting idea.

### Arkwright's Shop

The family of Richard Arkwright, inventor of the spinning jenny, ran a barber's shop in Preston, Lancashire, for many years. Inside the premises was a sign proclaiming: 'WHAT DO YOU THINK I WILL SHAVE YOU FOR A PENNY AND GIVE YOU A DRINK?'. When patrons asked for their drink, Arkwright read the sign to them: 'WHAT, DO YOU THINK I WILL SHAVE YOU FOR A PENNY AND GIVE YOU A DRINK?'

## Unfortunate Product Names

- NOVA** Latin Americans were a bit reluctant to buy this Chevrolet — in Spanish 'no va' means 'doesn't go'!
- PINTO** The Ford Pinto suffered similar image problems when it went on sale in Brazil — 'pinto' is Portuguese slang for 'small male genitals'.
- PLEDGE** The Johnson Company retained the American name of this wax product when it was introduced to the Netherlands. Unfortunately in Dutch 'pledge' means 'piss'.
- from the *Book of Lists, 90's Edition*, D Wallechinsky & A Wallace, 1993.

### That Takes the Cake



From *The Word Book* by Gyles Brandreth



### Australia

The *Lasseters Indoor Challenge* was held in Alice Springs in January. Winner of the Masters Division of the Scrabble was John Barker, ahead of Gwen Lampre and Trevor Halsall. The Intermediate Division was won by Graeme Lock Lee, who did so well in the Norfolk Island Festival last year. At the end of the event all four section winners drew a tile from a Scrabble bag. John Barker's 'H' was closest to the start of the alphabet, so he won a Franklin Mint Gold Scrabble set!

The *Sydney Summer Masters* was held on January 25-26, 1997, with 38 players contesting this 18-round event. The winner was former British champion Esther Perrins on 14 wins, ahead of Alistair Kane (13) and Roger Blom (12). Highest game score of the weekend was Joan Rosenthal's 551 and top word was Roger Blom's excellent DROMICAL on a triple-triple for 176 points.

Queensland's *Ipswich Tournament* on February 5, 1997, attracted 70 players from as far afield as Sydney. The Masters section was won by Michael Vnuk with 5 wins, ahead of Joan Colburt and Phil Finch on 4.

Bob Jackman took out Victoria's *Summer Sgramble* held on December 28-29. Bob won 15 of his 18 games, one ahead of Roger Blom, who was in turn one ahead of John Holgate.

**Australian Masters:** This prestigious event was held on March 29-31, with 20 rounds being played. The winner was Paul Cleary on 16 wins, two clear of Tony Sim (Singapore) and Alistair Kane. John Barker was 4th with 13 wins on a countback from Daniel Piechnick, Joan Rosenthal and Roger Blom.

Other placings of interest were Marie Knight (16th), Marianne Bentley (17th), Alan Weinstein (20th), Steve Sunter (21st), Bob Jackman (25th), Graeme Lock Lee (47th), Geoff Wright (48th), Liz Jackman (72nd) and Patti Ashwin (76th). John Holgate and Esther Perrins didn't play.

Following the Masters, the Australian team for the World Champs was selected based on the Masters winner plus top three on the rating list following the event. The team is: Paul Cleary, John Holgate, Esther Perrins, Roger Blom.

The hard-luck story would have to be that of former top-rated Aussie and Trans-Tasman champion Bob Jackman who will miss out unless one of the four selected is unavailable.



### Bahrain

Roy Kietzman has been re-elected chairman of the Bahrain Scrabble League. Roy also edits the League's newsletter *Scrabble Squibs*.

The Bahrain International Scrabble Open is set for May 16-19, 1998. It is hoped that this event will attract top players from around the world, with ex-World Champ Mark Nyman of England already expressing interest. World Champs rules will probably apply and the winner can expect a cash prize of up to \$US15,000. A Swiss draw format is likely, concluding with best-of-five

matches for the top placings. A gala dinner and awards ceremony will be added features to the four-day programme.

Bahrain Scrabblers have welcomed a recent initiative from the country's Disabled Sports Committee to use Scrabble as a recreational activity.

The seventh Gulf Scrabble Tournament was held at the Hilton Hotel in Bahrain from May 21-23. The region's top 32 Scrabblers took part, with nearly a third of them making their debut. Ages of the contestants ranged from 14 to 63, and six women played. For the first time ever a Gulf citizen competed in the event (a player from Oman), with the other spots taken by expatriates from Bangladesh, Britain, Philippines, India, Kenya, Mauritius, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Sudan and Tanzania. Bahrain's Naween Fernando took the Gulf Scrabble Cup for the fourth time with a 2-1 win over 1991 champ Norbert Saldanha of Dubai, United Arab Emirates in the final. Last year's winner Akshay Bhandarkar (Bahrain) was 3rd, and Arvind Abraham (UAE) 4th. Naween won an air ticket to the World Champs in the US, where he,



Naween Fernando receiving the Gulf Scrabble Cup. Bahrain Scrabble Committee president Roy Kietzman is at left.

Akshay and Yvonne Lobo (6th in the Gulf Cup) will represent Bahrain.

**Information supplied by Roy Kietzman, Bahrain Scrabble League**



## Canada

Libero Paoella of Toronto has been in good form lately. He won the Oshawa tourney in December, followed by the Mississauga one-dayer in February, then completed the hat-trick with another victory at Buffalo, New York. Libero's rating has shot from 1855 to 1966, and he looks likely to once again earn a place in the Canadian World Champs team (he finished 48th in London in 1995).



## Indonesia

Indonesia has a population of around 200 million and at least 8 of them play Scrabble. The Petro Scrabble Club hold quarterly tournaments in Bandung.



## Nigeria

The Scrabble Association of Nigeria has become the 26th national sports association to be recognised by the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports.

Sammy Okasagah won the 1st Shell Warri tournament with Tuoyo Mayuku becoming the first woman ever to finish in the top 20 of an open competition in Nigeria.



## Philippines

The Scrabble Association of the Philippines report that they now have 15 clubs and around 400 regular players, mostly residing in the capital city of Manila.

Glenda spotted the following piece

about an ex-Lower Hutt Scrabbler on the Internet recently:

"Former New Zealand champion Gil Quiballo scored a series win last Sunday in the fifth and final qualifying tournament for Metro Manila which will select those eligible for the 1997 National Scrabble Championships.

Quiballo won on a countback from Irland Borzon (both 7-1), with World Champs competitor Roland Filio 3rd on 6 wins.

The 35-year-old Quiballo is a cook by training although he currently works with a paging company as message handler. He learned the game from family members and began competitive play 12 years ago while in New Zealand. He shocked the Kiwis by winning their national title two years in succession, and the top New Zealand Scrabblers must have been relieved when Quiballo went home in 1991."

[Some slight exaggerations! Gil won 'E' Grade at the 1989 Nationals and came 2nd in 'B' Grade in 1990. There is no doubt he had the potential to go further and it's good to see him doing well in the Philippines. — Ed.]

**The 2nd Premiere International Invitational Scrabble Tournament** was held in Manila from May 22-25. A total of 38 players from 6 countries competed. After 18 preliminary rounds the top four players who went into the semi-finals were John Holgate (Australia), Sam Kantimathi (US), Tawano Rabong (Philippines) and Alex Tan (Malaysia). Sam Kantimathi came from a game down in the best-of-five final to beat Alex Tan 3-2. John Holgate lost to Tawano Rabong in their best-of-three match for third and fourth spots.

John Holgate reports:

"It was a memorable event and many friendships were formed which

will establish the basis of competitive Scrabble in the Asia-Pacific for years to come. Hopefully next year we will see UK, NZ and Canada flags as well. I can heartily recommend the experience."



## Scotland

The Scottish Masters featured a round-robin event for the top 12 players in Scotland. Wilma Warwick turned in a remarkable performance to finish three wins clear of the field with 10 wins. The minor placings went to Donald MacLeod and top-rated Neil Scott, who will be representing his country at the World Champs.



## Seychelles

The 1996 National Champion was Johnson Fashuba.



## Thailand

Dr Jakkrit Klaphajone won the 12th Thailand International Scrabble Tournament held in Bangkok from January 30-February 2. Jakkrit, the 1995 champion, defeated fellow Thai 17-year-old Charnwit Sukumrattanaporn, who won the event in 1996. The winner received around \$US10,000 and a trophy donated by Thai Princess Mahi Chakri Siridhara.

Over 2,000 competitors took part in the Scrabble extravaganza this year, mostly students. Eighty players fought it out in the open division, including entrants from Australia, USA, United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, Philippines, Singapore and Jamaica. Mark Nyman of England gained a highly creditable 4th place, while Aussie Open champ Tony Sim of Singapore was 7th.

**United Kingdom**

Top-rated British Scrabble players as at 24/3/97:

1. Allan Saldanha
2. David Acton
3. Gareth Williams
4. Mark Nyman
5. Clive Spate
6. David Webb
7. Russell Byers
8. Andrew Fisher
9. John Grayson
10. Penny Downer

**United States****Las Vegas**

On December 6-8, 1996, 183 players competed in the 14-round Las Vegas event in Nevada. The winner was 1995 World Champs runner-up Joel Sherman with 12 wins, ahead of ex-North American champ Rita Norr (10), and Lisa Odom (9).

**Atlantic City**

Former standup comic Matt Graham of New York took out the Atlantic City Championship held January 24-26, 1997. He had a 10-2 record, winning on a countback from Randy Greenspan, with John Luebkekmann 3rd on 9 wins.

**Stamford**

Many top-rated players went to Stamford, Connecticut, for the tournament on February 15-17, 1997. In fact, the top four in America were all there — Adam Logan (Canada), Brian Cappelletto, Joe Edley and Joel Sherman (all US). However they all had to bow to Matt Graham who won his 2nd consecutive tough tournament with an amazing 16-2, +1365 points record in the 18-round event. Four wins behind was Vernon Jones in 2nd place on a countback from Web Phillips.

Adam finished best of the 'top guns' in 5th spot, with Joel 8th, Joe 9th and Brian 14th.

**Bloomington**

The American World Championship Qualifying Tournament will be held in Bloomington, Minnesota, on June 13-15. This decides the final three places in the US World Champs team. First and second get in the team and the 3rd place-getter will be the reserve. It is open to all US players not already qualified, and World Champs references (double dictionary) and rules (open challenge) apply.

**Waltham**

One of America's most popular annual tournaments was held in Waltham, Massachusetts, from March 21-23, 1997. Over 130 players took part, including many of the top-rated experts — Adam Logan, Joe Edley, Brian Cappelletto, David Boys, Joel Wapnick, Joel Sherman, Bob Lipton, and others.

Competition was cut-throat in the top section, with the lead changing after nearly every round. To indicate how tough it was, current North American champ Adam Logan had five losses in a row at one stage!

In an astounding final round Brian beat Adam by 180 points, Joe beat Joel Sherman by 225, and Randy Hersom lost to Fran Silver (the lowest-rated player in the field). If he had won, the title was his, but as it worked out Brian finished 1st, Joe 2nd and Randy 3rd.

from *US Scrabble News*, April 1997

[Our thanks to UK *Scrabble Club News*, edited by Philip Nelkon, for much of the international Scrabble information.]



# Tournament Results

**Masters Tournament****29 - 31 March 1997****23 Games**

Name	Club	Wins	Score	Ave.	B/W
1 Jeff Grant	HAS	21	10402	452	45
2 Lynne Butler	NPL	17	9590	417	31
3 Howard Warner	CAP	15	10080	438	45
4 Patrick Carter	MTA	15	9631	419	31
5 Chris Hooks	MTA	15	9210	400	38
6 Mike Sigley	WAN	14	10090	439	53
7 Sheryl Davidson	PAK	14	9636	419	46
8 John Foster	MTA	14	9363	407	38
9 Peter Sinton	DUN	13	9797	426	50
10 Glennis Hale	MTA	13	9676	421	43
11 Lynne Powell	NSB	13	9468	412	39
12 Andrew Bradley	HAS	13	9434	410	37
13 David Lloyd	MTA	12	9105	396	29
14 Fae Olson	STR	12	9068	394	37
15 Glenda Foster	WEL	12	9057	394	24
16 Glenyss Buchanan	LOH	11	8809	383	29
17 Glynis Jennings	MTA	10	8885	386	30
18 Rosemary Cleary	WAN	10	8597	374	25
19 Denise Gordon	WAN	8	9146	398	43
20 Gerald Warner	ROD	7	8639	376	22
21 June Mackwell	MTA	7	8365	364	29
22 Pam Robson	WKT	5	8078	351	30
23 Peter Jones	MTA	3	8417	366	31
24 Doreen O'Shea	HAS	2	7942	345	18

**North Shore Bays Club Tournament****26 April 1997****7 Games****Grade A**

1 Jeff Grant	HAS	7	3233	462	10
2 Patrick Carter	MTA	4	2892	413	7
3 Glennis Hale	MTA	4	2777	397	11
4 Sheryl Davidson	PAK	4	2690	384	9
5 Lynne Powell	NSB	3	2669	381	10
6 John Foster	MTA	3	2610	373	9

Name	Club	Wins	Score	Ave.	B/W
7 David Lloyd	MTA	2	2528	361	9
8 Chris Hooks	MTA	1	2448	350	5

**Grade B**

1 Nigel Richards	CHC	6	3428	490	19
2 Gerald Warner	ROD	5	2965	424	8
3 Pam Robson	WKT	5	2798	400	11
4 Peter Jones	MTA	5	2758	394	9
5 Fae Olson	STR	3	2672	382	11
6 Alan Duval	MTA	2	2536	362	6
7 June Mackwell	MTA	1	2553	365	8
8 Lynn Wood	WEL	1	2479	354	4

**Grade C**

1 Margaret Bundock	ROD	5	2731	390	6
2 Rob Talbot	MTA	5	2642	377	11
3 Ann Candler	NSB	4	2693	385	7
4 Helen Sillis	NPL	4	2689	384	8
5 Valerie Mills	PAK	4	2618	374	7
6 Roger Coates	HAM	3	2701	386	12
7 Allie Quinn	NSB	2	2611	373	9
8 May Quigley	NSB	1	2585	369	10

**Grade D**

1 Maureen Holliday	MTA	5.5	2908	415	12
2 Isabel Zyp	HAM	4	2816	402	7
3 Eileen McLean	IND	4	2634	376	8
4 Glenda Geard	IND	4	2511	359	8
5 Rhoda Cashman	ROD	3	2684	383	7
6 Faye Cronhelm	IND	3	2613	373	9
7 Andrew Coombes	WKT	2.5	2519	360	7
8 Anna Geange	MTA	2	2639	377	9

**Grade E**

1 David Gunn	WKT	6	2910	416	15
2 Lisa McLean	IND	5	2893	413	12
3 Rebecca Freeth	ROD	4	2583	369	6
4 Shirley Wyatt	MTA	3.5	2740	391	6
5 Karyn McDougall	MTA	3	2608	373	5
6 Penny Headington	NSB	3	2549	364	7
7 Marj Baillie	KIW	2.5	2382	340	2
8 Margaret Cherry	PAK	1	2493	356	7



Name	Club	Wins	Score	Ave. B/W
<b>Grade F</b>				
1 Shirley Martin	HAM	5	2729	390 9
2 Joan Pratt	MTA	5	2564	366 6
3 Margaret Simpson	PAK	4	2798	400 16
4 Sue Walker	MTA	4	2703	386 11
5 Peggy Wallace	HAM	3	2768	395 7
6 Elaine Moltzen	KIW	3	2710	387 11
7 Annette Coombes	WKT	2	2574	368 9
8 Bev Barker	MTA	2	2510	359 6

**Grade G**

1 Kim Graham	NSB	6	2729	390 7
2 Margaret Mourant	MTA	5	2612	373 7
3 Delcie MacBeth	IND	4	2590	370 5
4 Dawn Kitzen	PHC	4	2544	363 9
5 Hazel Purdie	MTA	3	2912	416 13
6 Irene Hague-Smith	MTA	3	2619	374 7
7 Valma Gidman	ROD	2	2481	354 3
8 Liz Catchpole	MTA	1	2190	313 4

**Grade H**

1 Mary Gray	MTA	6	3004	429 11
2 Pam Barlow	PAK	6	2829	404 9
3 Trish Hellriegel	MTA	4	2590	370 6
4 Jennifer Smith	HAM	4	2584	369 7
5 Janice Cherry	PAK	3	2650	379 9
6 Kevin Tregunno	MTA	2	2483	355 6
7 May Meads	PHC	2	2438	348 7
8 Olwen Skelton	ROD	1	2324	332 3

**Grade I**

1 Dean Riesterer	PAK	7	2704	386 6
2 Dorothy Haining	ROD	5	2516	359 6
3 Paddy Glen	ROD	4	2505	358 5
4 Ed Olson	STR	4	2359	337 3
5 Elise Joy	PHC	3	2385	341 4
6 Lil Moore	MTA	2	2509	358 4
7 Jill Johnson	PHC	2	2489	356 5
8 Adrienne McKeown	IND	1	2255	322 1

**Grade J**

1 Margaret Hanson	PHC	6	2572	367 5
2 Colin Claypole	NSB	5	2696	385 9
3 Elaine King	MTA	4	2599	371 4
4 Sammy Sanders	PHC	4	2475	354 2
5 Susan Olson	STR	3	2312	330 6
6 Lulu Holt	MTA	3	2173	310 1
7 Nola Edwards	WTA	2	2331	333 2
8 Jacqy Struik	PHC	1	2212	316 2

**South Island Championship  
Christchurch, 17 & 18 May  
1997****11 Games**

Name	Club	Wins	Score	Ave. B/W
<b>Grade A</b>				
1 Nigel Richards	CHC	11	5265	479 21
2 Kendall Boyd	DUN	9	4893	445 22
3 Fae Olson	STR	6	4802	437 19
4 David Gunn	WKT	6	4253	387 17
5 Liz Fagerlund	CHC	6	4160	378 11
6 Bob Johnstone	NEL	5	4245	386 10
7 Shirley Hol	CHC	5	4192	381 17
8 Bill Grigg	DUN	5	4106	373 16
9 Doreen Ogston	CHC	4	4169	379 16
10 Paul Lister	CHC	4	4120	375 10
11 Gerald Warner	ROD	3	4041	367 11
12 Margaret Lyall	CHC	2	3875	352 13

**Grade B**

1 Elsie Malkin	CHC	8	3911	391 13
2 Kathleen Mori-Barker	CHC	7	3883	388 13
3 Anne Hough	NEL	6	4092	409 12
4 Yvonne MacKenzie	CHC	6	3590	359 9
5 Mary Pinchin	CHC	6	3539	354 3
6 Malcolm Graham	CHC	6	3508	351 8
7 Pat Johnstone	NEL	6	3440	344 7
8 Katrina Kerr-Renwick	CHC	4	2820	282 7
9 Bill Tozer	CHC	3	2413	241 3
10 Dorothy Latta	IND	2	3056	306 3
11 Gordon Pinchin	CHC	1	3496	350 9

**Grade C**

1 Julie Giles	CHC	9	3849	350 7
2 Jean Clarke	STR	8	4301	391 11
3 Brian Horsley	CHC	8	3786	344 7
4 Ed Olson	STR	7	3886	353 6
5 Heather Port	CHC	7	3685	335 6
6 Sally McNulty	CHC	6	3362	306 7
7 Anton van Essen	CHC	5	3575	325 4
8 Shirley van Essen	CHC	4	3464	315 3
9 Mary Lewis	CHC	4	3358	305 6
10 Bev Munro	CHC	4	3031	276 1
11 David McDonald	CHC	2	3067	279 2
12 Vivien Henderson	CHC	2	2847	259 3

**National Scrabble  
Championships  
Hamilton, May 31 - June 1,  
1997****13 Games**

Name	Club	Wins	Score	Ave. B/W
<b>Grade A</b>				
1 Nigel Richards	CHC	11	6405	493 35
2 Kendall Boyd	DUN	10	5571	429 24
3 Mike Sigley	WAN	9	5507	424 23
4 Jeff Grant	HAS	7	5666	436 29
5 John Foster	MTA	7	5547	427 27
6 Peter Sinton	DUN	7	5143	396 19
7 Andrew Bradley	MTA	7	4958	381 16
8 Howard Warner	CAP	6	5312	409 18
9 Glenyss Buchanan	LOH	6	5119	394 17
10 Patrick Carter	MTA	6	5098	392 13
11 Glennis Hale	MTA	5	4824	371 19
12 Sheryl Davidson	IND	4	4747	365 15
13 Lynne Powell	NSB	3	4872	375 20
14 Chris Hooks	MTA	3	4575	352 13
<b>Grade B</b>				
1 Rosemary Cleary	WAN	9	5165	397 15
2 Margie Hurly	WAN	8	5431	418 21
3 Denise Gordon	WAN	8	5289	407 20
4 Valerie Mills	PAK	8	4761	366 11
5 Gerald Warner	ROD	7	5356	412 16
6 Pam Robson	WKT	7	5186	399 23
7 Margaret Bundock	ROD	7	4743	365 8
8 Fae Olson	STR	6	5125	394 23
9 Helen Sillis	NPL	6	5063	389 19
10 Alan Duval	MTA	5	4854	373 18

**A Grade winner, Nigel Richards (CHC)****C Grade winner, Alan Boyd (HAM)**

Name	Club	Wins	Score	Ave. B/W
<b>Grade C</b>				
11 Rob Talbot	MTA	5	4850	373 11
12 Lynn Wood	WEL	5	4843	373 15
13 Jane Walton	HAM	5	4794	369 21
14 Sue McRae	CAP	5	4761	366 19
<b>Grade D</b>				
1 Alan Boyd	HAM	9	5272	406 19
2 May Quigley	NSB	8	5212	401 18
3 Roger Coates	HAM	8	5090	392 18
4 Doreen O'Shea	HAS	8	5069	390 11
5 Reeva Pearson	STR	7	5184	399 28
6 Betty Gibb	HAM	7	5159	397 21
7 David Gunn	WKT	7	4922	379 19
8 Allie Quinn	NSB	6	5036	387 18
9 Ann Candler	NSB	6	4895	377 18
10 Andrée Prentice	WAN	6	4821	371 11
11 Eileen McLean	IND	5	4818	371 16
12 Isabel Zyp	HAM	5	4681	360 13
13 Jo Jackson	KIW	5	4638	357 7
14 Liz Fagerlund	CHC	4	4917	378 16
<b>Grade E</b>				
1 Anna Geange	MTA	11	5256	404 21
2 Lisa McLean	IND	9	5229	402 19
3 Paul Lister	CHC	9	5169	398 18
4 Steven Brown	HAM	8	5235	403 21
5 Faye Cronhelm	IND	8	5016	386 14
6 Yvonne Wilson	HAS	7	4901	377 9
7 Rhoda Cashman	ROD	6	4970	382 17
8 Andrew Coombes	WKT	6	4692	361 12
9 Gaye Norgren	WAN	6	4627	356 10
10 Glenda Geard	IND	5	4832	372 12
11 Norman Wheeler	WEL	5	4778	368 12
12 Karyn McDougall	MTA	4	4721	363 12

Name	Club	Wins	Score	Ave. B/W
13 Leila Thomson	LOH	4	4709	362 13
14 Max Aston	LOH	3	4725	363 11

## Grade E

1 Marj Baillie	KIW	9	5075	390 16
2 Marian Ross	DUN	9	4849	373 15
3 Sue Walker	MTA	8	5102	392 22
4 Kim Graham	NSB	8	5071	390 16
5 Shirley Martin	HAM	7	4823	371 18
6 Margaret Cherry	PAK	7	4728	364 12
7 Lorraine Van Veen	PAK	6	4965	382 16
8 Peggy Wallace	HAM	6	4860	374 14
9 Clare Wall	HAM	6	4785	368 15
10 Elsie Malkin	CHC	6	4660	358 11
11 Ann Hough	NEL	5	5250	404 22
12 Elaine Moltzen	KIW	5	4906	377 15
13 Correne James	IND	5	4721	363 9
14 Margaret Simpson	PAK	4	4806	370 18

## Grade F

1 Malcolm Graham	CHC	10	4926	379 16
2 Betty Eriksen	WAN	9	4785	368 12
3 Hazel Purdie	MTA	8	4916	378 10
4 Mary Gray	MTA	8	4778	368 13
5 Liz Catchpole	MTA	8	4667	359 10
6 Margaret Parsons	TPO	7	5031	387 8
7 Irene Hague-Smith	MTA	7	4598	354 10
8 Elsie Pugh	HAM	6	4743	365 13
9 Valma Gidman	ROD	5	4558	351 6
10 Dawn Kitzen	PHC	5	4508	347 14
11 Pam Barlow	PAK	5	4422	340 10
12 Margaret Forbes	PHC	5	4402	339 7
13 Val Worth	IND	5	4127	317 7
14 Annette Coombes	WKT	3	4516	347 13

## Grade G

1 Dean Riesterer	PAK	10	5237	403 13
2 Pam Mayall	HAM	9	4848	373 11
3 June Ward	HAS	8	4701	362 9
4 Michael Hyndman	CAP	8	4673	359 9
5 Janice Cherry	PAK	8	4251	327 18
6 Olwen Skelton	ROD	7	4752	366 11
7 Marie Cairns	TPO	7	4659	358 7
8 Jean Clarke	STR	7	4626	356 9
9 Jillian Greening	HAM	6	4639	357 14
10 Brian Horsley	CHC	6	4353	335 12
11 Ed Olson	STR	5	4341	334 4
12 Rose Roselea	HAS	4	4644	357 10
13 Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell	HAM	3	4457	343 10
14 Mike Miller	WKT	3	3777	291 10



**Pam Mayall (HAM) receiving the Georgie Award, donated by Lynne Butler (NPL) in memory of Georgie Offringa**

Name	Club	Wins	Score	Ave. B/W
<b>Grade H</b>				
1 Elaine King	MTA	10	4763	366 12
2 David Sutcliffe	WKT	10	4691	361 15
3 Margaret Hanson	PHC	9	4893	376 9
4 Karen Miller	PAK	7	4683	360 3
5 Pat Hutchison	HAS	7	4336	334 6
6 Carl Gray	CAP	6	4922	379 20
7 Nola Steevens	HAS	6	4318	332 8
8 Vera Burner	WAN	4	3865	297 0
9 Jane Gannaway	CAP	3	4061	312 10
10 Chris Christie	CAP	3	3968	305 3

## Grade H

Team Prize: Christchurch Scrabble Club

### One Man's Meat

Noah Webster's *Compendious Dictionary* published in 1806 contains the following succinct entry:

HORSEMEAT n meat for horses

At first reading this seems very strange as everyone knows that horses are vegetarian. However, the archaic meaning of 'meat' is 'anything eaten as food', as in the well-known saying 'one man's meat is another man's poison', or in Scrabble terms, 'one player's YAIOUUG! what rubbish, is another player's OUGUIYA'.

## NZ Scrabble Records

Shown below is the current list of NZ Scrabble records.

If anyone can improve on or correct any of the entries, please let us know.

Record	Tournament Level		Club Level	
	Score	Player (Club)	Score	Player (Club)
<b>Highest Game Score</b>	717	Mike Sigley (WAN)	763	John Foster (MTA)
<b>Highest Losing Score</b>	513	Jeff Grant (HAS)	521	June Mackwell (MTA)
<b>Highest Drawn Game</b>	456	Lynne Butler (NPL) & Glenyss Buchanan (LOH)	482	Margaret Warren (HAS) & Jeff Grant (HAS)
<b>Highest Single Turn</b>	221	Sheryl Davidson (PAK)	284	Sheryl Davidson (PAK) Shirley Wyatt (MTA)
<b>Highest Single Turn Non-bonus</b>	108	Blue Thorogood (IND)	261	John Foster (MTA)
<b>Highest Combined Score</b>	1078	Howard Warner (CAP) & David Lloyd (MTA)	1106	Dawn Kitzen (PHC) & Chris Hooks (MTA)
<b>Largest Winning Margin</b>	493	Mike Sigley (WAN)	500	Glynis Jennings (MTA)
<b>Highest Take-off</b>	52	Andrée Prentice (WAN) Marj Baillie (HAM)	68	Andrew Bradley (MTA)
<b>Most Bonus Words (3 Game Evening)</b>	—	—	13	David Lloyd (MTA)
<b>Highest 3-Game Aggregate</b>	—	—	1805	Nigel Richards (CHC)
<b>Most Consecutive Bonus Words</b>	5	Allie Quinn (NSB)	5	John Foster (MTA)
<b>Most Bonus Words in Game (1 person)</b>	?	?	6	Mike Sigley (WAN)
<b>Most Bonus Words in Game (2 people)</b>	8	Mike Sigley (WAN) & Glenyss Buchanan (LOH)	8	Dawn Kitzen (PHC) & Chris Hooks (MTA)
<b>Highest Average Single Tournament (Any Grade)</b>	584	Nigel Richards (CHC)	—	—

Does anyone know of worthy efforts for the new categories?