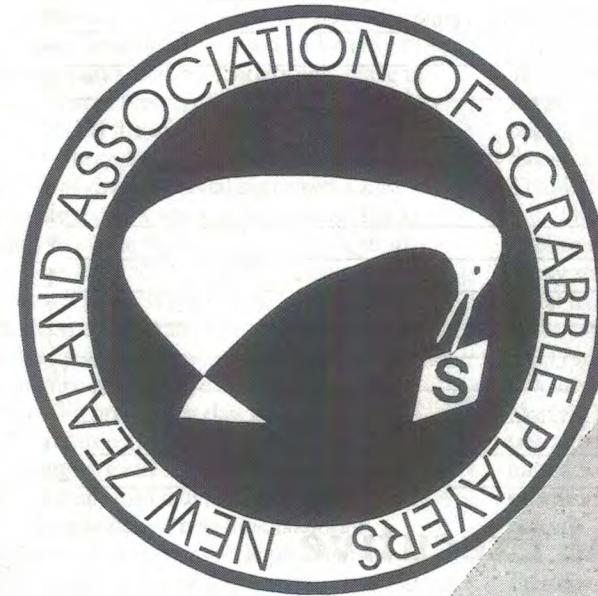


## Contact Information

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 0989	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)	Shirley Martin	07 843 5831	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 (KIWI)	Elaine Moltzen	07 843 5108	Thurs 7pm	Sunningdale Hall
Mt Maunganui / Papamoa (MMP)	Ngairi 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)	Rosemary Cleary	06 348 8098	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	03 546 8977	Wed 7pm	Golden Links Hall, 93 Vanguard St
Christchurch (CHC)	Margaret Lyall	03 332 5963	Fri 7pm	Sydenham Community Centre
Dunedin (DUN)	Chris Handley	03 464 0199	Tues 7pm	Otago Chess Club, Maitland St.
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# FORWORDS

Official Journal of the New Zealand Association of Scrabble Players  
Number 51 June 1998



Masters

Competitions

From Novice to Expert

NZ Nationals

Australian Champs



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## NZASP National Executive

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## Editor's Note

The 15th NZ Masters Championship hosted by Papatotoe/Holy Cross Club went smoothly. Thanks to all concerned, and congratulations to Dunedin's Kendall Boyd on winning his second title.

Competitive Scrabble is flourishing in the South Island. The Dunedin Open in April, and the South Island Champs in Christchurch in May, were both well-organised and enjoyed by all participants. South Islanders now make up 20 per cent of New Zealand's players, and they have three of the top five on the ratings list.

The popular North Shore Bays event on Anzac Day drew the usual big crowd. Once again the tourney was a great success, thanks mainly to all the work put in by Allie Quinn.

The 1998 NZ National Champs attracted 92 keen Scrabblers (including 11 South Islanders) to the Waikato Polytech in Hamilton. It was nice to see Aussie John Holgate back after an absence of several years. John swept all before him on the first day, but couldn't maintain his run. A certain editor is still thanking his lucky stars (and tiles!) for the final game turnaround that brought victory.

We now have a new-look National Executive, with Glennis Hale president and David Lloyd vice-president (our congratulations to David and Christine on their recent engagement). Lyn Dawson has also been co-opted onto the committee. To outgoing president John Foster and vice-president Gerald Warner our heartfelt thanks. Thanks also to treasurer Bev Barker and secretary Allie Quinn who have agreed to stay on in their important positions. I hope you will all give the new Executive your full support.

Several remits were passed at the AGM. It was voted to hold the 1999 Nationals in Wellington, players tied on wins will now be separated on spread (margins) rather than points, and *Webster's 10th Collegiate* has been adopted as a further backup dictionary for longer words.

The Hamilton people did a great job of organising the Nationals this year, particularly Pam Robson who was responsible for the excellent prizes. The new prize-giving dinner venue was superb too. I'm sure everyone appreciated the cosy surroundings.

A number of players didn't make it to the Nationals this year, for one reason or another. This wouldn't usually rate a mention, but I'd just like to put in a word for Val Worth of Putaruru. Because of illness, Val didn't get to Hamilton, but she very kindly donated her entry and dinner money to the World Champs fund. Thanks a lot Val, we all wish you well.

The team for the Trans-Tasman Challenge in November has now been chosen and it looks pretty strong. Hopefully we can reverse the result from Sydney '96. Thanks to John Foster for organising an excellent venue, and to Mattel (NZ) Ltd for their generous sponsorship.

It's still not too late to sign up for the Norfolk Island Scrabble Festival in September (see advert page 9). It really is a fantastic place to have a Scrabble holiday, and the organisers are promising to make the 10th Festival something special.

Keep your eye out for an *Inside NZ* (TV3, Tuesday night) programme featuring Scrabble — some time in July we're told.

Finally, thanks to everyone who has sent in material for *Forwards*. We are always on the lookout for interesting items of Scrabble news, wordy snippets, cartoons, big scores, funny incidents and photos (we'd love more of these!).

Last, but not least, particular thanks to Glenda, our layout editor, for all her excellent work.

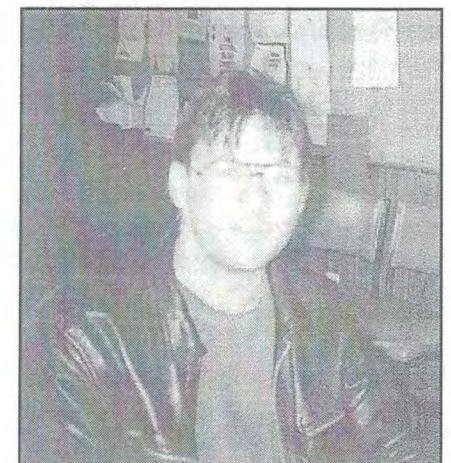
Closing date for the September issue is August 25.

**Happy Scrabbling**  
Jeff

# Seraphs Ephedras

by William R Webster  
United States

- Do you recognise these sayings?  
(With a few twists) All anagrams are allowable Scrabble words.
- ❖ Oot myna socko polis het throbb.
  - ❖ Heats samek sweat.
  - ❖ Eth dentated top nerve stopover.
  - ❖ Het diet waist fro on nam.
  - ❖ Hewn eth shoer si telson, thus het bleats odor.
  - ❖ How si eth finder, hewn eon ash dene?
  - ❖ Wen bromos weeps lance.
  - ❖ Brunt cone, adder rife.
  - ❖ Eh yam propers mots, how verses bets.
  - ❖ Ti this eth lain no het hade.
  - ❖ Apres eth dor, polis het disk.
  - ❖ Het yonis hafts gest eth eagers.
  - ❖ Veery night si kayo, hewn ti send kayo.
  - ❖ License si longed.
  - ❖ Ethers ton eon night wen nuder het nus.
- Answers on page 11.



David Lloyd, Vice-President NZASP

# President's Message

by Glennis Hale

Mid-Winter greetings to all readers of Forwards and Scrabble friends. As the new President of the NZASP, I look forward with enthusiasm to the busy year that lies ahead.

The 10th Norfolk Island Scrabble Festival, the Trans-Tasman Challenge in Auckland this year and the 1999 New Zealand National Tournament in Wellington are all significant milestones in New Zealand Scrabble. I am honoured and proud, after 16 years of active involvement in New Zealand Scrabble to be part of the new team leading Scrabblers into this exciting new era.

On behalf of David, Allie, Bev and Lyn, I would like to thank everyone for their great support and best wishes. Happy Scrabbling to you all.



Glennis Hale, President NZASP

# Crossword Car Winner

by Colleen Bowden (ex-Hastings)  
Burleigh Waters, Queensland

Thank you very much for Issue 50 of the NZ Scrabble magazine, which was as usual very enlightening. I have been an absentee from Scrabble-playing recently, but have had rather a large slice of luck. On March 27 I got the shock of my life to find I had won a brand new Daihatsu car in a *That's Life!* magazine crossword competition!

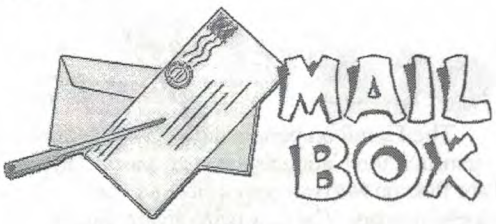
I hear there is a programme featuring Scrabble coming up soon on TV in New Zealand [*Inside NZ*, TV3]. Pity I won't be there to see it. Hope everyone at the club is happy and well.

# Nerveless?

by Arnold Bunny, Wallingford

I played a game of Scrabble with my brother Ron in the shearers' quarters on Queen's Birthday Monday. Halfway through I found the word VETERAN on my rack, but it wouldn't go down. You can imagine my excitement when I spotted NERVATE and was able to play it for 85. Ron later extended the word to ENERVATE, and then I added a D on the end. Being 100 points ahead with no tiles in the bag, I felt quite safe, but Ron went out with DECLAWS, making the 10-letter word DENERVATED. I can't find either of these in my dictionaries and therefore claim the win, but Ron absolutely insists they are OK. Who is right?

[I am afraid Ron wins! DECLAW (to remove the claws, of a cat for example), and DENERVATE (to deprive of a nerve supply, as by cutting a nerve), are both new words, allowed from June 1, the day of your game. I know Glenyss Buchanan (LOH) will be one person pleased to see DECLAW finally allowed! Bad luck, Arnold. — Ed.]



# Greetings from Queensland

by Michael Vnuk  
Annerley, Queensland

Thanks for the March *Forwards* which was, as always, an interesting read. I must commend you on the generally high standards of spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Was the World Champs Final between Joel Sherman and Matt Graham a best-of-five contest? It wasn't clear who was responsible for the useful comments on each move for Game 4.

[Yes, the World Champs Final was best of five games. The comments accompanying Game 4 were a mixture of computer analysis and my own observations.

Michael is now the new editor of the Aussie Scrabble magazine *Across the Board*, and will be joining other Queenslanders at the Norfolk Island Scrabble Festival in September. We look forward to meeting him there. — Jeff]

# New Addition

by Mauro Pratesi,  
London, England

Thanks for your latest edition of *Forwards*. Diane and I have had an addition — on February 20 Natasha Cinnamon was born. [Congratulations!] Jessica is fine, and I'm looking forward to teaching her chess, then cards, then Scrabble. Jessica knows how to read numbers and letters and playing cards, and she can play dominos — she's only 2¼! Speech is slow!

[Dianne Pratesi competed in the 1st World Scrabble Champs in London in 1991. — Ed.]

# Competition Corner



## Solution: Scrabble contest No. 50

We received lots of excellent haiku (Note: haikus not allowed in Scrabble!). Here are some of the better ones:

Seven letter word  
Put it on a triple triple  
Congratulations!  
(Margaret Forbes, PHC)

Phizog is a word  
So are sukkah, neep and sal  
Scrabble's not easy  
(Nigel Richards, CHC)

A rose, a child's laugh  
And a triple triple word  
Are some of life's joys.  
(Lyn Toka, KIW)

Help! First game Nigel  
Fifty minutes later I'd  
Joined the T-shirt club.  
(Val Mills, PAK)

We had to disqualify a few entries for various reasons, including David Lloyd's epic entitled 'Damn!', which featured that word repeated 17 times (no rhymes in haiku). It was apparently written after an unfortunate (for David) endgame at the Masters.

After much consideration we decided that the following effort by Rhoda Cashman (ROD) best encapsulated the essence of Scrabble. Well done, Rhoda!

Infuriating.  
Frustrating, time-consuming,  
Addictive — Scrabble.

## Scrabble Contest No. 51

We have a cryptic puzzle this time, based on word and number rebuses. Can you solve the Scrabble words clued below? The number in brackets after the rebus indicates the length of the word you're looking for. Some of them are quite obscure! Examples: YUETIDE (4) = NOEL (no L), XLR8 (10) = ACCELERATE.

1. 4TISH (8)
2. F/8 (8)
3. 6 <sup>2</sup>/<sub>7</sub> (4)
4. 6x20 (8)
5. PLYPLYPLYPLY, et al. (9)
6. 2PAL (6)
7. OILUS (8)
8. WOLB (8)
9. 144ART (8)
10. 309 (9)

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  
RD2, Hastings

## A Study of Anagram Propinquity

by Jethro Snafflerod

When casually thumbing my way through my newly-acquired *Redwood Word List*, I came across the anagram pair AGONIES/AGONISE which happen to be consecutive listings. Wondering how many other such pairs there might be, I made a note of any I found during my first skim-through of the book. I recorded a total of 58 pairs and Oddly Valid has contributed a further 20 pairs to make a total of 78.

## Trans-Tasman Team

The following 12 players have been selected to represent New Zealand against Australia in the second Trans-Tasman Challenge, which will be held from November 21-23 in the conference room at the Ellerslie International Motor Inn, Auckland.

Jeff Grant	Howard Warner
Nigel Richards	John Foster
Mike Sigley	Glennis Hale
Kendall Boyd	David Lloyd
Peter Sinton	Lynne Powell
Patrick Carter	Sheryl Davidson

## Spell-A-Bration

American Scrabble company Milton Bradley staged a 'Spell-a-bration Spectacular' in New York in February to mark 1998 as the 50th anniversary of Scrabble. Various celebrities played alongside top Scrabblers and around \$US25,000 was raised for the Literacy Volunteers of America.

There will be an award of a book prize to anyone who can better this total. Please note that the sole criterion is the way the words are listed in *Redwood*. For example, I do not allow FRESHEST/FRESHETS because FRESHET is listed between them, but do allow SALTPEPPER/SALTPETRE regardless of the fact that SALTPEPPERS would be listed between them were it not for the strict 9-letter limitation.

Just in case this challenge is too simple for all you computer buffs, and we have not missed any, I will even award the prize if you can match our total **and** supply a pair of exact synonyms and a pair of exact antonyms which are **not** anagrams but are also consecutive *Redwood* listings.

Entries by August 25 to:  
Jethro Snafflerod  
89A Manuka Road  
Glenfield, Auckland

## Word Maths Revisited

Alan Boyd (HAM) has pointed out that the Scrabble word with the highest total is not UNTRUSTWORTHY (242), but the adverbial form UNTRUSTWORTHILY (263), which is listed in *Chambers Dictionary*. Actually, Nigel originally submitted the correct answer, but it somehow got shortened in the editing process! Sorry about that.

## Scrabble Pokies?

You might be surprised to learn that there are around 200 Scrabble arcade coin-operated games around the UK, marketed by the JPM company. The machine selects the word you are playing for, so unfortunately, for good players, there is no skill involved.

*Scrabble Club News* (UK), May 1998

The Mt Albert Scrabble Club  
Tournament is to be held this  
year on the **second** weekend in  
October:

**Date:** October 10 & 11  
**Venue:** Auckland Bridge Club  
Remuera

Please amend your calendars!

# What's The Best Play?

The April issue of the British *APSP Newsletter* carried this board position, which occurred in a Middlesex League match between David Webb and Philip Cohen. At the time David was trailing 252 – 291, holding the letters CDENPRT, and it was his turn.

In David's words, "I was delighted by what I played for 43 points, but was sickened by what I missed." [presumably revealed later with computer analysis of the game].

Can you find David's excellent play, and the even better move he missed? Answers on page 21.



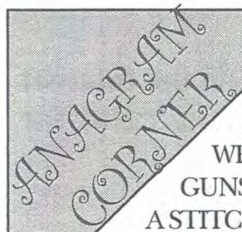
# The Status of Redwood and Griffon

There are two main differences between *The Redwood International Scrabble Word List* and *The Griffon Word List*. First, *Griffon* only goes up to 8-letter words, while *Redwood* also has 9-letter words, but this will have little effect on most games. Second, there have been some amendments to *Griffon*. The amended *Griffon* is exactly equivalent to *Redwood* for all words up to 8 letters long. Either can be used. The amended *Griffon* has not become invalid; *Redwood* is just more convenient.

However, Chambers had an injunction placed on Hinkler, the publisher of *Redwood*, preventing Hinkler from distributing more copies. A joint press release was issued by the two companies in April: "Chambers Harrap Publishers, Edinburgh, and Hinkler Book

Distributors Pty Ltd, Melbourne, have announced a resolution of their dispute regarding the publication of the *Redwood International Scrabble Word List*. Hinkler have recognised the copyright of *Chambers Official Scrabble Words* and have agreed to withdraw permanently the *Redwood* book from the market. The two companies hope to collaborate in future Scrabble related titles."

This means the *Redwood* will probably not be available in shops for much longer. However, this decision does not affect anyone who has bought the book. You are still quite free to use it, or an amended *Griffon*. What effect this will have on the planned *International Scrabble Players Dictionary* remains to be seen.



Scrabblers are dab hands at transposing letters, for example SHREW to WERSH and PUSHING to GUNSHIP. On a higher level, A STITCH IN TIME SAVES NINE anagrams to the very apt THIS IS MEANT AS INCENTIVE. Here are half-a-dozen Scrabblers' anagrams. Keep watching and maybe your name will appear.

DOROTHY HAINING	RIDING ON HOT HAY
PATRICK CARTER	RACETRACK TRIP
LULU HOLT	THOU LULL
VALERIE MILLS	LIVELIER SLAM
STEVEN BROWN	TEN VERBS WON
SUSAN OLSON	LASSO NOUNS

# International Records

A list of North American 700+ individual games appears on the Internet. Top of the heap is a 792 apparently scored at a Chicago Scrabble club by Nick Ballard — when, we're not told. This may be the highest score achieved in official club or tournament play, but like Graeme Thomas's 789, details are sketchy. Mark Landsberg's well-documented tournament game of 770 probably stands out as the score to beat in the eyes of most Scrabblers.

### 6 Month Tournament Calendar

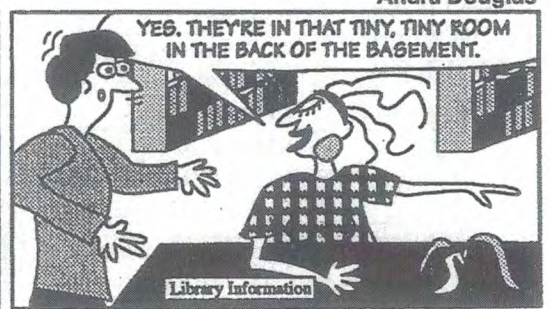
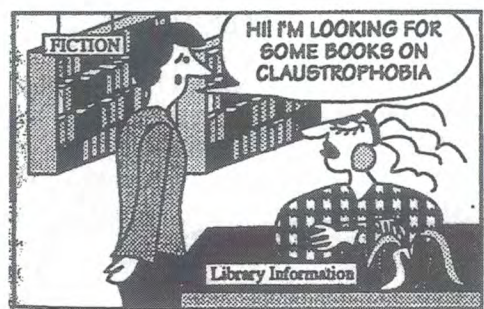
Papatoetoe/Holy Cross	4 July
New Plymouth	18 July
Stratford	19 July
Waikato	8 August
Hamilton	9 August
Canterbury Open	12-13 September
Norfolk Island	20-27 September
Scrabble Festival	
Mt Albert	10-11 October
Wanganui	24-25 October
Otago Open	7 November
Rodney	14 November
Trans-Tasman (Auck)	21-23 November



There must be more unusual words starting with K than just about any other letter. Here are a dozen uncommon K words to dazzle your opponents.

- |          |         |          |
|----------|---------|----------|
| KAJAWAH  | KHOTBEH | KOFTWORK |
| KAMAAINA | KIMCHI  | KOUMYSS  |
| KATCINA  | KLEZMER | KUMYS    |
| KENAF    | KNESSET | KUVASZOK |

Andra Douglas





Posted by Lawren Freebody (USA) on the Internet

Maybe you word list-lovers will enjoy this project I've been working on for a while. Can you find any others?

**Breeds**

AFFENPINSCHER  
AFGHAN



ALAN  
BASENJI  
BASSET  
BEAGLE  
BLOODHOUND  
BOARHOUND  
BOXER  
BORZOI  
BOUVIER  
BRIARD  
BULLDOG  
BULLMASTIFF  
CHIHUAHUA  
CLUMBER  
COCKAPOO  
COCKER  
COLLIE  
CORGI  
DACHSHUND  
DALMATIAN  
DEERHOUND  
ELKHOUND

FOXHOUND  
GAZEHOUND  
GREYHOUND  
HARRIER  
HUSKY  
KEESHOND  
KELPIE  
KOMONDOR  
KUVASZ  
LABRADOR  
MALAMUTE  
MALEMIUT  
MALEMUTE  
MASTIFF  
MESSAN  
PAPILLON  
PEKE  
PINSCHER  
POODLE



PULI  
REDBONE  
RETRIEVER  
ROTTWEILER  
SALUKI  
SCHNAUZER  
SCOTTIE  
SHEEPDOG  
SHIATSU  
SHIATZU  
SLEUTHHOUND  
SPANIEL  
SPITZ  
STAGHOUND



TANUKI  
TERRIER  
VIZSLA  
WHIPPET



WIREHAIR  
WOLFHOUND

**Generic Types**

BANDOG  
BAWTY  
BITCH  
BRACH  
CANID  
CANINE  
COONHOUND  
COYDOG  
CUR  
DHOLE  
DINGO  
DOG  
DOGGY  
FEIST  
FICE  
FYCE  
GUNDOG  
HOUND  
KURI  
LAPDOG  
MONGREL  
MUT  
MUTT

POOCH  
PUPPY  
WARRIGAL

**Sounds**

ARF  
BARK  
BAY  
BEHOWL  
BOWWOW  
GROWL  
HOWL  
ULULATE  
WOOF  
WHOOF  
YAFF  
YAP

**Breeds not Acceptable**

(usually capitalized)  
AIREDALE  
AKITA  
ALSATIAN  
BICHON FRISE  
DOBERMAN  
(GREAT) DANE  
(GREAT) PYRENEES  
PEKINGESE  
POMERANIAN  
(SAINT) BERNARD  
SAMOYED  
WEIMARANER



10th  
Norfolk Island



**Festival**

20 - 27 September 1998

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The Travel Centre

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of the Norfolk Island Scrabble® Festival.

## Big US Single Turn Score

The April 1 issue of the *American Library Journal* reports a recent function at the Milwaukee library where Joseph Koczan was given a special award for racking up 311 points for a single turn in a Scrabble tournament, which apparently earned him entry in the American version of the *Guinness Book of Records*. Of course the world record in the British edition of *The Book* is still Karl Khoshnaw's 392 for CAZIQUES, from way back in 1982 when high-scoring setup plays were all the rage in UK Scrabble.

Joseph's huge score was achieved with the word CRAZIEST on a triple-triple. The New Zealand tournament record is 221 set by Sheryl Davidson (PAK). Sheryl also holds the club record of 284 jointly with Shirley Wyatt (MTA). However, a score of 311 has been attained in a friendly game in New Zealand. Vivienne Williamson (ROD) got it with CROQUETS while playing Olwen Skelton on 3rd October, 1990. In April 1996, Elsie Malkin (CHC) scored 356 for JONQUILS against her computer.

## More Oxymora

David Lloyd (MTA) spotted more oxymora on the Internet. Just to refresh your memory, these are seemingly contradictory phrases or words like bittersweet, civil war and original copy. Here are some further oxymoronic examples:

act natural  
alone together  
anarchy rules  
casual intimacy  
colourless dye  
constant change  
crash landing

definite possibility  
deliberate mistake  
factual inaccuracy  
found missing  
friendly takeover  
hopelessly optimistic  
ill health

natural makeup  
near miss  
nonworking mother  
numb feeling  
old news  
paid volunteers  
peace force

## A l'eau — C'est l'heure

Wags at Eton are bent double over the latest wheeze doing the rounds. The motto of the French Navy, it is claimed, is: "A l'eau — c'est l'heure". Fair enough when translated as, "to the water — now is the hour". However the meaning is rather different when the motto is pronounced with a French accent and a loose wrist.

from *Wordsworth magazine*, edited  
by Ted Clarke, April 1998

## Magnetic I's

The March 1998 issue of Queensland's *Q-Files* reports on a game in which Greenbank Scrabbler Karrin Henderson got 17 I's! Of course there are only nine I's in the set, but Karrin's 'magnetic' fingers attracted them whenever she changed tiles.

## Losing Streaks

At the North Shore Bays tournament on Anzac Day, Sheryl Davidson (PAK) broke a 15-game losing streak against Howard Warner (IND). Howard is no stranger to such streaks, as he once lost 19 tournament games in a row to Jeff Grant (HAS).

## Master Words

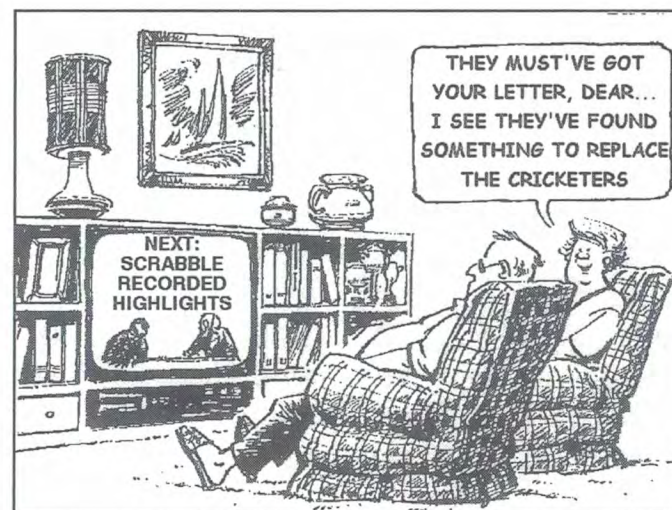
Here is a small selection of allowable words played by competitors at the NZ Masters Championship at Easter.

DHUTI	NASTIC
INDIGOID	OSTIARIES
TRIAZINS	BEAUXITE
ONCOSTS	LUDIC
APORIAS	RENVERST
TELECINE	TANTONY
NITRIFIES	EGYPTIAN
POROSOS	ZEALOTRY
PATINIZE	ENIACS
OVERDARE	TRIDARN
TEXASES	OTIOSELY
ABOIDEAU	DONNEE
SEROSAE	DISHABLE
MILVINE	MOTIONIST
CREPERIE	POSEABLE
SEADROME	OUGHIED

## Phrases Reshaped

from page 3

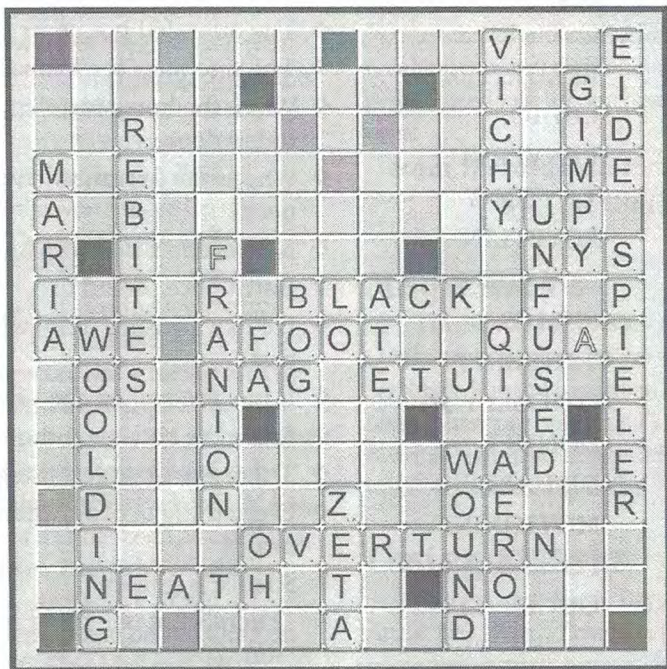
- ❖ Too many cooks spoil the broth.
- ❖ Haste makes waste.
- ❖ The attended pot never overtops.
- ❖ The tide waits for no man.
- ❖ When the horse is stolen, shut the stable door.
- ❖ Who is the friend, when one has need?
- ❖ New brooms sweep clean.
- ❖ Burnt once, dread fire.
- ❖ He may prosper most, who serves best.
- ❖ It hits the nail on the head.
- ❖ Spare the rod, spoil the kids.
- ❖ The noisy shaft gets the grease.
- ❖ Every thing is okay, when it ends okay.
- ❖ Silence is golden.
- ❖ There's not one thing new under the sun.



With apologies to Garrick Tremain

# 19-Move Computer Game

Jeff played this game against Maven on November 5 last year. There were plenty of fireworks! The game took only 19 moves, and Maven averaged 52 points per turn — but lost!



JEFF		MAVEN				
1	FOOT	14	14	BLACK	29	29
2	ETUI	9	23	UNFUSED	72	101
3	AERO	11	34	OVERTURN	82	183
4	ZETA	69	103	FRANION	70	253
5	NEATH	45	148	GIMPY	59	312
6	SPIELER	86	234	WOOLDING	65	377
7	MARIA	45	279	VICHY	48	425
8	QUAI	43	322	EIDE	29	454
9	WOUND	36	358	NAG	19	473
10	REBITES	81	439			
+40	AEJLSX		479			

# Felicific Fipples

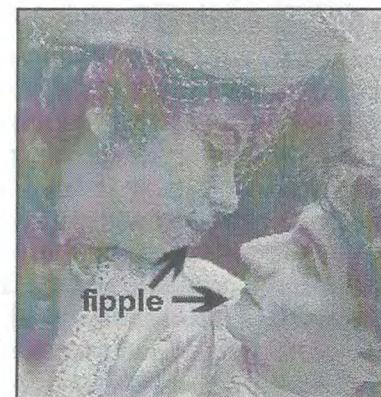
Margaret Warren (HAS) has drawn our attention to a *Word of the Week* column in the *Aussie Post* magazine. "In the interests of language conservation, **Berserk!** presents a selection of genuine words that through no fault of their own are threatened with extinction."

These terms are taken from *Mrs Byrne's Dictionary of Unusual, Obscure and Preposterous Words*, so, as you would expect, they are pretty strange. Most are not listed in Chambers, for

example ACAPNOTIC, a non-smoker, TELMATOLOGY, the study of peat bogs. ATMATERTERA, your great grandfather's grandmother's sister, and CLINOMANIA, an excessive desire to stay in bed, e.g. "I can't come in to work today, Boss, I've got a severe case of dinomania."

Fortunately some of these outlandish words are allowed in Scrabble. Here are six of the best.

- FIPPLE** the lower lip, eg "May I nibble your fipple?"
- FELICIFIC** producing happiness, eg "Another beer, bartender, I'm in urgent need of some felicific medication."
- UNDINISM** the association of water with erotic thoughts, eg "Hurry up in the bathroom, George, that's enough of your undinism!"



- ILLISION** striking against something, a good word to use on an insurance claim form, eg "There was a sudden illision involving my car and a tree."

- GYROMANCY** fortune-telling by walking in circles until dizzy. This is the correct name for the forecasting techniques used by economists.



- STEATOPYGOUS** having big buttocks, eg "Love that new dress, darling, it makes you look so steatopygous."



# Australian Championships

by Bob Jackman (Australia)

## Day One

The drama-filled 1998 Australian Championships in Hobart got off to an unusual start due to a curious first-game pairing system deployed by the organisers. The entering of names alphabetically by surname meant that spouses had a good chance of being drawn against each other in the first game. After battling Sydney storms and airport closure, I was thankful to even arrive at the venue, with my wife Liz, on the first day. Enthusiasm for the event was quickly replaced by disappointment when I checked the draw to find that I was drawn against Liz first game. I mean to say, we had already had three games at the airport, plus countless throughout the year, and now this!

Jim and Margaret Warmington suffered a similar fate, but not so the recently wed Alistair Kane and Sue Kyatt. Sue must have found out about the pairing system in advance, and so opted not to change her surname. They were therefore spared the pain of having to play each other first up.

But overall it was a smooth start for the 94 players gathered from all over Australia for the biggest event on Australia's Scrabble calendar. By the end of the first day, only John Holgate had gone through unscathed on seven wins. Hot on his heels were four players, all on six wins — evergreen Meg Henderson, cartoonist John Parker and Sydney duo Paul Cleary and Joanne Craig.

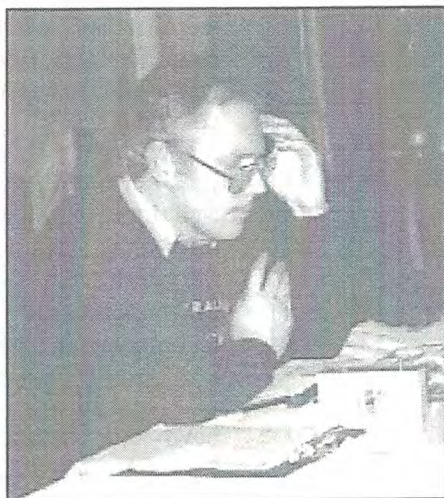
## Day Two

Day 2 started quietly with no hint of the disasters which were to follow. John Holgate dropped his first game against Meg to give three players a share of the lead. And that is when proceedings came to a standstill. The tournament results file from Day 1 was

nowhere to be found, on any computer, necessitating a manual draw for game 9 and the reentering of the entire results for Day 1. This mishap may have occurred due to the miskeying of the back-up command at the end of Day 1.

After about an hour's delay, game 9 finally got underway. I was busy losing my fourth consecutive game, when the next disaster struck. I glanced at my watch when I heard the scream and it was right on 12 midday. Nicole Findlay had been reentering the players area when she fell heavily, breaking her humerus bone. Continuing cries of pain from Nicole, as players came to her help, went unnoticed by many players engrossed in their endgames. At one stage the tournament director, at the front of the hall, called for quiet at the back of the hall, unaware of the accident that had occurred.

By the time the ambulance arrived, most players had finished game 9. An early lunch was taken as paramedics stabilised Nicole's condition, while just a few feet distant Sue Kyatt



John Holgate

and Barry Harridge carried on with the arduous task of reentering the Day 1 results. At 1.30pm, game 3 for the day finally got underway. John Holgate won his remaining four games for the day, to open a two game lead and far superior spread. Behind him now were Glenys Lawrie (WA) and Andrew Hamblin (TAS) on 10 wins, and 8 players on 9 wins headed by Derek McKenzie, myself, Paul Cleary and Malaysian entrant Tengku Asri.

## Day Three

Day 3 kicked off early in an attempt to make up the lost game on Day 2. John Holgate won his game against Glenys Lawrie, while Andrew Hamblin also lost, thus increasing John's lead to 3 games plus spread. The result now looked like a foregone conclusion. But such was not to be the case as disaster now struck John in the form of consecutive losses to Andrew Hamblin and Roger Blom. Suddenly his lead was down to just one win, and a much reduced spread differential over myself, having now followed the four losses with seven consecutive wins.

John and I both won game 17, myself with a good spread to further reduce John's spread advantage. In my game against Ann Radan, Ann had played QUALITY through the I placed on the centre square with my opening move. Next move I hooked the E to make WHEAT and EQUALITY for 38 points, and 2 moves later reached the triple letter score with IN to make INEQUALITY and 62 points.

Time was running out for me. I needed one more win, with John losing, to draw level for the play-off game. As fate would have it, Game 18 saw me drawn against Alistair Kane, while John drew Alistair's wife Sue. And as fate would also have it, we both lost our games to the newlyweds. The double loss had the effect of bringing other players back into contention. Sydney taxi-driver John Barker was only a game off the pace now, while Alistair, Andrew

and Glenys were a game further back and still outside chances.

Game 19 was crucial. I needed to throw caution to the wind against Ruby Given and win by a large margin. But things did not all go my way. Ruby found a natural bingo with the unlikely SHUSHES, and I replied with WAZOOS for 82 spending my blank. I was relieved when Ruby did not challenge, as I was unsure of the word when I played it. In the end, I recorded a narrow and somewhat hollow victory to qualify for the play-off. Meanwhile John had donkey-licked Jim Warmington by over 200 points, leaving John one game and 374 margin points clear.

John drew the start in the final game, and I knew I would have to bingo early to have a chance. My opening rack was CONCHIS and I knew if John were to play an E in his opening move, I would have the start I needed. But he didn't. From then on I decided to go for the win first, and the margin second. John Barker was playing Alistair in another play-off, and a win to John over Alistair with me losing would have relegated me to third.

As it turned out, I won the game against John by a healthy margin of 112 points, but the title was John's, most deservedly, as he had led virtually all the way. John Barker lost to Alistair in the second play-off game to give Alistair third place, while John Barker finished a very creditable fourth.

Here are the top ten finishers:

	Player	Wins	Margin
1	John Holgate	15	1519
2	Bob Jackman	15	1372
3	Alistair Kane	14	1104
4	John Barker	14	940
5	Glenys Lawrie	14	464
6	Roger Blom	13	1167
7	Paul Cleary	13	930
8	Sue Kyatt	13	794
9	Lindsay Van Niekerk	13	637
10	Andrew Hamblin	13	368



# The Journey from Novice to Expert

## Some musings for those who aspire to better Scrabble

Excerpts from an Internet series [Part 1]

by Steve Pellinen (Minnesota, USA)

### The Beginning

There is already some good reading out there for aspiring experts, but since some of you are reading this forum anyway I thought I would offer some observations as food for thought. They're as much for me as for anyone since I still have improvement goals ahead of me too, despite supposedly being an expert player.

Ah, there's the first rub. One person's expert is still another person's patsy. The player who reaches a 1000 rating will be nearly unbeatable in the living room context, rightly considered an expert by family and any remaining friends who still feel like playing. This home-grown expert then enters the harsh reality of tournament life where they face the daunting task of becoming a true expert.

A lot of effort must be made to get to 1600 or 1700, or whatever rating you want to consider expert level. Yet to the 2000 player, 1600 is not to be feared, despite the occasional annoying upset such a player is capable of inflicting. Same thing for the 1600 player who occasionally will lose to the 1000 player. Over the long haul, the better player will win more often. Ratings growth and tournament victories are there for the improving player.

So, there are experts, and then there are Experts. And somewhere in between there are expErts like me who know what they have to do to become Experts. The process is similar for anyone who wants to improve their game. Studying words and strategy and practising new skills are essential. However, the loftier your goals, the more refined your process must become.

Learn the two, three and most of the four letter words. Learn the rules and etiquette of tournament play. Learn some common stem bingos. Learn rack management and exchange strategy. Become proficient at tracking and using time. Learn basic endgame principles. Learn most of the vowel dumps and JQXZ words. Get a good start on the five letter words.

The player who achieves reasonable proficiency at most of the above will get to 1600 with a little effort. It may take one year, it may take three years or more. You decide, by your effort and proclivities.

### Study Priorities

A few years ago I made a list of study priorities to give some direction to what was now going to be a task plagued by the law of diminishing returns. Then I lost the list, but I didn't have time to structure a study life around it anyway so it wasn't missed. Except perhaps for a few extremely gifted types, the road to expertdom gets steeper and steeper the farther you travel. All aspiring experts should be aware of this and prepare for it in their own best way. The principle is expressed in different ways in different contexts, but it has this in common: you will accomplish about 80 percent of your task in 20 percent of the time. The remaining 20 percent will never be fully completed, but if you structure a program and follow through you might get close over the additional 80 percent of the time you have left.

For me, the rewards of studying were very apparent until I got to about an 1800 rating. From then on, I've realised that I have to do a whole lot of studying for fairly marginal returns. I have been unwilling/unable to work

that level of effort into my life, but I intend to do it before too long. Age comes into play, and what was easy at 25 is a bit harder at 45. But since I intend to play until I'm 85 or so, I still have some time.

### Make studying fun.

I think there was a Fleetwood Mac song about that, which reminds me of a method I've thought about but haven't tried. Someone has probably done this, but I've wondered if one could put lists of odd words to music, compose a ditty or even a real song using those words and thereby remember them forever. I intend to try this, but for now I'll mention some of the tried and true methods. (I do have a chant that helps me remember all the odd four letter comparing adjectives ending in Y, but I didn't set it to music. Some players have written poems and stories with odd words, but that hasn't worked for me. I'm hoping the associative power of music makes it more effective).

If you're in a hurry to get your rating up, there are at least two ways to go. Some players simply study the dictionary. Read it, make notes, read it again, make more notes, read it again and again and again. Not very exciting, not much fun, but straightforward and easy to do anywhere, anytime. If it works for you, go for it. One benefit from this approach is a more eclectic vocabulary. You may draw more challenges than the player who has studied the most probable words, which most experts tend to know. But you may not play as many bingos either, because the strangest words aren't the most probable. On the other hand, if you learn all the words, you may play more bingos.

The other way to improve fast (assuming you've attained reasonable mastery of the short words) is to go the probability route. Learn the

bingos that arise from the most likely letter combinations. Much has been written and done to aid in this approach. The Word Book, The Blank Book, stem lists, Video Flashcards, Lexpert and other tree-ware and software is out there for aspiring and continuing experts to aid in improving their game, and most make use of probability to prioritise the process.

Then there is the task of learning to find anagrams quickly, since the words don't usually form themselves on your rack. Maximise what you can memorise, then use a consistent method for finding what you don't see immediately. Some players always put their letters on their racks alphabetically. Some put

the vowels first. Some don't care if the tiles are sideways or upside down or in any order. Again, find what works best for you. Then put together prefixes, suffixes, common endings, etc. Don't forget to look for compound words, and don't be shy about shuffling the tiles on your rack. If nothing else it may give your opponent something to worry about, thinking you're about to find that triple-triple.

In the end, it's very hard to make studying fun and also efficient. Everyone makes tradeoffs, and everyone has to determine their own most effective method. The important thing is to have a method (if your goal is rapid improvement). Work some variety into your approach and it may be a little more fun. There's no getting around the fact that to get good, you've got to work hard. To get very, very good, you've got to work very, very hard. Bummer.

### Secrets that experts don't want you to know.

Of course, I'm not going to reveal all of these (I still want to be able to beat those of you who rise to the expert ranks).

*The important thing is to have a method*

- ✪ An expert doesn't always tell the truth. The best way to apply this is to not believe everything (anything?) your opponent says with respect to their game, their tendencies, their strengths and weaknesses, etc. This is good to remember at all levels, at least until you get to know the person.
- ✪ Watch out for phoney opening plays, especially the 5-6 letter variety. This is rare, but sometimes your opponent is testing you - your willingness to challenge, your word knowledge, etc. Or they don't really mind if you challenge their play off because they're sitting with RETINAO and know they've got better than half a chance to bingo through any play you make. Of course, their opening play may give you a juicy opening as well, so then you have to decide whether to use it or challenge. If you challenge off an opening play, consider exchanging to improve your own situation since you know your opponent isn't going to do anything great. [OTARINE isn't allowed in America.]
- ✪ Experts don't want you to know the three letter front extensions to five letter words. Five letter opening plays are fairly common. You want to know that QUEAN takes COT in front, or ZOONS goes with MAD and MAT. Experts want these easy 50-60 point plays for themselves.
- ✪ When you have both blanks on your rack, don't automatically play one of the zillion 60 point bingos available to you. Look first to see if you have a 30 or 40 point play using just one of the blanks. Depending on strategic considerations, it may be worth

splitting the blanks. Even with one blank it may be better to pass up a bingo in favour of a high scoring alternate play. Usually I will play the blank if it nets me around 40 points more than the next best play, but there are times to deviate from this.

- ✪ Near the end of a game in which you hold a lead, consider passing instead of playing. Again, relatively rare, but there are times when the best play is no play. It's an easy choice to pass if by playing and drawing the Q you are certain to lose. There are similar situations with other letters, or you may need your opponent to play off a particular letter to give you a shot at winning.
- ✪ Going over on time isn't always the end of the world. Avoid it if you can, get better at playing faster early in the game, but don't panic near game's end by making stupid blunders just to avert time penalties. This isn't chess - here, time only cripples, it doesn't kill. If by going overtime you find a winning bingo or other play, it's time well-spent. But

minutes overtime not finding what turned out to be a fairly common word. Had I found it 8 minutes into overtime, I still would have won. Never mind that I could have won easily by going out in two turns before time expired, instead of looking for a bingo.

**To be continued next issue.**

## No Letters Repeated by Alan Boyd, Hamilton

What is the longest word in the English language with no letter used more than once? For example, ARTICHOKE is a 9-letter word where all letters are different, and it can be extended by adding an S.

Note that hyphenated forms like DISH-WATER are not allowed, nor are words with letters repeated, such as PARLIAMENT (two As).

There are a number of words with no repeated letters at the 11- and 12-letter levels, for instance BRICKSHAPED, PERSONALITY, SWITCHBLADE, CONSIDERABLY, DISCOUNTABLE.

Longer words with this quality are much scarcer. Some examples: COPYRIGHTABLE (13), UNDISCOVERABLY (13), HYDROMAGNETICS (14).

There seems to be only one 15-letter word with no letters repeated — DERMATOGLYPHICS, the study of skin patterns.

[The 15-letter word UNCOPYRIGHTABLE appears in some large dictionaries. A pity there is no plural form. However, the contrived 17-letter term SUBDERMATOGLYPHIC has been used in a medical text, but it was made up for the occasion, which may not be quite fair. — Ed.]

## What's The Best Play? (Answers from page 6)

David played DRENT in the bottom left corner for 43. The move he missed was PREDICTION through the I of GUIDE and the IO of HAIKS/AERO for 91. Not many players would have seen that one!

## Mike's Musings

With over 100,000 words logged in his memory, Wanganui Scrabble champion, Mike Sigley probably wouldn't be a popular choice for a crossword compiler. He is the type who would dream of skipping through tulipant erigeron-littered fields wearing a jazerant while composing virelais.

Mike has been to all four world championships; and among his recollections are the American who did head stands before each match to get the blood running to his brain, the arrogant African who greeted his female opponents by saying he'd never been beaten by a woman and wasn't about to start, the orthodox Jew who couldn't do anything mechanical on his Sabbath, so recorded his scores by marking page numbers in a book, and born-again Christian Scrabblers wearing tee-shirts enfaced 'Jesus Christ picks my tiles'.

**Gleaned from an article by Kate Paris in *The Wanganui Chronicle*, 21.3.98**

## Avoiding the Triples

Pat Hutchison and Jeff Grant of Hastings report an unusual Scrabble occurrence in a friendly game played in early April. Every tile was used, but only **one** triple word square on the board was covered! Has anyone heard of a fully played out game with **no** triple word squares taken?



**Pat Hutchison and fiancé Jeff Grant**

# CLUB

# NEWS

## Dunedin Newsletter

by Bill Grigg

### March

Elvira Steel competed in the Capital tournament (in Wellington) and had 3 wins. Ex-Dunedin club member Alan Boyd won A Grade. Marian Ross had a rare win over Peter Sinton 534-348 in the Round Robin competition.

### April

Welcome to Bill Marshall. In the Challenge competition Marian Ross scored 563, including 5 bonus words. Karyn McDougall (Ex-MTA) is our latest member — having many social games with me. I need them badly (see Dunedin Lion Open Tournament results). Daisy Madden is back into Scrabble, and after promotion is currently in A Grade (R/R Comp.). Chris Handley is our new secretary, doing a great job.

### New Zealand Masters

Kendall Boyd (DUN) won the NZ Masters tournament for the second time. He had 18 wins and a 435 average. Nigel Richards (CHC) was 3rd with 17 wins (459 average), and Peter Sinton (DUN) fourth on 17 wins (401 average). South Island 1-3-4, just a great achievement. Well done to you all!

### Dunedin Lion Open Tournament

**Day 1:** Only a financial member for a week or so, to her surprise Karyn McDougall (DUN) won on day 1 with 6 wins, second Paul Lister (CHC) 5 wins, third Shirley Hol (CHC) 5 wins. In B Grade, Elsie Malkin (CHC) won all 7 games, second Malcolm Graham (CHC), third Tony MacLeod (DUN) in his first tournament. I had only 1 win, last place. Who said Scrabble was fun?

**Day 2:** A Grade — first Paul Lister (CHC), second Doreen Ogston (CHC), third Karyn McDougall (DUN). B Grade — Complete

sweep to CHC members. First Elsie Malkin, second Yvonne Erickson, third Malcolm Graham.

A big thank you Christchurch for your great support which was much appreciated. Well done to Dunedin members Tony MacLeod, Chris Handley and Kerry Dawkins, all playing in their first tournament. Also big thanks to the Commercial Tavern, Green Island, for their donation of trophies and prizes.

### Quiz

What do the following racks make? (one makes nothing) Answers at end of newsletter.

- (a) FLAZHER (b) LITCHES  
(c) DOOSIES (d) PIGSHOE  
(e) FENNORS

### Competitions

Round Robin	Wins	Average
1 Bill Grigg	7	364
2 Peter Sinton	6	427
3 Marian Ross	5	409

### Challenge

1 Peter Sinton	2	482
2 Bill Grigg	15	439
3 Marian Ross	17	417

### Dictionary

1 Marian Ross	3	415
2 Glen Madigan	4	400
3 John Bell	7	389

### Ladder

1 Bill Grigg	5	421
2 Marian Ross	7	389
3 Glen Madigan	5	379

### South Island Champs (CHC)

The biggest contingent ever from our club (7 players) competed in Christchurch. A Grade first Paul Lister (CHC) 11 wins (427 average), second Karyn McDougall (DUN) 11 wins (388 average), third Liz Fagerlund (CHC) 9 wins (411

average). B Grade first Gordon Pinchin (CHC) 12 wins (379 average) only lost one, second Tony MacLeod (DUN) 10 wins (371 average), third Lyn Dawson (NEL) 10 wins (357 average). Whilst no North Islanders came down, the rest of us had a good time. Malcolm Graham (CHC) was seeded 12th but came 5th with 8 wins — well done. Daisy Madden (DUN) had the highest turn, RIPENERS for 131, Mary Lennon (CHC) had the highest game of 596, Bill Grigg (me) lost 417-418 — so close. Thanks Christchurch, especially those who billeted us. Nigel Richards (CHC) won the money raffle, Liz Fagerlund was the organiser (only joking).

### May

It was good to have Anne Stewart (now Perth) visit our club on a short visit recently. In the Round Robin competition Marian Ross beat Peter Sinton again, 565-385, including 5 bonus words.

### Nationals (Hamilton)

Bill Grigg (first time), Kendall Boyd and Peter Sinton represented our club.

### Otago Open Champs

November 7 (1 dayer or 2 one-dayers to be confirmed), all invited. Contact:

Bill Grigg  
10 Church Street  
Green Island  
03 488 2885

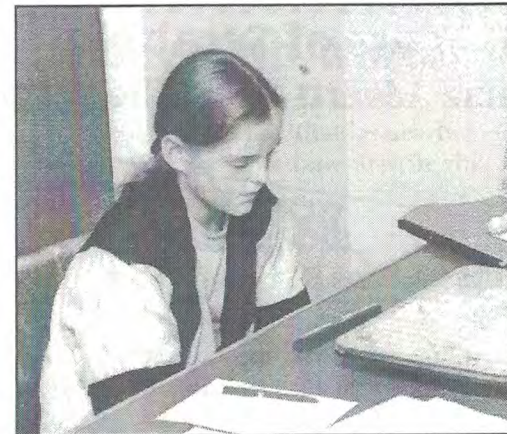
### Quiz Answers

(a) FALTERZ (b) ELTCHIS  
(c) ISODOSE (d) PISHOE  
(e) nil

## Christchurch

by Paul Lister

Our club has been holding a fun night approximately once every two months. We have random spot prizes and include a kids' session where under 14s get to play Scrabble. We have had several kids attend and they seem to enjoy it. The picture shows one of the best junior players, Erica van Essen, contemplating a move.



Christchurch teenager Erica van Essen

We were interested to read the article in the 50th issue headed *The American Scene*, especially the observation that the NSA receives around 1,000 monthly telephone calls. We have recently taken the step of listing the Christchurch Scrabble Club as an entity in the phone book and we recommend other clubs to consider this if they can afford it (\$45 + GST a year). Our president Shirley Hol (ph 03 332 7263) holds our club phone number and even before the telephone book has come out has already received phone calls.

One man who phoned said he and his wife were playing and had played a word that spanned a double double. He had gone to the trouble of contacting Telecom to see whether there were any Scrabble clubs listed so he could find an answer to his question. Even though our Scrabble club's number wasn't yet in the phone book he was given the information (by Shirley) that a double double is tile score x4. Shirley asked the man what the word played was and was told 'traffics'. Shirley then said that if they can see such clever words they might like to join our Scrabble club. The man then confessed that he was phoning from Auckland (!) and Shirley then referred him to the Mt Albert Scrabble Club!

# 50 Years of Scrabble

## Some Adverts down the years



John Bull – 1955

Woman's Weekly 1961



Alder Ltd of Croydon  
Window Display



from UK's *Scrabble Club News*, May 1998, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the first commercially made Scrabble sets

## I Told Her

I told her no sensible man  
would take her dancing  
in her bikini.  
So she went  
with a little moron.

## A Way With Words

My husband and I often play  
Scrabble and the fact that he nearly  
always wins prompted me to write this  
little rhyme.

### Scrabble by M S Bexleyheath

Scrabble is a nasty word,  
One I wish I'd never heard.  
A game that makes me really mad,  
Saying words I know are bad.

A word game it's supposed to be,  
And words are meat and drink to me.  
So down I sat and played with glee,  
Until he wiped the floor with me!

Whilst hubby sat there faintly  
smirking,  
Me grey cells were overworking,  
And so, to even up the score,  
I tipped the whole lot on the floor!

[Submitted by Margaret Hanson (PHC),  
who saw it in an English magazine.]

## NZASP Supplementary Word List 1998

At the AGM on May 30 in Hamilton it was decided unanimously to adopt *Webster's 10th Collegiate Dictionary* in conjunction with *The Chambers Dictionary* as a backup for 9-letter and longer words. We are also incorporating a small list of amendments which were listed on p 16 in the December 1997 edition of *Forwards*. The main changes are the deletion of DES, KEV and VON. Note that the *Redwood Scrabble Word List* is now completely accurate, having incorporated all these changes before publication.

Just for your information, here once again are the words up to 8 letters, plus their extensions, that have been added to or deleted from our word-base since the Nationals.

### Words Added

BACKDROPT	DECLAWED	MAGLEVS	REDTAIL
BACKSTAB	DECLAWING	OVERDRIED	REDTAILS
BACKSTABS	DECLAWS	OVERDRIES	RHYTONS
BASSETT	ESTHETICS	PETRALE	SMOOTHES
BASSETTS	IGNORAMI	PETRALES	SPAETZLES
BEDSIT	ILLER	PINEALS	TENIASES
BEDSITS	ILLEST	PREMIXT	UNSELL
CHEMO	LATTE	PYROLIZE	UNSELLING
CHEMOS	LATTES	PYROLIZED	UNSELLS
DECLAW	LEPIDOTES	PYROLIZES	WHINGING

### Words Deleted

DES	LICENTI	STRID
HANGULS	PLAYWEARS	TOWNWEARS
KEV	SKIWEARS	VON

# International



## Australia

The High Country Scrabble Tournament will be Australia's richest ever, with cash and prizes totalling \$2,500. It will be held at Mt Beauty, Victoria (1 hour from Albany, NSW), on July 4/5, 1998. There will be 12 games, with double dictionary reference. Entries close June 20, but you could probably get in a late entry by phone or e-mail. For further details, contact Jeff.

## Bahrain

Fifteen-year-old Dean Saldanha (United Arab Emirates) won the Gulf Scrabble Cup in a gruelling 2-1 match against Selwyn Lobo (UAE) at the Hilton Hotel, climaxing the 8th Gulf Scrabble Tournament (GST) which was held on May 20-22. After Dean's father won the cup seven years ago, the trophy had remained in the hands of Bahrain champs, until this year.

Dean, finally at a loss for words, did thank the sponsors and his parents for coaching him in Scrabble and passed off his well-earned victory as "just luck, I guess".

Selwyn, a 40-year-old insurance manager, was runner-up in the tournament and also recorded the competition's best score (587) and most seven-letter words.

In a skilful contest, former Gulf top seeds Akshay Bhandarkar and Roland Filio (both Bahrain) disputed third place, which Akshay won 2-1.

Ricky Gonzalez (Saudi Arabia) placed CHARIEST on the board to net 158 points and the event's top single turn score, breaking the Gulf record set in 1992.

Mazhar Qureshi (Saudi Arabia) was 2-1

victor over Bahrain's K V Chidambaram in the Bramco Plate, a marble trophy which has been kept in the hands of players from the kingdom since 1994.

Over two days, 289 games were played in the GST by the region's 40 best masters, using a new computer draw. Differing from the previous contest format, the new one caused outbursts from entrants on the second day when they were paired against the same opponents several times.

Although the average age of GST entrants is 40 years, teenagers have managed to upstage the adults six out of eight times so far by outmanoeuvring them in word play and walking off with the Gulf Cup.

As fans and players viewed the championship match on a giant screen in an adjacent lounge, they roared their approval each time Selwyn or Dean made an expert move — cheers and applause which often stunned the duo.

The new Gulf Scrabble champ has been playing Scrabble for only five years and includes among his interests football, chess and cycling. Epitomising how Dean, Selwyn and the other 38 competitors view their favourite activity was a player's T-shirt stating simply "Scrabble is my life; everything else is just a game."

### Gulf Top 5 in Scrabble

	Country
1 Dean Saldanha	UAE
2 Selwyn Lobo	UAE
3 Akshay Bhandarkar	Bahrain
4 Roland Filio	Bahrain
5 Asad ul Haq	Qatar

Information supplied by Roy Kietzman, Bahrain Scrabble League

## Oman

Sanath Hemachandra is the new Oman National Scrabble Champion. He took out the sultanate's top event without dropping a game, and also had the highest individual score of 572.

## Scotland

The annual Scottish Masters tournament was held in Edinburgh on February 28 and March 1. Top-seeded Neil Scott lost his first 3 games, but came back well to win 6 games out of 11. Winner of the event was Amy Byrne with 9 wins, followed by Caroline Atkins (8), Marion Keatings (7) and Simon Gilliam (7).

## South Africa

The 3rd Pan African Scrabble Championship was held in Capetown from April 10-13, with 50 players in attendance. The 5-game final was won by relative unknown Jimo Saheed of Nigeria, who beat fellow countryman and World Champs rep Femi Awowade by 3 games to 2. The highest placed South African was Trevor Hovelmeier in 10th spot, and Bahrain's Akshay Bhandarkar (8th in the last World Champs) was 14th.

## Thailand

The Brand's Thailand International Championship was held in Bangkok from January 28 – February 1. The 1998 winner was none other than World Champ Joel Sherman (US) who defeated local top-gun Charnwit Sukhumrattanaporn 2-0 in the best-of-three final. The event was OSPD-only, and Joel collected 50,000 baht (about \$10,000) for his victory.

## United Kingdom

### Scrabble Questionnaire

A recent Scrabble survey conducted by Gareth Williams elicited a good response, with roughly three-quarters of affiliated members replying. There were some interesting views expressed.

On the question of the Challenge Rule, over 70% voted in favour of a continued free challenge without penalty. Members' comments were that double challenge allows all sorts of rubbish to appear on the board, with weaker players becoming too scared to challenge anything. On the other hand, some mentioned the problem of tactical (let's face it, unethical) challenges of known words, with the current British system.

Surprisingly, about half the votes favoured adopting double dictionary (SOWPODS, ie OSW and OSPD). How to implement this change is still a bone of contention though.

### Ratings as at 9 April

199	Allan Saldanha
197	Phil Appleby
196	Mark Nyman
195	Richard Evans
195	David Webb
193	David Acton
193	Andrew Fisher
192	Brett Smitheram
190	Andrew Davis
190	Clive Spate

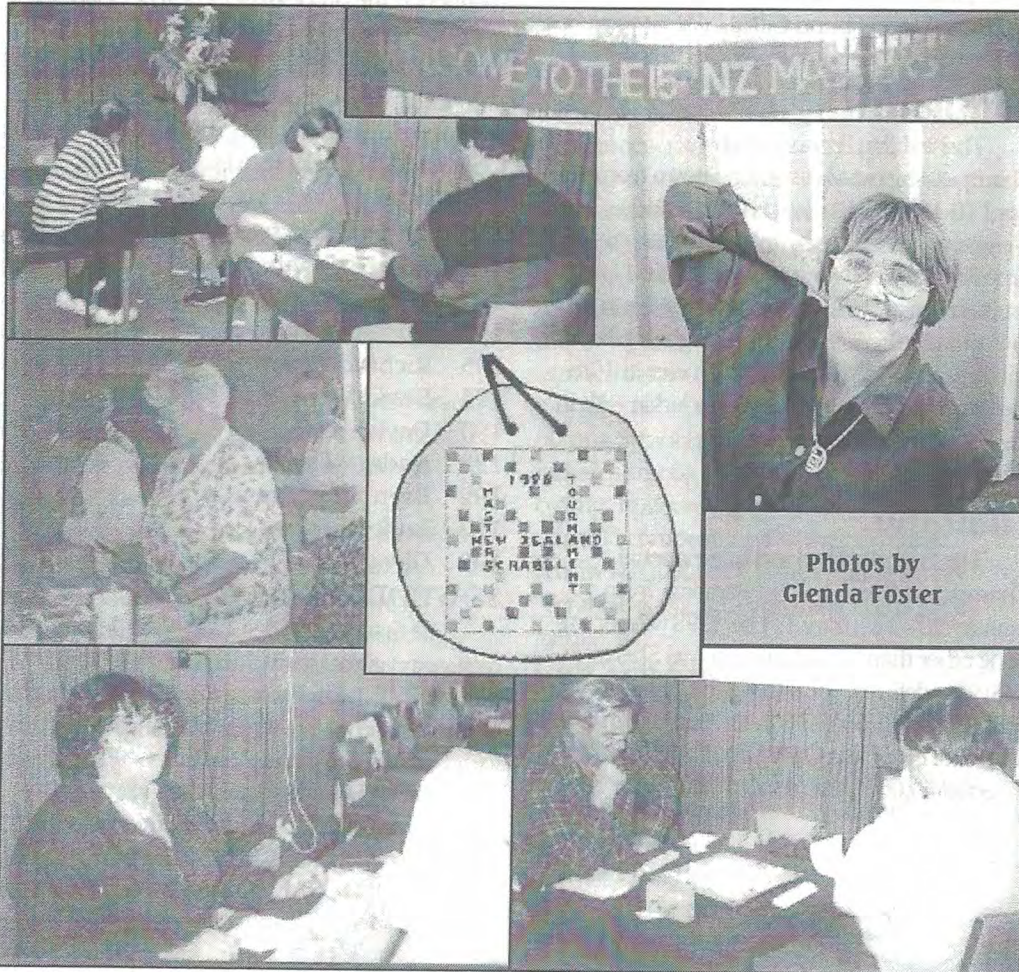
### SOWPODS Events

The first two rated SOWPODS (double dictionary) events in the UK were fairly informal affairs on February 22 and 29, played in private homes. Many top players attended, with David Webb playing the first OSPD-only word — ET. He later played the impressive OSPD-only CTENIDIA, while others came up with the likes of PAYFONE, HERDICS, FOGYDOM, OZAENAS and FOUETTE. Ex-World Champ Mark Nyman saved his best

OSPD play for a friendly speed game against Andrew Davis when he got a triple-triple with DILATATE and a non-bonus double-double SUPERBAD around ER.

A 1998 British National Championship may take place after all, according to the April edition of the *APSP Newsletter*, although formal approval from Spears has not yet been obtained, and alternative sponsors are being sought. If an agreement is reached, the event will probably be held in the Birmingham area in late September/early October.

## Masters Miscellany



Photos by  
Glenda Foster

The **Exeter Tournament** at Easter attracted many top UK players. Phil Appleby won the event, just ahead of Andrew Fisher and Andrew Davis.

The annual Nottingham Charity tournament was won by Rob Dowse, with Mary Grylls second and Marjorie Smith third. In one of her games, Marjorie had the distinction of scoring what could well be the highest-ever single move in matchplay anywhere — 320 points for the word BRAZENED on a triple triple!

# Tournament Results



## Masters Tournament 11-13 April 1998

### 23 Games

Name	Club	Wins	Score	Ave	B/W
1 Kendall Boyd	DUN	18	10004	435	43
2 Mike Sigley	WAN	17.5	10203	444	46
3 Nigel Richards	CHC	17	10560	459	61
4 Peter Sinton	DUN	17	9227	401	34
5 Jeff Grant	HAS	16	9916	431	39
6 Glennis Hale	MTA	16	9673	421	42
7 John Foster	MTA	16	9270	403	39
8 Patrick Carter	MTA	13.5	9193	400	31
9 Howard Warner	IND	13	9798	426	39
10 Lynne Powell	NSB	13	9482	412	41
11 David Lloyd	MTA	11	9551	415	40
12 Chris Hooks	MTA	11	8730	380	31
13 Sheryl Davidson	PAK	11	8338	363	21
14 Glenyss Buchanan	LOH	10	9089	395	33
15 Denise Gordon	WAN	9	9313	405	42
16 Glenda Foster	CAP	9	9166	399	30
17 Valerie Mills	PAK	9	8667	377	27
18 Gerald Warner	ROD	9	8659	376	21
19 Andrew Bradley	MTA	8	8988	391	36
20 Fae Olson	STR	8	8918	388	33
21 Margie Hurly	WAN	8	8628	375	31
22 Rosemary Cleary	WAN	8	8462	368	27
23 Anna Geange	MTA	5	8236	358	20
24 Pam Robson	WKT	3	8597	374	34

## Dunedin Lion Open Tournament 2 19 April 1998

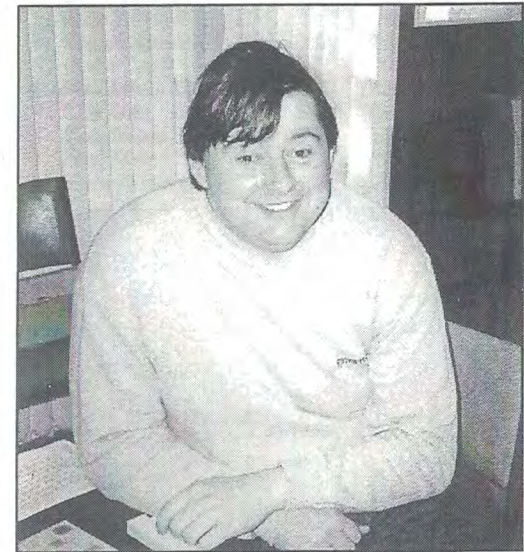
### 7 Games

Name	Club	Wins	Score	Ave	B/W
Grade A					
1 Paul Lister	CHC	6	3140	449	16
2 Doreen Ogston	CHC	5	2780	397	10
3 Karyn McDougall	DUN	4	2501	357	7
4 Marian Ross	DUN	3	2806	401	11
5 Margaret Lyall	CHC	3	2522	360	10
6 Bill Grigg	DUN	3	2475	354	8
7 Carolyn Kyle	DUN	3	2418	345	7
8 Shirley Hol	CHC	1	2412	345	7
Grade B					
1 Elsie Malkin	CHC	6	2840	406	10
2 Yvonne Erickson	CHC	6	2823	403	11
3 Malcolm Graham	CHC	5	2691	384	5
4 Tony MacLeod	DUN	4	2529	361	5
5 Elizabeth Arlington	CHC	4	2503	358	6
6 Chris Handley	DUN	2	2300	329	0
7 Elvira Steel	DUN	1	1866	266	1
8 Kerry Dawkin	DUN	0	1419	202	0

## Dunedin Lion Open Tournament 1 18 April 1998

### 7 Games

Name	Club	Wins	Score	Ave	B/W
Grade A					
1 Karyn McDougall	DUN	6	2770	396	12
2 Paul Lister	CHC	5	2989	427	13
3 Shirley Hol	CHC	5	2732	390	9
4 Marian Ross	DUN	5	2729	389	9
5 Margaret Lyall	CHC	3	2680	383	10
6 Doreen Ogston	CHC	2	2462	352	10
7 Carolyn Kyle	DUN	1	2546	364	7
8 Bill Grigg	DUN	1	2343	335	7
Grade B					
1 Elsie Malkin	CHC	7	2794	399	9
2 Malcolm Graham	CHC	6	2574	368	8
3 Tony MacLeod	DUN	4	2533	362	8
4 Elizabeth Arlington	CHC	4	2462	352	5
5 Daisy Madden	DUN	3	2557	365	9
6 Yvonne Erickson	CHC	3	2460	352	9
7 Elvira Steel	DUN	1	2137	305	1
8 Chris Handley	DUN	0	1975	282	1



Kendall Boyd (DUN) Masters winner





Name	Club	Wins	Score	Ave	B/W
11 Shirley Wyatt	MTA	5	4546	350	9
12 Correne James	IND	4	4655	358	9
13 Malcolm Graham	CHC	4	4432	341	12
14 Isabel Zyp	HAM	3	4413	339	8

## Grade E

1 Elaine Moltzen	KIW	12	5456	420	17
2 Sue Walker	MTA	11	5349	411	25
3 Norman Wheeler	WEL	11	5244	403	18
4 Pam Barlow	PAK	9	5105	393	22
5 Liz Catchpole	MTA	8	4874	375	13
6 Margaret Cherry	PAK	6.5	4791	369	11
7 Margaret Simpson	PAK	6	4740	365	18
8 Joan Thomas	HAS	5.5	4870	375	15
9 Lorraine Van Veen	PAK	5	4576	352	13
10 Hazel Purdie	MTA	4	4766	367	13
11 Jennifer Smith	HAM	4	4760	366	11
12 Peggy Wallace	HAM	3	4782	368	14
13 Delcie Macbeth	IND	3	4775	367	10
14 Valma Gidman	ROD	3	4567	351	8

## Grade F

1 Pam Mayall	HAM	9	5042	388	8
2 Lyn Dawson	NEL	9	4736	364	15
3 Jacqueline					

Coldham-Fussell	KIW	8	4831	372	12
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4 Pat Hutchison	HAS	8	4517	347	7
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5 Shirley Van Essen	CHC	7	5107	393	16
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6 Annette Coombes	WKT	7	4654	358	14
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7 Margaret Hanson	PHC	7	4625	356	12
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8 Julie Atkinson	MTA	6	5058	389	16
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9 Trish Hellriegel	MTA	6	4656	358	9
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10 Elaine King	MTA	6	4577	352	9
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11 Jean Clarke	STR	5	4613	355	9
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12 Mary Gray	MTA	5	4586	353	13
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13 Brian Horsley	CHC	5	4415	340	10
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14 Irene Hague-Smith	MTA	3	4517	347	13
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## Grade G

1 Kate Wignall	MTA	10	4651	358	8
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2 Susan Olson	STR	9	4750	365	15
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3 Mike Miller	WKT	8	4601	354	15
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4 Sharon Clarke	STR	7	4724	363	15
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5 Karen Miller	PAK	7	4391	338	3
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**Pat Hutchison, Jeff Grant & Yvonne Wilson (HAS), 2nd in Teams Event. Yvonne won C grade, Jeff won A grade and Pat was 4th in F grade**

Name	Club	Wins	Score	Ave	B/W
6 Sammy Sanders	PHC	5	4384	337	4
7 Ed Olson	STR	5	4319	332	8
8 Vera Burner	WAN	1	4040	311	3

**High Game Score**

David Lloyd (MTA) 580

**High Combined Score**

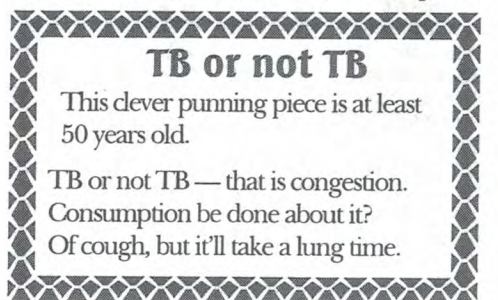
Nigel Richards (CHC) & David Lloyd (MTA) 976

**High Single Turn**

Pam Mayall (HAM) 212 (LEACHING)

**Team Prize**

- 1 Mt Albert (Sue Walker, Kate Wignall, David Lloyd) 30 wins, 15623 points
- 2 Hastings (Yvonne Wilson, Jeff Grant, Pat Hutchison) 30 wins, 15497 points



**Pam Mayall (HAM) F Grade and high single turn winner**

## 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>	54	Lisa McLean (IND)	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) Nigel Richards (CHC) Lynne Powell (ROD)
<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)	—	—

### NZ Masters (23 Games)

<b>Most Games Won</b>	Jeff Grant (HAS) 21 (1993, 1997)
<b>Highest Aggregate</b>	Blue Thorogood (IND) 10782 (1993)
<b>Most Bonus Words</b>	Nigel Richards (CHC) 61 (1998)