

## Contact Information

| Clubs<br>(Nth to Sth)           | Contact<br>Person            | Phone                      | Meeting<br>Day/Time       | Meeting Place  |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Whangarei (WRE)                 | Allie Quinn                  | 09 437 3548                | Thurs 1pm                 | Senior Citizens, Alexander Street                                      |
| Rodney (ROD)                    | Linda Moore                  | 09 425 4959                | Mon 1pm                   | Totara Park, Warkworth   |
| Hibiscus Coast (HBC)            | Joan Pratt                   | 09 426 4521                | Mon 1pm                   | Orewa Community Centre   |
| Nth Shore Bays (NSB)            | Marge Dalzell<br>John Foster | 09 478 6248<br>09 441 2429 | Tues 10am<br>Thurs 7.15pm | Campbell's Bay Methodist Church Hall<br>Takapuna Senior Citizen's Hall |
| Mt Albert (MTA)                 | Marianne Patchett            | 09 626 4849                | Fri 7.15pm                | Mt Albert Bridge Club rooms  |
| Pakuranga/Howick<br>(PAK)       | Jeanette Owler               | 09 534 4453                | Tues 12.30pm<br>Thurs 7pm | Highland Park Community House, 47<br>Aviemore Drive, Highland Park     |
| Papatoetoe/Holy<br>Cross (PHC)  | May Meads                    | 09 278 5155                | Mon 1pm                   | 64 Fairview Rd.  |
| Hamilton (HAM)                  | Jillian Greening             | 07 843 7652                | Tues 7pm                  | Hearing Association, 40 Wellington St.                                 |
| Kiwi (KIW)                      | Elaine Moltzen               | 07 843 5108                | Thurs 7pm                 | Beerescourt Bowling Club   |
| Waikato Phoenix<br>(WKP)        | Annette Coombes              | 07 855 9970                | Alt Weds 7pm<br>(ring)    | St Aidans Hall Lounge, Heaphy Tce.                                     |
| Mt Maunganui /<br>Papamoa (MMP) | Ngairi Steel                 | 07 542 1035                | Alternate<br>Wednesdays   |  |
| Tauranga (TGA)                  | Maureen McBain               | 07 576 2191                | Tues 9.00am               | Tauranga Bridge Club, 252 Ngatai Rd.                                   |
| Tokoroa (TOK)                   | Lesley Edgeler               | 07 886 8374                |                           |  |
| Waitara (WTA)                   | Trixie Neil                  | 06 754 8745                | Wed 1.00pm                |  |
| New Plymouth (NPL)              | Lynne Butler                 | 06 755 2134                | Saturday                  | Ring Lynne   |
| Pukekura (PUK)                  | Mary Waite                   | 06 757 8654                | Thurs 9.45am              | 11 Gilbert St., New Plymouth   |
| Stratford (STR)                 | Sharon Clarke                | 06 765 5653                |                           |  |
| Hastings (HAS)                  | Yvonne Wilson                | 06 879 7620                | Tues 1pm                  |  |
| Wanganui (WAN)                  | Rosemary Cleary              | 06 347 1837                | Mon 7pm                   | Cosmopolitan Club  |
| Masterton (MAS)                 | Hilda Scott                  | 06 378 2663                |                           |  |
| Lower Hutt (LOH)                | Glenyss Buchanan             | 04 569 5433                | Tues 7.30pm               |  |
| Kapiti (KAP)                    | Graeme Brown                 | 04 297 0720                | Mon 7pm                   | Ring Graeme  |
| Wellington (WEL)                | Lynn Wood                    | 04 387 2581                | Tues 7pm                  | 5 Tully St., Kilbirnie   |
| Nelson (NEL)                    | Ann Hough                    | 03 545 0014                | Wed 7pm                   | Senior Citizens Hall, 67 Trafalgar St.                                 |
| Christchurch (CHC)              | Margaret Lyall               | 03 332 5963                | Fri 7pm                   | Sydenham Community Centre  |
| Dunedin (DUN)                   | Chris Handley                | 03 464 0199                | Tues 7pm                  | Caversham Presbyterian Church Hall,<br>61 Thorn St., Caversham         |

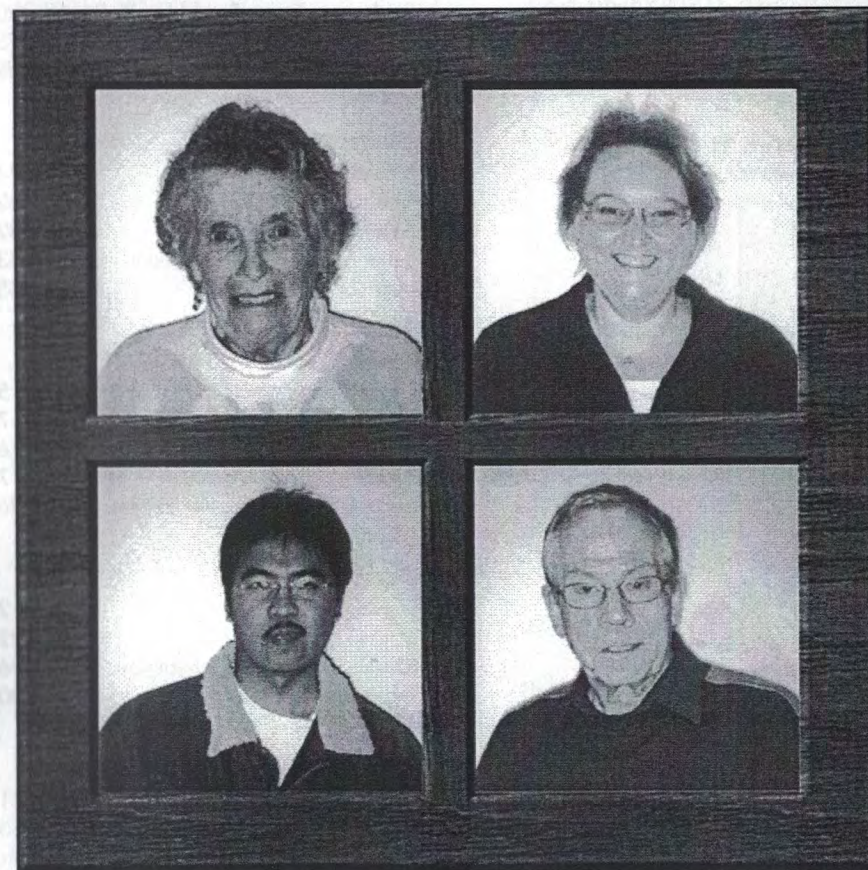
|   |                |   |  |
|---|----------------|---|--|
| Forwards Editor                                     | Jennifer Smith | 95B Howell Avenue<br>Hamilton<br>New Zealand  | Phone 07 856 5358<br>Email jennifersmith@xtra.co.nz  |
| Layout Editor<br>Forwards distribution<br>Webmaster | Glenda Foster  | 1 Walters Street<br>Lower Hutt<br>New Zealand | Phone 04 567 1590<br>Fax 04 567 9305 (telephone first)<br>Email fostergb@ihug.co.nz<br>glenda.foster@scrabble.org.nz |

[www.scrabble.org.nz](http://www.scrabble.org.nz)

# FORWORDS

Journal of the New Zealand Association of Scrabble® Players

No 84 September 2006



*This month's Forum contributors, Allie Quinn, Lorraine van Veen, Rogelio Talosig and Roger Coates*

## In this issue

**Olivia En: Playing Scrabble by touch**

**John Foster: Twenty years ago today (new regular feature)**

**Blue Thorogood: A man of many words**

**Howard Warner: Anagram man**

## NZASP Executive

### President Lynn Wood



5 Tully Street  
Kilbirnie  
Wellington  
Phone 04 387 2581  
Email  
lynnwood@paradise.net.nz

### Vice-President Glenda Foster



1 Walters Street  
Avalon  
Lower Hutt  
Phone 04 567 1590  
Email  
fostergb@ihug.co.nz

### Secretary Liz Fagerland



3/389 Blockhouse Bay Road  
Blockhouse Bay  
Auckland  
Phone 09 627 6506  
Email  
scrabbliz@inet.net.nz

### Treasurer Joan Thomas



424 Purser Place  
Hastings  
Phone 06 878 2418  
Email  
thomas.joan@xtra.co.nz

## In this issue

### People

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Elsie Pugh                              | 6     |
| Bill Grigg                              | 7     |
| Blue Thorogood: A man of many words     | 9-10  |
| Olivia En: Touching up my game          | 11    |
| Howard Warner: Anagram man              | 18-19 |
| Shirley van Essen: Scrabble with Rewful | 20    |
| Who's playing Scrabble                  | 23    |
| Mary Farmer: Dear friend of New Zealand | 27    |

### Overseas news

|                            |       |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Dictionary update          | 24    |
| Overseas news              | 31-32 |
| New US champion            | 32    |
| Penang Scrabble Tournament | 33    |
| Youth Scrabble             | 34-35 |

### Word topics

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Competition corner                          | 5     |
| Hairbrained questionnaire                   | 7     |
| Forum: Learning new words                   | 13-16 |
| Zzzzzz                                      | 17    |
| Also 10, 17, 19, 22, 24, 27, 29, 35, 35, 36 |       |

### Games

|                                |    |
|--------------------------------|----|
| Games software                 | 12 |
| Double Scrabble                | 22 |
| Lurking in a cupboard near you | 26 |
| Wordplay                       | 30 |

### Miscellaneous

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Showing the way  | 21 |
| Man killed in argument during Scrabble   | 25 |
| Twenty years ago today (new regular feature)   | 28 |
| Are you lonesome tonight   | 29 |
| Also: From the Executive 4, Club news 6-7, Mailbox 8, Upcoming tournaments 12, Airline Scrabble 30, Scrabble dolls 37, Answers 37, Rankings 38-39, Results 40-42, Contact information 2 and 48 |    |

# From the Editor



I've been delighted at the number of contributions you send me, and your willingness to write something when asked. Thank you. Your contributions give *Forwards* plenty of variety – something to satisfy everyone – and I hope it gives you a real sense of involvement. I try to use everything I'm given, but occasionally have to hold contributions for another issue. This issue has involved at least 40 people, in one way or another.

We all learn in different ways. In *Forum* this issue, four people share their customised way of learning. We also reproduce articles about Blue Thorogood and Howard Warner that describe how they develop their impressive word knowledge, and Margaret Flaws shares her song for remembering the small Z words.

When I first started playing Scrabble ten years ago, I made list after list, and tried to learn them, but despite all the hours I was spending on "study", and two exercise books full of various lists, nothing stuck.

Then one day, when we were driving home after a tournament in Auckland, Isabel Zyp said, "What did you learn at the tournament today, Jennifer?" and I realised with a shock that that my answer could only be – NOTHING!

So ever since, whenever I'm playing and wonder if a word has any front hooks or if my letters would yield a bonus, or watch my opponent play an unusual word, I write a note on the back of my score-sheet, and that becomes the basis of my "homework" later.

When I learn a new word, I usually check its meaning in the *Official Scrabble Players Dictionary*. I highlight the word in the dictionary, and if I ever look up a word that's already highlighted, I speak to myself very severely!

I've come to realise I remember quirky things best, or if I combine several words on a

theme, or connect the new word to something I already know (eg. ROYAL, RIYAL). I learn best by writing, and I need to be motivated by a challenge/puzzle.

I've come to realise I remember quirky things best [the naughty anagram of PUTTI is TITUP(S)]; or if I combine several words on a theme [counting to 12 using bonuses – ONEIRIC, TWOCCKER(S), THREEPS, FOURGON(S), FIVEPIN(S), SIXAINS, STEVENS, EIGHTVO(S), NINEBARK(S), TENACES, ELEVONS, TWELVEMO(S)]; or if I connect the new word to something I already know [ROYAL, RIYAL].

Using this self-knowledge, I have developed a system of one-page worksheets of 100 questions (three columns to the page), with a corresponding separate answer page:

Many of you feature in my quizzes. [What's the anagram of UTOPIAN that Margaret Cherry taught me? OPUNTIA, a cactus.]

So I'm learning; first, when I write my quizzes, and then later when I tackle them giving written answers. I now have 45 quiz sheets, which should have increased my Scrabble vocab by 15,000 words. Strange system, maybe, but it works for me.

If you want to learn new words, I hope something somebody says in this issue of *Forwards* will strike a chord with you, and help you develop a system that works for you.

And if you don't wish to do any study, or your priorities don't allow it, you'll be reassured to see that you're not the only one! The good news is, you can still play and enjoy our great game.

*Jennifer*

## From the Executive

Thank goodness it is spring. The winter now passed would have been one of the wettest, coldest and bleakest I can remember. It was perfect weather for Scrabble though, and teamed with a lovely fire and some homemade vegetable soup, many a Sunday was spent playing the favourite game of so many New Zealanders.

The Nationals was a great occasion, and the venue just right for our major tournament. Thanks to all who participated, and thank you to the people who filled the gaps left by withdrawals. If an uneven number eventuated, which it did on two occasions, it was nice to know that an emergency was available. There were six withdrawals this year, two singles and two pairs. Tracey Ivamy was the last casualty with a fractured wrist, and since she was driving Yvonne Wilson to the venue, there were two withdrawals. Bad luck Tracey. A huge thank you to Glenda for redrawing all the grades except for A, new spot charts, and individual result sheets. Not the kind of job one wants on a Friday night.

The prize-giving dinner at the Nationals was also a great event, and our thanks go to the caterers for their fabulous spread. Thank you, too, to Kiwi Scrabblers for the item they performed – it was a good laugh. This could surely become part of the evening as it used to, in the good old days of the Riverina. The karaoke was enjoyed by a small group, but it was a fitting end to the night. Do it again Rogelio — perhaps in Wellington next year?

The Trans Tasman tournament will be under way in November, and we wish our team well. It will be a hard fought battle, and one that New Zealand will watch with

interest. Liz ran a Lotto bonus number again at the Nationals and the profit from that will go towards the event. John Foster ran a raffle, and while the proceeds were moderate, they were welcomed with many thanks. John also described how an earlier Trans Tasman had been sponsored and a budget allocated, but sadly in later years, the cost has fallen on the NZASP. We are happy to run this event, and like to be able to reward the top three players with a monetary prize. Keep a watch on the website for progress results.

Roll on summer. May it conduce you all to increase your vocabulary, and get a friend interested in our pastime. One introduction per player would swell our numbers handsomely, and as so many of the Scrabble brigade are aging, new blood is needed to take the game forward in the years ahead.

Happy scrabbling.

Lynn



### Headlines for 2029

- suggestions from Patrick Carter

- ☆ 51 English scrabble hooligans arrested after German bingo in extra time
- ☆ Manchester Words United acquires Howardinho in record £50m transfer from Interscrab Milan
- ☆ Al Qaeda bomb fears unfounded as George Z Bush opens US Nationals by playing first word – POTATOE

## Competition Corner

### Scrabble Contest No. 84

You start the game with QUIPS for 52, and your opponent responds with OBO, OU, BI, OP for 17. Your rack is now EEIPRTT. What is the best move?

Send entries by mail or email to:

Jeff Grant

'Ardra'

1109 Allenby St

Hastings

ardra@paradise.net.nz

Closing date is 20 November 2006.

The winner will receive a book prize.

### Solution: Contest No. 83

1. Either WOOLWASH\* (out of order) or FUSCHIA\* (misspelt, should be FUCHSIA).
2. BULLSWOOL\*, DEADMAN\*, FUSCHIA\*, IANTHE\*, KILLDEVIL\*, QUOICH\* and WOOLWASH\* are not allowed in Scrabble.
3. QUOICH\* (a dialectic variant of 'quaich').
4. ZULU
5. The clue is in the title and the word 'flow'. Believe it or not, they are all NZ streams.

Some of our avid puzzlers go to extraordinary lengths in search of the answers. Lyn Toka (Kiwi) tried everything for question 5, from Scrabble values, letter frequencies, straight-line letters, anagrams, plus or minus letters and chapter titles in books to the names of fishing flies, insects, plants, breeding sires, ships, world rivers and streams (almost!).

The last question stumped everybody though, and only one person got the others right. Well done, Glennis Hale!

### Solution to Contest No. 82 (last issue)

Unfortunately the last line was lost in production. The winner was Margaret Forbes from Hibiscus Coast club.



### Anagram champions

Can you name the anagram champions? Not the people, but the letter combinations that yield the most anagrams?

Name the three-letter, four-letter, seven-letter and eight-letter combinations.

Answers on page 37.

Would you like to submit a 'nomination' for the five-letter and six-letter anagram champions? Send your words to the editor.

### Challenge!

The following words were all challenged at the NZ National Champs in Hamilton. Which ones do you think are correct? Answers on page 37.

|          |          |          |
|----------|----------|----------|
| GIGLETS  | HAGLIKE  | HENNIER  |
| REFENCED | ARGUFIER | SEIKEST  |
| GOALPOST | RIVERLET | TINCTED  |
| NUTBROWN | SHOALIER | TIRINGS  |
| PITLESS  | SELFING  | UNWARPED |
| TIDERIP  | PIING    | CLAIMEE  |
| DOCENT   | BRUSKEST | REFFO    |
| MIRO     | TWEEZING | FISTIER  |
| UNTRIM   | HONEYDEW | OCTA     |
| CITINGS  | UNSMELLY | TWANGER  |

# Club News



## Dunedin

Robert Jones, an ex-member of our Club, was a member of Special Olympics Alaska 2001 and won a Gold Medal in the Giant Slalom. He has written a book on his struggles and achievements called *Thrills Spills and Success*.

Doreen Ogston (CHC), the winner of Dunedin's first ever open tournament on 26 November 1986, recently played her 1000th tournament game – 20 years on.

A few weeks ago, we held an unrated tournament with our own Club members, Swiss Round Robin style. Six closely fought games were played and the winners were: Bill Grigg 1st, Marian Ross 2nd and Ella Rushton 3rd.

'Scrabble for Fun' is again being held in Dunedin in September with over 100 primary school students competing for the Otago Daily Times Shield. This is the fifth year it has been run and enthusiasm has not waned at all. So far three schools in Dunedin have allowed Ruth Groffman to run Scrabble workshops in school time for as many as 30 students. Two other scrabble club members have come along to assist.

Marian Ross, after winning the C Grade in Hamilton, had a fall on her return to Dunedin, and was hospitalised with a broken hand and leg (both now in plaster). We wish her a speedy recovery.

## Kiwi

We'd like to pay a tribute to Elsie Pugh, who at age 90 is still an excellent Scrabble player. Elsie first started playing club Scrabble in 1980, when her two sisters, Win Heaven and Madge Hewitt, were also members. Madge's husband, Ron, also played, so it was a family affair.

As a 90th birthday surprise, we told Elsie she didn't have to play any more annual or

weekly fees, but when she receives her telegram from the Queen in 10 years time she has to start playing again. She laughed and said that with the Queen being only ten years younger than herself, she'd be lucky to get a telegram anyway!

Elsie does not travel around the country to attend tournaments any more, but she still plays every week at club days, and took part in our Kiwi one-day tournament in July.



*Elsie Pugh (Kiwi)*

## Wanganui

Remember to register for the ACC New Zealand Masters Games to be held in Wanganui on 10-18 February 2007: freephone 0800 35 40 45, email info@nzmg.com, or go to www.nzmg.com.

Scrabble will be played on Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 January, 2007. The likely cost for Scrabble will be \$20 (no lunches). Please note that you have to register for the Games in order to enter the Scrabble tournament.

The Early Bird registration deadline has now been extended to the end of October, cost \$40. Standard registration, \$50 (1 October to 12 January). Late registration, \$70 (from 13 January).

Full details of the Games were given in the June Forwards.

## Dunedin club stalwart

- by Ruth Groffman

Bill Grigg joined the Mosgiel Scrabble Club (a branch of the Dunedin Scrabble Club) about 18 years ago. For about 12 years he held the position of Treasurer for the Dunedin Scrabble Club.

Bill has always kept precise records of anything to do with our Club, our club members and Scrabble in New Zealand. In total he has compiled about 20 yearbooks. He has always written and sent the Dunedin Club Report for insertion in the *Forwards* magazine, as well as alerting the Press about our results and achievements.

Bill was the Tournament Organiser for Dunedin for at least 10 years until he suffered a stroke about 4 years ago. However, despite this setback, Bill continues to play at our Club and is willing to help in any way he can. He makes it his business



*Bill Grigg (Dunedin)*

to welcome new members.

In our Club he is still the third highest rated player and has even beaten Peter Sinton! He has played in a one-day rated tourney, and at a recent unrated tournament he achieved first place for the whole event.

Bill has already been made a Life Member of our Club and we really appreciate his contribution and humour.

## Hairbrained questionnaire

Which words are misspelt? Answers on page 37

|              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| ALRIGHT      | BROCOLI       |
| CALENDER     | DIARRHEA      |
| EXTASY       | FORSAID       |
| GAYETY       | HAIRBRAINED   |
| IDIOSYNCRACY | JUDGMENT      |
| KOHLRABIES   | LEGENDRY      |
| MINISCULE    | NARRATER      |
| OMBRELLA     | PUBLICALLY    |
| QUESTIONAIRE | RESTAURANTEUR |
| SUPERCEDE    | TIEING        |
| UKELELE      | VERTUOUS      |
| WISTARIA     | XOSA          |
| YODLED       | ZENOPHOBIA    |



*When Betty Eriksen has persuaded everybody to enter the Masters Games, she will be relieved to be able to wear a different T-shirt!*

# Mailbox

## What's in a name

- from John Foster

With regard to the "What's in a name" article, it is nice to be mentioned in the same list as Jeff and even nicer to be listed on the same level. Sorry I can't oblige with an allowable middle name, my middle name being Alfred. If only my parents had the foresight to make it Fardel or Flared.

It is worth noting that at the 2005 WSC the only two other players apart from Jeff who could make it onto the list were NICK BALL and RALPH LOBO. Pity BOB JACKMAN didn't make it this time.

A number of former NZ Scrabblers could have qualified, notable examples being JO BURNSIDE of Dunedin, husband and wife CHARLIE and DAPHNE CURL, and the quite remarkable mother/daughter combination of JOY HUNTER and SUE MARROW.

An example of three members of the same family I know of is the FONDAS with HENRY, JANE and PETER all qualifying. Pity about Bridget not completing the quadrella – unless the new dictionary obliges with a T hook for Bridge.

- from Jeff Grant

My middle name (Lloyd) isn't allowed in Scrabble, but as namesake David Lloyd once pointed out, two anagrams of it can be found in OSPD, but only one of them is allowed in Scrabble!

- from Murray Rogers

Just to let you know that even though I use my middle name, Murray, as my first name in most situations, my real first name is John, giving me three allowable Scrabble words: JOHN MURRAY ROGERS.

Does that mean my rating will probably go up?

## This and that

- from Jeff Grant

The tributes to Eileen and Mary were excellent. That early photo of Eileen brings a tear to the eye. So many have gone since I started playing competitively 25 years ago. We really are part of one big family. There must be a pretty strong club somewhere up there!

### Super Scrabble

There are some longer words with two Qs allowed in Scrabble, eg.

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| QUAQUAVERSAL    | facing or bending all ways                      |
| QUINQUAGENARIAN | someone between 50 and 59 (covers a few of us!) |
| QUINAQUINA      | cinchona bark                                   |

It aint\* necessarily so

The last statement isn't true either. There are English words that rhyme with MONTH, ORANGE, SILVER and PURPLE. However, they're not all allowed in Scrabble:

I've told you a hundred times,  
There is no rhyme for 'month',  
If I have to tell you again,  
It'll be the hundred and oneth\*.

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| GRUNTH*   | the sacred scriptures of the Sikhs. [Oxford Dictionary]                                       |
| GORRINGE* | surname of British soldier Sir George Goringe (1868-1945) [Webster's Biographical Dictionary] |
| CHILVER*  | a ewe-lamb. [English Dialect Dictionary]  |
| HIRPLE    | to limp [Chambers Dictionary]   |
| CURPEL    | the back end of a horse. [Chambers Dictionary]  |

## A man of many words

- by Kathy Webb, Hawke's Bay Today (reprinted with permission)

Blue Thorogood reaches for pen and paper on his desk and jots down a series of letters. High-probability stems, he says.

With plenty of those, you know instantly what you can achieve with your resources. And keeping track of every item you and your opponent have used means that by the time you come to final blows you know exactly how strong your opponent is.

Blue could be talking battle, and he is – sort of. Except his weapons aren't firearms or swords or anything remotely military. He fights with small tiles with letters on them, and thousands and thousands of words committed to memory.

Blue is a champion Scrabble player, a master tactician who has confronted the best in the world in New York and London.

A Wairoa boy educated at North Clyde School and Wairoa College, Blue doesn't recall reading many books as he grew up, but he did like reading newspapers.

He got into Scrabble by accident a long time ago, while living in Auckland. He went along to a community centre one day in 1983 to play chess. "There were people there, but no one knew how to play chess, so three old ladies invited me to join in a

game of Scrabble. I had very little knowledge of it, but afterward they said I should go to their Scrabble club. I said, 'okay'. They were quite amazed that I scored so many points in their game even though I had only a very basic appreciation of it."

One Friday about two months later Blue was bored, so he decided to "have a look" at the Scrabble club. That was the beginning. "My knowledge was limited, but I won my three games that night."

During the next few weeks Blue's word prowess continued to bring him success and his reputation grew. Finally, the club decided he should enter the national championships.

"They put me in the B grade and I came second."

Blue was inspired. He began studying the official Scrabble and Chambers dictionaries "learning high-probability stems. I learnt over 200."

## Rebus

from John Foster

When I first saw No 1 of the rebus puzzles on page 32 my immediate reaction was because ISM is in capitals the answer must be Capitalism. I think this is probably the more correct intended answer, but isn't it fitting that alternative answers to the same puzzle can be "Capitalism" and "The End of Communism"?

[I agree with you John, that "Capitalism" is a better answer than "The end of Communism". -Ed.]



Scrabble supremo Blue Thorogood manages the recycling depot at the Wairoa landfill

From there, he branched into learning eight-letter probability stems. He memorised lists of two-, three- and four-lettered words, and went through both dictionaries, writing out every five-lettered word he came across. "It took me two weeks." And they stuck. "If I write something down I tend to recall it. I always could spell. It didn't matter what the word was, if I saw it I could spell it."

Blue played constantly between 1987-95, and competed in national and masters championships, always adding to his word lists and refining his tactical skills.

These days, competitors are allowed to keep a written record of the tiles used as the game progresses, but once upon a time it was forbidden, so Blue learned to do it in his head. As the last moves came up, he would know exactly what letters his opponent had to work with.

In 1993 Blue and Hastings champ player Jeff Grant – "he's a legend he's fantastic" – competed in the world championships. Blue came 20th. They entered again in 1995. Blue took a break from Scrabble after that, but eight years later entered the New Zealand Scrabble Masters and came second.

In 2004 he entered the national championships in Auckland and won. Then he didn't play again until Queen's Birthday weekend this year, when he entered the nationals again and came fourth.

He's not playing much at all these days, except for make-do games on the internet\*. The trouble with that, he reckons, is "you get a bit lazy. It checks your words and does the score."

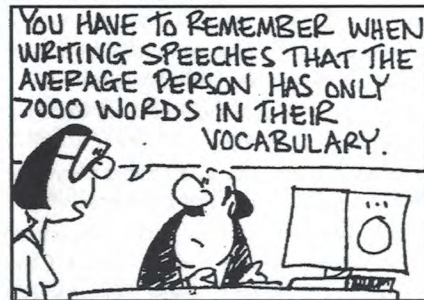
It takes a lot of work and a lot of tournaments to build up to championships. Blue would love to be going to more of them, but his job keeps him pretty busy.

For the past four years he's been managing the recycling depot at the Wairoa landfill, where screeching seagulls

hover overhead in hope of fresh pickings. They're out of luck in Blue's territory. Everything there is neatly signposted, categorised and organised.

He offers a tip for a novice with a rack full of vowels. Try "euouae". It's the longest six-letter, vowel-only word in English, and the word with the most consecutive vowels. It's a mediaeval musical term, a collective noun meaning "names for a Gregorian cadence".

Blue rises from his chair. He's got customers to attend to.



## Touching up my game

by Olivia En

After playing in a number of tournaments around the country, I have come to the realisation that, for many people, the idea of playing Scrabble with their eyes closed and their fingers open is inconceivable. For me though, it's the other way around. I can't imagine keeping my hands to myself, off the board, away from my opponent's letters!!!

The fact is, playing Scrabble blind is not all that different to playing it with sight. I swear when I have too many consonants, I curse when I have too many vowels, and I sing the "Hallelujah Chorus" when I get that perfect rack.

Of course, there are some practical differences. The most obvious one is that I have to use a board and tiles with Braille on them. I have been reading Braille since the age of three so this is not a major difficulty – except when my fingers are numb from cold or nerves. Like print tiles, the Braille tiles can fade over time and sometimes this can be a problem because one dot can mean the difference between joy and despair. I remember once rejoicing because I thought I had S A T A N I S on my rack with an M on the board all ready to go, only to discover on closer inspection that I had 3 ls. A A I I I T N is a very different kettle of fish. One might ask, "Why doesn't she just buy some more tiles like any sensible person?" Well, the difficulty is that Braille tiles can't be bought separately and, therefore, every time I need a new set of tiles, I have to buy a new Scrabble board as well. This would be alright except that the Scrabble sets which I prefer and find easiest to use are no longer being manufactured. So if anyone comes



Olivia En has a helper to draw tiles for her at the Nelson tourney in 2005

up with a bright idea about how to touch up Braille tiles, please let me know!

More recently, I have also started to use an electronic note-taker on which I can do my own scoring. The note-taker has a Braille display where I can review the scores I have written down, not to mention the mistakes in maths which I have made. Contrary to common belief, the note-taker does not actually do my scoring for me. I wish it did because I have a real disability where numbers are concerned.

A third piece of adaptive Scrabble equipment which I use is a tactile clock. The numbers are marked with raised bumps and the face is uncovered so that I can touch the hands. Now this is something of a luxury item since I am perfectly capable of playing Scrabble with a tactilely challenged clock. However, if I do that, I prefer to use an analogue clock rather than a digital one. This is because, with a digital clock, it is impossible to confirm whether I

have pressed it properly or not. Also, I simply like to hear the ticking of an analogue clock because it serves as a reminder that time waiteth\* for no Scrabble player.

Mentally, there is also a small difference in my Scrabble play in that I am not able to continue to look at the board when it is my opponent's turn. I solve this problem by keeping a picture of the board and tile arrangements in my head. Now this is not as amazing as it sounds. Much as I might wish it, I don't have a photographic memory (should that be phonographic?), so I only keep the important "hot spots" in mind – the triple words, the triple letters beside the Os and Is, the potential places for bonus words. To help with my mental picture, as well as the challenge possibilities, it is useful if I am told where my opponent has placed his or her tiles. (A simple "top left" or "bottom right" is enough).

Otherwise, the game is the same for you and me. I guess the only major thing is that I like every Scrabble game to be a real hands-on experience.

### Upcoming tournaments

|                                  |                          |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Norfolk Island Scrabble Festival | 18-22 September          |
| Mt Albert                        | 30 September - 1 October |
| Wanganui                         | 21-22 October            |
| Trans-Tasman Challenge           | 4-6 November             |
| Rodney                           | 11 November              |
| Otago Open                       | 11-12 November           |
| Waikato Phoenix                  | 25-26 November *         |
| Kapiti                           | 2&3 December             |

\* to be confirmed

### Games software

Video game publisher Navarre Corporation's subsidiary, Encore Software, has signed a multiyear deal with toy maker, Hasbro Inc, to publish new software versions of popular board games like Monopoly and Scrabble owned by Hasbro.

Navarre plans to release updated versions of Monopoly and Scrabble first, and will follow up with new versions of Yahtzee, Clue and the Game of Life in 2007.

Hasbro has also signed a licensing deal with FUN Technologies Inc to develop SCRABBLE Cubes, a 3-D word game based on the classic crossword game.

SCRABBLE Cubes is a 3-D word game, in which players connect letters across the surface of an ever-changing arrangement of cubes to find as many words as they can. The game will feature SCRABBLE tiles with corresponding point values, giving wordsmiths everywhere the opportunity to compete online in a modern version of their favorite word game for cash and prizes. Adding to the challenge, players are tempted with bonus cubes containing special values, such as "double word score" or "double letter score," as in the popular SCRABBLE board game.

SCRABBLE Cubes will be available on WorldWinner.com, SkillJam.com, and all of FUN's partner sites towards the end of 2006.

#### Apt description

In an article in the Chicago Tribune about new cars, the name of the Nissan Versa was described as looking like "a combination of letters left on your rack at the end of the Scrabble game".  
[Could be a lot worse! AVERS, SAVER, RAVES and VARES. - Ed.]

# Forum

## Learning new words

This month, Allie Quinn (A), Lorraine van Veen (L), Roger Coates (Rc) and Rogelio Talosig (Rt) share their systems and tips on learning new words.



Allie Quinn (Whangarei)

**Q. How much time do you devote to learning new words?**

- A. I don't devote any time to learning new words apart from doing Patrick's 60 anagrams every week.
- L. Not enough! I need to fit Scrabble in with working some weekends. finished in the top 3 consultants for my previous employment in 2004 and have since begun working for House of Travel. As you can well imagine this is a very demanding job. During and after a tournament I get very enthused and I think I will learn new words, anagrams, etc. and try for the first couple of nights, then sink back into the same old routine.
- Rc. Average 30 minutes a day. I usually increase my study time two weeks or so before a tournament, to around 40 minutes a day – when I remember!
- Rt. An hour a day. For several months after the world champs I do not do any reading at all – I call it my 'rest' season. I start reading again a month or two before the Trans-Tasman.

**Q. When do you do your study?**

- A. I don't study at all, so probably that is why I am going downhill fast. But my brain doesn't seem to absorb new words.

- L. I always have a book lying around the house somewhere, so sometimes in front of TV I will pick it up and find a new word. However, whether it is retained or not is a different story. I always find great hooks, so I sometimes think it is better to learn these rather than 7-letter words.
- Rc. Usually in the mornings, during and after breakfast. My mind seems to be more receptive in the mornings.
- Rt. I do anagramming of sevens and eights whenever I have the time. Before tours I browse on twos, threes, fours, fives and J, Q, X and Z words. I rarely read sixes.

**Q. What do you use to study?**

- A. I use LeXpert and read my dictionary.
- L. I have my dictionary and word lists that are very old – in fact from when I first started playing however many years ago that was.
- Rc. I use six letter 'stems' such as SATIRE, SANTER\* and RETINAE. I have around 40 stems that I have more or less memorised. Typically, if I am learning a new stem I try to memorise the list in 20 minutes or

so. Then write down the words I've remembered. I then refer to the list again and relearn the words that didn't stick. Then two or three times during the day I think the list through. Hopefully, at the end of the day it is committed to memory. I occasionally re-visit the lists, by thinking them through, just before falling asleep — it beats counting sheep.

Rt. LeXpert, word lists, my own lists and sometimes the dictionary.

**Q. What do you learn?**

Rc. Apart from the stems, I make lists such as words of three letters, where the third letter is an S but the first two letters are not an allowable word, eg. CIS. Ditto for the four letter words, eg. ALMS. I memorise these alphabetically by making up a story containing similar words. Another example is four letter words ending in U. I list all the words ending in U that I don't already know. I then learn them in alphabetic order by making up a story. I have successfully memorised the four letter words ending in I and U using this method, and I'm currently working on O and A.

Rt. Anagrams at random, hooks alphabetically.

**Q. Do you keep any books, notes, lists of your own?**

A. Yes, but my lists just remain idle.

L. I used to have a note book that I wrote down unusual words and to some extent still do

Rc. Sure do. I have a folder full of lists. If only I could remember them all. I have listed all the low point seven letter words that I don't already know, that start with the vowels. I



*Lorraine van Veen (Kiwi)*

have managed to memorise the E and I and O list, and I am currently working on the As and Us. I have memorised these parrot fashion — I found it to difficult to use a story.

Rt. Yes, but I hardly read them now. Topics include proper names and places, pseudo misspellings, foreign words, and my unique lists of words that has either the same spelling or sound as the words I know from other languages and dialects

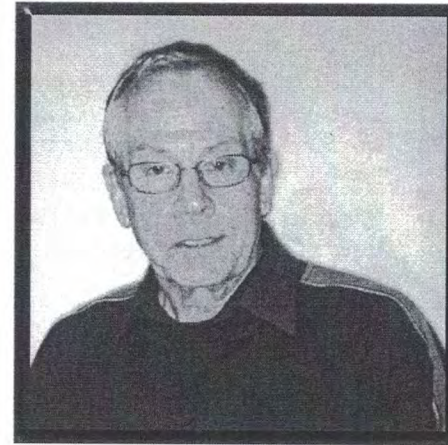
**Q. Do you use mnemonics? If so, can you give us a couple of examples?**

A. AIDOI — An Islander does own insurance.

JIAOS — John (being my husband) is an old sausage.

Rc. To remember the two letter words starting with A that don't take an S (ae ag am an at aw), I use "Elsie's Giant Magic New Type Writer", and for the words starting with O (of oi ou ow) I use "For Inventing Useless Words".

Rt. Yes, mostly personalised, eg. NARS1253 (Tagalog word for nurse), my mnemonics for the 11



*Roger Coates (Hamilton)*

starting letters of RETINAS; N=1, A=2, R=5, S=3 words)

**Q. Do you read, or write down, or use tapes, get people to test you, etc?**

L. My memory is quite good and I tend to remember obscure words and not really the anagrams that I should. Anagrams is what probably really lets me down in my game — yes, I need to make a conscious effort with these.

Rc. Mainly reading and writing and thinking. I don't use tapes or get other people to test me.

Rt. I sometimes write them down.

**Q. What are you sure you know?**

A. I like to think I know my twos and threes. At one time when I had an Exercycle I did start to learn my fours, but didn't really get beyond the letter A.

L. I am not sure I know anything sometimes! I never intentionally play a bad word, but I never trust myself to play sevens when I should. In fact, I tend to play cautiously instead of

daringly, and really beat myself up if I had a word and didn't play it — particularly with sevens, you really need to just go for it.

Rc. Twos — 100%, threes — 90%, fours — 50%, 7-letter stems — approximately 20.

Rt. None. Some words have that habit of slipping out of memory and non-words sometimes sneak in.

**Q. Do you write down words you don't know that people play against you and make an effort to learn them?**

A. I write down words all the time but it is remembering to check them.

L. Some of you laugh at me for constantly looking at the dictionary during a tournament. I guess this is my scrabble time and I am away from work and my concentration is set on scrabble, I find this a great relaxer — it's amazing how many times during a tournament I check a word or find a new word and then find I can play it in a later game, so it is never too late to learn. What I really do is check my combinations and check words that I didn't know or didn't challenge — it's amazing how combinations keep showing up on your rack. Two of my favourites which get challenges most times are REDOWAS and UINTAITE.

Rc. I do when I remember. It's something I must do on a regular basis.

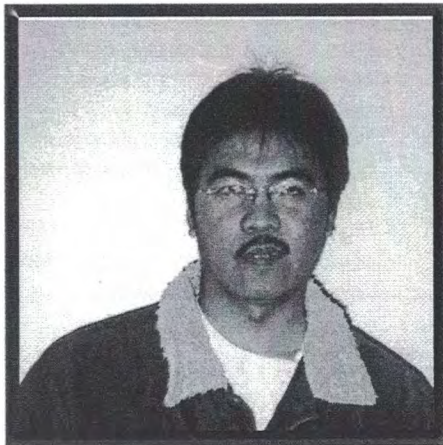
Rt. Yes I do; I check them right after the tourney.

**Q. Do you play against a computer program or on the internet to learn new words?**

A. Yes.

Rc. Yes, I do play against the computer.





**Rogelio Talosig (North Shore Bays)**

The thing to remember when playing the computer is not to be too concerned about winning – no one's going to know or care – as long as you learn some new words.

Rt. I play a few games on the net before tournaments.

L. I play a few games on the ISC site now, which I love, but it is a timing factor for me.

**Q. Anything else to tell us?**

A. Just keep going to tournaments

L. When I was asked to write this article, I was a bit shy as I couldn't compete with my predecessors, but then got to thinking about how everyone plays differently and how much I really do enjoy this game we play.

Rc. When using stories etc. for remembering word lists, I reference the stories to people and events that I have known personally. So 90% of the stories I use are really meaningless to anyone else.

Rt. I find that learning words by reading the reference book/list is not

effective. Read and reread twos, threes and fours and high probability sevens. It is better to have one 'sure' word than many 'unsure' words that could make you lose a turn and the game.

**Q. What advice do you have for new players about learning new words?**

A. Learn the RETINA, SATIRE and SATINE\* list of words – I have always found them invaluable. Also if you can get a list of words in reverse order they are easier to remember.

L. Enjoy the game, learn from others and play your own game to the best of your ability. Learn your hooks and anagrams is probably the best advice.

Rc. Learn all the twos off by heart. Start on the threes by learning all the words containing X, Z, J and Q first. Then select groups, eg. all the 3 letter words ending in K. Make up a story beginning with DAK JAK and WOK, eg. It was dark and Jack was on his way to work. Remember, the crazier the story the more likely you are to remember it.

Rt. When I was new in the game I used to memorise words by rhyming them, making them into tunes and singing them in my mind while walking.

**Q. Do you have any interesting of funny stories about learning words?**

L. I find some funny words, eg. during the Hamilton Tournament I came across BUMSUCKER and GREENSICK!!!!

## Zzzzzz

- by Margaret Flaws

Sometimes I feel as if I'm still in kindergarten level in Scrabble, so when I do, I sing the alphabet song. (Your grandchildren will remind you of the tune.) The words are:

BEZ, BIZ, COZ, CUZ, FEZ, FIZ, JIZ  
LEZ, LUZ, MIZ, MOZ, POZ, REZ, RIZ  
SAZ and SEZ and WIZ, ZIZ, ZUZ  
ADZ and AZO and D-Z-O  
Z-H-O is another funny three  
Won't you sing this song with me?

ADZ and BIZ and COZ and MOZ  
Take an E and then an S  
MOZE also takes a D  
COZE takes D, N or Y  
COZ and MOZ have other friends  
COZY, MOZO are their ends.

AZON, AZONS join MOZOS  
D-ZOS, Z-HOS, D-Z-HOS  
RIZ plus A becomes RIZA  
Then it's RIZAS (no not PIZZAS!)  
That's the lot unless you've got  
A blank for Z – that's really hot!

FIZZ, JIZZ, LEZZ, and MIZZ, MOZZ need  
Two little Zs, not one take heed  
You've got a Z plus both the blanks?  
Then why not play a ZIZZ?

No thanks!  
That's the end of this Z rhyme  
Won't you sing it one more time?

### Challenge!

Karen Richards reports that at the Queensland Champs, her son Alastair's opponent challenged HUIS. When the challenge slip was returned, he was not surprised that it said 'allowed'. He was surprised to see how they had typed in the word — SINH. The computer operator had read the challenge slip upside down, and fluked a correct word.

# Anagram Corner

Scrabblers are dab hands at transposing letters, for example MAJOR to JORAM and PIONEER to PEREION. On a higher level, THE EARTHQUAKES become THAT QUEER SHAKE. Here are anagrams for six players who attended the Wellington Tournament in June.

|                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| NEIL TALBOT    | A NOBLE TILT     |
| ALISON VAUTIER | TRUE AS A VIOLIN |
| LOUISE SWEENEY | YOU SEE NEW ISLE |
| BARBARA DUNN   | AN URBAN BARD    |
| OLIVIA EN      | NIVEA* OIL       |
| SANDRA STACEY  | STAYS A DANCER   |

### Editor's challenge

Unless they are included as part of a question as to their correctness, all bogus words in this magazine that are not otherwise clearly identified as unacceptable Scrabble words are marked with an asterisk – except one, which has been deliberately left un-asterisked for you to find.

Can you find it? Answer on page 37.

### One-liners

- ☺ Phone answering machine message:  
"If you want to buy marijuana, press the hash key . . ."
- ☺ Our ice cream man was found lying on the floor of his van covered with hundreds and thousands. Police say that he topped himself.

- Tommy Cooper, comedian

# Anagram man

- by Elizabeth Light, North & South magazine (reproduced with permission)

Howard Warner lives in a unit in Hillsborough with two cats and wide views over suburban Auckland. A desk, table crowded with books and papers, bookshelves, hundreds of books, many about words, and low-key but quirky pictures on the wall are the accoutrements of an intellectual.

There's half a bottle of cabernet merlot on one windowsill and a row of silver Scrabble trophies and cups, in need of a polish, on another.

Warner enjoys good literature, art-house movies, jazz and classical music but his passion is Scrabble. He's been at the top of New Zealand Scrabble for five years and is our current champion.

Warner, 46, worked with words for 25 years as a journalist, editor and subeditor on local, British and Australian newspapers, then as an English language teacher. Now he has his own company, Plain English People, translating complicated technical and corporate English into words comprehensible to ordinary folk.

He, his three sisters and parents "were a games family, enjoying wet weekends of Scrabble, 500 and backgammon". He inherited his love of words from his schoolteacher father Gerald, who, at 81, is still one of the country's top Scrabble players.

At 14 Howard Warner began devising word puzzles, where players found words in patterns of letters, and sold them to newspapers. He did this for 10 years "but never made much money - newspapers are notorious bad payers".

But this built a broad word knowledge and when he took on friends and flatmates at Scrabble he beat them too easily. At 25, living in Wellington, he joined a club to

sharpen his skills and fell in love with competition.

"There's the thrill of the chase, the intense focus and I love winning. I like the paraphernalia of the game, the look and feel of the tiles and patterns that emerge as the words link across the board. Visually Scrabble is a kinetic art and no two games are, or look, the same. And there's excitement in anticipating the unknown that comes when playing with chance."

Getting to number one was a struggle because it took years for Warner to knock off Hastings' Jeff Grant, "the great untouchable, who led New Zealand Scrabble for a decade. I had a real block when it came to beating Jeff and we battled 20 times with him winning them all, but in 2000 something clicked and I got the edge."

In the Scrabble world Warner is unusual because he's a words man, not a mathematical genius, and "words are made for scores and letters and could just



Howard Warner (Independent)

as easily be numbers and symbols on a card, as in poker, or mini armies as in chess. In real life words are for writing, reading and communicating, they have meaning, but meaning is not relevant as this is a game of memory, mathematics, probability and strategy and the type of people who usually excel are computer programmers, mathematicians and accountants."

Every two years five New Zealanders go to the World Scrabble Championships and Warner placed 18th in London last year. Brits, Americans and Canadians tend to dominate the championships but the "Thai phenomenon" is rattling the tiles with school kids from Thailand swinging in to come first and second in 2003 and second, after an Oxford maths professor, in 2005.

Warner explains: "Scrabble was introduced into Thai schools as an English language learning tool and the King, who's a Scrabble nut, sponsors a big annual tournament. Though it helps beginners learn vocabulary, at the higher levels Scrabble has been hijacked by young maths geniuses, many of whom barely speak English."

In New Zealand Warner would be happy to have smart youngsters chasing him but is concerned at the dearth of young people coming up through the Scrabble ranks.

"In Asia brain sports are highly regarded whereas in New Zealand brain games have little status in schools, where physical sports are the focus. And at home computer games are stealing the attention of our potential young Scrabble champions."

For Warner preparation for a tournament doesn't involve playing as much as systematic word learning and there are sophisticated computer programmes with word lists to boost Scrabble Players' prowess. Warner focuses on anagrams of seven- and eight-letter words - and has memorised 30,000 anagram combinations - because that's where the big points lurk.

With 15 games over two days at the nationals and 24 games over three days at the world champs, playing top-level Scrabble is emotionally and mentally draining. After every big tournament Warner retreats to his cats and a good book and doesn't play Scrabble for weeks.

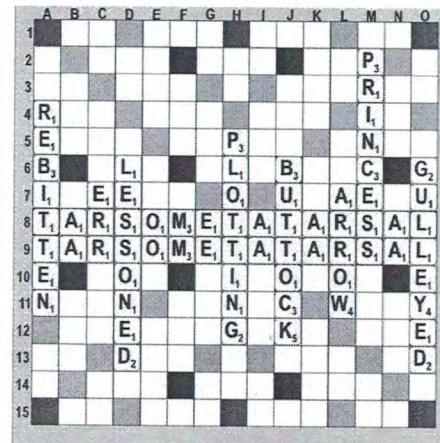
## Seeing double across the board

- by Jeff Grant

Perhaps as a final word on this subject, consider the following theoretical opening moves:

META (T on centre square),  
 METATARSAL, TARSOMETATARSAL,  
 REBITTEN, ERR, TAR/AA, LESSONED/EE/  
 TARS, PLOTTING, BUTTOCK, ARROW,  
 PRINCES/AE, GULLEYED

If the next player has a rack of AAAEMOS it is possible to make another TARSOMETATARSAL, side by side with the first one, stretching right across the board!



## Scrabble with Rewful

I have just come back from a trip with a Canadian (nickname Rewful) whom I met on the internet. Beforehand I had a number of discussions with family and friends, all of which went something like this:

"Have you actually met this person?"

"No, I 'met' her five years ago on the Nuthouse Scrabble site."

"How do you know she isn't a predatory male, or a nut or a skellum?"

"It's possible but unlikely that a perv would stalk me for five years on a Scrabble site; just think of all the Scrabble a skelm weirdo would have to play!"

In any case, who wants to chase after a nerdy word freak?

Rewful joined my game called 'Blikkiesfontein'. Literally this means a fountain of tin cans, but really it means the back of beyond, boondocks or one horse town. When I left the Nuthouse for another site, I invited Rewful to join and we are currently playing our 180th 'Blikkiesfontein Too' game.

Although I didn't 'know' her, over the years the ongoing conversations we had in the 'comments' box did build up some sort of picture. She goes on holiday once a year with a friend to Las Vegas, and does gamble – obviously not too straight laced. Never once did she say God would bless me, even when I had been ill, so it was a fair cop that she wasn't an evangelist and wouldn't try to coerce me to join her brand of religion.

When we decided to take a trip together, some relevant questions were of course asked, mostly dietary, like "Are you vegetarian?" "No, more like a carnivore." I don't mind instant coffee; she has to have 'real' coffee. Actually when we shopped together in Canmore supermarket just

- by Shirley van Essen



Shirley van Essen (Christchurch)

outside Banff National Park in the Canadian Rockies (which I was interested to see had NZ Braeburn apples for sale), we made very few mistakes and had no arguments.

Some questions we should have asked each other strangely enough didn't occur to me. For example, I hate having to repel a dog determined to wipe its mucus-laden nose on my legs. So often the proud doggy owner assures me, "He likes you; it is not everyone he takes to!" as I desperately try to avoid the wretched animal.

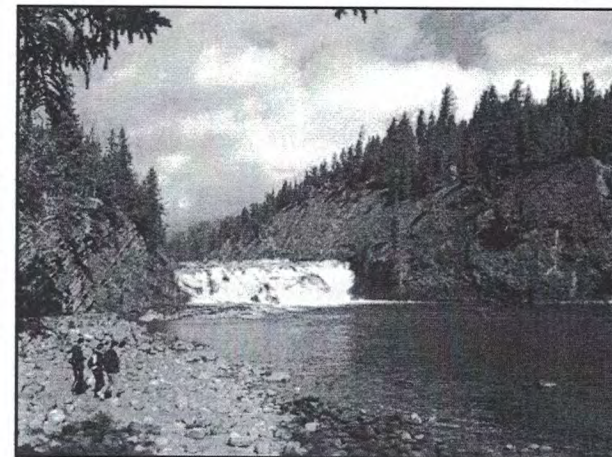
Turned out Rewful doesn't like dogs either, and come to think of it, dogs, hers or mine, never entered our five-year-long admittedly desultory conversations.

All those years ago I was astonished to find that Rewful and other North Americans who signed up to play Sowpods games on the net had no dictionary! I gave several of them the Chambers website from which the word list could be ordered, but my friend Rewful was the only one who actually ordered the book. Later I gave her the website of the South African book *The Scrabble Players Study Guide*, and lo and behold she ordered that too!

It was soon obvious to me that here I had encountered a talented player, but consider the problems for someone who likes to play Sowpods. There is a club where she lives in Victoria, British Columbia, but they don't play Sowpods and all tourneys are in their strange restricted dictionary. The result is, she can only play crazies like myself on the net.

I joined Rewful at Victoria for the trip she had planned. We had a day in Victoria, then flew to Calgary, took the Banff Airporter bus to Canmore, where we had a cabin with cooking facilities for four days, and we hired a wee car. I did the cooking, Rewful the driving on the 'wrong' (for me) side of the road. From this base we toured the Canadian Rockies. What a blast!

Of course we had a number of 'real'



The Bow River at Banff

look up friendly games, without a clock, while holed up in our cabin, and I think Rewful is wasted on Canada – she could become a fearsome tournament player with very little effort. As it is, 'real' games are a novelty to her.

Isn't it just a pity that the Scrabble community can't agree to a unified world-wide standard Scrabble dictionary?

## Showing the way

- from a guide to Queens  
by John Roleke

The street sign at the corner of 35th Avenue and 81st Street in Jackson Heights, Queens, New York, has some unusual numbers. They're actually Scrabble letter values, totalling 14 points, in honour of the game's inventor, Alfred Moshe Butts.

Butts, a Jackson Heights resident, masterminded the word game in the 1930s, calling it Lexiko (and later Criss-Cross Words). Unfortunately, he never benefitted financially from what would become the second all-time favourite US board game. In 1948 he ceded all rights to Mr

and Mrs James Burnot, who renamed it Scrabble.

Butts perfected the game at Community Methodist Church, located on the corner of 35th Avenue and 81st Street, where a Scrabble club still meets. If you're a fan of the game, pay homage at this quiet, quirky spot of Scrabble history (and shocking display of NYC Department of Transportation creativity).



## Double Scrabble

- by Patrick Carter

I was interested in the article on Super Scrabble as I have suggested and played an alternative myself.

You need two boards and two sets of letters that are different colours. The letters are kept in their own separate bags and each player has one bag each. Plays can be made on either board, but there is no inter-connection from one board to the other – you can't play a word that is half on each board. For example if your opponent goes first and plays QI on one board and you pick up AEHNORT you can either play ANOTHER on the other board or you can choose to play ANTIHERO through their I. You keep taking tiles from your own bag until you use all the tiles in your own bag, in which case you can steal any remaining tiles from your opponent's bag.

### Points to note:

- Both players get a fair share of esses and blanks, unless one or two get stolen at the end by the player with the greater turnover.
- You can't get 3 Vs or 2 Qs unless you are really unlucky at the end of the game.
- Because there are two separate games going and you can play anywhere, the number of openings and hotspots you need to keep an eye on is doubled, unlike Super Scrabble which is just one big game with probably the normal number of openings and scoring opportunities.
- Some tactics can be different, eg. with an opening rack of BDHWW?? you should throw one of the blanks back into the bag as you are almost certain to get it later, and then you can use your two blanks in separate bingos. Or you might set up an S hook on the side of a board even when you haven't got one on your rack, if you know there is an S left in your bag, but not your opponent's bag.

I have never played it seriously enough to tile track, but if you did you would need to keep two separate sheets to work out what was left in your bag and what was left in your opponent's bag.

You can only change when there are at least seven tiles left in the bag from which you would take your next tile. If there is one tile left in your bag and 21 left in the other bag you cannot change. Once you have depleted your bag you will be able to change next time, but you cannot put letters from your bag back into your opponent's bag, so if you have QJCCVZ that are all unplayable you could be in trouble.

At the end of the game you just pick up the different coloured tiles into their separate bags and you are ready to go again.

### Bingo hunters

- by Patrick Carter

After CONFERVA cropped up in our weekly challenge, I wondered how many sevens and eights had C, F and V. Just 10 as it turned out:

CAVEFISH  
CONFERVA  
FACTIVE  
FERVENCY  
FICTIVE  
FRUCTIVE  
SALVIFIC  
VENEFIC  
VIVIFIC  
VOICEFUL

Good luck on playing any of those . . . particularly VIVIFIC, obviously a word for someone with bad rack management!!



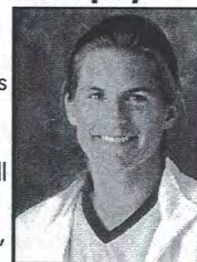
## Who's playing Scrabble?

### Dannii and Kylie Minogue and Kathy Lette (novelist)

Australian-born Dannii and Kathy are both prominent members of the Oz set in London. They're also close friends – Dannii's sister, Kylie, has written a foreword to one of Kathy's books, and the three of them often play Scrabble together at Kathy's house (where, apparently, during a recent game, Dannii beat Salman Rushdie).

### Amélie Mauresmo, tennis player

She's a Scrabble-loving champion who, according to one sports commentator, "refuses to journey from A to B without first taking in all other 24 destinations." She likes playing cards, too.



### The Rists, Baton Rouge, Los Angeles

For more than 53 years the Rists played Scrabble every night before going to bed.

Once, when Christmas lights were on display at the State Capitol years back, Roland Rist and his wife, Ann, were in line to see the sights. Directly behind them were a lady and small child. Upon seeing the lights, the young man said, "That's amazable!"

The lady said, "There is no such word." Roland turned to her and said, "There is now."

Ever since that night Roland and Ann used that word. In the hospital before Roland died, Ann used it and Roland said, "Don't you let that word die."

Wonder if they ever played "amazable" in a Scrabble game?

- from the Advocate, 30 June 2006

### Tommy Sheridan, former leader of the Scottish Socialist Party

He opened his libel suit against the newspaper, *The News of the World*, with a five-minute speech in which he promised to disprove stories that he had cheated on his wife and taken part in orgies.

He told the jury that he had devoted his life to his political ideals. "I am hardly likely to have time for any secret life of sexual Olympics," he told the court in Edinburgh. "You will hear of my addiction to Scrabble and sunbeds, not champagne, cocaine and swingers' clubs."

### Brian Cappelletto, USA

Cappelletto's grandparents introduced him to Scrabble at age seven, but he didn't fall under its spell until a neighbour inspired him to join a high school club.

Since 1985, Cappelletto, a stock options trader, has been to all but one US National Scrabble Championship, and he won it eight years ago. He also came in first at the World Scrabble Championship in Las Vegas in 2001.

Cappelletto plays online Scrabble and practises unscrambling anagrams through a computer program to prepare for competitions. To him, Scrabble's a sport. "It's what I like to do. This is definitely an old-school game because it didn't involve computers initially. It's going to appeal to a different mind-set than to those who play Mortal Kombat."

- from the Chicago Sun-Times,  
31 July 2006



## Dictionary update

The last issue of *Forwards* may have given the impression that adoption of the *Collins Dictionary for Scrabble* is definitely going to happen. In the time between receiving the information for the last issue, and the printing of *Forwards*, the possibility of that happening appears to have reduced. This is the current situation as we understand it:

- The Dictionary Committee of WESPA (World English Scrabble Players Association) has had considerable difficulty dealing with Collins over the last two years.
- Chambers, who have provided us with Scrabble books for around twenty years, have stated that they are willing to produce the Scrabble references required at short notice.
- However, support for this from Mattel, the games company that owns the Scrabble trademark, has not been forthcoming as they have a contract with Collins.
- There has been talk of WESPA producing and maintaining their own Scrabble Word List.
- On August 27, players at the AGM of ABSP (Association of British Scrabble Players) voted to continue assessing the Collins Word List, but expressed significant reservations about Collins being the right choice for the players and being trustworthy in the future. The ABSP intends organising a ballot for players "as and when there are supportable options available, whether that be Collins Scrabble Words, a Chambers solution, or a WESPA publication".

Watch this space! And look after your current *Chambers Official Scrabble Words* – it may have to last you a considerable while yet!

## Metaphorically speaking

- sent in by Liz Fagerlund

The following are genuine metaphors taken from GCSE English essays:

- ☺ The plan was simple, like my brother Phil. But unlike Phil, this plan just might work.
- ☺ The young fighter had a hungry look, the kind you get from not eating for a while.
- ☺ His thoughts tumbled in his head, making and breaking alliances like underpants in a tumble dryer.
- ☺ Her hair glistened in the rain like nose hair after a sneeze.
- ☺ Her vocabulary was as bad as, like, whatever.
- ☺ He was as tall as a 6ft 3in tree.
- ☺ John and Mary had never met. They were like two hummingbirds who had also never met.
- ☺ He was deeply in love. When she spoke, he thought he heard bells, as if she were a dustcart reversing.
- ☺ She grew on him like she was a colony of E coli and he was room-temperature British beef.
- ☺ She walked into my office like a centipede with 98 missing legs.
- ☺ It hurt the way your tongue hurts after you accidentally staple it to the wall.
- ☺ She had a deep, throaty laugh, like the sound a dog makes just before it throws up.
- ☺ The ballerina rose en pointe and extended one slender leg behind her, like a dog at a lamppost.

## Man killed in argument during Scrabble game

- article sent in by Lorraine Van Veen, Howard Warner and Jeff Grant

*Remember the big Scrabble news from a few years back: a player at an English tournament sued the organisers after he lost time (and the game) because of a toilet break? It was reproduced around the world and discussed. To date, that's been the most dramatic news in the world to emerge from Scrabble. Until now...*

- Howard

*Typical media beat-up! If you read the story it's obvious the Scrabble had nothing to do with the murder (which happened nearly a year ago). Of course some people have deduced that the game of Scrabble caused the murder! Not an unnatural assumption given the headline. And from there the story has gone around the world, appearing on all sorts of websites specialising in the weird and wonderful.*

- Jeff

An argument during a game of Scrabble led to the man being bashed at least 40 times with a baseball bat and stabbed five times in the back, a court was told in July. Brendon Tahu, 26, of Rotorua died after 10 violent minutes.

In the High Court at Rotorua, James Wharetakahia Hamiora, 22, unemployed, pleaded guilty to Mr Tahu's murder. His associate Gabriel John Kingi, 19, pleaded guilty to manslaughter.

The court was told Mr Tahu had visited a friend on August 25 last year and they settled in for a night of scrabble. Hamiora, Kingi and another man turned up at the house.

When Mr Tahu took exception to the way Hamiora was speaking to his friends, Hamiora held up a bullet and put a cigarette against it saying he was going to shoot a hole through the wall. Mr Tahu told Hamiora not to disrespect his friend's house and the pair argued. Hamiora got a silver aluminium baseball bat from his car and began bashing Mr Tahu. Kingi joined in, punching Mr Tahu.

At one stage Hamiora was taken outside but he returned, continuing to assault Mr Tahu. Mr Tahu tried to get away, screaming at them, "What is the matter? What is your problem?" At this stage Hamiora stabbed Mr Tahu in the

back at least five times while Kingi continued to punch him and hit him with the bat.

Mr Tahu had numerous injuries to his head, body and limbs and died a short time later as a result of a stab wound to his left lung.

[On his website, David Farrar says: "I enjoy a good board game as much as anyone ... and have a wee bit of a reputation for being extremely competitive ... However not even I get as competitive as this game of Scrabble in Rotorua ... Annoyingly though we don't know who won the Scrabble!"]

As Jeff points out, it was completely wrong to conclude that the Scrabble game caused the murder, but some of the ensuing comments are funny enough to reprint. - Ed.]

- "It is called snuff scrabble; the loser gets bashed to death."
- "How do you know it was competitive? He could have just spelled 'zymurgy' on a triple word score square."
- "I heard he was caught with spare Zs and Qs up his sleeve."
- "Once again I thank the NZ education system for ensuring I can't spell, thus saving me from the dangers of blood sport Scrabble."

## Lurking in a cupboard near you: marital breakdown, even death

- by Richard Glover, as published in the Sydney Morning Herald

According to the experts, parents should take a break from TV in order to play some old-fashioned games with their children. They recommend Scrabble, Monopoly, chess and cards. My advice: don't listen to them.

My relationship with my partner and our younger son is in tatters, following a particularly brutal game of Monopoly. It's still unclear what I did that was so bad.

During the early rounds of the game, I had wisely acquired a string of quality properties, concentrated on the top side of the board. It is true that I may have allowed myself a small, restrained smile at certain points during this process. And I may also have counted my money in a rather ostentatious way.

Nothing, however, can excuse the bitter hostilities that followed the game's conclusion.

Which brings me back to my point: don't play Monopoly. Safer by far for the whole family just to sit in front of the television, staring vacantly into the middle distance.

Monopoly is not the only dangerous game which may be lurking in your cupboard, waiting to destroy your family life. In my experience it is only one danger among many.

Game: Scrabble

Danger area: The three-toed South American sloth, the 'ai'. Does it really exist, or has dad just made it up? Has he ever actually seen an 'ai'? And why is he so particular about it having three toes? Do most South American sloths have only two toes? If you had two three-toed sloths – or for that matter, three two-toed sloths –

would you be able to just add an 's' and get away with the word 'ais'?

Probable outcome: Brutal nocturnal attack on father by child, deploying all eight volumes of the *Complete Oxford*.

Game: Card games such as five hundred

Danger area: The counting of tricks by only one member of a married couple, leading to the unwise phrase "I just can't believe you didn't realise the 10 of hearts was still out there".

Probable outcome: Bitter argument in bed later that night. Permanent withdrawal of marital privileges. Lifetime of playing solitaire, in more ways than one.

Game: Trivial Pursuit

Danger area: Smug, cocky walk to the fridge by Uncle Barry, just because he was the only person in the room to know the name of the currency of Swaziland.

Probable outcome: Uncle Barry no longer invited to Christmas at beach. Dies alone. Only later does family realise he had amassed a large fortune, trading in international currencies, which has been left to the dogs' home. Years of bitter recriminations.

Game: Charades

Danger area: Required to act out the film title *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, the split-second decision to point at one's wife's bottom in order to illustrate the words 'big' and 'fat'.

Probable outcome: Loss of friends. Loss of marriage. Social opprobrium.

## Your getting you're words muddled

- ☺ Two fat blokes in a pub, one says to the other "Your round." The other one says "So are you, you fat b\*\*\*\*\*d!"
- ☺ A guy walks into the psychiatrist wearing only Clingfilm for shorts. The shrink says, "Well, I can clearly see you're nuts."

- Tommy Cooper, comedian

Game: Pictionary

Danger area: Was it her bad drawing that led to the problem, or your bad guessing? Sure, it was a wombat, but with all that stuff coming out of the nose, your guess of "a wombat with a cold" was pretty reasonable. Who could be expected to guess she was trying to draw 'a hairy-nosed wombat'?

Probable outcome: Husband stabbed with sharpened pencil. Police called. Wife charged with attempted murder. Wombat drawing presented at trial as evidence. Judge drops all charges and frees wife, "given evidence of such incredible provocation".

[Reproduced with kind permission from Richard Glover, who writes for the Sydney Morning Herald. His latest book is *Desperate Husbands*, published by HarperCollins.]

Mary Farmer

Dear Friend of New Zealand

What grief what sorrow  
Learning of your death  
Yet your sweet murmuring breath  
Shall ever be in my morrow  
The lord has called you away  
To a far place I must say  
I shall not learn much  
Your soul in sublime rest such  
Lo behold - I am told  
No tears to destroy your paradise  
For it shall not be wise  
Soften not to wound my heart  
Providence sure this depart  
Never shall I forget those lovely days  
Sweet remembrance shall always stay

Khin Saw Khine  
Myanmar (Burma)



Mary and Khine, taken during Khine's nine months stay in New Zealand in 1999-2000, when they used to play Scrabble together. Khine says she will always remember Mary, especially since she still has Mary's hand-written Scrabble notes and lists as a token of remembrance.

## Twenty years ago today

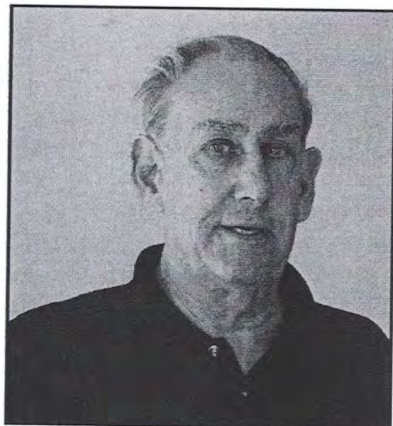
- by John Foster

This is the first of a new regular series featuring items from old issues of *Forwards*, along the lines of the previous "Page from the Past" series, but specifically targeting the corresponding issue 20 years ago.

This month's selection from *Forwards* issue No. 5, September 1986, is a contribution from former president, Charlie Curl.

Charlie was not alone in his view that clocks were not necessary in New Zealand at the time, it being widely considered that overseas innovations like clocks and tile tracking were not required here.

However, opinions changed quite quickly in the ensuing few years, and the constitution was amended in 1992 to make



clocks mandatory for the A and B grades from the start of 1993.

The first NZ tournament to operate under this rule was Howick Pakuranga, 25 January 1993.

### TIME CLOCKS

In the last issue of *FORWORDS*, Sue asked about the use of Chess clocks.

Two years ago Daphne and I competed in the NSW Championships and chess clocks were used in the top grade. The clocks comprise of two clocks in a single case with two knobs on top. Pressing one knob starts one clock and stops the other and vice versa.

As soon as tiles are drawn the player going first starts his clock. When the player has made his word and the score is written down he stops his clock and starts his opponents.

Players were each allowed twenty minutes elapsed time for the game, giving 40 minutes total.

For each minute over time players were penalised ten points.

The hazard for a new chum like me was forgetting to push the button and finding that my opponent was working on my time. Fortunately some players were very nice and reminded me of my omission. I'm not an advocate for their use in New Zealand.

By Charlie Curl

## Are you lonesome tonight

- by Elaine Moltzen

Here are the words of the skit performed by the girls from Kiwi Scrabblers on the Sunday evening of the Nationals. It is sung to the tune of "Are you lonesome tonight?"

Are you lonesome tonight  
Does your tummy feel tight  
Did you take your Mylanta and Tums?  
Does your memory stray  
To that bright sunny day  
When you had all your teeth in your gums?  
Is your hairline receding  
Your eyes growing dim  
And your waistline increasing  
You're no longer slim?  
Does your back give you pain  
Do your knees predict rain?  
Tell me, Dear, are you lonesome tonight?

You're often a bore  
Yes, you know where it's at  
But forget what it's for?  
So your gall bladder's gone  
But your gout lingers on?  
Tell me, Dear, are you lonesome tonight?

We know that we are  
Keeping minds up to par  
With our regular sessions of Scrabble.  
And we know each brain cell  
Is so healthy and well  
'Cos of that game in which we all dabble.  
Not a senile decline —  
We're all savvy and smart  
And no-one could call us  
A boring old fart!  
While our bodies allow  
We'll play on by the hour  
And say, no! - we're not lonesome tonight!

Is your blood pressure up  
Good cholesterol down  
Are you eating your low fat cuisine?  
All the fruit and oat bran  
In your high fibre plan  
Helps you run like a well-oiled machine?  
You repeat yourself daily

We hope some other club will organise a skit for next year's Nationals in Wellington. So come on, everybody, you've got nine months to think about it.

## Easy Wellington words

- by Pat Grant

Three-quarters of the Scrabble tiles are worth only one or two points. Here are some interesting words composed entirely of one- and two-point letters that were played at the Wellington tournament in June (all of them are allowed):

|          |          |         |          |         |          |
|----------|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|
| OUTLAID  | SIRENISE | TINIES  | LANATED  | SALTIES | SNOTTER  |
| ALIENEES | REUNITER | GERE    | RESINATA | NARDINE | REDDIEST |
| TININESS | TUND     | AGONIST | SLUTTIER | RESEDED | TITRE    |
| SOILINGS | SAUTOIR  | STONIES | LOUTING  | EORL    | ELOGIST  |

Jeff and I stayed with NZASP president Lynn Wood while in Wellington. Purely by coincidence, the title of this piece anagrams into 'Lynn Wood's a sweet girl'!

## Wordplay

In the wake of *Spellbound* (a documentary about kids in the national spelling bee) and *Word Wars* (a documentary about professional Scrabble players) we will soon get *Wordplay*, a documentary about the world of crossword puzzle enthusiasts.

The film talks to Will Shortz, the crossword puzzle editor of the *New York Times*. Thirty years ago Shortz invented his own college major: enigmatology, or the study of puzzles. He now edits 67 puzzles submitted each week for the handful that will actually appear in the *Times*.

It also features crossword "constructor" Merl Reagle, who builds a puzzle step-by-step for the camera. He's like a chess player planning his attack a dozen moves out and is so sure of himself that he keeps his dictionaries in another room. Reagle confesses to being frustrated by "the Sunday morning breakfast test," which decrees that certain distasteful words cannot be in a crossword puzzle.

Various famous people, including Bill Clinton, talk about why they love their daily puzzle. Apparently, the best people at solving crosswords aren't writers or editors — they're mathematicians and musicians.

And finally the film looks at the three



*The USA national crossword championship is held in a hotel ballroom in Stamford, Connecticut.*

people who will compete for that year's crossword puzzle championship: Al Ripitsky, a family man from Colorado; 20-year-old Tyler Hinman, who in just a few years has moved into the top ranks of competitors, and Trip Payne, a word freak from Miami whose boyfriend accompanies him to the finals and cheers him on from the sidelines.

*Wordplay*, directed by Patrick Creadon, runs for 1 hour 34 minutes.

### Crosswords trivia

- Arthur Wynne of the old *New York World* invented the first crossword puzzle in 1913.
- Margaret Farrar, a former puzzle editor at the *World*, became the first editor of the *New York Times* crossword puzzle in 1942.
- She established the rules: 15 rows by 15 columns; black spaces diametrically symmetrical (they look the same when viewed upside-down); black spaces take up no more than one-sixth of the puzzle; nothing related to bodily functions or death.
- *The Times* crossword daily is easiest on Mondays and gets tougher through the week.

### Airline Scrabble

*- sent in by Debbie Caldwell*

A traveller on United Emirates airline was amusing himself on the in-flight computer, and clicked on the "Play Scrabble" option.

The computer responded . . . PLEASE WAIT . . . SEARCHING TO FIND YOU AN OPPONENT ON BOARD . . . Then . . . WOULD YOU LIKE TO PLAY ALJAHAB?

The traveller logged off in disgust, exclaiming "There's no way I could get a word with those letters!"



## Overseas news



### Australia

At the National Championships held in Brisbane at Easter, Andrew Fisher beat Rod Talbot and Bob Jackman to become the new Australian Champion.

### Bahrain

In a 14-round closed competition featuring 36 top players from all six Gulf states, the 16th Gulf Scrabble Tournament held in June ended with the same champion and runner-up as last year.

- 1st Ralph Lobo (Oman) with 12 wins and a 1,080 winning margin.
- 2nd Salah Salih (Saudi Arabia), with 11 wins and a 506 margin — his fourth time as runner-up in this tournament.
- 3rd Ricky Gonzalez (Saudi Arabia), the 2003 Gulf titleholder.
- 4th Sanath Hemachandran (Oman), with the most bingos (31 in 14 games).



*Ralph Lobo*

Mario Ranasuriya, 19, will be the featured player at an international Scrabble Tournament, already being called the Super Mario Challenge, in December. At 14 years, Scrabble whiz kid Mario Ranasuriya represented Bahrain as the youngest entrant ever in the World Scrabble Championship, in 2001 in the USA.

### Caribbean

Trinidad and Tobago beat Guyana 26-10 in the second Caribbean Scrabble Championships held at the end of May.

### France

The new French National Champion is Alexis Rennesson from Rouen, who scored just 16 points shorts of the maximum possible score. 792 players took part in the tournament.

### Nigeria

Two female players, Tuoyo Mayuku and Patricia Okoye, have been selected to represent Nigeria in the 7th African Scrabble Championship in Abuja in September, a Championship won by Nigeria five times out of six so far. Others to represent Nigeria are: Jighere Wellington, Saheed Tayo and Timi Olaitan (first, second and third respectively in the deciding play-offs), Dennis Ikekeregor (the defending champion), Awwenagha Oshevire, Eta Karo, Duorjaiye Segun, Oshodi Sunday and Onota Oteheri. All players will soon go into a closed camp to sharpen their skills for the biennial event.

### Singapore

After drawing the penultimate game of the 2006 Singapore Nationals, reigning National Champion, Goh Jiang Pern, and seven-times National Champion, Tony Sim, played the final game to decide not only the championship, but who would represent Singapore in the 2007 World Scrabble Championship. In the deciding game, Jiang Pern beat Tony, 535-367.

### Thailand

Results of the 21st Brand's Crossword King's Cup 2006, held in Bangkok, 29 June to 2 July:

- 1st Nigel Richards (New Zealand), with 21 wins.



2nd Femi Awowade (Nigeria), with 19 wins.

3rd David Eldar (Australia), with 18 wins.

Nigel beat Femi Awowade in the finals 2 games to 1. One other New Zealander played this year, Andree Prentice from Wanganui. We hope Andree enjoyed her experience at this very different tournament.

## USA

Results of the US Scrabble Open, held in Phoenix at the beginning of August:

1st Jim Kramer (Minnesota)

2nd Geoff Thevenot (Texas)

3rd Pakorn Nemitmansuk (Thailand)

## Wales

At the Welsh Masters, held in April, Gareth Williams won, with Neil Green second, and John Garyson third.

## New US champion

*- from the Pioneer Press, Minnesota*

Proofreader Jim Kramer, top-rated Scrabble player in Minnesota, started playing the board game Scrabble during downtime at work. After 20 years, countless games, and dozens of tournaments, he finally became the nation's top player. Kramer, 47, of Roseville won the US Scrabble Open in Phoenix, beating 624 competitors to take home a \$25,000 prize.

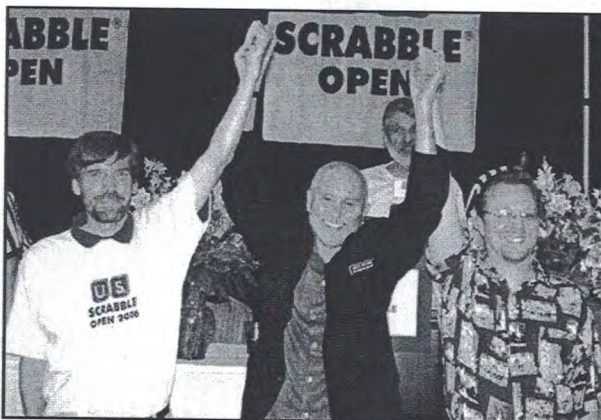
His proofreading skills had little to do with it, Kramer said. "It doesn't hurt, but when you get good at Scrabble, everyday words only make up a small fraction of

what you're playing," he said. "After awhile, you only run into a few words that are helpful."

After beating out his division – the best division of six – he went on to play his lead competitor, Geoff Thevenot, in a best-of-five final. He beat the Texan with a three-game shutout with scores of 388-374, 402-391 and 433-326.

"My mind was kind of mush at that point. I thought let's get those last few tiles on the board and get the torture over with," he said. "But I was also thinking of how cool it was to finally win the championship after 20 years."

The turning point in the final game, he said, was when his opponent played the word 'ode', just one space short of a triple word score. Kramer then played an 'a' on the end, making the word 'odea', a plural of 'odium', meaning a theater or music hall, to rack up dozens of points. He finished the game by playing the word 'bi', slang for bisexual.



NSA Director, John D Williams Jr is flanked by US Open winner, Jim Kramer (left), and runner up Geoff Thevenot

## 2006 Penang ICT Scrabble Tournament

*- by Dominic Lister*

The 2006 Penang Scrabble Open was held on the top floor of the City Bayview Hotel with a field of 46 international players. New Zealand produced three players – Andree Prentice, Nigel Richards and Paul Lister – and the field included players from United States, United Kingdom, Thailand, Singapore, Pakistan, Nigeria, Australia and a sizeable contingent of Malaysian players including heavyweight Ganesh Asirvatham who was fourth in the most recent World Championships.

Day One opened with a bang with the Malaysia contestant Jocelyn Lor playing the highest scoring word of the tournament in her first game – QUANTISE for 208 points. The opening ceremony took place after the third game, and after some light promotion of tourism in Penang by the sponsor (great city, by the way) and a fourth game, Day One had ended with no clear leader established.

On Day Two, however, eleven games were played across fourteen hours and two clear leaders distinguished themselves from the crowd. They were Ganesh and Nigel, who were repeatedly playing each other as a result of the way the matches were drawn to pair up similarly ranking players. Day Two ended with Ganesh in

the lead and Nigel close behind.

Finally on Day Three, the last five games were played. Ganesh drew further away from the rest to win convincingly with

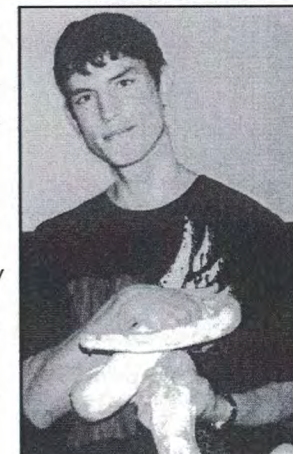
seventeen games. The Singaporean, Andy Kurnia, came to a late second with fourteen games, just beating Nigel who came third with 13.5 games.

The prizegiving ceremony saw Ganesh walk away with \$US1000 and a rather large trophy.

I will leave Malaysia with fond memories of my welcoming hosts and colourful but brilliant Scrabble players.

### Final standings

|                                   | Wins | Spread |
|-----------------------------------|------|--------|
| 1. Ganesh Asirvatham (Malaysia)   | 17   | 2312   |
| 2. Andy Kurnia (Singapore)        | 14   | 839    |
| 3. Nigel Richards (New Zealand)   | 13.5 | 749    |
| 4. Cheah Siu Hean (Singapore)     | 13   | 823    |
| 5. Gerry Carter (Thailand)        | 13   | 427    |
| 6. Aaron Chong (Malaysia)         | 13   | 185    |
| 7. Jocelyn Lor (Malaysia)         | 12   | 635    |
| 8. Hubert Wee (Singapore)         | 12   | 546    |
| 9. Chuah Sim Swee (Malaysia)      | 12   | 366    |
| 10. Iqbal Syed Wajid (Pakistan)   | 12   | -3     |
| 33. Paul Lister (New Zealand)     | 9    | -282   |
| 37. Andree Prentice (New Zealand) | 8    | -17    |



The author with friend (Alexander, the albino snake) at Kuala Lumpur Aquarium



Nigel Richards playing John Lam

# Youth Scrabble

## Youth winner gets seat at Scrabble 'Olympics'

- by Roy Kietzman, Bahrain

The winner of the World Youth Scrabble Championship (WYSC) in December in Australia will earn a seat at the ninth World Scrabble Championship (WSC) next year, as well as substantial prize money.

This inaugural WYSC is being staged at the Wollongong University campus, near Sydney, on December 1-3. More than 50 under 18-year-old entrants from nearly 20 countries will compete.

Entrants so far come from Africa (Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania and Zambia), Asia (India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand), Australia, Europe (Britain, Ireland), North America (Canada, USA) and the Middle East (Bahrain and Oman).

The youth subcommittee recommended that players should have an international rating of at least 1000.

*[Unfortunately, no New Zealand players meet the criteria. - Ed.]*

A best-of-five championship will be staged on December 3 between the top two youth supremos as fans watch the move-by-move match on TV screens from an adjacent hall.

Throughout the event, results and annotated games will be available via internet, courtesy of Western Scrabble network, an Australia-based Internet Scrabble club.

## Youth targeted in Scrabble

- by Roy Kietzman

Though thousands of youngsters take part in junior Scrabble tournaments worldwide, students are reluctant to make the crossover to competitions with adults, a survey has found. The survey put together by the youth subcommittee of the World English-language Scrabble Players Association (WESPA) found school Scrabble programmes play a vital role in introducing children to the game.

Scrabble playing, as an extracurricular activity, is considered 'non-threatening' and becomes integrated into the total school programme where their peers don't see taking part in the mind game as 'nerdy' or isolating. In some school activities, like in Thailand, youngsters sometimes take part in an under-12 group.

Out of 200 junior players, only two may get into 'the hard stuff' as many kids may never want to compete seriously.

However, the needs of these more casual participants should not be overlooked. These young players will grow up to teach their own children to play," Karen Richards, WESPA youth subcommittee chair, maintains. "They'll bring out their dusty Scrabble sets at parties, and one of their guests may become addicted."

If a youngster has a parent or grandparent who competes in Scrabble contests, such kids tend to remain on the scene for a long time. "They have no transport problems and have support and encouragement at home," Karen says.

Another source of finding junior players is on the Internet where particularly the Internet Scrabble Club helps makes them

"excitingly proficient although sometimes poor at scoring."

The global survey found response from clubs in Africa and the West was poor, while those in Asia countries provided ample data.



Many of you will know that the RETINA combination is useful to have on your rack. These are six of the most common letters in Scrabble, and they combine with 20 different letters to make bonus words, for example RETINA + B = ATEBRIN, RETINA + I = INERTIA.

What stops RETINA being a truly great stem is that it doesn't make an allowable word when added to A. However, if you do have the letters ARETINA, be aware that they could be used to form an 8-letter word using a tile on the board, for example ARETINA + G = AERATING, ARETINA + M = MARINATE and ANIMATER. Here are a dozen more examples:

+ B = RABATINE  
 + C = CARINATE  
           CRANIATE  
 + D = DENTARIA  
           RAINDATE  
 + O = AERATION  
 + P = ANTIRAPE  
 + T = ATTAINER  
           REATTAIN  
 + U = INAURATE  
 + W = ANTIWEAR  
 + Z = ATRAZINE



*Barbara Dunn (Tauranga), winner of the Georgie award at the National Champs in June*

## Parallel bonus words

- from Carole Coates

In a home game the other night Roger put down his bonus word IRISATE latching on to a D (the only available space – which I had earmarked for my bonus!), and to my amazement, my bonus word SETTLER fitted exactly alongside his word. We had never seen that done before .

I R I S A T E  
 S E T T L E R

I wonder how often it would happen?

## Isn't it odd . . .

- sent in by Su Walker

- ☆ Isn't it odd that FAT CHANCE and SLIM CHANCE mean the same thing.
- ☆ Talkback radio recently identified the weirdest-spelt words as ONE and TWO. (If you don't think they're weird, imaging yourself as a foreign student trying to spell them.)
- ☆ Isn't it odd that when a tree's up, you cut it down, and when it's down you cut it up!

## The vulgar tongue

- by Jack Pudding

Slang forms a significant part of the English Language. The first slang dictionary appeared over 300 years ago, recording terms that are now mostly obsolete. Some of the old favourites survived though, and a few were thought too vulgar to include in standard dictionaries until quite recently. Even today, the sanitised 'family' edition of the *American Official Scrabble Players Dictionary* omits dozens of supposedly 'offensive' words. What a wimpy bunch of woolly woofers! We should be celebrating our colourful slanguage, not censoring it.

Here is an A to Z collection from the 1811 *Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue*. Note that none of these terms is allowed in Scrabble.

[Warning: not recommended for sensitive readers.]

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| ABEL-WACKETS      | blows given on the palm of the hand with a twisted handkerchief, a jocular punishment among sailors |
| BRISTOL-MAN       | the son of an Irish thief and a Welsh whore   |
| CLEYMES           | artificial sores made by beggars to excite charity  |
| DILBERRIES        | small pieces of excrement adhering to the hairs near the fundament                                  |
| EQUIPT            | rich, or having new clothes   |
| FLAYBOTTOMIST     | a bum-brusher, or schoolmaster  |
| GUNDIGUTS         | a fat, pussy fellow   |
| HARK-YE-ING       | whispering on one side to borrow money  |
| ITCHLAND          | Scotland, also called SCRATCHLAND* and LOUSELAND*   |
| JAW-ME-DEAD       | a talkative person  |
| KONOBLIN-RIG      | stealing large pieces of coal from coalsheds  |
| LANSPRISADO       | one who has only twopence in his pocket   |
| MAW-WALLOP        | a filthy composition, sufficient to provoke vomiting  |
| NIMGIMMER         | a physician who cures venereal disease  |
| ODD-COME-SHORTLYS | some time or another  |
| PUZZLE-TEXT       | an ignorant blundering parson   |
| QUOT              | a man who meddles in women's household business   |
| RANDLE            | a nonsensical rhyme recited by Irish schoolboys as an apology for breaking wind near friends        |
| SLIPGIBBET        | one who deserves and has narrowly escaped the gallows   |
| THINGSTABLE       | a ludicrous designation for a constable, avoiding the first syllable which sounds somewhat indecent |
| UNGUENTUM AUREUM  | a bribe   |
| VAN-NECK          | a woman with large breasts  |
| WATER-SCRIGER     | a doctor who prescribes from inspecting the water of his patients, a piss-prophet                   |
| XANTIPPE          | a shrew or scolding wife.   |
| YAFFLING          | eating  |
| ZOUCH             | a slovenly ungentle man who stoops while walking  |

## Answers

### Challenge! (from page 5)

All are allowed except HAGLIKE\*, RIVERLET\*, PITLESS\*, CLAIMEE\*, MIRO\*, UNSMELLY\* and CITINGS\*.

### Anagram Champions (from page 5)

There are clear winners in each category.

Threes: A E T yields 5 anagrams (cf. a maximum possible six).

(ATE, EAT, ETA, TAE, TEA).

A P S, A R Y, B O R, D O S and O T W each yields four words.

Fours: A E S T yields 9 anagrams.

(ATES, EATS, EAST, ETAS, SATE SEAT, SETA, TAES, TEAS)

A E L R, A E R S, A I L R and O S T W each yields seven words.

Sevens: A E I N R S T yields 11 anagrams.

(ANESTRI, ANTSIER, NASTIER, RATINES, RESIANT, RETAINS, RETINAS, RETSINA, STAINER, STARNIE and STEARIN)

A E G I N R S and A E G I N S T each yields 10 words.

Eights: A E G I N R S T yields ten anagrams.

(ANGRIEST, ASTRINGE, GANISTER, GANTRIES, GRANITES, INGRATES, RANGIEST, REASTING, STEARING and TASERING)

A E G I L N R S and A E E G N R S T each yields 8 words.

### Scrabble dolls

- sent in by Vicky Robertson

My daughters arranged their dolls into what they think a Scrabble Tournament should look like.

### Hairbrained\* questionnaire\* (from page 7)

Believe it or not, they are all correctly spelt (although not necessarily allowed in Scrabble)! A CALENDER is a glazing machine, and LEGENDRY is a collection of legends. The others are variant forms (non-standard, American, obsolete) of words listed in either *Chambers Dictionary* or *Webster's Third Edition*, parent dictionary to the American backup reference *Webster's 10th Collegiate*.

All are allowed in Scrabble except the examples for H, I, Q, X and Z.

[HAIRBRAINED\*, IDIOSYNCRACY\*, QUESTIONAIRE\*, XOSA\*, ZENOPHOBIA\*. XOSA\* is a variant of XHOSA\*, a South African Bantu language.]

### Editor's challenge (from page 17)

PRIZEGIVING\*.

[I forgot to take a note of which word I had singled out as the bogus for this issue, and it took me hours to find it again! I guess that's poetic justice! - Ed.]

### Roman words (correction to answers in last issue)

Applying the roman numerals rule that I can only be placed before a V or X, makes DID and MID not authentic roman numerals, either.



# Rankings

## NZASP Rankings list as at 20 August 2006

| Name                 | Rating | Wins   | Games | %   | Name                 | Rating | Wins  | Games | %   |
|----------------------|--------|--------|-------|-----|----------------------|--------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1 Jeff Grant         | 2111   | 1239.5 | 1609  | 77% | 42 Glenyss Buchanan  | 1584   | 452   | 957   | 47% |
| 2 Howard Warner      | 2084   | 943.5  | 1328  | 71% | 43 Karyn McDougall   | 1574   | 475.5 | 891   | 53% |
| 3 Jack Dymond        | 2060   | 315    | 423   | 74% | 44 Fae Olson         | 1574   | 983   | 2071  | 47% |
| 4 Mike Sigley        | 2007   | 709    | 972   | 73% | 45 Leila Thomson     | 1553   | 374   | 841   | 44% |
| 5 Peter Sinton       | 1991   | 427.5  | 587   | 73% | 46 Helen Sillis      | 1544   | 555   | 1088  | 51% |
| 6 Patrick Carter     | 1980   | 613    | 982   | 62% | 47 Andrew Denmead    | 1530   | 190.5 | 387   | 49% |
| 7 Joanne Craig       | 1978   | 88     | 144   | 61% | 48 Joan Thomas       | 1526   | 491   | 943   | 52% |
| 8 Lynne Butler       | 1930   | 652    | 1071  | 61% | 49 Gerald Warner     | 1521   | 846.5 | 1805  | 47% |
| 9 Liz Fagerlund      | 1910   | 563    | 1062  | 53% | 50 Stan Gregec       | 1519   | 132   | 220   | 60% |
| 10 Debbie Caldwell   | 1908   | 295.5  | 491   | 60% | 51 Maureen Holliday  | 1499   | 485   | 942   | 51% |
| 11 John Foster       | 1882   | 977.5  | 1714  | 57% | 52 Ann Candler       | 1447   | 549.5 | 1157  | 47% |
| 12 Glynis Jennings   | 1879   | 374.5  | 790   | 47% | 53 Pam Barlow        | 1441   | 355   | 684   | 52% |
| 13 Steven Brown      | 1872   | 576.5  | 1088  | 53% | 54 Frank Robinson    | 1415   | 119.5 | 233   | 51% |
| 14 Neil Talbot       | 1864   | 38     | 71    | 54% | 55 Rosalind Phillips | 1409   | 197   | 355   | 55% |
| 15 Rogelio Talosig   | 1859   | 229    | 383   | 60% | 56 Amelia Carrington | 1407   | 176   | 286   | 62% |
| 16 Andrew Bradley    | 1840   | 489    | 977   | 50% | 57 Olivia En         | 1399   | 122   | 202   | 60% |
| 17 Glennis Hale      | 1828   | 1030.5 | 1848  | 56% | 58 Yvette Hewlett    | 1394   | 265.5 | 547   | 49% |
| 18 Glenda Foster     | 1809   | 657.5  | 1269  | 52% | 59 Glenda Geard      | 1377   | 704   | 1417  | 50% |
| 19 Chris Hooks       | 1800   | 649    | 1345  | 48% | 60 Steve Richards    | 1348   | 158   | 301   | 52% |
| 20 Denise Gordon     | 1776   | 525    | 1032  | 51% | 61 Shirley Wyatt     | 1344   | 361.5 | 773   | 47% |
| 21 Pam Robson        | 1768   | 434.5  | 936   | 46% | 62 Selena Chan       | 1333   | 149.5 | 252   | 59% |
| 22 Lisa McLean       | 1762   | 407.5  | 808   | 50% | 63 Jean O'Brien      | 1324   | 680   | 1326  | 51% |
| 23 Val Mills         | 1746   | 616.5  | 1311  | 47% | 64 Shirley Martin    | 1309   | 455.5 | 872   | 52% |
| 24 Lynn Wood         | 1745   | 981    | 2049  | 48% | 65 Rhoda Cashman     | 1307   | 607   | 1277  | 48% |
| 25 Lynne Powell      | 1742   | 735    | 1439  | 51% | 66 Faye Cronhelm     | 1301   | 567.5 | 1141  | 50% |
| 26 Murray Rogers     | 1742   | 295.5  | 551   | 54% | 67 Lyn Dawson        | 1298   | 256   | 451   | 57% |
| 27 Nick Ascroft      | 1739   | 128    | 217   | 59% | 68 Ruth Groffman     | 1296   | 263   | 510   | 52% |
| 28 Paul Lister       | 1715   | 548.5  | 959   | 57% | 69 Andree Prentice   | 1295   | 618   | 1204  | 51% |
| 29 Rosemary Cleary   | 1711   | 453    | 969   | 47% | 70 Allie Quinn       | 1283   | 687.5 | 1445  | 48% |
| 30 Peter Jones       | 1695   | 661    | 1331  | 50% | 71 Ernie Gidman      | 1276   | 205   | 409   | 50% |
| 31 Marianne Bentley  | 1689   | 202    | 441   | 46% | 72 Doreen Ogston     | 1264   | 487.5 | 1014  | 48% |
| 32 David Gunn        | 1667   | 858    | 1688  | 51% | 73 Lynn Carter       | 1261   | 189   | 341   | 55% |
| 33 June Mackwell     | 1652   | 465.5  | 1047  | 44% | 74 Yoon Kim Fong     | 1256   | 294.5 | 556   | 53% |
| 34 Lawson Sue        | 1647   | 162.5  | 281   | 58% | 75 Hazel Purdie      | 1248   | 544.5 | 1113  | 49% |
| 35 Janice Cherry     | 1647   | 279    | 526   | 53% | 76 Betty Eriksen     | 1244   | 589.5 | 1200  | 49% |
| 36 Shirley van Essen | 1631   | 253    | 473   | 53% | 77 Delcie Macbeth    | 1241   | 512   | 974   | 53% |
| 37 Ann Hough         | 1623   | 342.5  | 669   | 51% | 78 Lyn Toka          | 1232   | 316.5 | 597   | 53% |
| 38 Shirley Hol       | 1604   | 379    | 783   | 48% | 79 Margaret Cherry   | 1225   | 348   | 694   | 50% |
| 39 Julie Atkinson    | 1603   | 223.5  | 413   | 54% | 80 Margaret Flaws    | 1214   | 157   | 277   | 57% |
| 40 Roger Coates      | 1588   | 463    | 968   | 48% | 81 Margaret Lyall    | 1189   | 351   | 711   | 49% |
| 41 Jennifer Smith    | 1586   | 528.5  | 1000  | 53% | 82 Su Walker         | 1184   | 501   | 993   | 50% |

| Name                   | Rating | Wins  | Games | %   | Name                  | Rating | Wins  | Games | %   |
|------------------------|--------|-------|-------|-----|-----------------------|--------|-------|-------|-----|
| 83 Margaret Bundock    | 1181   | 543.5 | 1141  | 48% | 129 Jacqueline        |        |       |       |     |
| 84 Elaine Moltzen      | 1172   | 388   | 774   | 50% | Coldham-Fussell       | 766    | 370   | 777   | 48% |
| 85 Pat Bryan           | 1169   | 55    | 94    | 59% | 130 Annette Coombes   | 736    | 366   | 817   | 45% |
| 86 Kaite Hansen        | 1165   | 98    | 178   | 55% | 131 Margaret Durdle   | 732    | 123.5 | 250   | 49% |
| 87 Marianne Patchett   | 1124   | 203.5 | 396   | 51% | 132 Michael Groffman  | 727    | 127.5 | 271   | 47% |
| 88 Roto Mitchell       | 1124   | 307   | 600   | 51% | 133 Jo Ann Ingram     | 706    | 65.5  | 125   | 52% |
| 89 Colleen Cook        | 1113   | 116.5 | 226   | 52% | 134 Valma Gidman      | 703    | 464   | 927   | 50% |
| 90 Carole Coates       | 1108   | 389.5 | 786   | 50% | 135 Kate Wignall      | 684    | 551   | 1094  | 50% |
| 91 Marian Ross         | 1097   | 296.5 | 598   | 50% | 136 Elaine Ware       | 672    | 295   | 580   | 51% |
| 92 Carolyn Kyle        | 1092   | 333.5 | 666   | 50% | 137 Jean Wacker       | 661    | 138   | 276   | 50% |
| 93 Jim Wills           | 1091   | 117   | 194   | 60% | 138 Pam Mayall        | 654    | 227.5 | 440   | 52% |
| 94 Connie Flores       | 1086   | 72.5  | 100   | 73% | 139 Maureen McBain    | 641    | 131.5 | 306   | 43% |
| 95 Gabrielle Bolt      | 1077   | 178.5 | 338   | 53% | 140 Bernice Hyde      | 598    | 109.5 | 216   | 51% |
| 96 John Baird          | 1068   | 47    | 72    | 65% | 141 Olwen Skelton     | 589    | 406.5 | 856   | 47% |
| 97 Correne James       | 1042   | 539   | 1117  | 48% | 142 Jean Craib        | 565    | 228   | 515   | 44% |
| 98 Roger French        | 1035   | 74    | 123   | 60% | 143 Jillian Greening  | 561    | 241   | 504   | 48% |
| 99 Liz Richards        | 1027   | 156.5 | 299   | 52% | 144 Sue Mayn          | 560    | 57.5  | 158   | 36% |
| 100 Catherine Henry    | 1023   | 177.5 | 323   | 55% | 145 Maria Clinton     | 559    | 118   | 246   | 48% |
| 101 Mescal Kelly       | 1012   | 98.5  | 171   | 58% | 146 Anthea Jones      | 546    | 67    | 133   | 50% |
| 102 Jean Boyle         | 1000   | 170.5 | 284   | 60% | 147 Margaret Hanson   | 541    | 371.5 | 758   | 49% |
| 103 Kathleen           |        |       |       |     | 148 Janni Henneveld   | 522    | 125   | 275   | 45% |
| Mori-Barker            | 996    | 215.5 | 457   | 47% | 149 Dorothy Haining   | 519    | 416   | 847   | 49% |
| 104 Jan Evans          | 977    | 15    | 42    | 36% | 150 Betty Sutherland  | 513    | 163   | 392   | 42% |
| 105 Lorraine Van Veen  | 973    | 564   | 1125  | 50% | 151 Roslyn Lister     | 509    | 203   | 426   | 48% |
| 106 Ella Rushton       | 967    | 85    | 138   | 62% | 152 Charles Kiewiet   | 503    | 129   | 254   | 51% |
| 107 Shirley Morrison   | 962    | 51    | 113   | 45% | 153 Tony Charlton     | 499    | 68.5  | 155   | 44% |
| 108 Sheila Reed        | 958    | 65    | 131   | 50% | 154 Betty Wilson      | 490    | 224.5 | 436   | 51% |
| 109 Yvonne MacKenzie   | 957    | 265   | 580   | 46% | 155 Resie Coenen      | 480    | 206   | 491   | 42% |
| 110 Joan Pratt         | 950    | 508   | 969   | 52% | 156 Rosemary Wauters  | 470    | 47.5  | 90    | 53% |
| 111 Roger Cole-Baker   | 943    | 114   | 214   | 53% | 157 Evelyn            |        |       |       |     |
| 112 Karen Gray         | 937    | 27    | 47    | 57% | Haywood-Warner        | 455    | 46.5  | 121   | 38% |
| 113 Bev Barker         | 926    | 419   | 859   | 49% | 158 Lynn Thompson     | 445    | 23.5  | 59    | 40% |
| 114 Heather Landon     | 925    | 101.5 | 200   | 51% | 159 Tim Henneveld     | 399    | 115   | 273   | 42% |
| 115 Liz Catchpole      | 910    | 284   | 575   | 49% | 160 Alison Holmes     | 399    | 40    | 85    | 47% |
| 116 Barbara Dunn       | 899    | 74    | 115   | 64% | 161 Marc Van Hoecke   | 387    | 16    | 42    | 38% |
| 117 Anderina McLean    | 897    | 71.5  | 134   | 53% | 162 Pauline Smeaton   | 359    | 157   | 335   | 47% |
| 118 Allison Torrance   | 892    | 195   | 368   | 53% | 163 Paula Gibbons     | 293    | 292.5 | 604   | 48% |
| 119 Jena Yousif        | 892    | 164   | 329   | 50% | 164 Margaret Miller   | 291    | 42    | 106   | 40% |
| 120 Judith Thomas      | 879    | 26    | 54    | 48% | 165 Noelene Bettjeman | 290    | 86.5  | 186   | 47% |
| 121 Karen Miller       | 853    | 329   | 680   | 48% | 166 Bev Griffin       | 274    | 28    | 86    | 33% |
| 122 Veronica Zilinskas | 836    | 106   | 191   | 55% | 167 Sue Foster        | 268    | 40    | 130   | 31% |
| 123 Dianne Cole-Baker  | 815    | 81.5  | 162   | 50% | 168 Suzanne Harding   | 264    | 20    | 59    | 34% |
| 124 Thelma Chisholm    | 814    | 119   | 240   | 50% | 169 Maria Barker      | 197    | 18    | 47    | 38% |
| 125 Suzanne Frederick  | 781    | 28    | 53    | 53% | 170 Margaret Penniket | 170    | 24    | 61    | 39% |
| 126 Ray Goodyear       | 779    | 133.5 | 280   | 48% | 171 Madge Watson      | 133    | 31.5  | 88    | 36% |
| 127 Dominic Lister     | 776    | 173   | 353   | 49% | 172 Anne-Louise Milne | 63     | 14    | 111   | 13% |
| 128 Chris Handley      | 773    | 217   | 431   | 50% |                       |        |       |       |     |

# Tournament results

## Wellington Club Tournament 24-25 June 2006

14 Games

| Name              | Club | Wins | Spread | Ave | B/W |
|-------------------|------|------|--------|-----|-----|
| <b>Grade A</b>    |      |      |        |     |     |
| 1 Jeff Grant      | IND  | 13   | 846    | 428 | 24  |
| 2 Debbie Caldwell | NEL  | 9    | 234    | 415 | 18  |
| 3 Howard Warner   | IND  | 8    | 507    | 428 | 25  |
| 4 Joanne Craig    | CHC  | 7    | 233    | 421 | 20  |
| 5 Glennis Hale    | IND  | 6    | 123    | 396 | 23  |
| 6 Neil Talbot     | WEL  | 6    | -831   | 388 | 27  |
| 7 Steven Brown    | KAP  | 4    | -234   | 397 | 26  |
| 8 Glenda Foster   | WEL  | 3    | -878   | 361 | 15  |
| <b>Grade B</b>    |      |      |        |     |     |
| 1 Denise Gordon   | WAN  | 9    | 161    | 403 | 27  |
| 2 Lynn Wood       | WEL  | 9    | 135    | 382 | 9   |
| 3 Nick Ascroft    | WEL  | 8    | 323    | 405 | 18  |
| 4 Murray Rogers   | NEL  | 8    | 182    | 395 | 18  |
| 5 Rosemary Cleary | WAN  | 7    | 331    | 391 | 21  |
| 6 Ann Hough       | NEL  | 6    | -513   | 374 | 18  |
| 7 Glenys Buchanan | LOH  | 5    | -235   | 377 | 17  |
| 8 Leila Thomson   | LOH  | 4    | -384   | 376 | 19  |
| <b>Grade C</b>    |      |      |        |     |     |
| 1 Max Aston       | LOH  | 10   | 678    | 407 | 22  |
| 2 Sandra Stacey   | WEL  | 10   | 416    | 383 | 15  |
| 3 Frank Robinson  | WEL  | 9    | 381    | 395 | 20  |
| 4 Jean O'Brien    | IND  | 9    | 267    | 385 | 12  |
| 5 Olivia En       | WEL  | 7    | 139    | 386 | 18  |
| 6 Betty Eriksen   | WAN  | 6    | -124   | 364 | 14  |
| 7 Roto Mitchell   | WAN  | 5    | -281   | 360 | 11  |
| 8 Geoff Vautier   | WEL  | 0    | -1476  | 319 | 6   |



**Denise Gordon (Wanganui),  
B Grade winner at Wellington**

| Name              | Club | Wins | Spread | Ave | B/W |
|-------------------|------|------|--------|-----|-----|
| <b>Grade D</b>    |      |      |        |     |     |
| 1 Carolyn Kyle    | DUN  | 12   | 788    | 394 | 15  |
| 2 Sheila Reed     | WEL  | 10   | 740    | 383 | 14  |
| 3 Barbara Dunn    | TGA  | 8    | 323    | 382 | 15  |
| 4 Jean Boyle      | WAN  | 7    | -85    | 349 | 12  |
| 5 Thelma Chisholm | WEL  | 7    | -90    | 340 | 8   |
| 6 Judith Thomas   | WEL  | 6    | -130   | 358 | 10  |
| 7 Louise Sweeney  | LOH  | 4    | -569   | 328 | 11  |
| 8 Alison Vautier  | KAP  | 2    | -977   | 323 | 4   |

## Whangarei Club Tournament 8-9 July 2006

13 Games

| Name                | Club | Wins | Spread | Ave | B/W |
|---------------------|------|------|--------|-----|-----|
| <b>Grade A</b>      |      |      |        |     |     |
| 1 Howard Warner     | IND  | 12   | 997    | 436 | 24  |
| 2 Liz Fagerlund     | MTA  | 12   | 887    | 416 | 13  |
| 3 Andrew Bradley    | MTA  | 9    | 695    | 422 | 18  |
| 4 John Foster       | NSB  | 9    | 267    | 393 | 13  |
| 5 Glennis Hale      | IND  | 8    | 671    | 424 | 27  |
| 6 Val Mills         | PAK  | 7    | -156   | 383 | 18  |
| 7 Rosemary Cleary   | WAN  | 6    | 232    | 388 | 16  |
| 8 Lawson Sue        | MTA  | 6    | 168    | 395 | 21  |
| 9 Rogelio Talosig   | NSB  | 6    | 124    | 396 | 19  |
| 10 Janice Cherry    | PAK  | 4    | -419   | 374 | 18  |
| 11 Jennifer Smith   | HAM  | 4    | -726   | 351 | 15  |
| 12 Margie Hurly     | WRE  | 4    | -824   | 345 | 7   |
| 13 David Gunn       | WKP  | 3    | -945   | 365 | 23  |
| 14 Gerald Warner    | WRE  | 1    | -971   | 346 | 6   |
| <b>Grade B</b>      |      |      |        |     |     |
| 1 Maureen Holliday  | HBC  | 11   | 966    | 406 | 17  |
| 2 Rosalind Phillips | MTA  | 10   | 481    | 398 | 20  |
| 3 Olivia En         | WEL  | 10   | 435    | 385 | 15  |
| 4 Shirley Martin    | HAM  | 8    | 491    | 397 | 18  |
| 5 Allie Quinn       | WRE  | 7    | -22    | 386 | 20  |
| 6 Betty Eriksen     | WAN  | 6    | 40     | 363 | 14  |
| 7 Rhoda Cashman     | HBC  | 6    | 19     | 362 | 9   |
| 8 Lynn Carter       | NSB  | 6    | -35    | 375 | 15  |
| 9 Ernie Gidman      | ROD  | 6    | -332   | 361 | 12  |
| 10 Yoon Kim Fong    | KIW  | 5    | -92    | 381 | 16  |
| 11 Hazel Purdie     | MTA  | 5    | -286   | 367 | 12  |
| 12 Su Walker        | MTA  | 4    | -194   | 375 | 16  |
| 13 Margaret Bundock | HBC  | 4    | -909   | 330 | 3   |
| 14 Margaret Cherry  | PAK  | 3    | -562   | 346 | 8   |
| <b>Grade C</b>      |      |      |        |     |     |
| 1 Jean Boyle        | WAN  | 11   | 722    | 395 | 18  |
| 2 Liz Catchpole     | MTA  | 10   | 592    | 390 | 10  |

| Name                | Club | Wins | Spread | Ave | B/W |
|---------------------|------|------|--------|-----|-----|
| 3 Correne James     | IND  | 9    | 338    | 389 | 10  |
| 4 Roger Cole-Baker  | MTA  | 8    | 558    | 389 | 18  |
| 5 Joan Pratt        | HBC  | 8    | 174    | 363 | 12  |
| 6 Lorraine Van Veen | IND  | 8    | -137   | 360 | 9   |
| 7 Linda Moore       | ROD  | 6    | -130   | 345 | 3   |
| 8 Annette Coombes   | WAI  | 6    | -254   | 359 | 12  |
| 9 Valma Gidman      | ROD  | 5    | -73    | 366 | 9   |
| 10 Kate Wignall     | MTA  | 5    | -259   | 338 | 6   |
| 11 Olwen Skelton    | ROD  | 4    | -192   | 350 | 10  |
| 12 Sue Mayn         | ROD  | 4    | -319   | 331 | 6   |
| 13 Bernice Hyde     | NSB  | 4    | -480   | 345 | 14  |
| 14 Dorothy Haining  | ROD  | 3    | -540   | 339 | 4   |
| <b>Grade D</b>      |      |      |        |     |     |
| 1 Lynn Thompson     | WRE  | 9    | 386    | 352 | 5   |
| 2 Bev Edwards       | WRE  | 7    | 393    | 356 | 5   |
| 3 Noelene Bettjeman | HBC  | 7    | 28     | 329 | 4   |
| 4 Suzanne Harding   | WRE  | 6    | -23    | 355 | 9   |
| 5 Errol Hooker      | WRE  | 5    | -116   | 331 | 0   |
| 6 Maria Barker      | WKP  | 5    | -668   | 308 | 5   |



**Glenda Geard (Independent),  
C Grade winner at Kiwi**

## Kiwi Club Tournament 15 July 2006

7 Games

| Name                | Club | Wins | Spread | Ave | B/W |
|---------------------|------|------|--------|-----|-----|
| <b>Grade A</b>      |      |      |        |     |     |
| 1 Howard Warner     | IND  | 7    | 716    | 443 | 13  |
| 2 Rosemary Cleary   | WAN  | 4    | 276    | 409 | 12  |
| 3 Chris Hooks       | MTA  | 4    | 5      | 372 | 9   |
| 4 Val Mills         | PAK  | 4    | -12    | 393 | 11  |
| 5 Peter Jones       | HAM  | 4    | -146   | 389 | 10  |
| 6 David Gunn        | WKP  | 2    | -142   | 366 | 7   |
| 7 Roger Coates      | KIW  | 2    | -183   | 378 | 8   |
| 8 Jennifer Smith    | HAM  | 1    | -514   | 353 | 7   |
| <b>Grade B</b>      |      |      |        |     |     |
| 1 Helen Sillis      | NPL  | 7    | 590    | 421 | 11  |
| 2 Pam Barlow        | PAK  | 4.5  | 24     | 384 | 14  |
| 3 Amelia Carrington | IND  | 4    | 105    | 389 | 4   |
| 4 Shirley Martin    | HAM  | 4    | 80     | 377 | 7   |
| 5 Delcie Macbeth    | IND  | 3    | -79    | 381 | 9   |
| 6 Stan Skinner      | TAU  | 2.5  | 50     | 371 | 8   |
| 7 May Quigley       | IND  | 2    | -387   | 358 | 5   |
| 8 Hazel Purdie      | MTA  | 1    | -383   | 344 | 6   |
| <b>Grade C</b>      |      |      |        |     |     |
| 1 Glenda Geard      | IND  | 5    | 403    | 410 | 13  |
| 2 Yoon Kim Fong     | KIW  | 5    | 298    | 419 | 12  |
| 3 Su Walker         | MTA  | 5    | 216    | 397 | 11  |
| 4 Samantha Samuels  | KIW  | 4    | 160    | 382 | 9   |
| 5 Betty Eriksen     | WAN  | 4    | 72     | 364 | 6   |
| 6 Carole Coates     | KIW  | 3    | -222   | 359 | 9   |
| 7 Catherine Henry   | TAU  | 1    | -336   | 346 | 5   |
| 8 Heather Landon    | TAU  | 1    | -591   | 319 | 3   |

| Name                         | Club | Wins | Spread | Ave | B/W |
|------------------------------|------|------|--------|-----|-----|
| <b>Grade D</b>               |      |      |        |     |     |
| 1 Mescal Kelly               | MTA  | 5    | 388    | 402 | 8   |
| 2 Shirley Morrison           | TAU  | 5    | 151    | 374 | 3   |
| 3 Barbara Dunn               | TAU  | 4    | 50     | 370 | 6   |
| 4 Lorraine Van Veen          | IND  | 3    | -176   | 368 | 8   |
| 5 Liz Catchpole              | MTA  | 3.5  | 108    | 357 | 3   |
| 6 Jena Yousif                | KIW  | 3.5  | 7      | 372 | 4   |
| 7 Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell | KIW  | 3    | -30    | 368 | 6   |
| 8 Pam Mayall                 | KIW  | 0    | -557   | 326 | 2   |
| <b>Grade E</b>               |      |      |        |     |     |
| 1 Annette Coombes            | WKP  | 5    | 296    | 377 | 7   |
| 2 Jo Ann Ingram              | TAU  | 5    | 91     | 366 | 6   |
| 3 Anthea Jones               | KIW  | 4    | 278    | 352 | 4   |
| 4 Bernice Hyde               | NSB  | 4    | 181    | 369 | 7   |
| 5 Janni Henneveld            | IND  | 4    | -75    | 339 | 3   |
| 6 Kate Wignall               | MTA  | 3    | -114   | 339 | 4   |
| 7 Chris Higgins              | PAK  | 2    | -255   | 327 | 5   |
| 8 Elsie Pugh                 | KIW  | 1    | -402   | 306 | 2   |
| <b>Grade F</b>               |      |      |        |     |     |
| 1 Val Flint                  | HAM  | 7    | 1004   | 444 | 9   |
| 2 Rosemary Wauters           | TAU  | 5    | 407    | 381 | 10  |
| 3 Margaret Hanson            | PAK  | 5    | 297    | 360 | 7   |
| 4 Jillian Greening           | HAM  | 4    | 77     | 327 | 4   |
| 5 Pauline Smeaton            | TAU  | 4    | 62     | 345 | 2   |
| 6 Pat Wood                   | TAU  | 4    | -295   | 310 | 1   |
| 7 Tim Henneveld              | IND  | 3    | -287   | 337 | 2   |
| 8 Karen Stewart              | KIW  | 2    | 29     | 337 | 13  |
| 9 Bev Griffin                | TAU  | 1    | -438   | 307 | 2   |
| 10 Ruth Godwin               | IND  | 0    | -856   | 263 | 1   |

### Hamilton Club Tournament 5-6 August 2006

13 games

| Name              | Club | Wins | Spread | Ave | B/W |
|-------------------|------|------|--------|-----|-----|
| <b>Grade A</b>    |      |      |        |     |     |
| 1 Joanne Craig    | CHC  | 11   | 957    | 437 | 23  |
| 2 Jeff Grant      | IND  | 10   | 1185   | 450 | 25  |
| 3 Howard Warner   | IND  | 9.5  | 761    | 446 | 25  |
| 4 Steven Brown    | KAP  | 8    | 430    | 423 | 29  |
| 5 Rogelio Talosig | NSB  | 8    | 354    | 425 | 20  |
| 6 David Gunn      | WKP  | 7    | -610   | 382 | 27  |
| 7 John Foster     | NSB  | 6.5  | 196    | 402 | 16  |
| 8 Andrew Bradley  | MTA  | 6    | -149   | 379 | 12  |
| 9 Pam Robson      | HAM  | 6    | -328   | 362 | 14  |
| 10 Glennis Hale   | IND  | 5    | 27     | 391 | 19  |
| 11 June Mackwell  | NSB  | 4    | -342   | 353 | 8   |
| 12 Peter Jones    | HAM  | 4    | -775   | 358 | 15  |
| 13 Jennifer Smith | HAM  | 3    | -736   | 361 | 14  |
| 14 Roger Coates   | KIW  | 3    | -970   | 354 | 14  |

**Grade B**

|                   |     |    |      |     |    |
|-------------------|-----|----|------|-----|----|
| 1 Yvette Hewlett  | IND | 11 | 629  | 417 | 23 |
| 2 Shirley Wyatt   | MTA | 10 | 316  | 387 | 13 |
| 3 Glenda Geard    | IND | 10 | 297  | 395 | 14 |
| 4 Jean O'Brien    | IND | 7  | 248  | 382 | 15 |
| 5 Leanne Field    | HAM | 7  | -99  | 356 | 12 |
| 6 Hazel Purdie    | MTA | 6  | 41   | 386 | 13 |
| 7 Faye Cronhelm   | IND | 6  | -35  | 370 | 17 |
| 8 Yoon Kim Fong   | KIW | 6  | -52  | 389 | 18 |
| 9 Shirley Martin  | HAM | 6  | -80  | 370 | 9  |
| 10 Allie Quinn    | WRE | 5  | -7   | 378 | 19 |
| 11 Delcie Macbeth | IND | 5  | -166 | 372 | 15 |
| 12 Lyn Toka       | KIW | 5  | -601 | 361 | 14 |
| 13 Su Walker      | MTA | 4  | -24  | 376 | 18 |
| 14 Carole Coates  | KIW | 3  | -467 | 355 | 11 |

**Grade C**

|                              |     |    |      |     |    |
|------------------------------|-----|----|------|-----|----|
| 1 Marian Ross                | DUN | 11 | 655  | 412 | 17 |
| 2 Lorraine van Veen          | IND | 9  | 475  | 388 | 14 |
| 3 Correne James              | IND | 9  | 258  | 377 | 9  |
| 4 Catherine Henry            | TGA | 8  | 221  | 371 | 9  |
| 5 Liz Catchpole              | MTA | 7  | -232 | 361 | 9  |
| 6 Heather Landon             | TGA | 7  | -273 | 359 | 9  |
| 7 Jena Yousif                | KIW | 6  | 240  | 383 | 11 |
| 8 Annette Coombes            | WKP | 4  | -603 | 346 | 12 |
| 9 Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell | KIW | 4  | -728 | 336 | 10 |

**Grade D**

|                    |     |    |      |     |    |
|--------------------|-----|----|------|-----|----|
| 1 Kate Wignall     | MTA | 10 | 159  | 367 | 7  |
| 2 Pat Wood         | TGA | 9  | 321  | 364 | 8  |
| 3 Bernice Hyde     | NSB | 8  | 177  | 355 | 12 |
| 4 Jillian Greening | HAM | 8  | -107 | 346 | 13 |
| 5 Janni Henneveld  | IND | 7  | 10   | 341 | 4  |
| 6 Anthea Jones     | KIW | 7  | 6    | 348 | 10 |
| 7 Rosemary Wauters | TGA | 6  | -103 | 357 | 11 |

| Name              | Club | Wins | Spread | Ave | B/W |
|-------------------|------|------|--------|-----|-----|
| 8 Tim Henneveld   | IND  | 6    | -164   | 337 | 4   |
| 9 Pauline Smeaton | TGA  | 4    | -286   | 330 | 6   |

### Nelson Club at Golden Bay Tournament 19th August 2006

7 games

| Name               | Club | Wins | Spread | Ave | B/W |
|--------------------|------|------|--------|-----|-----|
| 1 Steve Richards   | NEL  | 6    | 717    | 435 | 10  |
| 2 Murray Rogers    | NEL  | 6    | 685    | 430 | 8   |
| 3 Jan Evans        | NEL  | 4    | 194    | 371 | 7   |
| 4 Malcolm McKellar | NEL  | 3.5  | -47    | 378 | 10  |
| 5 Debbie Caldwell  | NEL  | 3    | 113    | 409 | 10  |
| 6 Liz Richards     | NEL  | 3    | -323   | 357 | 7   |
| 7 Graham Polglase  | NEL  | 1.5  | -717   | 292 | 2   |
| 8 Barbara Cornell  | NEL  | 1    | -622   | 329 | 2   |

### 20th Aug 2006

7 games

| Name               | Club | Wins | Spread | Ave | B/W |
|--------------------|------|------|--------|-----|-----|
| 1 Debbie Caldwell  | NEL  | 7    | 850    | 464 | 12  |
| 2 Malcolm McKellar | NEL  | 5    | 543    | 401 | 11  |
| 3 Murray Rogers    | NEL  | 4    | 276    | 421 | 9   |
| 4 Graham Polglase  | NEL  | 3    | -450   | 305 | 2   |
| 5 Jan Evans        | NEL  | 1    | -471   | 318 | 3   |
| 6 Barbara Cornell  | NEL  | 1    | -748   | 301 | 0   |



**Steve Richards (Nelson),  
winner on day 1 at Golden Bay**

# NZ Scrabble Records

| Record  | Tournament |  | Club Level |  |
|---|------------|--|------------|--|
|   | Score      | Player (Club)  | Score      | Player (Club)                              |
| Highest Game Score                            | 717        | Mike Sigley (WAN)  | 763        | John Foster (MTA)                          |
| Highest Losing Score                          | 513        | Jeff Grant (HAS)   | 521        | June Mackwell (MTA)                        |
| Highest Drawn Game                            | 487        | Lynne Wood (WEL) & Debbie Caldwell (NEL)   | 482        | Margaret Warren (HAS) & Jeff Grant (HAS)   |
| Highest Single Turn                           | 221        | Sheryl Davidson (PAK)<br>Lisa McLean (IND)<br>Jeff Grant (IND)                         | 347        | Neil Talbot (WEL)                          |
| Highest Single Turn Non-bonus                 | 135        | Ruth O'Neill (NPL)   | 261        | John Foster (MTA)                          |
| Highest Combined Score                        | 1078       | Howard Warner (CAP) & David Lloyd (MTA)  | 1106       | Dawn Kitzen (PHC) & Chris Hooks (MTA)      |
| Largest Winning Margin                        | 493        | Mike Sigley (WAN)  | 577        | Peter Sinton (DUN)                         |
| Highest Take-off                              | 54         | Lisa McLean (IND)  | 68         | Andrew Bradley (MTA)                       |
| Most Bonus Words (3 Game Evening)             | —          | —  | 13         | David Lloyd (MTA)<br>Karyn McDougall (DUN) |
| Highest 3-Game Aggregate                      | —          | —  | 1805       | Nigel Richards (CHC)                       |
| Most Consecutive Bonus Words                  | 5          | Allie Quinn (NSB)  | 5          | John Foster (MTA)<br>Patrick Carter (MTA)  |
| Most Bonus Words in Game (1 person)           | 6          | Nigel Richards (CHC)<br>Yvette Hewlett (IND)   | 7          | Jeff Grant (IND)                           |
| Most Bonus Words in Game (2 people)           | 8          | Mike Sigley (WAN) & Glenyss Buchanan (LOH)<br>Nigel Richards (CHC) & John Foster (IND) | 8          | Dawn Kitzen (PHC) & Chris Hooks (MTA)      |
| Highest Average Single Tournament (Any Grade) | 584        | Nigel Richards (CHC)   | —          | —  |

## New Zealand Masters (23 Games)

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Most Games Won    | Jeff Grant (HAS) 21 (1993, 1997), Mike Sigley (WAN) 21 (2002) |
| Highest Aggregate | Nigel Richards (CHC) 11,103 (1999)                            |
| Most Bonus Words  | Nigel Richards (CHC) 61 (1998)                                |
| Highest Spread    | Howard Warner (MTA) +2410 (2000)                              |