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Clubs (Nth to Sth)	Contact Person	Phone	Meeting 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	09 478 6248	Tues 10am	Campbell's Bay Methodist Church Hall
Mt Albert (MTA)	Kate Wignall	09 625 0147	Fri 7.15pm	Mt Albert Bridge Club rooms
Pakuranga/Howick (PAK)	Jeanette Owler	09 534 4453	Tues 12.30pm Thurs 7pm	Highland Park Community House, 47 Aviomore Drive, Highland Park
Papatoetoe/Holy 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 (WKP)	Annette Coombes	07 855 9970	Alt Weds 7pm (ring)	St Aidans Hall Lounge, Heaphy Tce.
Mt Maunganui/Papamoa (MMP)	Ngairi Steel	07 542 1035	Alternate 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)	Steve Richards	03 544 0475	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, 61 Thorn St., Caversham

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# FORWORDS

Journal of the New Zealand Association of Scrabble® Players  
No 86 March 2007



**Medal Winners at the ACC Masters Games at Wanganui in February**

**A Grade:** Lynne Butler (gold), Mika Sigley (silver),  
Denise Gordon (bronze)

**B Grade:** Lynn Carter (bronze), Andrée Prentice (silver),  
John More (gold)

**C Grade:** Sunny Wright (bronze), Jean Boyle (silver),  
Roto Mitchell (gold)

**Social Grade:** Jean Walsh (gold), Nola Borrel (silver),  
Erina True (bronze)

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**Young champion: David Eldar**

**Match-play reports**

**When to play a word you don't know**

**Forum: Opening the board**

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## From the Editor

A Google alert told me that John Luebkekmann of North Carolina has memorised 90-95% of the Scrabble Dictionary words. That got me reminiscing.

As a child playing Scrabble or listening to radio quiz programmes with my mother, I was always amazed at her word knowledge. She knew the meanings of some way-out words, I reckoned: a word for the currency of Austria, or a ruler in Egypt, or a medical term. I wanted a vocabulary like hers. And I got every encouragement from my mother, who often used to send me to look at the family dictionary.

[I recall one particular incident, when tea was taking too long to cook, and I whined, "When's tea going to be ready? I'm ravished." Mum snapped, "Go and look that word up in the dictionary and you won't get it wrong again. Then you'll at least have learnt something useful while you're waiting for tea!" That's how I learnt the word 'famished'.]

When I was at high school (aged about 14-15) my mother gave me a *Pocket Oxford Dictionary*, with 1246 pages, two columns of words to the page. I can remember vividly working out that if I learned one column of one page per week, I would know the whole dictionary by the time I was [. . . 1246 pages, 2492 columns, divided by 52, 48 years, 15 + 48 . . .] - SIXTY-THREE!! Nah! That was no good. I wouldn't even be alive then, let alone needing to know all those words.

Ten years ago, when I started playing Scrabble competitively and got my first copy of Redwood, I noticed it

had seven columns per page. "I could learn a column a day, that's a page a week," I thought. "390 pages would take me seven and a half years. I'd know the whole list by the time I'm 63." By default, I must have decided it wasn't worth such a huge effort.

It doesn't pay to have regrets in life, but I do have two. This year I turn 67. If I had kept my high school resolution, I would have known the whole of the *Pocket Oxford* for four years, and if I had kept the more recent one, I would have known the entire word list for the same time! I could have been a formidable player by now!

When we adopt the new word list, with its 4000 or so new words, how will I learn them? (Top players learn a thousand words in a week, so it won't take them long.) Will I learn 20 new words a week, so that I know them all in 3-4 years? Probably not - and if I'm absolutely honest, definitely not. Even though I'm certain that I will still be playing Scrabble when I'm 70.

So while I'm full of admiration for the Nigel Richards and John Luebkekmanns of this world who know the word list by heart, I've decided I shouldn't envy them. We could all have done that if we'd wanted to badly enough - and been prepared to put in the work for as long as it takes.

Must stop. I need to get back to trying to learn my threes!



*Jennifer*

## From the Executive

Happy New Year in the year of the pig. These creatures are beautiful animals, they make wonderful pets I am told, and are a delight to see on the breakfast plate along with eggs. A great sustainer before an arduous game of Scrabble.

A lack lustre summer till later in the season has seen additional games of Scrabble played, especially in Wellington. Our cricketers have certainly done well against Australia, and the Wellington performance was played in very dull weather and none too warm. You, like me, enjoyed the results of all three matches I am sure. Can our NZ Scrabble team do as well at the Worlds later in the year? That would be the icing on the cake.

The 1000 wins club has extended to four members when John Foster and I joined Jeff Grant and Glennis Hale, in some exciting wins on the first day of the Pakuranga two one-day tournaments. John and I were chasing victory for this exclusive club, with 996 wins apiece, but John had the decided advantage of half a win up. A great thrill in my game against Rogelio Talosig saw my 1000th win, but John was already there. Roll on the 2000 win club.

The Nationals are in Wellington this year as you know. I hope there will be a large contingent from around the country, and I hear a smattering from Australia as well. The Brentwood Hotel is right next door to the venue, and the special room rate of \$121.50 applies for single, twin, triple or quad. If you need any help with anything to do with

the Nationals, I am an email or a phone call away, and more than happy to help. Running tournaments is a love of mine.

Steven Brown has been beavering away on a new list for all subscribers to the NZ list. Chris Handley, who had done superb work over the years, had indicated that retirement was looming for him within the next two years. This created an opportunity to revamp our communication tool, and what better person to do it than Steven. Thank you Chris for all the effort over the years, we really appreciate your dedication, and understand the frustration you sometimes felt when members "replied to all".

Pat Grant has been preparing a wonderful raffle fundraiser for the World team, and I hope your club will get in behind her venture. She spends countless hours writing letters and emails, and only a small percentage of the recipients bother to reply. This multi prized raffle has the first prize of an original painting by our very own Denise Gordon of Wanganui. Well done Denise, and thank you for your contribution.

Some readers will be at Tauranga for the Masters, and again we will have some first time contenders. Good luck to you all. I'll see you there at Easter.

Happy tile shuffling.  
Lynn



## Magazine still a bargain

We are pleased to advise that the basic cost of the magazine will remain at \$12 for the coming year.

Unfortunately the mailing costs have increased for our overseas subscribers. The new prices for other currencies are:

Australian	AU\$20
United States	US\$17
Pounds Sterling	£9
Euros	€13

A reminder to our New Zealand subscribers who receive their magazines mailed directly – if you do not pay the annual independent affiliation fee, then the cost is \$14.

## Fundraising raffle for the 2007 World Scrabble Champs

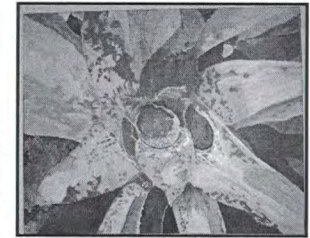
Jeff and Pat Grant are running a national raffle for the 2007 World Champs. Pat has been busy getting prizes donated, and is planning to have 10 prizes, including an original painting by Scrabble's own Denise Gordon.

They are aiming to sell 1,000 numbers at \$2 each, and are hoping that Scrabble Club members from all clubs, and independents, will be able to sell an average of five numbers each. Pat will issue numbers rather than actual tickets. She will then request a list of who has bought what numbers by a cut-off date in May. The raffle will be drawn under NZASP supervision before the Nationals and prizes to the winners given out there, where possible.

With your support for this raffle, plus two or three Lotto bonus number fundraisers,

and perhaps a raffle at the Nationals, we will have the cream of our New Zealand Scrabble players off to the 2007 World Champs with a small amount of effort spread out amongst many people.

If anyone would like more numbers in the national raffle please contact Pat Grant, 1109 Allenby St, Hastings, phone 06-8764678, email ardra@paradise.net.nz.



Denise's painting

## ANAGRAM CORNER

Scrabblers are dab hands at transposing letters, for example FOUNT to FUTON and HORMONE to MOORHEN. On a higher level, a CONTAMINATED area is likely to have a NO ADMITTANCE sign.

Here are anagrams of six home club players from the inaugural Kapiti tournament in December.

AGNES ROWLAND  
PAM SINCLAIR  
GRAEME BROWN  
ANNE SMITH  
JUDY DRISCOLL  
RAHIMAH ABDULLAH

AN ANGEL'S WORD  
CALM IN PARIS  
MORE NEW GARB  
IN ANTHEMS  
DISCUR'D JOLLY  
HAH! I HAD A RUM-BALL

# Club News



## Christchurch

We are delighted to welcome Blue Thorogood to our Club, and hope he decides to stay permanently in Christchurch.

## Dunedin

### 2006 Highlights

Round Robin - Peter Sinton

Ladder - Bill Grigg

Challenge - Karyn McDougall

Dictionary - Susi Nicholson

Highest Winning Score - Karyn McDougall (680)

Highest Losing Score - Karyn McDougall (486)

Highest Turn Score - Karyn McDougall (167)

**Paul Lister** won the A grade in both the Dunedin Open and Otago Open.

**Ruth Groffman** organised ACC Masters Games, Scrabble For Fun for Primary schools, and helped organise World Youth Scrabble Championships, Australia.

### Diane and Roger Cole-Baker

(Auckland) visited us early in January, while holidaying on the South Island. We hope you enjoyed the competition and that you will come again.

### Otago Lion Open Tournament, November

A Grade: - Paul Lister (Christchurch)

B Grade: - Carolyn Kyle (Dunedin)

C Grade: - Chris Handley (Dunedin)

D Grade: - Trevor Rowell (Mt Albert, ex Dunedin).

Thanks to Betty Eriksen (Wanganui), Trevor Rowell (Mt Albert) and Jan Evan (Nelson) for travelling such a long way to attend our tournament.

## Kiwi Scrabblers

We haven't set a date as yet for a 2007 tournament.

2006 was another very happy year for Kiwi Scrabblers, with many members doing well in tournaments. Our special member, Elsie Pugh, celebrated her 90th birthday in style by attending our local tournament. We wish her continuing good health and many more happy days playing Scrabble.

A very pleasant evening was held on 14 December to celebrate our trophy winners. Congratulations, Roger, on your achievements; your hard work paid off. Trophy winners were:

Club Champion - Roger Coates

Pot Luck Champion - Yoon Kim Fong

Pyramid Trophy - Roger Coates

Ladder Trophy - Elaine Moltzen

Round Robin - Roger Coates (Group 1), Jena Yousif (Group 2) and Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell (Group 3)

Knockout - Roger Coates

Most 100 Point Words - Karen Stewart

Most Improved Player - Yoon Kim Fong

Best Average - Anthea Jones

Achievement Award - Fay Wright

Best Social Player - Shirley Martin

Sadly, one of our new members, Viv Cooper, passed away suddenly just before Christmas. Viv was a quiet lady who came along to enjoy our friendship and playing friendly Scrabble, and she didn't enter tournaments. We miss her presence at our Club days, but know that she has joined all the other avid Scrabble players that have gone before her. RIP, Viv.

## North Shore Bays

Our tournament date is confirmed as Saturday 21 April. We have room for 72 players at the same venue as last year. We are looking forward to all seats being filled even though we were not listed in the calendar and have only just been able to finalise our arrangements. Entry forms have been distributed to all clubs and independent players but any inquiries can be e-mailed to nsbscrabble@kiwilink.co.nz

Early entries encouraged and appreciated.

## Waikato

Peter Jones took out the majority of the trophies at the Hamilton Club's prize-giving in December. As well as winning the Founders Trophy for Club Champion, he won the Knockout, Ladder, Pyramid and Round Robin (Group 1) trophies.

That didn't leave much for the rest of us! However, Roger Coates was Pot Luck Champion (and Runner-up Champion), and Val Flint won the Group 2 Round Robin.

David Gunn won his favourite - the Most Bonus Words Trophy, Val Flint the Highest Individual Turn (149 points), Jennifer Smith won the Alan Boyd Trophy for the Highest Individual Score (617 points), Yoon Kim Fong the Eileen Mead 100 Pointer Trophy (five words), while Roger and Val won the Pam Robson Trophy for the highest aggregate score trophy (953 points).

Bronwyn Llewellyn was presented with the Ruth Laird Goblets for the Most Improved Player, and Alan Hawes once again won the Win Heaven Memorial Trophy for the sportsperson of the Year.

## Obituary: Mescal Kelly

- by Kate Wignall



Mt Albert Scrabble Club is saddened by the death of much-loved, valued and respected member Mescal Kelly on 8 December 2006, aged 77, shortly after suffering a stroke.

Mescal enjoyed and was enthusiastic about her Scrabble, and played in many tournaments.

In her younger days she was an accomplished squash player and pianist. She was mother to four sons, and wife to Ron for 25 years.

Seven Club members attended her funeral. She will be greatly missed by the Club.

Mescal played in 20 tournaments from May 2002 (North Shore) to October 2006 (Mt Albert), winning her grade four times. She achieved her highest rating (1049) at the 2006 Nationals.

## The Scrabblers' Dream

- by Eric Dodson, Tauranga

A Scrabblers lay dreaming  
of winning every time  
of seeing an opponent squirm  
now wouldn't that be sublime!

And if on their rack the tiles were  
good  
with tiles not hard to choose  
while across the board an opponent  
had  
only Os and Is and Us.

Then the devil appeared with an  
offer  
and all that would be required  
for making the Scrabblers' dreams  
come true  
was their soul after they had  
expired.

So up and down the country  
this Scrabblers couldn't lose  
outscored every challenger  
each game was just a cruise.

At last in sunny Tauranga  
the lucky one arrived  
an invitation had been sent  
they weren't to be deprived

Of matching with this wonder  
the best player of them all,  
but conceding that the clever one  
would be hard to overhaul.

Then the president had an idea  
why not let a good beginner  
play this artful Scrabblers  
then see who'd be the winner.

So the game began as usual  
the wonder player had good tiles  
but not our poor beginner  
who was left behind by miles.

When the game had nearly ended  
and our lucky Scrabblers couldn't lose  
with a score approaching 500,  
the beginner had the blues.

At last the game concluded  
and with a score of 506  
the Scrabblers was nonchalant  
but the president had more tricks.

"Our beginner's score is 307  
plus your handicap 200,  
I calculate we win by one,  
so finally you've blundered."

Then Old Nick made his appearance  
to claim the Scrabblers' soul  
"I'll take this Scrabblers down to hell  
to the boilers shovelling coal."

Waking from this nightmare  
and glad the game was lost,  
our Scrabblers would have loved to win  
but was it worth the cost?

- written for the Tauranga Club's 2006  
breakup

## Is playing Scrabble dangerous?

Following on from the article that made headlines in New Zealand because a man was killed after playing Scrabble, here are two incidents from other parts of the world:

### From Pretoria, South Africa

At about 10.30pm four men, armed with guns and metal rods, broke a window and surprised a family playing Scrabble in their lounge.

They overpowered two men, forcing them, their wives and a grandmother to lie face down on the floor with three young children, police said. The robbers threatened to kill the children, aged 20 months, five and six, if the men did not co-operate. They demanded access to a safe as well as guns, money, jewellery and cellphones.

Police said that as the robbers fled, neighbours came out, one of them armed with a 30,06 hunting rifle. When he ordered the robbers to stop, one opened fire on him. He returned fire, killing the gunman. The others escaped.

### From New South Wales, Australia

Two women were left bleeding and bruised after a vicious home invasion in West Ballina. A third woman in the house was uninjured but in shock.

The three women, all aged in their mid-60s, were playing Scrabble about 10.35pm when the lone attacker walked in the unlocked front door. The man, described as skinny and about 20 years old, then grabbed the handbag of one of the women. One

woman tried to stop him, but became entangled in the bag's straps. The man swung her around until she fell to the floor and then punched her repeatedly, causing cuts and bruising.

Another of the women tried to help her friend, but was pushed over into a glass entertainment cabinet, causing a deep cut to her head. The robber then escaped.

## Animal antics

- by Valda Gidman

In a game at the Rodney Scrabble Club in November, Betty Wyatt and I played the following moves:

Move 1, Betty, H8 to H11, ZEBU  
Move 2, Valma, G10 to J10, IBEX  
Move 3, Betty, I7 to I8, HO, ZO  
Move 4, Valma, G6 to G10, OKAPI



We were very surprised when we realised what we had done! Four rare animals in four turns must be a bit unusual surely?

ZEBU an Asian ox  
ZO a Tibetan breed of cattle  
IBEX a wild goat  
OKAPI an African ruminant mammal

# Forum

## Opening the board

This issue, Howard Warner (H), Lawson Sue (L), Rosemary Cleary (R) and Su Walker (S) share their thoughts and tips on opening the board.

### Q What is your definition of an "open board"?

H A board with many spaces to place bonus words (letters to hook off for sevens, and letters to go through or off for eights). Although, when you open up or leave open the 'hot spots', I guess that's a kind of open board too.

L An open board is where there are two or more places in which a natural bingo or eight-letter (or bigger) word can be played.

R One on which there are multiple choices for a bonus word. Obviously the first move is on a completely open board and there is a continuum thereafter from completely open to completely closed, where there is no play possible.

S When the board is evenly covered.

### Q Do you like to play with an open board?

H I don't mind playing open or closed. I'll do whatever the game situation requires.

L My natural instinct is to play with an open board. However, as one sharpens up their game this is somewhat determined by the opponent and on the "flow" or "run" has during a period of the game. Strategically this is weighed up per game.

R Yes, particularly if I have the better



Howard Warner

letters. Also, it's more fun than a blocked board where you're lucky to play one or two letters at a time/lots of letters for little personal reward.

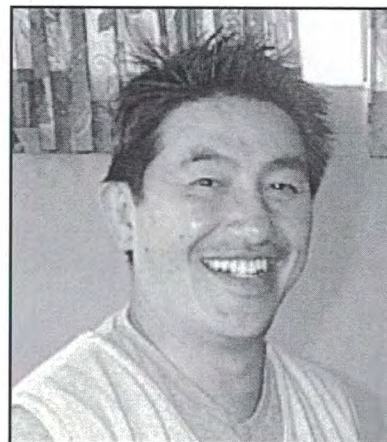
S Yes! The more chances of playing seven-letter words the better!

### Q Do you make attempts to keep it open, at least at the beginning of the game, or does it not worry you? That is, would you play a lower scoring turn in order to keep the board open?

H At the beginning of the game, I'm just trying to get the best score for each turn. I don't worry too much about whether the board is open or closed.

L I always try to keep it moderately open, but by leaving opportunities which one has to work for, or alternatively, try a few unusual words using strange hooks that one needs to know. Happy to play a low scoring turn to keep it open.

R I like to open with a five-letter word or more if the first move is mine.



Lawson Sue

Theoretically, I would chuck in if 'vac' were my only play. In practice, sadly, I sometimes play blocked at the start, then moan about it for the rest of the game. I'd play a lower scoring turn if I had good looking possibilities of a bonus the following turn, or, conversely, if I were in one of my kamikaze moods.

### Q In what situations do you decide you need to open the board?

H I subscribe to the standard theory that when you're ahead, close the board; when you're behind, open the board (or keep it open). Of course, that usually only comes into play around the halfway mark.

L When one has a well balanced rack and high probability bonus word combinations and, of course, when one is behind and needs to keep it open to allow a possible bonus to be played to reduce the margin.

R When I have great letters and/or when my opponent has bad letters,

when no-one can move at all or I have to get rid of some high scorers at the end of the game. By 'opening' I mean on the continuum – not necessarily giving away a bonus opportunity to my opponent.

S When I'm losing, especially, so that I can give myself the chance to at least try to gain some points.

### Q What are the drawbacks to opening the board?

H Obviously, on an open board your opponent can get good scores and beat you. Even if your opponent has a lesser word knowledge, it narrows the odds in their favour.

L Only the opponent who has a more knowledgeable bonus word database – otherwise not worried.

R Giving away a bonus opportunity to my opponent, who thus closes the board ad infinitum.

S The opposition can also take advantage of it.

### Q How can you overcome the jutting Vs, Cs, and Qs that are making the board difficult to play?

H A jutting V, C, Q or J will always be hard to work with. If you want an open board, then don't jut. If your opponent does it, it's probably because they're either getting the best score or playing defensively. But if you want the board closed, these jutters\* work fine.

L I don't yet have a strategy for them other than try to know more words. Doesn't bother me – it's nice to have blockers or difficulties.

R Don't play them/learn clever words that maximise their scoring power. Again, all theory, rarely practice.

S Perhaps . . . by learning words that

might end with Vs or Cs particularly.

**Q What are the hardest layouts to open?**

- H See previous question.
- L The stepping boards or square layouts that are built from 2's going to 3's going to 4's and 5's – only because I don't know enough hook words.
- R Mike Sigley's when he's bent on closing. I once changed two tiles at the start of a game and he got it into his head that I had great letters (actually, it was one of my 'Y NOT' middle-mad-age-moves) and he blocked every play until the game ended with no bonus words at all. © He was sorry when he found halfway through there was no method in my madness. Apart from that, I loathe 'staircases' that cover the board from top right to bottom left. Some players are very fond of these.

**Q Are there any advantages to opening the board even if you are in front?**

- H There are times I'll open a board when I'm in front – though not common. If I have the only letter that hooks in a certain spot, then I'll selfishly open it up for me. If I've got a very bingo-friendly rack developing and my tracking tells me that my opponent is likely to have rubbish, I might open for myself – terribly greedy, I know, but it's a dog-eat-dog game. And if the board is so open that I can't close it easily, I might just open it further. At least, there's spots for both players.
- L Yes for sheer enjoyment, and if you think you can post a really high



*Rosemary Cleary*

- score or personal best.
- R Got to love an optimist. If there is a high scoring opportunity for one player, no harm at times in opening another. Tile tracking helps here near the end of the game.
- S No advantage – I have learned over the years that you usually regret it!
- Q Do you have any tactics for when the board is closed and you don't wish to open it? (For example, would you stall by changing tiles?) Does it depend on your confidence/ability in matching/overcoming whatever your opponent might do?**
- H When the board's closed and I don't want to open, I'll take lower scores just to keep it tight. If the score is close, this requires bravery as well as craftiness. But I've found that on a very closed board, a lead of just 15 can be enough. I wouldn't change tiles just to keep it tight – because I'd be missing the chance to make a play that gets the



*Su Walker*

- board even tighter.
- When the board is open and I want it closed, I'll try to fill space in a way that takes out more than bingo spot without creating any new ones.
- L No subtle tactics other than play good/nice small words that keep the board tight, making sure they have to work for their score and/or win.
- R Mostly it depends on my contrariness, sad to say. It's a bit like a staring contest, b'damned if you want to be the first to crack! I look for high scoring plays / change the crappy tiles.
- Q Please give some examples of how you go about opening the board.**
- H If I need to open the board, it's usually for a bingo. So I'll either jut out a letter that can be hooked onto two ways (for a seven), or jut out a word that gives several letters to go through for an eight. High-probability letters like E, R, N and T are useful for this.
- R Play so two openings are made at once. Actually, I have little success at this if my opponent is set on a

tight/blocked game.

- S By doing my utmost to allow two openings at least. For example:



**Q Are there ways you can force your opponent to open the board?**

- H I don't know about forcing an opponent to open the board. But if I'm saving a special bingo channel for me, I might tempt them into one corner of the board by opening a potential non-bingo hot-spot.
- L Yes, by baiting them or giving them a move where they have to counteract or play cautiously, ie. defensively.
- R Use the last open place – if s/he doesn't change first. Change after, then keep changing until the opponent's third turn comes up first, so has to make a play that opens up. This is so mean – I'm more likely to open.
- S I always find opening near a triple word score useful. Most opponents either can't resist taking advantage of having a triple open to them, or use it up so you won't have the opportunity. Either way, they are likely to unbalance their own rack, which puts you in a better position.
- Q Do you sometimes get sick of having a closed board and decide, what the hell, I'll open it anyway? (And are you sorry?!)**
- H No. I might have done in the past, but I got burned so I stopped.
- L Yes, get sick of, and annoyed. But

never sorry in opening it up as I know the risks involved. Live with your decisions and weigh up the risks, I say.

R Yes, yes, if the tiles don't fall right.

**Q Would you refrain from playing a bonus so that you didn't open the board?**

H No. If they've got a bonus coming, the best way to counter it is to get in first. But I have heard of people holding back a bonus that would give their opponent a nine-timer spot and an inkling of a chance to snatch a win. Of course, pure greed might tempt me to make a 50-point play and hold back the blank for a bingo next turn. But that's nothing to do with keeping the board open or closed.

L Most times, no. However, if I can obtain a reasonable score (40+) and leave myself a good balanced rack with a high probability of getting another bonus combination, I would – depends on the game.

R Sometimes, eg. near the end of a game and I'd win if I didn't open it.

S Never! The extra 50 points is irresistible!

**Q Can you tell us any good/bad stories about when you have opened the board?**

H My worst Scrabble nightmare came true against Jeff Grant. Sitting on a great lead and with a number of bonus possibilities, I threw caution to the wind and took the best-scoring option. This placed a U on the triple-word channel – relatively safe, I thought. Then Jeff played BRUNIZEM through it for squillions.

R My worst story about opening is

towards the end of a game when I put a word ending in Y for about 40-50 points to be a good 150 or so in front. What are the chances of anyone having a triple-triple with Y as the fourth letter, I asked myself complacently. Lisa McLean laid down RETYPING. Bummer.

**Q When the board is closed, and there is absolutely nowhere for a bonus to go, do you (like the editor) STILL try to find a bonus? (I need to know I don't have this silly behaviour on my own!)**

H No, I'm very pragmatic about bonus words – they are bonuses not givens. If you can't get 'em, you can't get 'em. And if you can't get it down, you can't get it down. Besides, there's more than one way to skin a cat. I sometimes prefer just to keep plonking down 35s, and building the score that way.

L No!

R It's invariably at these times that 12-15 anagrams leap out to taunt you – words you'd never think of otherwise.

S My behaviour mirrors yours, Ed – you're not alone!

**Q Anything else you'd like to say?**

H Jennifer, you left out the most obvious question: How do you close an open board? So I've answered that earlier.

R If I had great letters all the time. I'd never have, or see the need for, a blocked board. Alas, my opponent would.

## An epiphany of eponyms

- by Jeff Grant

An eponym is a word derived from the name of an actual person or a fictional or mythical character. There are lots of them in everyday use, for example, boycott, sandwich, spoonerism and erotic, which can be traced back to Captain Charles Boycott, the Earl of Sandwich, Rev W A Spooner and Eros, the Greek love-god.

Here are 26 interesting eponyms, one for each letter of the alphabet. Some may surprise you!

- ABIGAIL** a handmaiden or lady's maid, after *Abigail*, wife of Nabal, in the Book of Samuel in the Bible.
- BURKE** to murder, especially by smothering, from Irish navy William *Burke*, who with his fellow countryman, William Hare, murdered up to 30 people in Edinburgh between 1827 and 1829, selling the bodies for dissection.
- CHAUVINIST** one who has a fanatical or extravagant attachment to any group, place, cause, etc, from Nicolas *Chauvin*, an old French soldier who became the laughing-stock of his peers because of his overenthusiastic devotion to Napoleon.
- DERRICK** a stationary crane with lifting tackle at the end of a boom or jib, from the surname of Goodman *Derrick*, a notorious 17th century Tyburn hangman who is said to have carried out over 3,000 executions.
- EPICURE** a person of refined taste, from the Greek philosopher *Epicurus*, who set great store by happiness and even regarded virtue as worthless if it did not also produce an agreeable life.
- FERRIS\* WHEEL** a fairground attraction consisting of a large upright revolving wheel with seats suspended around its rim. The first such wheel was built by American engineer G W Gale *Ferris* in 1893. It stood 250 feet high and carried 36 carriages, each of which could seat up to 40 people!
- GUPPY** a small tropical fish, originally from Venezuela and Trinidad, discovered by R J Lechmere *Guppy* in 1866.
- HANSOM** a light two-wheeled horse-drawn cab, designed and patented by Joseph *Hansom* (1803-82).
- ISABELLA** a dingy yellowish-grey colour, possibly after *Isabella* of Castile, queen of Spain, who made a vow not to change her linen until Granada fell into her hands. Unfortunately the siege in 1491-2 lasted longer than ladies usually wore their body-linen!
- JANOLA\*** a domestic bleach popular in New Zealand and Australia, named in honour of the inventors' wives, *Jan* and *Nola*.
- KIT KAT** a chocolate bar, apparently from the Kit-Cat Club, an 18th century literary club located at the pie-house of Christopher (*Kit*) *Cat* in Shire Lane, London.



- LINDY** also **lindy hop**, a type of jitterbug dance that originated in the Harlem district of New York. It commemorates the dramatic solo crossing of the Atlantic in 1927 by American aviator Charles Lindbergh (nicknamed '**Lindy**'). A 'hop' is slang for both a dance (at the hop) and a short plane flight.
- MOONLIGHT** a locality on the West Coast of the South Island in New Zealand, named after colourful 19th century prospector and gold miner George Fairweather **Moonlight**.
- NICOTINE** a poisonous narcotic alkaloid obtained from tobacco leaves, after Jean **Nicot**, a French diplomat who introduced tobacco into France in 1560.
- OCKER** a typical Australian male, from a nickname for Oscar, especially the character **Ocker** portrayed by Ron Frazer in the 1960s Australian TV series *The Mavis Bramston Show*.
- PEGGY SQUARE** a small knitted woollen square, numbers of which are sewn together to make blankets for charity, named after **Peggy** Huse, a young Hutt Valley, New Zealand, girl associated with the initial popularising of the squares in the early 1930s.
- QUISLING** a person who betrays his country by helping an occupying enemy force, after Vidkun **Quisling**, the pro-Nazi Norwegian leader from 1940-45.
- RACHMANISM\*** the extortion of high rents from tenants in slum properties, from Perec **Rachman**, an unscrupulous London landlord who died in 1962.
- SAXOPHONE** a brass wind instrument popular with jazz musicians, invented by Belgian Adolphe **Sax**, (1814-98), who was also responsible for the **saxhorn** and **saxtuba**.
- TRILBY** a soft felt hat with an indented crown, named after **Trilby** O'Ferrall, the heroine of George du Maurier's novel *Trilby*, published in 1894. The hats were worn in the original London stage production based on the novel. The plural can be either **trilbies** or **trilbys**.
- UZI\*** a type of sub-machine gun designed by Israeli army officer **Uziel** Gal after the Arab-Israeli war of 1948.
- VANDYKE** a short pointed beard, as sported by 17th century Flemish painter Sir Anthony **Vandyke**, and many of the famous people who posed for him.
- WELLIES** colloquial for wellingtons\*, waterproof rubber boots covering the calves, gumboots, named after Arthur Wellesley, First Duke of **Wellington** (1769-1852), who wore such boots during both his military and political careers. The singular can be either wellie or welly.
- XANTHIPPE\*** a scolding or bad-tempered wife, from **Xanthippe**, the shrewish wife of Greek philosopher Socrates.
- YAPP** to protect a book with leather covers, a process devised by 19th century London bookseller and religious zealot William **Yapp**, who apparently became frustrated by the increasing tattiness of the Bible he always carried in his pocket.
- ZINNIA** an annual flower of the aster family, named by Linnaeus in honour of German botanist Johann Gottfried **Zinn** (1727-59).\*

## Competition Corner

### Scrabble Contest no. 86

Your opponent starts with JEW (E on centre square), and you are holding FILES + 2 blanks. 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 May 2007.

The winner will receive a book prize.

### Solution: Contest no. 85

1 find fiend	11 word world
2 mad maid	12 fist first
3 holy holly	13 decent descent
4 cure curse	14 naive native
5 mix minx	15 reuse refuse
6 shot short	16 noting nothing
7 nose noose	17 chin chain
8 nice niche	18 stranger strangler
9 tale table	19 inert insert
10 desert dessert	20 helo hello

Record entries this time! Full marks to Suzanne Harding (Whangarei), Shirley Sarten (Waitara), Leila Thomson (Lower Hutt), Dorothy Latta (Dunedin), Hazel Purdie (Mt Albert), Maureen Holliday (Hibiscus Coast), Joan Thomas (Hastings), Jo Ann Ingram (Tauranga), Joanne Craig (Christchurch) and Jethro Snafflerod. Well done also to the many people who missed only one answer. First name out of the hat was Jethro – congratulations!



Thanks to all those who sent their best wishes for the new year, and said how much they enjoy doing the puzzles. Your comments are greatly appreciated.

### True confessions

Dianne and Roger Cole-Baker were visitors to the Dunedin Scrabble Club early in the New Year and were warmly welcomed and enjoyed true Southern hospitality. (However this kindness did not extend as far as letting Roger win a game, I am sorry to say.) The games played were all enjoyable and not especially notable, however the evening will be long remembered by the Dunedin Club members.

At the end of the evening, and their guests having departed for their B & B, no trace of the keys to lock up the hall could be found. A fruitless hunt – a check of all members present, many phone calls – could it be their guests had taken the missing keys??

Local B & Bs were rung (it was now near midnight) with no luck, so the Church Hall had to left unlocked overnight.

Next morning the guilty pair found the missing keys in a pocket and realized their mistake... it goes to show that you just can't trust those Aucklanders, they'll take anything not nailed down.

Perhaps Roger C-B should change his name to Roger Key-Taker, not Cole-Baker. And future visitors to the Dunedin Club – expect to be searched by one of the airport metal detectors before you leave the Scrabble Club!

# Mailbox

**From Margaret Gibson**

Tim Henneveld in the December Forwards made a mnemonic for ae.

When I played for the Victor Harbour club in South Australia they used to say, "Ditzy Gloria has had more naval seamen than voluptuous Wanda". That has stuck in my mind quite easily!

**From Joan Thomas**

I must be really dumb – I cannot fathom out the rationale re the answer to the page 5 brainteaser. I cannot see what these words have in common at all. Please put me out of my misery!!

*[Yours was not the only SOS I received over the summer, Joan. Jeff Grant also sent me an email pleading to be let into the secret. I first heard the question in a pub quiz and no-one in our team could do it, either! But it's so simple, I'm sure you'll agree.]*

*First aid, second nature, third world, fourth estate, fifth column, sixth sense – you know why HEAVEN is the answer now, don't you? –Ed.]*

**From Jeff Grant**

Re Editor's Challenge (p5), I wouldn't be surprised if pilates\* comes in one day, and you really would think scoresheet\* would be OK. But apart from the non-Scrabble words mentioned in my 2-Letter Word Dictionary review, we should point out the old favourite bingoed\* on p23 and p24. Surprisingly, the word 'bingo' isn't listed as a verb in my copy of Collins Scrabble Dictionary which supposedly includes all the new American words (za\* is there). Hard to believe they have left it out.

Further to Joan Thomas's piece on the inclusion of DAWBAKE\* (a foolish or slow-witted person) in Collins Scrabble Dictionary, Joan is quite right – the English Dialect Dictionary records the terms DOUGH-BAKE and DOUGH-CAKE for "a simpleton, fool, someone who is 'half-baked' ". The word DAWCAKE\* is also listed, but this is derived from 'daw' (a jackdaw, 'a silly chattering person') rather than 'dough'.

DAWBAKE\* has zero hits on the internet in this context. In fact, there is just a single mention of DAW BAKE (two words, in a list of Devon dialect terms), meaning 'not too bright'. This adjectival sense is similar to DOUGH-BAKED in the English Dialect Dictionary.

So where did Collins find DAWBAKE\*? Goodness only knows.

**"How's the psalter title page coming**



along, brother?

**P.S.**

Five words starting with S take a front hook of P:

- |           |            |
|-----------|------------|
| SALTER(S) | PSALTER(S) |
| SHAW(S)   | PSHAW(S)   |
| SI(S)     | PSI(S)     |
| SORA(S)   | PSORA(S)   |
| ST        | PST        |

## Find the odd one out

- by Jennifer Smith

Thirty of the following words have something in common. What is it, and can you find the odd one out?

- ABORIGINE
- APOPLEXY
- ASPIRING
- BARGESE
- BESTRIDE
- BUDGEROW
- CLASSISM
- CREATING
- CRIMINAL
- DEMENTIA
- FINALISE
- GLASSIER
- HANDCART
- INDIVIDUAL
- KILLDEER
- MANDRIL
- MILITARY
- NEGLIGEE
- ORDINARY
- PEARLING
- PECULIAR
- PEEPER
- QUARTZ
- SCHMOOZE
- SHIPMENT
- STAMPEDE
- SUSPENSE
- SYLLABIC
- TELETEXT
- VISITEE
- WAITED

Answer on page 43.

## Wacky definitions

The following people provided some wonderfully wacky definitions for our entertainment.

**From Jeff Grant**

- ERODENT an electronic mouse
- HOROLOGY the study of scary movies
- POLYPUS a group of octopuses
- REARREST a posterior support, midway between the headrest and the footrest
- SEXTILES an 'adult' version of Scrabble

**From Carole Coates**

- PHONEME time you gave me a ring
- MESON baby boy
- LYARD wooden mattress
- NOMARCH too tired to walk
- REARMICE slow mice

**From Roger Coates**

- ISODONT most definitely doesn't
- ILLITES sick people
- ARRIAGE a carriage with its front missing
- IONONE debt-free person
- COUTEAU dried up sea (sea out of water)

**From Jennifer Smith**

- POLYACID parrot's indigestion
- NODATED describes a single person at home on Saturday night
- WHEYFACE the insulting word used by the spider to frighten Miss Muffet away
- SPYAL an incompetent spy (doesn't quite see everything)
- SPURGALL a cowgirl

**From Joan Thomas**

- EELPOUT what 'eel do when 'e can't get 'is own way.
- EELLIKE what 'eel think when 'e can get 'is own way.
- EELWRACK what 'eel do to 'is brains when perplexed.
- EELWORM what 'eel do when in a tight corner with 'is wife.
- EELGRASS what 'eel do when in a tight corner with the law.
- EELFARE what 'eel pay the taxi-driver when 'ee's intoxicated.

**And a "second helping" from Joan Thomas**

From the cannibal's recipe book:

- BUM the most fleshy, succulent part of the victim.
- STEWBUM casserole of human bum, cubed.
- CRUMBUM schnitzel of human bum, thinly sliced and crumbed.
- PLUMBUM sweet and sour human bum Chinese style. Choice.



# Overseas news



## Africa

### Africa Scrabble Championships, 2006

- 1st – Dennis Ikekeregor (Nigeria)  
 2nd – Femi Awowade (Nigeria)  
 3rd – Eta Karo (Nigeria)  
 4th – Mike Quao (Ghana)

Dennis Ikekeregor makes history as the first African to successfully defend the African Scrabble Championship title, and the first to win the title twice.

## Australia

### 2006 World Youth Scrabble Championship, 1-3 December 2006

David Eldar of Australia was crowned the inaugural World Youth Scrabble Champion in Wollongong after overcoming a spirited Austin Shin from the United Kingdom in a best of five Grand Finals.

At the end of 20 rounds of match play, both David Eldar (17 wins, +1368 spread points) and Austin Shin (15 wins, +1253 spread points) were two wins clear of the chasing pack. Austin Shin gave David Eldar a scare when he cruised to a 619–341 victory in the opening game, but David Eldar settled down to take three straight games, 437-392, 485-299, 525-322, en route to winning the title.

In the group of players on 13 wins, Will Nediger of Canada claimed the second runner-up spot ahead of Joshua Sng, Benjamin Chow and Toh Weibin (all from Singapore) by virtue of his superior spread.

## Bahrain

### 21st Bahrain Scrabble Cup, 22 December 2006

- 1st – Mohammed Zafar, from Bahrain, age 17  
 2nd – 2004 champion Adeeb Ahmad  
 3rd – 2003 champion Ferrer Abordo

Bahraini Mohammed Zafar seized opening victories of 465-385 and 462-398 against Adeeb Ahmad to become the 13th Bahrain Scrabble titleholder.

After being declared the winner, the teenager said he was “just very, very happy being the champion which is my dream come true.”

Mohammed was disappointed with his placement of 31st place in the World Youth Scrabble Championship in Australia the same month, though he now has his sights set on the King’s Cup Tournament in Bangkok, the world’s largest Scrabble event, in June.

## France

The French Scrabble Federation and Mattel held a Fete du Scrabble in Paris in September, at which over 200 took part, including many children.

## Ghana

The Management of the National Sports Council (NSC) has appointed new general secretaries for some of the associations. George K Arthur is the new secretary to the Scrabble, Squash and Rugby Associations.

## Malaysia

### Causeway Scrabble Challenge, 8-10 December

Ganesh Asirvatham won with a 510 average, 22 wins (out of 25 games) and a spread of 3,814 points (an average winning margin of 173 points per win).

Despite starting the tournament with a narrow defeat (by a mere 4 points) at the hands of Andrew Fisher, Ganesh strung together 21 consecutive victories over the likes of Naweem Fernando, Panupol Sujjayakorn, Odette Rio, Cheah Siu Hean and David Eldar before losing two of the last three games (to Oscar Rivera Jr and Pakorn Nemitrmansuk respectively).

Nigel Richards was runner-up, with a

451 score average, 19 wins and a spread of +1547 points.

The overall team title went to the Australian team of Chris May (3rd), Naweem Fernando (4th), David Eldar (5th), Edward Okulicz (7th) and Andrew Fisher (8th). Overall, Australia won a quarter of the games with 88 wins out of the 375 games played over the three days.

## ICT Penang Masters Tournament

- 1st — Ganesh Asirvatham (Malaysia)  
 2nd — Andy Kurnia (Singapore)  
 3rd — Nigel Richards (New Zealand)  
**Player of the Year**

Ganesh Asirvatham has been named the Malaysian Player of the Year. He won the Malaysian Open, Penang Open, Merdeka Tournament and Causeway Scrabble Challenge, as well as having multiple 700+ point games, and setting new records.

## Nigeria

### 7th Pan-African Championships

- 1st – Dennis Ikekeregor, Nigeria  
 2nd – Femi Awowade, a Nigerian based in the UK  
 3rd – Michael Quao, Ghana

## United Kingdom

Three well-known British players, Karl Khoshnaw, Graeme Thomas (Chairman of the ABSP for many years) and Michael Partner, who all died towards the end of 2006, have been mourned by the Association of British Scrabble Players (ABSP).

Originally from Kurdistan, Iraq, Karl played for England for many years before moving to Germany. He was a regular contestant in the World Scrabble Championships, and is the record holder for the highest word score of 392 points for CAZIKUES, a feat that is listed in the *Guinness Book of Records*.

## National Champion

Jake Jacobs (Cambridge) won the 35th National Scrabble Championships by beating Christian Borwn (Nottingham)

in the final in London on 5 November, **Chess as a sport**

In December it was announced that chess is officially recognised as a sport in Britain. The change in the UK game’s status has delighted chess clubs which, as sporting bodies, now qualify for charitable status and state funding for the first time.

Now the campaign to include chess in the 2012 London Olympics is stepping up. The IOC says it’s a sport, as do 150 countries worldwide. The World Chess Federation is the second-largest sporting association in the world, behind FIFA.

*[If chess were to be accepted as an Olympic sport, surely the inclusion of Scrabble would be the next logical step? – Ed.]*

## Use of the Scrabble brand

Game manufacturer Mattel, Inc., has granted a licence to the World English-language Scrabble Players Association (Wespa) to use the Scrabble brand in connection with Wespa tournaments, meetings and other activities. The agreement dovetails with Wespa’s own constitution in pursuing the interests of Scrabble players.

The UK currently has 318 clubs listed with the ABSP.

## USA

After three years of covering the USA National Championships and not getting enough viewers, the ESPN network has decided to change to telecasting the National School Scrabble Championship. In the light of their success in televising the National Spelling Bee, they feel the youth competition may attract a larger audience.

The US National Scrabble Association, while disappointed with the decision, nevertheless hopes the change will lead to increased Scrabble participation among younger players. They are hoping another channel may take over the National Champs.

## Young champion

- from *Theage.com.au*, 6 December

DAVID Eldar comes across as a fairly quietly spoken 17-year-old. But put him in front of a Scrabble board and the words just keep flowing.

His extensive vocabulary includes 'aroynts', 'subcostal' and 'liparites' – words that helped him become the first winner of the World Youth Scrabble Championships.

"It was good, I enjoyed it," the modest Australian schoolboy said of his victory. "I like competing, and I think the game is a good balance between strategy and luck."

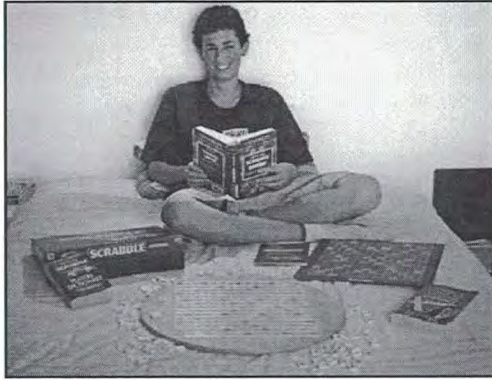
Fifty young Scrabblers from 12 countries – including Malaysia, Canada and the Philippines – took part in the tournament in Wollongong. The youngest was a 10-year-old boy from India.

David's win guarantees him a place in next year's World Scrabble Championships. At last year's competition, in London, he debuted as the youngest player to represent Australia in an international event, and obtained the 11th position.

He is now ranked number one in Australian Scrabble, but his tournament schedule will be wound back next year as he tackles year 12. The King David School student, who first played Scrabble when he was five, says his aim is to win the world title one day – a goal that youth championships organiser Karen Richards believes is achievable.

"He's a potential world champion," she said. "He's got that natural ability, he's just got one of those brains that quickly spots opportunities and patterns."

When he's not competing, David sharpens this ability by playing online Scrabble and learning new words. Among his favourites are 'Qi' and 'Qat', which free the player of the hard-to-use



letter 'Q'.

His mother, Roslyn Eldar, is pleased her son has found a hobby he loves. "It's the same dedication as it would be for a concert pianist, the same amount of time involved, hours every day," she said. "He's got a passion in life and he's very lucky."

### Nines

- by *Howard Warner*

During the Waikato tournament, I came up with a special sequence of plays. It was mid-game, against Peter Jones.

First I played ENTERABLE through an AB, for 62. Next turn, I played INHABITER through the A and middle I, for 111 (double-double). In fact, I could equally have played REINHABIT, same score. The third turn was JUSTING for 97.

Though I've played three nine-letter words in a game before, this is the first time (and undoubtedly the last) that I've played two consecutively. Interestingly, neither nine contained a blank. And no seven or eight-letter anagrams were possible with those racks.

## Twenty years ago today

- by *John Foster*

This month's selection, from *Forwards* No 7, March 1987, is an account of a successful sally to Wanganui by players from Mt Albert to challenge for the NZ Shield. It demonstrates how highly the shield was valued back then, when players would pay their own way, in some cases even flying, just for the honour of representing their club.

After Mt Albert won the shield it was contested several times in contests with North Shore Bays, changing hands more than once, but, unfortunately, interest waned, and it languished in the back of a cupboard for several years.

In an attempt to revive interest it is now played as an adjunct to the Masters and National Champs as long as sufficient players are available from the holder and a challenging club. It looks likely that the Wellington Club may have the numbers to challenge Mt Albert at this year's Masters.

### N.Z. CHALLENGE SHIELD

A strong Mt Albert team went down to Wanganui on Waitangi Day to contest the N.Z. Shield on the following day. Correne James and Glennis Hale flew down, and David Lloyd and Andrew Bradley drove down with Charlie and Daph Curl. Wanganui had held the shield for 9 months and in that time defended it twice successfully against the Lower Hutt Club.

Mt Albert however, proved too strong, winning 16 games to 9.

The Wanganui team was: Michael Sigley, Denise Gordon, Gaye Norgren, Jean Walsh and John Bailey.

David Lloyd won all 5 of his games with a high average of 465.

Mt Albert is now looking forward to some challenges.

Scan of actual article

### Lifesaving Scrabble

In 1985 Lieutenant Commander Waghorn and Lance Corporal Gill played Scrabble for five days when trapped in a crevasse in Antarctica. Which begs the obvious question, how do you manage to have a Scrabble board with you when you get trapped in a crevasse in Antarctica?

- from *A Tile Bag of Scrabble Trivia*, by *Tom McCahon*

### Editor's challenge

As always, 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 left deliberately un-asterisked for you to find.

Can you find it? Answer on page 43.

## Match-play

Howard Warner has been very keen to run a Match-play Scrabble competition which starts as a tournament, and from that tournament players play knockout rounds: 16 people, then eight, then four, then the last two battle it out for the title of Auckland Match-play champion.

Eileen was remembered at the start of the tourney – she won the Swiss draw pub tourney that we ran last year, and she would have certainly been a starter for this one had she still been with us.

Thirty-four players took part in the first Auckland Match-play champs held on Sunday 18 February – they were players from ratings in the 2000s down to players with ratings in the 600s and one was in his first NZ tournament. The format was a Swiss draw with no repeats, and all players in one grade. It was hoped that players would enjoy this, as it gave them an opportunity to play people they would not usually play at tournaments.

	Wins	spread
1 Andrew Bradley	8	462
2 Glynis Jennings	7	893
3 Howard Warner	6	1142
4 Janice Cherry	5	431
5 Patrick Carter	5	395
6 John Foster	5	346
7 Denise le Bron	5	154
8 Chris Hooks	5	117
9 Lawson Sue	5	80
10 Selena Chan	5	64
11 Liz Fagerlund	5	-21
12 Rosalind Phillips	5	-22
13 Jennifer Smith	4	344
14 Margaret Cherry	4	225
15 Roger French	4	135
16 Chris Higgins	4	91
17 Liz Catchpole	4	-2
18 Anderina McLean	4	-9
19 Ernie Gidman	4	-123
20 Glenda Foster	4	-169
21 Val Mills	4	-198

- by Liz Fagerlund

22 Kate Wignall	4	-406
23 Lynn Carter	3	-32
24 Scott Thiemann	3	-65
25 Bernie Jardine	3	-180
26 Marianne Patchett	3	-279
27 Pat Bryan	3	-314
28 Mary Gray	3	-339
29 Su Walker	3	-424
30 Karen Miller	2	-231
31 Valma Gidman	2	-241
32 Olwen Skelton	2	-264
33 Bernice Hyde	2	-772
34 Margaret Hanson	1	-778

There were 18 games where a player scored over 500 points – Howard did it 4 times (including a 654), Glynis also had 4 games over 500, and Chris Hooks had 2.

### Round 2

The next (elimination) round was the best of 7 for the top 16 available players – Selena was going back to Christchurch, and Denise back to South Africa, allowing Liz C and Anderina to sneak in. The games were to be played by arrangement over the next three weeks.

The 16 players in this round had ratings from 2087 to 845. Eleven were in the top 50, and the other five had an average rating of around 1000. So it was a good spread of players to trial this new tournament format. Most of the higher-ranked players went through with ease, so the final results were:

Andrew b Anderina 4-0  
 Glynis b Liz C 4-2  
 Howard b Chris Higgins 4-0  
 Roger b Janice 4-2  
 Patrick b Margaret 4-1  
 John b Jennifer 4-0  
 Chris Hooks b Rosalind 4-0  
 Liz Fagerlund b Lawson 4-3

The next round is the quarter-finals – with four best-of-nine matchups.

## Masters countdown I

- from John Foster

Herewith as promised in the December issue is a complete list of players who have participated in the New Zealand Masters Tournament, sequentially numbered in the order in which they made their first appearance.

Up until 1992 it is not possible to determine the order in which new players were admitted to the competition and so their number is allocated on their finishing position in their first year. From 1993 onwards ranking lists were published in *Forwards* and numbers are allocated strictly in accordance with the previous December rankings, which is necessarily the order in which they gained entry.

1 David Pinner	32 Marj Batchelor	63 Rhoda Cashman
2 Jeff Grant	33 Leigh Jenkins	64 Sheryl Davidson
3 May Quigley	34 John Foster	65 Paul Lister
4 Sue Marrow	35 Gaye Norgren	66 Faye Cronhelm
5 David Lloyd	36 Ian Patterson	67 Glenda Geard
6 Andrew Bradley	37 Allie Quinn	68 Andree Prentice
7 David Blumhardt	38 Geoff Vautier	69 Kendall Boyd
8 Glenyss Buchanan	39 Lynn Wood	70 Margie Hurley
9 Jan Ross	40 June Mackwell	71 Val Mills
10 Maurine Sullivan	41 Correne James	72 Pam Robson
11 Dorothy Pinner	42 Joy Hunter	73 Rosemary Cleary
12 Glennis Hale	43 Lynne Butler	74 Doreen O'Shea
13 Georgie Offringa	44 Alan Duval	75 Nigel Richards
14 Glenda Foster	45 Florence Veldhuizen	76 Anna Geange
15 Rita Moore	46 Gerald Warner	77 Steven Brown
16 Charlie Curl	47 Lucy Bright	78 Eileen McLean
17 Betty Gibb	48 Cathy Woods	79 Liz Fagerlund
18 Glynis Jennings	49 Blue Thorogood	80 Lisa McLean
19 Lynne Powell	50 Patrick Carter	81 Marianne Bentley
20 John Moore	51 Alan Boyd	82 Cecilia Ruto
21 Terry Darby	52 Peter Jones	83 Debbie Caldwell
22 Ngaire Steel	53 Leila Thomson	84 Rogelio Talosig
23 Irene Steel	54 Howard Warner	85 Jane Walton
24 Andrew Coombes	55 Fae Olson	86 Ann Hough
25 Mike Sigley	56 Peter Sinton	87 Julie Atkinson
26 Kevin Edgeler	57 Roy Vannini	88 Joan Thomas
27 Denise Gordon	58 Reeva Pearson	89 Jennifer Smith
28 Ann Candler	59 Bernice Vannini	90 Shirley van Essen
29 Doreen Ogston	60 Chris Hooks	91 David Gunn
30 Lesley Edgeler	61 Puti Rowe	92 Nick Ascroft
31 Marc Bonthron	62 Roger Tozer	93 Janice Cherry

From now on numbers will be assigned to new players as they enter the competition. Perhaps the NZASP may see fit to mark the occasion in some way when the 100th player makes his or her debut.

## Race for membership of 1000 club

Going into the Pakuranga Tournament at the end of January, John Foster and Lynn Wood were competing as friendly rivals to be the next person to join Jeff Grant and Glennis Hale as the third member of the 1000 win club.

John achieved it in the fifth game, and Lynn became the fourth member two games later.

Congratulations to you both.



Lynn Wood after her 1000th win at the Pakuranga tournament

## The sea

Samples from stories children have written about the sea:

- ☺ This is a picture of an octopus. It has eight testicles. (Kelly, age 6)
- ☺ Oysters' balls are called pearls. (James, age 6)
- ☺ If you are surrounded by sea you are an island. If you don't have sea all round you, you are incontinent. (Wayne, age 7)

- ☺ A dolphin breathes through an arsehole on the top of its head. (Billy, age 8)
- ☺ My uncle goes out in his boat with pots and comes back with crabs. (Millie, age 6)
- ☺ When ships had sails, they used to use the trade winds to cross the ocean. Sometimes when the wind didn't blow, the sailors would whistle to make the wind come. My brother said they would be better off eating beans. (William, age 7)
- ☺ I like mermaids. They are beautiful and I like their shiny tails. How do mermaids get pregnant? (Helen, age 6)
- ☺ Some fish are dangerous. Jellyfish can sting. Electric eels can give you a shock. They have to live in caves under the sea where I think they plug themselves into chargers. (Christopher, age 7)

## DAZZLING DOZEN

There aren't too many four-letter words ending in double R. Most people probably know BARR, PURR and the useful BRRR, but what about CARR (a copse in boggy ground), PARR (a young salmon) and NARR (a knot in a tree)?

The remaining dozen -RR fours are unusual and well-worth learning for Scrabble.

Note that the German female FRAU is allowed, but not the male HERR\*.

BIRR	FURR	TIRR
CURR	GIRR	TORR
DORR	MURR	YARR
DURR	SERR	YIRR

## When to play a word you don't know

- by Edward Okulicz

A reader sent me this enquiry – when should you put down a word you're not sure of? Fittingly, I'm not entirely sure of the answer because it varies from player to player. Very many players needlessly scupper their hopes by playing false words when not necessary, and just as many are too timid, perhaps for fear of embarrassing themselves.

It's probably easier to talk in rules of thumb.

**1. As your word knowledge goes up, you can get away with doing this more often as there's more chance you've seen the word before.**

Having said that, top players may sometimes miss a word, but they are likely to be able to recognise it when it appears on their rack – a word that would have been studied if it existed that is unfamiliar is to be played with caution.

**2. Always play a word you're not sure of if it's the only chance you have of winning the game.**

Don't be a wimp! If there are no tiles left and you're 50 points down with a vaguely plausible sounding word, play the damn thing! It is true that you are going to be wrong a significant proportion of the time, and will lose the game by 90 points, perhaps. But, just think, perhaps one time in five your hunch will be right and you'll win. Forget spread – that's for people who are vying to win divisions. If you want to get better, you have to increase your rating and get amongst the better

players – and the odd extra win here and there is valuable. A related plus is that playing the word and having it challenged off will reinforce it in your mind as a phony, ditto a correct word.

**3. Don't play a phony if it might cost you a winnable game.**

If the game is hanging in the balance, a doubtful word might be the difference between defeat and victory. There's something exciting about a roll of the dice, but you've got to be responsible. If the scores are tight, and your rack is bonus-like, chances are you will get a bonus in the next few turns anyway if you play conservatively.

**4. Playing a false bonus shows your entire rack to your opponent. Think about whether this is dangerous or not.**

If there aren't many tiles in the bag and there's still lots of goodies to come – a blank or a couple of esses perhaps, if you don't have one of these power tiles on your rack, your opponent knows they're in the bag, and can make openings for them. Further, a good player who knows your rack can see what you will play next and tweak their play accordingly. It's best to take the gamble only if you have a Plan B and a Plan C for the turn after.



**5. If you are ahead and the word will put the game beyond doubt but not cost you the game if it's wrong, play it.**

Let's say you're 100 points ahead with a likely word on your rack and a few decent alternatives if it's wrong. Obviously, you're still in the game if your opponent gets a big score next turn – you'll likely have a 20-30 point buffer in all but the most unfortunate circumstances. But if that word's good, you might be 175 points up. That's a mighty big deficit to be clawing back, and it's simply not going to be possible by most people. On the other hand, a lead of 50 points is better protected by playing conservatively – if you lose a turn, your opponent gets into striking distance and again, with knowledge of part of your rack, they're rather likely to do it in fewer turns than they would without that information.

**6. Consider your likely alternatives first.**

If you have a 50-point play you don't know, and a 35-point play you know for certain, you might be better off with the 35-point play, unless, as I said earlier, you are 49 points down with no tiles left. The bigger the gulf between the doubtful word and the best word you're sure of, the more you should play it. A choice between an 100 point word you vaguely remember and a 30 point one you know is a big one.

**7. If you are so far down that the only way of winning is with a bizarre word, you might as well.**

You might get slapped in the face occasionally, but that's Scrabble. It's wins not margins that decide your rating, so I'd sooner go down 200

spread points again and again as long as I claw back one seemingly-unwinnable game occasionally. An opponent of mine once tried a preposterous triple-triple where none was available – it would have brought them back into the game had it been correct. As it happened, it was wrong and I triple-tripled myself and won by about 350 points. But the opponent was right to do it – playing to minimise the spread is the sort of thing that decides placings at majors. Don't worry about it otherwise.

**8. First turn of the game – less to lose.**

Generally, if you're going to try something, it's not the worst idea in the world to do it on your first turn. If you're the lower rated player, this is especially true. You're not going to win without something unlikely, nay fluky, happening, and your opponent isn't that likely to make a mistake, so you might as well seize the initiative. The chance of your opponent putting something down that will put them far enough ahead to guarantee the win at this point is rather small.

**9. Always look up doubtful words after the game.**

If your courage failed you, or perhaps your common sense won the day, check the word afterwards while it's fresh in your mind. The human brain is very associative, and tying a piece of information to an event such as a specific Scrabble game aids memory. Improving is not just about winning now, it's about laying the foundations to win more often in the future.

*- Reproduced, with permission, from  
Across the Board, Australia*

## Runner

*- by Jessica Robertson*

Most of the time, being a runner is hard work, but some things are cool, like the good food.

Getting to watch people play, it's also cool to find out words that you have never heard of before, like **clavier**, **tupik** and **realgar**. Once I got the same word from different tables, but it wasn't a word. It was **prangers**.

The bad thing about running is everybody is yelling challenge or nobody is.

It would make my job easy, if they wrote the V with a point, because I thought it was a U.

Well, that's what it's like. How about it? You want to be a runner?



*[Jessica was the very capable and beautifully mannered runner for the Pakuranga Tournament, Auckland Anniversary Weekend. Her equally well-mannered brother James was the scorer.]*

## War of words

*- by Cindy Corell, on Newsleader.com*

You have to understand the competitive nature of my family when it comes to the wordy board game. I come from a hard-Scrabble family. It looks like fun. It sounds like fun. But when the scores are added up it's not for fun – it's for simple pride.

I'm sure ours was the only family in our town with a standard Scrabble game and a Spanish-language version as well. What's the difference, you ask? Well, the Spanish game had the *enyas\** and other little accent boards. By choosing that game over the standard American version, you were forced to play in the foreign language that just happened to be one of several our Mom taught in school.

Mom also taught English, so she took her Scrabble seriously in any language. Turns out her younger sister, Zelma, was just as competitive, hence

our family's most famous Scrabble story – the Case of the Missing Vowels.

Aunt Zelma came to live with us for a short time when I was in high school. Like my Mom, she was brilliant with words and read anything she could get her hands on. Every night that summer, when the kitchen table was cleared and the sun was setting, out came the Scrabble board. They dumped the wooden tiles into the lid of the box and carefully turned each one face-down.

They were the only two who played – the rest of us were out of their league and frankly, the word 'played' wasn't used to describe lighthearted fun. In fact, my father and I tried to ignore the terse conversation and heated arguments over whether or not the word 'quotha' existed. Webster's was never out of reach.

I could leave. There was the great

outdoors for me to escape to. But Dad had no place to turn. His after-supper habit was well established – several newspapers, baseball on the radio and perhaps a cold beverage or two. Trouble was, his radio spot was the kitchen, and it had been for years.

The intrusion of the regular Scrabble competition turned into a turf battle. A deadly turf battle. As ugly a battle as you have ever seen. And as in all conflicts, it had to come to a head.

He came up with the idea on his own – a devious plan to put an end to Scrabble games in the kitchen on late summer evenings. He exchanged the vowels in the standard game with consonants from the Spanish game.

Brilliant really, and very, very funny – unless you happened to be the only one with any sense left and who could see that this was going to get a lot worse before it got any better.

That was me. I was frightened.

And so they started that night. One of them grabbed the Scrabble box. The other grabbed the dictionary, and they settled in with two glasses of iced tea and a sigh of contentment.

Mom won the right to start the game so she selected seven tiles and put them in her little rack. She frowned.

"You go ahead, Zelma," she said. "I don't have any vowels."

Dad snickered. Aunt Zelma looked smug. She chose her tiles.

She had no vowels either, so she begrudgingly told Mom to choose again.

My stress level zoomed. Dad's snickering was about to give him away, so he left his spot by the radio and went around the corner to the laundry room. I followed him, quietly pleading with him to turn himself in – to relieve us all from the storm that surely was about to

land.

Tears ran down his face as we heard the two beginning to grumble, quietly at first, then more vigorous. Then no voices at all, just the sound of little tiles hastily flipped over. Dad about fell over from laughing.

Then it happened. I've never quite heard language like that which came from the kitchen. Let's just say those words wouldn't be allowed in a Scrabble game.

Mom didn't talk to Dad for a week. Only years later did she grin when the story was retold. The overriding interest in Scrabble had waned, though the entire family would play on occasion at holiday gatherings. Mom was still the one to beat – but she kept a close eye on the tiles.

### Scrabble trivia

1. What is Scrabble called in Sweden?
2. How many languages is Scrabble available in?
3. Which birthday is Scrabble celebrating this year?
4. Which pope declared Scrabble was his favourite pastime?
5. In which state of the USA is it illegal to play Scrabble while waiting for a politician to speak?
6. How many double words score squares are there on the standard Scrabble board (no peeking!)?
7. Which date is Scrabble's original copyright date?
8. What is the World Record for the number of games of Scrabble played simultaneously, and where was it set?

Answers on page 43.

## Who's playing Scrabble?

### People of Tobago, apparently

Trinidad and Tobago's Newsd@ reported on 20 December: Checks to bookstores indicated that books as gifts were not as popular as several years before but board games such as Monopoly and Scrabble were still in demand.

### Climbers, Stuart Lade and Helen Dale

Stuart and Helen were stuck for 16 hours 900m up Ben Nevis in the UK in freezing conditions. Stuart was reported as saying, "It was quite boring really. One of the few things the climbing guides don't tell you is to pack a copy of travel Scrabble, but maybe they should."

### Stephen Malkmus

Stephen Malkmus of the Jicks is indie rock. He is also a gifted guitar player (most recent solo album is Face the Truth) and a Scrabble-savant lyricist.



### Assembly Now, British indie stars



London indie boys Assembly Now escaped with only minor cuts and bruises after a motorway accident. During the recent bad weather in Britain, the wind became increasingly erratic as the band

continued up the M40, on the way to perform in Manchester.

Drummer Lush said afterwards: "Our van got knocked sideways off the hard shoulder and slid across the crash barrier. Unfortunately we were playing Scrabble at the time and all the pieces knocked onto the floor."

### Mary Kozy, Chicago

Kozy was blind in one eye from birth, and the sight in the other gradually deteriorated until she awoke the morning



after high school graduation unable to see anything. She was diagnosed with "retinopathy of prematurity," originally called retrolental fibroplasia.

"The retina, part of the eye you need to see, shreds up," Kozy said matter-of-factly. "I was young. I was 18. But I had wonderful family support and good friends." She also had Scrabble. "It's fun, and you keep the brain really active."

### Quackle and David Boys

At a Scrabble tournament in Toronto, Canada, a piece of software called Quackle triumphed in a best-of-five series over David Boys, a computer programmer who won the world Scrabble championship in 1995.

Quackle earned the right to play David Boys by edging out another Scrabble-playing program, Maven, in a series of games against expert human players.

Quackle's win did not come easily. David Boys won the first two games, but



the computer program took the final three games, making a couple of outstanding plays – like “deviating”, placed through two disconnected I’s that were already on the board – that even top-level human players would be hard-pressed to spot. David Boys said after the loss: “It’s still better to be a human than to be a computer.”

### Actress and author, Jamie Lee Curtis

She was the face for board game giants Hasbro Games such as Monopoly and Scrabble as part of a Christmas campaign



entitled ‘Games Make Great Gifts’.

Jamie Lee Curtis agreed to front the commercials because she hopes they will encourage busy parents to make time for family game nights with their children. Hasbro Games spokesman Mark Blecher said he knew Curtis was perfect for the ads when he first met her – because she pulled an electronic Yahtzee game out of her purse and relayed how she beat husband Christopher Guest at Scrabble during a plane trip.

### The Beastie Boys

After 20 years in the music industry, Mike ‘Mike D’ Diamond, Adam ‘MCA’ Yauch and Adam ‘Ad-Rock’ Horowitz no longer party as hard as they used to. Ad-Rock confesses, “We play SCRABBLE on our tour bus now. And Mahjongg too. I’m the best at Scrabble. When we’re on tour, I find out where the local Scrabble club is. I’m not that good, so I kinda lay low. I mean, there are people out there who are really into Scrabble – they take it very seriously. Not that I don’t take it seriously.”

### Moby

He has created his own getaway in upstate New York with his own observatory and Scrabble room.



### Pop minx Christina Aguilera and Justin Timberlake

They play Scrabble to pass the time while touring.

### Roots star, Questlove

He has “confessed” to downloading Scrabble and practising three hours a day.

### Hollywood actress Catherine Zeta Jones

“I love games like Scrabble, Yahtzee and Trivial Pursuit. And I really like to win.”

### Martha Stewart

She reportedly spent her third day in prison (after being found guilty of lying in a fraud case) playing Scrabble.



### Joy Watkins, until her death at age 105

Joy died peacefully in her sleep at Oakwoods Retirement Village, Nelson in February. Her son said she was in good health until her death, could read without glasses and had a good sense of humour. She even played scrabble with Sir David Willcocks, an international conductor who visited Nelson, three weeks before her death.

“And I think she beat him,” her son said.

## A blonde’s year in review, USA

### January

Took new scarf back to store because it was too tight.

### February

Fired from pharmacy job for failing to print labels ... Hellllloooo\*!!! ... bottles won’t fit in printer !!!

### March

Got really excited ... finished jigsaw puzzle in 6 months ... box said “2-4 years!”

### April

Trapped on escalator for hours ... power went out!!!

### May

Tried to make Kool-Aid ... wrong instructions ... 8 cups of water won’t fit into those little packets!!!

### June

Wanted to go water skiing ... Couldn’t find a lake with a slope.

### July

Lost breast stroke swimming competition ... learned later, the other swimmers cheated, they used their arms!!!

### August

Got locked out of my car in rain storm ... car swamped because soft-top was open.

### September

The capital of California is ‘C’, isn’t it???

### October

Hate M & M’s ... they are so hard to peel.

### November

Baked turkey for 4½ days ... instructions said 1 hour per pound and I weigh 108!!

### December

Couldn’t call 911 ... duh\*! ... There’s no ‘eleven’ button on the stupid phone!!!

## Robot learns to play “dirty” Scrabble

- from [www.exduco.net](http://www.exduco.net)

Beating people at Scrabble is already no contest for computer programs, which can easily memorise entire dictionaries. Now a Scrabble-playing program has gone one better by playing dirty.

Developed by Eyal Amir, an assistant professor, and PhD candidate Mark Richards, from the Department of Computer Science at Illinois, the program is able to predict which letter tiles other players hold, and use this information to choose moves which block a high-scoring word that an opponent might otherwise have played. This aggressive gaming style gives it the edge over previous Scrabble programs, which focus solely on maximising their own scores.

To predict what tiles other players hold, Amir and Richards’s program begins by eliminating those tiles that have already been played. It then narrows down the possibilities by assuming that the tiles left on an opponent’s rack after they make a move do not include any letters that could have been used to form higher-scoring words than the word the opponent actually played. Adding in this ‘opponent modelling’ greatly improved the program’s game, allowing it to beat Quackle, one of the best conventional Scrabble programs, by five points on average.

Amir says the program can do more than simply beat its rivals. Because its play is more human-like than other Scrabble-bots, it could serve as a useful tool for training people to play against other people.

## WildWords

Peter Roizen, the creator of the WildWords Crossword Board Game, thought it was time someone created a product for people who enjoy flexing their brains.

So he revamped the game of Scrabble. He introduced 12 wild tiles marked with an asterisk that could represent one or more letters in a series, so the play of JUX\*ION could be the word JUXTAPOSITION. The asterisk tile can represent all the letters in the middle of the word which makes any word in English playable, even

ANTIDISESTABLISHMENTARIANISM.

He added 20 wild squares that convert regular tiles into wild tiles to heighten strategy. A tile is turned upside down when played on such a square and may then represent, one, two, three, or any series of contiguous letters. This adds a strategic element and considerable opportunities.

Roizen also added the bluff so a play by one player becomes a puzzle for opponents. As players need not divulge the letter sequences represented by wild tiles unless an opponent risks challenging the play, bluffing is a component of the game. So the tension and psychological maneuvering found in poker are present in WildWords.

According to Roizen, "Scrabble is mastered by filling your head with letter series from the *Official Scrabble Dictionary*. These are short, odd, often foreign, words nobody uses. It's a waste of brain-space. WildWords is about a complete vocabulary and creative skills. Scrabble has ruled for over 50 years, but it's an emperor with no clothes. What are children going to learn by playing words like CAT and RAIN over and over again. The educational value is pretty limited. I played Scrabble for forty years, and I can't think of a useful word I learned

from an opponent."

Introduced as a physical board game three years ago, sales have recently topped 3,000. Roizen says, "When people know what WildWords is about, they buy it. But few people know about it outside the San Francisco Bay Area where most of our sales come from."

*from several USA newspaper reports*

## Are you a casual gamer?

*-from The Buffalo News,  
4 December 2006*

Recent market surveys tend to illustrate a remarkable trend: casual gaming is on the rise.

The most recent comScore Media Metrix study revealed that consumers who play games are, on average, 41 years old and that 52% of all gamers are women. About 75% of those surveyed fell into the "light/medium" gamer segment, ie. played video games for less than 11 hours per week.

Macrovision recently announced the results of a worldwide survey that examined the playing habits of casual gamers and revealed the "casual gamer" seems to play even more than that; close to 20 hours per week, with 37% playing nine or more sessions each week. The survey also noted that the 73% of them played at night, not during the day on cell phones and PDAs in little spurts, as many suspected.

Recent research conducted by Information Solutions Group (on behalf of casual games portal, PopCap), meanwhile, revealed that an estimated 150 million consumers play casual titles, that 47% are age 50 or older, 19% are age 60 or older (and summarily dubbed "Grey Gamers").

Though the studies don't corroborate each other perfectly, one thing is clear: casual gamers rule.

## Dark and Stormy Night

The "Dark and stormy night" list, is a "compilation of the most heinous felonies committed on the English language" by high school students in America.

*[Actually, I think some of them are brilliantly composed. - Ed.]*

These originated in actual high school essays:

1. His thoughts tumbled in his head, making and breaking alliances like underpants in a dryer without Cling Free.
2. He spoke with the wisdom that can only come from experience, like a guy who went blind because he looked at a solar eclipse without one of those boxes with a pinhole in it and now goes around the country speaking at high schools about the dangers of looking at a solar eclipse without one of those boxes with a pinhole in it.
3. She grew on him like she was a colony of E-coli and he was room-temperature Canadian Ham.
4. She had a deep, throaty, genuine laugh, like the sound a dog makes just before it throws up.
5. Her vocabulary was as bad as, like, whatever.
6. He was as tall as a six-foot-three-inch tree.
7. The revelation that his marriage of 30 years had disintegrated because of his wife's infidelity came as a rude shock, like a surcharge at a formerly surcharge-free ATM.
8. Her hair glistened in the rain like a nose hair after a sneeze.
9. The hailstones leaped from the pavement, just like maggots when you fry them in hot grease.
10. Long separated by cruel fate, the star-crossed lovers raced across the grassy field toward each other like two freight trains, one having left Cleveland at 6:36 p.m. traveling at 55 mph, the other from Topeka at 4:19 p.m. at a speed of 35 mph.
11. They lived in a typical suburban neighborhood with picket fences that resembled Nancy Kerrigan's teeth.
12. He fell for her like his heart was a mob informant and she was the East River.
13. Even in his last years, Grandpappy had a mind like a steel trap, only one that had been left out so long, it had rusted shut.
14. The plan was simple, like my brother-in-law Phil. But unlike Phil, this plan just might work.
15. The young fighter had a hungry look, the kind you get from not eating for a while.
16. He was as lame as a duck. Not the metaphorical lame duck, either, but a real duck that was actually lame, maybe from stepping on a land mine or something.
17. The ballerina rose gracefully en pointe and extended one slender leg behind her, like a dog at a fire hydrant.
18. He was deeply in love. When she spoke, he thought he heard bells, as if she were a garbage truck backing up.
19. She walked into my office like a centipede with 98 missing legs.
20. It hurt the way your tongue hurts after you accidentally staple it to the wall.

## The crowd goes wild

*- by Karen Miller*

The crowd goes wild at the end of November on Prime at 7.00 had a very short showing of The American Scrabble Champs. Along with this they showed a "mug shot" of Howard Warner and warned people to be wary of playing him.

Well done, Howard. Any television coverage is always a good thing.

## First tournament

Two weeks before Wanganui Masters, 2007, I saunter along to the local Scrabble Club. Earlier, I'd bravely, rashly, entered my first tournament – a modest entry, the social grade. Better to walk cautiously in unknown terrain.

How would I cram my leisurely right-hand-versus-left-hand play into a mere 25 minutes? No chance to search for words, let alone definitions. What about tournament rules? Clocks? Tile-tracking?

I need not have worried. No sign of clocks or tile-tracking lists in our grade, and we are given a fast rundown on key rules. Moreover, lists of two and three letter words are supplied!

There are ten of us. Why am I feeling slightly nervous? I clatter on, anxious to beat the clock, feeling dismayed at lower scores. I take a risk to get rid of a V, put down a non-word. Promptly challenged. The computer spits out 'Disallowed'. I am punished – rightly so. But MOZO? Ah, honour restored.

With two wins behind me, and feeling more relaxed, I face Opponent Three who plays fast forward, leaving me disconcerted. My turn seems always.

*detour  
out of one jam  
into another*

I am facing the formidable Jean W, an experienced long-term player who prefers to play socially, but focuses on Internet speed scrabble in her spare time. Her final word in one of her games is GROUSING on a triple score.

Eight games on Day One. At home, I play one game at a time!

Day Two. We start late, because even the fire alarm system finds it hard

to settle.  
*first tournament  
an alarm  
keeps ringing*

Two players don't turn up. A win without effort, and a chance to observe the high fliers. Here's one with BROMIDE for her first turn; and another bingo two or three turns later. Now, what will she do with three Rs and an X?

I hear later that the highest word score of the whole tournament is 187 for HOVERING, more than double my highest bingo – not that I have many. I feel rather pleased with PITTERS though, even if only 79.

The time seems even faster. I learn later that it is. The organisers quietly decide to speed us along a bit to make up for the late start.

Organisation is first rate, the welcome warm. No sign of condescension, only encouragement and friendly tips. And the social entrants are a friendly lot: Norman, 70 something, who takes time out to walk 10 k, Geoff with his quirky humour, and Sandra who shares my interest in word meanings. Erina and Pauline are my companions for dinner, and Pauline chauffeurs me to my camping ground.

They have their own difficulties: "Very very much a learning curve"; "penchant for blocking not always the best idea"; and "it certainly exercises the brain". Pauline is happy with JUTTY.

I might even enter another tournament (the lowest ranked grade, mind you) and get a toehold on that word ladder.

- by Nola Borrell

## World Scrabble Council mooted

- by Roy Kietzman

The head of the English-language Scrabble association hopes that a world council for the mind sport can be formed at a proposed assembly in Aix-les-Bains, France, in October.

Allan Simmons, chairman, World English-language Scrabble Association (Wespa), said in a communiqué to Horacio R. Moavro, International Spanish Scrabble Federation (FISE) chairman, he would be happy if FISE, Wespa and the International French Scrabble Federation (FISF) "can come together in a type of council to speak with one voice, to the International Mind Sports Association, Olympics organisations, corporations and governmental agencies."

The Wespa chairman sent the message as FISE members were meeting on 7 December in Montevideo, Uruguay, during the 10th 18-round international Scrabble tournament for Spanish-speaking players from 14 countries.

"We look forward to a proposed competition in English-, French- and Spanish-language divisions next October in Aix-les-Bains, France, together with a meeting there to possibly constitute a Scrabble council so that we might move forward on mutual concerns."

The Paris-based International Mind Sports Association (IMSA), constituted last year,

said it would consider accepting Scrabble within IMSA if the various global groups would consolidate into one, like bridge, chess, draughts (checkers) and Go have done.

As Scrabble is also played competitively with international rules, ratings and world championships, FISF, FISE and Wespa are moving toward forming a global Scrabble council, probably in France next October. Scrabble is played in nearly 40 languages, from Arabic to Turkish.

## Say something sweet

A New Jersey business lets you send the world's first chocolate telegrams. Wendy O'Connell was inspired by the brevity and clarity of old fashioned telegraph dispatches, and the versatility of Scrabble tiles when she created her company, ABChocolates.

It's the only one in the world that offers every letter of the alphabet plus the numbers and symbols found on a typical keyboard in bite sized chocolate pieces to create customized boxed candy messages for any occasion.

You can get them [if you live in the USA, that is] in dark or milk chocolate, different sizes, and she'll say anything you want, within the bounds of decency. For anything else, you have to re-arrange the letters yourself.



## Book review:

### The Know-It-All (Part One)

Author A.J. Jacobs (a Scrabble player, incidentally) challenged himself to read the multi-volume *Encyclopedia Britannica* from start to finish, and has written an account of his project. He explores fascinating questions like where the blurry line is drawn between knowledge and trivia, information that is useful and that which is not, and considers the consequences if your hobby becomes an eccentricity.

It's generally accepted that if you liked *Word Freak* or the documentary *Word Wars*, about Scrabble, or *Wordplay*, about crossword puzzles, you will like this book.

A.J. Jacobs: "When I was a kid, I was under the bizarre delusion that I was the smartest boy in the world. As I got older, I realized this, sadly, was not the case. Far from it. So Operation *Britannica* was a way to at least bump up my IQ a couple of points. I wanted to read the *Britannica*, but I knew from the beginning that it'd help me to have a tangible goal at the end – a book. If I didn't have a book deadline, I'd probably still be somewhere in the letter 'G.' I was writing entries as I went along – I wanted to give the book a journal-like feel."

### Punny

- Two antennas met on a roof, fell in love and got married. The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent.
- A jumper cable walks into a bar. The bartender says, "I'll serve you, but don't start anything."
- Two peanuts walk into a bar, and one was a salted.

- A dyslexic man walks into a bra.
- A man walks into a bar with a slab of asphalt under his arm and says: "A beer please, and one for the road."
- Two cannibals are eating a clown. One says to the other: "Does this taste funny to you?"
- An invisible man marries an invisible woman. The kids were nothing to look at either.
- I went to buy some camouflage trousers the other day but I couldn't find any.
- I went to a seafood disco and pulled a mussel.
- Two fish swim into a concrete wall. The one turns to the other and says Dam!

### Pannier

A group of chess enthusiasts checked into a hotel and were standing in the lobby discussing their recent tournament victories. After about an hour, the manager came out of the office and asked them to disperse. "But why?" they asked, as they moved off.

"Because," he said, "I can't stand chess-nuts boasting in an open foyer."

### Panniest

Mahatma Gandhi, as you know, walked barefoot most of the time, which produced an impressive set of calluses on his feet. He also ate very little, which made him rather frail. And with his odd diet, he suffered from bad breath.

This made him ... A super calloused fragile mystic hexed by halitosis.

### Monopoly record attempt

A former 'monopoly king' organised a *Guinness Book of Records* attempt in Palmerston North for the most games of monopoly played simultaneously in one place.

Deputy Mayor John Hornblow wanted as many people as possible to play monopoly in The Square on Sunday 4 February, an initiative designed to both put Palmerston North on the map and encourage people to keep voting daily in the online monopoly race.

The Square was competing against New Plymouth's Pukekura Park and Mt Ruapehu for one of 22 spaces on the new Monopoly Here and Now New Zealand version of the game.

John Hornblow was quoted as saying he was aware some people think monopoly teaches bad values, but argues for perspective. "I'm a poor speller, but I still play Scrabble. It's all part of the fun and games."

We understand that they ended up with 190 people, playing 48 simultaneous games. The organisers have declared that this is a world record, there being no recorded statistic for such a feat.

### The end of proverbs

- from the *Christchurch Scrabble Club newsletter*

A US class of six-year-olds was asked to complete well-known proverbs:

- Strike while ... the bug is close.
- It's always darkest before ... Daylight Saving Time.
- Don't bite the hand that ... looks dirty.
- You can't teach an old dog ... new math.
- The pen is mightier than ... the pigs.
- An idle mind ... is the best way to

relax.

- Where there's smoke there's ... pollution.
- A penny saved is ... not much.
- Laugh and the whole world laughs with you, cry and ... you have to blow your nose.
- There are none so blind as ... Stevie Wonder.
- If at first you don't succeed ... get new batteries.
- When the blind lead the blind ... get out of the way
- Better late than ... pregnant.

### An 'ell of an expression

- from Joan Thomas

Are you familiar with the expression 'give him an inch and he'll take a mile' ??

The original version of this is 'give him an inch and he'll take an ell'.

An ell is a varying measure of length originally taken from the arm; a cloth measure equal to one and a quarter yards.

Source: *Chambers Dictionary*.

Incidentally I also learned a new word: an ELLWAND is a measuring device.

### Tossing the tiles

Towards the end of the game between Jennifer Smith and Rosemary Cleary at the Pakuranga Tournament, Jennifer accidentally picked the tile bag up by the wrong end, and six tiles fell out of the bag and scattered onto the floor. Jennifer was worried about trying not to see what the tiles were, but she needn't have worried – the entire six tiles had fallen face down!

Steven Brown, who witnessed the drop, calculated the chances of that happening as being 1 in 64.

## Tournament incident

- by Jennifer Smith

Bernice Hyde and I were playing at the Matchplay tournament in Auckland.

Bernice played ULL from a D to the middle right triple word score, which I accepted and wrote down.



Bernice Hyde

But while I was considering my move, I realised that what we had both thought was an L, was actually a very worn T played upside-down. Once discovered, should that letter be deemed to be an L or T for the rest of the game?

It was no great deal – neither of us was worried (and I wasn't quick-thinking enough to keep quiet until I had decided whether an L or a T would have suited me better!) We called an adjudicator, and between the three of us, agreed to call it an L and adapt our tile-tracking grid to have one less T and one more L.

Interesting, though. Could have been tense if one of us particularly wanted it to be one letter or the other. And what an excellent example of why not to play with worn tiles!

## Date for Scrabble book

Now that the ABSP (Association of British Scrabble Players) has voted to adopt the Collins dictionary, the long-awaited new Scrabble dictionary is now to arrive in British bookshops on March 5. (No date was given for overseas availability.)

The 1,184-page book, with the working title of *Collins Scrabble Tournament and Club Wordlist*, will be published as a paperback edition. It will be published in two sections: 2-9-letter words with definitions, and 10-15-letter words without definitions.

WESPA (World English-language Scrabble Players Association) say the ninth World Scrabble Championship is likely to be in the northern autumn, though the dates and venue have not yet been announced. However, potential entrants say they need three to six months to familiarise themselves with the Collins Scrabble Tournament and Club Wordlist.

Adjudication software, under licence to Collins, is also being prepared for contest adjudicators by ABSP.

When New Zealand adopts the new words will depend on what happens in UK first, then how quickly we can get the dictionaries and adjudication tools here in NZ.

## Text for you

- from Dianne Cole-Baker

Here's a scrabble text for you! (Using the old fashioned meaning of text!)

From the New International Version of the Bible – Psalm 33, slightly abridged:

*Praise the Lord... and sing a new song. Play skilfully and shout for joy because the word (of the Lord) is right and true.*

Now don't write in and tell me that that's not how it appears in other versions of Holy Writ but in this version, this is a text made for Scrabble players (and especially for Sunday tournaments).

## Answers

### Find the odd one out (from page 19)

Thirty of these words can lose their last letter and remain an acceptable Scrabble word.

ABORIGIN, APOPLEX, ASPIRIN, BARGEES, BESTRID, BUDGERO, CLASSIS, CREATIN, CRIMINA, DEMENTI, FINALIS, GLASSIE, HANDCAR, INDIVIDUA, KILLDEE, MILITAR, NEGLIGE, ORDINAR, PEARLIN, PECULIA, PEEPE, QUART, SCHMOOZ, SHIPMEN, STAMPED, SUSPENS, SYLLABI, TELETEX, VISITE, WAITE.

The odd one out is MANDRIL. However, if I had used the MANDRILL version, it would have fitted in just fine!

### Editor's challenge (from page 23)

The bogus word is INTERNET (see Mailbox). Its anagram is RENITENT.

"Internet" has an interesting history – it was allowable right up until the adoption of our current word list, and I have a sneaking feeling it will be coming back in the new list.

I must point out that Jeff carefully spelt it with a capital letter in his message, but I changed it to use it for my challenge.

### Scrabble trivia (from page 30)

1. Alfapet
2. 29
3. 61st
4. Pope John II
5. Connecticut
6. 17
7. 1948
8. 521, Singapore.

## Upcoming tournaments

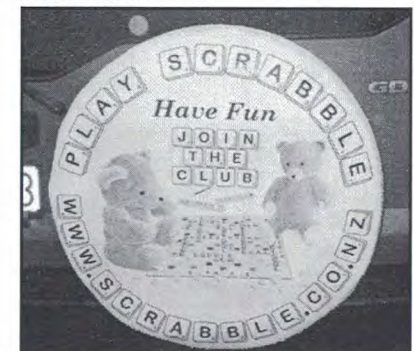
Tournament	Dates
NZ Masters Champs	7-9 April
Dunedin Open	14-15 April
North Shore Bays	21 April
Kapiti	28 and 29 April
South Island Champs	5-6 May
Waikato Phoenix	19 May
NZ National Champs	2-3 June
Whangarei	7-8 July
Hamilton	11-12 August
Tauranga	1-2 September
Christchurch	8-9 September
Mt Albert	29-30 September
Golden Bay	29-30 September
Norfolk Island Scrabble Festival	7-14 October
Wanganui	20-21 October
World Champs	TBA
Otago Open	17-18 November

## Getting the message

- sent in by Bill Grigg

Some people have personalised number-plates. In Dunedin we do things in style!

This is Karen McDougall's spare wheel cover.



# Rankings

## NZASP Rankings list as at 11 March 2007

Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%
1 Howard Warner	2087	982.5	1375	71%	44 Stan Gregeg	1533	136	233	58%
2 Joanne Craig	2036	101	157	64%	45 Rosalind Phillips	1517	224.5	409	55%
3 Patrick Carter	2029	624	995	63%	46 Fae Olson	1505	988	2084	47%
4 Jeff Grant	2012	1255.5	1636	77%	47 Frank Robinson	1504	125.5	247	51%
5 Lynne Butler	2002	675	1100	61%	48 Roger Coates	1503	474	1002	47%
6 John Foster	1946	1007.5	1761	57%	49 Allie Quinn	1491	724.5	1499	48%
7 Rogelio Talosig	1945	261	430	61%	50 Gerald Warner	1487	863.5	1839	47%
8 Glennis Hale	1912	1051.5	1888	56%	51 Selena Chan	1486	156.5	266	59%
9 Mike Sigley	1899	734	1015	72%	52 Glenda Geard	1467	720.5	1457	49%
10 Debbie Caldwell	1879	327.5	533	61%	53 Olivia En	1443	140	230	61%
11 Steven Brown	1844	599.5	1136	53%	54 Irene Smith	1427	36	68	53%
12 Glynis Jennings	1843	376.5	797	47%	55 Amelia Carrington	1407	176	286	62%
13 Nick Ascroft	1824	137	231	59%	56 Pam Barlow	1387	373	725	51%
14 Glenda Foster	1821	679.5	1312	52%	57 Faye Gronhelm	1377	592.5	1181	50%
15 Andrew Bradley	1817	501	1004	50%	58 Shirley Martin	1346	477.5	919	52%
16 Chris Hooks	1776	671	1393	48%	59 Steve Richards	1343	164	329	50%
17 Lynne Powell	1770	747	1466	51%	60 Lynn Carter	1330	229	416	55%
18 Lynn Wood	1769	1002	2104	48%	61 Ernie Gidman	1324	216	429	50%
19 Pam Robson	1768	434.5	936	46%	62 Andree Prentice	1315	644	1247	52%
20 Lisa McLean	1762	407.5	808	50%	63 Jean O'Brien	1311	699	1354	52%
21 Denise Gordon	1758	551	1088	51%	64 Doreen Ogston	1302	493.5	1029	48%
22 Liz Fagerlund	1752	590	1123	53%	65 Ann Candler	1298	567.5	1204	47%
23 Peter Jones	1729	673	1358	50%	66 Elaine Maltzen	1291	400	794	50%
24 Marianne Bentley	1689	202	441	46%	67 Ruth Groffman	1277	268	525	51%
25 Jennifer Smith	1656	560.5	1077	52%	68 Rhoda Cashman	1270	631	1325	48%
26 Janice Cherry	1647	279	526	53%	69 Delcie Macbeth	1257	535	1012	53%
27 Paul Lister	1642	575.5	1002	57%	70 Su Walker	1256	525	1038	51%
28 Karyn McDougall	1624	502.5	934	54%	71 Yoon Kim Fong	1253	321.5	608	53%
29 Murray Rogers	1621	309.5	579	53%	72 Margaret Cherry	1244	350	701	50%
30 Ann Hough	1617	350.5	683	51%	73 Betty Eriksen	1231	633.5	1299	49%
31 Glenyss Buchanan	1612	470	985	48%	74 Yvette Hewlett	1228	278.5	575	48%
32 Julie Atkinson	1604	231.5	426	54%	75 Pat Bryan	1226	68	113	60%
33 Rosemary Cleary	1600	477	1026	46%	76 Marian Ross	1216	315.5	627	50%
34 Shirley Hol	1595	394	811	49%	77 Margaret Bundock	1210	554.5	1166	48%
35 Val Mills	1585	628.5	1344	47%	78 Jean Boyle	1197	195.5	326	60%
36 Helen Sillis	1582	562	1102	51%	79 Connie Flores	1195	80.5	114	71%
37 Joan Thomas	1581	522	1004	52%	80 Margaret Lyall	1189	351	711	49%
38 Lawson Sue	1581	178.5	314	57%	81 Shirley Wyatt	1187	374.5	805	47%
39 Maureen Holliday	1572	510	990	52%	82 Carolyn Kyle	1184	347.5	695	50%
40 David Gunn	1567	880	1735	51%	83 Margaret Flaws	1180	163	290	56%
41 Leila Thomson	1565	390	869	45%	84 Kaiite Hansen	1165	98	178	55%
42 Shirley van Essen	1565	258	487	53%	85 Liz Catchpole	1158	297	594	50%
43 June Mackwell	1539	481.5	1087	44%	86 Hazel Purdie	1152	583.5	1196	49%

Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%
87 Lorraine Van Veen	1134	583	1163	50%	122 Catherine Henry	826	198.5	377	53%
88 Roto Mitchell	1130	352	676	52%	123 Bev Barker	823	425	879	48%
89 Roger French	1121	80	136	59%	124 Jena Yousif	819	172	350	49%
90 Anderina McLean	1120	92	161	57%	125 Kate Wignall	813	578.5	1141	51%
91 Allison Tarrance	1117	207	382	54%	126 Thelma Chisholm	783	139	281	49%
92 Jim Wills	1080	119	200	60%	127 Ray Goodyear	779	133.5	280	48%
93 Marianne Patchett	1074	210.5	409	51%	128 Dominic Lister	776	173	353	49%
94 John Baird	1068	47	72	65%	129 Valma Gidman	752	479.5	954	50%
95 Sheila Reed	1064	74	152	49%	130 Margaret Hanson	721	395.5	806	49%
96 Carrene James	1047	546	1130	48%	131 Irene Hague-Smith	713	390	842	46%
97 Mary Gray	1040	244.5	466	52%	132 Michael Graffman	708	133.5	286	47%
98 Lyn Toka	1032	330.5	630	52%	133 Jean Wacker	692	152	303	50%
99 Liz Richards	1028	171.5	327	52%	134 Barbara Cornell	682	13	43	30%
100 Karen Gray	1027	43	76	57%	135 Yvonne MacKenzie	674	281	622	45%
101 Colleen Cook	1009	135	269	50%	136 Margaret Durdle	673	134.5	277	49%
102 Shirley Morrison	994	54	120	45%	137 Bernice Hyde	671	136.5	264	52%
103 Mescal Kelly	979	104	184	57%	138 Alison Vautier	641	16	57	28%
104 Gabrielle Bolt	969	195	381	51%	139 Janni Henneveld	636	134	289	46%
105 Joan Pratt	963	531	1016	52%	140 Olwen Skelton	635	423.5	890	48%
106 Barbara Dunn	947	91.5	148	62%	141 Marc Van Hoecke	617	30	69	43%
107 Judith Thomas	946	33	75	44%	142 Paula Gibbons	602	315	645	49%
108 Roger Cole-Baker	939	136	248	55%	143 Annette Coombes	573	376	844	45%
109 Jacqueline Goldham-Fussell	935	385	798	48%	144 Anthea Jones	568	74	147	50%
110 Karen Miller	932	338	694	49%	145 Noelene Bettjeman	567	104.5	225	46%
111 Jan Evans	929	45	99	45%	146 Dorothy Haining	559	422	861	49%
112 Carole Coates	921	401.5	820	49%	147 Betty Wilson	534	239.5	457	52%
113 Dianne Cole-Baker	909	112.5	209	54%	148 Rosemary Wauters	527	51.5	103	50%
114 Chris Handley	885	227	446	51%	149 Maria Clinton	513	123	260	47%
115 Kathleen Mori-Barker	884	221.5	471	47%	150 Tony Charlton	499	68.5	155	44%
116 Jo Ann Ingram	870	79.5	145	55%	151 Pauline Smeaton	487	182	373	49%
117 Veronica Zilinskas	856	112	205	55%	152 Jillian Greening	479	244	511	48%
118 Ella Rushton	855	94	153	61%	153 Roslyn Lister	472	211	438	48%
119 Chris Higgins	845	31	46	67%	154 Jean Craib	468	235	527	45%
120 Suzanne Frederick	839	51	95	54%	155 Sue Mayn	456	66.5	192	35%
121 Heather Landon	839	106.5	214	50%	156 Charles Kiewiet	444	137	267	51%
					157 Trevor Rowell	434	71	139	51%
					158 Tim Henneveld	418	123	287	43%
					159 Elaine Ware	403	299	600	50%
					160 Alison Holmes	399	40	85	47%
					161 Suzanne Harding	381	34	85	40%
					162 Betty Sutherland	352	168	404	42%
					163 Lynn Thompson	342	38.5	97	40%
					164 Resie Coenen	328	215	516	42%
					165 Bev Griffin	304	33	100	33%
					166 Maria Barker	196	20	54	37%
					167 Margaret Miller	188	45	119	38%
					168 Madge Watson	133	31.5	88	36%
					169 Anne-Louise Milne	112	16	126	13%
					170 Sue Foster	30	44	143	31%



Suzanne Frederick, Wanganui

# Tournament results

## Howick-Pakaranga Club Tournament

27 January 2007

7 Games

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	B/W	Ave
<b>Grade A</b>					
1 John Foster	NSB	6	244	11	402
2 Howard Warner	IND	5	167	10	402
3 Rogelio Talosig	NSB	4	6	14	401
4 Lynn Wood	WEL	4	-109	11	393
5 Chris Hooks	MTA	3	184	12	399
6 Steven Brown	KAP	3	51	13	398
7 Andrew Bradley	MTA	3	-205	10	378
8 Liz Fagerlund	MTA	0	-338	6	363

<b>Grade B</b>					
1 Lynne Powell	ROD	6	500	15	432
2 Sheila Green	ENG	5	242	11	406
3 Denise Le Bron	SA	5	176	12	390
4 Maureen Holliday	HBC	5	-51	8	376
5 Joan Thomas	HAS	3	136	10	400
6 Rosemary Cleary	WAN	2	-495	6	348
7 June Mackwell	NSB	1	-218	10	380
8 Jennifer Smith	HAM	1	-290	3	350

<b>Grade C</b>					
1 Glenda Geard	IND	5.5	517	10	406
2 Allie Quinn	WRE	5	324	7	414



Lynne Powell, North Shore Bays  
B Grade winner at Pakuranga day 1

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	B/W	Ave
3 Olivia En	WEL	5	167	7	399
4 Rosalind Phillips	MTA	3.5	60	9	383
5 Gerald Warner	WRE	3	-201	7	360
6 Lawson Sue	PAK	2	-175	6	376
7 Ernie Gidman	ROD	2	-211	8	359
8 Bernie Jardine	PAK	2	-481	6	344

<b>Grade D</b>					
1 Faye Cronhelm	IND	7	360	8	389
2 Rhoda Cashman	HBC	5	240	10	373
3 Hazel Purdie	MTA	4	128	8	388
4 Shirley Martin	HAM	3	224	8	402
5 Elaine Moltzen	KIW	3	-254	12	365
6 Betty Eriksen	WAN	2	-166	5	338
7 Lynn Carter	NSB	2	-249	6	361
8 Ann Candler	NSB	2	-283	5	356

<b>Grade E</b>					
1 Shirley Wyatt	MTA	5	85	2	367
2 Delcie Macbeth	IND	4	355	15	422
3 Su Walker	MTA	4	87	11	391
4 Yoon Kim Fong	HAM	4	-30	6	373
5 Lorraine Van Veen	IND	3	33	7	375
6 Margaret Bundock	HBC	3	-109	4	358
7 Joan Pratt	HBC	3	-178	7	366
8 Jim Wills	PAK	2	-243	6	343

<b>Grade F</b>					
1 Anderina McLean	MTA	7	465	12	409
2 Roger Cole-Baker	MTA	5	177	7	387
3 Karen Miller	PAK	4	78	4	363
4 Dianne Cole-Baker	MTA	4	-49	4	365
5 Jena Yousif	HAM	3	-83	6	360
6 Heather Landon	TGA	2	-35	5	353
7 Jill Johnson	HBC	2	-227	2	351
8 Catherine Henry	TGA	1	-326	5	325

<b>Grade G</b>					
1 Valma Gidman	ROD	5	205	4	367
2 Heleena Togakilo	MTA	5	64	4	356
3 Margaret Hanson	PAK	4	119	6	354
4 Joan Rawlings	PAK	4	-16	2	362
5 Bernice Hyde	NSB	3	-30	6	361
6 Olwen Skelton	ROD	3	-57	7	337
7 Dorothy Haining	ROD	3	-91	0	337
8 Sue Mayn	ROD	1	-194	3	342

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	B/W	Ave
<b>Grade H</b>					
1 Suzanne Harding	WRE	7	598	6	409
2 Noelene Betjeman	HBC	6	317	5	387
3 Bev Edwards	WRE	4	157	1	363
4 Joan Beale	HBC	3	-200	3	365
5 Lynn Thompson	WRE	3	-221	1	360
6 Margaret Miller	HBC	2	-151	3	353
7 Patricia Wareing	PAK	2	-261	0	351
8 Resie Coenen	PAK	1	-239	2	325

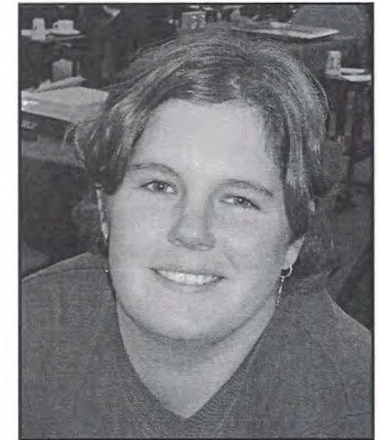
## 28 January 2007

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	B/W	Ave
<b>Grade A</b>					
1 Howard Warner	IND	6	464	10	427
2 Rogelio Talosig	NSB	6	268	10	409
3 John Foster	NSB	5	137	8	385
4 Steven Brown	KAP	3	-80	18	424
5 Chris Hooks	MTA	2	-36	11	407
6 Glynis Jennings	MTA	2	-43	8	375
7 Liz Fagerlund	MTA	2	-211	7	375
8 Lynn Wood	WEL	2	-434	6	359

<b>Grade B</b>					
1 Rosemary Cleary	WAN	7	377	12	408
2 Lawson Sue	PAK	6	273	12	413
3 Val Mills	PAK	5	321	7	380
4 Jennifer Smith	HAM	4	373	13	427
5 Roger Coates	KIW	2	-202	8	373
6 Joan Thomas	HAS	2	-254	8	378
7 Maureen Holliday	HBC	1	-427	9	362
8 David Gunn	WKP	1	-461	9	347

<b>Grade C</b>					
1 Allie Quinn	WRE	5	266	10	414
2 Rosalind Phillips	MTA	5	120	11	390
3 Gerald Warner	WRE	4	66	7	397
4 Olivia En	WEL	4	-34	6	371
5 Denise Le Bron	PAK	3	-24	12	414
6 Glenda Geard	IND	3	-49	8	366
7 Margaret Cherry	PAK	2	-124	7	378
8 Pam Barlow	PAK	2	-221	10	374

<b>Grade D</b>					
1 Shirley Martin	HAM	5	392	11	409
2 Ann Candler	NSB	4	391	11	400
3 Rhoda Cashman	HBC	4	133	5	390
4 Lynn Carter	NSB	4	-147	7	381
5 Betty Eriksen	WAN	3	-141	5	361
6 Faye Cronhelm	IND	3	-181	6	365



Anderina McLean, Mt Albert, F Grade  
winner at Pakuranga day 2

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	B/W	Ave
7 Bernie Jardine	SA	3	-502	4	325
8 Hazel Purdie	MTA	2	55	10	392
<b>Grade E</b>					
1 Margaret Bundock	HBC	5	390	8	347
2 Yoon Kim Fong	HAM	4	489	11	409
3 Liz Catchpole	MTA	4	-44	7	363
4 Su Walker	MTA	4	-70	7	384
5 Delcie Macbeth	IND	4	-72	9	369
6 Carole Coates	KIW	4	-179	6	366
7 Lorraine van Veen	IND	2	-112	2	260
8 Joan Pratt	HBC	1	-402	2	278

<b>Grade F</b>					
1 Anderina McLean	MTA	6	721	9	411
2 Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell	KIW	5	-113	7	351
3 Chris Higgins	PAK	4	246	10	378
4 Roger Cole-Baker	MTA	4	62	6	357
5 Heather Landon	TGA	3	-55	8	374
6 Catherine Henry	TGA	3	-170	3	339
7 Bev Barker	MTA	2	-237	3	343
8 Irene Hague-Smith	MTA	1	-454	5	317

<b>Grade G</b>					
1 Dianne Cole-Baker	MTA	7	536	7	386
2 Margaret Hanson	PAK	6	269	5	343
3 Olwen Skelton	ROD	4	120	4	359
4 Bernice Hyde	NSB	4	-101	7	362
5 Dorothy Haining	ROD	3	21	3	371
6 Sue Mayn	ROD	2	-70	3	339
7 Annette Coombes	WKP	2	-280	3	341

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	B/W	Ave
8 Elaine Ware	MTA	0	-495	4	311
<b>Grade H</b>					
1 Joan Rawlings	PAK	6	350	3	411
2 Poobie Pillay	NSB	5	258	3	351
3 Resie Coenen	PAK	4	-69	0	378
4 Bev Edwards	WRE	3	130	2	357
5 Lynn Thompson	WRE	3	-169	1	374
6 Patricia Wareing	PAK	3	-187	2	339
7 Suzanne Harding	WRE	2	-153	2	343
8 Noelene Bettjeman	HBC	2	-160	4	317

**ACC Masters Games  
10-11 February 2007  
15 Games**

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave	B/W
<b>Grade A</b>					
1 Lynne Butler	NPL	12	1446	446	33
2 Mike Sigley	WAN	9	693	436	34
3 Denise Gordon	WAN	9	359	421	31
4 Glenda Foster	WEL	8	-146	402	27
5 Jennifer Smith	HAM	6	-667	386	21
6 Rosemary Cleary	WAN	1	-1685	335	13
<b>Grade B</b>					
1 David More	AUS	13	913	410	18
2 Andree Prentice	WAN	9	317	386	11
3 Lynn Carter	NSB	8	105	375	17
4 Betty Eriksen	WAN	6	-156	361	16
5 Rhoda Cashman	HBC	6	-277	351	11
6 Hazel Purdie	MTA	3	-902	339	5
<b>Grade C</b>					
1 Roto Mitchell	WAN	13	878	387	13
2 Jean Boyle	WAN	13	605	371	17
5 Sonia Wright	AUS	9	234	348	8
6 Suzanne Frederick	WAN	6	237	362	11
7 Deborah					
Palamountain	WAN	6	186	377	19
8 Yvonne Mackenzie	CHC	5	-207	350	14
7 Noelene Bettjeman	HBC	5	-1010	303	4
8 Kristi					
Letica/Norman	WAN	3	-923	295	3
<b>Social Grade</b>					
1 Jean Walsh		14	1448	280	4
2 Nola Borrel		12	1062	274	4
3 Erina True		9.5	-110	216	3
4 Geoff Eastgate		7	-586	210	0
5 Pauline Webb		6.5	-379	192	0

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave	B/W
6 Sandra Cowen		6	-609	144	0
7 Andrew Terwiel		5	59	86	0
8 Sarah Brown		5	-11	93	0
9 Norman Clark		2	-861	150	1

**Nelson Club Tournament  
17-18 February 2007**

**14 Games**

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave	B/W
<b>Grade A</b>					
1 Debbie Caldwell	NEL	11	1292	453	29
2 Karyn McDougall	DUN	9	-23	376	18
3 Ann Hough	NEL	8	608	395	20
4 Murray Rogers	NEL	7	-31	390	11
5 Shirley Hol	CHC	7	-240	380	15
6 Lyn Dawson	CHC	6	-208	376	22
7 Irene Smith	CHC	5	-780	361	9
8 Steve Richards	NEL	3	-618	353	12
<b>Grade B</b>					
1 Andree Prentice	WAN	11	771	391	13
2 Marian Ross	DUN	11	494	380	18
3 Betty Eriksen	WAN	10	427	368	15
4 Liz Richards	NEL	7	-1	352	14
5 Colleen Cook	CHC	6	99	360	11
6 Gabrielle Bolt	NEL	5	-261	347	9
7 Jan Evans	NEL	5	-312	327	7
8 Barbara Cornell	NEL	1	-1217	308	2
<b>Grade C</b>					
1 Katrina Allen	NEL	13	1402	399	8
2 Yvonne Mackenzie	CHC	8	299	374	13
3 Julia Jonas	NEL	7	-87	328	8
4 Paula Gibbons	CHC	7	-376	315	9
5 Iris Boulton	NEL	6	-66	354	15
6 Jill Harris	NEL	6	-109	350	5
7 Maria Clinton	NEL	5	-453	331	7
8 Dawn Smith	NEL	4	-610	374	4

**Andree  
Prentice,  
Wanganui,  
2nd in ACC  
Masters and  
winner of  
Grade B at  
Nelson**



# 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) Lisa McLean (IND) 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) Karyn McDougall (DUN)
Highest 3-Game Aggregate	—	—	1805	Nigel Richards (CHC)
Most Consecutive Bonus Words	5	Allie Quinn (NSB)	5	John Foster (MTA) Patrick Carter (MTA)
Most Bonus Words in Game (1 person)	6	Nigel Richards (CHC) Yvette Hewlett (IND)	7	Jeff Grant (IND)
Most Bonus Words in Game (2 people)	8	Mike Sigley (WAN) & Glenyss Buchanan (LOH) Nigel Richards (CHC) & John Foster (IND)	8	Dawn Kitzen (PHC) & Chris Hooks (MTA)
Highest Average Single Tournament (Any Grade)	584	Nigel Richards (CHC)	—	—
<b>New Zealand Masters (23 Games)</b>				
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)			