

# FORWORDS

**Journal of the New Zealand Association of Scrabble® Players  
No 93 December 2008**



*“Who’s for a quick game of Scrabble while Bryan’s carving the turkey?”*

*[Our front page cartoon says thanks to our unsung hero, Bryan Foster, whose efforts add to our enjoyment of Scrabble. Not only does he man the computer at tournaments while the rest of us play, he’s the Forwords gofer – the fetcher, enveloper and poster. —Ed.]*

## Also in this issue

**Norfolk reports – Jeff Grant and Jean Gillespie**

**Prevent Dementia, play Scrabble**

**Extreme Scrabble photos**

**An A-Z of AEIOU words – Jeff Grant**

**More on learning, rules, and alternative Scrabble**



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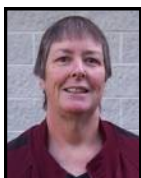
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# From the Editor

**W**hat's going to be your New Year Resolution? Tile tracking?

Having made tile tracking my resolution for 2007, and trying to get to grips with it ever since, I feel qualified to offer some advice to people tackling the task; not because I'm an expert – far from it! – but precisely **because** I'm not an expert!

**START RIGHT NOW!** The sooner you start, the sooner you'll be comfortable with it.

If you're nervous about learning to tile track, tackle it in three stages.

## **First stage: Just get used to doing it.**

Don't worry how accurate it is. By that, I don't mean that accuracy isn't important – I mean, don't **worry** about it.

Don't **worry** about using the tile tracking, either. However, start noticing what's going on. Say to yourself, "That's the last of the Es", or "There's a helluva lot of Is still to come", or "Gosh the J still isn't out".

It will soon be automatic to mark off the letters as they are played, and you'll no longer feel that it's taking a lot of time and concentration.

## **Second stage: Aim for accuracy.**

Any time you have some spare moments (like when you are waiting with a bonus on your rack and two places to play it – yeah, right!), check your tile tracking – 33 letters on the board, 33 letters marked off on your sheet, or 13 tiles left in the bag, 27 tiles left unmarked on your sheet.

Learn the most likely places where you make mistakes. (Mine are by counting the letter that has just been played around but not actually played in the turn, by marking off the letter that the blank represents, and by forgetting to mark off the tiles after a

challenge.)

When you feel you are doing an accurate job of it (say) three times out of four, it's time for the third stage.

## **Third stage: Make the most of the information that tile tracking gives you.**

Work out what's left in the bag and therefore what tiles you or your opponent could still get; what your opponent has on their rack, and what moves they might make and therefore how you might block them; how to get out in two turns; etc.

Don't take these three stages literally or rigidly – depending on time, the state of the game and your accuracy, there are occasions when you could cope with the third stage earlier.

Even after you become a regular stage three practitioner, there'll still be times when you have made such a mess of the tile tracking that you can't use it. (Ask any highly graded player, and I'm sure they will tell you they don't tile track accurately every time, either.) And at other times when you have been accurate, you might not have time to use it to the max. Don't worry. Just keep trying.

Don't expect instant miracles. I can't promise you that you'll master tile tracking perfectly in time (I still haven't managed to do that!), but I do know that (like me) you'll get better at it.

And I can tell you, that on those – albeit rare, in my case – occasions when you've tile tracked accurately and used the information to play a better game, it's an exhilarating feeling!



*Jennifer*

# From the Executive

**D**ear Scrabblers  
Merry Christmas and a Happy  
New Year to each and every  
one of the readers of this great magazine.  
My wish for you all is for a blessed  
Christmas and a new year full of good  
things, Scrabble included.

The 2009 Scrabble year will be dominated by the defence of the world champion, Nigel Richards, and I'm sure you will join me in wishing him every success at that event. We may have lost one place in the allocation of participants, but the world champion has an automatic entry, so really we are still in a win/win situation. Thanks Nigel.

Norfolk Island proved a popular tournament this year with 60 attendees. Glennis and Jeff adopted an unusual second tournament, when the round robins fell short by 4 players. Grades E, F, G and H had a bye and that person played the bye in the next grade to produce a bye champion. A neat idea, and nobody went without playing 21 games. When the entry fee is as high as Norfolk is, \$150, or \$300 if you don't use the Travel Centre for your arrangements, nobody wants to be sitting around twiddling their thumbs for several of the games.

Speaking now of cost, the management meeting at Mt Albert produced good debate on the Nationals, and, as expected, the general consensus was for another price rise. On current trends, this came as no surprise, and the rate will be set at the Pakuranga tournament. If you feel that the prize-giving dinner ends up as a flat final to the weekend, feel free to produce an item of entertainment for your Scrabble friends.

In recent years Kiwi and Rotorua have shown initiative and given us a laugh, so make it your turn next, and keep the spirit

of the tournament alive till the very end of the night. The last prize-giving in Hamilton saw karaoke staged too, and this was well received by those



who stayed to participate. In bygone Nationals at the Riverina, in Hamilton, there were many items of note, and they ended the prize giving with a laugh or two. The late Georgie Offringa springs to mind, and I smile. I certainly wouldn't want to go back to the Riverina now (it's been pulled down, anyway) as the playing area was too cramped and airless. The current spreading of venues has been well received, and each major city gets a chance to showcase their specialty. Christchurch is the 2009 city for the Nationals, and plans are well under way for the event.

Jennifer Smith produced a quiz on the Saturday evening of the Hamilton tournament, and while I didn't attend, I know that the 45 or so who did, thought it was a wonderful idea and asked for a repeat in 2009.

Check the dates for the 2009 tournaments, and get booking your airfare if you need to travel outside of your city. Do come to Wellington on 14 and 15 March and join my Scrabble birthday party celebrating the big 60. It should be a great weekend, and in anticipation of the event, I have received entries without even producing a flyer.

May the tile fairies smile kindly upon you in 2009.

*Slainte, Lynn.*

## Nigel wins again

Nigel Richards won the World Players Championship in Dallas with 21 wins from 24 games, an amazing four wins clear of second place, and with a massive spread of +2276.

Second was David Eldar, Australia, on 17 wins, third Nawapadol Sayavesa from Thailand, on 16 wins.

Howard Warner finished 9th on 14 wins and the second best spread of the tourney at +1488.

Joanne Craig, after a fantastic first day finished 29th on 12 wins and a spread of +111.

### How they reported it

#### The Dallas News

The 49 players came from Australia, Malaysia, Thailand and Britain, among other countries, to the 2008 World Players Championship at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. The ballroom on the ground floor sounded like a snake den as players rattled tiles in their bags.

The games concluded Sunday, with Nigel Richards of New Zealand claiming the prize, as many players expected. Fresh off of winning the 2008 National Scrabble Championship, he clinched Sunday's tournament three games before the end.

"I think I did OK," he said of his performance.

Mr. Richards, who is not talkative, now lives in Malaysia.

#### The Waikato Times

Kiwi top of the Scrabble world.

### 3 News

NZ's Scrabble professional wins further title in US

New Zealand professional Scrabble player Nigel Richards has won the 2008 World Players Scrabble Championship in a three-day tournament in Dallas.

### Bryan Pepper, tournament director

(Just before round 23, Bryan was asked if he'd play to prevent byes after a player had to pull out. He agreed, but begged not to be paired with Nigel.)

"A simple request from someone who's played maybe 20 CSW games. My ... round 24 opponent? Nigel freakin' Richards ... I will say, I did have a brief lead after my bingo. I got a kick out of the *Dallas Morning News* suggesting that Nigel beat me for the title. As if. I think I confused him so badly he didn't know what I was up to (which was not much, really). I sincerely think he could have won by 300 if he wanted to, but I don't think he would choose to (against someone thrown in the draw) ... he's really a genteel fellow."

## anagram corner

Scrabblers are dab hands at transposing letters, for example OTARY to YARTO and KIDNAPS to SKIDPAN. On a higher level, of THE ARTESIAN WELLS it can be said that WATER'S IN ALL THESE.

Here are anagrams of six new players at the 2008 Norfolk Island Scrabble Festival.

FIONA KEHELY	HEY, FINALE OK!
MARGARET DEVERALL	LARGE TRAVEL DREAM
CAROLYN WATT	ONLY RAW TACT
MARTIN WATERWORTH	RARE WARMTH, NO TWIT
RHONDA RICKARD	HARD-ROCKIN' RAD
JUDY MASON	DYNAMO JUS

## The good oil on Texas

- by *Howard Warner, Mt Albert*

*Howard reports on the World Players Championship (WPC). He says this tournament is something of a milestone in Scrabble history — the first world event organised by players, and the first major effort to unify North American and world Scrabble.*



*Howard Warner*

I went to the World Players Championship in Dallas with two aims: to make the top 10 and play top Americans (who we don't see much of in the SOWPODS world). Both came true, so I should be happy.

I finished ninth, on 14 wins out of 24, with a high spread of +1488 (behind Nigel's but more than 500 ahead of the next highest). But I did feel I was worth a couple more wins — just one more would have lifted me to 4th. And I ended up playing Americans in 17 out of 24 games, including a straight run of 10 from round 2.

The night before, I had played a series of games against our Joanne Craig, American Travis Chesney and Ghanaian Michael Quao in the bar of the venue, the well-appointed Crowne Plaza hotel.

### Day 1:

I began with a loss (430-485) to Teresa Camilleri of Malta, in a memorable game. She made four bonus words in her first five turns (JESTING, MOLINETS, AMATOLS and ANOESTRA). I hung in, scoring solidly with the big tiles, then getting 99 for LITHEMIC (a double-double), to get within 20. She immediately binged\* back, with PREBENDS. Then with my final full rack, I was looking at RAUGHTY off a D, to give me 98 points — and what would be a 20-point win. Teresa was down on time and almost played elsewhere, but spotted my find at the last moment and blocked the spot. So I'll have to wait another day to win against five bonuses.

The rest of the day, I had four wins

(three of them by big margins) and three losses — all against

Americans. Most pleasing was a come-from-behind win against Jim Kramer, who has been 4th at WSC twice. I ended the day in 21st place, with a disappointing 4-4, while fellow Kiwis Joanne (6-2) and Nigel (7-1) were on a roll.

### Day 2:

I began with three huge wins, which lifted my spread by about 600 points. One was against the legendary Stu Goldman, writer of classic Scrabble books and holder of the all-time record for competitive games won (over 5000). One was against equipment designer Sam Kantimathi, who had beaten me up last time we played. And another was against Mark Kenas, who later in the tournament scored 739 (against Sam), with a phenomenal spread of 445.

These three wins took me to 8th place

### Anagrams of places

What's the one-word anagram of Dallas?

What's the one-word anagram of Las Vegas?

What's the one-word anagram of San Diego?

These NZ Scrabble clubs, Hibiscus, Kiwi, Phoenix, Hastings, Wellington and Nelson, are all words on our official Scrabble list.

The only clubs with anagrams are Rodney, Hastings and Kapiti. What are their anagrams?

Answers on page 44.

and a match-up with Nigel.

The afternoon was memorable for being Yank-less. I lost to Nawadapol, one of Thailand's production line of baby-faced assassins. I klutzed\* a sure-fire win against Femi Awowade (UK) through the most basic error — failing to count tiles left in the bag at the end. I beat the jolly, effervescent Micky Quao (a reversal of the tile imbalance from our bar sessions) and Sam Dick-Onuoha (Nigeria). So I ended Day 2 on 9-7, in 14th place. However, my spread was now up to 871, second only to Nigel's, and my average score was around 450, also second to Nigel. (Those two second places would continue right through to tournament's end.)

### Day 3:

I lost by 31 to Peter Armstrong (US), after a fascinating, tense tussle. He scored three successive bingos late in the game (TENORITE, INDULGES and ANCHORET). The last word was positioned one short of a double-word square running two ways. I had one S and there was one unseen from the 14 tiles to come. Now 70 points behind, I had a fascinating choice of moves. I could play JAY elsewhere for 52, holding back my S to hook onto ANCHORET next time (providing Peter didn't have the last S). Or I could play JASEY onto ANCHORET for 58, to take out the spot. Or I could play

JASY for 59 elsewhere, hoping to pick up the last S myself. I debated these choices for about 10 minutes, before picking the wrong one. I did play JASEY, then picked the last S. The stuff of continuing nightmares!

I beat Anthony Ikolo (Nigeria), and John Luebkmann (US) by 174, before having a 23-point loss to Marty Gabriel (US). Again, this came down to one unlucky (or dumb?) choice. I played SCURRING, leaving him the place to play PORTAGE. Had I played RUNRIGS in his PORTAGE spot, it would have forced him to try SPORTAGE\* (he says), which I would have challenged off, for a very defendable lead.

Coming into the final afternoon, I was on 11-9, and in 13th place. After lunch, I beat John O'Loughlin, one of the 'American young guns', by 108; then beat Englishman Phil Robertshaw (who had earlier beaten Nigel) by 135; then beat another AYG, Amit Chakrabarti, by 225. Now I was 6th, with the final game to play, and spread to burn. Unfortunately I had to play the brilliant, very tough American Dave Wiegand again, and lost again, by a mere 24 — though again it came down to one small moment. With my final full rack and 66 points behind, I had a choice of three bingos: PRELUDE, REPULSE or OPERCULE. I worked out that PRELUDE could win it for me — only



if the one letter left in the bag was a Y rather than any of seven one-point letters. It wasn't.

So that was my tournament. Fourteen mostly hefty (and therefore quite unmemorable) wins, average margin 150 — which is what pushed up my spread. Several narrow and highly memorable losses of the so-so-nearly, if-only and I'm-so-stupid variety.

Of the other Kiwis, you'll know by now that Nigel dropped only three games the whole tournament, and pretty much had the title won with a day to spare. Par for the course! Joanne found Days 2 and 3 tougher going after a great start, and finished in 29th place, on 12 wins.

The most impressive players, I felt, were relative newcomers Teresa from Malta (who kept up with Nigel for the first half of the tournament) and Adrian Tamas of Romania (currently teaching English in Japan). They are two genuine stars of the future. And Aussie teenager David Eldar, the runner-up, underlined the reputation he has already earned as a potential world champ.

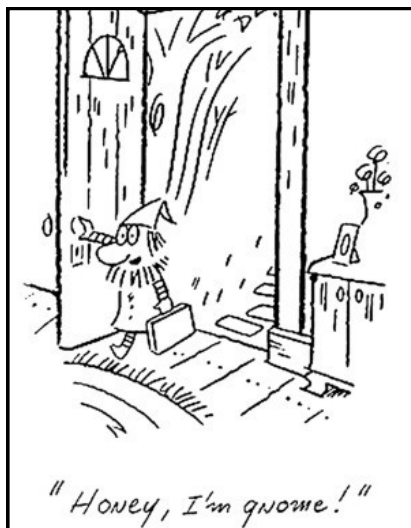
The main disappointment of this tournament was the low numbers — a field of 48, depleted from an initial 63 by visa snags and last-minute pull-outs. Also, the lack of support from Canada, the UK and South-East Asian countries was perplexing.

Chris Cree, the Texan go-getter who dreamed up and organised this tournament as a way of bringing SOWPODS to North Americans (or vice-versa), deserves much credit. He was encouraged by the reactions of players (both the Americans, who comprised half the field, and the internationals) to declare that WPC would be a regular two-yearly fixture, between WSCs.

The tournament was run very smoothly. Some facets were very different from New Zealand tournament

conventions, yet not without merit. I came to appreciate the self-adjudication on laptops placed strategically around the playing room, the own-lunch ritual (you could recharge your batteries in whatever way suited you and eat as healthily or unhealthily as you pleased) and the spacious trestle tables (one per game). The Boston draw, based on results of the last round but one, allowed organisers to push the pace — you knew who you were playing next as soon as you'd finished a game. I was impressed with the comprehensive website coverage, especially Sherrie St John's warm, colourful commentary. And Chris scored a real coup with the hotel — our rooms were glamorous, but at a very good price.

In the evenings, we went en masse to the latest Bond movie, on the biggest screen I've ever seen (they do everything big in Texas). And we ate at a wonderful Mexican restaurant whose menu was full of glorious TWL words. There were POBLANO and CHIPOTLE (types of chilli pepper), BONIATO (sweet potato), TILAPIA (a fish), CHURRO (a deep-fried doughy snack), GORDITA (a tortilla-like





bread), FAVA and BORLOTTI (two types of bean) and NOPALES or NOPALITO (edible cactus).

Overall, it was a wonderful experience playing at this consistently high level, in such a professional yet friendly environment. A great camaraderie, especially among a group of great American players devoted to seeing in a united Scrabble world. I'd recommend it as worth saving for and supporting next time around.

I'll certainly be there — looking to nail a few of the tight games for a change.

## X

X in our alphabet being a needless letter has added invincibility to the attacks of the spelling reformers, and like them, will doubtless last as long as the language. X is the sacred symbol of ten dollars, and in such words as Xmas\*, Xn\*, etc., stands for Christ, not, as is popularly supposed, because it represents a cross, but because the corresponding letter in the Greek alphabet is the initial of His name — ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ. If it represented a cross it would stand for St Andrew, who "testified" upon one of that shape. In the algebra of psychology *x* stands for Woman's mind. Words beginning with X are Graecian and will not be defined in this standard English dictionary.

- *Ambrose Bierce, The Devil's Dictionary*

## An anagrammatical message

### GREASE STINGS NOSE

MISERS TRY CHARM

and

REPAY AN APE – WHY?

Solution on page 44.

## Scrabble quotes

"Meaning is immaterial. In the world of elite Scrabble, the utility of a word is measured entirely by how it eats up the vowels, gets rid of unwanted Qs and reaches across a board to the triple-word-score squares."

*Will Pavia, USA columnist*

About his 100,000-word vocabulary: "That's what I play with. I couldn't recite them to you: it's recognition rather than regurgitation."

*- Allan Simmons, UK champion*

"The game is like cards really, keeping check on what letters have been played and what letters are left."

*- Allan Simmons*

"Scrabble players think that SEX is a waste of an S."

*- Sandra Stacey, Wellington Club*

*(sent in by Vicky Robertson)*

Speaking of his win at the World Players Championships: "I think I did OK."

*- Nigel Richards*

And reporting on it: "Mr. Richards, who is not talkative, now lives in Malaysia."

*- The Dallas News*

## DAZZLING

## DOZEN

There are fourteen 7-letter Scrabble words ending in -BIRD. Everyone has heard of SEABIRD, and JAYBIRD is just another name for a JAY. The other dozen birds are not so well-known.

ANTBIRD	FATBIRD
AWLBIRD	MAYBIRD
AXBIRD	OILBIRD
BOOBIRD	REDBIRD
CATBIRD	SUNBIRD
COWBIRD	WOSBIRD

# An A-Z of AEIOU words

- by Jeff Grant, *Independent*

Everyone knows a few words containing the five vowels AEIOU, such as SEQUOIA, DIALOGUE, EQUATION, FAVOURITE, PNEUMONIA and CAULIFLOWER. Some even have the vowels in alphabetical order, for instance FACETIOUS and ABSTEMIOUS.

Here is a collection of all-vowel words containing examples starting with every letter of the alphabet. (For the purposes of this exercise we have ignored words where vowels are repeated, such as MOUNTAINEER and EQUIPARATION.) All are allowed in Scrabble, except the Y-word, which appears in the Oxford English Dictionary.

AEQUORIN	protein secreted by jellyfish
BICEPHALOUS	two-headed
CAESIOUS	bluish green
DOULEIA	inferior veneration
EUPHOBIA	fear of good news
FILAMENTOUS	threadlike
GUANOSINE	nucleoside in RNA
HOUSEMAID	maid employed to do housework
INQUORATE	not making up a quorum
JALOUSIE	outside shutter with slats
KETONURIA	ketone in the urine
LEUCOPLASTID	starch-forming body
MOINEAU	small flat bastion
NEUROGLIA	supporting tissue of the brain
ODALIQUE	female harem slave
POULAINE	long, pointed toeshoe
QUATREFOIL	four-petalled flower
RUBEFACTION	reddening
SAUTOIRE	long necklace
THIOUREA	bitter crystalline substance
UROKINASE	enzyme which dissolves blood clots
VERACIOUS	truthful
WAREHOUSING	storing in a warehouse
XIPHOPAGUSES	sets of Siamese twins joined at the sternum
YOUNGMANISHNESS*	the quality of being like a young man
ZINJANTHROPUSES	early hominids

# Competition Corner



## Scrabble Contest no. 93

Before you have even looked at your tiles, which are face down on the table, your opponent bangs down ALDOSES (first S on centre square) for 68 points. You start putting tiles on your rack and are horrified when the first four are all Es!

What is the highest score you can now hope for with your first move (if you have the right three tiles left on the table)?

Send entries by mail or email to:  
 Jeff Grant  
 'Ardra'  
 1109 Allenby St  
 Hastings 4122  
 ardra@paradise.net.nz  
 Closing date is 20 February 2009.

## Solution: Contest no. 92

- |                      |                           |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Levin liven       | 11. Marsden damners       |
| 2. Gisborne sobering | 12. Picton pontic         |
| 3. Napier rapine     | 13. Onetangi negation     |
| 4. Marton matron     | 14. Opaki okapi           |
| 5. Stoke tokes       | 15. Alfriston inflators   |
| 6. Mangere germane   | 16. Erewhon nowhere       |
| 7. Petone poteen     | 17. Murchison unchrisom   |
| 8. Otira ariot       | 18. Nightcaps patchings   |
| 9. Tangiwai awaiting | 19. Palmerston emplastron |
| 10. Sumner rumens    | 20. Eltham hamlet         |

Correct entries were received from Leila Thomson (Lower Hutt), Delcie Macbeth (Independent) and Joan Thomas (Hastings), while Lyn Toka (Kiwi) missed just one. First name out of the hat was Joan. Well done!

# Mailbox

*- from Allie Quinn, Whangarei*

Re “Youngest Scrabble Star” (page 17, Forwards No. 92).

I played against Ong Suanne at the Equatorial Cameron Highlands tournament in 2003 when I believed she was 11 years old. She was the youngest competitor and I was the oldest.

In our last turn I challenged her ACETINS as I didn't have it on my “satine\* list”. A stupid move on my part and which really brought the 5-point challenge home to me. The game was mine (what little demon made me challenge?) and the word was correct, so I had to give her five points. She won 419-417.

Maybe we will meet again at the Causeway challenge.

*- from Joanne Craig, Christchurch*

Congrats to Nigel on yet another major tourney win and to Howard for making the top ten of the WPC with such a great spread.

Chris Cree is planning to hold this WPC every two years and I thoroughly recommend it. Although the entry fee was steep at \$US270, it was compensated by the discounted room rate at the playing venue, the swanky Crowne Plaza. The tournament ran smoothly and it was a buzz to play so many international competitors.

Hope to see a bunch of you at the next WPC in Dallas in 2010!

*- from Dianne Cole-Baker, Mt Albert*

So Jennifer now every one on the Scrabble list wants to know about your other life in which you dress up in yellow masks, feathered to boot and we hope

you will write about it in the next issue of the magazine!

*[Well, I guess the public humiliation is my punishment for the slip of the finger that sent an email off to the Scrabble list instead of to a trader on TradeMe. To keep you all in on the joke against me, the essence of my email was: “I got a shock today to get the mask back in my letter-box – apparently the people at the Post Shop had not put the sticker on the package. Fortunately, the lady at the counter could remember the struggle I had to make the yellow feathers stay inside the package!” – Ed.]*

*- from Margaret Lyall, Christchurch*

The communication from Bev Edwards [re 2008 Nationals] raised some interesting and varied comments from Christchurch Club's committee members, and no doubt will receive similar responses from Scrabble Clubs throughout New Zealand.

Attending just one Nationals – especially in Auckland, where expenses, particularly for the venue, are anticipated to be greater than in most cities – should not be regarded as the norm for all such events.

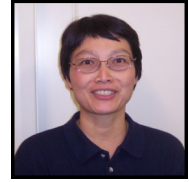
I would like to extend a welcome to Bev to come down to Christchurch next year when our Club hosts this important annual Scrabble event, and she should be agreeably surprised at the facilities available and what can be provided here, while still keeping to the set budget.

We always endeavour to provide generous hospitality at all tournaments, and if the camaraderie at earlier National competitions can again be generated and enjoyed, all participants should be well satisfied.

# Learning about learning while playing Scrabble

*This is the fourth in a series of articles about learning Scrabble*

## Novices and experts



*- by Selena Chan, Christchurch*

Some relatively recent research (in the mid 1980s) on the strategies used by novice and expert chess players has been followed through with research on novice nurses and expert nurses. What studies on novices and experts tell us is of interest to Scrabble players as well. One of the most important findings of relevance to Scrabblers relates to how good Scrabblers have good 'sight of board' when compared to Scrabblers who are still just learning the game.

In the original studies on novice and expert chess players, expert players were able to remember chess boards set up with plays by associating the plays to various moves that have taken place during set games. Novices found it difficult to replicate chess boards as they did not have the patterns that experts had lodged into their cognitive framework.

In Scrabble, a similar thing happens, good players recognise the 'hot spots' on the board and maximise on their scores by playing high scoring tiles on these places. However, they are also able to see the 'bigger' picture or the consequences of their moves. They are able to:

- bring together the information they have gathered with their tile tracking to provide them with enough input to make decisions with regards to their rack balance.
- weigh up the advantages of making a short term high scoring play with the potential advantages of making a lesser scoring play for longer term gain.

- have a dialogue in their brain that makes intuitive use of the information they have gathered to understand the dynamics of the letters present on their rack, the configuration of the board and the potential letters that are still to be drawn.
- make a confident decision to go down the path that has been chosen.

In experts, all of this happens at a subconscious level and it takes a great deal of effort for some experts to actually explain how they come about their decisions.

Each individual also undergoes a very specific pathway towards making decisions, so imitating how an expert makes their choices on which word to play, where to play the word and what to leave on their rack, might not necessarily help novices become better players. The key is for novices (or even experts) to become more in tune with their inner decision-making mechanism.

So how can novices improve?

Metacognition can be encouraged if you know what to look out for.

Also, some people are better at 'self talk' than others. "Self talk" is the dialogue that you undertake when you are mulling over things and you substantiate to yourself the decisions that you are about to make.

If you are not good at dredging up your own 'self talk', it is sometimes good to talk your decisions through out loud. Talking your decisions through will make you more conscious of why you are actually making certain decisions. The

presence of another player (not necessarily a better player) may also help to provide feedback to you as you talk through your decisions.

You need to use the opportunity to 'self talk' to analyse your decisions. After a game, try to remember what decisions you made and why you made them. If they worked for the game, file the strategy away and try it again on another occasion when a similar scenario turns up. Since there are so many permutations

possible in Scrabble (it is, I think, much more complex than chess), you will need to work hard at sieving through the various strategies you use to work out which ones are the better ones to keep and refine.

This all means that you are going to have to play lots of games of Scrabble to attain expert-hood – and what better excuse can you find for playing lots of Scrabble than that!

## Thoughts on the Mt Albert tournament

*- by Suzanne Harding, Whangarei*

**M**y first ever tournament back in 2005  
**O**nce experienced, never missed it again.  
**U**ndeniably a well organized event.  
**N**ext year I might win a prize?  
**T**iming is tight. I invested in a Sam Timer.

**A**micable adversaries to reacquaint myself with.

**L**unches and refreshments always luscious.

**B**ridge Club rooms the ideal base for a Scrabble Battle !!

**E**xceed my expectancy if I can?

**R**ivalry and revelry over the racks.

**T**hanks to the team who put it all together.

## Bananagrams

A game invented by a mother-of-two at her kitchen table is set to become this year's Christmas hit.

Bananagrams is based around the idea of making as many words as quickly as possible in a race against other players without using a board. The game, which comes in a distinctive banana shaped purse, has been a hit in the UK and America as well as the internet social networking site Facebook.

Inventor is Rena Nathanson, who lives in west London with her son, Aaron, 13, and 10-year-old daughter Ava. The former graphic designer launched the £14.95 game two years ago and has sold 63,000 in Britain in the last 12 months. Now she has ordered a further 30,000 games to cope with the Christmas demand.

### Dunedin Scrabbler dies

Members will be sad to hear of the death of Elvira Steel, who died at her home in Dunedin in October.

She was 78 years old and an avid Scrabble Player.



# Club News



## Christchurch

Paul Lister had the dream game at club night on Friday 11 November, managing to surpass Peter Sinton's old Club record of 577 for spread – Paul's was 590. He also drew the record for most bonus words (6) in a club game. The final scores in the game were 738-148.

Paul said he had just learned URANIAS/ANURIAS, but his hapless opponent, Kerri Jones, had the opposite luck. Her average rack was K, L, L, R, R, T, T or similar, and she drew four big letters at her last and second-to-last turns.

His score sheet, which has been verified by several club-mates, is shown below.

CHRISTCHURCH CLUB				
1/11/2008				
	PLAYER 1	Paul LISTER	PLAYER 2	KELT, SONGS
ANURIAS	28	28	14	14
	(2)	89	17	37
	26	115	4	35
ISOLATED	(140)	255	14	49
	30	785	43	92
NIELLOS	(66)	351	10	107
	12	263	9	111
AMORINI	(9)	454	5	116
	38	492	6	122
	36	528	18	140
MAUDLIN	(6)	589	4	144
	26	615	4	148
EPILOGUE	(15)	690		
(- B,C,S,Q)	+48	738		148

## Kiwi and Tauranga

Kiwi Club and Tauranga played their yearly challenge tournament in Tauranga in November. Kiwi won 28 to 21.

Kiwi players were Elaine Moltzen, Lyn Toka, Roger Coates, Carole Coates, Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell, Marj Baillie and

Shirley Martin. Tauranga players were Barbara Dunn, Chris Day, Shirley Bothron, Jo Ann Ingram, Heather Langdon, Shirley Morrison and Richard Cornelius. Kaye Hubner kindly acted as adjudicator and recorder.



*Kiwi and Tauranga players who took part in their 2008 annual challenge. You certainly can't tell by the smiles which club lost! (And whose brilliant idea was it to take the photo in front of the "Foreign Language" sign?)*

## Kiwi

Unusual results at Norfolk! Among the prize-winners for the most bonus words awarded at Norfolk Island were Elaine Moltzen (Cascade Bay section), Lyn Toka (Duncombe Bay), Jenan Yousif (Emily Bay) and Margaret Penniket (Headstone).

What's so unusual about those results, you may ask? These most-bonus winners are all members from the same club, Kiwi Scrabblers. Well done, the Kiwi Kiwis!

Elaine actually played the most bonus words of all grades – officially 35, though on recount afterwards she realised she had actually played 38! (Just as well no one had 36 or 37 words!)

## Norfolk Snippets

- by Jeff Grant, tournament organiser

The 20th Norfolk Island Scrabble Festival on 12-17 October 2008 attracted a record 60 participants from all over New Zealand and Australia, plus a small band of non-playing supporters. Full results are on page 48.

What a week it was! So many memorable moments. Here are some that spring to mind.

June Mackwell started the fun and games by arriving at the airport 12 hours early for her flight. Rather than go home, June simply settled in for the day at the Koru Lounge.

On arrival in Norfolk, Max Johnson and his wife Alena, who came all the way from Perth, promptly locked themselves out of their unit and Alena had to clamber through a window. The same thing happened again later in the week!

After Joan Thomas and Faye Grose unfortunately had to withdraw late it was into the Scrabble.

Lynn Wood had the high game score for a while with 559, only for Carolyn Watt to pip her with 560. Kate Rowe got 609 in the Knockout, which was a great score even with her 25-point handicap.

In one game Hazel Purdie played the new word TAIG, although she could just as easily have had GAIT. Her opponent Sherie Brown immediately plonked down RESTATER\* for 122 on a triple triple and Hazel was so flabbergasted she didn't challenge it!

Martin Waterworth started a game with four bonus words in a row against



*A grade winners: Martin Waterworth (3rd), Lynn Wood (2nd), Anna Geange (1st), with tournament organiser Jeff Grant*

Sue Quirke, who had fun in the Knockout as well, drawing her game with Ruth Groffman. They decided to play again to break the deadlock, with Sue winning narrowly this time.

Rene Chelton won the Knockout event and the B Grade. Her six o'clock swims at Emily Bay every morning must have invigorated the mind as well as the body!

Spot prizes were awarded each round. Some of the winning words were Carolyn's ARCHIVES for the Literature spot, Sunny Wright's SMUGGLES (Sea word), Kate Wignall's MILLION (Numbers), Helen Sillis's BAREFOOT (Exercise), and Elaine Moltzen's ARSENIC for the Food (??) spot prize.

Daisy Madden came to the tourney one morning dressed in a convict's outfit. Glennis's quip was, "Who let you out?"

Trevor Bouker was the well-deserved winner of the Sportsperson award. He kept us amused with definitions of some





*NZ and Aussie Champions: Anna Geange and Martin Waterworth, with tournament organisers Glennis Hale and Jeff Grant*

of his “words”, such as VOQUE\*, which he said was a Norfolk squirrel.

Regular festival attendee Wayne Willis got a special award at the prize-giving dinner, where he related his encounters on Norfolk with the infamous Roland the Rat, which had us all in stitches.

A “Norfolk Recollections” competition ran as an aside during the week. Some of the more entertaining entries were Jean Gillespie’s poem, Pat Grant’s abandoned chicken story, the Kempsey Kittens capers, and Elaine’s “dildo” episode.

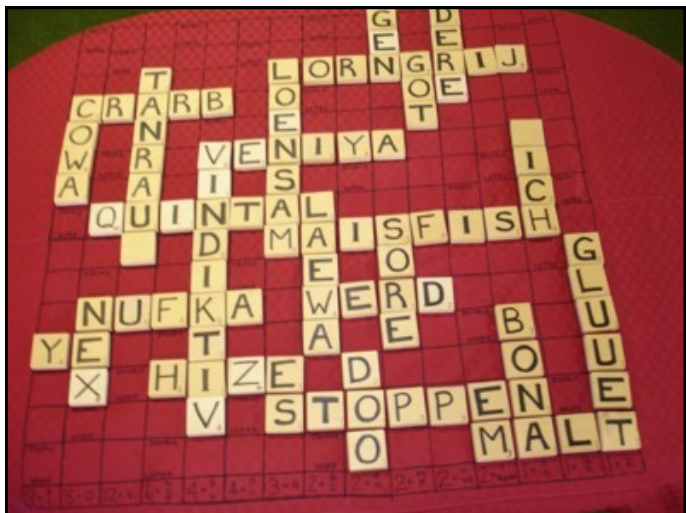
A card table-set made on the island was left at the venue for a few days and it attracted lots of interest. A fun Scrabble afternoon was organised at the Rec Centre on the last Saturday, and quite a few

wound-down Scrabblers and some locals turned up to try their hand at Scrabble/Skrabl in English or the ‘Norf’k Langwij’. It was a huge buzz to play a game against 12-year-old Ethan Richards, son of the late Jason Richards, who was the same age as Ethan when he took part in the 2nd Norfolk event in 1986. Ethan obviously has his dad’s love of words. He was interested to hear that he shares his surname with the current World

Scrabble Champ, Kiwi Nigel Richards.

Pat and I spent a most enjoyable extra week on Norfolk Island after the Scrabble Rabble departed, passing our time with bush and reef walks, picnics, swimming (nearly every day), golf, beachcombing, barbecues, shopping, reading and generally chilling out. We even managed a few games of Scrabble.

Roll on Norfolk ’09 – our 21st!



*The Norf’k Skrabl game*



# Postcard from Norfolk Island

## 20th Scrabble Festival - October 2008

**H**igh on a hill a house, generously proportioned, elegantly appointed, extends hospitality. Below, towering pines are etched against a pastel sky, the land in darkness. A ship lies at anchor, lights twinkling softly. A pale moon silvers a calm sea, bathing the scene in peaceful solitude. No prizes for guessing we are on a progressive dinner on Norfolk Island enjoying the ambience of serenity which prevails.

On our first day a general tour of the Island impressed new visitors with the historic buildings, picture-postcard coastline of wooded slopes, sculptured rocks, wide bays, crescent coves with the blue Pacific Ocean lapping gently. Cameras, some newly purchased, were given a work-out as we tried to capture a fragment of all this picturesque scenery.

Scrabble started in friendly fashion as we met with the New Zealand ladies and the tournament soon got underway. Word puzzles tested our brain power, with prizes for those meeting the designated criteria.

Shopping for shoes, handbags and some of the Island's craftwork was sandwiched in between our Scrabble games.

Delicious fish-fries, poetry evenings and historic shows saw the time pass all too quickly.

At the Presentation Dinner on Friday evening we enjoyed a sumptuous meal at the Governor's Lodge and the lucky prize-winners received delightful little plaques of Norfolk Island pine suitably inscribed with their names: quite a feat when we only finished our games at lunch-time on Friday. These would be treasured as a happy reminder of a week spent with like-

minded addicts.

Our last day on the Island saw us at Slaughter Bay where we revelled in the spectacle of a boisterous sea. Huge breakers shouldered their way in to shore to rise, curve and break before crashing on the beach, or dashing in spectacular fashion on nearby rocks in clouds of spray, descending in champagne rivulets of bubbles.

At the start of the tournament we were given some wise counsel: "Don't let a win go to your head and don't let a loss go to your heart" As in Scrabble, so in life.

Contented cows grazing peacefully by the roadside, majestic soaring pines, the graceful beauty of stained glass, together with the warmth of friendship and the joy of laughter, our 20th Anniversary Scrabble Festival leaves us all with a kaleidoscope of happy memories.

*Jean Gillespie, Australia*

### Questions that need answering

*- sent in by Kevin Edgler, Tokoroa*

Questions from a 10-year-old kid who drove a professor nuts!

- How important does a person have to be before they are considered assassinated instead of just murdered?
- If money doesn't grow on trees, why do banks have branches?
- Why do you have to "put your two cents worth in" but it's only a penny for your thoughts? Where's that extra penny going to?
- What disease did cured ham actually have?
- If you drink Pepsi at work in the Coke factory, will they fire you?
- Why are you IN a movie, but you're ON TV?



## WESPA

Allan Simmons is stepping down as chairman of Wespa (World English-language Scrabble Players Association) from December, but will remain on the 11-member committee and the dictionary subcommittee. He will be replaced as Chairman by Bahrain's Roy Kietzman.

Roy Kietzman, an American citizen, has lived the past 44 years outside the US, having been resident in Austria, Germany, Kuwait, Spain, Switzerland and Turkey before taking up residence in Bahrain in 1987.

Wespa is recognised as the regulatory authority for Scrabble in English. There are also French and Spanish world federations, though Scrabble can be played in nearly 30 other languages. Wespa and the two federations, possibly including an Italian association, are in talks leading to a global Scrabble organisation.

### Wespa Committee

The 11-member management committee of the World English-language Scrabble Players Association has two new members: Albert Hahn (Canada) and Alex Tan (Malaysia).

Last May, nominations were accepted from Wespa members through an e-process which brought in just seven candidates who were summarily brought onto the committee. The members are Chief Toke Aka (Nigeria), an engineer; Amy Byrne (Britain), a civil servant; S. H. Cheah (Singapore), a pharmaceutical company consultant; Jojo Delia (Malta), an architect; Andrew Fisher (Australia), a chartered accountant and auditor; Sam Kantimathi (USA), a US aerospace engineering executive, and Allan Simmons (Britain), a Scrabble consultant.

The committee then co-opted last

month Jojo Delia (Malta), an architect; Albert, a delivery driver; Roy Kietzman (Bahrain), a writer-journalist-editor, and Alex, an attorney, to bring the panel up to its full 11-member complement. According to the constitution, no more than two committee members can be from one country.

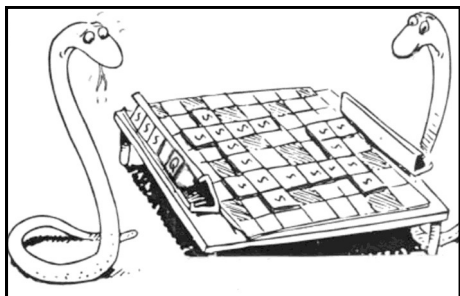
The current committee term runs until autumn 2009.

### Standing committees

Wespa has resumed the programme of its six standing committees. The committees deal with communications which include the Wespa website, word sources, ratings, rules, tournament standards and youth matters.

A new committee this term deals with liaising with the French- and Spanish-speaking world Scrabble federations to form a world Scrabble council. Another new committee is looking after recruiting more national associations into Wespa from the over 40 countries that play tournament Scrabble.

Chairing the committees are Chief Toke Aka (Nigeria), tournaments; Amy Byrne (Britain), rules; Andrew Fisher (Australia), world Scrabble council; Darryl Francis (Britain), word sources; Sam Kantimathi (USA), ratings; Roy Kietzman (Bahrain), communications, and Karen Richards (Australia), youth.



## Youth targeted in Scrabble programme

*- from Roy Kietzman*

The World English-language Scrabble Association youth subcommittee is arguably the most active of Wespa's six panels.

Paedagogues term brainy sports like Scrabble as "smart games," an aid to developing the analytical skills of young minds.

Karen Richards (Australia), youth chair, says, "We seem to be reaching down into the younger ages here in Australia – 7-11 years. It appears to be best time to start them as they aren't tied up with heavy schoolwork commitments for a few years after that."

Karen has conducted several workshops in Scrabble for youngsters and teachers, in Australia and Malaysia, to develop a model for running intense training programmes for young beginners. She's also experimenting with an intensive one-day model for more experienced players. Eventually, the format of these will be documented, with suggested programmes and resource material, also made available on the web.

Karen says, "The result of efforts to reach the youth in Scrabble playing is already apparent in some countries which have become actively involved, particularly in Australia and Malaysia, with major improvements in both quality and quantity. A groundswell of interest being generated in Great Britain is expected to bear fruit within a year or two."

In Singapore, moves are under way to remove the artificial barrier between school Scrabble activities and those hosted by the national association, which should allow them to increase numbers of proficient young players in their ranks. Thailand has initiated an international youth tournament with big prize money.

"However," Karen points out, "discernable improvements in numbers worldwide aren't projected until approximately 2010."

## Youth coaching clinic: invitation to NZ youth

*- from Karen Richards. Australia*

### **To any NZ players who care about their membership numbers:**

I would be really pleased to have one to three (or more) young New Zealand players at our next workshop (16-18 April 2009) – preferably with an adult who is prepared to go back to NZ and do similar work there. In 18 months after that, you can then have a thriving new group of young players, as we now have here in Australia. In the New South Wales Champs, there were six young players in a field of 70. At the Australian Champs in March, we had ten in 160. The percentages are increasing rapidly. It also means an increase in membership for the various Associations, eg. in NSW alone, we have 14 junior members and more joining each month.

Participants would need to fly into Melbourne, and we would arrange transport from there (either a mini-bus, or cars – it is about two hours away, in the country). Maximum age 15 (or maybe 16, please contact me first). No lower age limit, if parents accompany them – I have trained some 7-year-olds to a stage where they could compete honourably against adults. No experience is necessary, as I can teach them from scratch – all I ask is that they are interested, intelligent, and well-behaved.

Perhaps there is a grandparent out there who would like to encourage their grandchildren to play? The only cost will be for accommodation, and that will be as cheap as possible, eg. a school or church campground.

[Karen is the Chairperson of the Wespa Youth Subcommittee.

She can be contacted at [karendrichards@gmail.com](mailto:karendrichards@gmail.com), or you can visit [www.scrabblevictoria.org.au/youthscrabble.htm](http://www.scrabblevictoria.org.au/youthscrabble.htm) for more information.]

# Evolution of the Scrabble Rules

- by Donald Sauter

I have regular Scrabble games showing latest copyright dates of 1949, 1953, 1976, and 1989. At each of those year boundaries, the rules were changed to some extent or another, or at least reworded slightly. I've enjoyed comparing Scrabble rules from the different copyright periods, and I present all of the most interesting changes here.

Here are side-by-side comparisons of Scrabble rules which were changed or reworded along the way. I've added italics here and there to highlight changes, but not in any particularly consistent or rigorous way. If the box top showed italics to emphasize a word, I write that WORD in all capitals to distinguish it from my own italics. [My commentary is in brackets to set it apart from quoted rules.]

## Part 2: Changes from 1953 to 1976

1953: RULES FOR PLAYING SCRABBLE

1976: RULES FOR PLAYING SCRABBLE (R) BRAND CROSSWORD GAME

---

1953: SCRABBLE is a word game for 2, 3, or 4 players.

1976: Scrabble Crossword Game is a word game for 2, 3, or 4 players.

[Don't ask me who benefits from this confused mess of Scrabble vs. Scrabble Crossword Game vs. Scrabble® Brand Crossword Game. Lawyers?]

---

1953: The play consists of forming interlocking words ... using letter tiles with various score values.

1976: The play consists of forming interlocking words ... using letter tiles of different values.

---

1953: The combined total score for a game may range from about 500 points to 700 or more depending on the skill of the players.

1976: In a two-handed game, a good player scores in the 300-400 point range. [Me, I like the points per game benchmark better. I suppose I'm a little funny in that I view the finished game as a team effort of all the players.]

---

1953: Turn all letters face down at the side of the board and shuffle.

1976: Turn all letters face down at the side of the board or pour them into a bag or other container, and shuffle. [Good idea!]

---

1953: Draw for the first play.

1976: Draw for the first play. ... A blank supersedes all other tiles.

---

1953: Any player may use his turn to replace any or all of the letters in his rack.

1976: A player may use his turn to exchange all, some, or none of the letters in his rack.

---

1953: [No counterpart.]

1976: Before the game begins, the players should agree upon the dictionary they will use.

---

1953: Any words found in a standard dictionary are permitted except those capitalized, those designated as foreign words, abbreviations and words requiring apostrophes or hyphens.

1976: All words labeled as a part of speech (including those listed of foreign origin, and as archaic, colloquial, slang, etc.) are permitted with the exception of the following: words always capitalized,

abbreviations, prefixes and suffixes standing alone, words requiring a hyphen or an apostrophe.

---

1953: Consult a dictionary only to check spelling or usage.

1976: A dictionary should be consulted for challenges only.

---

1953: [No counterpart.]

1976: If the word challenged is acceptable, the challenger loses his turn.

[There's the rule that turned Scrabble into a bluff game. Does anyone know who was responsible?]

---

1953: The score for each turn is the sum of the score values of all the letters in each word formed ...

1976: The score for each turn is the sum of the letter values in each word formed ...

---

1953: The score for the entire word is doubled when one of its letters is placed on a light red square ...

1976: The score for the entire word is doubled when one of its letters is placed on a pink square ...

---

1953: In subsequent turns letters count at face value.

1976: In subsequent turns, letters previously played on premium squares count at face value.

---

1953: When a blank tile falls on a light red or a dark red square, the sum of the letters in the word is doubled or tripled ...

1976: When a blank tile falls on a pink or red square, the value of the WORD is doubled or tripled ...

---

1953: At the end of the game each player's score is reduced ...

1976: At the end of the game when there are no tiles to draw, each player's score is

reduced ...

[It's not clear to me that the added condition about "no tiles left" is helpful. It almost makes it sound like the game is over when the bag is empty.]

---

1953: If one player has used all of his letters, his score is increased by the sum of the unplayed letters of all the other players.

1976: If one player has used all of his letters, the above procedure applies to the other players; in addition, the player who used all his letters receives the sum of the unplayed letters of all the other players.

[Is that clearer???]

---

1953: [No counterpart.]

1976: The player with the HIGHEST SCORE wins the game.

[Definitely worth saying in a set of rules]

---

1953: [No counterpart.]

1976: In the event of a tie, the player with the highest score before tallying the value of unplayed letters is the winner.

[As far as I can tell, most people do not like ties in any sort of competition. I think ties are great; both sides go away a winner. If Player B battled back using shrewd rack management and keeping the leftover tile adjustment in sight to catch up with Player A, why should that be yanked away from him?]

---

1953: [No counterpart.]

1976: SCRABBLE® is a registered trademark of Selchow & Righter Company.

*Article reproduced with the kind permission of Donald Sauter*

Next issue: Part 3: **Changes from the 1978 Scrabble rules to the 1989 Scrabble rules**

# Number One in the UK

Sales of Scrabble in the UK have increased by 30 per cent in the first nine months of 2008, compared to the same period last year, according to a market research firm that tracks toy and games sales. Its records go back just 15 years, but experts reckon that this is the first time Scrabble has been in the number one spot since at least the mid 1980s, when Trivial Pursuit came to prominence.

The media has suggested many reasons for the surge.

Scotland's *Daily Record* commented: "Consumer experts believe Scrabble's sales boost shows credit crunched shoppers are rejecting untried newcomers in favour of toys they trust from their own childhood. And that could pave the way for a return to other old-school favourites this Christmas, such as Cluedo and Monopoly."

*News.scotsman.com* quoted an adviser in a toy department, said: "Our customers seem to be choosing to invest in a family gift, rather than buying gifts for individual family members, and what better than a traditional game that teaches valuable skills such as spelling?"

Many newspapers suggested the sales boom could have been caused by Scrabulous. A UK's *Telegraph* commentator said: "The market research statistics for Scrabble sales go up to the end of September, which is, by coincidence, when Scrabulous was finally closed down. It will be interesting to see what happens to Scrabble sales post-Scrabulous. My bet is that Scrabble's owners have killed off the best promotional tool they ever had."

Meanwhile, Wendy Hill, marketing manager at Mattel Games, understandably said nothing about the contribution Scrabulous may have made to the sales:

"A number of factors may have contributed to these results. Clearly, this year being our anniversary, we have carried out a lot of awareness-raising activity, but in addition many people are choosing to enjoy nights in, and there is also an increase in interest in 'brain training'-style puzzles and games. Scrabble is one of the easiest to master."

## Prince Charles and Scrabble are 60



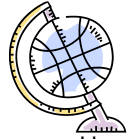
A portrait of Prince Charles in Scrabble pieces marks his (14 November) – and the game's – 60th birthdays.

### Change a letter

By changing the initial letter of an 8-letter word from a G to a J, you can turn a trout into a woman. What are the words?

Answer on page 44.

# Overseas News



## Australia

The Australian Scrabble Players Association is investing in the future by running coaching clinics for young Scrabble Players. A record 10 young players participated in the latest Australian Championships.

They have offered to include NZ players in the coaching programme. See page 19 of this issue for more information.

## Bahrain

Roy Kietzman has resigned after 21 years as Bahrain Scrabble League (BSL) president. Roy took up the leadership of the BSL in 1987 before being appointed president of the Bahrain Scrabble Committee of the General Organisation for Youth and Sports in 1996. He has directed more than 100 major tournaments including tournaments in Bangalore, India and Oman.

## Festival of the Mind Scrabble Competition

1. Irfan Siddiqui, Bahrain
2. Victor Ikawa, Bahrain
3. Mohammed Zafar, Bahrain

## Gulf Scrabble Cup

1. Mohammed Zafar Ali (Bahrain, age 18)
2. Akshay Bhandarkar (United Arab Emirates)

Players from Kuwait, Oman and Saudi Arabia also competed.

## Dubai

The Culture, Youth and Community Development Minister HE Abdul Rahman Mohammed Al Owais, received Sheikh Rashid bin Mohammed Al Nuaimi, head of the Emirates Scrabble Association in his office in November.

The meeting discussed the activities of the association since its inception on January 2008, with support from the Department of Culture and Information in Ajman. The

minister commended the efforts exerted by the association to promote the game, particularly at schools.

## India

The Brothers Agarwalla have won the game but lost the name in the Scrabulous scrap.

Delhi High Court has told Mattel that Calcutta-based Rajat, 27, and Jayant, 22, will retain the right to post their word game online, but will not be allowed to use Scrabulous, Scrabble or any other “similar sounding” name.

At best, it's a moral victory for the brothers, because Mattel doesn't hold the rights to Scrabble in the US, Hasbro does. So even if the rest of the world was to go along with the Delhi court's ruling, the Agarwallas would still have to fight to get the game turned back on for Americans.

Mattel says it will appeal the decision.



*Jayant (left) and Rajat Agarwalla*

## Kenya

### 8th African Scrabble Championship, Nairobi, October

Once again, Nigerian scrabble players conquered the African continent, producing eight of the continent's best 10 players. The other two were Kenyans.

1. Wellington Jighere, Nigeria
2. Ibukun Faloye, Nigeria
3. Chinedu Okwelogu, Nigeria

On the last day of competition, with Faloye and Jighere tied at 17 games after 23

games, all eyes shifted to Table One as the winner definitely would be crowned the champion, a new one at that. At this stage Nigerians were relaxed, especially the president of the Nigerian Scrabble Federation (NSF), Chief Toke Aka, because head or tail, the winner would be a Nigerian!



*Wellington Jighere*

### **2008 Bayelsa Board Games Championship,**

Yenagoa, two weeks later

1. Ibukun Faloye
2. Ayorinde Saidu
3. Kingha Venayori
4. Chinedu Okwelogu

(Wellington Jighere, 14th)

Despite being consistent in projecting the country's image positively in the continent and globally, Scrabble and its Nigerian players do not get much support or recognition, according to Patrick Omorodion. He says that, owing to funding/ sponsorship difficulties, winners of the 2006 championship, including the champion, Ikekeregor are yet to get their prizes. The only lucky player who got his prize in 2006 was Ghana's Quao who placed fourth. The NSC had to struggle to pay him to avert an international scandal.

### **Malaysia**

Malaysian teen sensation, Ong Suanne, 16, continued her winning streak at the Malaysian National Championship in September, after winning the prestigious King's Cup in Bangkok in August, and following that by winning the National Youth title.



*Ong Suanne*

1. Ong Suanne
2. Aaron Chong
3. Jin Chor
4. Vannitha Balasingam
5. Michael Tang

### **ICT Penang Tournament, September**

1. Ganesh Asirvatham (Malaysia)
2. Nigel Richards (NZ)
3. Jason Katz-Brown (USA)

### **Nigeria**

The 2nd Godswill Akpabio International Classics was held in October in Uyo. It featured 184 players, including players from Ghana and the UK. Akwa Ibom Governor, Akpabio, who pledged more sponsorship for Scrabble, made it unique by participating in the championship and challenged public office seekers to play the game because of its intellectual demands required for governance.

The Uyo International Airport due for completion next March might solve the travelling difficulties overseas professionals might have faced this time around. In future, players from the UK, Australia, Canada and other parts of the world will fly straight to Uyo, and not have to travel by road from Calabar. (There had been a few teething problems, when some players had to scramble for seats in the two coaster buses provided.)

Apart from the Best Africa Female Player, Mayuku Tuoyo, who finished 10th in



the Masters Category, only three other female players participated.

Masters Emmanuel Umujose, Nigeria's number nine world-ranked player

Veterans Bob Okoridem, retaining his title

Open Akpome Oghenemere

## **Thailand**

### **Championships, September**

1. Ong Suanne (Malaysia)
2. Nigel Richards (NZ)
3. Hubert Wee (Singapore)

## **Uganda**

At a Scrabble tournament in Kampala, Chris Ntege, the Chairperson of the Uganda Independent Scrabble Association, called upon the government to incorporate Scrabble as part of the curriculum for students in secondary schools.

Ntege said Scrabble has great potential to help students improve their English and mathematics skills. Countries like Nigeria and Norway have already incorporated Scrabble as part of their secondary school curriculum, and this has enabled them "to produce students who can spell better and make more calculated moves in life".

The inaugural tournament in Kampala in November attracted over 50 participants from across the country and some parts of western Kenya.

## **United Kingdom**

Allan Simmons has been crowned the UK Scrabble champion after more than 30 attempts, by beating Craig Beevers, from Stockton-on-Tees, by three games to one in the final showdown in London.

### **Other winners**

British Matchplay Scrabble Champion:

Allan Simmons, fourth time winner  
2008 UK Masters:

Harshan Lamabadusuriya

Edinburgh Festival of Scrabble:

Mikki Nicholson

Scottish Open : Helen Gipson

UK Open: Nigel Richards

**WordWide Awards** are part of the year-long programme of activity to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Scrabble. Categories include the written word, as well as entertainment, music, politics and sport. Each category winner will be officially recognised at a lavish awards ceremony and will receive a stylish Golden Scrabble Tile award.

The Written Word category is for public figures who have used words to great effect, and is decided by public vote, and the two main contenders for the award are Jordan (Katie Price) and JK Rowling. Having racked up millions of sales of her boy wizard series and numerous accolades, JK is a massive figure in the world of literature. But Jordan, glamour-girl-turned-writer, has impressed the industry with the release of two autobiographies, two novels and several children's books.

## **USA**

### **US Championships, October**

1. Nigel Richards
2. Brian Cappelletto
3. David Gibson

The *Sentinel* reported from the National Scrabble Championship in Orlando: "In a room of nearly 700 Scrabble aficionados, the smallest person in the room loomed the largest." An unassuming, sweet 11-year-old kid, Bradley Robbins, charmed everyone while winning his division with an amazing 24-4 win/loss record.

### **World Players Championship, Dallas**

1. Nigel Richards, New Zealand, now living in Malaysia
2. David Eldar, Australia
3. Nawapadol Sayavesa, Thailand

The highest scoring game of the tournament came from Mark Kenas of Illinois who scored 739 points in one game.

## Twenty years ago today

This issue my selection is an in-depth analysis by Jeff Grant of bonus words played. It requires no further comment on my part except to point out that 14 of the unc word list? Answers on page 44

### MT ALBERT BONUS WORD ANALYSIS

The Mt Albert tournament attracted a record field of 80 players and produced a memorable weekend of top-class Scrabble. With an event of this size many people are needed to ensure everything runs smoothly, from the ladies in the kitchen, to the scorers, runners, and last but not least, the adjudicators. As usual at Mt Albert the organization was excellent, and with experts Glennis Hale and Cathy Woods in charge, the adjudication was of the highest standard. In fact not a single error came to light during the whole weekend- a remarkable effort!

After the tournament Glennis decided to carry out an exercise with the bonus words played and words challenged. She found that during the 2 days there were 439 challenges, of which 167 were allowed words and 272 rejected. This works out to about one challenge per game per round. Of the disallowed words 116 were bonuses of 7, 8 or 9 letters.

Next, Glennis took the scoresheets and wrote out all the bonus words played without being challenged- there were an incredible 878 of them! After many hours of cross-checking with Chambers and the OSPD she determined there were only 63 terms (7%) which would have been disallowed had they been challenged.

As a further exercise I have analysed these 63 words with a view to gaining an insight into why they were played. Here are the words in question- do you recognize any of yours?

ABOUNDER (W)	FAINERS (O)	NESTINGS (O)	SPLURGER
AFFACING	FRAIZES (W)	ODOURISE	SUITERS (W)
AGOTISED	GOATIES (O)	OILINGS (O)	TESTINE
ALEATED	GOITRAL (W)	OUTOPEN	TINDLES (O)
ARTESIAN (O)	GOOFERS (W)	PURDIES (E)	TRAITED (W)
BATHINGS (W)	GRUNTIER	REBOUTS (O)	UNFAILED (W)
BINGERS (E)	HOEINGS (O)	RECASTED	UNFATED
BLONDIE (R)	HOUSIES (O)	REGRANTS (W)	UNLINES (W)
BRASION	IDOLATOR (O)	RERATES (W)	UNRILED
BRISTLER (W)	INVESTER (O)	RERULED	UNRIVALED (W)
CHURLIER (W)	JETTINGS (O)	RESTAINS (W)	UNSTAGED (W)
COOLINGS (O)	JILTINGS (O)	RETONES	UNWEDGE (W)
DAGGIEST (W)	LEANERS (W)	REVUING	VENICES (W)
DANDIERS	LITRERS	ROUDIES	VISONAL
DATINGS (W)	MOANIER	SCOPIER (O)	WRENCHER (W)
EVENTED (W)	NAILIER (W)	SHINNERS (W)	

*by John Foster, Independent*

at the 1988 Mt Albert Tournament.

challenged phonies are now allowed. Can you identify them without checking your

Firstly I wondered how many of these words were actually listed in larger dictionaries, as it is obvious that many are quite reasonable. A check of Websters 2nd and 3rd editions (W) The Oxford English Dictionary (O), Random House Dictionary (R) and English Dialect Dictionary (E) revealed no less than 43 of them! 'Purdies', by the way, are short, thick-set people, not at all what I would have thought, being an 'Avengers' fan.

This leaves only 20 terms unaccounted for. What is the most likely reason for their being played do you think? Here are a few ideas:

AFFACING	confused with effacing?
AGOTISED	egotised/agatized mix
ALEATED	aleatory/oleate mix
BRASION	aphetic form of abrasion
DANDIERS	ones who dandy (not a verb) ?
GRUNTIER	NZ Slang
LITRERS	ones who litre (not a verb) ?
MOANIER	NZ Slang
ODOURISE	logical variant of odorize
OUTOPEN	reasonable coinage; to open out, as a flower
RECASTED	casted again, casted is OK but the past tense of recast is recast.
RERULED	ruled again, logical
RETONES	tones again, logical
REVIJNG	from the verb revue, which doesn't exist
ROUDIERS	confused with rowdies ?
SPLURGER	one who splurges, logical
TESTINE	confused with sestine ?
UNFATED	not fated, logical
UNRILED	not riled, logical
VISONAL	confused with visional ?

Of these 20 words it is probable that the great majority are what could be called 'semi-bluffs', that is the players thought the words stood at least a chance of being allowed.

After analysing this group of 63 words I would hazard a guess that in no more than a dozen cases, probably much less, was a word put down where the player knew it wasn't acceptable. After all, Scrabblers are basically honest, aren't they ?



JEFF GRANT

## Extreme Scrabble

A group of Scrabble fans have gone to extreme lengths to prove the enduring appeal of the word game, Scrabble, as it celebrates its 60th anniversary.

Man-eaters don't faze Scrabble addicts –lion-keepers Kevin Richard and Helga van der Merwe, keepers at the Lion Park in Lanseria, South Africa, played in front of wild cats; while rangers at Florida's Gatorland Theme Park relied on the power of words over appetite and managed to concentrate even when alligators crawled up to have a look.



And scuba divers got a game in watched by Bahamas reef sharks. Scrabblers will sink to any depths to get a game! Sitting on a shipwreck off New Paradise Island in the Caribbean surrounded by reef sharks, PADI instructors Paul Noakes and Elizabeth Parkinson appeared to be more engrossed in their next move than the colourful wildlife surrounding them.

Skydivers Nicole Angelides and Ramsey Kent jumped from a plane

13,000ft over Florida and played in freefall, using a specially reinforced wooden board and adhesive glue to make their moves. Nicole said, "It was a short game but a lot of fun."



If you drop the X you fetch it! Climbers Jon Ratcliffe and Steve Franklin took a board up the sea-cliff of Castell Helen on the north coast of Anglesey, North Wales, and Scrabbled (in Welsh) on a ledge over a cliff. They set up a



portaledge\* (artificial hanging-ledge system) 200-ft above the ground.

Stopping for a cup of tea and a quick game, the climbers took in the beautiful views of Snowdon.

More “high scoring” came from a pair of hikers who got a board out 8,000ft up on top of snowy Nuns Veil Peak in New Zealand’s Southern Alps. Sitting 2749m above the ground on top of Nuns Veil Peak in New Zealand, walkers Nicola Graham and Bim Hargreaves took a well deserved break from their hiking. Looking out to Mt Cook in New Zealand’s Southern Alps they even took shelter in an ice cave to finish the game as temperatures dropped.

An interesting comment about the “Extreme Scrabble” photographs came from Jenny Colgan, writing in the *Guardian News* (UK). She said:

“Last week, [Mattel] were celebrating the game’s 60th anniversary with lots of publicity shots of people playing while being watched by lions, underwater or while skydiving (they’re joining the ‘tile-high club’. Ha ha ha etc).

“As a devotee, I feel this is totally the wrong approach. People who adore Scrabble and people who like exciting outdoor adventures aren’t really a huge crossover market.

“Instead, they should be concentrating on the upside – showing a Scrabble board by a roaring fire, with some congenial company, much wine, hail thumping on the windows thus rendering any pursuit of exciting outdoor pursuits completely impossible, and at least two people in the corner having a heated argument about ‘zen’, in order to remind people of the true joys of the world’s best game.”

## Expected mergers

*- sent in by Val Flint, Hamilton*

For all of you with any money left, be aware of the next expected mergers so that you can get in on the ground floor and make some BIG bucks.

Watch for these consolidations in 2008:

1. Hale Business Systems, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Fuller Brush, and W R. Grace Co will merge and become – Hale, Mary, Fuller, Grace.
2. PolyGram Records, Warner Bros, and Zest Crackers join forces and become – Poly Warner Cracker.
3. 3M will merge with Goodyear and become – MMMGood.
4. Zippo Manufacturing, Audi Motors, Dofasco, and Dakota Mining will merge and become – ZipAudiDoDa.
5. FedEx is expected to join its competitor, UPS, and become – FedUP.
6. Fairchild Electronics and Honeywell Computers will become – Fairwell Honeychild.
7. Grey Poupon and Docker Pants are expected to become – Poupon Pants.
8. Knotts Berry Farm and the National Organization of Women will become – Knott NOW!

And finally...

9. Victoria’s Secret and Smith & Wesson will merge under the new name – TittyTittyBangBang.

We announce ...

... a fantastic new competition (with no prizes!)

Send in YOUR merger suggestions to the editor.

We’ll publish your (hopefully) brilliant efforts next issue.



## Prevent dementia, play Scrabble

Playing Scrabble or other “thinking” board games is being shown by modern medical science to have many health benefits. No matter what your age, “brain sports” such as Scrabble have been proven to be of particular benefit for many aspects of human mental health.

At the simplest and most obvious end of the spectrum, the social aspects of Scrabble and other board games can be a preventative or even a treatment for loneliness, depression and social phobia.

At the other end of the spectrum, a study from the University of Southern California shows that mentally stimulating recreational activities in early and middle adulthood is strongly associated with a reduced risk of Alzheimer’s Disease in later life.

A similar study on aging by the National Institute of Health in 2002 studied 700 dementia-free people aged 65 and older for a period of 4.5 years. It compared the level of active cognitive activities regularly performed by the study participants, such as card games, checkers, crossword puzzles, reading books and visiting museums. The NIH reached a conclusion that those with the highest levels of cognitive activities in their lifestyle had a 47% reduced risk of future Alzheimer’s Disease than those who had the least levels of cognitive activities in the lifestyles.

A 2008 study by the University of NSW adds that, in addition to Alzheimer’s Disease, the onset of other degenerative brain diseases such as Huntington’s and Parkinson’s Diseases can also be delayed or prevented with these forms of mental activity. It found that a brain region known as the hippocampus, known to shrink with age and particularly with these three degenerative brain diseases, has only half the rate of shrinkage in people engaged in active mental tasks as in those with low levels of mental stimulation.

If it is too late for prevention, research

from the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center still has some encouraging news. It has demonstrated that computer and internet based mentally stimulating activities such as games can play a useful role alongside medication in improving the cognitive function of Alzheimer’s patients. That is another plus for Scrabble, the various internet versions of which have grown the game into one of the most popular online today.

Irrespective of Alzheimer’s Disease or other form of dementia, cognitive decline is a very common phenomena as we advance in years. Medical research teaches us clearly that keeping one’s brain active with puzzles, games, study and similar means are an effective method of slowing the rate of age-related cognitive decline. Furthermore, the earlier in life one begins to regularly participate in such active brain games and pursuits, the longer it takes before any cognitive decline even begins.

The lesson is clear. Play Scrabble and other brain-games regularly to enhance and maintain your overall mental health throughout life, and to help prevent Alzheimer’s Disease or other forms of age-related cognitive decline in your later life.

*- by Trevor A Johnson  
(author of the Scrabble Bonus Word  
Techniques ebook series)*

### Brain

An apparatus with which we think that we think. That which distinguishes the man who is content to **be** something from the man who wishes to **do** something. A man of great wealth, or one who has been pitch-forked into high station, has commonly such a headful of brain that his neighbours cannot keep their hats on. In our civilisation, and under our republican form of government, brain is so highly honored that it is rewarded by exemption from the cares of office.

*- Ambrose Bierce, The Devil’s Dictionary*

# Thinking outside the [Scrabble] square

- by Donald Sauter

## Part 3: Octo Scrabble, the joy of 8 tiles

**M**ark down February 2008 as the dawn of a new era in **Scrabble**. Even with all my previous efforts above to nudge the game towards longer words, that's when Scrabble finally broke out of its diapers as an exercise in pushing around baby blocks onto the colored squares into a joyful, full-grown word game for word lovers! I call the innovation **Octo Scrabble**. Here are the rules.

1. Fill your rack with 8 tiles (instead of 7).
2. Score bonuses for playing 6, 7, or 8 tiles at once, as follows:

### Bonuses in Octo Scrabble

Tiles Played	Bonus points	Play called
6	20	Little Bomb, or Baby Bomb
7	50	Medium Bomb, or Mama Bomb, or Bingo Bomb
8	80	Big Bomb, or Papa Bomb, or Octo Bomb

(And, incidentally, since the rack now has 8 tiles, the requirement on tiles needed in the bag for an exchange is upped to 8.)

Simple as that.

**Octo Scrabble** removes that "all or nothing" aspect of Scrabble in which either you have a bonus or you don't. it fills in that "no man's land" between high-scoring baby words and 7-tile bingos. All of a sudden, the game is not weighted so heavily to "having the right goodies at the right time."

You won't even need to groan when your opponent drops a brain-dead J, Q, X, or Z word on a triple-letter score

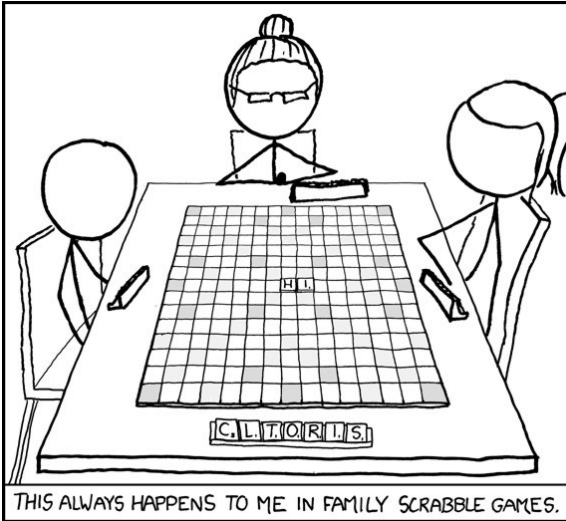
while you sit there looking at a rack full of junky one-pointers. Now there's a just-right intermediate reward for a good, solid 6-tile play – a Little Bomb. Now you can make a solid score with a respectable word made up of that "junk".

Casual players for whom playing all seven tiles was a once in a lifetime event, if that, can now experience the thrill of dropping a Bingo Bomb here and there. If you are an old hand at bingos, now there's the challenge of playing all eight tiles - the **Big Bomb**. Blammo!!!

The 8th tile cuts the probability of an all-vowel or all-consonant horror rack just about in half. It's only one step up from 7 tiles and will not overwhelm a player with tons of extra options to consider on every turn.

For 8 tiles you'll want a longer rack than the standard **Scrabble rack**. I find a one-and-a-half inch (1.5") extension is perfect. If you have extra racks lying around you'll probably be as surprised as I was to find how different the cross sections of racks from different sets are. What I suggest is taking one rack from a set of four and cutting three 1.5" segments from it to glue to the ends of the other three racks. Use a miter box and Elmer's Wood Glue.

*You can read more of Donald's ideas for playing Scrabble on <http://www.geocities.com/capitolhill/lobby/7049/index.html>*



- sent in by *Kris Saether*

Fortunately, the PC/ethical/censorship/parental problem presented by this cartoon can be easily overcome with good word knowledge.

The letters on the rack have an anagram which will go in several positions, and there are two bonus words available by using the H or I on the board.

What are they? Answers on page 44.

## Reading the Oxford English Dictionary

- sent in by *Lynne Butler, New Plymouth*

It's not everyone's idea of a page turner, but Ammon Shea has just completed the mammoth, if not bizarre, task of reading the 20-volume, 21,730-page, 59-million-word Oxford English Dictionary cover to cover.

Coooped up in the basement of his local library, the 37-year old removal man from New York devoted up to 10 hours to the task – helped by cup after cup of very strong coffee.

Every time he came across an

interesting word, he jotted it down, fearful that he would not remember its meaning. Among his favourite discoveries were obmutescence (wilfully quiet), natiform (shaped like buttocks) and deipnosophist (a person who is learned in the art of dining.) He admitted there were times when he almost gave up.

In his book, *Reading the Oxford English Dictionary: One Man, One Year, 21,730 Pages*, he recalls some low points.

By the time he reached the

400 pages devoted to words beginning with “un”, he said he was “near catatonic, bored out of my mind, and so listless I can’t remember why I wanted to read any of this in the first place. At this point, telling myself, ‘You only have 351 pages of un-words to go’, does not seem helpful. I don’t quite feel as though I have lost my mind, but it often seems as though it is on vacation somewhere else, just east of sanity.”

Why would anyone choose to put themselves through such a task?

As a self-confessed lover of words who owns a thousand dictionaries, Ammon said that reading the entire OED was a challenge he set himself many years ago.

“The OED, more so than any other dictionary, encompasses the entire history of all English’s glories and foibles, the grand concepts and whimsical conceits that make our language what it is today,” he said. “It’s a great read. It is much more engrossing, enjoyable and moving to read than you would typically think a non-narrative body of text could ever possibly be.”



# Who's playing Scrabble?

## **Lindsay Lohan, American actress**

Lindsay Lohan and Samantha Ronson jetted off on what the press described as a romantic holiday to Mexico. Wearing a black bikini, Lindsay, 22, smothered herself in sun cream as Sam, 31, relaxed on a lounge. They later played a game of Scrabble under the shade of some palm trees.

Last month, the pair came clean about their relationship – admitting they'd been together 'a very long time.'



*Lindsay Lohan*

## **Adrian, cyclist**

What would you do to occupy your down time if you were travelling the world on a bicycle? Play Scrabble of course! The cyclist, known simply as Adrian, has been on the road since

August, stopping to play Scrabble with people he met on an internet Scrabble site called Pixipot. He has already completed the first leg of his trip through Ireland and is now making steady progress traversing the US. Adrian, a writer, is keeping a daily blog of his travels which can be followed at <http://scrabbletravel.blogspot.com/>.

## **Orphans and house-bound people in Zambia**

When President George Bush's wife, Laura, visited Zambia, one item in the home care kits that she put together was Scrabble sets. She believes that providing Scrabble to orphans and people who are home-bound due to terminal illnesses allows them to benefit from the simple enjoyment of Scrabble.



*Laura Bush*

She believes Scrabble does not distinguish between the rich and famous and average citizens – everyone gets the same benefits, a learning experience, a challenge, and an opportunity to interact with other players. Everyone from a small child to a United States President

appreciates what Scrabble has to offer. (Former President Richard Nixon often played it at the White House, Bill and Hillary Clinton like it, as does Barack Obama.)

### **Lily Allen, singer**

Lily said on her website: “So, I went to the doctors last week and I got a flu jab. I’ve never had one before so I thought I’d give it a try. A few days later and here I am, burning up and feeling like death.” She denied it was her partying ways which caused the virus, which has left her passing the time by playing a form of Scrabble. “I haven’t even had a drink in weeks so it’s definitely not self inflicted which, actually, makes it more unfair,” she continued. “Facebook Scrabble is seriously addictive and is helping me to pass the time.”

### **“Mellificent”**

She says on her blog: On Monday night I went to my parents’ house, and as my mom and I sat down to play Scrabble, she said a little prayer: “Please let me win. Please let Obama win, too.” I was a little concerned. I wasn’t sure I wanted the future of our country to hang on the

outcome of a Scrabble match. You see, I usually win.

I never took the lead once. She beat me by like 50 points.

### **Nan Meston, 105-year-old, UK**

Always keen to try something new, the Scrabble fanatic has had to slow the pace down a little after her first ride on a Harley Davidson motorbike in her 90s.

### **100-year-old Elizabeth Sobczak, Michigan**

It’s hard to believe Sobczak is 100 years old. She does not use a walker or wheelchair and lives independently in her home where she does all her own cooking, laundry and shopping; she only relies on her children for help cleaning the floors and for transportation. Sobczak has a very sharp mind. She attended Madonna University at age 82 and continues to stimulate her brain by competing against her daughter, 73-year-old Angela at their Sunday Scrabble game.

“I have a good reason for beating Ange at Scrabble; I’ve had a more time to amass a larger vocabulary,” she says.

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## **To play a bonus or not?**

The UK newsletter, *Onwords*, discusses an interesting quandary:

Player A opened with OMELETTE\*, which Player B challenged off.

Player B’s rack was IN?PIRE. He asked: “Do I play a bonus and let my opponent in with OMELETTE, or do I do something else? My reasoning was that if I played a small word like PIR, I was almost certain to have a bonus on my second move, whereas whatever my opponent played, he lost out on his bonus and was a lot less likely to pick up the letters to form one on his second move. On the

minus side, I’d only score 10.”

Allan Simmons replied: “You should play the bonus word but use the knowledge of the opponent’s rack to steer the expected bonus reply such that it could give you a healthy score in return. In this case, the E needs to be in a weak-scoring bonus line (ie. row 7 or 9) which gives access to triple words at A8 or O8 (eg. PINKIER H2a). There is, of course, also a chance that, if the opponent has spelt OMELETTE wrongly in the first place, they have doubts about the correct spelling with the floating E.”

## Pun intended

*from Glennis Hale, Independent*

1. The roundest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.
2. I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.
3. She was only a whisky maker, but he loved her still.
4. A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class because it was a weapon of math disruption.
5. The butcher backed into the meat grinder and got a little behind in his work.
6. No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
7. A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.
8. Don't join dangerous cults: practise safe sects!
9. Atheism is a non-prophet organization.
10. I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.
11. It's not that the man did not know how to juggle, he just didn't have the balls to do it.
12. The man who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.
13. A backward poet writes inverse, and a deceased composer decomposes.
14. In democracy it's your vote that counts. In feudalism it's your count that votes.
15. When cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste of religion.

## Scrabble in movies

Scrabble has become such a basic part of everyday life in the United States that it even has a role in many popular American movies.

Just a few examples:

- In the 2001 film *The Wedding Planner*, the main character and her father are both members of their local Scrabble club
  - *Christine*, based on Stephen King's novel
  - The 2000 version of *Charlie's Angels*
  - The 1968 Mia Farrow classic, *Rosemary's Baby*
  - A game of Scrabble in *Snow Cake*
- Scrabble having only a small place in modern movies has clearly not been enough, considering the production of two movies which are actually based on the theme of Scrabble itself: *Word Freak*, and *Your Word Against Mine*.

*[Can you add any titles and details to this list? – Ed.]*



## Why so many tree species in the Amazon?

- by *Todd Palmer and Rob Pringle, writing in the Huffington Post*

**T**oday, we introduce a new feature in which we try to convince you that ecology is really interesting, and that you should send us some money so that we can keep studying it.

The aphorism goes that you shouldn't miss the forest for the trees. But ecologists actually spend a lot of time trying to see the trees for the forest. More specifically, we spend a lot of time thinking about why some forests have more different kinds of trees than other forests. Or why Brazil has 2500 times more native tree species than Iceland does.

And we don't just think about questions like these. Sometimes we argue. Sometimes, after one too many strawberry wine coolers, it even comes to blows. At least that's what we've been told – we can't remember any of it.

One argument that has long simmered in ecological circles concerns why there are so many tree species in tropical rainforests. While these forests only cover 7% of the earth's land area, they contain roughly half of earth's biodiversity, including a lot of different types of trees.

Theories to explain this phenomenon have been circulating for decades, and most of them have assumed that it has something to do with differences in the characteristics of the tree species themselves.

Given that a tree has to make a living right where it is standing, it makes sense to specialize on a particular set of resources that are not being used by other nearby trees. Let's say you're a milk salesman. Your "resources" are customers who want a drink of milk. Would you rather set up shop next to another guy selling milk, or next to a guy

selling cookies? You'd probably move in next to the cookie guy, because moving in next to the other milk guy = competing with him for the same set of milk drinkers = fewer customers. Similar competitive interactions occur among tree species in a forest, and different species come to occupy different niches. It is easy to see how, over time, this kind of competition would promote diversification.

Or maybe diversity arises because baby trees have a hard time surviving when they grow up next to mother trees, because the mother tree attracts things that eat trees, which gobble up all the baby trees. Again, over time, you'd expect to find that the baby trees that actually make it to adulthood were widely spaced throughout the forest. Another analogy: if we are Hamburglars and you are a hamburger factory, then we are going to be all up in your proverbial grill, eating all the little Hamburglets you squeeze out. If, on the other hand, you take your Hamburglets and spread them all over the damn place – some in the dog park, some in the bathtub, some under your mother's pillow – we're going to have a hard time finding them all. (Although we'd probably find the ones under your mother's pillow.) Anyway, the Hamburglets that we can't find stand a better chance of growing up into proper hamburgers.

These theories make good sense, and a great many ecologists have spent a great deal of time trying to prove or disprove them. Everyone was happy.

But a few years back, an ecologist named Stephen P. Hubbell rocked the ecological world by suggesting that maybe the diversity of tropical forests really had nothing to do with differences between tree species. Maybe, Hubbell proposed, differences between species don't really



matter in determining their success. Maybe all those tree species are, for all practical purposes, interchangeable, and their success or failure have more to do with random events and complicated math than with their characteristics per se.

There followed seven more years of refined scientific argumentation, counter-argumentation, and drunken conference-hall brawls.

Then along came our friend Nathan Kraft of Berkeley, who addressed this issue in *Science*. Nathan hasn't resolved the debate, obviously. But he has made an important contribution to the subject in an ass-kicking paper that, frankly, we wish we had written ourselves.

Kraft and his co-authors made use of a 25-hectare plot (think 25 football fields) in which every tree with a stem bigger than 1 cm in diameter is mapped. That's a mind-boggling 150,000 trees, representing more than 1,100 species. Within that big plot, they looked at the characteristics of the trees occurring within each 20 x 20 m piece (625 in total).

They then generated a "null expectation" of what one should find in each piece of each plot, assuming that species characteristics don't particularly matter.

Scrabble™ players will appreciate this approach.

*[Now you are starting to see why this article is in Forwards! – Ed.]*

Pretend that tree species are letters, and that each species is weighted in proportion to its occurrence, as Scrabble™ letters are weighted in

proportion to their commonness in English words. Then just draw species randomly from a bag. If the collection of species that you get from a random draw matches what you observe in nature, then you can assume that the processes generating pattern in nature are also essentially random, or at least so complicated that they generate patterns that we can't distinguish from random ones. If what you observe in nature is significantly different from what you get in your random bag draws, then you must conclude that some non-random process is operating – i.e., that species, unlike Scrabble™ letters, have some traits that prevent their being plucked together in the same random draw.

The finding? In many cases, the observed patterns in nature were indeed different from those expected under the assumption of randomness. In other words, species traits do matter, and some process is making sure that very similar species tend not to occur side-by-side.

As to what exactly that process might be, Kraft et al. only speculated. So there is much more work to be done in Ecology Land – please send money right away.

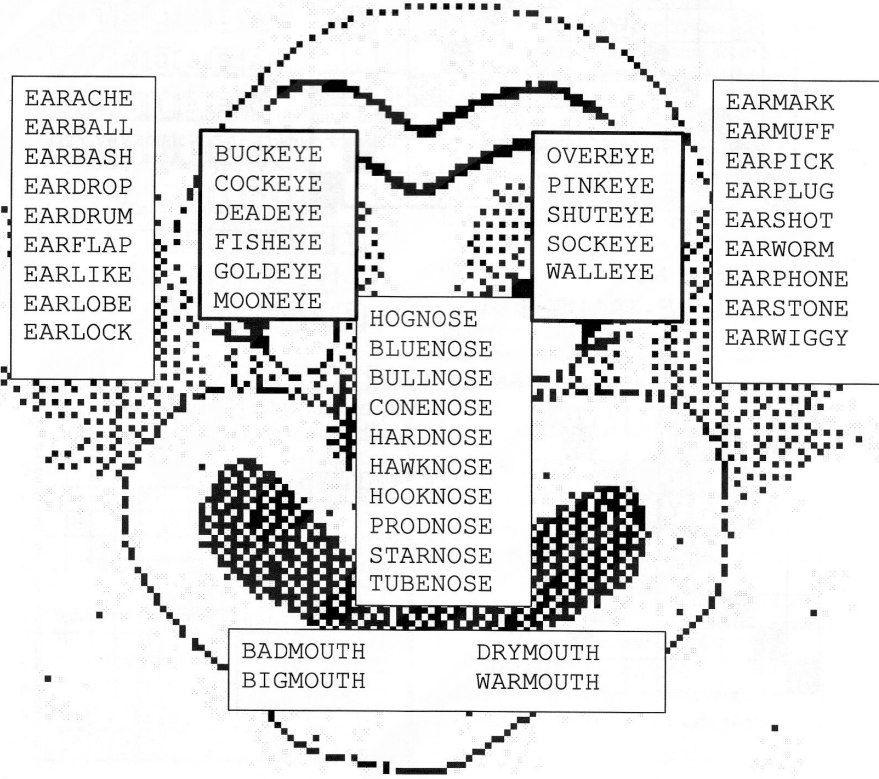
*Reproduced (slightly abridged) with the permission of the authors, who said they would be "honored" to be in our mag.*

# Can you face up to learning a few more sevens and eights?

*from Onwords, UK Scrabble magazine*

## CAN YOU FACE UP TO LEARNING A FEW MORE SEVENS & EIGHTS ?

Here's some arranged in a helpful form to assist you....  
(word-ending theme except for EAR because there are only three – can you think of those three? Solutions at end)



Answer on page 44.

## It's not a word unless it counts for Scrabble

*Eric Baxter, writing in the Californian newspaper Novato Advance, used many of Scrabble's vowelless words – and a few others you might not have seen before – in the following delightful article. [Non-words, used for showing pronunciation, are shown in quotation marks. Everything else is OK.]*

**P**fft! What a waste of time!  
Loitering and lollygagging.  
Pondering the correct pronunciation of the word CWM, a Welsh term that's made its way into the English language. I'm reading a book by Stephen Baxter (no relation but, by my knickers, if he was I'd be writing him a tsk tsk letter right now about this) and he tosses out this Welsh rarebit.

(Actually, a Welsh rarebit or rarebit is melted cheese poured over toast or crackers. Mmm. My use above is a pun and it's intentional. Baxter never puns, nor do his characters. They are very focused, serious, and plot driven. I'm getting a bit catty, I know, and need a saucer of milk followed by a long nap in the sun. Zzz.)

Is it pronounced like swim, I wonder? 'Kwim', 'sawm', 'kewm'? Beyond that, what the heck is a cwm anyway? Baxter's talking about things geological so it must be something to do with rocks or topology. I am familiar with tors and talus, chalk and chert, archipelagos and alluvium. But a cwm must be so special that only the Welsh will do.

Throwing up my hands (I just did this and it's a bit melodramatic but decidedly fun), I consult a large encyclopedic dictionary. It contains the bible and every other book in the English language, including Baxter's. Some of the words, of course, have been redacted for the sake of clarity.

Psst! Here it is: a cwm is a valley and is pronounced 'koom' as in doom. To my thinking, dell or dale would have done the trick but since Baxter's characters are in Scotland, he's talking about cwms. Never mind that the Scotch speak English, albeit incomprehensible at times, cunningly

cloaked with the burr. Never mind that Scotland and Wales are two separate countries. Even so, we are given cwm.

But before you run off to your next Scrabble game with this dirty little secret, first check your dictionary to make sure you can back it up.

Based on the notion that where there's smoke, there's fire, it occurred to me that cwm might be just the first of a lengthy list of vowelless words. Words that had flown under my literary radar for decades, secretly populating our language and infecting our writers with the desire to use such exotica (Baxter comes to mind). Was cwm the tip of the iceberg, I wondered? Hmm.

Further investigation reveals words we don't usually think of as words, such as brr, shh and pfft. I'm particularly fond of pfft because it's what Nero Wolf, an extremely large and erudite fictional detective, would say when he was irritated.

Beyond these expressive sound words, there's one more entry from Wales: crwth, pronounced 'krooth', which means crowd.

That was time well spent. Back to Baxter, then, where he ambushes me with another one: twee. What the devil is twee?

Shh. Nap time.

## Rescuing endangered words

- sent in by *Lynne Butler, New Plymouth*

**O**ld words die hard at Collins dictionary. The introduction of 2,000 new words into the new edition has put some of the older ones under threat. Reluctant to let them die out altogether, the nitid wordsmiths at Collins have drawn up a list of 24 near-extinct words (including “nitid”, which means bright or glistening), some of which can be saved if they receive sufficient public support.

Inevitably, celebrities have been recruited to adopt their own endangered words as if they were cute marsupials or fashionable political causes. Stephen Fry, who knows far too many words already, has plumped for “fusby”, which means short, stout or squat (or possibly, all three). The Poet Laureate Andrew Motion has chosen “skirr”, the whirring sound made by the wings of birds in flight, no doubt in order to liven up his tedious job next time he is called upon to write about the shooting season at Balmoral.

Good for them, I say. Fusby and skirr are both great words. Skirr has an onomatopoeic quality. Fusby does the work of three of its rivals. Neither has a direct synonym.

However, I’m not so convinced by some of the other words on the endangered list. English has far too many words already (two or three times as many as French and German) without trying to resurrect dead ones which will never catch on again.

“Please devote your attentions to the recrement (waste matter) in the bathroom,” is not a sentence I can imagine tripping easily off the tongue in conversations with my flatmates. It does not help that recrement sounds too similar to excrement. Do we really want to have as many words for toiletry matters as the Eskimos have for snow?

Similarly, how necessary is “agrestic” when rural will do just as well, “vaticinate” [anagram INACTIVE] instead of

prophesy or “fatidical” instead of prophetic

Scanning down the list, “periapt” doesn’t actually sound very combative, we have more than enough slang words for foul-smelling without rescuing “olud” and I’m not entirely sure if “malison” is a curse in the literal sense or something you’re meant to say when you stub your toe and don’t want to blaspheme. All of these words have a certain “caducity” (perishableness), including caducity and have died, I would suggest, for a good reason.

I am, however, a fan of griseous (streaked or mixed with grey) and muliebrity (the condition of being a woman). Although I have had personal experience of neither, they would both fill useful, economic voids in my vocabulary.

Yet they’re both piped to the post for me by “embrangle” (to confuse or entangle), which also happens to be the favourite of the BBC presenter Adrian Chiles. If that can keep “credit crunch” out of the dictionary – especially when used as an adjective – I’ll never malison again.

*by Iain Hollingshead*

### Obsolete

No longer used by the timid. Said chiefly of words. A word which some lexicographer has marked obsolete is thereafter an object of dread and loathing to the fool writer, but if it is a good word and has no exact modern equivalent equally good, it is good enough for the good writer. Indeed, a writer’s attitude toward “obsolete” words is as true a measure of his literary ability as anything except the character of his work. A dictionary of obsolete and obsolescent words would not only be singularly rich in strong and sweet parts of speech; it would add large possessions to the vocabulary of every competent writer who might not happen to be a competent reader.

- *Ambrose Bierce, The Devil’s Dictionary*



## Outdoor Scrabble

Scrabble games at Jane and Keith Crane's house in North Canton, Ohio are a physical as well as mental pursuit.

The Cranes have installed an 8-foot-square game board in their backyard. Keith fashioned the board from pavers laid in a bed of sand – 225 of them, to be exact. He installed them all in one day and had the back pain to prove it!

Jane painted the bonus squares in the proper colours and made letter tiles from craft-store wood plaques. She took apart shelves and reconfigured the pieces to make tile racks, and pavers and tiles were sealed to prevent water damage.

Now playing Scrabble at the Crane house is an outdoor sport. The players



have to get out of their seats to place their tiles on the board and pick new ones from the selection spread out face down in the grass.

"You know, it's fun because we get outside," Jane Crane says. "It gives us a good excuse to be out." Sometimes relatives, friends or curious neighbours show up to play or watch.

They haven't faced many challenges, other than having to light patio torches when darkness falls or dealing with the few times their dog has run across the game board. If it rains, they just take the game inside – on a regulation Scrabble board, that is. "But you know," Jane Crane says, "it's not as much fun."



*How come you never get leg cramps when you're ahead?*

# Domino effect

[Dominion Post, 9 November]

Scrabble is the new cool. Old favourite games are making a comeback. Julie Jacobson takes a look at the revival.

In Tinseltown, a night on the tiles is the new black. Once the preserve of shirt-sleeved pub-goers, the humble game of dominoes is taking the celebrity world by storm – so much so that Hollywood Domino, a variation on the classic game, was launched at a 1940s style black-tie event earlier this year and is due to hit our stores.

At the Pit bar at Wellington’s Bats theatre, its not dotty black blocks the punters are rearranging but cream ones. Tuesday is Scrabble night, with the 60s and 70s beach-bach favourite having a renaissance, thanks largely to publicity about the success of Christchurch’s Nigel Richards – World and United States National Champion – and the internet, where Facebook devotees play online with “friends”.

Pit manager Hannah Clarke, 29, organised the first evening several months ago. After playing online during a hiatus from work after breaking her foot, she discovered the joys of “real Scrabble with real people” while competing with friends at the beach over summer.

The bar has three Scrabble sets, although players are welcome to take their own, the “official” dictionary is the Oxford NZ, full of colloquialisms that wouldn’t normally be admissible, and the bartender is the adjudicator.

“If there’s a dispute, the bar person gets the final call. We had one family in the other night where a kid challenged “gobs” – his father had put it down – and they called in the barmaid,” says Clarke. She gave it the nod.

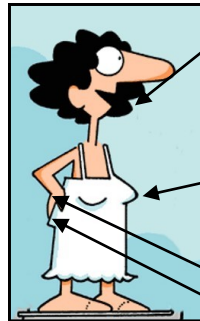
*sent in by Vicky Robertson, Wellington*

The best word of the week – not necessarily the highest scoring one – wins a free drink, and the player becomes that week’s Scrabble champ. Regulars include groups of 20-somethings, backpackers – Wellington’s YHA is just down the road – and a local couple “who come down because they’re sick of playing each other”.

*reproduced courtesy of  
The Dominion Post*

## Some useful expansions for AZO or ZOO

*- from Jennifer Smith*



BAZOO  
Hums into a  
GAZOO or  
KAZOO or  
GAZOOKA  
BAZOOMS (must  
have S)  
Doesn't have a brass  
RAZOO  
WAZOO

- BAZOO(S) US slang for mouth
- GAZOO(S) cigar-shaped musical instrument you hum into
- KAZOO(S) same as GAZOO
- RAZOO(S) imaginary coin
- WAZOO(S) slang for a person’s bottom
- GAZOOKA(S) same as GAZOO
- BAZOOMS slang for woman’s breasts
- Not illustrated
- BAZOOKA(S) portable rocket-launcher
- GAZOO(S) same as GAZON(S), sod used to cover parapet of fortification

# Causeway Challenge et al

- info supplied by Howard Warner

As we go to press, it's a week away from the Causeway Challenge in Malaysia *[and the news is all about the strife in Mumbai and Bangkok – Ed.]*

The New Zealand team is made up of Nigel (Winner of Just About Every Competition Going) Richards, Jeff Grant, Joanne Craig, Liz Fagerlund and myself. (Jeff and wife Pat and I are heading off on Sunday. Liz is going direct from the Trans-Tasman Challenge in Sydney, I think. And of course Nigel and Joanne don't have quite so far to travel.)

The other national teams are from Australia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, the UK, the US and Nigeria. There will also be an Asian team (players from Pakistan, India, UAE, the Philippines and Singapore) and a rest-of-the-world team (players from the US, Canada, Malta, Romania and Thailand/UK).

Alongside the main teams event is a four-day individuals' event, the Causeway Open, which has attracted around 80 players. Among them are Kiwis Rosalind

Philips, Allie Quin and Betty Eriksen.

After the Causeway events — in Johor Bahru, southern Malaysia — the international circuit moves on to Penang, in northern Malaysia. The big event there is the World Youth Championships, involving 60 players aged under 18 (the youngest is 11). Unfortunately, New Zealand has no representatives — I hope (and so do the organisers) that we can rectify that in future years.

The countries with most players attending are Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia and Australia.

Alongside the kids' event will be the Penang Island Challenge, designed to give parents and hangers-on some Scrabble. I'll probably play in that. (I had originally intended chilling out in Penang after my Causeway exertions, but you know how it is — when there's a game in town...)

And thank God none of these events are in Mumbai (where five Kiwis were playing in the World Champs a year ago to the day) or Bangkok.

**STOP PRESS** Here are brief results of major tournaments held after the deadline for this issue. Fuller stories will appear in the next issue.

## TransTasman Challenge

Australia beat NZ by 179.5 wins to 108.5. Individual winner was Rod Talbot of Australia. Best of the Kiwis was Mike Sigley in 4th place.

## Causeway Challenge

After leading the field on day 1, the NZ team finished 4th—a great effort for the 7th seeds. The Australian team won the event, with the United Kingdom second and Nigeria third. Individual

winner was David Eldar (Australia). Best of the Kiwis was Nigel Richards in 4th spot. Allie Quinn was the best of the Kiwis in the open division, finishing 17th with 19 wins.

Annotated games can be found at [www.causewayscrabble.com](http://www.causewayscrabble.com). The 2009 event will be held from 2nd to 6th December.

## World Youth Championships

This event was won by Charnrit Khongthanasat of Thailand.

## Penang Island Challenge

David Eldar 1st, Nigel Richards 2nd, Howard Warner 3rd.

# Solutions

## Can you face up to it? (from page 38)

Ear words are DOGEAR, REDEAR and WHEATEAR.

## Anagrams of people and places (from page 6)

Did Howard have a SALLAD with his meals in Dallas?

A Scrabble player SALVAGES a good word from Las Vegas.

You all AGONISED over San Diego – did you DIAGNOSE the anagram?

Anagrams of Rodney are ROYNED (archaic word for gnawed) and YONDER.

Anagram of Hastings is STASHING.

Anagram of Kapiti is PATAKI (NZ sand flounder)

## Highest single turn (from page 13 of the September issue)

EXTERNALIZATION, which, according to Tony Charlton, is worth 914 points.

(Sorry we forgot to include this solution in the last issue of *Forwards*.)

## Change a letter (from page 22)

GILLAROO, JILLAROO.

## This always happens to me (from page 32)

LICTORS ancient Roman officials

TROCHILS types of hummingbirds

COISTRIL knave

The cartoonist suggested using the word OSTRICH. But who would play a 6-letter word when you had a choice of three bonuses!

## Twenty years ago (from page 26)

Words that are now allowable:

ARTESIAN BINGERS DAGGIEST

DATINGS EVENTED IDOLATOR

LEANERS NESTINGS REGRANTS

SPLURGER SUITERS UNLINES

UNRIVALED WRENCHER

## Anagrammatical message from page 10)

Seasons Greetings

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

# Tournament Calendar 2009

Tournament	Place	Dates
Pakuranga	Auckland	24 & 25 January
ACC Masters Games	Wanganui	7-8 February
Rotorua	Rotorua	28 February - 1 March
Wellington	Wellington	14-15 March
Dunedin Lion Open	Dunedin	4-5 April
NZ Masters #	Rotorua	11-13 April
Christchurch	Christchurch	9-10 May
NZ National Champs	Christchurch	30-31 May
Christchurch	Christchurch	12-13 September
Wanganui	Wanganui	24-25 October
Otago Lion Open	Dunedin	14-15 November
World Scrabble Champs#	To be advised	To be advised

# entry restricted to qualifiers

**Note:** other tournaments may be planned but had not been notified at the time of going to press

# Rankings

## NZASP Rankings list as at 15 December 2008

Rank	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%	Rank	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%
1	Howard Warner	2054	1165	1608	72%	44	Hazel Purdie	1483	691.5	1397	49%
2	Joanne Craig	2008	159	240	66%	45	Margie Hurly	1482	235	440	53%
3	Jeff Grant	1995	1365	1778	77%	46	Karyn McDougall	1472	559.5	1061	53%
4	Blue Thorogood	1988	347	504	69%	47	Shirley Hol	1462	441	927	48%
5	Steven Brown	1985	704.5	1292	55%	48	Maureen Holliday	1458	535	1036	52%
6	Peter Sinton	1978	465.5	630	74%	49	Ruth Groffman	1420	320.5	646	50%
7	Kristian Saether	1932	32	55	58%	50	Shirley Martin	1419	562	1080	52%
8	Mike Sigley	1918	801	1118	72%	51	Andree Prentice	1417	712	1387	51%
9	John Foster	1914	1126	1962	57%	52	Olivia Godfrey	1415	291	505	58%
10	Glennis Hale	1908	1166.5	2070	56%	53	Clare Ruckstuhl	1391	157	294	53%
11	Lynne Butler	1892	752	1218	62%	54	Roger Coates	1381	518	1104	47%
12	Andrew Bradley	1866	603	1166	52%	55	John Baird	1370	93	158	59%
13	Rogelio Talosig	1865	318.5	530	60%	56	Irene Smith	1370	66	124	53%
14	Val Mills	1850	721	1528	47%	57	Kaite Hansen	1367	149	265	56%
15	Glenda Foster	1823	751	1456	52%	58	Faye Cronhelm	1357	651	1308	50%
16	Liz Fagerlund	1814	706	1337	53%	59	Pat Bryan	1356	98	162	60%
17	Chris Hooks	1784	782.5	1616	48%	60	Delcie Macbeth	1355	591	1127	52%
18	Lawson Sue	1780	238.5	445	54%	61	Yoon Kim Fong	1343	366	698	52%
19	Debbie Caldwell	1755	403.5	657	61%	62	Pam Barlow	1340	429	835	51%
20	Denise Gordon	1733	602	1205	50%	63	Leila Thomson	1333	421	953	44%
21	Paul Lister	1725	672.5	1154	58%	64	Ella Rushton	1324	160	256	63%
22	Marianne Bentley	1721	223	490	46%	65	Glenda Geard	1319	778.5	1576	49%
23	Shirley van Essen	1710	297	559	53%	66	Ernie Gidman	1307	282	557	51%
24	Amelia Carrington	1693	236	403	59%	67	June Mackwell	1299	550	1275	43%
25	Lynne Powell	1693	799.5	1575	51%	68	Yvette Hewlett	1296	320.5	673	48%
26	Ann Hough	1682	403.5	826	49%	69	Vicky Robertson	1287	47	84	56%
27	Janice Cherry	1652	308	587	52%	70	Mary Gray	1277	281.5	532	53%
28	Peter Jones	1651	703	1431	49%	71	Marianne Patchett	1274	233.5	449	52%
29	Murray Rogers	1648	406.5	783	52%	72	Lorraine Van Veen	1274	628.5	1249	50%
30	Rosemary Cleary	1646	511	1106	46%	73	Steve Richards	1248	182	373	49%
31	Pam Robson	1642	459	1002	46%	74	Jean O'Brien	1247	774	1524	51%
32	Selena Chan	1639	202	352	57%	75	Marian Ross	1243	381	769	50%
33	Helen Sillis	1622	608	1198	51%	76	Chris Higgins	1233	63	95	66%
34	Glenyys Buchanan	1622	514	1102	47%	77	Scott Chaput	1232	60	102	59%
35	Ian Patterson	1622	147	258	57%	78	Katrina Allen	1227	70	128	55%
36	Rosalind Phillips	1619	293.5	544	54%	79	Betty Eriksen	1220	812	1631	50%
37	Jennifer Smith	1599	663	1338	50%	80	Su Walker	1210	617	1215	51%
38	Lynn Wood	1567	1132.5	2388	47%	81	Dianne Cole-Baker	1206	170	316	54%
39	Frank Robinson	1513	150.5	290	52%	82	Ray Goodyear	1200	166	336	49%
40	Allie Quinn	1511	796.5	1640	49%	83	Margaret Cherry	1195	376	762	49%
41	Joan Thomas	1503	615.5	1220	50%	84	Allison Torrance	1185	233	438	53%
42	David Gunn	1496	963	1934	50%	85	Elaine Moltzen	1184	449	901	50%
43	Anderina McLean	1488	186.5	318	59%	86	Lynn Carter	1183	318	592	54%

Rank	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%	Rank	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%
87	Lyn Dawson	1177	286	521	55%	136	Rosemary Wauters	763	86.5	161	54%
88	Ann Candler	1175	603.5	1291	47%	137	Bernice Hyde	762	180.5	351	51%
89	Rhoda Cashman	1147	683.5	1426	48%	138	Olwen Skelton	744	443	923	48%
90	Carolyn Kyle	1145	448	896	50%	139	Susi Nicholson	729	43.5	70	62%
91	Correne James	1125	571	1183	48%	140	Kathleen Mori-Barker	728	261.5	542	48%
92	Lyn Toka	1123	388.5	745	52%	141	Anne Scatchard	720	70.5	121	58%
93	Jean Boyle	1100	279.5	507	55%	142	Maria Clinton	720	143	290	49%
94	Connie Flores	1070	109.5	170	64%	143	Bev Edwards	703	69.5	122	57%
95	Shirley Wyatt	1066	402.5	865	47%	144	Alison Holmes	680	87	156	56%
96	Roto Mitchell	1057	431	841	51%	145	Jean Wacker	675	191	369	52%
97	Liz Richards	1044	185.5	371	50%	146	Rahimah Abdullah	660	22.5	56	40%
98	Malcolm Graham	1033	202.5	403	50%	147	Heather Landon	642	159	322	49%
99	Margaret Lyall	1029	383.5	782	49%	148	Suzanne Harding	642	90	190	47%
100	Karen Gray	1022	113	206	55%	149	Dorothy Haining	641	452	912	50%
101	Annette Coombes	1020	448	988	45%	150	Christina Linwood	637	22	42	52%
102	Barbara Dunn	1014	130.5	216	60%	151	Roslyn Lister	620	263.5	522	50%
103	Gabrielle Bolt	1002	229.5	452	51%	152	Anthea Jones	604	101	194	52%
104	Paul Freeman	996	47.5	94	51%	153	Maria Barker	582	67	156	43%
105	Chris Handley	972	272	518	53%	154	Barbara Cornell	572	24	73	33%
106	Colleen Cook	955	173.5	354	49%	155	Judy Driscoll	556	12.5	56	22%
107	Suzanne Frederick	954	129	221	58%	156	Iris Boulton	555	122	257	47%
108	Roger Cole-Baker	948	186.5	356	52%	157	Pauline Smeaton	530	241.5	477	51%
109	Agnes Rowland	936	47	85	55%	158	Alison Vautier	527	31	100	31%
110	Yvonne MacKenzie	930	340.5	736	46%	159	Noelene Bettjeman	524	143	313	46%
111	Jena Yousif	915	231.5	465	50%	160	Margaret Hanson	510	427	876	49%
112	Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell	893	439	909	48%	161	Sue Mayn	492	92	250	37%
113	Cicely Bruce	893	47	74	64%	162	Paula Gibbons	474	346	730	47%
114	Janny Henneveld	892	200	423	47%	163	Marc Van Hoecke	473	58	127	46%
115	Nola Borrell	889	82.5	143	58%	164	Lynn Thompson	461	89.5	203	44%
116	Gordon Pinchin	887	157.5	313	50%	165	Betty Sutherland	437	190	445	43%
117	Jo Ann Ingram	882	99.5	191	52%	166	Margaret Miller	428	71	183	39%
118	Pam Muirhead	875	41.5	61	68%	167	Betty Wilson	420	253.5	513	49%
119	Joan Pratt	873	560	1074	52%	168	Judith Bach	399	41	90	46%
120	Kate Wignall	870	641.5	1274	50%	169	Antonia Aarts	397	19	56	34%
121	Catherine Henry	865	258.5	483	54%	170	Jean Craib	390	289	627	46%
122	Sheila Reed	861	109.5	229	48%	171	Anne-Louise Milne	363	35	212	17%
123	Carole Coates	845	447.5	915	49%	172	Ruth Godwin	333	37	129	29%
124	Michael Groffman	843	170.5	359	47%	173	Di Barritt	272	44.5	125	36%
125	Tony Charlton	838	99	199	50%	174	Bev Griffin	267	58	163	36%
126	Chris Day	831	37	72	51%	175	Bev Allen	232	17	79	22%
127	Veronica Zilinskas	814	142.5	247	58%	176	Trish Fox	0	7	65	11%
128	Herb Ramsay	813	41	57	72%						
129	Thelma Chisholm	812	178.5	380	47%						
130	Valma Gidman	812	545.5	1081	50%						
131	Judith Thomas	805	67.5	145	47%						
132	Liz Catchpole	782	339.5	702	48%						
133	Karen Miller	782	373.5	765	49%						
134	Jan Evans	770	79	172	46%						
135	Tim Henneveld	767	181.5	424	43%						

# Tournament Results

## Mt Albert Club

4-5 October

13 games

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
<b>Grade A</b>					
1	Howard Warner	MTA	11	1266	463
2	John Foster	IND	10	1011	438
3	Steven Brown	KAP	10	675	428
4	Jeff Grant	IND	8	652	436
5	Liz Fagerlund	MTA	8	366	412
6	Lawson Sue	MTA	8	103	405
7	Lynne Powell	HBC	7	-436	394
8	Val Mills	PAK	6	-587	386
9	Andrew Bradley	MTA	5	342	419
10	Chris Hooks	MTA	5	-233	378
11	Rogelio Talosig	IND	4	-407	380
12	Peter Jones	HAM	4	-750	372
13	Ann Hough	NEL	3	-1171	342
14	Janice Cherry	IND	2	-831	369

### Grade B

1	Amelia Carrington	IND	11	869	408
2	Lynn Wood	WEL	9	695	414
3	Rosalind Phillips	MTA	9	486	417
4	Jennifer Smith	HAM	9	334	405
5	Betty Eriksen	WAN	8	159	395
6	David Gunn	WKP	7	144	411
7	Margie Hurly	WRE	7	84	392
8	Allie Quinn	WRE	7	-173	385
9	Roger Coates	KIW	5	-100	371
10	Shirley Martin	HAM	5	-549	359
11	Hazel Purdie	MTA	5	-637	360
12	Faye Cronhelm	IND	3	-236	377
13	Delcie Macbeth	IND	3	-518	386
14	June Mackwell	NSB	3	-558	367

### Grade C

1	Olivia Godfrey	WEL	11	678	403
2	Pat Bryan	MTA	8	629	410
3	Pam Barlow	PAK	8	207	389
4	Ernie Gidman	ROD	7	83	378
5	Marianne Patchett	MTA	7	69	378
6	Vicky Robertson	WEL	7	2	384
7	Glenda Geard	IND	7	-13	391
8	Margaret Cherry	PAK	7	-49	385
9	Lorraine Van Veen	IND	6	-20	384

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
10	Mary Gray	MTA	6	-119	377
11	Ann Candler	NSB	5	-308	372
12	Chris Higgins	PAK	5	-392	371
13	Jean O'Brien	IND	4	-69	375
14	Dianne Cole-Baker	MTA	3	-698	347

### Grade D

1	Correne James	IND	10	950	422
2	Lynn Carter	NSB	10	709	391
3	Roto Mitchell	WAN	8	208	388
4	Shirley Wyatt	MTA	8	155	373
5	Annette Coombes	WKP	8	-6	373
6	Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell	KIW	7	28	377
7	Su Walker	MTA	6	-14	393
8	Valma Gidman	ROD	6	-307	347
9	Liz Catchpole	MTA	6	-619	345
10	Cicely Bruce	WRE	5	131	373
11	Roger Cole-Baker	MTA	5	46	363
12	Carole Coates	KIW	5	-121	361
13	Bernice Hyde	HBC	4	-674	352
14	Tim Henneveld	ROT	3	-486	346

### Grade E

1	Pam Muirhead	HBC	10	656	360
2	Janny Henneveld	ROT	8.5	299	320
3	Anne Scatchard	WRE	8.5	292	316
4	Suzanne Harding	WRE	8	428	303
5	Bev Edwards	WRE	7	-1	320
6	Mary Curtis	MTA	6	187	339
7	Elaine Ware	MTA	6	86	323
8	Noelene Bettjeman	HBC	5	-185	316
9	Margaret Miller	HBC	5	-730	275
10	Margaret Hanson	PAK	4	-392	268
11	Antonia Aarts	MTA	4	-691	296

## Golden Bay Tournament

4-5 October

13 games

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread
<b>A Grade</b>				
1	Debbie Caldwell	NEL	13	1685
2	Murray Rogers	NEL	12	682
3	Katrina Allen	NEL	7	-221
4	Steve Richards	NEL	6	-508



	Name	Club	Wins	Spread
5	Liz Richards	NEL	4	-468
6	Malcolm McKellar	NEL	3	-1170
<b>B Grade</b>				
1	Nola Borrell	IND	12	1229
2	Tony Charlton	NEL	11	83
3	Maria Clinton	NEL	9	77
4	Barbara Cornell	NEL	6	-322
5	Iris Boulton	NEL	6	-389
6	Karen Brookes *	NEL	1	-167
7	Heather Amos **	NEL	0	-411

\* Played 7 games

\*\* Played 8 games

## 20th Norfolk Island Scrabble Festival

	Name	Country	Wins	Points	B/W
<b>Anson Bay</b>					
1st	Anna Geange	(NZ)	15	8151	25
2nd	Lynn Wood	(NZ)	14	8594	28
3rd	Martin Waterworth	(AUS)	12	8086	31
<b>Ball Bay</b>					
1st	Rene Chelton	(AUS)	15	7923	18
2nd	Patti Ashwin	(AUS)	12	7805	29
3rd	Frances Adams	(AUS)	12	7623	27
<b>Cascade Bay</b>					
1st	Marianne Patchett	(NZ)	14	7981	21
2nd	Jean Gillespie	(AUS)	13	7990	19



*Tony Charlton (Nelson), second in B grade at Golden Bay*

	Name	Country	Wins	Points	B/W
3rd	Elaine Moltzen	(NZ)	12	8257	35
<b>Duncombe Bay</b>					
1st	Lyn Toka	(NZ)	16	8376	34
2nd	Rhonda Rickard	(AUS)	13	7743	14BW
3rd	Jeanette Hansen	(AUS)	11	7700	14
<b>Emily Bay</b>					
1st	Jenan Yousif	(NZ)	16	8143	22
2nd	Colleen Cook	(NZ)	14	7925	18
3rd	Cathryn Henry	(NZ)	14	7646	12
<b>Flat Rock</b>					
1st	Liz Catchpole	(NZ)	17	7421	15
2nd	Max Johnson	(AUS)	15	7428	16
3rd	Daisy Madden	(NZ)	13	7824	23
<b>Governor's</b>					
1st	Heather Landon	(NZ)	16	7600	17
2nd	Jacky Booth	(AUS)	16	7567	22
3rd	Kate Wignall	(NZ)	14	7253	10
<b>Headstone</b>					
1st	Fiona Kehely	(NZ)	17	7531	22
2nd	Margaret Penniket	(NZ)	14	7512	22
3rd	Ruth Godwin	(NZ)	13	6895	5
<b>Most Unusual Word</b>					
QURSH played by Lynn Wood (NZ)					
<b>Highest Individual Game Score</b>					
Carolyn Watt (AUS) 560 points					
<b>Highest Scoring Turn</b>					
Sherie Brown (AUS) RESTATER 122 points. Note, this word was not challenged off so the prize remained.					
<b>Word Puzzles</b>					
1st	Kempsey Kittens ( Joy Smith, Vicki Underhill, Sherie Brown)				
2nd	Correne James (NZ) and Jacky Booth (AUS)				
3rd	Sue Quirke and Peter Blagojevic (AUS)				
<b>Sports Person</b>					
Trevor Bouker (AUS)					
<b>Knockout Winner</b>					
Rene Chelton (AUS)					
<b>Knockout Runner Up</b>					
Liz Blanch (AUS)					
<b>New Zealand Champion</b>					
Anna Geange					
<b>Australian Champion</b>					
Martin Waterworth					
<b>Team Trophy</b>					
New Zealand: Liz Catchpole, Fiona Kehely, Lyn Toka, Jenan Yousif, Heather Landon					

## Wanganui Club 25-26 October

### 14 games

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
<b>Grade A</b>				
1 Howard Warner	MTA	12	1303	456
2 Mike Sigley	WAN	12	1013	441
3 Lynne Butler	NPL	9	-47	396
4 Glenda Foster	WEL	8	214	417
5 Denise Gordon	WAN	7	175	397
6 Glenyss Buchanan	LOH	3	-646	370
7 Jennifer Smith	HAM	3	-849	358
8 Helen Sillis	NPL	2	-1163	339

### Grade B

1 Lynn Wood	WEL	10	665	394
2 Andree Prentice	WAN	8	194	367
3 Olivia Godfrey	WEL	8	155	385
4 Yvette Hewlett	IND	7	448	414
5 Lynn Carter	NSB	7	26	393
6 Leila Thomson	LOH	7	-182	372
7 Betty Eriksen	WAN	5	-678	350
8 Jean Boyle	WAN	4	-628	362

### Grade C

1 Suzanne Frederick	WAN	9	375	405
2 Nola Borrell	IND	8	-58	371
3 Sheila Reed	WEL	7.5	365	381
4 Karen Miller	IND	6	-202	363
5 Thelma Chisholm	WEL	6	-266	345
6 Judith Thomas	IND	5.5	-214	365

## Rodney Club 8 November

### 7 games

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

### Grade B

1 Rosemary Cleary	WAN	7	377	408
2 Lawson Sue	PAK	6	273	413

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
3 Val Mills	PAK	5	321	380
4 Jennifer Smith	HAM	4	373	427
5 Roger Coates	KIW	2	-202	373
6 Joan Thomas	HAS	2	-254	378
7 Maureen Holliday	HBC	1	-427	362
8 David Gunn	WKP	1	-461	347

### Grade C

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

### Grade D

1 Shirley Martin	HAM	5	392	409
2 Ann Candler	NSB	4	391	400
3 Rhoda Cashman	HBC	4	133	390
4 Lynn Carter	NSB	4	-147	381
5 Betty Eriksen	WAN	3	-141	361
6 Faye Cronhelm	IND	3	-181	365
7 Bernie Jardine	SA	3	-502	325
8 Hazel Purdie	MTA	2	55	392

### Grade E

1 Margaret Bundock	HBC	5	390	347
2 Yoon Kim Fong	HAM	4	489	409
3 Liz Catchpole	MTA	4	-44	363
4 Su Walker	MTA	4	-70	384
5 Delcie Macbeth	IND	4	-72	369
6 Carole Coates	KIW	4	-179	366
7 Lorraine van Veen	IND	2	-112	260
8 Joan Pratt	HBC	1	-402	278

### Grade F

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

## Otago Open Tournament 15-16 November 2008

### 15 games

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
<b>Grade A</b>				
1 Peter Sinton	DUN	13	1268	438
2 Shirley van Essen	CHC	9	402	406
3 Paul Lister	CHC	8	407	405
4 Ian Patterson	DUN	7	-200	390
5 Ruth Groffman	DUN	4	-509	362
6 Karyn McDougall	DUN	4	-1368	345

### Grade B

1 Shirley Hol	CHC	12	385	404
2 Kaite Hansen	CHC	9	414	388
3 Ella Rushton	DUN	8	-290	373
4 Jean O'Brien	IND	6	-125	391
5 Marian Ross	DUN	5.5	-152	384
6 Betty Eriksen	WAN	4.5	-232	388

### Grade C

1 Scott Chaput	DUN	12	810	415
2 Carolyn Kyle	DUN	10	127	377
3 Karen Gray	DUN	7	343	383
4 Malcolm Graham	CHC	7	-23	370
5 Chris Handley	DUN	6	-739	350
6 Michael Groffman	DUN	3	-518	351

### Grade D

1 Herb Ramsay	CHC	12	1116	407
2 Kathleen Mori-Barker	CHC	10	653	401
3 Christina Linwood	DUN	9	226	361
4 Roslyn Lister	DUN	8	485	367
5 Marc van Hoecke	DUN	5	-81	340
6 Penny Irvine	DUN	5	-328	324
7 Anne-Louise Milne	DUN	4	-1038	311
8 Bev Allen	DUN	3	-1033	318

## Kiwi Club 29 November

### 7 games

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
<b>Grade A</b>				
1 Helen Sillis	NPL	5	178	406
2 Janice Cherry	PAK	4	214	378
3 Jennifer Smith	HAM	4	27	384
4 Pam Robson	IND	4	-109	364
5 Peter Jones	HAM	3	139	406
6 Anderina McLean	MTA	3	53	404

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
7 Hazel Purdie	MTA	3	-234	370
8 David Gunn	WKP	2	-268	374

### Grade B

1 Su Walker	MTA	6	418	411
2 Delcie Macbeth	IND	5	128	387
3 Roger Coates	KIW	4	275	390
4 Roto Mitchell	WAN	3	168	387
5 Yoon Kim Fong	KIW	3	-182	377
6 Annette Coombes	WKP	3	-349	364
7 Margaret Cherry	PAK	2	-211	376
8 Lynn Carter	NSB	2	-247	347

### Grade C

1 Val Flint	HAM	6	430	414
2 Kate Wignall	MTA	4	110	375
3 Jo Ann Ingram	TGA	4	79	368
4 Jena Yousif	KIW	4	22	371
5 Catherine Henry	TGA	3	58	370
6 Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell	KIW	3	-126	343
7 Carole Coates	KIW	2	-253	339
8 Liz Catchpole	MTA	2	-320	345

### Grade D

1 Janny Henneveld	ROT	7	511	325
2 Mary Curtis	MTA	5	-24	318
3 Bernice Hyde	HBC	4	125	318
4 Rosemary Wauters	TGA	4	-230	289
5 Anthea Jones	KIW	3	144	385
6 Tim Henneveld *	ROT	2.5	86	347
7 Pauline Smeaton	TGA	1.5	-146	347
8 Heather Landon	TGA	1	-466	325

### Grade E

1 Maria Barker	WKP	7	448	377
2 Margaret Penniket	KIW	6	412	395
3 Bev Griffin	TGA	4	259	354
4 Stella Dekker	HBC	4	-239	309
5 Karen Stewart	KIW	3	-443	294
6 Ruth Godwin *	ROT	2	53	357
7 Jeannie Lambert	ROT	2	-483	279

\* played 3 games

# 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)	590	Paul Lister (CHC)
Highest Take– off	54	Lisa McLean (IND)	68	Andrew Bradley (MTA)
Most Bonus Words (3 Game Session)			14	Jeff Grant (IND)
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) Paul Lister (CHC)	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)	—	—

## New Zealand Masters (23 Games)

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

## Contact Information

<b>Clubs (Nth to Sth)</b>	<b>Contact Person</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Meeting Day/Time</b>
<b>Please contact the contact person to find out the meeting venue</b>				
Whangarei (WRE)	Bev Edwards	09 430 2832	<a href="mailto:bevhola@xtra.co.nz">bevhola@xtra.co.nz</a>	Thurs 1pm
Rodney (ROD)	Linda Moore	09 425 4959	<a href="mailto:colin.linda@wave.co.nz">colin.linda@wave.co.nz</a>	Mon 1pm
Hibiscus Coast (HBC)	Joan Pratt	09 426 4521	<a href="mailto:jopra@xtra.co.nz">jopra@xtra.co.nz</a>	Mon 1.45pm
Nth Shore Bays (NSB)	Marge Dalzell	09 478 6248	<a href="mailto:anncan@clear.net.nz">anncan@clear.net.nz</a>	Tues 10am
Mt Albert (MTA)	Kate Wignall	09 625 0147	<a href="mailto:wignallc@hotmail.com">wignallc@hotmail.com</a>	Fri 7.15pm
Pakuranga/Howick (PAK)	Jeanette Owler	09 534 4453	<a href="mailto:cliffordo@xtra.co.nz">cliffordo@xtra.co.nz</a>	Tues 12.30pm Thurs 7pm
Papatoetoe/Holy Cross (PHC)	May Meads	09 278 5155	<a href="mailto:maymeads@xtra.co.nz">maymeads@xtra.co.nz</a>	Mon 1pm
Hamilton (HAM)	Jillian Greening	07 843 7652		Tues 7pm
Kiwi (KIW)	Elaine Moltzen	07 843 5108	<a href="mailto:jillian.greening@yahoo.co.nz">jillian.greening@yahoo.co.nz</a>	Thurs 7pm/1pm alt
Waikato Phoenix (WKP)	Annette Coombes	07 855 9970		Alt Weds 7pm
Mt Maunganui /Papamooa (MMP)	Ngaire Steel	07 542 1035		Alt Weds
Tauranga (TGA)	Stan Skinner	07 572 0866	<a href="mailto:marstan@xtra.co.nz">marstan@xtra.co.nz</a>	Tues 9.00am
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	<a href="mailto:scrabblyn@clear.net.nz">scrabblyn@clear.net.nz</a>	Saturday
Pukekura (PUK)	Mary Waite	06 757 8654		Thurs 9.45am
Stratford (STR)	Sharon Clarke	06 765 5653	<a href="mailto:sharontc@xtra.co.nz">sharontc@xtra.co.nz</a>	
Hastings (HAS)	Yvonne Wilson	06 878 8229	<a href="mailto:wilsonpad@paradise.net.nz">wilsonpad@paradise.net.nz</a>	Tues 1pm
Wanganui (WAN)	Rosemary Cleary	06 347 1837	<a href="mailto:rosecleary@hotmail.com">rosecleary@hotmail.com</a>	Mon 7pm
Masterton (MAS)	Hilda Scott	06 378 2663		
Lower Hutt (LOH)	Glenyss Buchanan	04 569 5433	<a href="mailto:glenyss.buchanan@xtra.co.nz">glenyss.buchanan@xtra.co.nz</a>	Tues 7.30pm
Kapiti (KAP)	Graeme Brown	04 297 0720	<a href="mailto:geb@xtra.co.nz">geb@xtra.co.nz</a>	Mon 7pm
Wellington (WEL)	Lynn Wood	04 387 2581	<a href="mailto:lynnwood@paradise.net.nz">lynnwood@paradise.net.nz</a>	Tues 7pm
Nelson (NEL)	Steve Richards	03 544 0475	<a href="mailto:steverichards@xtra.co.nz">steverichards@xtra.co.nz</a>	Wed 7pm
Christchurch (CHC)	Margaret Lyall	03 332 5963	<a href="mailto:noelrealst@hotmail.com">noelrealst@hotmail.com</a>	Fri 6.45pm Wed 12.45pm
Dunedin (DUN)	Chris Handley	03 464 0199	<a href="mailto:ruthgroffman@hotmail.com">ruthgroffman@hotmail.com</a>	Tues 7pm
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