

FORWORDS

Journal of the New Zealand Association of Scrabble® Players
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Types of type that are OK on a Scrabble board

In this issue

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Scrabbling around Italy and Egypt

Why Clubs have trouble keeping new members

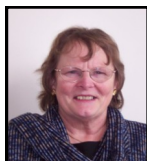
Pet Scrabble peeve – Paul Lister

More on learning, rules, and alternative Scrabble



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From the Editor

Where's the fun in that?

"I think it would be more fun if I knew the entire word list," I said to my daughter, as we were playing a game on the cruise ship on the Nile.

"Would it REALLY be more fun?" she countered. "You know what they say, 'Be careful what you wish for.'"

So I thought about it.

Perhaps knowing the entire word list would be boring?

- You'd never again have the fun of discovering new words, new hooks, new patterns, new anagrams.

Oh, isn't that interesting that IRONIC takes a front hook of T (TIRONIC).

Wow, there's only one word that starts with NK-, NKOSI(S).

- Perhaps it would take all the fun out of "trying" a word, a word that you've rationalised into being possible.

Well, if you can have a preschooler, surely you can have a SCHOOLER? (You can't.)

- And what about the thrill of trying a word that turns out to be an inspired guess when it survives a challenge? Much more fun than having known it all along!
- It would remove all the fun of dilly-dallying.

Is it, isn't it a word? Will I, won't I try it? Should I, shouldn't I challenge it? Does it, doesn't it take an S?

- Perhaps it would take the fun out of challenges altogether? Never again would you have that delicious sense of excitement as the challenge slip goes away, and you wait on tenterhooks to hear the verdict. You'd know the result

before the challenge left your table, and where's the fun in that?



Yes, I know I'm trying desperately hard to justify my lack of knowledge, my lack of application to learning the word list. Is it **really** more fun to be ignorant?

Before you all rush off to write letters to the editor telling me what fun it is knowing the word list, I should probably concede a couple of points:

- I suppose it's great fun to find an obscure word on your rack that you've known forever and never had the chance to play until now.
- I suppose it's fun to stagger your opponent with obscure words, and watch as they misguidedly challenge a ridiculous-looking word, like SMARAGD(S) or SMARAGDE(S), that you know is correct.
- And – assuming that knowing the word list perfectly makes you a better player, and that better players win more games – I do know it's *definitely* more fun to win than to lose a game!

Sigh! It's just a pity that, to most of us, learning the entire word list is more in the nature of **hard work** than fun.

However, those who achieve 100% knowledge of the word list are probably those positive people who have decided the hard work **is** fun.

Good on them. They deserve all the success they get.

From the Executive

My quotation for this year is “to succeed do the best you can, where you are, with what you have”.

Hi all, and welcome to another year of Scrabble. The year has begun well with tournaments around the country, and with plummeting air fares, I hope you have been able to secure some additional tournaments on your calendar. Nelson created a first when they had three one-day tournaments coinciding with their anniversary weekend. Great idea, and lucky for the people who could play on all three days.

Self adjudication has taken off remarkably well, with the very simple programme being used. Don't shiver if you think it will be all that is used in the future; it is an option. Some of our more mature Scrabblers don't need the added distraction from their game, and for them, the written challenge will still be available.

The great excitement for the month was the announcement of the date and venue for the World Scrabble Champs in November. It was naturally a big disappointment to see New Zealand didn't get a look-in as hosts, but I did express our interest very early in the days after Nigel won the coveted World title. We know that Malaysia will do a fantastic job, however, and the Causeway Challenge following will be an added incentive for our Scrabblers to make that team and the World team.

The open section can be entered by any New Zealander affiliated to the NZASP, so I encourage you to have a thought on this, and do some forward planning of a pre Christmas holiday. I'm

not sure how I'm going to get there yet, but it is my number one target for 2009. As President of the NZASP, I try to attend as many tournaments as I can, both here and overseas, if only as a supporter, to give encouragement to our team.

Malaysia will be an expensive exercise, even with the decline in airfares. Your help in fundraising is always appreciated, as is the participation in tournaments and the levy of \$1 a day which is extracted from the event. Funds for the Worlds on fixed deposit have been affected by the drop in interest rates, but our treasurer Joan is keeping a watchful eye on the kitty. Thanks Joan, you do a great job with our precious dollars.

Nigel has gained an automatic entry into the 2009 worlds, but our allocation has dropped by one because of our placings in the 2007 event. (The results of each Worlds determines the number of entrants in the following tournament.) Our team works extremely hard to be match fit for this event, and I know of the endless hours of regular study undertaken. It is a disappointment when the result sheets are drawn up and our team member is second but this year could be different. It is the year of the ox, and oxen are stubborn and determined. **GO NEW ZEALAND.**

Take care and we'll meet soon on the Scrabble circuit.



Lynn

Mailbox

- from Tony Charlton, Nelson

Re Highest Single Turn

(Page 12, Forwards, September)

I was hoping to generate some correspondence with my score of 914 for the word EXTERNALIZATION.

The words along the bottom line were - - TERN - - - ZA - IO - and you have ELAXTIN on your rack. Playing the word EXTERNALIZATION uses three of the triple word score squares. I am presuming that this means the score of 32 can then be multiplied by $3 \times 3 \times 3 = 27$, giving a total of 864, plus the bonus of 50, giving a grand total of 914 points.

I have never seen a Scrabble rule stating that you can use three triple word score squares in this way. I would be interested in getting some feedback on this.

- from JUJU TOMTOM

Re Tautonymania

(Page 27, Forwards, September)

I'm feeling like a LULU, having made a classic BOOBOO, by trying to locate LILIVERVER from ONGAONGA in the telephone directory (with the objective of finding a new Scrabble PALPAL). I would like to know HUHU is the very clever ding-a-LINGLING I will need to INTERINTER after I have delivered a CHOPCHOP to his/her TESTES or PUSSPUSS.

[Since this comment is away from its original context, I should point out that LILI, VERVER, LINGLING, INTERINTER, CHOPCHOP and PUSSPUSS are not acceptable Scrabble words. -Ed.]

- from Rhoda Cashman, Hibiscus Coast

Another interesting magazine. Thank you ... however, I wonder how a previous year's results [for Rodney's Tournament Results for 8 November] found their way into this edition. I'm sure there must be others wondering the same thing.

[Not too much of a mystery as to how it happened – clearly, an old file was imported instead of the new one! The correct results are included in this issue. We are very sorry if the mistake upset anybody. -Ed.]

World economy affects even Scrabble

Financial reports in February show lower-than-expected earnings for Hasbro, USA's second biggest toy maker.

Hasbro, the producer of Scrabble and Monopoly, reported its fourth-quarter profit fell a sharper-than-expected 30 percent. It earned \$93.6 million, or 62 cents a share, in the October-December quarter, down from \$133.7 million, or 84 cents a share, a year earlier.

Hasbro said they have put promotional programs in place and as a result, ended 2008 in a "much better inventory position than we would have otherwise, although it did negatively impact operating profit in the fourth quarter."



He finally did it.

Club News



Christchurch

Our Club continues to grow, and currently we have about 40 members. We are looking forward to hosting the Nationals in May/June.

A limited number of billets are available with club members – be in quick if you need one! Elsewhere in this issue we have provided a list of local motels and their contact numbers. If you would like a pick up from your accommodation just let us know.

Our planned entertainment for the USA Scrabblers travelling on the cruise ship *Celebrity Millennium* did not take place, which was disappointing after our effort to organise the day for them. The original tour leaders had to pull out, and following that there was a breakdown in their communications with us.

Dunedin

2008 club competition results

Club Champion	Karyn McDougall
Round Robin	Peter Sinton
Ladder	Karyn McDougall
Challenge	Karyn McDougall
Dictionary	Daisy Madden
Highest winning score	Karyn McDougall (642)
Highest losing score	Scott Chaput (475)

Obituary

Elvira Steel was a stalwart club member and will be greatly missed. She always had a smile for everyone and was superb at initiating new members into the intricacies of the game.

Hamilton

2008 club competition results

Club Champion	Peter Jones
Knockout Champion	David Gunn
Pot Luck winner	Peter Jones

Ladder	Jennifer Smith
Pyramid	Peter Jones
Round Robin	Jennifer Smith
Highest individual turn	Roger Coates (149 for beeriest)
Most bonus words	David Gunn
Highest winning score	Val Flint (616)
Most improved player	Val Flint
Sportsperson of the year	Jillian Greening

Kiwi

2008 was a very successful year for our Club as we attained First Equal Club at the Nationals, and our four members who went to Norfolk Island all did very well, achieving first, second and third placings plus most bonus words in their respective grades. We also came home with the Kaimai Trophy after winning most games in our annual interclub challenge against Tauranga.

We concluded 2008 with our annual prize-giving, and congratulate our winners. One special mention – Val Flint was top of our Championship Points for 15 weeks, then on the last night Lyn Toka had a night to remember and did the unthinkable. What a lovely surprise for her as she was announced Club Champ for 2008.

2008 club competition results

Club Champion	Lyn Toka
Ladder Champion	Betty Gibb
Pot Luck Champion	Betty Gibb
Round Robin	Shirley Martin
(Group 1), Jenan Yousif (Group 2)	
Pyramid	Elaine Moltzen
Knockout	Marj Baillie (Group 1), Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell (Group 2)
Most bonus words	Lyn Toka
Most 100-point words	Karen Stewart
Most improved player	Kim Foo Yong

Best average Jenan Yousif
 Achievement award Fay Wright
 New Club record Karen Stewart
 (8x100-pt words)

Scrabble a la Nelson

- by Shirley Hol,
 Christchurch

Playing
 Scrabble in
 Stoke at
 Nelson's
 February
 Tournament
 was sheer bliss.
 Three whole
 days of Scrabble!



Shirley Hol

Of course there were the few agonising moments which we all experience.

I always feel appreciative of the help we have in running our tournaments from non Scrabble players for whom the whole thing is not the riveting experience it is for us. Ann Hough's family has always been heavily involved, and her three gorgeous daughters did not disappoint in this tournament. Always happy and pleasant and helpful – it cannot be easy when they have to return a challenge slip to their mother with an unfavourable result for her!

Six of Ann's eight children have helped out in local tourneys since 1998. At that tournament, Carl (then 14 years old) adjudicated, Karyn (12) helped in the kitchen, and Louise (10) and Barbra (8) were runners. Over the intervening 11 years they have all helped at different times, along with Rosie (now 16) and Julie (14).

It was a nice well-run, laid-back tournament. Thank you, Nelson.

We travelled to Nelson in style in Malcolm Graham's Bentley with its comfy leather upholstery, feeling very royal. Pleasant company in the motel with Allison Torrance and Gabriel Bolt, with

Margaret Lyall and husband Noel next door. The president and treasurer were upstairs as befits their station. Lyn Dawson offered tea, coffee, Milo, or red or white wine plus ironing while you wait.

Sunday was hot! hot ! hot! Gabriel and I decided to go for a swim at Monaco on the coast, but the reality was not the Mediterranean waters we had hoped for, so we walked along the beach until I suggested cutting through the bush above the beach. (I always think it is nicer after a walk to return a different way.) We fought our way through scrub and bush, over and under fences until we were suddenly confronted with a motorway. We waited until a crowd of cars zoomed past, then made our way cautiously or recklessly over to the other side, with me experiencing some difficulty getting my legs over the barrier in the middle – tooted at twice by a couple of alarmed drivers. I was just wondering how I was going to tackle the steepish slippery slope on the other side, which Gabriel had just leaped up like a mountain goat.

Gabriel, though, has no time for such contemplations – just ask anybody who played Scrabble against her in her earlier days as a Christchurch club member. Speedy! Anyway, she somehow hauled me up to the top. More bush to get through, until we climbed a fence into somebody's garden, scuttled furtively down the path and on to the street, removing twigs and leaves from our clothes and hair. We walked a few streets in what we hoped was the right direction until Gabriel noticed the Stoke Cemetery."



Gabriel Bolt

I was worriedly looking to the end of the street which had a sign 'Cattery' pointing down a dirt track. "Ooh," I said, "I do hope this is not a dead end." "This is the dead end," Gabriel replied. Down the track we went, over a fence into a recycling station, and out to the road.

Back at the motel, we recovered nicely sitting drinking wine under a gazebo at the rear of the motel and having a few laughs. If you go to any future Nelson tournaments, give Monaco a miss, and give Gabriel Bolt a wide berth!



Jillian Greening watches the game between Erana Davis and Robert Hogg

Phoenix Garden Tourney

- by David Gunn, Phoenix

Over 20 players attended the Waikato Phoenix Annual Garden Tourney in Claudelands on 15 February, hosted for the 13th time by Annette Coombes. One and a half inches of rain the day before had organisers in a flap, but glorious sunshine on the day saw the gazebos and umbrellas used for protection from the sun, not the rain.

A Swiss format of six rounds was used for the first time, and five players all on one loss going into the final round proved how exciting a Swiss draw can be. Every player had at least one win, with Annette and Erana Davis playing three games each to make up the odd number.

June Mackwell proved that many a good tune is played on an old fiddle when she narrowly pipped Kim Yoon Fong 393-372 in the final round to beat Lyn Toka by 109 points on spread. June only lost one game, her first – to David Gunn, who lost his last three games to end up 6th.

Number one ranked, Nic Cavanagh had a 250 point loss to June. She told me she had some trepidation playing Nic after his exploits at Howick/Pakuranga. Second ranked Peter Jones was also a victim to June, losing by 69 in the penultimate game, and ending up 4th overall. His wife Val won her last game to end on two wins and in 16th place, a good effort in her first tournament.

Ten games saw 500 scores, Roger Coates scoring 556, 3 ahead of Peter

Jones and 5 ahead of Kim, who also had scores of 523 and 522 for a 440 average and 719 spread, both the highest of the day.

1. June Mackwell
2. Lyn Toka
3. Kim Yoon Fong
4. Peter Jones
5. Nic Cavanagh
6. David Gunn
7. Hazel Purdie
8. Faye Cronhelm



From left: Lyn Toka, Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell, Marj Baillie and Faye Cronhelm



Jenan Yousif plays Roger Coates

Wanganui/New Plymouth

The Wanganui Scrabble Club paid a final farewell to Nita Oldham in August. Ever elegant, Nita was still working in the music scene and keenly scrabbling until her illness this year.

And another Scrabble stalwart from New Plymouth, Martha Morgan, also died recently. Martha is best remembered for her "can do" attitude, her humour and courage. Martha's home was the seat of the New Plymouth Scrabble Club for many years. They will both be sorely missed.

DAZZLING DOZEN

There are many common words ending in Z, for example QUIZ, WALTZ and TOPAZ. Some end in a double Z, such as BUZZ, JAZZ and FRIZZ. Here are some more unusual words ending in the useful letter Z.

CAZ	EXAHERTZ
MEZZ	HUMBUZZ
SITZ	ALFEREZ
YUTZ	KUVASZ
ASSEZ	WAREZ
CAPIZ	GRENZ

anagram corner

Scrabblers are dab hands at transposing letters, for example BILGE to GIBEL and CURTAIN to TURACIN. On a higher level, it was once said of ENGLAND'S QUEEN VICTORIA that she GOVERNS A NICE QUIET LAND. Queen Victoria never played Scrabble, but here are anagrams of six famous people who have.

Louis Armstrong	LOR', I SUNG A STORM!
Kylie Minogue	I LIKE 'EM YOUNG
Monica Seles	SMILES ON ACE
Liam Brady	ADMIRABLY
Alison Holst	SLOSH IN A LOT
Bing Crosby	SONG BY CRIB

Van Gogh's relatives

- from Glennis Hale, Independent

After much careful research it has been discovered that the artist Vincent Van Gogh had many relatives. Among them were:

- His obnoxious brother - Please Gogh
- His dizzy aunt - Verti Gogh
- The brother who ate prunes - Gotta Gogh
- The brother who worked at a convenience store - Stop n' Gogh
- The grandfather from Yugoslavia - U Gogh
- The brother who bleached his clothes white - Hue Gogh
- The cousin from Illinois - Chicah Gogh
- His magician uncle - Wherediddy Gogh
- His Mexican cousin - Ameer Gogh
- The Mexican cousin's American half brother - Grin Gogh
- The nephew who drove a stage coach - Wellsfar Gogh
- The constipated uncle - Cant Gogh
- The ballroom dancing aunt - Tan Gogh
- The bird lover uncle - Flamin Gogh
- His nephew psychoanalyst - E Gogh

Margaret Flaws

Margaret Flaws passed away on February 5 aged 79.

She joined the Tauranga Scrabble Club about 1998-99. Before joining the club Margaret and Cath Henry would play Scrabble two nights a week. After joining the club and being given word lists she developed numerous mnemonics, which she shared with other players.

As well as being a very good Scrabble player she was a very good linguist, speaking and writing in German, French and Spanish. She was a born teacher and never lost that knack. For many years she gave private tuition to intermediate and college students in Maths up until about three years ago.

She last attended club on December 2 and played a good game until the end. At our AGM in March there will be a posthumous award to Margaret for winning the 'A' division of the club round robin competition that has been competed for during the course of the year.

Margaret and her mnemonics are still often mentioned at club. We have fond memories of her and will miss her a lot.

Here are a few club members' memories of Margaret.

Cath Henry -

I met Margaret at a Gala Day at the Tauranga Girls College in 1964. She pulled up her T-shirt, and said, "I'm 33. Count my ribs." Always the person for a witty, apt, remark.

Audrey Bree -

Margaret was kind and tolerant to 'beginners'.

Jean Wacker -

When I was going overseas

Margaret made a list of 20 allowable words with the instruction, "Don't just sit there – SWOT!" All

the words were based on my name – e.g. Jane Wacke. On trips away to tournaments we had to learn Margaret's latest list. Two I remember are the list of three letter words ending in Z that we sang to the 'alphabet song' and a list of 5 letter words with three As.

Maureen McBain -

Margaret loved composing mnemonics to create heaps of beginnings or endings for new words. She appeared to have an endless supply, and when the words changed recently, she made up lots more. I loved her determination to win, which always made you try your best.



Margaret receiving the Noel Maisey trophy at her first Tauranga tournament

A good Cause(way)

- compiled from various reports by team members

Day 1

We had an awesome first day at the Causeway Challenge, with a slender lead of 29 wins, ahead of Australia on 28, Thailand on 25.5 and UK on 24.5.

Individually, we ended up with three players in the top six: Howard and Joanne in 2nd and 3rd on seven wins (behind Edward Okulicz of Australia, on 8), and Nigel in 6th on 6 wins. Jeff was 19th and Liz 38th, scoring her wins against some of the top players in the tournament: David Eldar (Aust), Amit Chakribati (US), Jakkrit (Thailand) and Liew Kian Boon (Singapore).

Howard led the field from rounds 5 to 8, winning his first seven games before dropping the last two, while Joanne lost her first game by 7 points, despite her brilliant 9-letter play of MUSTELIDS.

Day 2

Back down to earth after our glorious Day 1. After 19 rounds, NZ dropped to 3rd equal (with Nigeria) on 51 wins – behind Australia on 60 and UK on 51.5.

Nigel and Joanne were the top Kiwis, both on 12 wins. Nigel was in 9th place and Joanne in 10th. Howard had a shocker, only winning four games, and was in 16th place, Jeff in 31st, and Liz in 43rd.

Play of the day was Nigel's DEATHBLOW through two separated letters – the deathblow for his opponent!

Day 3

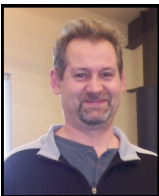
On day 3, Jeff had a doozy, winning 7 out of 10, to end up on 16 wins (out of 29). Howard had a frustrating day, losing several tight games, and winning only 4, to end up on 15 games. His biggest heart-breaker was a game against Sherwin Rodriguez of India. Howard had won by 2 (463-461), then Sherwin did a recount and found an extra 3 points. So he lost by 1. (Howard's comment: "I hate recounts - very glad we don't do them in NZ.")

Joanne had an even tougher day at the office, winning only 3, while Nigel won 9 and surged to pole position by day's end, on 21 games together with 5 other players, but with a higher spread. Liz, suffering dizzy spells all day, won 1 game. We didn't know how NZ finished the day overall, because the unthinkable happened – the organisers ran out of printer cartridge and couldn't get a replacement in all of Johor Bahru.

Day 4

In the morning's four games, Nigel won 2, Liz 1, Howard 3 (playing all the No 1s of each team today).

Jeff won 2, lost 1, and was leading against young Bahraini Mohammad Zafar (of Team Asia) when the big talking point of the tournament occurred. Organiser Michael Tang stopped the game and frogmarched Mohammad out of the room under armed guard, after announcing to the whole room that he



Howard Warner



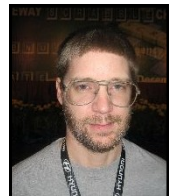
Jeff Grant



Joanne Craig



Liz Fagerlund



Nigel Richards

had been caught cheating and was banned from ever playing in Malaysia/Singapore again.

Another talking point was Romanian Adrian Tamas's awesome bingo play of DELIMITATION around LIMIT. It got an S added later, to make the tourney's first 13-letter word.

In the open grade, Allie was having a good run, on 13 out of 22, Rosalind on 10 and a half, and Betty on 10 or 11.

Day 5

More high-pressure rounds, and we Kiwis were still in 4th place (behind Oz, the UK and Nigeria), though Team America was making a late run and coming up fast behind.

Liz was our star today, winning four straight games through the middle part of the day, despite being unwell, to end on 12 wins. Nigel started the day in 1st place, but lost half his games. He was now on 26 wins (out of 39), three behind David Eldar (Aussie) and two behind Ed Okulicz, and so out of calculations for the title.

Howard had a good day, winning 7 out of 10 to end on 22 games – all tight, close games that hinged on the end game. Jeff won four, to be on 20 games, but felt a little aggrieved that he was leading Zafar when he was chucked out. Joanne won 3, and reached her expectancy to retain her international rating.

Day 5 looked likely to be an all Aussie affair.

In the Open section, 29 rounds had been played, with Allie on 16 wins, Rosalind on 14 and Betty on 12.

End of Causeway

The final standings: David Eldar (Aust) came first, followed by Ed Okulicz (Aust), Harshan (UK), our Nigel, Saidu (Nigeria) and Pakorn. These six ended up breaking away from the peloton.

Although Nigel was pretty much out of the running at the end of Day 4, he



Causeway Challenge winner David Eldar receives his cheque

Photo from causewayscrabble.com

held on through Day 5 to finish 4th on 30 wins (out of 44). This included a 200-point thumping of David Eldar in the final round, when the Aussie wunderkind already had the title in the bag.

Jeff had a great final two days, and rose to 13th place on 25 wins. Howard finished one place ahead of him, on 25 wins after only winning 3 out of 6 games on day 5. Joanne finished in 29th on 20 wins, and Liz was 48th on 13 wins.

In the team standings, NZ finished a very creditable 4th, considering we were seeded 7th (based on international rankings).

Final standings in the Open section of 72 players: Allie was thrilled with her performance, in placing 19th. She did deliver a knockout blow to one Mohammed Ali. Rosalind was 27th, and Betty Eriksen 61st.

Howard said, "This was the biggest, most prestigious, most exhilarating Scrabble event I've ever attended — a sentiment echoed by all the players there. Causeway 2009 promises to be even bigger and with more prize money. If you love playing Scrabble, I'd strongly urge you to start saving now for a trip to the next one."

Causeway observations

- by Pat Grant, Independent

What an awesome event. It is full-on from Day One. I enjoyed watching the progress of the Kiwis and Aussies and the rivalry that was building up as usual between these countries. Congratulations to the Aussie team who deserved their win in the Masters section.

It is wonderful to see such talent emerging in the Scrabble world. Our team was a credit to their country as were the representatives in the Open section. Everyone appeared to be enjoying the spirit of this event which was the longest Scrabble tournament ever run.

I was invited to annotate some of the games, and I must thank Liz Fagerlund for showing me the ropes. While doing this I observed some players in both divisions mis-scoring turns which were not picked up; and over-drawing, but mostly correct tile drawing, from the bags. I was bemused as to why some players would pull tiles and put them in the hand holding the tile-bag instead of placing them on the table in front of them. Not a very good practice I would think!

The size and colour of the tile-bags provided was obviously a nuisance as many preferred to use their own ones. I know it appears there is no "standard" for tile-bags, but cream-coloured and six inches deep is not the best for top tournament play. I "rescued" a few players by resewing the bags or trimming off the long frayed threads that their fingers were getting caught in. Nigel commented something like, "I know Pat will have a pair of scissors".

Some players who lost games consistently did not help reset the tiles on the boards after the game, instead

leaving it to the victor. Surely this is a courtesy that should occur after every game.

Using the computers for word adjudication is a great concept. I

can see it becoming the norm in future years as it is a quick reference for both players when challenging a turn.

A vivid memory for me is how top players respect each other's skills and went over the games at their conclusion to see if they had missed anything. Most intermingled cordially and I can see how friendships develop over this wordy game that folks are so addicted to. It was nice putting faces to names that Jeff often talks about, and meeting again the friends I already knew.

Full marks to Michael Tang and his helpers on the organising of this huge event. It must have been a logistical nightmare arranging everything for so many different participants from all over the globe. Michael was always available throughout the week and very helpful and informative on a raft of questions and queries. And, I might add, usually with a large smile on his face :-)). Well done Michael.

If anyone wants to have a go at this tournament I would recommend it as a wonderful experience.



Pat Grant

Causeway Challenge 2009

- by Michael Tang, Organising Chairman

First and foremost, I would like to congratulate David Eldar for winning the top individual prize money of US\$10,000 in the Masters section and Team Australia for winning the team event by a whopping margin of 19.5 games. I would also like to congratulate Martus Theodoro for winning the top individual prize money of RM5,000 in the Open section.

I am glad to inform you that we have uploaded 180 annotated games in www.causewayscrabble.com. I hope Scrabblers from all around the world will find it useful by playing through some of the games on the website.

I am pleased to announce that the 8th Causeway Scrabble Challenge will be held from 2nd to 6th December 2009 at The Zon Regency Hotel in Johor Bahru, Malaysia. The top individual prize money for the Masters section is US\$20,000 and the format will still be based on 10 teams of 5 players per team and 45 games single round robin. The top individual prize money for the Open section is RM10,000 and a total of 45 games will also be played in the Open section for Causeway Scrabble Challenge 2009. More details will be announced in due course.

Cheat didn't prosper

Early in December, the Gulf News reported: "Bahrain and Gulf Scrabble champion Mohammed Zafar has thrashed world titleholder Nigel Richards at the Causeway Scrabble Challenge in Malaysia. Dubbed 'Tiger' Richards, alluding to golf legend Tiger Woods, the Kiwi had been picking up victories from the US, Britain and Asia. But he proved no match for Zafar, who comfortably beat him by 514

to 318."

And then came Howard Warner's shock message from Johor Bahru to NZ Scrabble members that the very same Bahrain player, Mohammad Zafar, had been frogmarched out of the Causeway Challenge under armed guard, after the tournament organiser had announced that he had been caught cheating and was banned from ever playing in Malaysia/Singapore again.

Howard reported that our team had been very impressed with the fair but non-sense way that tournament director Michael Tang handled Zafar's expulsion for cheating, and said that no one who was at Causeway was in any doubt about his culpability.

The Gulf News reported later that Zafar was expelled from the US\$10,000 Causeway Challenge tournament for cheating in a game against Akshay Bhandarkar at the Gulf Scrabble Masters. "Several other players and judges, as well as audience members, had complained that Zafar was taking his tiles from the top of the bag and having a quick peek at them before letting go of any he did not want.

"Michael Tang, the organiser of the Malaysian tournament, issued a warning over the loud speaker to all competitors about their conduct after initially receiving complaints about Mr Zafar. He then stood behind the Bahraini contestant as he played and concluded



Mohammed Zafar

that he was indeed selecting his tiles. Mr Zafar was escorted from the competition room.”

Wespa later convened a special panel of four to investigate. The panel took about five weeks to reach a decision and produced 17 pages of testimony, and Zafar was also called upon to give his version of events.

They imposed a ban on Zafar playing in international competitions until 1 January 3013, effective immediately. The association imposed the ban “after due consideration of statements from all parties involved and witness accounts”, said Allan Simmons, the Wespa chairman who headed the investigation. “Zafar’s cheating method was to master a way of drawing tiles that involved bringing several tiles to the top of the bag, glancing at them and selecting the tile preferred, thus heavily determining a good balance of letters on the rack.” Zafar is also banned from the Malaysian tournament for life. Mr Simmons said the Wespa panel would have considered a lesser penalty if Mr Zafar had admitted to cheating when presented with its findings.

At the end of January, the Bahrain Scrabble League issued a statement that said they “unanimously endorsed” the guilty verdict and the four-year ban imposed on Zafar.

However, they decided not to strip Zafar of his local and regional titles. Roy Kietzman, a member of the Bahrain Scrabble League Committee and the panel of four that met to discuss Wespa’s decision, said, “We felt it was humiliation enough to be charged with being guilty and being banned from Scrabble.”

The newly-appointed chairman of the Bahrain Scrabble League, Irfan Siddiqui, said, “The history of the league, its legacy and accomplishments over 25 years in Bahrain as well as the rest of the Gulf is too meritorious to be tarnished by what happened.”



*“Ooohh ... triple word score ...
You are clever.”*

World Scrabble Championships 2009

Mattel Inc. has announced that the 2009 World Scrabble Championships will be held in Johor Bahru, Malaysia, from Thursday 26 to Sunday 29 November, with compulsory registration on the evening of Wednesday 25 November.

The venue will be the Zon Regency Hotel, Johor Bahru.

The tournament will be followed shortly afterwards by the Causeway Challenge event.

The prize fund for the event will be US\$30,000 with prizes paid down to 10th position and US\$15,000 going to the winner. For the first time there will be a Trophy for the best performing team.

New Zealand is allocated four places at the tournament.

Register on the official WSC website (www.wscgames.com), where you can find more details.

Pet Scrabble peeve

- by Paul Lister, Christchurch

It would be nice if we were all mathematical whizzes and didn't need to confirm running scores as we went during a Scrabble game and agreed exactly about the score at the end.

But the reality is that few are that accurate, and calling the score to each other every second turn or so prevents a sometimes protracted period of time, often during the middle or latter stages of a game, as you reanalyse the real scores.

A further unfairness that arises is that the two opponents may have played far more aggressively or far more cagily than they perhaps should have to that point because their plays were based on the (false) scores they had written on their scoresheets.

Before Liz Fagerlund relocated to Auckland we used to play games semi-regularly against each other and I made a note of how frequently I made a scoring error against Liz – to my horror it was at least once per three games and sometimes more frequently than that (and I'm meant to be a financier!), but it was always quickly rectified as we called scores back to each other throughout the games.

These scoring incidents happen at even the highest levels and during the 2008 Causeway (which must be one of the greatest Scrabble tournaments ever), Edward Okulicz went out with the word RINS to beat Odette Rio by a very slim margin, a margin which would have been slightly higher had he played the word ROIN over which he had a scintilla of a doubt.

After the results sheet was handed in it was shown that there would have been one point win to Odette had they not

made addition mistakes. Edward exercised his right not to allow the scores to be changed and his win stood.

At the same tournament, Howard Warner played Sherwin Rodriguez and ended at 463-461 in Howard's favour – Sherwin then did a recount and "found" an extra 3 points to give himself a one point win.

[Howard's comment: "I hate recounts – very glad they don't do them in New Zealand."]

I'm afraid I'm firmly on both Edward's and Howard's sides in these two incidents. Do you really think Edward would not have played ROIN as his end play knowing that RINS left him one point short of the win?

Do you really think Howard would not have gone for a higher endplay against Sherwin had he known he was a couple of points short with the move he did do?

I reiterate, both players must strive to agree on the correct running scores throughout the game and avert this nonsense of recounts or consideration by the tournament director to change scores (if both players agree) after the scoresheet has been handed in.



Paul Lister

Thinking outside the [Scrabble] square

- by Donald Sauter

Part 4: Extended-board Scrabble – opening the borders; breaking out of Scrabble’s straitjacket!

A bit of research on the web showed straight away that Super Scrabble is not for me. It charges headlong in the opposite direction from where I’m going. With its new outer rows jam-packed with premium squares, including **quadruple-letter** and **quadruple-word** scores, Super Scrabble places even greater emphasis on Scrabble’s worn-out, OSPD baby words.

Why even worry your brain with bingos when you can make 50-point plays blindfolded with any **F, H, W, or Y**? Never mind 100-point plays with the **J, Q, X, and Z** ... What’s a crummy 50-point bingo bonus worth, anyhow, when players score up in the 800s in a game?

But those extra three rows on all sides of a conventional Scrabble board – now that got me thinking of all the times I couldn’t get a play down just because I “ran out of road!” Wouldn’t it be nice to be able to blast right through the border?

Why not? It would open things up without altering the essence of Scrabble in any way – unless you take it as a fundamental principle that everyone has to scrounge around playing off a tile or two at a time when the board gets crowded. Wouldn’t it be nice to be zinging 4-, 5-, and 6-tile plays right to the end of the game?

These are the rules for **Extended-board Scrabble**.

Procure a Super Scrabble board, but ignore all premium values shown in the outer three rows and columns.

All squares in the outer three rows and columns (the “perimeter”) are single-valued. The perimeter is only for letting

words extend past the edge of the familiar, 15x15 board (the “main” board); the perimeter is for overflow only.

Every play is still pegged to the main board, meaning that every play must include at least one tile that connects to a tile previously played on the main board.

Until you get a Super Scrabble board, you can play **Extended-board Scrabble** quite comfortably on the standard cardboard Scrabble board, at least for two-player games. When you play into the “perimeter” some tiles will have to fall just off the board, on the table top. That makes turning the board impracticable. The solution is just to position the board and yourselves so that you’re both looking at the board from a slight angle and you never have to move the board.

(I know anybody who took it that far could have figured that out; but I just wanted to make sure nobody feels like you can’t play Extended-board Scrabble without a Super Scrabble board. In fact, the first Extended-board Scrabble games ever played were on the board from my set with the 1949 copyright!)

Penang success

Congratulations to our own Nigel Richards and Howard Warner for their second and third placings respectively in the Island Scrabble Tournament, Penang, in December.

Competition Corner



Scrabble Contest no. 94

Can you solve this word square?
(Note: Four of the terms are not allowed in Scrabble.)

1	2	3	4	5
2				
3				
4				
5				

Clues

Across

1. African capital
2. Prez
3. and 3. Down International Scrabble venue
4. Scottish irons
5. Makeshift system

Down

1. Malaysian dish
2. Very hot
3. See 3. Across
4. Betweenwhiles (archaic)
5. Foot bones (obs.)

Send entries by mail or email to:

Jeff Grant
'Ardra'
1109 Allenby St
Hastings 4122

ardra@paradise.net.nz

Closing date is 20 May 2009.

The winner will receive a book prize.

Solution: Contest no. 93

Allison Torrance (Christchurch) found BESEEKES for 95 points, Tony Charlton (Nelson) GEECHEES for 101 and Joan Thomas (Hastings) SQUEEGEE for 107. The best move however is the double-double EXPELLEE (118), which was found by Leila Thomson (Lower Hutt), Dorothy Haining (Rodney), Lyn Toka (Kiwi) and Jethro Snafflerod (Independent). First name out of the hat was Jethro. Well done!

Twenty years ago today

- by John Foster, Independent

This issue, my selection is the scoresheet from a quite remarkable game played by Lynne Powell and June Mackwell at the Bays club. The aggregate score of 1054 has seldom been bettered since, in spite of the much larger word-base now available to us.

But what is really noteworthy, is that June's losing score of 521 is still the current New Zealand record twenty years later.

LYNNE		JUNE	
	30	30	80
	5	35	40
	103	36	156
	24	127	14
	37	164	10
	244	ch	180
	253	22	202
	345	12	219
	415	458	377
	28	443	32
	443	10	419
	466	80	505
	502	16	521
	523		
	+10		
	533		
	TOTAL:	1054	

Accommodation for the Nationals in Christchurch

10-15 minutes walk to venue

- Colonial Inn Motel, 43 Papanui Road, freephone 0800 111 232. Variety of rooms, taking 1-10 people, prices start at \$99.
- Merivale Court Motels, 97 Papanui Road, freephone 0800 355 8252. Variety of rooms, taking 1-5 people, prices start at \$95.
- Adelphi Motel, 49 Papanui Road, freephone 0800 111 232. Prices range from \$79 - \$165 for 1-5 people.

20+ minutes walk to venue

- Southern Comfort Motel, 53 Bealey Avenue, freephone 0800 653 345. \$99-\$270.
- Carlton Mill Lodge, 19 Bealey Avenue, 03 3661068. \$80-\$140
- Akron Lodge, 85 Bealey Avenue, freephone 0800 37 8787. Back packers, made up beds in a mix of room types, no bunks or dorms. \$35 and \$40.
- Bexleys Hotel, 163 Bealey Avenue, freephone 0800 808 660. Double or twin \$95, triple \$100.
- Hagley Park Motel, 13 Darvel Street, Riccarton, freephone 0800 655 330. \$90-\$180
- Ashleigh Court Motel, 47 Matai St West. \$105 and \$175, 1-2 people.
- Arbour Apartments, 19a Matai St West, phone 03348-4185. \$105 and \$190.
- City Oasis Motel, 180 Peterborough Street, freephone 0800 862 274. \$95-\$100 for 2 people, \$15 extra per person.

Trans Tasman Challenge 2008

This biennial event was held in Sydney from 28-30 November 2008.

The Kiwi team won round 1 decisively 8-4, but by lunch time the lead had narrowed to two wins clear. The Australian team tied in round 5 and hit the lead in round 7. Day 1 ended with Patrick as the individual leader but Australia on top.

At lunch on Day 2 Australia held a 88-56 lead and by the end of the day were well in command. Day 3 was more of the same and the interest centred on who would emerge as the individual winner. Rod Talbot pipped Edward Okulicz to take the trophy. The best Kiwi was Mike Sigley in 4th place.

Player	Wins	Margin
1 Rod Talbot (AUS)	19	1173
2 Edward Okulicz (AUS)	18	1262
3 Esther Perrins (AUS)	17	1339
4 Mike Sigley (NZ)	16	912
5 Michael Hornung (AUS)	16	801
6 Patrick Carter (NZ)	16	549
7 Bob Jackman (AUS)	15.5	902
8 Richard Jeremy (AUS)	15	662
9 Anne Drew (AUS)	15	333
10 Carmel Dodd (AUS)	14	44
11 Joan Rosenthal (AUS)	14	38
12 Kristian Saether (NZ)	13	663
13 Alastair Richards (AUS)	13	157
14 Russell Honeybun (AUS)	12.5	54
15 John Foster (NZ)	12	-255
16 Debbie Caldwell (NZ)	11.5	-214
17 John Holgate (AUS)	10.5	205
18 Steven Brown (NZ)	10.5	-100
19 Liz Fagerlund (NZ)	7	-876
20 Glennis Hale (NZ)	7	-939
21 Paul Lister (NZ)	6.5	-1312
22 Val Mills (NZ)	5	-1795
23 Glenda Foster (NZ)	3	-1651
24 Marianne Bentley (NZ)	1	-1952

Team	Wins
Australia	179.5
New Zealand	108.5

- Report compiled from www.scrabble.org.au

Social grade raises Scrabble profile

- by Betty Eriksen, Wanganui

The Social Grade of the ACC Masters Games held in Wanganui at the beginning of February is, of course, one of our main reasons for inclusion in the Games – to raise the profile of Scrabble and to increase membership.

This was our second Masters Games for the Wanganui Scrabble Club and it was so enjoyable – even better than the first!

We had a Swiss draw of 14 games for the social grade and a round robin of 15 games for the rated players.

Social grade winners

Gold - Jean Walsh, Wanganui

Silver - Rosemary Hovey, Wanganui;

Bronze - Marjorie Woodruff, Hunterville

The social grade players spoke very positively about the inclusion of a social grade and expressed the wish that other sports would do likewise, as it made the event ever so much more enjoyable, since they were not having to pit their lesser skills and word knowledge against more experienced players. Many of them

have expressed an interest in joining our club.

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Glenda, who put so much time and effort into the Swiss draw in particular, (which had its hiccups, but nevertheless was a great learning experience to organise) and to Bryan who did all the scoring so efficiently.



*Social grade medal winners (left to right)
Rosemary, Jean, Marjorie*



How God invented some languages

A busman's holiday

- by Jennifer Smith, Hamilton

I was off on holiday with my Scrabble-playing daughter, Andrea – eight weeks away from my computer, and unable to do any work towards the next issue of *Forwards*, which would need my undivided attention as soon as I arrived home.

Of course, I had my Scrabble dictionary with me, and as we sat in transit at Frankfurt playing Scrabble, I was surprised to find FRANKFURT [or FRANKFORT, smoked sausage] in our word list. There and then, I decided to keep track of any new (to me!) or seemingly foreign words I found that were on the Scrabble word list. At least that would be something I could do towards the next magazine.

Here's a summary of the Scrabble-related highlights of our holiday – any words in caps are Scrabble-acceptable. If the official word has a vastly different meaning than the context of my commentary suggests, I have included the meaning for you.

Part 1: Scrabbling around Italy

The highlight in Rome for everyone has to be the COLOSSEUM [or COLISEUM, both take S] and the ROMAN [no S, describes a print type] FORA. It's true that travel broadens the mind – first, I had no idea that there was more than one ROMAN FORUM, and second, I had no idea that FORA, a word I know and use, is actually the plural of FORUM – the penny dropped – so that's why it doesn't take an S! The VIA SACRA [plural of SACRUM, bone in spine], is the "BROADWAY" of ancient Rome.

The ancient city of Rome is enclosed by the wall built by the emperor AURELIAN [person who studies butterflies]. There are many hills in Rome,

two of which are PALATINE [palatial] and CAPITOLINE. Vatican is also a hill, but surprisingly, Vatican is not a Scrabble word.

Inside the Vatican, of course, is the famous FRESCOED Sistine Chapel, with its colourful FRESCOS [FRESCOES] by the famous FRESCOIST or FRESCOER, Michelangelo. We saw a BASILICA designed by the multi-talented Michelangelo, his famous sculpture "PIETA" [painting, drawing or sculpture of MARY holding the dead Christ], and the uniforms of the SWISS [SWISSES, type of muslin] guards at the Vatican that he also designed.

I was intrigued by the CAPUCHIN Crypt decorated with mosaics made from bones and mummified bodies of 4000 CAPUCHIN [type of monkey] monks. (I wonder if the monkeys get their name from the CAPUCHINS because they resemble the wizened faces of the little mummified monks?)

We liked the Trevi Fountain which features winged horses led by Greek gods or TRITON/S [type of mollusc], and where I watched a young man propose to his girlfriend.



A TRITON leading a winged horse

We also saw the PANTHEON, the mother of all PANTHEONS [temples]! It's a whopping size, and I was fascinated to discover the CUPOLA [dome, CUPOLAS] has an OCULUS [round window, OCULI] that's actually an open hole eight metres in diameter. It lets in the rain, hail and snow, and it was cold and raining the day we were there. Brr, brrr!

The catacombs beneath Rome are fascinating, with their LOCULI or burial niches [singular LOCULUS, chamber of an ovary or anther], and the larger underground burial chambers called CUBICULA [singular, CUBICULUM].

At the end of our VIA [street, VIAS, VIAE] in Rome was a PIZZERIA. I particularly enjoyed the Italian FONTANI/S and PECORINO/S [PECORINI] cheeses there.

In Umbria and Tuscany we saw dozens of DUOMOS [DUOMO, cathedral, DUOMI], toured many PALAZZI [palaces, PALAZZO/S], went to the CHIANTI/S wine region, toured a CANTINA [wine cellar, CANTINAS], and visited a Benedictine monastery where wonderful mauve- and orange-toned murals depict the life of St BENEDICT [newly married man, BENEDICTS]. In FLORENCE [type of fennel, FLORENCES] I was able to pay a reduced rate or RIDOTTO [eighteenth century music and dance event in England, RIDOTTOS] for some entry fees.

Last part of call in Italy was Venice. I loved everything VENETIAN [VENETIANS, blinds]. I loved being on the Canal GRANDE [no S] in a VAPORETTO [no S, steam powered boat, VAPORETTI]; passing under the well-known RIALTO [market place, RIALTOS] Bridge; hanging around the famous St Mark's Square, the only place in Venice to have the title PIAZZA – other squares are just called CAMPI or CAMPO/S; and climbing the CAMPANILE [no S, bell tower not attached to another building,

CAMPANILI].

Did you know it's illegal to sit or lie down in St Mark's Square? I didn't until later. Luckily, I couldn't find somewhere to rest my weary body when I was there, or we might even have been arrested for playing a game of Scrabble!

Incidentally, Andrea won the Italian leg of our Scrabble Challenge.

Part 2: Scrabbling around Egypt and Jordan

EGYPTIAN [another sort of type face, but this one does take an S] food was interesting. The crunchy FALAFELS [FALAFEL, deep-fried cake of chickpeas] weren't too bad, but we had a standing joke about the ghastly mashed FAVA/S beans, as they have the unfortunate but fitting name of FOUL, and KOFTAS [KOFTA, fried spiced meatball] usually tasted like the spices were disguising very old meat. The traditional ARABIC salad is a cucumber/tomato mixture, and almost every dish contains tomatoes.

Wow! The pyramids!! We were lucky enough get inside four different pyramids, including the Great Pyramid. Most of them contain a huge stone MASTABA [MASTABAH, both take S, huge coffin of stone or mud-brick] that originally contained the body of a PHARAOH. I bought a souvenir of the pyramids painted on PAPYRUS [a familiar noun – but I didn't know its relations PAPYRAL, PAPYRIAN and PAPYRINE].

Often the tourist sites were somewhat spoilt by the huge numbers of EGYPTIANS persistently demanding a handout or BAKSHISH [or BAKSHEESH, both take ES, both verbs].

EGYPTIAN men are generally avid smokers – a cigarette makes an acceptable BAKSHEESH for a minor service – but their greater love is the HASHEESH or water pipe, where smoke is inhaled through hot water [also HASHISH].

In Cairo we went to the Cairo museum, where we saw the amazing Tutankhamun treasures, and various STELA [STELUM, STELAE, STELAI, STELE, upright stones with inscriptions]. Our most memorable evening activity was a performance of the colourful Whirling Dervishes, men of a Muslim religious order noted for a frenzied whirling dance accompanied by the most wonderful music, played on an OUD [like a lute or mandolin], drums, fiddle and ZITHER.



BEDOUINS or BEDUINS in JORDAN

One DERVISH whirled for 30 minutes, never once slowing down. And when he did stop, he didn't fall over!

As part of our Nile cruise, we saw many EGYPTIAN tombs and temples, all fascinating, all beautiful, and most with a CARTOUCH [CARTOUCHE, CARTOUCHES], displaying the name of the person they honoured in hieroglyphics etched inside an oval shape. We also visited a dozen amazing temples, some of them HYPOSTYLE [HYPOSTYLES], where the roof is supported by columns. We admired some amazing old statues, including the COLOSSI of Memnon – each COLLOSSUS is 18m high. We also saw zillions of FELUCCA/S [narrow sailing boats], and had a sail in one of them.

Our two favourite places were the Western Desert and Petra in JORDAN [chamber pot, JORDANS], both places home to the BEDOUIN/S [BEDUIN/S,

nomadic ARABIC people] of Egypt. Many, but not all, BEDOUIN women wear full BURKA [BURQA] that covers everything but their eyes – and sometimes even their eyes.

We had a trip to Alexandria, and visited the impressive newish BIBLIOTHECA [BIBLIOTHECAE], built in 2002 to emulate the greatest library in the ancient world that was destroyed by fire 2000 years ago. We admired the 22km long CORNICHE [coastal road, often crescent shaped or built into a cliff, CORNICHE]. Luxor also has a CORNICHE.

I won the Egypt and JORDAN legs of the Scrabble Challenge.

How many of the word discoveries I made on my holiday are new to you, too?

Learning about learning while playing Scrabble

This is the fifth in a series of articles about learning Scrabble

Situated Learning

- by Selena Chan, Christchurch

Situated learning is based on the philosophical premise that we each form our own, very individual picture of the world that we live in. This is the constructivist theory of learning and requires each learner to work through and to make sense of his / her learning as it relates to their own current needs and motivations.

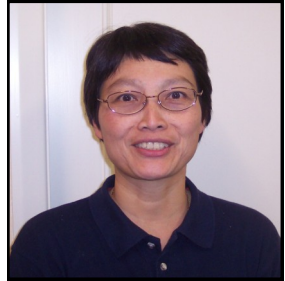
One of the newest examples of constructivist learning theory is that learners learn best when their learning is 'situated' in the context that the learning has to be applied in. So in playing Scrabble, we learn best by actually playing the game and practising all the skills that are required to become better players.

There is really no real problem in situating learning in Scrabble, as one of the things that makes learning Scrabble fun is that we are able to indulge in actually playing the game. Imagine how boring (and difficult to learn) the game will be if we had to learn the game by reading a book and did not have access to the Scrabble board or the correct letter tiles.

Two activities that are really important to learn in Scrabble are tile tracking and rack management. Both of these activities lend themselves very well to situated learning in that one learns these best when one is able to put into practice the skills required.

Tile tracking involves many skills to be brought together. The basic action of crossing each letter off as it is played requires coordination of sight, pattern recognition, recall and motor skills. The player has to also work the sequence into

a routine, so that tile tracking eventually becomes so routine that it does not use up precious mental energy that is required to also work their rack.



Building up tile tracking skills requires many repeats to ensure that the activity becomes so ingrained that little thought has to be given to it and attention can instead be focused on planning the next word to play.

Therefore many games have to take place before the physical activity of tile tracking becomes as automatic as driving your car.

Analysing the information that you eventually obtain from your tile tracking to keep your rack well balanced requires another skill set. You need to be able to read the information that your tile tracking is providing you as the game progresses.

Apart from tracking the JQXZ, the ratio of consonants to vowels, the Ss and the blanks and the number of repeat letters that are still in the bag (lots of Rs or Is or Ns), one also has to undertake the decision making process of how your rack balance is going to come about as the game progresses.

Each game will be different and there will be many combinations of how the letters are drawn from the bag; therefore,

you need to concentrate hard on how you work the information out!

Ask yourself:

- What information am I using most (ratio of vowels? repeat letters?)?
- How do I act on this information (if lots of vowels still left in the bag, play off high vowel words; if lots of Rs, it may be possible to bingo if I have SATINE on my rack and I could try to fish for an R)?
- Are my decisions using the above strategies working? If not, why? (Luck of the draw or not good decision making!) If they work, why, and are they working in the majority of your games?
- How can I improve the decision making process each time?

I hope that you are able to visualise / understand some of the concepts above, because situated learning works well if you are able to capitalise on the opportunity that it provides.

You and the decisions you make are the only thing that perhaps make a difference to the outcome of many of the games you play. Your opponent is a large factor as well, but they play off the words that you put down and vice versa, so use situated learning to learn more about how you can become a better Scrabble player.

OZ-words

-from Glenda Foster, Wellington

The following are results from an OZ-words competition where entrants were asked to take an Australian word, alter it by one letter only, and supply a witty definition.

Warning: You may need to be an Aussie to understand some of them!

Billabonk to make passionate love beside a waterhole

Bludgie a partner who doesn't

work, but is kept as a pet

Dodgeridoo a fake indigenous artifact

Fair drinkum good-quality Aussie wine

Flatypus a cat that has been run over by a vehicle

Mateshit all your flat mate's belongings, lying strewn around the floor

Shagman an unemployed male, roaming the Australian bush in search of sexual activity

Yabble the unintelligible language of Australian freshwater crustaceans

Bushwanker a pretentious drongo, who reckons he's above average when it comes to handling himself in the scrub

Crackie-daks 'hipster' tracksuit pants
And for the Kiwis amongst us:

Shornbag a particularly attractive naked sheep.

New Scrabble book

Scrablmonics, Scrabble® tips from a beginner's perspective by Lois Lockhart and Vanessa Lockhart is available at www.scrablmonics.com.

The publishing house blurb says, "Scrablmonics is a dream book for beginners! Why? Scrablmonics uses no computer generated word lists and no percentages!! Using Scrablmonics you will be able to:

- Learn in months what would normally take five years
- Learn and remember words only good for Scrabble® in a fun way
- Get over your fear of a formidable rack
- Turn a nightmarish rack into a windfall of points

Scrablmonics is the most user friendly Scrabble® book you'll find."

Is there a reader out there who has read this book and would like to preview it for the next issue of *Forwards*?

Construct-your-own board games

Lego is entering the traditional world of board games this year when it launches a range of innovative build-your-own board games.

The 75-year-old Danish company, famed for its building blocks, is branching out by designing a range of toys that involve children constructing their own board games out of Lego building blocks.

Once they have completed the board and dice, the children can then play the games, before rebuilding the construction differently and playing a new version of the game.

The set of six games was unveiled at the Toy Fair in London, which showcased the gadgets, toys and games that will be on the shelves later this year.

Toy experts saying the company has the potential to revive the fortunes of the flagging board game industry. Last year, despite the success of Monopoly and Scrabble, board games struggled overall, with sales down 30 per cent in the UK.

The games will be priced from £7.99 to £19.99, and are set to go on sale in the northern hemisphere summer. They are aimed at children aged five to nine, but Lego predicts younger children will be able to enjoy them.

The company insists that any family that loses a crucial building block that might render the game useless, can order a new one from their website.



Scrabble references

From *I Love Lucy* to *Friends*, from *The Sopranos* to *Seinfeld*, popular culture is bursting with Scrabble references:

- In Douglas Adams' *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, Scrabble was used to find the question to the Ultimate Answer.
- In an episode of crime procedural *CSI*, a murder victim was asphyxiated with Scrabble tiles (it was, it turned out, retribution for playing the made-up word "exvin" in a tournament).
- Bart Simpson played "kwyjibo" in a game against his father, Homer — he said it referred to a "big, dumb, balding North American ape".
- *Little Britain's* Kenny Craig hypnotised his mother to make her believe "cupboardy" (meaning cupboard-like) was a word.
- *Seinfeld's* Kramer, meanwhile, defended "quone" as a medical term: "If a patient becomes difficult, you quone him."
- Kylie Minogue sang in *Your Disco Needs You*: "Desperately seeking someone to travel; You're lost in conversation and useless at Scrabble."



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.

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 3: Changes from 1976 to 1989

There were no changes of any substance to the 1989 rules. The 18 rules of 1976 were retained, with the same numbering, even. They did break the rules into sections: Contents (of the game set), Setup, Game Play, Scoring, and How To Win.

The changes in the wording of the 1989 rules were numerous but, I repeat, of virtually no significance. Wherever masculine pronouns had been used, they were worked around or simply deleted. "He" became "the player" or "you". "His" became "his or her" or "a" or "that". The comparisons below show a few of those. You'll agree that, if the following are the biggest changes, which they are, we can safely ignore the small ones.

1976: In a two-handed game, a good player scores ...

1989: In a 2-player game, a good player scores ...

1976: The two blank tiles may be used as any letter desired.

1989: The two blank tiles may be used as any letters.

[Hmmm, I do see how the 1976 statement could be misinterpreted if you really tried.]

1976: ... the player must state *what* letter it represents, after which it cannot be changed during the game.

1989: ... the player must state *which* letter

it represents. It remains that letter for the rest of the game.

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

1989: A player may use *a* turn to exchange all, some, or none of the letters in *his or her* rack.

1976: He does so by discarding them face down ...

1989: To do this, place your discarded letter(s) facedown [sic] ...

1976: He then awaits his next turn to play.

1989: This ends your turn.

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

1989: Before the game begins, the players should agree upon the dictionary they will use, *in case of a challenge*.

1976: The letter and word premiums *apply only in* the turn in which they are *first played*. *In subsequent* turns, letters *previously* played on premium squares ...

1989: Letter and word premiums *count only on* the turn in which they are played. *On later* turns, letters *already* played on premium squares ...

1976: When a blank tile *falls* on a pink or red square ...

1989: When a blank tile *is played* on a pink or red square ...

1976: Any player who plays *all seven of his tiles in a single turn* ...

1989: Any player who plays *seven tiles on a turn* ...

1976: ... scores a premium of 50 points in addition to his regular score for the *play*.

1989: ... scores a premium of 50 points *AFTER* totaling his or her score for the *turn*.

[For the Unplayed Letters rule, the clumsy verbiage added to the 1976 version was yanked, bringing it back to just about what it was in 1949.]

1949: At the end of the game each player's score is reduced by the sum of his unplayed letters.

1989: When the game ends, each player's score is **REDUCED** by the sum of his or her unplayed letters.

1949: 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.

1989: In addition, if one player used all letters, the sum of the other players' unplayed letters is **ADDED** to that player's score.

Article reproduced with the kind permission of Donald Sauter

[This is the last article in this interesting series. -Ed.]

Editor's mouse pad

I thought this mouse pad, that I was given as a present, would make an ideal competition.

In idle moments, I often find myself tracing a path from one letter to the next (ie. neighbouring) letter in the order they occur in the word, looking for acceptable Scrabble words. There are plenty of small 2-, 3- and 4-letter words to be found in this way.

However, I have a nice prize for the person who finds and sends me the longest word.

"Neighbouring" tiles are those that you can move directly to, without having to go through a "passageway" between two other tiles.

I know it's not always clear-cut which tiles are neighbouring ones, but use your common sense. For example, the J is a neighbour of A, B, S, U, O and N. J is not a neighbour of Y, I, L, P, etc. So, some short words starting with J would be: **JUS**, **JAB**, **JOMO** and **JOUST**.

Send your longest word to the *Forwards Editor* (see physical and email addresses on the back page) to compete for the prize. The judge's decision is final on what constitutes a "neighbouring" tile – and it may depend on how clever or big the word is!



Quinoa has more than one use

[This article is based on one in the Economic Times, India. I read it, then played QUINOA the very next night at Club for 52 points – I'm sure the word wasn't in my confident vocab before that! It's interesting apart from the useful vocab it contains. –Ed.]

QUINOA (pronounced keen-wah) sounds like it was designed for Scrabble. If you can land that 10 point Q on a triple letter, and line up a double word hit as well, you score at least 70 points, and get rid of a whole bunch of vowels as well. But QUINOA, a seed long grown in the Andes, solves another problem: what do you eat when you can't or don't want to eat rice, but want something like it.

Wheat products have their own health concerns, and can't be cooked like rice. MILLETS, like JOWAR, BAJRA, RAGI (all take S), have nutty, complex tastes, but they don't substitute rice either. They are either too heavy when cooked, or exude too much MUCILAGE (particularly RAGI), becoming STICKILY GELATINOUS rather than fluffy and light like rice

QUINOA was found growing by the shores of Lake Titicaca in South America around 500 BC. The Incas considered it sacred, and the Inca emperor is said to have sown the first seeds of each year using special golden implements.

The plant QUINOA comes from is not a grass, like all cereals are, but a relative of leafy green vegetables like

spinach. Technically this makes QUINOA a PSEUDO-cereal, like BUCKWHEAT and AMARANTH, which means that it can be used during Hindu fasts when cereals are forbidden. JEWS have started using QUINOA for that reason during PASSOVER.

Its small yellow seeds cook to light fluffy grains, with each one separate, just like rice. Once the grain inside cooks and expands, the germ part of the seed curls out but remains attached, so that a bowl of cooked QUINOA looks like a mass of small edible commas. This also gives it a pleasingly paradoxical consistency, both soft and slightly crunchy.

QUINOA is prepared just like rice (although you might have to wash it thoroughly to remove the SAPONINS in its seed coat that can give it an odd taste). It cooks a bit faster, but the grains are even fluffier – and it tastes better!

One of the nicest ways of eating it is to SAUTE the stronger leafy vegetables like SWISS CHARD, KALE or spinach with garlic and chickpeas, and then add cooked QUINOA for a wonderfully flavoured stir-fry that's a full meal in itself.



the plant



the grain



the food

Our Olivia's a winner

At the end of 2008, the 200th anniversary of the birth of Louis Braille, our Olivia won the highest award, the Otsuki Award, in the International Category of the World Blind Union Asia/Pacific region essay competition. Her prize was a trip to Paris.

Here is her prize-winning essay.

The key to our world

- by Olivia Godfrey, Wellington

I believe that I inherited my love of words from my father. One of my earliest memories is of him teaching me to recite poetry in Vietnamese and Cambodian. Later, I remember him reading aloud to me from *Hairy McClary from Donaldson's Dairy* as I followed along with my fingers.

I was born in a refugee camp in Vietnam, the youngest of 17 children. At 18 months I contracted measles and, as a result, I went totally blind. I know my parents were devastated! What were they to do with a child who no longer had a future? How could they provide for her extra needs when there was no money, even less hope, and 10 other dependent children to feed?

Fortunately, when I was 3, my family came to New Zealand under a refugee sponsorship scheme. Through our kiwi sponsors, dad found out about Braille, a system of 6 dots that could change the life of a blind person forever by giving them access to the world of the written word.

Being a wise man, dad knew the huge advantages that literacy would bring. He did not speak or read English at this time, but he quickly learned so that, through print manuals and guides, he could teach me to read and write Braille himself before I went to school.

When told by various professionals that I was too young at 3 to learn Braille, he argued that a sighted child has contact with the written word, through public signs and picture books, long before that child could go to school. Why should his



Olivia Godfrey with her guide dog Awhina

daughter be disadvantaged just because she was blind?

Thus, since the age of 3, Braille has been a huge part of my everyday life. At first, I only really used it to read anything I could get my hands on. To my mother's consternation, when I was very young, I also used it to put sticky labels on every flat surface in our house, including the wallpaper.

Dad died when I was 9, just when I was beginning to truly understand that he had given me a much greater gift than the mere ability to read and write. By insisting that I learn Braille, he gave me the most essential tool that would enable me to access and fit into the world around me. Because of Braille, I have been able to

perform at the same level as my sighted peers.

In a school where I was the only blind student, I could do everything that was required of my sighted classmates — reading aloud from Shakespearean plays, submitting music compositions using Braille music notation, and completing mathematical and chemical equations using Nemyth.

Throughout my high school and university years, I competed equally with my sighted peers for top marks and scholarships. Today, I work as a lawyer alongside other sighted lawyers, drafting opinions, advising clients, and grumbling about skyrocketing food prices and rock bottom sports performances. Today, I am living a “normal”, independent life, living a future that my parents had thought was impossible.

While we often do not like to admit it, we in the blind and vision-impaired world often measure our success by the degree of integration into the sighted world that we have achieved. This does not mean that we “aspire” to be like sighted people, we simply wish to be able to do all that a person with sight can do.

For me, and for many blind and vision-impaired people, Louis Braille’s invention changed our lives by giving us a means to achieve almost complete integration. Braille gives us the chance to equitably access an education system that relies so heavily on the written word to convey information. In turn, this opens the doors for us to higher paying, professional employment. Braille gives us a way to perform, with equal efficiency, many of those day-to-day tasks often required of sighted professionals, such as the detailed reviewing of documents.

The changes Braille has brought to the lives of blind and vision-impaired people are not just limited to work and school. Braille has also increased our

options for inclusion in recreational activities. Personally, I use Braille to, among other things, play competitive Scrabble with other sighted players, join in card games with my family and friends, and copy down recipes for baking. One day, when I have children, I know I will use Braille to read aloud to them, so that I can introduce them to the beauty of words just as dad did for me.

Braille has also changed the lives of blind and vision-impaired people by making it easier for us to fully participate in many community activities. For example, with a little forethought and organisation, I can put all the words of common Christmas carols on my Braille Note, a small computer that features a refreshable Braille display. I can then attend community Christmas services and join in the singing, accessing the words on my Braille Note while sighted attendees access the words on an overhead screen. It seems such a small thing, yet it is often the small things that make the greatest difference.

The changes that Louis Braille’s invention has made to the lives of blind and vision-impaired people cannot be fully enumerated in a thousand words. At best, they can be summed up by three words — access, integration, and opportunity.

When I think of all the things I can do and the opportunities that are open to me because I know Braille, I am eternally grateful to a young French boy whose genius opened the door to a brighter world for blind and vision-impaired people. And I am thankful for a father who had the wisdom to see that the key to his child’s future lay with that young boy’s invention.

Why Scrabble Clubs have trouble keeping new members

Litterati, by Paul McCarthy, is a book about Scrabble in America.

A chapter called “Coming out of the parlor” discusses why Scrabble clubs have trouble keeping new members.

Recognising that it’s a universal problem, not exclusive to the USA, and that New Zealand clubs could find the observations particularly helpful, Vicky Robertson of the Wellington Club contacted Paul McCarthy and ECW Press to seek their permission to reproduce parts of the book. We appreciate their kind permission in allowing us to reproduce extracts from that particularly relevant chapter. The material has been greatly abridged – we recommend that you obtain the book if you would like to read the full version of the chapter (and the rest of the book, of course).

Coming out of the parlor

A dearth of serious players exists, despite the fact that 30 million American homes have Scrabble sets, and just about everyone who can read and write has played the game. Why haven’t the clubs caught on?

For one, the game’s owners have never done much to publicize the clubs. There isn’t a list in every game box, on the inside cover of the Scrabble dictionary or at your local game shop. Only recently has such a roster made its way to the web.

Beyond that, most people have a lot going on in their lives. It’s not that simple to make room for yet another activity, particularly one that requires an alert mind at the end of the day, when most people are ready to kick back.

Then there is the misconception that what goes on at Scrabble clubs is essentially what happens at home. Some parlor players feel they already know how to play, have family and friends to play with, and couldn’t get anything new from a club, except another entry in their day planners.

And then there are the people who want to play at clubs. First they have to conquer their fear of embarrassment. Scrabble, after all, is a battle of wits. No

one likes the idea of losing, or in particular, losing in the public sort of way that one might envision at a club.

Those who do want to compete still have to clamber over the hurdle from parlor play. Many expect to play much as they do at home, where people eat, drink, talk, and might take two or more hours to finish a game. They may use open dictionaries and even have their own set of rules. Most clubs play tournament-style Scrabble, with little or no socializing during games.

But for most newbies the seriousness is only part of the problem. One’s intellectual self-worth is on the line. It’s all the worse because most of these new players are accustomed to winning. Most are also well educated and hold responsible jobs. But newbies are weak on strategy, word knowledge, and anagramming skills. They are unaware of the countless hours of study that can make the moves of their seasoned opponents seem effortless. In short, they don’t know that Scrabble is a learned skill. This can lead to embarrassment.

For those who stick it out, timed games can be intimidating. Many new players view [a] time constraint as daunting. What is mind-boggling to the newcomer is that a few advanced players will not only [tally the total score each

turn], but also write down the individual scores, the word that was played, the seven tiles of each rack, track the tiles that were played by both sides, and still not use all their time.

Perhaps the biggest difference for most new players is the constant losing. Most of those who give club play a whirl regularly trounce friends and relatives. In the process they have come to think of themselves as competent players.

Some efforts are made to cushion the shock of club play. Free challenges, for one, whereby the newcomer can challenge the

acceptability of a word, but not [be penalized] if she's wrong. Most clubs also allow the use of a "cheat sheet." The clock isn't strictly enforced, either. How long these crutches are permitted varies with the newcomer and the club.

Despite these concessions, clubs aren't able to retain more than a handful of players. Remember, these are the same people who initially called or e-mailed, enthused about playing their favorite game in a club setting. The responsibility for losing them falls on

both the clubs and the new players. Club members often don't go out of their way to recruit these fresh faces, while organized Scrabble doesn't meet the expectations that many new players bring through the door.

Most neophytes, for example, believe Scrabble prowess is solely a function of intelligence and education. They vanquish their friends and family, and it must be because they are smart and got that MA

in English. They don't realize that just like bridge, chess or calculus, tournament style Scrabble is a learned skill. Native ability varies, but no one just walks in off the street and knows how to play.

When most of these recruits come to realize the amount of effort they will have to expend to become competitive, they drop out. It usually takes years to get some sort of handle on the game and a

far from perfect one at that. Still, many new players expect to hold their own or even show club players a thing or two. Such a person is shocked and chagrined by his first encounter with a real

Scrabble player. There is something about matching wits over a Scrabble board that gets to the heart of who we are as literate people, or so it seems to the parlor player. It speaks to intelligence, education, all the things that we hold dear and by which many of us measure ourselves. To lose, especially to lose

badly, and perhaps to someone who doesn't give the impression of erudition or brilliance, can be crushing and/or humiliating.

Many new players don't want to devote time to the game.

They consider it absurd when someone brings up studying. Many don't believe that it's possible to improve the speed of their play, their strategy, or their anagramming ability. Many think it's too much work.

There are other things besides studying that also turn off new players. Some are appalled by the way the game is played by more experienced club members. There's the clock, of course.

"...the biggest difference for most new players is the constant losing"

"... no one just walks in off the street and knows how to play"

Then there's the twenty-five page rulebook, compared to the box top or made-up rules they use at home. They can scare away the neophyte.

Another irritant for newbies is that most seasoned players don't concern themselves with word meanings. That throws many people because they consider themselves word lovers, and the game itself a test of vocabulary. The newcomer will see a word like aeolian, ask what it means, and often get the response "You don't get any points for definitions, but we can look it up later."

There's also the matter of phony words. At home many people never use a word that isn't real. Not so at the clubs. This grates many newcomers the wrong way, since they associate bluffing with poker and other card games but not with a genteel game like Scrabble. When faced with so many new and what appear to be ridiculous looking words, phonies become even more of a problem.

Weird words are also a problem. There was a time twenty-five or thirty years ago, when Scrabble was essentially about being literate and well read. Most parlor players continue to view it this way. But once Scrabble is approached seriously, it becomes something else. Regardless of one's educational background, no one has a vocabulary that will go very far in organized Scrabble.

That said, one might think that with new players such a scarce resource, that club members would fall all over themselves to welcome them into the fold. Not so. Certainly there are exceptions, but it has been my experience that club regulars tend to be caught up in their individual rivalries and don't go out of their way to make a newcomer feel appreciated.

At least one group has tried to ease the passage from parlor to club play. For almost ten years Susi Tiekert (and now

Joel Sherman) ran a newcomer's group for the high-powered Club No. 56 in New York. It met twice a month for two hours. During these sessions Tiekert tried to impart the basics of tournament level Scrabble. Newbies were taught the rules, jargon, and protocols of the game. They also got to play Tiekert, a tournament veteran. To graduate they had to know all the acceptable two-letter words—about ninety. Tiekert also made sure that they were indoctrinated "in the silence and seriousness of the game" so that they didn't disrupt the club with unnecessary socializing. She told them to be prepared to lose their first fifty games to club regulars.

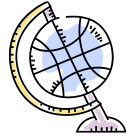
If the New York approach could be called coddling, and many would, there appears to be very little of it in North American clubs. We recruit the people who can take a licking and keep on ticking. That typical, first night experience, though, goes something like this: the newcomer gets beaten badly, probably humiliated, does not have fun, and does not make friends. This means he has to be very competitive and truly want to learn the game to return.

Very few players question this approach. It's always been done this way. Those of us who soldiered on were so busy trying to learn, compete and fit in, we didn't pay much attention to the vast majority who fell by the wayside. We were proud that we survived. They, on the other hand, didn't have the right stuff. Periodically, we scratch our heads, lament the small size of our club, and ask why there aren't more than ten or twelve people in the Denver metropolitan area who want to play organized Scrabble.

Perhaps it shouldn't be such a mystery.

From the book Letterati, kindly reproduced with the permission of ECW Press and author Paul McCarthy. Available to NZ/AUS through UNIREPS Sydney.

Overseas News



Argentina

12th World Spanish Speaking Scrabble Championship

1. Enric Hernandez, Spain
 2. Airan Perez, Venezuela
- Enric also won the event in 2006.

Bahrain

The new chairman of the Bahrain Scrabble league is Irfan Siddiqui, and the committee is Victor Ikawa, general-secretary, senior advisory member Roy Kietzman, advisory member Imtiaz Ahmed and treasurer Mujeeb Rahman. One of their goals is to recruit more players, especially youngsters, and they will approach Bahrain schools to discuss introducing Scrabble as an extracurricular activity.

Israel

Inaugural Israeli Open

1. Evan Cohen, Tel Aviv
2. Barry Grossman
3. Raz Naot

Italy

Championships

(Italian Scrabble has 120 tiles)

1. Fausto Sirianni
2. Andrea Gianni

Malaysia

The new president of the Malaysian Scrabble Association (MSA) is Dr Adele Tan. A youth member, Martin Teoh, has also been inducted into the committee to encourage more youths to participate actively in the MSA.

One of the ways the MSA aims to popularise Scrabble among schoolchildren, is with a Scrabble workshop for

schoolchildren between the ages of seven and 12, which will be held in collaboration with Nestle in May.

The pilot CIMB Scrabble to School Programme (in which CIMB Foundation, MSA and Island College of Technology will collaborate to utilise Scrabble as a tool to improve English language learning) starts with students from 20 primary and 20 secondary schools in Penang. The selected schools will receive Scrabble sets and dictionaries to kick-start a Scrabble Club within the school's English Society. The project will eventually be implemented nationwide.

2008 Tokai World Youth Scrabble Championship, December

1. Charnrit Khongthanasat, Thailand
2. Darren Khoo Beng Way, Malaysia
3. Scott Chung, Malaysia

Charnrit beat Beng Way 3-1 in the final.

Chinese New Year Tournament

1. Khoo Beng Way
2. Vannitha Balasingam
3. William Kang

Malta

The Malta Scrabble Club will stage their second International Scrabble Tournament in May. This event, which will attract dozens of Scrabble players from many different parts of the world, will also mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the club's foundation in 1984.

Nigeria

2nd Akpabio Classic (146 players)

1. Emmanuel Umujose
2. Dennis Ikekergor
3. Jighere Wellington

The presence of armed guards in the playing area certainly made this

tournament a little different!

Qatar

The Qatar Scrabble League has drawn up plans to promote greater awareness and wider participation in Scrabble, starting with a tournament for adults and children in association with World Environment Day celebrations in June. It has initiated mentoring games, where adults teach children strategies to hone their Scrabble skills. They are also hoping to organise a Bahrain/Qatar Students Scrabble Tournament to coincide with the Gulf Scrabble Championship 2009 in Bahrain.

Singapore

2008 National Scrabble Championship

1. Marcus Goh Kim Leng
2. Hubert Wee Ming Hui
3. Marlon Prudencio

Sri Lanka

Inaugural Northern Provincial Scrabble Tournament (280 players)

Champion: K Vicknam

Uganda

On the announcement of Malaysia as the venue for the World Scrabble Championships (WSC), Uganda announced that, along with 14 other countries, they will be sending a single participant. The WSC is expected to attract 43 countries as compared to 23 in 2007.

United Kingdom

Scrabble Clubs UK hope to organise a Schools Competition in 2009, following their drive to “Adopt a School Scrabble Club”. 305 schools have shown interest, and to date 9 successful link-ups have been made between schools and their local Scrabble clubs.

USA

In December, Hasbro Inc. dropped its lawsuit against the makers of a popular online version of the board game Scrabble. Hasbro, which owns North American rights to the word game, sued Jayant and Rajat Agarwalla, brothers from Calcutta, who had developed the unauthorised version, called Scrabulous. Court documents did not specify a reason for the withdrawal.

For the Scrabble player who has everything

For Scrabble geeks out there, check out this cool stuff. This unique keyboard is made from Scrabble letters. Most of the keys are made from real Scrabble tiles that were all hand-beveled and built onto a USB, clicky, mechanical-switch keyboard, and has an aluminum casing.

It's Mac-compatible, and it actually works!

The builder, Richard Nagy, hand-bevelled each key, and modified the letter scores to represent the keys' alternate functions. He even cut the lettering on the caps and number lock keys so the LEDs shine through the lettering.

This keyboard has not officially rolled out yet, but Nagy is considering making this for the public. You can read more on datamancer.net.



Who's playing Scrabble?

Amy Winehouse, singer

Troubled singer Amy Winehouse was seen enjoying a game of Scrabble with some of the guests at St Lucia, sitting in only her bikini bottoms and without the top. She had spotted some fellow holidaymakers playing the game, and decided to join them.



The 'Rehab' singer had recently developed a love for the game, and joked about forming words. "I am trying to think of something clever. No, I ain't got the right letters for rehab," she had said.

Marty Nesbitt, close friend of Barack Obama

Nesbitt says he first began to gauge Obama's abilities through – of all things – the game of Scrabble, when they played the husbands against the wives. "He basically carried our team," Nesbitt remembers. "And I started going, 'This guy's pretty smart,' you know?"

Andy Murray, British tennis player

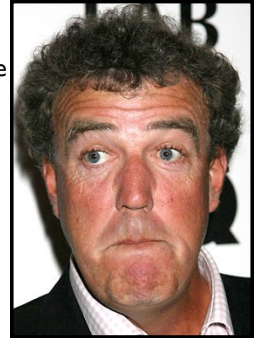
Andy Murray prepared for his first Grand Slam tennis semifinal at the 2008 US Open with a game of Scrabble. After winning three times as many points as his friends, he sent his mother a text to boast.



Andy's tennis philosophy could make good advice for top Scrabble players, too: "It doesn't make any difference whether people expect you to win or not – it doesn't change my mentality."

Jeremy Clarkson, TV personality

Jeremy has written in the UK *Sunday Times*: "The world will never be safe until Scrabble is banned."



He says that Scrabble is flawed. "Well, it is for me because I always end up with seven vowels. So while my opponent is writing UNDERPASS across two triple word scores and claiming it's a game of skill, I'm getting five for EERIE. Again. And they are looking at me as though I might be a simpleton.

"Board games do not bring a family closer together. They rip out its heart in a seething cauldron of rage, hysteria, accusations and hate. And I fear they have a similar effect on world peace. The board game was invented about 5,000 years ago and it didn't quench anyone's thirst for activity. People continued to invent stupid new religions and have wars because they knew that getting an axe in a face was better, by miles, than a game of Cluedo."

Joyce Lane, aged 105, Devon, UK

A daily dose of Scrabble helps Joyce score 105! Her daughter says, "She's incredibly switched on. She takes great interest in the news and tells me all the football and sports scores. She still knits for charity and plays Scrabble every night."

Dannii Minogue

Speaking before her departure from Britain to go home to Australia for Christmas, Dannii said, “I can’t wait for the sun, a BBQ on the beach and a good game of Scrabble with my grandma.”



Laura and her husband, New York

“He took me to a local rose garden to play Scrabble. It was a travel Scrabble board where the letters stick in place, so when I opened the board and saw letters already in place, I thought, I don’t think we were in the middle of a game. I took a second look, and saw that he had spelled, ‘Laura, will you marry me?’ When I looked up at him, he was on his knee holding out the ring. We haven’t taken the letters off of that board since.”

Harry Ellis, rugby player, England

Harry Ellis, the Leicester scrum-half, plays Scrabble online and at Borders book shop in Leicester. “It’s something random to keep my mind off rugby when I have a day off,” he explains. “I try to get the old brain working. I don’t know if it is something to own up to, but it is something different.”



Derryn Hinch, Australia

Derryn Hinch, an expert on the popular board-game having written two books on the subject, has bought a one-off, 60th-anniversary Scrabble set made of Swarovski crystal. He bought the game on eBay, with the money going to the St Jude’s Medical Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee.



“It is valued at about \$30,000 and I got it. This is the ultimate bling,” Hinch said. “It is my Christmas present to myself.”

Hinch would not reveal what he paid for the game. “I did not pay \$30,000 for it. I am not telling you what I did pay, but I paid a lot,” he said. “I watched the countdown [on eBay] tick down and bingo, I won it. Then I found out it weighed 150kg.”

And then it cost him more than \$2000 to airfreight the game to Melbourne!

Short and sweet

The shortest place-names in the USA may be **L** (a lake in Nebraska) and **T** (a gulch in Colorado), each named for its shape, and **D** (a river, possibly the shortest in the world, in Oregon flowing from Devil’s Lake to the Ocean near Lincoln City).

Y is a city in Arkansas and **E** is a river in Perthshire, Scotland. There are villages called **Å** in Norway, Sweden, and Denmark, a **Y** in France, and **U** in the Pacific Caroline Islands.

The only one-letter place-name in the index of the Rand McNally International Atlas is **A**, a peak in Hong Kong (although the Atlas shows political units named with Roman numerals).

60 Scrabble facts

The Telegraph in the UK published 60 facts for Scrabble's 60th birthday. [Comments in brackets are from Jeff Grant and Jennifer Smith.]

1. Scrabble — The World's Leading Word Game — celebrates its 60th birthday in 2008.
2. Over 150 million games have been sold in 121 countries around the world.
3. Scrabble is currently produced in 29 different languages. The latest is the Welsh language Scrabble introduced in 2006.
4. 53% of all homes in Great Britain have a Scrabble set.
5. Scrabble can be played by email and post.
6. Each hour, at least 30,000 Scrabble games are started.
7. There are around 4,000 Scrabble clubs around the world.
8. Somewhere in the world there are over a million missing Scrabble tiles.
9. The original name for Scrabble was "Lexico" [Jeff thinks it was "Lexiko"].
10. The original game did not have a board but was played with tiles only.
11. Alfred Butts, the inventor, decided on the frequency and distribution of letters by analysing the front page of the *New York Times*.
12. He also invented a game similar to Scrabble called "Alfred's other game" — it was not a success.
13. Over 260,000 legal words are allowed under British Scrabble rules.
14. There are 124 permissible two-letter words containing every letter in the alphabet except V.
15. The highest number of points that can be scored on the first go is 128 — with MUZJIKS (Russian peasants).
16. Dr Karl Khoshnaw from Manchester holds the record for the highest word score achieved in a competition, scoring 392 points with CAZIKUES, the plural for a West Indian Chief.
17. The highest score for one game is 1049 by Philip Appleby from Lymington in 1989.
18. The US Scrabble dictionary has banned all offensive words [but they are still allowed in tournament play, Jeff says].
19. The French play all competitions with a version called Duplicate Scrabble where each player plays with the same letters for each move.
20. It's not possible to play Scrabble in Japanese or Chinese, but they play in English with a rule book in their own language.
21. Scrabble is used all over the world as a method of teaching English.
22. At the 1st World Championships in 1991 in London, there was a minor hiccup before play could get underway — there were no tiles to play with.
23. A Scrabble Championship is one of the only places players aren't penalised for swearing and inappropriate languages — all words that feature in the official Scrabble dictionary can be played.
24. The world's largest game of Scrabble took place in Britain's Wembley Stadium to mark the game's 50th anniversary in 1998. Each tile measured an enormous 6ft square and took two strong men to lift. The game is recorded in the Guinness Book of Records.
25. The English Scrabble World Championships take place every other year. The current winner [CHAMPION, thank you!] is Nigel Richards of New Zealand, who beat his opponent in three straight games. Winning words included JERBIL, QUOHOG and FAX.

French and Spanish World Championships also take place.

26. The World Record for the most number of games being played simultaneously by one player is held by Malaysian player Ganesh Asirvatham who played 25 games at once. These took place over two and a half hours and he won 21 of the games.
27. A ballet called Scrabble had its premiere in South Africa in the 1980s.
28. A horse called Scrabble, trained by Harvey Smith's wife Sue, made a few appearances on an English racecourse before being retired due to lack of success.
29. Dutch gave us the generic word Scrabble – 'schrabbelan' means to claw or scrape and may have come into the language via Dutch settlers in North America.
30. Jenny Watson, an Australian artist, staged an exhibition called "Scrabble and Paintings on Hessian" in Mannheim, Germany in May 1994.
31. In 1988, a guitarist in an American rock band won \$2 million dollars in a scratch and win [Scrabble] competition sponsored by McDonald's restaurant chain.
32. Musician Duke Ellington once said: "Playing bop is like Scrabble with all the vowels missing."
33. The Simpsons television series includes an episode in which Bart Simpson plays the bogus word "kwyjibo" for a huge score defining it as a "balding North American ape with a small chin".
34. Underwater Scrabble was played at Portsmouth University on 12 December 1995 in aid of Children In Need. Special laminated boards were used and the tiles had lead weights attached.
35. If all the Scrabble tiles ever produced were placed end to end they would reach the equivalent of eight times around the earth.
36. UK players have their own organisation, the Association of British Scrabble Players, which was taken to court in 1995 by an irate player for allowing too little time for him to go to the toilet between games.
37. In 1996 a woman was charged with assault in Haggerstown, USA, when she struck her husband over the head with a Scrabble board.
38. A resident in a UK old people's home was thrown out when she admitted she didn't play Scrabble.
39. A five-year-old boy phoned Leicester police to complain his sister was cheating at Scrabble.
40. Scrabble is used in Douglas Adams' *The Hitch-hikers Guide to the Galaxy* to decide the answer to the ultimate question "What is the Meaning Of Life?"
41. Gerry Adams once castigated the British for quibbling over the wording of peace treaties with the phrase: "This is not a game of Scrabble".
42. There is a town called Scrabble in Berkeley County, West Virginia, USA. They don't have a Scrabble club.
43. The record for two players over 24 hours is 162,390 points, scored in Milton Keynes Shopping Centre in 2002 by Chris Hawkins from Peterborough and Austin Shin from Aylesbury. They played 162 games – over six per hour.
44. In 1985 Lt Cdr Waghorn and Lance Corporal Gill played Scrabble continuously for five days when trapped in a crevasse in Antarctica.
45. There are World Scrabble Champions in three languages: English – Nigel Richards (New Zealand); French – Eric Vennin (Belgium); and Spanish – Enric Hernandez (Spain).
46. The British 2008 National Champion is

- Allan Simmons from Coldingham on the Scottish Borders.
47. The youngest National Champion was Allan Saldanha from London who was just 15 in 1993 when he won the title.
 48. In French Scrabble, there are five tiles worth 10 points: K, W, X, Y, and Z.
 49. English Scrabble has 100 tiles, the most tiles are in Italian and Portuguese which both have 120 tiles.
 50. There are 19 As in the Malaysian Scrabble set, nearly a fifth of the total number of tiles in that game.
 51. There is a version of Scrabble themed to the Simpsons TV programme.
 52. A pink coloured version of Scrabble was sold to support the Breakthrough charity which aims to heighten awareness of breast cancer.
 53. In English speaking Scrabble if you draw seven tiles on the first move, there is a one in eight chance that they will make a seven-letter word.
 54. Scrabble tiles have featured on the covers of bestselling albums by Crowded House and World Party.
 55. Scrabble features in the best selling books: *Lolita*, the *Handmaid's Tale* and *Rosemary's Baby*.
 56. The longest word playable with only vowels is EUOUAE (a Gregorian cadence) and the longest word with only consonants is CRWTH(S) (an old Welsh stringed instrument). [*What about TSKTSKS, RHYTHMS, GLYCYLS and NYMPHLY?*]
 57. To celebrate the 60th birthday of Prince Charles and Scrabble, which both occurred in 2008, a portrait of Prince Charles made from Scrabble tiles was created.
 58. Janet Street-Porter once described Scrabble as more addictive than cocaine, champagne and group sex.
 59. Celebrity Scrabble players include: Keanu Reeves, Madonna, Jonathan Ross, the Queen, Sharon Stone and Charles Saatchi.
 60. Earlier this year, Scrabble once again became the best-selling board game in Britain, the first time it had held the spot since the 1980s.

Tournament Calendar		
Tournament	Place	Dates
Dunedin Lion Open	Dunedin	4-5 April
NZ Masters #	Rotorua	11-13 April
Kapiti	Paraparaumu	18 & 19 April
Christchurch	Christchurch	9-10 May
NZ National Champs	Christchurch	30-31 May
Nelson	Nelson	4-5 July
Whangarei	Whangarei	11-12 July
Hamilton	Hamilton	8-9 August
Tauranga	Tauranga	5-6 September
Christchurch	Christchurch	12-13 September
Mt Albert	Auckland	3-4 October
Wanganui	Wanganui	24-25 October
Kiwi	Hamilton	7 November
Otago Lion Open	Dunedin	14-15 November
World Scrabble Champs#	Johor Bahru, Malaysia	26-29 November
Causeway Challenge #*	Johor Bahru, Malaysia	2-6 December
# entry restricted to qualifiers		##* restricted and open sections

Edutainment

It's a craze that has been credited with bringing video games to a whole new audience. But now it seems that so-called "edutainment" games do not boost the brain as much as claimed.

Nintendo has said that games such as Brain Training and Big Brain Academy can improve "practical intelligence", and that regular use of such games can make users "two to three times better" in memory tests.

The Nintendo DS has been a smash hit with consumers, with almost 100 million consoles sold worldwide. Educational games such as Dr Kawashima's Brain Training have been credited with bringing a new audience to gaming, and Nintendo has spent millions on expensive advertising campaigns showing famous people, such as Nicole Kidman, Ronan Keating and Julie Walters, honing their mental sharpness using the Nintendo DS.

Nintendo claims, "The game requires users to perform a number of fun challenges incorporating simple arithmetic, memorisation and reading. In this way it is like a workout for the brain and the challenges in the game can help stimulate the player's memory."

However, researchers at the University of Rennes, Brittany, have concluded that playing Scrabble or completing sudoku puzzles is just as effective at improving mental sharpness as playing games such as Dr Kawashima's Brain Training on the Nintendo DS.

The research team tested Nintendo's claims on 67 10-year-old children, split into four groups. The first two groups undertook a seven-week memory course using the Nintendo DS, while the third group completed puzzles using just a pencil and paper, and the fourth group did no extra work outside of their regular school curriculum.

The researchers compared the results of logic, memory and mathematical tests carried out before and after the study commenced, and found that children using the Nintendo DS failed to show any significant improvements in memory tests.

"If it doesn't work on children, it won't work on adults," concluded Prof Lieury, who said that helping children with their homework or playing Scrabble or sudoku would be just as effective.

[And yes, EDUTAINMENT is a Scrabble word! -Ed.]



Rankings

NZASP Rankings list as at 2 March 2009

Rank	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%	Rank	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%
1	Howard Warner	2074	1187	1635	73%	43	Roger Coates	1508	528	1117	47%
2	Joanne Craig	2008	159	240	66%	44	Rosalind Phillips	1497	303.5	571	53%
3	Kristian Saether	1996	52	82	63%	45	David Gunn	1496	963	1934	50%
4	Jeff Grant	1995	1365	1778	77%	46	Allie Quinn	1488	810.5	1667	49%
5	Blue Thorogood	1988	347	504	69%	47	Karyn McDougall	1472	559.5	1061	53%
6	Steven Brown	1985	704.5	1292	55%	48	Margie Hurly	1468	242	454	53%
7	Peter Sinton	1978	465.5	630	74%	49	Maureen Holliday	1447	541	1050	52%
8	Mike Sigley	1941	815	1133	72%	50	Joan Thomas	1446	631.5	1261	50%
9	Rogelio Talosig	1899	334.5	557	60%	51	Clare Ruckstuhl	1446	168	308	55%
10	Glennis Hale	1895	1169.5	2077	56%	52	Delcie Macbeth	1434	599	1140	53%
11	Lynne Butler	1892	752	1218	62%	53	Ruth Groffman	1420	320.5	646	50%
12	John Foster	1884	1141	1989	57%	54	Vicky Robertson	1415	57	98	58%
13	Andrew Bradley	1866	617	1193	52%	55	Shirley Martin	1404	574	1107	52%
14	Lawson Sue	1851	255.5	472	54%	56	Andree Prentice	1401	735	1436	51%
15	Chris Hooks	1745	790.5	1630	48%	57	Glenda Geard	1389	785.5	1589	49%
16	Val Mills	1741	728	1555	47%	58	Irene Smith	1370	66	124	53%
17	Liz Fagerlund	1734	716	1364	52%	59	John Baird	1370	93	158	59%
18	Debbie Caldwell	1733	418.5	678	62%	60	Faye Cronhelm	1369	657	1321	50%
19	Denise Gordon	1733	602	1205	50%	61	Kaite Hansen	1367	149	265	56%
20	Paul Lister	1725	672.5	1154	58%	62	June Mackwell	1344	559	1289	43%
21	Shirley van Essen	1710	297	559	53%	63	Pat Bryan	1338	104	176	59%
22	Marianne Bentley	1709	231	504	46%	64	Leila Thomson	1333	421	953	44%
23	Peter Jones	1703	709	1444	49%	65	Yoon Kim Fong	1331	371	711	52%
24	Murray Rogers	1700	421.5	804	52%	66	Jean O'Brien	1330	789.5	1560	51%
25	Amelia Carrington	1699	241	416	58%	67	Ella Rushton	1324	160	256	63%
26	Lynne Powell	1693	799.5	1575	51%	68	Ernie Gidman	1292	294	584	50%
27	Jennifer Smith	1676	669	1351	50%	69	Yvette Hewlett	1279	324.5	686	47%
28	Glenda Foster	1667	756	1471	51%	70	Anderina McLean	1279	198.5	359	55%
29	Rosemary Cleary	1661	520	1121	46%	71	Mary Gray	1277	281.5	532	53%
30	Janice Cherry	1652	308	587	52%	72	Margaret Cherry	1256	385	775	50%
31	Pam Robson	1642	459	1002	46%	73	Marian Ross	1243	381	769	50%
32	Selena Chan	1639	202	352	57%	74	Pam Barlow	1238	434	849	51%
33	Lynn Wood	1636	1152.5	2429	47%	75	Scott Chaput	1232	60	102	59%
34	Ian Patterson	1622	147	258	57%	76	Chris Higgins	1230	66	102	65%
35	Glenyss Buchanan	1622	514	1102	47%	77	Katrina Allen	1227	81	149	54%
36	Ann Hough	1591	413.5	847	49%	78	Marianne Patchett	1214	241.5	462	52%
37	Sheila Green	1590	31	62	50%	79	Rhoda Cashman	1205	709.5	1467	48%
38	Hazel Purdie	1572	714	1447	49%	80	Betty Eriksen	1200	851.5	1694	50%
39	Olivia Godfrey	1558	318	546	58%	81	Ray Goodyear	1200	166	336	49%
40	Helen Sillis	1550	609	1211	50%	82	Lyn Toka	1188	397.5	758	52%
41	Shirley Hol	1535	451	948	48%	83	Lynn Carter	1186	348	641	54%
42	Frank Robinson	1513	150.5	290	52%	84	Allison Torrance	1185	233	438	53%

Rank	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%	Rank	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%
85	Steve Richards	1184	186	387	48%	133	Thelma Chisholm	812	178.5	380	47%
86	Lyn Dawson	1177	286	521	55%	134	Judith Thomas	805	67.5	145	47%
87	Su Walker	1152	630	1242	51%	135	Karen Miller	797	376.5	772	49%
88	Roger Cole-Baker	1150	196.5	370	53%	136	Maria Clinton	779	156	311	50%
89	Elaine Moltzen	1136	456	914	50%	137	Valma Gidman	763	557.5	1108	50%
90	Lorraine Van Veen	1133	639.5	1276	50%	138	Rosemary Wauters	763	86.5	161	54%
91	Correne James	1125	571	1183	48%	139	Bev Edwards	739	78.5	136	58%
92	Ann Candler	1124	610.5	1305	47%	140	Susi Nicholson	729	43.5	70	62%
93	Carolyn Kyle	1123	454.5	917	50%	141	Kathleen Mori-Barker	728	261.5	542	48%
94	Jenan Yousif	1111	242.5	484	50%	142	Janny Henneveld	699	213	450	47%
95	Shirley Wyatt	1108	409.5	878	47%	143	Jean Wacker	688	198	383	52%
96	Dianne Cole-Baker	1104	176	329	53%	144	Maria Barker	682	74	169	44%
97	Jo Ann Ingram	1085	107.5	204	53%	145	Tony Charlton	672	108	220	49%
98	Jean Boyle	1078	302.5	556	54%	146	Rahimah Abdullah	660	22.5	56	40%
99	Liz Richards	1075	191.5	385	50%	147	Tim Henneveld	660	194.5	451	43%
100	Connie Flores	1070	109.5	170	64%	148	Christina Linwood	649	24	57	42%
101	Malcolm Graham	1033	211.5	424	50%	149	Barbara Cornell	627	31	87	36%
102	Karen Gray	1022	113	206	55%	150	Roslyn Lister	620	263.5	522	50%
103	Suzanne Frederick	1002	145	257	56%	151	Mary Curtis	600	76	163	47%
104	Paul Freeman	996	47.5	94	51%	152	Anne Scatchard	589	79.5	148	54%
105	Chris Handley	972	272	518	53%	153	Pauline Smeaton	579	251.5	490	51%
106	Margaret Lyall	967	394.5	803	49%	154	Judy Driscoll	556	12.5	56	22%
107	Cicely Bruce	965	57	88	65%	155	Anthea Jones	545	105	207	51%
108	Gabrielle Bolt	961	240.5	473	51%	156	Alison Vautier	527	31	100	31%
109	Colleen Cook	955	173.5	354	49%	157	Dorothy Haining	518	455	925	49%
110	Kate Wignall	947	653.5	1301	50%	158	Maggie Bentley	512	29	52	56%
111	Agnes Rowland	936	47	85	55%	159	Suzanne Harding	509	94	204	46%
112	Yvonne MacKenzie	930	340.5	736	46%	160	Pat Wood	501	46.5	89	52%
113	Barbara Dunn	921	133.5	229	58%	161	Margaret Hanson	496	433	890	49%
114	Roto Mitchell	912	438	869	50%	162	Paula Gibbons	474	346	730	47%
115	Catherine Henry	900	269.5	510	53%	163	Marc Van Hoecke	473	58	127	46%
116	Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell	893	439	909	48%	164	Karen Brookes	440	23	93	25%
117	Joan Pratt	887	564	1081	52%	165	Ruth Godwin	438	45	143	31%
118	Gordon Pinchin	887	157.5	313	50%	166	Betty Sutherland	437	190	445	43%
119	Annette Coombes	884	450	1001	45%	167	Betty Wilson	420	253.5	513	49%
120	Nola Borrell	877	98.5	179	55%	168	Judith Bach	399	41	90	46%
121	Alison Holmes	867	99	170	58%	169	Jean Craib	390	289	627	46%
122	Sheila Reed	861	109.5	229	48%	170	Lynn Thompson	389	95.5	217	44%
123	Heather London	847	175.5	349	50%	171	Sue Mayn	389	103	277	37%
124	Pam Muirhead	846	44.5	68	65%	172	Margaret Miller	374	76	197	39%
125	Carole Coates	845	447.5	915	49%	173	Antonia Aarts	372	25	69	36%
126	Michael Groffman	843	170.5	359	47%	174	Anne-Louise Milne	363	35	212	17%
127	Bernice Hyde	840	190	365	52%	175	Noelene Bettjeman	329	147	327	45%
128	Jan Evans	837	89	186	48%	176	Di Barritt	272	44.5	125	36%
129	Chris Day	831	37	72	51%	177	Bev Griffin	267	58	163	36%
130	Liz Catchpole	816	351.5	722	49%	178	Jeannie Lambert	234	5	44	11%
131	Veronica Zilinskas	814	142.5	247	58%	179	Bev Allen	232	17	79	22%
132	Herb Ramsay	813	41	57	72%	180	Trish Fox	0	7	65	11%

Tournament Results

Rodney

7 November 2008

7 Games

These are the correct results, replacing the results published in the last issue.

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
Grade A					
1	Howard Warner	MTA	5	877	480
2	Val Mills	PAK	5	-40	402
3	John Foster	IND	4	85	373
4	Patrick Carter	MTA	4	7	394
5	Rogelio Talosig	IND	4	-62	390
6	Andrew Bradley	MTA	3	121	408
7	Lawson Sue	PAK	2	-234	375
8	Liz Fagerlund	MTA	1	-754	354

Grade B

1	Glynis Jennings	MTA	6	701	437
2	Chris Hooks	MTA	6	425	423
3	Anderina McLean	MTA	4	111	392
4	Rebecca Freeth	ROD	3	-102	368
5	Hazel Purdie	MTA	3	-273	382
6	Margie Hurly	WRE	2	-173	374
7	Lynne Powell	HBC	2	-320	370
8	Allie Quinn	WRE	2	-369	350

Grade C

1	Dianne Cole-Baker	MTA	4.5	169	386
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Glynis Jennings
2nd in B Grade at Rodney

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
2	Pam Barlow	PAK	4	278	395
3	Mary Gray	MTA	4	164	382
4	Ernie Gidman	ROD	4	98	386
5	Lorraine van Veen	IND	3.5	-184	361
6	Rhoda Cashman	HBC	3	-61	372
7	Lynn Carter	NSB	3	-155	374
8	June Mackwell	NSB	2	-309	357

Grade D

1	Su Walker	MTA	6	354	411
2	Roto Mitchell	WAN	5	268	407
3	Roger Cole-Baker	MTA	4	64	390
4	Cicely Bruce	WRE	4	46	380
5	Pam Muirhead	HBC	4	-23	354
6	Bernice Hyde	HBC	3	178	393
7	Valma Gidman	ROD	1	-291	340
8	Liz Catchpole	MTA	1	-596	309

Grade E

1	Kate Wignall	MTA	6	367	373
2	Anne Scatchard	WRE	4	92	339
3	Joy Hewson	HBC	4	-50	334
4	Bev Edwards	WRE	4	-66	333
5	Suzanne Harding	WRE	3	4	336
6	Ruth Munnings	ROD	3	-103	354
7	Dorothy Haining	ROD	3	-118	334
8	Linda Moore	ROD	1	-126	327

Grade F

1	Melody Freeth	ROD	7	616	401
2	Rob van Slyke	ROD	5	242	344
3	Sue Mayn	ROD	4	297	341
4	Janet Snelgar	ROD	4	144	345
5	Elvie Perrin	ROD	4	-52	332
6	Lynn Thompson	WRE	3	-47	350
7	Stella Dekker	HBC	3	-370	335
8	Merle Spinetto	ROD	2	-200	325
9	Margaret Miller	HBC	2	-367	294
10	Janetta Reitsma	ROD	1	-263	308

Pakuranga

24 January 2009

7 Games

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
Grade A					
1	John Foster	IND	5	83	400
2	Liz Fagerlund	MTA	5	-11	397



Resie Coenen, H grade and G grade winner at Pakuranga

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
3 Howard Warner	MTA	4	377	427
4 Rogelio Talosig	IND	4	151	417
5 Kristian Soether	MTA	3	202	424
6 Andrew Bradley	MTA	3	-20	408
7 Glennis Hale	IND	3	-121	385
8 Val Mills	PAK	1	-661	343

Grade B

1 Lawson Sue	PAK	6	171	411
2 Chris Hooks	MTA	4	211	431
3 Marianne Bentley	TGA	4	40	406
4 Joan Thomas	HAS	4	-86	403
5 Allie Quinn	WRE	3	-7	394
6 Lynn Wood	WEL	3	-9	369
7 Sheila Green	IND	3	-128	395
8 Rosalind Phillips	MTA	1	-192	375

Grade C

1 Nick Cavenagh	HAM	6	566	444
2 Olivia Godfrey	WEL	6	543	401
3 Margie Hurly	WRE	4	217	394
4 Anderina McLean	MTA	4	37	395
5 Hazel Purdie	MTA	3	77	391
6 Pat Bryan	MTA	2	-382	371
7 Maureen Holliday	HBC	2	-523	352
8 Shirley Martin	HAM	1	-535	347

Grade D

1 Vicky Robertson	WEL	6	132	386
2 June Mackwell	NSB	4	116	387
3 Ernie Gidman	ROD	3	78	368
4 Lorraine Van Veen	IND	3	77	396
5 Betty Eriksen	WAN	3	11	355

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
6	Chris Higgins	PAK	3	-107	367
7	Su Walker	MTA	3	-108	383
8	Pam Barlow	PAK	3	-199	353

Grade E

1	Margaret Cherry	PAK	7	363	404
2	Lynn Carter	NSB	5	141	372
3	Dianne Cole-Baker	MTA	5	-186	360
4	Roger Cole-Baker	MTA	4	26	373
5	Jenan Yousif	KIW	4	20	379
6	Rhoda Cashman	HBC	3	68	359
7	Ann Candler	NSB	3	22	366
8	Shirley Wyatt	MTA	3	-91	347
9	Roto Mitchell	WAN	1	-356	353

Grade F

1	Catherine Henry	TGA	6	214	371
2	Joan Pratt	HBC	4	89	361
3	Cicely Bruce	WRE	4	67	400
4	Janny Henneveld	ROT	4	50	353
5	Kate Wignall	MTA	3	46	374
6	Pam Muirhead	HBC	3	-118	380
7	Karen Miller	IND	3	-172	339
8	Valma Gidman	ROD	1	-176	353

Grade G

1	Bernice Hyde	HBC	5	342	397
2	Heather Landon	TGA	5	304	391
3	Bev Edwards	WRE	4	198	399
4	Tim Henneveld	ROT	4	149	359
5	Mary Curtis	MTA	4	96	377
6	Suzanne Harding	WRE	3	-55	368
7	Jean Wacker	TGA	2	-342	322
8	Anne Scatchard	WRE	1	-692	289

Grade H

1	Resie Coenen	PAK	7	568	386
2	Elaine Ware	MTA	6	503	389
3	Joan Rawlings	PAK	5	344	368
4	Patricia Wareing	PAK	4	151	354
5	Margaret Hanson	PAK	4	42	341
6	Ruth Godwin	ROT	4	-28	344
7	Lynn Thompson	WRE	3	-78	335
8	Margaret Miller	HBC	2	-87	313
9	Noelene Bettjeman	HBC	2	-254	311
10	Sue Mayn	ROD	2	-323	313
11	Stella Dekker	HBC	2	-337	314
12	Madge Watson	HBC	1	-501	280

25 January 2009**7 Games**

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
Grade A					
1	Howard Warner	MTA	7	863	471
2	Kristian Saether	MTA	6	251	423
3	John Foster	IND	3	184	404
4	Rogelio Talosig	IND	3	63	410
5	Andrew Bradley	MTA	3	-15	400
6	Liz Fagerlund	MTA	3	-119	388
7	Lawson Sue	PAK	2	-506	359
8	Val Mills	PAK	1	-721	347

Grade B

1	Nick Cavenagh	HAM	5	161	400
2	Lynn Wood	WEL	5	60	403
3	Chris Hooks	MTA	4	326	423
4	Glynis Jennings	MTA	4	300	429
5	Sheila Green	IND	4	9	394
6	Marianne Bentley	TGA	4	-44	384
7	Rosalind Phillips	MTA	1	-305	361
8	Joan Thomas	HAS	1	-507	343

Grade C

1	Shirley Martin	HAM	5	38	390
2	Olivia Godfrey	WEL	4	341	417
3	Vicky Robertson	WEL	4	133	409
4	Maureen Holliday	HBC	4	-176	390
5	Allie Quinn	WRE	3	-41	385
6	Margie Hurly	WRE	3	-186	402
7	Hazel Purdie	MTA	3	-248	408
8	Anderina McLean	MTA	2	139	405

**Shirley Martin****C Grade winner at Pakuranga day 2**

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
Grade D					
1	June Mackwell	NSB	5	392	386
2	Ernie Gidman	ROD	5	269	405
3	Betty Eriksen	WAN	5	50	368
4	Pat Bryan	MTA	4	348	408
5	Margaret Cherry	PAK	3	45	396
6	Su Walker	MTA	3	-186	383
7	Pam Barlow	PAK	2	-374	352
8	Lorraine Van Veen	IND	1	-544	342

Grade E

1	Roger Cole-Baker	MTA	6	417	394
2	Shirley Wyatt	MTA	5	519	399
3	Ann Candler	NSB	4	189	401
4	Rhoda Cashman	HBC	4	-383	344
5	Lynn Carter	NSB	3	-180	372
6	Catherine Henry	TGA	2	-37	360
7	Roto Mitchell	WAN	2	-203	352
8	Dianne Cole-Baker	MTA	2	-322	338

Grade F

1	Cicely Bruce	WRE	6	301	392
2	Bernice Hyde	HBC	4.5	345	388
3	Kate Wignall	MTA	4	-18	338
4	Bev Barker	MTA	3	27	376
5	Liz Catchpole	MTA	3	-58	345
6	Tim Henneveld	ROT	3	-117	328
7	Janny Henneveld	ROT	3	-238	333
8	Heather Landon	TGA	1.5	-242	347

Grade G

1	Resie Coenen	PAK	7	474	373
2	Jean Wacker	WRE	5	158	350
3	Bev Edwards	WRE	5	146	351
4	Valma Gidman	WRE	3	137	364
5	Anne Scatchard	WRE	3	-311	306
6	Mary Curtis	MTA	2	-51	356
7	Margaret Hanson	PAK	2	-338	288
8	Suzanne Harding	WRE	1	-215	340

Grade H

1	Patricia Wareing	PAK	6	225	356
2	Ruth Godwin	ROT	4	125	340
3	Margaret Miller	HBC	3	72	327
4	Lynn Thompson	WRE	3	-36	333
5	Sue Mayn	ROD	3	-168	336
6	Noelene Bettjeman	HBC	2	-218	321

Nelson Club Tournament 31 January 2009

7 Games

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
A Grade					
1	Debbie Caldwell	NEL	5	470	444
2	Lynn Wood	WEL	5	435	403
3	Olivia Godfrey	WEL	4	-48	403
4	Ann Hough	NEL	3	5	395
5	Hazel Purdie	MTA	3	-195	371
6	Joan Thomas	HAS	3	-251	367
7	Murray Rogers	NEL	3	-335	382
8	Shirley Hol	CHC	2	-81	397

B Grade

1	Jean O'Brien	IND	6	276	399
2	Andree Prentice	WAN	5	168	385
3	Clare Ruckstuhl	WEL	5	29	373
4	Betty Eriksen	WAN	4	247	388
5	Katrina Allen	NEL	4	228	389
6	Steve Richards	NEL	2	-279	362
7	Anderina McLean	MTA	1	-292	368
8	Carolyn Kyle	DUN	1	-377	379

C Grade

1	Liz Richards	NEL	5	100	363
2	Jo Logan	NEL	4	198	394
3	Gabrielle Bolt	CHC	4	148	376
4	Margaret Lyall	CHC	4	131	385
5	Malcolm Graham	CHC	3	-131	375
6	Jean Boyle	WAN	3	-150	360
7	Lynn Carter	NSB	3	-222	349
8	Suzanne Frederick	WAN	2	-74	372

D Grade

1	Alison Holmes	CHC	5	331	384
2	Nick Higgins	NEL	5	295	386
3	Maria Clinton	NEL	4	85	360
4	Barbara Cornell	NEL	4	27	335
5	Tony Charlton	NEL	3	3	343
6	Karen Brookes	NEL	3	-386	321
7	Quinny Tarapipipi	NEL	2	-143	335
8	Nola Borrell	IND	2	-212	326

1 February 2009

7 Games

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
A Grade					
1	Murray Rogers	NEL	6	149	407
2	Olivia Godfrey	WEL	4	492	452
3	Ann Hough	NEL	4	304	399



*Nola Borrell, C Grade winner,
day 3 at Nelson*

4	Debbie Caldwell	NEL	4	66	409
5	Shirley Hol	CHC	3	-93	386
6	Lynn Wood	WEL	3	-108	385
7	Hazel Purdie	MTA	3	-159	385
8	Joan Thomas	HAS	1	-651	349

B Grade

1	Clare Ruckstuhl	WEL	6	196	395
2	Jean O'Brien	IND	5	164	407
3	Andree Prentice	WAN	4	172	376
4	Katrina Allen	NEL	4	14	374
5	Betty Eriksen	WAN	3.5	-89	357
6	Carolyn Kyle	DUN	2.5	-8	363
7	Steve Richards	NEL	2	-119	361
8	Liz Richards	NEL	1	-330	357

C Grade

1	Lynn Carter	NSB	5	311	395
2	Jo Logan	NEL	5	171	389
3	Malcolm Graham	CHC	4	115	365
4	Suzanne Frederick	WAN	4	-125	372
5	Nick Higgins	NEL	3	49	359
6	Jean Boyle	WAN	3	-14	382
7	Margaret Lyall	CHC	2	-196	367
8	Gabrielle Bolt	CHC	2	-311	365

D Grade

1	Alison Holmes	CHC	7	566	407
2	Jan Evans	NEL	5	328	371
3	Maria Clinton	NEL	5	198	382
4	Tony Charlton	NEL	4	103	351
5	Nola Borrell	IND	3	48	358
6	Barbara Cornell	NEL	3	-62	339
7	Karen Brookes	NEL	1	-410	315
8	Quinny Tarapipipi	NEL	0	-771	281

2 February 2009**7 Games**

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
A Grade					
1	Debbie Caldwell	NEL	6	991	501
2	Murray Rogers	NEL	6	239	402
3	Shirley Hol	CHC	5	82	409
4	Jean O'Brien	IND	3	-292	373
5	Ann Hough	NEL	3	-317	367
6	Hazel Purdie	MTA	2	-135	383
7	Andree Prentice	WAN	2	-419	355
8	Anderina McLean	MTA	1	-149	374

B Grade

1	Betty Eriksen	WAN	5	617	402
2	Jo Logan	NEL	5	402	408
3	Lynn Carter	NEL	4	43	387
4	Jean Boyle	WAN	3	66	370
5	Suzanne Frederick	WAN	3	-186	371
6	Katrina Allen	NEL	3	-236	366
7	Carolyn Kyle	CHC	3	-330	356
8	Malcolm Graham	CHC	2	-376	341

C Grade

1	Nola Borrell	IND	5	463	390
2	Margaret Lyall	CHC	5	393	403
3	Gabrielle Bolt	NEL	5	312	384
4	Jan Evans	NEL	5	171	381
5	Maria Clinton	NEL	4	-117	342
6	Tony Charlton	NEL	2	-417	333
7	Quinny Tarapipipi	NEL	1	-375	303
8	Iris Boulton	NEL	1	-430	327

ACC Masters Games**7-8 February 2009****15 games**

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
Grade A					
1	Mike Sigley	WAN	14	1719	470
2	Rosemary Cleary	WAN	9	44	386
3	Hazel Purdie	MTA	8.5	-163	396
4	Andree Prentice	WAN	7	-267	365
5	Glenda Foster	WEL	5	-197	396
6	Jean O'Brien	IND	1.5	-1136	361
Grade B					
1	Lynn Carter	NSB	11	733	399
2	Betty Eriksen	WAN	11	586	394
3	Rhoda Cashman	HBC	11	497	377



A Grade medal winners at the ACC Masters Games, Joan, Mike, Rosemary



B Grade medal winners at the ACC Masters Games, Rhoda, Lynn, Betty

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
4	Suzanne Frederick	WAN	7	314	401
5	Jean Boyle	WAN	7	-311	363
6	Nola Borrell	IND	6	-449	358
7	Roto Mitchell	WAN	5	-436	354
8	Christina Linwood	DUN	2	-934	331

Social Grade

1	Jean Walsh		13	1258	
2	Rosemary Hovey		13	1159	
3	Marjorie Woodruff		11	350	
4	Shirley Radford		8	93	
5	Geoff Eastgate		7	198	
6	Pauline Web		7	-56	
7	Marilyn Guinan		7	-130	
8	Erina True		7	-281	
9	Graham Alderton		6	41	
10	Peter Godfrey		4	-632	

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
11	Marion Godfrey		2	-612	
12	Marian Penn		1	-1062	

**Rotorua
28 February—1 March**

13 Games

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
Grade A					
1	Howard Warner	MTA	11	1414	461
2	Kristian Saether	MTA	11	902	431
3	Rogelio Talosig	IND	9	541	420
4	Lawson Sue	PAK	9	33	413
5	Andrew Bradley	MTA	8	580	428
6	John Foster	IND	7	417	416
7	Nick Cavenagh	HAM	7	-459	380
8	Jennifer Smith	HAM	6	-56	389
9	Peter Jones	HAM	6	-351	385
10	Amelia Carrington	IND	5	-217	379
11	Val Mills	PAK	5	-474	388
12	Lynn Wood	WEL	4	-474	365
13	Liz Fagerlund	MTA	2	-365	388
14	Helen Sillis	NPL	1	-1491	317

Grade B

1	Roger Coates	KIW	10	572	403
2	Olivia Godfrey	WEL	9	300	396
3	Rosalind Phillips	MTA	8	434	393
4	Allie Quinn	WRE	8	167	393
5	Delcie Macbeth	IND	8	28	378
6	Joan Thomas	HAS	7	142	388
7	Glenda Geard	IND	7	18	388
8	Shirley Martin	HAM	6	-169	383
9	Faye Cronhelm	IND	6	-214	399

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
10	Yoon Kim Fong	KIW	5	-187	371
11	Andree Prentice	WAN	5	-243	371
12	Ernie Gidman	ROD	4	-86	374
13	Anderina McLean	MTA	4	-291	357
14	Yvette Hewlett	IND	4	-471	372

Grade C

1	Rhoda Cashman	HBC	9	500	394
2	Lyn Toka	KIW	9	153	390
3	Jenan Yousif	KIW	8	429	385
4	Marianne Patchett	MTA	8	419	396
5	Betty Eriksen	WAN	8	342	380
6	Jo Ann Ingram	TGA	8	246	379
7	Elaine Moltzen	KIW	7	108	381
8	Su Walker	MTA	7	34	384
9	Lorraine Van Veen	IND	7	-37	388
10	Jean Boyle	WAN	7	-376	370
11	Kate Wignall	MTA	5	-324	357
12	Catherine Henry	TGA	3	-294	361
13	Barbara Dunn	TGA	3	-425	350
14	Annette Coombes	WKP	2	-775	339

Grade D

1	Heather Landon	TGA	10	648	385
2	Liz Catchpole	MTA	9	467	368
3	Valma Gidman	ROD	8	123	353
4	Maria Barker	WKP	7	-105	345
5	Philippa Medlock	ROT	7	-157	320
6	Janny Henneveld	ROT	6	158	346
7	Tim Henneveld	ROT	6	-58	340
8	Anne Scatchard	WRE	5	-140	328
9	Anthea Jones	KIW	4	-609	326
10	Dorothy Haining	ROD	3	-327	332

Grade E

1	Pauline Smeaton	TGA	10	459	350
2	Maggie Bentley	ROT	9	480	351
3	Pat Wood	TGA	9	414	343
4	Allison Maclean	ROT	8	455	344
5	Linda Moore	ROD	8	415	349
6	Antonia Aarts	MTA	6	131	329
7	Sue Mayn	ROD	6	-306	317
8	Jo Simmons	ROT	5	-204	298
9	Jeannie Lambert	ROT	3	-904	277
10	Iris Hodgson	ROT	1	-940	274



*Pauline Smeaton,
E grade winner at Rotorua*

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

Clubs (Nth to Sth)	Contact Person	Phone	Email	Meeting Day/Time
Please contact the contact person to find out the meeting venue				
Whangarei (WRE)	Bev Edwards	09 430 2832	bevhola@xtra.co.nz	Thurs 1pm
Rodney (ROD)	Linda Moore	09 425 4959	colin.linda@wave.co.nz	Mon 1pm
Hibiscus Coast (HBC)	Joan Pratt	09 426 4521	jopra@xtra.co.nz	Mon 12.45pm
Nth Shore Bays (NSB)	Lynn Carter	09 419 449		Tues 10am
Mt Albert (MTA)	Kate Wignall	09 625 0147	wignallc@hotmail.com	Fri 7.15pm
Pakuranga/Howick (PAK)	Jeanette Owler	09 534 4453	cliffordo@xtra.co.nz	Tues 12.30pm Thurs 7pm
Papatoetoe/Holy Cross (PHC)	May Meads	09 278 5155	maymeads@xtra.co.nz	Mon 1pm
Hamilton (HAM)	Jillian Greening	07 843 7652	jillian.greening@yahoo.co.nz	Tues 7pm
Kiwi (KIWI)	Elaine Moltzen	07 843 5108	jillian.greening@yahoo.co.nz	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	marstan@xtra.co.nz	Tues 9.00am
Rotorua	Ruth Godwin	07 349 6954	rgodwin#xtra.co.nz	
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	scrabblyn@clear.net.nz	Saturday
Pukekura (PUK)	Mary Waite	06 757 8654		Thurs 9.45am
Stratford (STR)	Sharon Clarke	06 765 5653	sharontc@xtra.co.nz	
Hastings (HAS)	Yvonne Wilson	06 878 8229	wilsonpad@paradise.net.nz	Tues 1pm
Wanganui (WAN)	Rosemary Cleary	06 347 1837	rosecleary@hotmail.com	Mon 7pm
Masterton (MAS)	Hilda Scott	06 378 2663		
Lower Hutt (LOH)	Glenyss Buchanan	04 569 5433	glenyss.buchanan@xtra.co.nz	Tues 7.30pm
Kapiti (KAP)	Graeme Brown	04 297 0720	geb@xtra.co.nz	Mon 7pm
Wellington (WEL)	Lynn Wood	04 387 2581	lynnwood@paradise.net.nz	Tues 7pm
Nelson (NEL)	Steve Richards	03 544 0475	steverichards@xtra.co.nz	Wed 7pm
Christchurch (CHC)	Margaret Lyall	03 332 5963	noelrealest@hotmail.com	Fri 6.45pm Wed 12.45pm
Dunedin (DUN)	Chris Handley	03 464 0199	ruthgroffman@hotmail.com	Tues 7pm
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