

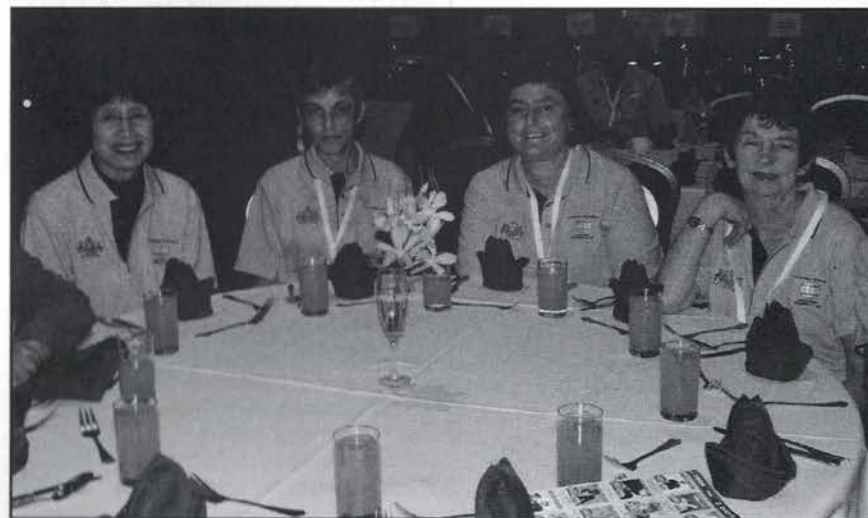
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# FORWORDS

Journal of the New Zealand Association of Scrabble® Players  
No 98 March 2010



Betty Eriksen, Lynn Carter, Rosalind Phillips and Liz Fagerlund write about their Causeway Challenge experiences

- photo: Rosalind Phillips

## In this issue

Runner-up in the World's

World Champ's analysis – Jeff Grant

The value of going first – John Foster

Scrabble learning tools – Selena Chan

Geologic terms for Scrabble players



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# From the Editor

I went to Scrabble Club last week via the supermarket to pick up a few urgent supplies. At Scrabble, our secretary announced that she was collecting our Scrabble Association affiliation fees. "Are you kidding?!" I thought, after she reminded us the fee was \$8. "EIGHT DOLLARS!"

I remembered the docket from the supermarket. "That's a 12-pack of toilet rolls. How can such a great Association run on the equivalent of a 12-pack of toilet rolls per member?" (And how could we possibly complain at the amount?)

I'll stick my neck out and make a bet with you all. I bet there are no other national associations whose affiliation fees are less than that! If you can tell me of any, I'll eat my hat ... no, I'll do better than that. I'll eat one Scrabble tile for every such association you tell me about.

But I hope you are all paying more than \$8 to your secretaries for NZASP-related fees. The Scrabble magazine, *Forwards*, that you're holding in your hand right now, will cost you, at \$12 per year, the grand sum of a loaf of bread and a pack of mince. My supermarket docket confirms this ridiculously cheap price for the best, most entertaining and most informative magazine you will ever receive.

Again, I'll eat a Scrabble tile for every equivalent-sized magazine (at least 4 x 52 pages) you tell me about whose subscription is less than \$12 per year.

NZASP has 396 affiliated members, and only 156 of those members opt to receive *Forwards*. If you are one of the 240 or so members who haven't paid a loaf of bread and a pack of mince for the

copy you are holding in your hand right now, please subscribe this year – you know it's a great buy!

This is typical of the comments our members make about *Forwards*: "Wonderful ... I await each issue with much anticipation and they all live by my bedside for me to dip regularly into for my daily bedtime read." (Selena Chan)

Why are they so wonderful? Because it's YOUR magazine. This issue, at least 32 members have contributed, often on their own initiative. And those who have been asked to write something have done so happily and interestingly. That's very impressive participation. Thank you. I love reading your input, no matter how small the article.

Now, please do one more thing for the Association – encourage all your Club -mates to subscribe to *Forwards*. Think what those extra 240 potential contributors could add to our newsletter! Tell them, as Treasurer Joan Thomas commented when she supplied me with the subscription figures, "It's only \$20 for the fees and the magazine – must be the cheapest in the universe."

(That's why I know I'm not going to be forced to eat any of the Scrabble tiles from the box containing a Belgian chocolate Scrabble game left over from Christmas and still in my pantry!)



*Jenifer*

# From the Executive

"Time flies when you're having fun" Well the time has flown, but I'm not having the fun. Radiation and chemo are certainly taking their toll on my body but the prognosis is looking brighter, and I hope to be around for a good number of years yet.

The Wellington tournament was planned for our long weekend, but in error I booked it the week before. This was a great start to my treatment and I'm thankful I made such a mistake.

Thank you to all the people who have sent me emails, cards and letters and also the phone calls and visits, I am overwhelmed by your support for me.

This year I will be stepping down as your president, so I can continue to gain my health back. Paul will be a natural successor to the role and I know he will do a fantastic job for New Zealand Scrabble.

I visited Woody on 13th February and along with Val Mills and Glennis Hale, spent time on the ice at Kelly Tarlton's. Val has written an article on that visit for this issue – thanks for that Val.

The NZASP is assisting our first participant, Amy, to the youth coaching clinic in Adelaide at Easter. This is an exciting time for her, and Ruth Groffman, and we wish them all the best. Amy is 11 so she will have many years of Scrabble in front of her. She is very enthusiastic and played in her first tournament in November. Whilst not winning a game, she had some very good scores in the mid 300s, no small measure for an 11-year-old.

The Masters at Easter are in Dunedin this year and I'm certainly looking forward to the event. Mum and I will stay on in Dunedin, Mum's birth city, to view some of the sights with Jeff and Pat Grant. Pat will be the driver, as I have never learnt to drive, and never will. No doubt we'll get to see the penguin colony whilst there too.

I'll be catching up with lots of Scrabblers in the months ahead, so till then –

Slainte

Lynn



# Mailbox

*-from Debbie Caldwell, Independent*

To any Scrabble player who is travelling up Northland way:

I have recently shifted to the Hokianga and would love to play some great games of Scrabble with anyone who is passing through or would like to holiday in this part of the world.

Also, if anyone would be interested in attending a tournament here then I would be happy to run one. Just let me know and tell me when you'd like it. There's a nice café with a view I can use as a venue.

My new details are Debbie Caldwell, 9/19 State Highway 12, Opononi (behind the Opononi Hotel and one minute from the sea). 09 946 6958

My e-mail address is [debbiecaldwell@vodafone.net.nz](mailto:debbiecaldwell@vodafone.net.nz)  
Love to hear from you.

## My first Causeway Challenge experience

*- by Lynn Carter, North Shore Bays*

**O**n Tuesday evening, 1 December, Rosalind and I arrived at the Zon Regency Hotel in Johor Bahru, southern Malaysia. The multi-storey hotel came complete with many shops, including a supermarket, and after dinner in one of its many restaurants, we wandered around, finding it to be rather quiet with no signs of any Scrabble players.

All, though, was to change early next day, when 186 Scrabblers swarmed into the hotel's ballroom – the top 50 players in the Premier Section, the rest of us in the Open Section. It was truly an international tournament, with 28 countries represented, all of us playing 45 games over five days. I found the majority of my opponents to be from Australia, Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines, but did also play three from African nations. It was also a new experience to play children in a tournament, as there were several 13/14-year-olds and two 11-year-olds competing. A couple of them appeared to



*It was interesting getting to know the other players at mealtimes. Here we are sitting with an Aussie and a Singaporean.*

be rather highly-strung and were slightly nerve-racking to play.

After Day Three, with only 10 wins from 28 games, I thought I might end up winning only a third of my games altogether. Luckily, however, the situation improved somewhat on Days Four and Five when I found myself on a roll, winning nine consecutive games and whittling a spread of minus 925 down to just minus four! In one of those games, against an Australian woman, the spread was greater than her score – and she had both the blanks!

At the conclusion of the tournament, I was quite happy with my 21 wins. Overall, I found the tournament to be a little more competitive, with more deliberate blocking of the board, etc, than what I normally experience back home.

It was certainly very well organised. The mainly ethnic food served in the various restaurants was top-rate, and at mealtimes it was interesting getting to know the other players. If any of you are contemplating going to the Causeway Challenge, I do fully recommend it!



*Lynn playing in her first Causeway Challenge*

## My second Causeway Challenge

- by Liz Fagerlund, Mt Albert

Causeway 2009 is the second time I have attended this event. On my first time in 2008, I played in the team event as one of the five New Zealand team members – that was really hard, with no easy games!! I figured playing in the open competition this time, even though for the first time there were also 45 games in this (compared to 33 last year), it could be a little easier. I guess it was; however, as the World Scrabble Champs had just finished at the same venue, there were a lot of WSC players who stayed on and were not in a team, so there were a lot of highly-rated players from various countries playing in the Open event.

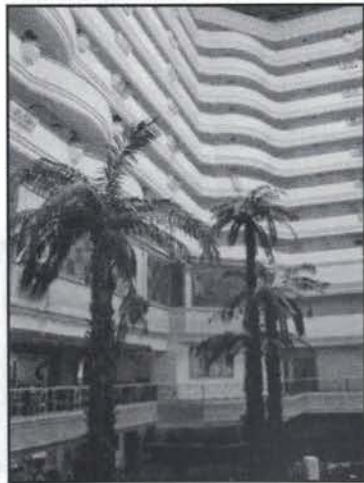
After being an annotator at the WSC and annotating every game on Table 1, and the finals games, it was time for me to enjoy playing games of Scrabble instead of watching and recording games.

I had lots of great games, ending on 23 wins – some really close wins and losses

(including a one-point loss and a hard fought five-point win) and also some big wins (10 wins by more than 100 points) and some big losses.

As usual, nearly everyone stayed at the playing venue, the Zon Regency Hotel in Johor Bahru. This is, of course, very convenient, and the food is great. However, the atrium type bar in the centre of level 5, and with all the rooms going up to about level 14 in a U shape on each floor above the bar, meant that the bedrooms were all subjected to the noise of music from the bar until late. And with no regulations on smoking, the smell of smoke was present in much of the hotel – a little off-putting for many of us.

However, it's an amazing few days of Scrabble; Michael Tang does an awesome job organising this event, and I would recommend it to anyone who loves Scrabble and good competition, and meeting great people from all over the world.



The venue, the Zon Regency Hotel, inside and outside views

## Our team competing at the Causeway Challenge



← Nigel Richards



Blue Thorogood →



← Howard Warner



Joanne Craig →



← Jeff Grant

All photos pages 5-11: Rosalind Phillips

## My third Causeway Challenge

- by Betty Eriksen, Whanganui

Next time, I would like to arrive a whole day before the tournament begins and not the night before, so as to be better prepared and rested for the marathon five day event.

There was a mix-up with my room which I was to share with an Australian friend, but it was very difficult to contact reception to have things rectified as they were so busy, so there was a quite a delay before things were sorted out. Then my friend arrived just as the hotel staff appeared, so it was after midnight before we got settled. Then it was up again at 7am to prepare for the first day's play at 9am.

The tournament itself was an exciting event with about 140 players in the Open Event and 50 in the masters. Every game was very challenging, and that was the general opinion of masters as well as open section players.



*The swimming pool at the Zon*



### *The Scrabble Hall*

It was, as always, great to meet up with friends and players of past years, and to be amongst so many like-minded enthusiasts.

Organisation of accommodation, transport, and the tournament was very efficient. We played nine games on each of the first two days, ten games on the third and fourth days, and seven games on the last day. It was the ultimate Scrabble fest.

Players could elect to pay for the meal package, which included three buffet meals each day, or have the accommodation and breakfast only alternative, and take their other meals at the local cafes or restaurants. The buffet meals provided a wide choice for all diners. I stayed on for the Progressive Round Robin of 25 games, which was being played at the same time as the World Youth Championship, before flying on to the States.

(By the way, my Aussie friend said that some of their two-day tournaments have 20 games beginning with some games on the Friday night!!) This was my third Causeway Challenge and I'm looking forward to 2010!

## The Eco-Scrabbler

- by Rosalind Phillips, Mt Albert

I was fortunate enough to win a free airfare to Singapore from the last Causeway Challenge, so I decided to travel on to Kuala Lumpur and Borneo before the tournament, and Langkawi afterwards.

From Kuala Lumpur, Lynn and I had a four-day, 3-night tour visiting the Sepilok Orangutan Sanctuary (where orphaned and rescued orangutans are cared for and rehabilitated back into the wild – what an amazing privilege to observe these endangered animals in their native habitat); a crocodile farm; the Gomantong Caves (where the swallows make nests that they use for birds nest soup – the handrails were covered in cockroaches – just as well I didn't trip and have to grab the handrail!); the Kinabatangan river sanctuary (where we saw elephants and proboscis monkeys); and Selangan, or Turtle, Island (where we watched a sea turtle lay 63 eggs and recently hatched turtles scurrying flat tack towards the sea).

The next morning we headed back to Sandakan and checked out the markets there, before flying back to Kuala Lumpur. We did a half day tour of Kuala Lumpur the following morning and saw the Kings Palace, China town and the Petronas towers, and then caught the express bus down to Johor Bahru, where the Scrabble was being held at the Zon Regency.

This is a big hotel with a shopping centre on the lower floors and hotel

rooms up the top. In the hotel are three or four different restaurants, as well as food shops and a supermarket, in the basement. It had lots of Christmas decorations everywhere and a loud band of singers on a stage in the middle, which kept you awake at night, as it echoed up to the rooms above. There was a gymnasium and a swimming pool where I swam 24 lengths every day, to get some exercise after sitting all day. You could see over the Causeway to Singapore from the roof. There were signs up everywhere about the World Scrabble Championships, the Causeway and the Youth Scrabble championships. You were given a magnetic card which opened your room and also operated the elevators. You get a meal package which included three meals a day. There was a big selection to choose from.

The Scrabble was held in the big ballroom. There were lots of tables with green tablecloths on them and the chairs all had white cloths on them. All the



*Lynn and Rosalind by the promoters' billboard, which was signed by all the players*

boards, tiles and clocks were provided. Adjudication computers were located along the sides and all the results were handed to the organisers with their computers on the stage. Scribes annotated all the games in the teams section, which took up the top third of the room and the open division took up the other two thirds.

There were many more people this year compared to last year. People came from all over the world, including Nigeria, Ghana, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, England, Malta, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the USA. There was a range of ages from a nine-year boy up to senior citizens. There were lots of Australian teenagers there, practising for the youth championships. Many of them beat the socks off you – what will they be like when they are older?! Australia has special Scrabble camps in the school holidays for them.

I didn't have much luck with the tiles and dwindled along near the bottom. This year we played 45 games over five days. You hardly get any time to do anything but play Scrabble. Last year we played 36 games over four days. I think I prefer the shorter option, with more time to look at other places. Last time we had a wonderful banquet with 14 courses and entertainment from local dancers and the mayor doing karaoke. This time it was just a serve yourself buffet.

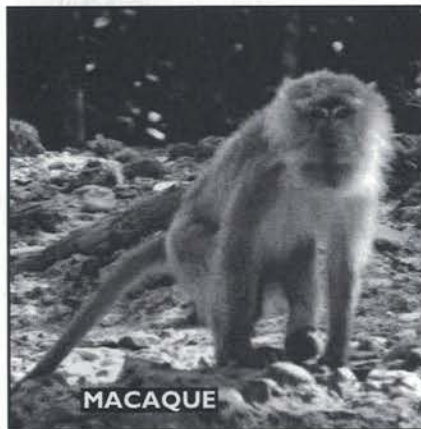
We each got given a bag with a t-shirt and pens and other goodies in it. The tournament was well run by Michael Tang. The free air tickets were all won by players close by to Malaysia this year.

On the last night we caught a taxi to Singapore and did a night tour of Singapore by PEDICAB. We caught the plane back to Kuala Lumpur early next morning and I went to look at the Batu Caves and temple, where there were lots of MACAQUE monkeys and a big

IGUANA, and a large python you could be photographed with. I then went to the Kuala Lumpur zoo. I was fascinated by the CIVETS, BINTURONGS, Indian GOA lion, storks, and hornbills, as well as the big variety of snakes.

That night we flew up to Langkawi and visited Chenang Beach and on to the Oriental Village and the cable car. The cable car was an amazing feat of engineering. You go up two different cable cars and there is a bridge adjoining two mountains, which you can walk across. From the top you can see across to Thailand, which is only seven miles away. We called at a batik place on the way back – they were making a promotional video about Langkawi and Lynn and I were filmed.

The following day I did a mangrove tour, saw a fish farm, and then went past huge rock formations in the Geoforest Park to a beach for a swim before visiting the underwater world where there was a large anaconda, flamingos, penguins, marmosets, a huge variety of fish, and live nautilus well displayed. The next day we flew back to Kuala Lumpur, and I flew back to Singapore and back to New Zealand.

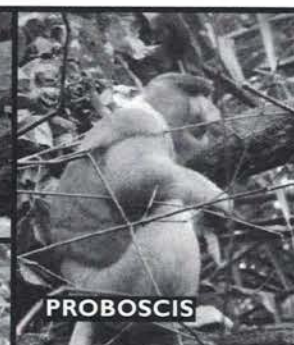


MACAQUE

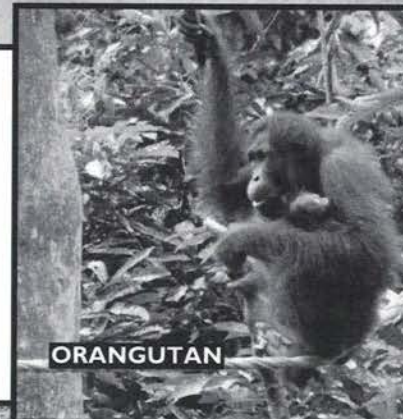
## Eco Scrabbler gets to see some real Scrabble words



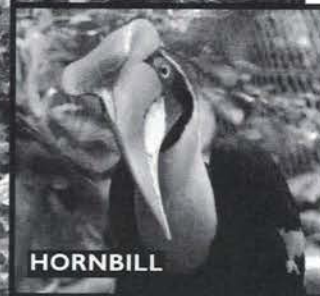
BINTURONG



PROBOSCIS



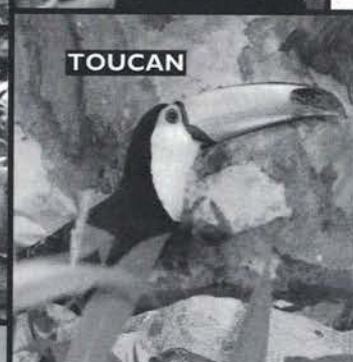
ORANGUTAN



HORNBILL



MACAWS



TOUCAN



CIVET



IBIS

## World Champ's analysis

**P**akorn Nemitrmansuk (34), an architect from Thailand, won the 10th World Scrabble Championship (WSC) in Johor Bahru, Malaysia, in November last year. He beat Malaysia-based Kiwi, defending champion Nigel Richards, 3-1 in the final.

Pakorn's 12-letter surname is the longest of all the world champs, beating previous title-holders Brian Cappelletto (US) and Panupol Sujjayakorn (Thailand) by a letter. He is also the only champ whose full name contains all the vowels (AEIOU), as well as a unique all-consonant trigram (TRM).

When Pakorn played his teammate Panupol in the 2003 final in Kuala Lumpur, they were wittily dubbed 'Popcorn' and 'Pineapple'!

### Anagrams

PAKORN has no allowable Scrabble anagrams. However, there are surnames like KORPAN and PARNOK, company names such as NORPAK and KOPRAN, and NAKPOR is a town in Hungary.

Surprisingly, PAKORN + a blank also yields nothing allowed in Scrabble. The two-word term TOP RANK is appropriate, and there are towns called PARKTON in Maryland and North Carolina, USA. PORKMAN, a rare word for a dealer in pig meat, is listed in the *Oxford English Dictionary*.

If there were an L or a D on the board, you may be able to use your PAKORN + blank rack to play DRONKLAP, a South African expression for a drunkard.

NEMITRMANUSUK transposes into the contrived term MUNTIN-MAKERS, people who construct supporting bars for glass windows or doors.

- by Jeff Grant, Independent

There have been ten different world Scrabble champions, all male, in the ten events held every two years since 1991. On joining this select group, Pakorn may have commented (if he wasn't so modest) with an anagram of his full name:

PAKORN NEMITRMANUSUK = MARK US MEN IN TOP RANK



Pakorn

### Word Square

P	A	K	O	R	N
A	G	O	R	A	E
K	O	N	I	N	I
O	R	I	G	I	N
R	A	N	I	N	E
N	E	I	N	E	I

AGORAE were ancient Greek markets

KONINI is a NZ fuchsia-berry

NEINEI a NZ tree

RANINE means 'relating to frogs'

### Palindromes

As always, these reversible forms use a bit of poetic licence.

Wo! Pakorn in an intro - Kapow!

[An intro is a small Japanese medicine container.]

The venue for the World Champs was the second largest city in Malaysia, Johor Bahru, which is situated in the southern state of Johor. Scrabblers were able to enjoy a one-day tour of Johor between the WSC and Causeway events.

Too hot to get arcane poem:  
'A Gym to Johor Bahru'.  
O Tan on a tour!  
(Ha, bro! Ho!)  
Jot my game, open a crate,  
Got to hoot!

Here is a somewhat more cryptic palindrome in honour of the new World Champ. 'Mr Time' refers to Pakorn's habit of regularly using every second on his clock. BOWATS (lanterns) was the winning move in the last game of the playoff with Nigel.

Now staw, obsess - I'm on!  
An era, or panic?  
(I peek at, we felt, I taste)  
Nemitrmansuk conks Nigel;  
A fog of ale, gins knock us (na!)  
'Mr Time' nets a title few take,  
Epic in a pro arena,  
No misses, BOWATS won!

### The Numbers Game

Believe it or not, the writer has a numero-lexical connection with the new champ. Assigning numbers to the letters of the alphabet: A=1, B=2, C=3, etc., PAKORN sums to 75 (16+1+11+18+14+15), the same as words like GENUINE, KINDLY and OBLIGING, as well as FAMOUS, CELEBRATED and JEFFREY!



- reprinted from *Word Ways* with the kind permission of the cartoonist, Jed Martinez, Florida, USA.

(*Word Ways* is the American Journal of Recreational Linguistics)

## Competition Corner



### Scrabble contest no. 98

Your challenge this time is to compose a couplet with the first line using only the six vowels AEIOUY in order (plus random consonants), and the second line similar, but with reverse order for the vowels (YUOIEA).

Example Scrabble is not funny.

Why? Just don't like blanks.

Is it possible to make a rhyming couplet? You can write on any subject and use as much poetic licence as you like. We'll give the prize to the cleverest (judge's decision final!).

Send entries by mail or email to:

Jeff Grant

'Ardra'

1109 Allenby St

Hastings 4122

ardra@paradise.net.nz

Closing date is 20 May 2010.

The winner will receive a book prize.

### Solution: contest no. 97

Pam Barlow (Pakuranga) and Barbara Dunn (Tauranga) both scored 82 with HOSTING, but the clear winner was ace puzzler Lyn Toka (Kiwi) who discovered the lovely WISHTONWISH (North American prairie-dog), which scores 131 points. Well done!

## Visit to Woody

- by Val Mills, Pakuranga

Recently Glennis Hale and I were privileged to be asked by Lynn Wood to join her on a trip to Kelly Tarlton's to meet "Woody", the penguin that has been named after her. Knowing her huge penguin collection and her love of all things penguin, Lynn's workmates at IAG had the idea to contact Kelly Tarlton's to see if it would be possible to name a penguin after her, Kelly Tarlton's agreed, and in November last year Lynn was contacted by Laura at Kelly Tarlton's to say a penguin had been born and they had named him Woody!

Lynn has received regular updates on Woody's progress and was invited to come up to Auckland on 13 February to meet him when he and another nine or so babies were introduced to the colony.

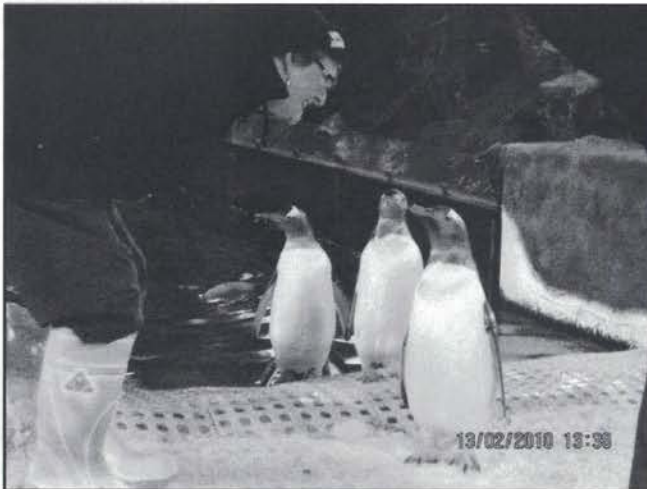
We were met by Laura, taken in, and she gave us an idea of what Woody was like. He is a very independent bird, big for his age, the first to try anything out, very confident and enquiring. All the penguins are numbered and colour-coded. Woody's number is 309 but she said that he responded to his name.

Then she said "follow me". We were taken through a door, had to put the soles of our shoes in a water bath and then told to kit up in gumboots, overalls, warm jackets, hats and gloves....we were going out on the ice. This was a

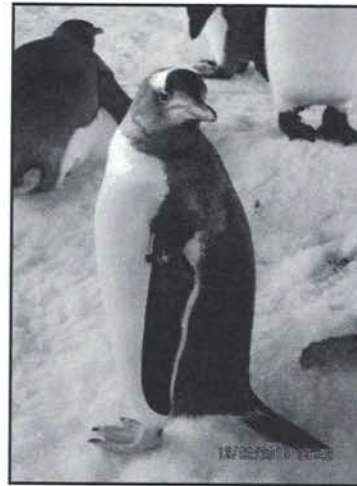
complete surprise for Lynn who thought she would be lucky if she saw Woody through the glass. We were given a few health and safety instructions and then we were out there.

Woody came out of the water and Laura and Lynn were able to feed him fish. He came up to Lynn to 'talk' to her. We were right among all the penguins. They are amazing close up – with the most gorgeous pearly sheen to the white feathers on their fronts. Laura was a mine of information (she is in charge of the penguins at Kelly Tarlton's) and we learnt all about how they preen, how they socialise, how much they eat, care of babies and much more.

Needless to say, Lynn was quite overwhelmed and Glennis and I also could not believe how lucky we were to be experiencing something so special. All in all, a great day with some great memories.



Lynn and Woody talk



Woody

## Penguin words

There seem to be at least 17 species of PENGUINS – PINGUIN(S) is an alternative spelling. Species whose names appear on the Scrabble Word List are:

CHINSTRAP    EMPEROR  
GALPAGOS    KING  
GENTOO (includes Lynn's little chap)  
MACARONI    ROCKHOPPER

All take an S.

ISABELLINE is the word for penguins that have brown rather than black plumage. It also takes an S.

Penguins live in a ROOKERY, also called a PENGUINRY or a PENGUINERY. (PENGUINRIES or PENGUINERIES)

## Sleep, sex or Scrabble?

As a book title, *Sleep, sex or Scrabble?* would certainly attract a wide readership!

Its author, Dr Phil Hammond, is part-time GP (his specialty is sexual health) and part-time stand-up comedian. In this book he gives "seriously funny answers to life's quirkiest queries", such as, 'Do doctors ever pretend to hear noises with a stethoscope?', 'What should I do if someone dies on me during sex?', and 'Can farting spread disease?' – all questions he has been asked by his UK audiences.

The book gets its title from his comedy show where he starts by asking the audience what they would fancy at 10pm when the kids are finally in bed – sleep, sex or Scrabble? Apparently, the audience response always splits neatly into thirds! Here's a quote from his introduction:

"All couples should at least try a game of pre-marital Scrabble before tying the knot. If your partner doesn't take it seriously, allows you to graze the dictionary for inspiration and is happy to abandon the game when you've fallen

asleep, then he (or she) is likely to be equally laid-back to live with. If he only plays competition rules, criticizes your spelling and limited vocabulary, insists on seeing it out until the bitter end and takes a copy of the score sheet up to the bedroom to taunt you with, then at least you've been warned ... Anyone who boasts repeatedly about his winning 'manihoc' or highlights your absurdly naïve tactics in front of his mates is probably not going to be very helpful during childbirth or when your mother gets dementia. If you want to know what your future holds together, have plenty of Scrabble before marriage."

The book is really interesting (educational, even!), helpful – **and** funny! ISBN 978184502271-6, if you want to buy it.

PS. There's even a glossary of sex-related words that includes some you could use in Scrabble: AMOURETTE, AMPULLA, BOWSER, EONISM, FRENUM, HERM, KOROR, NONAGE, ONANISM and ORCHIS.



## Scrabble learning tools

There are many tools available for the aspiring Scrabble player to learn words efficiently and to learn effective playing strategies. The key is to match the tools to your learning style and how you best organise your own learning. You can then use this information to work on your weak points.

### Word learning tools

For the **visual learner** – flash cards work well. You can make your own using index cards. The advantage is that you can sort them into the words you need to learn and carry them around with you. Those of you who use PDAs or have a smart phone will also be able to set up a flash card system using free software like Lexi for palm OS, Smartmemo which works with Palm and Windows mobile, or Cramberry Lite (free) or Flashcards (\$4.15) for iphone/ipod touch.

The two main computer-based word learning programs are LeXpert and Zyzvva. Both these programs allow you to set up customised lists to learn anagrams or hooks of all the words in the Collins word list. Unfortunately, the LeXpert site seems to have ceased being easily available via the internet. However, there are many Scrabble players in NZ with LeXpert on their computers and you only need to ask to obtain a copy of this excellent resource.

For the **audio learner** – recording a list of the words and playing them back will help audio learners recognise the sound patterns. Forming rhymes and using words that you need to learn in a song are also helpful strategies for audio learners.

- by Selena Chan, Christchurch



Selena Chan

There is a free program that you can download to record your words called Authenticity. You can then store the file on your iPod or your phone and play back the recording whenever you need to listen to it. In order to help learn strategy and improve metacognition, actually verbalising self talk is helpful for audio learners.

For a podcast on competitive Scrabble, try <http://scrabblepodcast.blogspot.com/> for the link to the itunes store to download the podcasts.

For the **kinaesthetic learner** – nothing beats working with the tiles. Practise anagramming by drawing 7 tiles and working to find the longest word you can make with the tiles. You could play anagrams or work with hooks. Another good way to learn words is to pick up 7 tiles and then make as many possible words as possible with the tiles. You can then use LeXpert or Zyzvva to check if you have found all the possible combination of words. It is important to then analyse which words you tend to

miss and to find out if you miss certain combinations. You can then make a list of these combinations and work at bettering your work knowledge by filling in the gaps in it.

If you have an ipod touch or iphone, there are over a dozen apps which provide the opportunity to find words. Free apps include Word Scramble, WordWarp, Jumbleline, Wordbubble, Tapword and Wordaroo.

### Strategy learning tools

Human players are more unpredictable and they will not necessarily play the best or the highest scoring move. This may be because they might not have seen all the possibilities. Therefore, it is important to widen your playing circle and to play a diverse range of people, preferably near or higher than your current rating.

If you are unable to play other people face to face, there are many options for playing on-line or on your computer. These include:

ISC ([www.isc.ro](http://www.isc.ro)) has a wide range of people playing 24/7. I often just use the 'observe high game' feature to watch top rated players play a game. Due to a lack of time, I play short 5 to 10 minute games with other players. I would advise you to desist from doing this too much as playing 'speed Scrabble' does make you think in different way! I find I have to really work at thinking through more possibilities when I play club Scrabble and have the luxury of a whole 25 minutes to play a game.

NetWordz is used by several websites to allow you to play synchronous games but you can also use it to play against the computer.

Quackle is not an online programme but has a very user friendly interface and allows you to play against the computer.

Archives of previous Scrabble world championship games and the North American National tournaments are also good resources. Use these sites to learn by observing and studying how top players play under tournament conditions. You can try to work out what expert players do with the racks they draw. Compare your decisions with the actual plays and reflect on why you made your decision and how they might have made theirs. This is a good way to 'get into the brain' of someone else and helps you to widen your decision-making repertoire.

<http://www.freewebs.com/ensor42/index.htm> provides consensus games between top UK players and Maven (a computer program set up to play Scrabble). Their archives of games played thus far are a good resource for looking into the thought processes or how top players work out their decisions during a game.

The important thing to accept is that becoming good at Scrabble takes time, practice, hard work, persistence and a degree of resilience to weather the setbacks and runs of tournament performances. Several recent studies advocate a minimum of 10,000 hours of concerted practice and study before someone begins to become 'expert' at the task! That works out to 5 years of 40 hour weeks over 50 weeks each year! This provides a good excuse to play lots of Scrabble. However, remember, if you want to move up the ratings, you will need to commit to continual and reflective learning with each game you play.

### Stationary

A bus station is where a bus stops.  
A train station is where a train stops.  
On my desk, I have a work station.

## The value of going first

- by John Foster, Independent

When perusing the tournament statistics for the recent UK Open, I observed that in Division A the player going first won on average 57.5% of games and had an average score advantage of 18.3 points. These figures are broadly in line with independent computer studies that have been done, although a shade higher than most.

What I found interesting is that the advantage decreased steadily and relatively uniformly as the skill level declined. The relevant figures taken from the British website are as follows:

Division	A	B	C	D
First Player win %	57.5	54.9	51.8	50.6
First player points advantage	18.3	12.4	9.1	3.8

When we introduced balanced starts in New Zealand a large number of lower grade players were opposed to the change, saying going first was not important to them. Nobody listened, of course, but these figures indicate they just might have had a point

## Twenty years ago today

by John Foster, Independent

Something different this time. Issue 18 March 1990 contained an ingeniously devised clueless crossword created by Jeff Grant. The puzzle was solved by five people, including myself. All the non-Scrabble words are still listed in the latest issue of *Chambers* so it is fair to assume they will be in any *Chambers* you may have.

I am recycling the puzzle, with a copy of the Scrabble classic "Word Freak" as a prize. I trust that those with access to old magazines will not use them to find the solution! And that if you remember the puzzle, you won't enter. (That rules you out, Jeff!)

Solutions to John Foster, 87B Sunset Rd, Totara Vale, North Shore 0632 or jethrosnaf@internet.co.nz by 15 May.

SCRABBLE CONTEST NO. 18

Forwards issue no. 10 contained no Scrabble puzzle, and because of this the contest number has ever since been one behind the number of the magazine. To put things straight, here is a bonus puzzle - a clueless crossword along the lines of the example in issue no. 14, but somewhat more difficult. Note that all words are in *Chambers* or *OSPD*, but a number are capitalised, and therefore not allowed in Scrabble.

				H	N	H		
E			G					
	I							
		J		H				
X					V		A	
				G			O	

## Runner-up in the World's



Geoff Christopher

This time, we're not talking about Scrabble.

A New Zealander, Geoff Christopher, from Auckland, became runner-up in the 13th World Monopoly Championships in Las Vegas, from a field of 41 players from 40 nations. The World Monopoly Championships (WMC) take place every four years.

Competitors in the two-day WMC in October played three rounds each the first day, for which they earned points for bankrupting others or based on their net worth at the end of the 75-minute sessions. The second day saw 16 players playing three one-hour rounds, before the final four (from New Zealand, Norway, Russia and USA) faced off in an untimed finale.

BBC News reported on the final:

"Oleg Korostelev, 24, from Russia was first out of the game, followed by Rick Marinaccio, shattering the 26-year-old US lawyer's hopes of becoming the first US champion. After a series of swaps and purchases some of the hundreds of spectators considered risky, Mr Knappskog (Norway) finally rendered his New Zealand rival bankrupt with a \$1,600 rent demand on North Carolina Avenue.

"Mr Christopher, known to his supporters as the 'Nimble Thimble', said his usual strategy of 'accumulate, negotiate and dominate' had not worked this time. 'I thought I'd got myself into a really good position, but the dice didn't really go my way. The guy that won it had a huge bankroll. I was just sitting there with a few houses on my orange set and he ended up finishing me off.'"

[Of interest: The introduction of a new speed dice to Monopoly – the six sided dice includes numbers 1,2,3, a bus icon and two Mr Monopoly sides –

advances the game quickly, reducing the amount of time it takes to purchase all the properties on the board. Game times are frequently cut down to an hour when the dice is in play.]

Geoff won the New Zealand title in April, after an almost accidental Monopoly career. As *The Waikato Times* reported:

"Before this year, Mr Christopher hadn't played for more than 12 years since he was a kid growing up in Te Awamutu. So it was lucky that his flatmate owned a Monopoly set, and even luckier when his friend, who entered the Auckland Monopoly Championship in February, had to fly to a wedding in Australia at the last minute. Mr Christopher subbed in – and cleaned up."

Geoff competed with the qualifiers from the three regional championships (Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch) to become the NZ Champion and win an all-expenses-paid trip to Las Vegas and a place in the World Monopoly Championship.

Geoff is dubbed the Nimble Thimble in Monopoly circles, though he always chooses to play with the battleship. Apart from his strategy called AND (Accumulate, Negotiate, Dominate), he says the one key is to remain affable. "You've got to be affable, it's kind of crucial."

Geoff's second placing in the WMC is the best a New Zealander has ever done.

## Words don't come easy

- by Graeme Thompson

[Graeme is the creator of the artwork 'Words don't come easy', which is made from Scrabble tiles.]

### Alchemy, Toys, and Art

I live in Wellington, and started making assemblages and sculptures from found objects and toys in 2007. I have had two solo exhibitions at Thistle Hall Gallery, Cuba Street, Wellington in June 2008 and August 2009, and have participated in three further group shows.

My core philosophy is that Art is Play, Play is Art, and Art and Play are both forms of Alchemy. Base materials like canvas, wood, and coloured substances are transformed into artworks using the minds of the artist and viewer. My use of toys to make art mirrors a child's use of toys as a substitute for reality, to create a new reality from Lego bricks and toy soldiers, in the same way that artists transform canvas, wood, and coloured substances into paintings.

### The futility of language (and Scrabble) to represent an objective reality

I see language in the same way that I view Art. Each person's interpretation of a word is based on their past experience and emotional associations, to create a subjective reality that does not exist for others.

Example: the word "Thrush".

It could mean either the bird or the skin condition. As I wrote this, I imagined a scruffy, black-headed bird (I have always been rather hazy about what they look like!). If you imagined something else, this encapsulates my thesis. Language is a personal event that can broadly and inadequately hint at reality, but can never exactly convey reality.

Even if we mean the bird, the word 'thrush' is not a bird. It is a group of symbols in a particular order that we are taught to interpret as a *representation* of a bird.

Imagine holding a thrush in one hand. Now, actually write the word 'thrush' on your other hand. Neither the imagined bird, nor the written word, actually represents the objective reality of a real thrush. Even if you have an *actual* thrush in your hands, it does not represent the reality of *all* thrushes, only of *that* thrush.

### Words don't come easy' 2009

So, why use Scrabble tiles to represent the inability of words to communicate meaning? Scrabble is a commonly played game, as familiar as Monopoly, that most people in New Zealand have probably played at least once. The objective of Scrabble is to create words, using its numbered tiles to land on special score-enhancing squares, so that the player who earns the highest score wins the game. Scrabble is associated with order, meaning, and clarity. I use the Scrabble tiles to invert those expectations to convey the inability of language to convey true meaning.

My artwork, 'Words don't come easy' (*Words* for short) is about 1.5 metres wide by one metre high, on stiff sheet of composite plastic. It uses approximately 1800 Scrabble pieces of ten different types of tile. It uses normal Scrabble sets, "Classic" sets, and tournament sets. No deliberate attempt has been made to make words. When I was making the artwork, I had a large container of tiles, 54 Scrabble sets worth. I would reach behind me without looking and pick up a tile. The only active selection was based on the size of the tile with regard to the space available to fit it into. Every so often I would see a word emerging only to have it ruined by the wrong letter. I almost made the word 'sierra' but the final 'a' was not picked up. There are words there but they are usually short and are not meshed with other words

as in a crossword or Scrabble.

### The physicality of Scrabble subverted

*Words* is a representation of the chaos of real, not Scrabble game, language. When you see *Words*, you immediately notice the tiles are not arranged like a Scrabble game. There are no empty squares or open areas — it is not a perfect grid of uniform tiles — the horizontal rows of tiles are level at the bottom of the work but very quickly, as the tiles ascend, the rows become uneven, then wobbly, then disorderly, and eventually require insertions of small tiles and oddly shaped tiles to try to control the asymmetry and unevenness.

In Scrabble, all the tiles are arranged as they are read. In *Words*, some tiles are upside down, or on their sides. Others are placed face-downward so that you can't see if they have a face value or if they are blank tiles. In Scrabble, one always knows what a letter is because it is clearly printed on the tile. In *Words*, some tiles have letters painted over their original letters and numbers. There are clean and pristine tiles, while others are dirty and shabby. There are groupings of tiles of the same letters but different materials and colours. There are groups of wooden or plastic tiles that are not the same.

*Words* is not a flat surface, there are non-uniform wooden and plastic tiles of different vertical heights and horizontal surface areas that create a tessellation of reflected light sources. Its surface is not uniform like a Scrabble game, it has various shades and surfaces: plastic and wooden; old and new; varnished and unvarnished; matte and glossy; old and worn with illegible and hard-to-read letters; brand-new or barely-used sharp-edged, precise lettering. Streaks of paint cross out the letters on some tiles.

### More Scrabble art?

I have more ideas for Scrabble artworks, but do not have enough Scrabble tiles to make them. Lynn Wood has very

kindly helped me find a large number of used sets among NZASP members who were replacing their old sets. She apologised for their worn state, but I was delighted to have sets that have been played with to the point where the letters were almost illegible.

If any NZASP members are able to help me by supplying old Scrabble sets, please email me at [gtarchivist@yahoo.com](mailto:gtarchivist@yahoo.com), or call me on 04-972-9962, and I will be pleased to talk with you.

### Job opportunities

- by Bill Brandt

Even with unemployment being as high as it is, there are still a lot of job opportunities out there if you are willing to meet the challenges they entail.

#### There is a job opportunity for:

- a ballet dancer, if you can stay on your toes.
- a barber, but you may have some hairy experiences.
- a burlesque dancer, but the work is often a hard grind.
- a cardiologist if you are willing to work wholeheartedly.
- an executioner, but you may take a while to get the hang of it.
- as a judge, but you may find the work trying.
- as a masseuse, but you mustn't rub people up the wrong way.
- installing mufflers, but the work is often exhausting.
- at the sausage factory, but you have to be able to make both ends meet.
- as a mortician, but you have to be dead sure because it's a grave undertaking.

- from *Word Ways magazine*

## Doreen Ogston 1923-2010

Christchurch Scrabble Club members pay their tributes to Doreen:

### Paul Lister

It is with sadness the Christchurch Scrabble Club reports the passing of Doreen Ogston. Doreen was the founder of the Christchurch Scrabble Club, played at the New Zealand Masters, and was a great intelligence with a colossal knowledge of common stem 7 and 8 letter anagrams. Doreen and husband Bill, whom she predeceases, led an inspirational and full life and any amount of anecdotes can be recounted re her exploits, not the least of which was her tramping trips whereby she left Scrabble sets gratis at many of the huts on the tramping tracks.

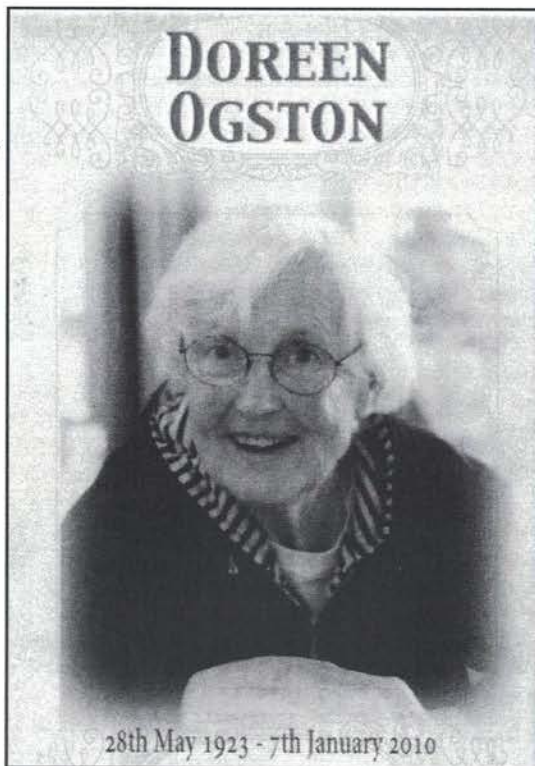
Doreen was 86 years old when she died 7/1/2010.

### Margaret Lyall

Those who knew Doreen Ogston were saddened by her death on the 4th January. As the founder of the Christchurch Scrabble Club in 1984, Doreen was an enthusiastic and dedicated promoter of Scrabble and a keen player for many years, until her health gradually deteriorated. Unfailingly cheerful, and always interested in people, Doreen will be greatly missed. Our sympathy is extended to her husband, Bill and their family

### Allison Torrance

Doreen introduced me to the intricacies of our beautiful game. Her speciality, as many of you will recall, were 7-letter bonuses. She gave me her stem lists, admonishing me to learn them. At times she was an infuriating mentor, as



she peered over my shoulder, "Now look what you've done, you've opened up the treble word". I learned a lot from Doreen and came to love her

### Kathleen Mori -Barker

Not only was Doreen an outstanding Scrabble player, but she was also a friend to so many people in the Club, all of whom benefitted from her expertise and unselfish willingness to pass on her skills and tactics, both in casual games and in tournament situations. To many of us, she is still very much alive and memories will linger for a very long time. She often spoke of "body language" and on one

## Kaye Bland

*-from Ann Candler, North Shore Bays*  
I'm sure Scrabblers will be sad to hear that Kaye Bland's long and happy life has come to an end. She was in hospital for three weeks prior to going into a rest home where she died.

Kaye was one of our very early members of the original members of our local club who with another player would entertain us all at the Nationals Tourneys at the Riverina Hotel for several years, as far back as 1982. Long-time players will remember them – Alice (who died several years ago) playing the piano, and Kaye singing. Kaye used to recite hilarious monologues as well

Kaye was born on 3 November 1915 and died on 2 February 2010. This very special lady was therefore 94 years old when she left us. She was a very active local personality in the Garden Club and the 60s Up. She was always entertaining somewhere, but apart from the these interests and raising her family, she will be remembered by many Scrabble players.



*Kaye Bland*

occasion, when I asked, "Now I wonder if ----- is a word?", I looked across at Doreen who had suddenly gone into a complete trance, her eyes vacant with a happy "out of it look" on her face. I soon learned not to fish for clues. Doreen was a unique person with a strong personality. It was a privilege to know her and to share so much,

### Shirley Hol

On my first night at the Scrabble Club, I was asked if I knew Doreen. "She lives not far from you on the hill." I very soon did meet her and what a delightful experience that was! How I envied and could never quite emulate the focus and deep concentration she brought to the game. As a memory cue we would drop words and anagrams we were keen to learn into the conversation. I remember one night saying to her, "Good night, you ASININE INSANIE".

Travelling to a tournament together in Wellington, we played Scrabble non stop on the train. On arrival in Picton, I noticed it was very quiet and realised that all the other passengers had left. We ran to catch the ferry, which we almost missed, and resumed our Scrabble. We had not quite finished a game on reaching Wellington and the cleaners, somewhat bemused, worked around us. Meanwhile, Doreen's poor grand daughter was waiting at the terminal to pick us up.

Doreen's other passion was tramping, but Scrabble was never neglected as she left Scrabble boards in the tramping huts along the way.

Very hospitable, Doreen was famed for her fresh home-baked wholemeal bread. Right to the end of her life Doreen remained interested in the Scrabble scene, the performance of the top players, and the progress of Christchurch Scrabble players.

# Club News



## Christchurch

Our annual club unrated tournament to introduce novices to tournament play and give a good workout to more experienced players took place at the Sydenham Community Centre Saturday 6 March.

Outstanding novice was Phyllis Paltridge who won five of her seven games, just holding out Madeleine Green on four and a half wins.

Outstanding A player was Shirley van Essen who won six games and found on her lame-looking D,D,I,I,I,O,O rack the surprising OI D I O I D!

### A Grade

1. Shirley Van Essen
2. Blue Thorogood
3. Paul Lister

High Game, Shirley (486), High Aggregate, Shirley and Paul (903), Highest Winning Margin, Peter Johnstone (204).

### B Grade

1. Allison Torrance
2. Gabrielle Bolt
3. Herb Ramsay

High Game, Allison Torrance (458); High Aggregate, Herb and Gabrielle (859); Highest Winning Margin, Gabrielle (176).

### C Grade

1. Margaret Lyall
2. Yvonne MacKenzie
3. Connie Flores

High Game, Roslyn Lister (478); High Aggregate, Yvonne and Jean Craib (782); Highest Winning Margin, Roslyn (227).

### D Grade

1. Phyllis Paltridge
2. Madeleine Green
3. Trish Fox

High Game, Madeleine (399), High Aggregate, Madeleine and Phyllis (789); High Winning Margin, Phyllis (189).

## Hamilton

A stranger attending our annual prize-giving would have thought we only had one member in our Club this year! Nick Cavanagh was presented with the following five trophies: Club Champion, Knockout Champion, Pot Luck Champion, Ladder Champion, and Round Robin (group 1) Champion. He also won the Ruth Laird Memorial Goblets for the Most Improved Player.

The only other Champion trophy left for the rest of us was The Pyramid, which was won by Peter Jones.

Runner-up to the Club Champion, David Gunn, won the prize he most likes to win – Most Bonus Words, with 225 words.

The Pam Robson Cup for the Highest Combined Score in a game was won by David and Roger Coates, for their 991-pointer, the cup for the Highest Individual Game went to Yoon Kim Fong with 601, while the Highest Turn prize went to Jillian Greening, with CRANKERS for 185 points.

The Most Promising Newcomer was Sandy (Leighton) Gelling, while the Win Heaven Memorial Trophy for the Sports Person of the Year went to Jillian Greening once again.

## Kiwi

A friendly tournament was held at Jo Jackson's home in Raglan in March. Eighteen Hamilton and Kiwi players, plus Helen Sillis, attended the traditional one-day tournament. Grade 1 was won by Jennifer Smith and Grade 2 by Annette Coombes.

This was the 19th tournament Jo has hosted for us, and we really appreciate her lovely hospitality and enthusiasm for Scrabble – not to mention the wonderful Raglan sea air. We are all looking forward to the 20th anniversary tournament next year!

# Overseas News



## Ghana

Scrabble clubs in the north of Ghana will receive logistical and financial support in the form of new boards, computers and dictionaries from the Ministry of Youth and Sports. The government is committed to promoting peace and unity through sporting activities such as the Scrabble which brings people, especially young people, together.

## UK

Despite what you might expect, the severe winter conditions in Britain recently didn't make the best Scrabble-playing weather – the West Berkshire Scrabble Club had to cancel its tenth annual tournament in January because of safety concerns as 90 people planned to travel to take part. Many roads across the country were very icy and they were also concerned about conditions in Purley village where the competition was to be held.

## Malaysia

At its AGM, the Malaysian Scrabble Association (MSA) celebrated its achievements over the past two years, which included the successful registration of MSA with the Malaysian Sports and Youth Council, the implementation of a Youth Programme, and Suanne Ong becoming the first Malaysian to win the World Youth Scrabble Championship.

## Chinese New Year 2010 Tournament, Kuala Lumpur

### Masters Division

1. Alex Tan
2. William Kang
3. Chang Ching Wei

4. Yeo Kian Hung
5. Martin Teo

### Intermediate Division

1. Chang Ching Yet
2. Vinnith Ramamurti
3. Intan Rahayu

## Nigeria

Winner of the Godwill Akpabio Classic was Wellington Jighere.

## Singapore

### 2009 Yew Tee Scrabble Open Championship Masters

1. Nigel Richards
2. Hubert Wee
3. Ricky Purnomo
4. Goh Jiang Pern

### Intermediate

1. Serene Ngu
2. Peter Tan Mun Ri
3. Catherine Tong

## USA

In San Antonio, Texas, Matt DeWaelche, who played his first letter tile 45 years ago, and has played competitively since 1985, was one of 25 players inducted into the Texas Scrabble Hall of Fame this year.

*[We want a Scrabble Hall of Fame, too! – Ed.]*

## Venezuela

The Spanish speaking World Championships were held in November.

1. Luis Picciochi, Argentina (becoming the 13th World Champion in the Spanish language)
2. Claudia Amaral Argentina
3. Juan Carlos Ayala, Spain

# A word (or more) from our players

## A nice piece of symmetry

- from Jennifer Smith, Hamilton

DONNART DONNARD  
DONNERT DONNERD

None take S, as they all are adjectives meaning stupid.

Neither DONNART nor DONNARD (the A versions) have anagrams.

The E versions have one anagram each:

DONNERT anagram TENDRON  
DONNERD anagram DENDRON

## Try to pronounce it!

- from Su Walker, Mt Albert

A word with four Us, and able to be wrapped around UN, NU or UM – UNUNUNIUM

[UNUNUNIUM was the temporary name used for the 111th (one-one-one, get it?) element roentgenium\* (Rg) until the official name (in honour of the German physicist Röntgen was adopted in 2004. It's pronounced un-un-un-ium (un' ən un' ē əm). If you want a laugh, look up the "definition" given on the "Uncyclopedia" website! - Ed.]

## Soppy stuff

- from Anon Nimious

SPOROUS\* seemed logical when I played it, but is a bogus. Its anagram is nice, though – SOURSOP, a tropical tree. There is another tropical tree called SWEETSOP!

Other SOP words are: HYSSOP, a medicinal herb; SYSOP, the administrator of a computer bulletin board; WINESOP, a food soaked in wine; and MILKSOP, an effeminate man.

I have never seen MILKSOP used except 56 years ago when I got *Bleak*

*House* by Charles Dickens out of the school library. Somebody had written, "If all the world were flooded, this book would still be dry" and it was signed Xxxx [the current head prefect – who presumably wrote it long before becoming head prefect], and somebody else had written underneath it "Xxxx is a milksop." I decided to trust the milksop's judgement, and never read the book!

- from Joan Thomas, Hastings

I came across this 8-letter word quite by chance – FEMINAZI. Its meaning is a no-brainer [FYI, BRAINER\* not OK], a militant feminist. However, I prefer to picture it as Hitler in a frock!

All of us will be familiar with the word TOWNSHIP but do you know the word TOWNSHIP? Yes, it's correct. Is it a bin where burglars dump unwanted loot or murderers dump bodies, or is it a name given to someone who leaves town hurriedly for whatever reason? No, it is a city urchin (Dickens).

## Icebreakers

- from Shirley Hol, Christchurch

Our Club member, Alison Holmes's cruise to Antarctica has got me thinking about Antarctica and icebergs. Makes me think of other ICE words: ICEMAN, ICEHOUSE, ICEBALL, ICEBOAT, ICEBOX, ICEFALL, ICECAP, ICEFIELD, ICEPACK, ICEMAKER, ICELESS, ICESTONE. They're pretty ordinary once you've seen them, but how often do you think to try ICE as a prefix, rather than a suffix?

Here are three more unusual ICE words:

ICEBLINK, the glare of an icefield  
ICEKHANA, an automotive event held

on a frozen lake

ICEWINE, wine made from grapes that froze on the vine

## Know your hooks

- from Across the Board (No 99), Australia

Simply ascertain what the front-hook or back-hook is for these 7- and 8-letter words. They are in approximate order of difficulty.

Front-hook letter (that can be played on the front of the word) for:

EDITION	ACONITE	OARFISH
IGNEOUS	PLIGHTS	RISKFUL
ANTHILL	UNBONNET	EDGEWISE
ALEWIVES	IFFINESS	UNIFORM
OMNIFIC	VIRULENT	HELPLESS

Back-hook letter (that can be played on the end of the word) for:

ORANGER	OPAQUES	ARMIGER
MORCEAU	ECTOZOA	INSURED
FORESTAL	UNDERGO	IMPLICIT
NYMPHAE	GLIBBER	ABOMASA
OCTOPUS	ANTIMONY	MEZUZOT

Answers on page 42.

- from Chris Handley, Dunedin

[Extract from an email] ... as always, I am acting as an amanuensis (now that's a nice 9-letter word, complete with 6 valid two-letter words within it) to the indefatigable Bill Grigg ...

## What's QAT?

- from Val Flint, Hamilton

I came across this fascinating article about QAT (National Geographic, author Karen E Lange) and thought it might be of interest to Scrabblers, like me, who've been playing the word for years without knowing what it means.

Grab a bitter leaf and chew, letting the wad rest in your cheek. Soon you'll feel

less hungry, more alert, a little euphoric. That's QAT (pronounced cot, often spelt KHAT), a stimulant used for centuries in Yemen and Africa's Horn by labourers for energy and by men to while away afternoons.

Today, with increased urbanism, easier access to cash, and relaxed social mores, its use is increasing. With greater demand and better transport, farmers are planting more of the profitable, easy-to-grow crop. In Yemen, cultivation has increased more than tenfold since 1970; in Ethiopia, QAT has become a top foreign-exchange earner.

This raises concerns. In Yemen it's irrigated from shrinking aquifer. In Somalia, abuse is linked to mental health problems. And in the West, countries debate whether to leave the leaf legal, like tobacco, or ban it, like marijuana. QAT will get you arrested in the US, Canada, and much of Europe. In the UK, for now, it's perfectly fine.

In NZ, the QAT or KHAT plant is a Schedule 3 (Class C) drug, but is rarely encountered, although occasional seizures at airports have been reported. Mature khat trees which were established before the plant became scheduled in 1998 do not have to be destroyed, but it's illegal to gather the leaves or otherwise prepare the plant for consumption.

## Slothful arithmetic

- by Jim Warmington (after Ogden Nash)

The AI's each have three toes,

The UNAU's only two,

Or is it t'other way about?

I never know – do you?

- from Across the Board (No 99) Australia

**Nationals in June**

Hamilton-based Scrabble players are looking forward to welcoming players from all over New Zealand to the National Scrabble Championships at Queen's Birthday Weekend.

Now, the Kiwi Club, who is hosting the event this year, is well-known for its tradition of performing a skit at the Nationals. In recent years, however, they have performed at what is in danger of becoming a one-item concert.

We all look forward to the entertainment at the 2010 Nationals, but please, don't sit back and expect every other club to provide the fun – get your members together and come up with an entertaining item.

**Masters Games, February**

This year the Masters Games was played as an unrated tournament.

**Rated players (14 games)**

- Gold Medal Michael Groffman, 12 wins
- Silver Medal Karyn McDougall, 11.5 wins
- Bronze Medal Ruth Groffman, 11.5 wins

**Number of bonuses**

- Gold Medal Karyn McDougall, 18
- Silver Medal Ruth Groffman, 11
- Bronze Medal Yvonne Mackenzie, 8

**Unrated (social) grade**

- Gold Medal Olivia Johnstone
- Silver Medal David Barnes
- Bronze Medal Anne-Louise Milne

**Journalists not good at Scrabble**

*- from Linley Boniface's column*

All board games are unspeakably vile, but to help make your summer marginally less intolerable, here are the six games that must be avoided at all costs.

**Scrabble.** Victory at most board games has nothing to do with real life. You wouldn't necessarily engage a monopoly champion to take over your share portfolio, or ask someone who is really good at Operation to do your hip replacement surgery.

People who are good at Scrabble, however, tend to believe their increased word power is a sign of intellectual superiority. That is why it is so intensely irritating when a person you previously regarded as a friend smugly arranges all their letters on the board while saying something along the lines of: "Qindar. The national currency of Albania." Interestingly, people often assume journalists will be good at Scrabble. They are wrong. After years of being told to write at the level of an 11-year-old, most journalists have forgotten any words longer than "beer".

*- as published in The Waikato Times*

Tournament Calendar		
Tournament	Place	Dates
NZ Masters #	Dunedin	3-5 April
South Island Championships	Christchurch	8-9 May
NZ National Champs	Hamilton	5-6 June
Whangarei	Whangarei	10-11 July
Kapiti	Kapiti Coast	17 July
Nelson	Nelson	24-25 July
Hamilton	Hamilton	7-8 August
Trans Tasman Challenge#	Christchurch	14-16 August
Tauranga	Tauranga	28-29 August
Canterbury Open	Christchurch	11-12 September
Mt Albert	Auckland	2-3 October
Norfolk Island Scrabble Festival	Norfolk Island	10-15 October
Wanganui	Wanganui	23-24 October
Kiwi	Hamilton	13 November
Otago Lion Open	Dunedin	13-14-November
Causeway Challenge#	Johor Bahru, Malaysia	1-5 December

# entry restricted to qualifiers

**WESPA whispers**

*- by Howard Warner, NZ's Liaison Officer with WESPA*



**Player power, American-style**

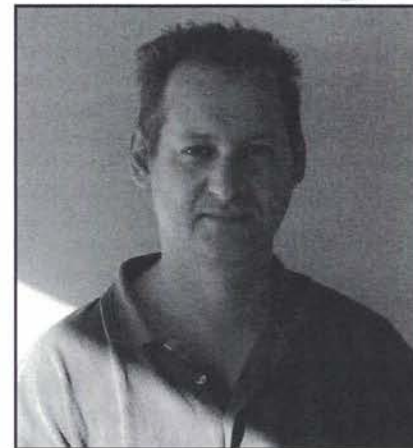
My last Whispers column focused on the two big year-ending events: the biennial, Mattel-owned World Scrabble Championship (WSC), and Michael Tang's annual Causeway Challenge.

Another WESPA-endorsed event, the World Players Championship (WPC), is looking to become a permanent fixture in alternate years to the WSC. The first WPC was staged in Dallas in 2008 by Texan dynamo Chris Cree, as a way of bringing top-level SOWPODS play into North America. (Nigel won it, and Joanne Craig and I both competed.) This year's event will again be in Dallas, but has shifted from its November slot to September. The timing is unfortunate for New Zealand, because it clashes with the Trans-Tasman Challenge in Christchurch — and robs us of the chance of getting Nigel to spearhead our team effort.

There were early rumours that WPC would be held in Toronto, home of computer maestro John Chew, who co-chairs the newly formed North American Scrabble Players Association (NASPA) with Cree. This would have been a popular choice, because no world tournament has yet been hosted by Canada — despite that country boasting three former world champions.

**Movement on word source?**

Meanwhile, a strong core of SOWPODS-friendly players in North America is pushing hard for a new referendum on whether their region should adopt the rest-of-the-world's word source. The best hope, they feel, is for a staggered merger, starting with a parallel rating system for SOWPODS events or grades on the North American circuit.



*Howard Warner*

The theory is, this would show all wannabes where the best players are.

Marty Gabriel, who played in both WSC and Causeway last year, told me he was "embarrassed that we are so insular when even second-language countries do so well with a bigger lexicon. For us to say we can't handle all these new words makes Americans look either stupid or lazy". Gabriel was planning to send a letter to President Barack Obama, a keen domestic Scrabbler, asking him to wade into the debate. (Perhaps we Kiwis could likewise petition Obama's new best friend, John Key!)

**Promotion and sponsorship**

At the WESPA general meeting in December, I was voted onto the 11-member committee. This should help me both represent NZASP's views to the global body and channel WESPA views back to New Zealand. (But it won't stop me giving my own views on issues, whether or not they accord with WESPA — see the next item.)

My goal is to build the global profile of our mind sport so we can eventually attract big-name sponsors. The minimal income WESPA derives from members doesn't stretch far, so sponsorship is integral to our efforts to establishing a strong world tournament circuit.

My immediate task is to work out the essential promotional tasks and gather a subcommittee of people with the requisite skills.

### Ratings conundrum

A recent WESPA survey on ratings showed overwhelmingly that people support the idea of more "inclusiveness", I'm told. That means having more tournaments internationally rated, which would ostensibly "provide more information" for ratings. (The results haven't been published yet, and the survey seemed to me both rushed and poorly designed, with leading questions that hinted at a preconceived viewpoint seeking vindication from members.)

The ratings subcommittee has now proposed a move to internationally rate one or two domestic tournaments from each member country. They have drawn up a list of criteria — such as 30% international representation — that countries can use to select this tournament. Of course, this would take a globally isolated country like New Zealand out of the equation.

I don't profess to understand the maths, but I see this idea as a minefield. It could blur the lines between national and international play, thus damaging the integrity of the global circuit and weakening our long-term efforts to gain sponsorship. (Told you I might have my own views!)

### Dictionary and other dilemmas

The update of CSW is still on track for completion in 2011 and publication in 2012, despite plans by the combined Websters (TWL) to update their word

source in 2015. You can expect to see a thorough rethink of Maori words, spearheaded by Jeff Grant.

WESPA is looking for a new base. It started up in Singapore, home of current secretary Cheah Siu Hean, who was the original driving force behind the world body. But Singapore's restrictive tax laws have forced a rethink. The organisation was set to shift to Bahrain before the untimely death of then chairman Roy Kietzman.

Mattel has released its national allocations for WSC 2011 and debate is raging over whether the UK should be split into four countries (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland). This gives it 18 places in all, far more than any other country — including the US, which has a much bigger player base and has performed consistently well at WSCs (despite the different word source).

### A good time

- by Bil Rose

What do you think's going to happen to me?

Yes, in three days time, I'll be ninety-three.

I'm excited, it's what I've been waiting for, As I have never been ninety-three before.

I'm going to have a good time all right, And I'm going to celebrate that night,

For the woman who lives next door to me —

Her old man is away at sea.

She is going to play Scrabble with me.

So I will have a good time that night, you see.

- from *Across the Board*, March 2008

### It's overwhelming

Barry Harridge notes that Chambers has this entry under under: "under-and-over see over-and-under under over".

- from *Across the Board* (March 2000), Australia

## Where 'if only' becomes reality

- by Howard Warner, Mt Albert

How often do you say, when looking at your rack: "If only this letter was [some other letter]"?

Well, in a version of Scrabble called 'If Only', you can do just that. You are allowed to make any letter a blank simply by turning it over — providing you can score at least 50 points. (You can also exchange real letters for the turned-over ones later in the game, when the board is getting tight.)

This form of the game was all the rage around the hotel where last year's World Championships and Causeway Challenge were held. Then Liz Fagerlund and I introduced it to our regular Wednesday-night Scrabble session at De Post (a Belgian pub) in Auckland. Now we quite often play it, usually in teams — as a break from Scrabble as well as valuable anagramming practice.

It's obviously way easier than normal Scrabble and you tend to score more bonus words, which is fun (especially if your name is Su Walker or David Gunn!). We have been amazed at how the yuckiest-looking rack is so easily transformed into bonus words by the alteration of just a single letter.

A few statistics: scores are commonly around 550-600 per side. On average, each side would make five or six bonus words per game, and therefore 11 to 12 in total. My best individual tally was eight consecutive bonus words in one game, with a score of over 700. But the other night at the pub, a group of us enjoyed what might possibly be the 'perfect' all-round If Only game.

Liz and Lawson were playing against Praneel (a newbie, in his first session of organised Scrabble) and myself. The game consisted of only bonus words: seven on each side. Liz/Lawson made LICHEES,

CLAVICLE, INDIGOES, NONSTOP, PETTIEST, GAUDIER and AUDITORS. Howard/Praneel made VAULTERS, ROLLINGS, WEEDIER, OFFSIDES, BEARABLE, MAROONER and went out with NAUGHTY (but nice) for 113. The final scores were: H/P 572 beat L/L 565. But we only won it because L/L had challenged OFFSIDES (10-point penalty).

The only problem with experiencing such a game is that everything afterwards is an anticlimax.

This game is different from 'Clabbers' in two key ways. If Only is all about bingos, whereas you can make huge scores in Clabbers from nifty parallel plays. And If Only tends to use up the whole board, whereas Clabbers creates huge block or walls of letters, often in one corner.

Where does If Only come from? An investigation on the international Scrabble email list reveals that it was 'invented' by Englishman Mike O'Rourke.

There's an even more fantastic version called 'Lonify', which melds If Only with Clabbers (get it?). Lawson and I have played it twice, the first time scoring a combined 1400 points (including 13 bonus words) and the second time 1523 points (14 bonus words).

### Ambiguous

During a recent password audit at the Bank of Ireland it was found that Paddy O'Toole was using the following password:

MickeyMinniePlutoHueyLouieDewey DonaldGoofyBerlin

When asked why he had such a long password, he replied, "Oi was told it had to be at least eight characters long and include one capital."



# Who's playing Scrabble?

## Quentin Crisp and Joan Rhodes

A petite, beautiful blonde, Joan was a vaudeville strongwoman who could bend a steel bar or a 9in nail and lift any one of the men in her audience. Crisp was an actor, raconteur and self-styled 'stately homo of England' who was portrayed in the 1975 TV play *The Naked Civil Servant*. They had a friendship that endured for half a century.

Joan, now over 80, says, "Often on a Sunday, he'd come to my home and I'd always make a roast lunch which he loved. If it was summer we'd sit in the garden and drink gallons of home-made lemonade and in winter he used to sit in front of the fire.

If I won at Scrabble – which wasn't often – he'd say, 'You've achieved greatness today, Miss Rhodes.'"

## Australians Mark Standen and Marcus Einfeld

Marcus Einfeld, former Federal Court judge and president of the Human Rights Commission is serving three years in prison for perjury and perverting the course of justice, when he lied to avoid a \$75 speeding fine.

Mark Standen, former assistant director of the powerful NSW Crime Commission, is awaiting trial for attempting to import enough ephedrine chemicals to produce more than \$120 million worth of the deadly designer drug, ice.

He said, "We play Scrabble and do crosswords. If I had a choice between



Joan with Quentin in her North London flat in the seventies

going to the gym or playing crosswords, I would prefer the latter."

## Lionel Letizi, German soccer goalie

In *The Oklahoman*, Mike Baldwin listed the 30 strangest off-the-field professional sports injuries. He put Lionel Letizi in the 21st spot for "throwing out his back picking up a Scrabble letter off the floor".

## Jonathan Ross, BBC presenter

Jonathan has the name of his screenwriter wife, Jane Goldman, tattooed on his arm in Scrabble tiles. The UK Express commented on their 21-year marriage: "Most celebrity marriages don't last long enough for a winged heart tattoo to heal."

## Linda Thomas Greenfield, US Ambassador to Liberia

She spoke to journalists at the Cabral Estate where she had gone to play Scrabble with the Lebanese Ambassador in a community tournament.



Jean Simmons with Marlon Brando in *Guys and Dolls*.

## Jean Simmons, actress

Jean Simmons died recently, aged 80. She quickly rose to become one of the biggest stars of British and American cinema, playing Ophelia in Laurence Olivier's *Hamlet*, and starring opposite Marlon Brando in *Guys And Dolls*, Burt Lancaster in *Elmer Gantry* and Kirk Douglas in *Spartacus*.

The actress, who described herself as "semi-retired", said in an interview on her last trip to England: "I used to visit England a lot more ... now I spend my days playing internet Scrabble".

## Katie Holmes

When she's not working, Katie enjoys game nights with husband Tom Cruise and pals such as Eva Longoria Parker, Victoria Beckham and David Beckham. "We like to play this version of Scrabble which is like a fast version of Scrabble," she revealed. "It's pretty stressful – it's intense but it's addictive."

## Jeff Vrabel, writer, Illinois

"The shame spiral happened with my iPhone, which receives actual calls but which I am using mostly as a mobile device for playing Scrabble games with people who are DESTROYING ME, mostly because, and I don't want to sound like a sore loser or anything,

iPhone Scrabble allows words which are ENTIRELY FICTIONAL, like "tare" (not a word), "liri" (fully not a word), "ods" (not a word even in scramble Eastern European languages), "ana" (part of a word, but not a word), "tain" (would be a word if we were playing "Scrabble: Medieval Poets Edition," which we are not) and "ki," which my auto-spell corrector WILL NOT EVEN LET ME TYPE RIGHT NOW.

Writing on the Gatehouse News Service (Illinois), Jeff also wondered if anyone else has trouble playing iPhone Scrabble while driving, "because I think they really should have made that easier".

[Shame on you, Jeff. You should take notice of the TV advert that shows it's hard to concentrate on two things at the same time – you can't play a decent game of Scrabble while you're trying to drive!]

## Kristen Bell and Dax Shepard, movie stars

The 29-year-old actress recently gushed about her relationship with Shepard, saying she'd rather stay at home with him and play a board game than have a night out.

She told a reporter, "There is almost nothing, barring a natural disaster, that I would let eat into my time at home, playing Scrabble with Dax." They currently star together in *When in Rome*.

## Maele Ricker, Canadian snowboarder

Canadian snowboarder Maele Ricker's Olympic odyssey has included three Games and more than a few hospitals. Eight knee operations. Two knee braces. One emergency helicopter ride off a mountain. And now one Olympic gold. On the Canada Snowboard website, Ricker lists her hobbies as "Scrabble, biking, backpacking, fidgeting."

## Aa!!! Some geologic terms for Scrabble players

I am an avid Scrabble player, and sometimes I have an advantage because of my knowledge of geologic terms. So, as a public service, I here provide some unusual geologic terms for Scrabble players. These are all real terms.



*hoodoo*

**HOODOOS:** geologists sometimes hunt HOODOOS A hoodoo is an erosional form which develops fantastic pinnacles, towers and grotesque shapes. The hard head of hoodoos hold up the formation. This hoodoo is in the Chiricahua mountains, Arizona.

**TOMBOLO:** not somebody's neck wear, it is an Italian bar – a sand bar that connects islands.



*tombolo*

**PAHOEHOE:**ropy lava (below), not to be confused with AA which is chunky lava (over page).



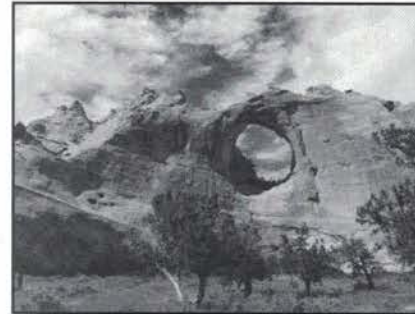
*pahoehoe*

- by Jonathan DuHamel, Economic Geologist



*aa*

**YARDANG:** a yardang is a wind-abraded ridge found in a desert environment. For instance, Window Rock, Arizona.



*yardang*

**MAAR:** a maar is a relatively shallow, flat-floored explosion crater, the walls of which consist mostly of loose fragments of the country rock.



*maar*

Finally my favorite geology definition. [Words marked \* are not in our official Scrabble list, folks. -Ed]

**Cactolith\*:** A magmatic intrusion that solidifies into an irregular shape. Here is the official definition from USGS Prof. Paper 150. Remember I'm not making this up. "A quasi-horizontal chonolith\* composed of anastomosing ductoliths\*, whose distal ends curl like a harpolith\*, thin like a sphenolith\*, or bulge discordantly like an akmolith\* or ethmolith\*." Now that says it all, doesn't it, and it provides more words you can spring on somebody.

- from Tucson Citizen, USA

Reproduced with the kind permission of Jonathan DuHamel, who says: "I usually play super Scrabble – the board is twice as large with double the letter tiles. That makes end game strategy more interesting. I know that strict players won't be able to use several of the words in my article, but informal players can. My wife and I, when playing together also allow common words in Spanish, French, Italian, and German as well as old Scottish. Makes for a very interesting game."

### Smells help

- sent in by Liz Fagerlund, Mt Albert

When it comes to learning, our sense of smell helps retain information. Students whose sense of smell was stimulated at the same time they were given a word list remembered more of the words for a longer period of time.

- from Coffee News

Does this sound promising for learning words for Scrabble? Trouble is, doesn't say what sort of smell helps.

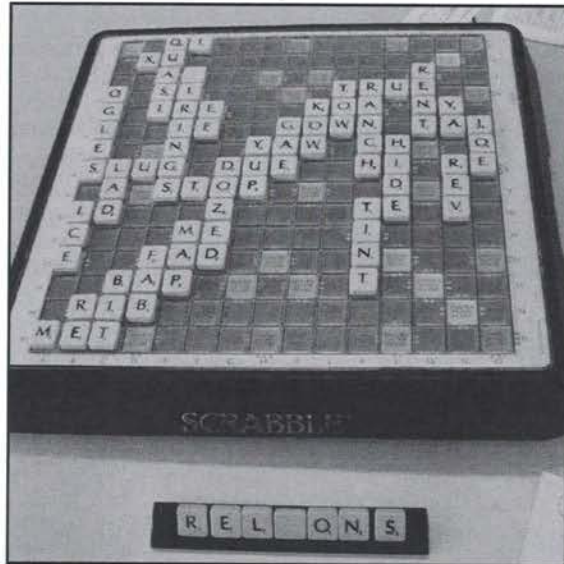
[How about the smell of a dirty tile bag? - Ed.]

## Puzzle

- from Katrina Allen, Nelson

I had this situation (right) at the end of a game at the Nelson Open a couple of years ago and I nearly ran out of time trying to find a bingo – you'd think there would be one.

Answer on page 42.



## People with a way with words

"It isn't pollution that's harming the environment. It's the impurities in our air and water that are doing it."

- Al Gore, former Vice President, USA

Question: If you could live forever, would you and why?

Answer: "I would not live forever, because we should not live forever, because if we were supposed to live forever, then we would live forever, but we cannot live forever, which is why I would not live forever."

- Miss Alabama in the 1994 Miss USA contest

"Smoking kills. If you're killed, you've lost a very important part of your life."

- Brooke Shields,

"Outside of the killings, Washington has one of the lowest crime rates in the country."

- Mayor Marion Barry, Washington, DC

in an interview to become spokesperson for federal anti-smoking campaign

"I've never had major knee surgery on any other part of my body."

- Winston Bennett, University of Kentucky basketball forward

"That lowdown scoundrel deserves to be kicked to death by a jackass, and I'm just the one to do it."

- a congressional candidate in Texas

"Whenever I watch TV and see those poor starving kids all over the world, I can't help but cry. I mean I'd love to be skinny like that, but not with all those flies and death and stuff."

- Mariah Carey

"Half this game is ninety percent mental."

- Philadelphia Phillies manager, Danny Ozark

"I love California. I practically grew up in Phoenix."

- Dan Quayle

"We don't necessarily discriminate. We simply exclude certain types of people."

- Colonel Gerald Wellman, US Military

"Traditionally, most of Australia's imports come from overseas."

- Keppel Enderbery, former Australian cabinet minister

## Simpson Scrabble

The first episode of the TV show, *The Simpsons*, aired on Jan. 14, 1990. It's the longest-running prime-time entertainment series in the history of American TV.

The first regular episode, "Bart the Genius", starts with the Simpson family playing a game of Scrabble in order to help Bart prepare for an intelligence test he will take at school the next day. Not taking the game seriously, Bart lays down all his tiles in the order they were placed on his letter stand. He invents the word KWYJIBO\*, explaining it as meaning "a big, dumb, balding North American ape, with no chin" – by which he means his dad, Homer – and Marge adds, "... and a short temper."

This throwaway gag can be found clearly defined at [UrbanDictionary.com](http://UrbanDictionary.com) and splashed across a T-shirt in Scrabble tiles at the Huzzah Goods website. However, the more than 50,000 hits returned by Google for the word is not the only indication of *The Simpsons'* pervasive influence – the most famous exclamation of the kwyjibo in question, Homer's trademark "D'oh!" was added to the *Oxford English Dictionary* in 2001.

## Tom Swifties

- by Richard Lederer

The object of the game called 'Tom Swifties' is to match the adverb with the quotation to produce a high-flying pun. Here are some classic examples:

"I lost my flower," said Tom lackadaisically.

"I love reading Moby Dick," said Tom superficially.

"My glasses are all fogged up," said Tom optimistically.

"I'll take the prisoner downstairs," said Tom condescendingly.

"The girl has been kidnapped," said Tom mistakenly.

"My family has a great future," said Tom clandestinely.

"What did that brain surgeon do to me?" said Tom absent-mindedly.

"I manufacture table tops," said Tom counterproductively.

"I'm wearing my wedding ring," said Tom with abandon.

"Your Honour, you must be crazy," said Tom judgementally.

"I'm taller than I was yesterday," said Tom gruesomely.

"That's a really ugly river beast," said Tom hypocritically.

"This just doesn't add up," said Tom nonplussed.

"Be sure to feed kitty her cod liver oil," said Tom catatonically.

"Thank you, thank you, thank you, Monsieur," said Tom mercifully.

"She tore my Valentine in two," said Tom half-heartedly.

"I got the first three wrong," said Tom forthrightly.

- from *Word Ways magazine*

## Spanish anagram whopper

- by Terry Kirk

It's interesting to note that in Spanish there are 89 2-letter words, compared to 124 in English, and just over 500 3-letter words compared to nearly 1300 in English.

However, both the most productive 7 and 8 letter sets yield a staggering 26 valid anagrams. ACENORS and ACEORST are the most fertile 7-letter sets, and here's a list of the best 8-letter combo:

ACERINAS	ARCINASE	ARENCAIS
ARENISCA	ARICASEN	ASICAREN
CARENAIS	CARIASEN	CARNEAIS
CEARINAS	CENARAIS	CENARIAS
CENSARIA	CESARIAN	CESARINA
CRANEAIS	ENARCAIS	ENCARAIS
ESCARIAN	NACERIAS	NACIERAS
NARICEAS	RANCIASE	RENACIAS
SACIAREN	SECARIAN	

## Scrabble letter distributions

- from Wikipedia

Many editions of the word board game Scrabble vary in the letter distribution of the tiles, because the frequency of each letter of the alphabet is different for every language. As a general rule, the rarer the letter the more points it is worth.

Many languages use sets of 102 tiles, since the original distribution of one hundred tiles was later augmented with two blank tiles.

In this second of a four-part series, we show the tile distribution of the game in Dutch, English, Esperanto, Finnish, French, German, Greek and Hebrew.

### Part 2

#### Dutch (102 tiles)

2 blank tiles (scoring 0 points)  
 1 point: E ×18, N ×10, A ×6, O ×6, I ×4, R ×5  
 2 points: D ×5, S ×5, T ×5  
 3 points: G ×3, K ×3, L ×3, M ×3, B ×2, P ×2  
 4 points: U ×3, H ×2, J ×2, V ×2, Z ×2, F ×2  
 5 points: C ×2, W ×2  
 8 points: X ×1, Y ×1  
 10 points: Q ×1

Prior to March 1998, there was a difference between the Dutch and the Flemish version: the Dutch version had 2 IJ tiles with a value of 4 points. Furthermore, it had only 1 F and only 4 S tiles; and the face value of the G was only 2 points. The Flemish version never had IJ tiles, it was as described above. The Dutch version is now in line with the Flemish one.

#### English (100 tiles)

The distribution of letters that we Scrabble players are all familiar with has not changed since Alfred Butts invented the game in 1938.

However, a new Mattel-licensed product, Super Scrabble, was launched in 2004. This set comprises 200 tiles, in this distribution:

4 blank tiles (scoring 0 points)  
 1 point: E ×24, A ×16, O ×15, T ×15, I ×13, N ×13, R ×13, S ×10, L ×7, U ×7  
 2 points: D ×8, G ×5  
 3 points: C ×6, M ×6, B ×4, P ×4  
 4 points: H ×5, F ×4, W ×4, Y ×4, V ×3  
 5 points: K ×2  
 8 points: J ×2, X ×2  
 10 points: Q ×2, Z ×2

#### Esperanto (100 tiles)

Esperanto Scrabble exists, but only as an internet game. No commercially available sets have been made so far

2 blank tiles (scoring 0 points).  
 1 point: A ×8, E ×8, I ×8, O ×8, N ×6, R ×6, S ×6, L ×4, T ×4, U ×4  
 2 points: K ×4, M ×4, D ×3, J ×3, P ×3  
 3 points: F ×2, G ×2, Ĝ ×2, V ×2  
 4 points: B ×2, Ĉ ×2, C ×1, Ŝ ×1  
 5 points: Z ×1  
 8 points: H ×1, Ŭ ×1  
 10 points: Ĥ ×1, Ĵ ×1

#### Finnish (100 tiles)

2 blank tiles (scoring 0 points)  
 1 point: A ×10, I ×10, N ×9, S ×7, T ×9, E ×8  
 2 points: K ×5, L ×5, O ×5, Ä ×5  
 3 points: U ×4, M ×3  
 4 points: H ×2, J ×2, P ×2, R ×2, V ×2, Y ×2  
 7 points: D ×1, Ö ×1  
 8 points: B ×1, F ×1, G ×1  
 10 points: C ×1

#### French (102 tiles)

2 blank tiles (scoring 0 points)  
 1 point: E ×15, A ×9, I ×8, N ×6, O ×6, R ×6, S ×6, T ×6, U ×6, L ×5  
 2 points: D ×3, G ×2, M ×3  
 3 points: B ×2, C ×2, P ×2  
 4 points: F ×2, H ×2, V ×2

8 points: J ×1, Q ×1

10 points: K ×1, W ×1, X ×1, Y ×1, Z ×1  
 Diacritical marks are ignored.

#### German (102 tiles)

2 blank tiles (scoring 0 points)  
 1 point: E ×15, N ×9, S ×7, I ×6, R ×6, T ×6, U ×6, A ×5, D ×4  
 2 points: H ×4, G ×3, L ×3, O ×3  
 3 points: M ×4, B ×2, W ×1, Z ×1  
 4 points: C ×2, F ×2, K ×2, P ×1  
 6 points: Ä ×1, J ×1, Ü ×1, V ×1  
 8 points: Ö ×1, X ×1  
 10 points: Q ×1, Y ×1  
 Before 1989–1990, German sets had 119 tiles. Eight tiles were played at a time, as opposed to the standard seven today.

Neither the old nor the new distribution contain the letter Eszett (ß) as it does not exist as a capital letter. Words with ß can be played, however, by using two S (eg. STRASSE for Straße). The umlauts Ä, Ö, Ü must not be represented by AE, OE or UE respectively.

#### Greek (104 tiles)

2 blank tiles (scoring 0 points)  
 1 point: A ×12, O ×9, E ×8, I ×8, T ×8, H ×7, Σ ×7, N ×6  
 2 points: P ×5, K ×4, Π ×4, Y ×4  
 3 points: Λ ×3, M ×3, Ω ×3  
 4 points: Γ ×2, Δ ×2  
 8 points: B ×1, Φ ×1, X ×1  
 10 points: Z ×1, Θ ×1, Ξ ×1, Ψ ×1

#### Hebrew (104 tiles)

2 blank tiles (scoring 0 points)  
 1 point: 8× ך, 8× ן, 9× ת, 10× י, 12× ו  
 2 points: 6× ן, 6× ן, 6× ן, 6× ן  
 3 points: 4× ך, 4× ך  
 4 points: 3× ן, 3× ן, 3× ן, 3× ן  
 5 points: 2× ן, 2× ן, 2× ן  
 8 points: 1× ן, 1× ן, 1× ן, 1× ן

The final form letters ך, ן, ן, ן and ן are not available and the normal form is used.

## Puzzling questions

1. Is atheism a non-prophet organisation?
2. If you can't find the self-help section in the bookstore, will the salesperson help you?
3. Is there another word for synonym?
4. What should you do when you see an endangered animal eating an endangered plant?
5. Can vegetarians eat animal crackers?
6. If the police arrest Marcel Marceau, do they tell him he has the right to remain silent?
7. What was the best thing before sliced bread?
8. How is it possible to have a civil war?
9. Why aren't hemorrhoids called "assteroids"?
10. Why is it called tourist season if we can't shoot at them?

## A boring game!

The *Marin Independent Journal* (USA) reported a woman called their Master Gardener, because she suspected there was an insect boring inside the leg of the table where she and her husband play Scrabble. They could hear it making tiny sounds inside the wood.

Suspecting it could be Powder Post beetles, the master gardener suggested she do one of three things: she could put the table leg – it was removable – in the freezer for several hours; or in an electric oven on low for a few hours; or solarise the leg in a plastic bag with ammonia. Or as the Master Gardener succinctly put it, "Freeze it, cook it or gas it." The caller opted for the freezer, but did not report the results.

## Scrabble soup

For your next pot luck Scrabble tournament?

450g ground beef  
 1 cup chopped onion  
 6 cups water  
 2 cans (14 ½ oz each) diced tomatoes, undrained  
 1 cup each chopped celery, carrot, turnip and potato  
 1 tablespoon dried (or fresh) parsley flakes  
 2 beef bouillon cubes  
 2 garlic cloves, minced  
 1 teaspoon dried oregano  
 1 teaspoon salt  
 ½ teaspoon pepper  
 ½ teaspoon dried basil  
 ½ teaspoon Worcestershire sauce  
 1 cup uncooked alphabet macaroni

In a Dutch oven or soup kettle, cook beef and onion until meat is no longer pink; drain. Add water, vegetables and seasonings; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer for 20 minutes or until the vegetables are crisp-tender. Add macaroni; simmer for 15 minutes or until the macaroni and vegetables are tender.  
 (Yields 3 litres)

### The law and Scrabble

Barry Nagler is chief legal officer for Hasbro, which markets and distributes Scrabble in the USA.

In an interview with Richard Acello of the *National Law Journal*, he said his main priority is brand protection.

"We have limited issues with counterfeiting, then there's trademark and copyright infringement, and then the 'knock off' products — which is the sincerest form of flattery. Those are most interesting because some people get close

to the line but don't go over it. We are very aggressive but strategic in enforcing our rights."

In 2008, Hasbro closed down the infringing 'Scrabulous' on Facebook. "The site had received strong fan support but, unfortunately, was a blatant infringement of both our trademark and copyright in the legitimate Scrabble game," he said. The move "made me quite unpopular with a lot of very passionate Scrabble players for a period of time."

He said that after a legitimate Facebook Scrabble outlet was established, things calmed down. "It's the kind of case you have to take on, even though it gets played as David versus Goliath in the press."

### Death of Jacques Polak

Jacques Polak, 95, a Dutch-born economist who helped design the basic economic framework of the International Monetary Fund and later used his training to devise a winning approach to Scrabble, died on 26 February.

In addition to his work with the IMF, Dr Polak proved that economics can extend beyond the abstruse and into the everyday when he used the tools of his discipline to develop rules for maximizing one's score in the word game Scrabble. The most common mistake, he wrote in the *American Economic Review* in 1955, is what he called the shortsighted tendency to try to win the highest number of points on each turn, rather than saving certain letters for potentially higher gains later in the game. Letters with low face-values, he concluded, should be used anytime, but those with higher values should be saved for double or triple scores.

Despite Dr Polak's recognised analytical skills, however, his Scrabble rules did not always hold up in battle — his wife reportedly beat him often.

## Champions Tournament

- from Michael Tang

It is with great honour that I announce the inaugural Tournament of Champions to be held immediately after 9th Causeway Scrabble Challenge, from 8th to 10th December 2010.

Ten of the Greatest Champions in the World of Scrabble will converge to compete over a 3 Full Round-Robin over 3 days. The winner will walk away with US\$10,000 and all 135 games will have "live" coverage on [www.causewayscrabble.com](http://www.causewayscrabble.com). The 10 Champions will also be part of Premier Division of Causeway 2010 vying for a top prize money of US\$30,000.

I hereby present you the 10 Champions:

1. Peter Morris – WSC 1991 Champion
2. Mark Nyman – WSC 1993 Champion
3. Dave Boys – WSC 1995 Champion
4. Joel Wapnick – WSC 1999 Champion
5. Brian Cappelletto – WSC 2001 Champion
6. Panupol Sujjayakorn – WSC 2003 Champion



- cartoon by Richard Stowers, graphic artist, Hamilton

7. Adam Logan – WSC 2005 Champion
8. Nigel Richards – WSC 2007 Champion
9. Pakorn Netmitrmanusk – WSC 2009 Champion
10. David Eldar – Causeway 2008 Champion

I would like to sincerely thank the support of the 10 Champions to make this momentous event a reality. It is my sincere hope that this event will bring us one step closer to turning Scrabble into a Professional Sport.

### Causeway coming to South Island?

- by Howard Warner, Mt Albert

New Zealand hosted the equivalent of Scrabble royalty recently.

Causeway Challenge boss, Michael Tang, probably the major powerbroker of world Scrabble, snuck into the country with his family for a well-earned holiday.

His destination was Queenstown, and specifically the luxury mansion that he bought in an on-line mortgagee sale. He tells me this will be the first time he has actually seen the place, though he has an image of it on his mobile phone, which he has been showing off to everyone for months. It is apparently a lakefront property, about three hectares, with a stunning backdrop of the Remarkables.

Singapore-based Tang, who is the Asia-Pacific head of a giant multinational translation service, wants to eventually retire here. Then we can expect to see a club and an annual tournament in Queenstown, he says. He also fancies the idea of bringing his lucrative Causeway concept to this picturesque tourist mecca. Imagine that: 200-plus great international Scrabblers playing on the lawn, under a marquee, Lake Wakatipu lapping at their feet.

However, he says he won't be breathing a word about Scrabble this trip — or his wife would kill him.

## More Scrabble analogies

### Animal rights

Take the animal "rights" movement, for instance. Not to be confused with the animal "welfare" movement, a mainstream pursuit concerned with managing the puppy and kitten populations.

Animal-rights activism is about taking civil rights that we enjoy and giving them to dogs, cats, chickens, whales, or maybe even the cockroach.

Embracing the animal-rights philosophy requires shifting vegetarianism from a choice to an obligation. In the long term, words like beef, pork, veal, cheese, omelet and even terms like "wishbone" would exist only in a Scrabble dictionary.

- by Dean A. Ayers on [congress.com](http://congress.com)

### Interview with American football player, New York Jets offensive lineman D'Brickashaw Ferguson

**Interviewer:** So tell me honestly. During the whole game, the commentators on TV are trying to sell the idea that you guys really care and you really take this game seriously, but on a scale of one to 10, where 10 is the Super Bowl and one is a game of Scrabble with the neighbors, how much do you really care about winning the Pro Bowl?

**Brick:** Oh, it's huge, man. It's more of a pride game, you know. You get a chance to go against the top athletes, and it's fun to go against those guys. You can just go out there and play because you're having fun.

- from [Gatorade.com](http://Gatorade.com)

### Traffic in Kabul City

Driving in Kabul City is slow because of the perpetual traffic jams. To picture a Kabul intersection, imagine the way you swirl Scrabble tiles around on the tabletop before the draw. Vehicles going every which way, some of them on the sidewalks. There are traffic cops at these intersections, blowing whistles and waving little red paddles, but they are strictly for comic relief. They have

no effect whatsoever on the movement of traffic, which advances solely on the basis of intimidation. Size matters.

- by Nick Mills, in the *Huffington Post, USA*

### Nevada state budget

Imagine a game in which there are no winners. Scrabble without vowels. All chutes, no ladders.

That is the situation as the Nevada Legislature meets next week for a special session, made official by Governor Jim Gibbons' proclamation, to close an \$881 million budget hole. Republicans and Democrats know they will be forced to turn their backs on favored policies and favored friends.

Certainly nobody wins.

- from *Las Vegas Sun*

### Solutions

#### Know your hooks (page 27)

##### Front-hooks

SEDITION	TACONITE	BOARFISH
LIGNEOUS	UPLIGHTS	FRISKFUL
WANTHILL	SUNBONNET	WEDGEWISE
KALEWIVES	MIFFINESS	CUNIFORM
SOMNIFIC	AVIRULENT	WHELPLESS

##### Back-hooks

ORANGERY	OPAQUEST	ARMIGERO
MORCEAUX	ECTOZOAN	INSUREDS
FORESTALL	UNDERGOD	IMPLICITY
NYMPHAEA	GLIBBERY	ABOMASAL
OCTOPUSH	ANTIMONYL	MEZUZOTH

### Puzzle (page 36)

There are 15 words with those tiles, but only two hook onto TINT, NOURSL and NORSELS. LORNESS can be played through the N of TINT. None hooks onto RENT, with BRENT, DRENT, PRENT, URENT or YRENT. No words can be played through the T, or alongside TINT.

## The last word



GUSTAVA GUMERSINDA  
GUTIERREZ GUZMAN

Rest in peace.

A memory from all your sons (except Ricardo who did not pay any money).



Here is resting my dearest wife,  
BRUNJILDA JALAMONTE

Lord, please welcome her with the same joy I send her to you.



Here rests PANCRAZIO JUVENALES  
He was a good husband, a wonderful father, but a bad electrician.



TOMAS JIMOTEO CHINCHILLA  
Rest in peace,

Now you are in the Lord's arms.  
Lord, watch your wallet.



# Tournament Results

## Wellington Club Tournament 16-17 January

### 14 games

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
<b>Grade A</b>				
1 Jeff Grant	IND	12	954	436
2 Steven Brown	KAP	11	582	430
3 Joanne Craig	CHC	10	551	423
4 Murray Rogers	NEL	6	-146	388
5 Val Mills	PAK	6	-429	372
6 Glenda Foster	WEL	4	-130	407
7 Denise Gordon	WAN	4	-494	384
8 Rosemary Cleary	WAN	3	-888	372
<b>Grade B</b>				
1 Vicky Robertson	WEL	10	377	405
2 Frank Robinson	WEL	8	146	391
3 Olivia Godfrey	WEL	8	133	400
4 Glenyss Buchanan	LOH	8	-77	397
5 Lynn Wood	WEL	7	-91	387
6 Helen Sillis	NPL	6	220	388
7 Clare Ruckstuhl	WEL	5	-468	367
8 Shirley Hol	CHC	4	-240	371



Frank Robinson, Wellington  
2nd in B Grade at Wellington

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
<b>Grade C</b>				
1 Herb Ramsay	CHC	12	982	417
2 Leila Thomson	LOH	8	439	402
3 Pam Barlow	PAK	7	144	397
4 Geoff Vautier	WEL	7	-157	381
5 Betty Eriksen	WAN	7	-169	375
6 Andree Prentice	WAN	6	16	393
7 Karen Rodgers	IND	6	-597	353
8 Allison Torrance	CHC	3	-658	357
<b>Grade D</b>				
1 Gabrielle Bolt	CHC	10	650	400
2 Roger Cole-Baker	MTA	10	626	396
3 Nola Borrell	IND	9	64	374
4 Su Walker	MTA	8	183	388
5 Colleen Cook	CHC	7	96	376
6 Sandra Stacey	WEL	6	-83	359
7 Jean Boyle	WAN	4	-228	378
8 Sheila Reed	WEL	2	-1308	324
<b>Grade E</b>				
1 Dianne Cole-Baker	MTA	10	872	399
2 Judith Thomas	IND	9	98	349
3 Malcolm Graham	CHC	8	236	377
4 Alison Holmes	CHC	7	105	375
5 Thelma Chisholm	WEL	4	-421	336
6 Judy Driscoll	KAP	4	-890	324

## Pakuranga Club Tournament Saturday 30 January

### 7 games

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
<b>Grade A</b>				
1 Howard Warner	MTA	6	628	472
2 Patrick Carter	MTA	5	192	432
3 John Foster	IND	5	34	413
4 Kristian Soether	MTA	4	370	460
5 Andrew Bradley	MTA	4	63	423
6 Chris Hooks	MTA	2	-359	407
7 Val Mills	PAK	1	-379	382
8 Lawson Sue	PAK	1	-549	399
<b>Grade B</b>				
1 Vicky Robertson	WEL	5	454	444
2 Nick Cavenagh	HAM	4	236	434
3 Lynn Wood	WEL	4	23	406



Vicky Robertson, Wellington  
1st in B grade at Wellington and  
Pakuranga day 1

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
4 Allie Quinn	WRE	4	-327	377
5 Olivia Godfrey	WEL	3	67	388
6 Liz Fagerlund	MTA	3	-10	402
7 Sheila Green	IND	3	-174	378
8 David Gunn	WKP	2	-269	388
<b>Grade C</b>				
1 Jennifer Smith	HAM	5	438	402
2 Rebecca Freeth	ROD	5	207	413
3 June Mackwell	NSB	5	-77	372
4 Anderina McLean	MTA	4	85	390
5 Joan Thomas	HAS	3	77	409
6 Margie Hurly	WRE	3	3	380
7 Hazel Purdie	MTA	2	-455	371
8 Shirley Martin	HAM	1	-278	383
<b>Grade D</b>				
1 Pat Bryan	MTA	5	421	431
2 Jean O'Brien	IND	4	151	379
3 Ernie Gidman	ROD	4	-27	374
4 Glenda Geard	IND	4	-88	365
5 Betty Eriksen	WAN	4	-125	356
6 Clare Ruckstuhl	WEL	3	-8	399
7 Maureen Holliday	HBC	2	-160	374
8 Roger Coates	HAM	2	-164	383
<b>Grade E</b>				
1 Lorraine Van Veen	IND	5	195	397
2 Ann Candler	HBC	5	-45	387
3 Delcie Macbeth	IND	4	117	384
4 Shirley Wyatt	MTA	4	69	366

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
5 Su Walker	MTA	4	-171	366
6 Roger Cole-Baker	MTA	2	140	379
7 Rhoda Cashman	HBC	2	18	371
8 Lynn Carter	NSB	2	-323	359
<b>Grade F</b>				
1 Cicely Bruce	WRE	5	294	379
2 Rosalind Phillips	MTA	5	254	389
3 Pam Muirhead	HBC	5	191	389
4 Jo Ann Ingram	TGA	3	56	355
5 Carolyn Kyle	DUN	3	-31	355
6 Dianne Cole-Baker	MTA	3	-293	315
7 Hilary Blacklock	MTA	2	-151	344
8 Joan Pratt	HBC	2	-320	345
<b>Grade G</b>				
1 Bev Edwards	WRE	6	357	376
2 Carole Coates	HAM	5	390	403
3 Mark Hornblow	MTA	5	143	369
4 Heather Landon	TGA	5	85	373
5 Annette Coombes	WKP	3	-208	351
6 Valma Gidman	ROD	2	-118	331
7 Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell	KIW	1	-300	313
8 Tim Henneveld	ROT	1	-349	309
<b>Grade H</b>				
1 Christina Linwood	DUN	7	599	368
2 Janny Henneveld	ROT	6	160	346
3 Ruth Godwin	ROT	4	85	321
4 Suzanne Harding	WRE	3	37	352



Christine Linwood, Dunedin  
1st in H grade at Pakuranga day 1



Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
5 Patricia Wareing	PAK	2	-162	317
6 Margaret Hanson	PAK	2	-198	300
7 Joan Beale	PAP	2	-218	324
8 Anne Scatchard	WRE	2	-303	296

**Grade I**

1 Merle Spinetto	ROD	5	178	348
2 Dorothy Haining	ROD	5	86	334
3 Sue Mayn	ROD	4	158	354
4 Lynn Thompson	WRE	4	25	321
5 Margaret Miller	HBC	2	-164	314
6 Frances Higham	PAP	1	-283	281

**Sunday 31 January**

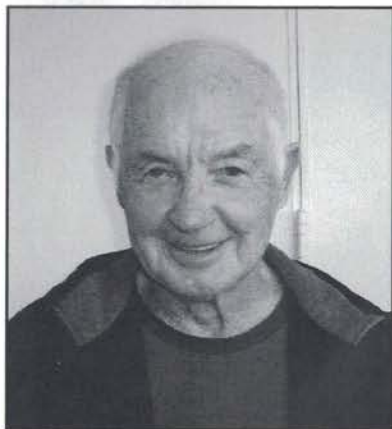
**7 games**

**Grade A**

1 Howard Warner	MTA	7	626	427
2 Andrew Bradley	MTA	5	371	441
3 John Foster	IND	4	-56	385
4 Lawson Sue	PAK	3	87	390
5 Glynis Jennings	MTA	3	-115	379
6 Chris Hooks	MTA	2	-126	383
7 Val Mills	PAK	2	-264	374
8 Vicky Robertson	WEL	2	-523	345

**Grade B**

1 Nick Cavenagh	HAM	5	401	442
2 Peter Jones	HAM	5	291	413
3 Jennifer Smith	HAM	5	161	422
4 Lynn Wood	WEL	4	-11	390



*Peter Jones, Hamilton  
2nd in B grade at Pakuranga day 2*



*Betty Eriksen, Wanganui  
2nd in D grade at Pakuranga day 2*

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
5 Olivia Godfrey	WEL	4	-117	398
6 Liz Fagerlund	MTA	3	72	397
7 Allie Quinn	WRE	1	-307	358
8 Sheila Green	IND	1	-490	362

**Grade C**

1 Shirley Martin	HAM	5	143	399
2 June Mackwell	NSB	4	245	386
3 Hazel Purdie	MTA	4	164	400
4 Anderina McLean	MTA	4	138	402
5 David Gunn	WKP	4	12	384
6 Margie Hurly	WRE	4	-145	391
7 Scott Thieman	MTA	2	-87	367
8 Joan Thomas	HAS	1	-470	354

**Grade D**

1 Maureen Holliday	HBC	5	361	396
2 Betty Eriksen	WAN	5	221	405
3 Jean O'Brien	IND	5	141	389
4 Ernie Gidman	ROD	4	-94	376
5 Clare Ruckstuhl	WEL	3	-167	375
6 Glenda Geard	IND	3	-168	382
7 Pat Bryan	MTA	2	-165	380
8 Roger Coates	HAM	1	-129	390

**Grade E**

1 Lynn Carter	NSB	7	615	423
2 Ann Candler	HBC	5	64	380
3 Delcie Macbeth	IND	4	200	382
4 Lorraine Van Veen	IND	3	-19	394
5 Rhoda Cashman	HBC	3	-142	353
6 Roger Cole-Baker	MTA	3	-359	341

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
1 Dorothy Haining	ROD	7	648	388
2 Lynn Thompson	WRE	5	217	358
3 Joan Beale	PAP	5	-14	333
4 Sue Mayn	ROD	2	53	350
5 Frances Higham	PAP	2	-116	317
6 Margaret Hanson	PAK	0	-788	276

**Rotorua Club Tournament  
27-28 February**

**13 games**

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
1 John Foster	IND	10	230	402
2 Glennis Hale	IND	8	796	429
3 Howard Warner	MTA	8	246	415
4 Nick Cavenagh	HAM	8	-128	390
5 Tim Anglin	O'Seas	7	474	428
6 Allie Quinn	WRE	7	253	412
7 Murray Rogers	NEL	7	-151	386
8 Amelia Carrington	IND	6	-87	399
9 Lynn Wood	WEL	6	-217	386
10 Val Mills	PAK	6	-334	389
11 Jennifer Smith	HAM	5	-92	394
12 Lynne Powell	HBC	5	-116	400
13 Peter Jones	HAM	5	-198	389
14 Olivia Godfrey	WEL	3	-676	355



*Carole Coates, Hamilton  
1st in G grade at Hamilton*

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
7 Su Walker	MTA	2	-150	378
8 Shirley Wyatt	MTA	1	-209	349

**Grade F**

1 Carolyn Kyle	DUN	6	580	399
2 Cicely Bruce	WRE	6	395	415
3 Rosalind Phillips	MTA	5	168	376
4 Dianne Cole-Baker	MTA	4	7	365
5 Jo Ann Ingram	TGA	3	-228	345
6 Pam Muirhead	HBC	2	-158	356
7 Bev Barker	IND	1	-304	345
8 Bev Edwards	WRE	1	-460	350

**Grade G**

1 Carole Coates	HAM	7	518	401
2 Resie Coenen	PAK	5	190	373
3 Heather Landon	TGA	4	148	365
4 Christina Linwood	DUN	3	239	387
5 Annette Coombes	WKP	3	-107	354
6 Valma Gidman	ROD	3	-259	344
7 Hilary Blacklock	MTA	2	-223	369
8 Janny Henneveld	ROT	1	-506	333

**Grade H**

1 Athena Masileo	MTA	6	889	436
2 Suzanne Harding	WRE	6	281	368
3 Ann Handley	HBC	3.5	-11	316
4 Tim Henneveld	ROT	3.5	-253	311
5 Ruth Godwin	ROT	3	-46	327
6 Anne Scatchard	WRE	2	-133	323
7 June Dowling	HBC	2	-249	343
8 Patricia Wareing	PAK	2	-478	316



*Glennis Hale, Independent  
2nd in A grade at Rotorua*

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
<b>B Grade</b>				
1 Anderina McLean	MTA	10	723	421
2 Janice Cherry	IND	10	430	395
3 Maureen Holliday	HBC	9	522	407
4 Hazel Purdie	MTA	9	272	395
5 Lyn Toka	KIW	8	-51	394
6 Shirley Martin	HAM	7	544	411
7 Ernie Gidman	ROD	6	-193	369
8 Lynn Carter	NSB	6	-543	378
9 Jean O'Brien	IND	5	4	395
10 Joan Thomas	HAS	5	-210	383
11 Delcie Macbeth	IND	4	-182	383
12 June Mackwell	NSB	4	-326	371
13 Andree Prentice	WAN	4	-415	369
14 Betty Eriksen	WAN	4	-575	361



*Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell, Kiwi  
3rd in D grade at Rotorua*

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
<b>C Grade</b>				
1 Cicely Bruce	WRE	11	615	410
2 Rosalind Phillips	MTA	9	592	398
3 Roger Cole-Baker	MTA	9	518	395
4 Elaine Moltzen	KIW	9	459	406
5 Lorraine Van Veen	IND	9	317	397
6 Rhoda Cashman	HBC	8	235	369
7 Dionne Cole-Baker	MTA	6	-409	363
8 Shirley Morrison	TGA	5	106	370
9 Roto Mitchell	WAN	5	-75	359
10 Margaret Cherry	PAK	5	-254	361
11 Jean Boyle	WAN	5	-291	352

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
12 Nola Borrell	IND	4	-684	339
13 Jena Yousif	KIW	3	-424	358
14 Joan Pratt	HBC	3	-705	348

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
<b>D Grade</b>				
1 Heather Landon	TGA	10	818	398
2 Catherine Henry	TGA	10	555	378
3 Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell	KIW	9	244	368
4 Barbara Dunn	TGA	9	149	369
5 Valma Gidman	ROD	8	382	374
6 Ruth Godwin	ROT	7	134	340
7 Janny Henneveld	ROT	6	-194	336
8 Annette Coombes	WKP	5	-259	348
9 Philippa Medlock	ROT	5	-658	313
10 Tim Henneveld	ROT	4.5	-207	339
11 Anthea Jones	KIW	4.5	-208	342
12 Shirley Brake	ROT	0	-756	311

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
<b>E Grade</b>				
1 Pauline Smeaton	TGA	11	665	354
2 Allison Maclean	ROT	10	380	340
3 Anne Scatchard	WRE	10	295	332
4 Pat Wood	TGA	8	247	345
5 Maggie Bentley	ROT	8	210	334
6 Ray Seddon	TGA	7	-38	317
7 Jo Simmons	ROT	5	-458	282
8 Antonia Aarts	MTA	3	-408	314
9 Jeannie Lambert	ROT	3	-975	266



*Janny Henneveld, Rotorua  
7th in D grade 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) & Glemys 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)