

forwords



Journal of the New Zealand Association of Scrabble® Players
No. 150 Winter 2023



Also in this issue:

Word Famous in NZ:
Jeff Grant

2023 Nationals

Mother Goose's Nursery Rhymes

Tricky Matariki

Aperitif, Monsieur?
French loan words

Ask Liz

Puzzle Pozzy

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Editorial

Again we have an issue packed full of goodies for you. Thanks again to all our willing contributors!

Since I last wrote, the Masters in Whangarei has taken place, and the 2023 Nationals in Auckland.

Somehow I managed to be the top-placing woman at the masters. I've thought about this a lot but still can't put that good result down to anything. People say to me 'It's all the *cardboxing you're doing' - but I've been doing that since I went to the worlds in Kenya, and that's over seven years ago! It's very exciting when I get to play a word I've learnt, but that does not happen in every game. I am not the sort of player that keeps my stats, like Joanne Craig; tournament results, how many blanks did I get, how many of the big tiles, number of bonuses etc. Neither do I, like others of you, Quackle games after the event to see what I missed. Maybe if I paid more attention to what was happening in my games I'd have a better idea of what I'm doing right or wrong. So much comes down to how I'm feeling! Sometimes nothing can stop me and other times I know from the first pick up that things are not going to go well. I'm getting much better at picking myself up and thinking positively - *things can change, just do all the right things, don't be afraid to change, balance my rack* - the things we all know.

Anyway, whatever I did at the Masters could not be replicated at the Nationals. I had very mediocre results, but still lots of fun. It was a great tournament, very well run, by Liz Fagerlund. Thank you Liz!

Most of you know I'm a Francophile and over the past two weeks I've been immersing myself in the French Film Festival. You can do that when you've retired! So, I loved Mike Currie's take on allowable French words.

As for other words that have been taking my fancy, I've been interested in patterns of letters that stay the same with only one change such as:
SPICULAE/SPINULAE/SPIRULAE
PYRALID/PYRAMID
CARROT/GARROT/PARROT

People say it's too hard to remember meanings, but when I played *MOTELING recently it came straight off the board. My reasoning was that if you can have HOTELING, then why not the MOTEL version. But sadly, no. HOTELING is the advance booking of a desk by an employee in an office where hot-desking is practiced. I needed to know that!

So, it's with great excitement and with much admiration of all past editors of *Forwards* that I put together for you this 150th edition of the best little, world famous in New Zealand, Scrabble magazine. Enjoy!

Val Mills

Final 'Words from the President'

by **Howard Warner, Scrabble Wellington**



Howard Warner

This being my final column as president, I'm taking the opportunity to reflect on the state of New Zealand Scrabble.

Four years ago, I began my term with high hopes for growing the game and increasing its profile. But a series of unforeseen events forced us into reactive mode and took much of the wind out of our sails. First there was COVID-19 and the lockdowns, which forced Scrabble behind closed doors. Then there was the dictionary expurgation issue (more on this below), which distracted from the joy of playing our game.

Eventually we bounced back well from COVID. We even picked up new people who had brought out the old family set during lockdown and rediscovered a love for the game. A few clubs grew (big shout-out to the ever-vibrant Whangārei), but others declined. Natural attrition caused a few long-standing clubs to close. Clearly we need to find a way to replenish our player stocks at the younger end of the spectrum. We need to work out ways to position ourselves ahead of competing activities such as bridge, chess,

bowls, golf and – increasingly – computer games. New-style networking channels, such as MeetUp, could prove fruitful. Or there could be other channels that this old-timer isn't even aware of!

It helps that the media seem to have an appetite for Scrabble stories, reflecting the all-round popularity of our little brain sport. Without a doubt, the best publicity over the past four years was Alex Casey's piece of Nationals coverage for The Spinoff. A close second was Nick Ascroft's two-part potboiler on the expurgation issue, also published in The Spinoff.

The tournament scene remains strong. Praise is due to those dedicated individuals (we all know who they are!) who throw their hearts and souls into providing a competitive environment for Scrabblers.

Early on in my tenure, we were lucky to get annual funding from Ryman Healthcare, courtesy of a chance connection made by the late Glenda Foster, our then vice-president. This yielded a few years of great prizemoney for our major tournaments, plus funds towards our planned nationwide promotional campaign. I had high hopes of getting Ryman to sponsor a NZ International Open. Then they pulled the plug. Nothing personal – they did the same

for bridge, bowls and other feel-good, community-focussed leisure activities.

Internationally, it has been a mixed bag. During the pandemic, New Zealand jumped on board online Scrabble. We dipped our toes into a series of online tournaments run by the US-based Collins Coalition (CoCo). We enjoyed a test series with South Africa, which we won narrowly. And we got to see our own Alastair Richards crowned winner of the inaugural World Virtual Championship. But just as face-to-face competition was starting to recover from the COVID-enforced slump, Scrabble brand owner Mattel entered the fray.

In a move that was extremely unpopular with players around the world, they decided to censor our word source. Players' body WESPA failed to stand up to the corporate bullying. New Zealand, six Australian states and Israel formed a new international players organisation, called WordGamers International, that would be free of corporate interference. (WGI has discussed holding an alternative World Champs or a biennial Australasian Open.) And New Zealand withdrew from WESPA, citing a lack of perceived benefits.

Despite this fragmenting of world Scrabble, there were some high points. Many New Zealanders crossed the Tasman to play in the World Seniors Championship in Sydney. We had success, with three players finishing in the top four. The next version will be held in November this year alongside the Malta International Scrabble Open. I hope a few of you will consider going.

Finally, I know I'm leaving the executive in very capable hands. Of course, there is still work to be done. I see the priorities as:

- resurrecting the planned (pre-COVID) nationwide promotional campaign to attract more club players
- targeting a wider demographic
- developing a youth programme and selling it into schools around the country – with the help of some inspired and dedicated members (you perhaps?).

I hope you'll continue supporting the executive, as they give up their valuable time and energy to keep the New Zealand Scrabble scene vibrant.

Cover photo: Current and past editors of Forwords present at the Nationals

L-R: Val Mills, Jeff Grant, Jennifer Smith, Lyres Freeth, Anderina McLean, Glennis Hale

Word Famous in New Zealand



By Jeff Grant, Independent

Ed: I really wanted to feature a prior editor of Forwards for this article. Who better than Mr Scrabble NZ himself! Thank you Jeff.

Jeff Grant

I first saw a Scrabble set (or was it Funwoder?) when an older cousin got one for Christmas. We were staying on my uncle's farm in the Wairarapa. I was probably about ten and got given my own set a couple of years later.

I can't recall playing Scrabble until high school. A friend who was also mad on words used to come around and we would have several games using the *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary* as reference. I remember using words like CE, HY, IK and YT, and scoring 629 once in the early 1970s. I liked Scrabble because it gave a competitive edge to my love of wordplay. Anagramming is an important part of the game. I've always enjoyed the tactics too, as well as being interested in word meanings. I like it that no two games are the same.

During the 1970s and '80s I entered a weekly word competition run by *Truth* newspaper, winning it many



Jeff and Pat Grant

times. Once again, the *Shorter Oxford* was used as reference. One day there was a knock on the door. It was the organiser of the competition wanting to meet me. His name was

Gerald Warner. Years later I met Gerald and his son Howard through Scrabble, and more recently had a stint compiling Gerald's 'Syllabic' puzzles for the *Sunday Star Times*.

My first experience of organised Scrabble play was a visit to Glenys Buchanan's Lower Hutt club in the late 1970s. It was quite an evening and later inspired me to put an ad in our local paper, from which came the Hastings Scrabble Club in March 1981.

The year before I had fortuitously spotted on a fish and chips wrapper a small write-up on the first NZ National Champs, held in Tauranga on Queen's Birthday weekend 1980. It was run by Noel Maisey and the Tauranga Scrabble Enthusiasts, and was the first Scrabble tourney in New

Zealand. I wrote to Noel and started receiving regular newsletters.

Wordplay has been a lifetime interest. At various times I have compiled dictionaries of palindromes, 2-letter words and words starting with x-. I've been in the *Guinness Book of Records* for the longest palindrome (10,000+ words) and shortest pangram (26 letters), and written articles for the *American Journal of Recreational Linguistics (Word Ways)* for over 40 years.

Oh yes, I also collect dictionaries. They include a micro-lexicon which comes with a tiny magnifying glass, an original *Johnson's Dictionary* (3rd Ed., 1765), the largest single-volume work (*Century Dictionary*, 1915, 8,500 pages) and the 17-volume *Oxford English Dictionary*.

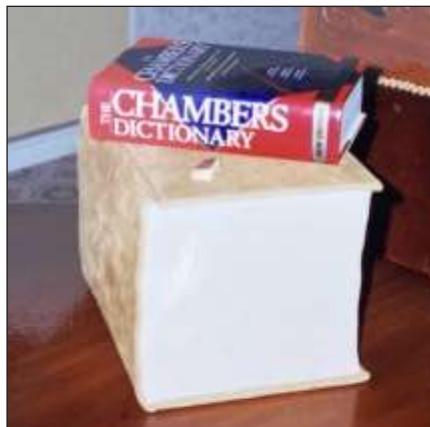
In the early days I liaised with *Chambers Dictionary*, the British Scrabble reference at the time, and was able to get about 70 common NZ words accepted, including the likes of 'feijoa', 'marae' and 'jandal' (the latter now sadly, and erroneously, disallowed).

My first Scrabble tourney was the 1981 Nationals. Just before the event an article appeared in a popular NZ magazine stating that I averaged over 600 points per game. It should have said that I had scored over 600 in a game. This probably gave me a psychological edge as I won the tourney.

It was around then that I started making handwritten lists of 2-, 3-, 4- and 5-letter words, painstakingly recorded from the dictionary. Over the years I added many more lists, e.g. words with J, Q, X, Z, hook words, stems, multi-i's, high probability bonuses, etc. I now have quite a few books of study lists, all handwritten. Someone told me once that it is easier to remember things when they are written down. It works for me.

I used to revise intensively before major tourneys, but haven't done so for some time. Playing from memory now. Just relax and don't put too much pressure on yourself.

There have been many highlights during my time playing Scrabble. I'm proud of my 16 Nationals and 10 Masters titles, as well as my time as *Forwords* editor (special thanks to Glennis Hale and Glenda Foster for their help).



The giant Century Dictionary and the micro-lexicon with Chambers Dictionary

Playing in and later running (with Glennis) the Norfolk Island Scrabble Festival was particularly memorable. A week of Scrabble, tennis, golf, swimming, sightseeing and socialising. It was my first time out of NZ for the initial Norfolk festival in 1985. Pat and I had our honeymoon there in conjunction with the 1998 event. Pat has been a huge support with all my Scrabble activities.

Another great Scrabble occasion was the 24-hour Millennium tourney in New Plymouth. There were some tired but happy Scrabblers at noon on New Year's Day 2000.

The World Scrabble Champs have been a particular highlight. Who would ever dream of playing Scrabble in places like London, New York, Las Vegas, Perth, Mumbai and Kuala Lumpur? To meet and play the world's



*Some early success,
1983-4*



At the World's longest place name in southern Hawke's Bay, c1980

best Scrabblers has been an amazing experience. My third place in London in 1995 was the overall high point. NZ's Nigel Richards winning multiple world titles in English as well as French has been a thrill for all Kiwis. He is without doubt the greatest Scrabble player ever.

Other memorable international events have been the Trans-Tasman clashes and Michael Chang's Causeway Challenges in Johor Bahru, Malaysia. One of these events featured 50 of the world's best players, including ten former World champions, playing a round robin (49 games) over five days. An incredible competition!

My highest game score ever is 751 (including seven bonus words) at the Hastings club in 1997, and highest word in a tourney BRUNIZEM for 221. Favourite word? Probably TAGHAIRM, inspiration sought while lying in a bullock's hide behind a waterfall. Not something I've tried.

I continue to play Scrabble, though not so much nowadays. We have a keen group of a dozen or so players who meet at the Hastings Library every Tuesday afternoon. There won't be any more international games, but I will try to make the Masters and Nationals tourneys while the competitive urge is still there.

The people make Scrabble what it is. Many of them have become personal friends. We've been lucky to have so many enthusiastic, hard-working and capable individuals helping to run NZ Scrabble over the years. My thanks to all of them.

The future is uncertain. Covid has disrupted things, there is online play, the advent of AI, banning of so-called

**I SWALLOWED
A DICTIONARY.
IT GAVE ME
THESAURUS
THROAT I'VE
EVER HAD.**

'offensive' words, travel is more costly, and we're all getting older.

My wish would be for a Scrabble world where everyone can enjoy the game using the same words and rules. Here's to the future!

Only on a Scrabble Board



Howard Warner vs. Dylan Early in the last game of the Masters 2023. Howard says Dylan was winning all the way but he hung in there and eventually squeaked home with a win after playing a crafty end game, 500-490.

Archiving Our Scrabble Yesterdays

by Jenny Litchfield, Whangarei

“Those were the days my friend...”

Songwriter: Gene Raskin.

Mary Hopkin’s 1968 debut single of “Those Were the Days”, produced by Paul McCartney.

Bev’s scrapbooks filled with photos and clippings serve as an historical record. Year after year, Whangarei word nerds come together because of their intense interest in a WORDGAME.

Scrabble is so intrinsic to our lives. It seems there was never one without the other. A club day. A tournament. A social event.

Activities were ARCHIVED as they happened.



Bev’s Scrapbooks

There we are, our younger selves laughing and smiling, GAMESTERS peering at posterity from the pages of time. Frozen in photographic images, forever seated at a game table lost in thought staring (or were we really glaring at all those vowels?) at the tiles. PRINTOUTS of results show wins and losses. We celebrated in the name of Scrabble.

ARCHIVAL information and things Scrabble are managed in different ways. Players collect MEMORABILIA.

Keepsake MERCH decorated with letter tiles, Tim’s hand-made wooden tile racks and tournament T-shirts are fun reminders we were there. Hold your prize, stand proud and smile for the camera. The scrapbooker will develop, caption and paste the photo onto a blank page to capture an EPHEMERAL source of FANDOM information.

The WEBMASTER will UPLOAD the digitised image onto NZASP’s WEBSITE to be filed in the electronic ARCHIVE. The paperless CURATION of primary source articles, images, news, records, reports and resources in digital

format enables information to be freely viewed online. NZASP quarterly ZINE enlivens and informs its readers. EZINE or WEBZINE are apt descriptions of *Forwards*. Maybe use the word FANZINE as we fete association members in picture and in word. The national magazine record adds to our sense of who we are. Scrabble ANNALS and collections are of wider public interest. A librarian or museum curator might CATALOG and REPOSIT Scrabble items and records. Tomorrow, researchers will

want to source evidence about the activities and connections of New Zealand Scrabble players as a community of word gamers.

Afterwords From the Archives

Ancient Greeks would have been expert Scrabble players. As rhetoricians, ARCHON - leaders of public affairs in ancient Athens, excelled at WORDPLAY. There was a root word for every matter. Arkheion derived from *arkhē became the place where official records were kept in an ordered way. Very early in the 17th century, the Latin derivative archīvum made its way into the French LEXICON as the word archive. Like other language migrants, ARCHIVE with its portmanteau of suffixes is thought to have traversed the Channel and entered into common

English usage sometime in the 1600s. Add the prefix AN- to make ANARCH and without order, ANARCHY will prevail. SAMIZDAT was the system of secret printing and publication of state banned materials, especially in the former USSR. Were such items ever archived as a record of those harsh times?

QUIZ

Six 6-letter words can be made from the letters in

ARCHIVE

Answers on page 30.

N.Z. RECORD, ROGER'S JEREMIAD

(A tale from the 1989 Nationals)

Allie started off with **DOGGRELS** (good word thought Roger). Roger made his move but felt a bit **STRAINED** when Allie banged down No.2
"Never mind, press on" thought Roger!
I hope this game is not going to be **ELONGATED** said Roger as No.3 appeared on the board.
By this time Roger was feeling a bit **JEALOUS** as Allie put down her 4th consecutive 7-letter word.
Roger made his move – then Allie gave him her **MEMENTOS** to remember his day.
Five straight 7-letter words.

N.B. This record has still to be broken at a tournament.

From the scrapbook - Allie Quinn's five bingos

Priming the brain for cognitive work: the role of exercise

by Selena Chan, Christchurch

I have been reflecting on what makes me tick. This has been due to coping with a busy work/ academic / scholarly schedule whereby I have had to balance several projects along with meeting several writing datelines.

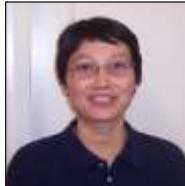
One of the outcomes of this self-reflection was the need for me to prime my brain for a busy day. At last year's National scrabble tournament, I did well. Some of it was due to good luck, the tile fairies being especially magnanimous on one afternoon, bequeathing me with most of the goodies at every game. The other was that I biked to the tournament each day. Well, you might say, did the physical exercise in the morning make a difference? After all, I try to always walk to a tournament if it is not one in Christchurch. However, these walks are often quite short and I usually bike 10 km each morning to work, taking at least 30 minutes.

I have biked to work for many years. The morning physical activity has worked towards priming my brain for serious productivity as an academic writer each work morning. Therefore, the routine of getting on my bike each morning, switches my brain into thinking mode. I recollect my thoughts, plan my writing and when I get to work, hit the keyboard.

Usually, around 30 minutes of so is taken to 'dump' the thoughts into a piece of work I am working through before I move into other aspects of the day consisting of a variety of meetings or workshops. Some of the meetings and workshops can be challenging as I work on helping people learn i.e. change the way they do things.

The benefits of physical exercise on cognitive performance have been well researched (see the abstract from the Barella et al. (2010) below. In particular, aerobic exercise has been found to bring about improved cognitive performance due to changes in the brain, even for aging people (which is most of us!). Playing scrabble also contributes to a range of neural architectural re-configurations (see Hargreaves et al. 2012 and Proztnner, et al. (2016). These contribute well towards protecting us from cognitive decline.

What we can take from the above reflections is the age old adage "know thyself". What makes each of us become the best that we can be, often takes some work to pin down. All the best for your scrabble endeavours and use the many games you play, to get to know better, how you work.



Selena Chan

Articles to follow through include:

Barella LA, Etnier JL, Chang YK. (2010). The immediate and delayed effects of an acute bout of exercise on cognitive performance of healthy older adults. *Journal of Aging and Physical Activity*. 18(1), 87-98. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/20181996/>

Hargreaves, I.S., Pexman, P.M., Zdravilova, L. et al. (2012). How a hobby can shape cognition: visual word recognition in competitive

Scrabble players. *Memory and Cognition*, 40, 1-7. <https://link.springer.com/article/10.3758/s13421-011-0137-5>

Protzner, A. B., Hargreaves, I. S., Campbell, J. A., Myers-Stewart K., van Hees, S. Goodyear, B. G., Sargious, P., & Pexman, P. M. (2016). This is your brain on Scrabble: Neural correlates of visual word recognition in competitive Scrabble players as measured during task and resting-state, *Cortex*, 75, 204-219. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0010945215001069?via%3Dhub>

Just a 'Small' Article

by Jennifer Smith, *Kiwi Scrabblers*

I'm a frequent watcher of the UK TV programme, *The Chase*. I especially enjoy the trivia and the word questions that crop up.

Recently, a contestant was asked the meaning of a word starting with SM-, and later The Chaser commented that it's surprising how often words starting with **SM-** mean something small, and they most often have a Scots origin. He pointed out that **SMA** is Scots for small.

(I made a note at the time, and should have written this little piece sooner, because now I can't remember what the word was, or who The Chaser was that day!)

Ed: can anyone help?

I looked up the "small" words in Zyzzyva, and some are marked as "Scots":

SMEDDUM, fine powder

SMOUT, SMOWT, small person or child

SMYTRIE, collection of small things

SMIDGE, SMIDGEN, SMIDGIN,

SMIDGEON, small amount

SMITHERS/SMITHEREENS, (break into) small fragments

SMATTER, small knowledge of something

And, of course, there's **SMALL** itself!

The 2023 Nationals

A few Reflections on this year's Nationals

*By Heather Landon, Tauranga
aka Another Handle*

Last year Ruth and I went to the Nats in Christchurch. We enjoyed it so much
That this year we decided to go to Auckland. We like to stay in touch
With preparations for home and away, there was a lot to do
I carried them all out, with a sense of déjà vu.

We set off at the same time, from Rotorua and Tauranga
To find the place in Matamata where I planned to leave my car
I found it straight away, but Ruth went a little astray
As all the private roads, in this posh subdivision, curve every which way

After reaching our destination and having a good night's sleep
We wound our way to Cockle Bay and the Howick Bowling Club
There was serious flooding last time we were there, even via the ceiling
This time it will be better. 'Twas our general feeling

We were told there'd be a film crew coming, to make a documentary
They'll be filming every day, with all their special gear
I'd better wear my teeth, and dab some powder on my face
Alas, when I put my teeth in, they wouldn't stay in place!

Day one, I won seven games out of eight, but that didn't last
Ending with 13 wins out of 22 games. My expectancy I just passed
God had told me to come forth, but fifth was the best I could do
Ruth came middle in her grade, and her rating went up too

The tourney went exceedingly well, with able Liz at the scoring helm
Despite extra reports to be posted she wasn't overwhelmed
The yummy food that came with the cuppas, was mostly home made
It's amazing how hungry we get, after just a few games we have played

I've decided that Scrabble is not a sedentary sport, as non-players may think
We go up and down stairs for comfort stops, and for food and drinks
To challenge we get up and slalom awkwardly, around all the tables and chairs
We check the word and return to our games with a smile, or maybe hiding a
tear

On Sunday night after dinner, concert time was on
Ruth played and sang 'The Gasman Cometh' by the delightful Flanders and
Swann
Jennifer amended some nursery rhymes, some now rather risqué,
She and her crew taught us some alternative words, as they sang away

Murray Rogers had us thinking, as we tried, to guess his anagrams
Then there was Lawson, telling us all about the senses in the form of exams
However, there was one sense he missed, but it held our attention
Much NONSENSE, his address contained, the sense he didn't mention.

To pass the time in the evenings, 'til bedtime we played Skipbo
The motel, to put it mildly, was not the best, you know
The door to the bedroom didn't slide. I had to yank it hard to get in and out
And we had to resort to newspaper squares when the toilet paper ran out!

On the way home near Matamata, we realised our phones were flat
We were able to find where my car was, even in spite of that
Back in my car, with my GPS, I could find my way out all right
After leaving the town, we went our separate ways, into the pitch-black night

With one eye glued to the road, over the Kaimais I drove in the rain
It was great to turn into our gateway, and be back home again
I hoped Ruth, too, had got home safely, so I texted her to be sure
It's good to be home, at least, until the Scrabble family beckons once more.

By the way, Lawson, I've not been game yet
to give my senses, of taste and touch,
the 'pleasure' of your chocolate coated scorpions –
maybe tomorrow.



2023 Nationals Report

By Liz Fagerlund, Mt. Albert

The number of players at the National Championships has certainly dropped over the last few years - 68 this year. Last time it was held in Auckland at the same venue we had 94 players.

Here are some other Nationals entrants stats. From 1986–1998 the National Champs were always held in Hamilton. The biggest number of players was 124 in 1993. From 1986–1998 the numbers were only less than 100 once (92 players in 1998). From 1999 there have been 100 or more just four times – 111 (Hamilton 2002), 112 (Auckland 2004) 100 (Auckland 2008 & 2012).

Despite having lower numbers, the event attracted excellent fields, with 10 of the top 12 ranked players in A Grade battling it out for National Champion. It was fantastic to see Lyres Freeth take this out after nearly two years away from tournament play after having a baby, with 18 wins, three wins ahead of second place. B Grade included four players rated over 1800. Top seed Lawson Sue took this grade with 18 wins, two wins ahead of second. C Grade was won in style by Laura Griffiths from Christchurch with 16 wins. This was Laura's first Nationals – in fact her first tournament outside of Christchurch, her very first tourney being in May 2022. Along with 16 wins (one win ahead of second) Laura played 42 bonus words, had a spread of 1354,

and has shot up to 45th in the rankings. I would say watch out to those currently ahead of Laura! D Grade was won by Karen Miller with 16 wins, two wins ahead of second, and E Grade was won by Suzanne Harding with 17 wins, one win ahead of second placing.

Winners' certificates were all prepared at lunch time with one game to go. Some were at least two wins ahead but even if the other grade leaders had lost their last game and ended up on the same number of wins as someone else, their spread was unbeatable. The winning team from Whangarei (Suzanne Harding, Cicely Bruce and Jena Yousif), also had the team prize won before the last game. They had 47 wins between the top three, ahead of Mt Albert's 43.5 and Christchurch's 43. Thank you to Su Walker who prepared the prize envelopes and certificates with her lovely calligraphy.

Spot prize categories were dreamt up by Cathy Casey. To start with she had all "theme" prizes, then it was decided to alternate those with easy decision categories (e.g. highest scoring Z word). The theme prizes were mostly judged by Aleisha, the producer of the documentary being made, or if she couldn't be found, a player who hadn't entered that particular category! Some of the interesting winning words were – VOMIT (something that smells) by Val, PIGLETS (all creatures great and small) – also by Val and in the same group of four games. Val wanted this



Players at the Nationals

to go to someone else so I chose CAVY played by Clare Wall, CAPTIONS (at the movies) by Yoon Kim Fong, CINQUES (a foreign word) by Gil Quiballo, SALSIFY (something interesting to eat) by Suzanne H, ARSENAL (something scary) by Mandy Thorogood, HAKA (there's music in the air) by Cathy, GENRE (a literary word) by Jill Paterson, EYEBROWS (a part of the body) by Jennifer Smith. The last category to mention is 'a naughty word' – this had the least entries and it was won by Anne Scatchard with a four letter word starting with F (and yes I did read it out!) Best Royal word (in honour of the new king) was judged by Alex to be CAMELOT played by Howard.

The highest word scores in each grade were:

A Grade: UNCORDED (145) - Howard Warner

B Grade: DOLLIEST (131) -

Lawson Sue (DON'T remember this one, he got away with a phony!!),

C Grade: ZANIEST (121) -

Pam Barlow

D Grade: STRIDENT (131) -

Mandy Thorogood

E Grade: SEQUINS (132) -

Anne Scatchard

Gil Quiballo retained the high game trophy he won last year, with 595. Laura won the Georgie Trophy with the biggest rating gain (149), and Lynn Wood won the Eileen McLean trophy for the most tournament games played in a year.

Sunday night's dinner was very nice, followed by superb entertainment. We had Ruth Godwin and her entertaining Flanders and Swann song (not the same as a swan song!), Jennifer and crew with hilarious Scrabble takes on nursery rhymes, and Lawson for his wacky (Lawson-esque) entertainment! I still have my packet of roasted crickets to eat!

Thanks to all the helpers who set up and put things back at the end of the weekend, those who brought food, kitchen helpers, the exec for all their work beforehand and many of you who saw things needing to be done and just did them.

Following the AGM we have a new President, Cathy Casey, who did a great job with many things including presentations, and new Vice-President, Stan Gregec. It's great to have you on board. Big thanks to outgoing President Howard Warner for all your past work.

We also have a new, very deserving Life Member – Val Mills. Congratulations Val.

I hope you all enjoyed your weekend. I certainly did, and I didn't lose a single game!

Nationals musings

By Howard Warner,

Scrabble Wellington



Howard wearing his good luck charm

At the Nationals, my start was memorable. I won the first 11 games in a row – which meant beating every other player in the field. I joked that they'd probably all beat me on the return round. Prescient perhaps, because I then proceeded to lose the next five in a row.

At the start of this negative run, the film crew had miked me up for sound. Tamoko, the friendly sound man, was worried that he might have jinxed me. So next morning he presented me with a Japanese good-luck charm (pictured). I immediately started winning again. Maybe there's something in it!

I had an interesting game against Andrew Bradley, the current Masters champion. With a lovely flow of tiles, I scored five bonuses (to none) – all eights. But the unique feature, as

Andrew pointed out, was that I had used up all four of the big letters in bingoes: TAQUERIA, BANJAXES (130 points) and ZOOGLOEA. My other two were EGENCIES and MERCADOS.

Ed: We can only dream of playing words like these!!

Becoming 2023 Nationals Champion

By Lyres Freeth, *Independent*

I committed to playing in the Nationals on the day of the deadline for entries. I spent the next two weeks cramming mainly seven and eight letter words in any available spare time, having done minimal study in the last couple of years. Even though it was mostly revision rather than new learning, there were a lot of words I wanted to get through. Alongside this were thoughts of how was my 13 month old going to get on for three whole days without me? This tournament was going to go either really well or really badly!

Here are a few thoughts regarding my games:

Keep looking at the board

This was a recurring theme. Especially when I thought I had an unplayable bonus. Sometimes it was realising I could play three letters overlapping, or remembering front and back hooks such as RICH taking a T to make RICHT and SHO becoming SHOO.

In another game I wondered why my opponent didn't seem to be opening up when behind towards the end of the game. I realised that TIMED which I had played takes an S front hook into the triple lane, which I could have used sooner if I had remembered.

Be patient

This was another recurring theme. On day one especially, I struggled to get a good flow of tiles. I was often behind and playing catch up. I managed to get back into a number of games by patiently balancing my racks and capitalising when my tiles improved. A number of opponents played wrong words which helped me to get back into the game.

In the end, I had a successful first day with only one loss (to Howard). Every game was tough but I enjoyed the challenge of finding the lead and keeping it by the end of the game.

Play moves, not words

Throughout my games I made clear decisions about what tiles to play or keep – and whether to open or block to control the shape of the board. However, I wasn't always focusing on what words to play. This was especially important in the endgame.

In a tough game against Howard I opted to keep RAIL on my rack when drawing the last two tiles in the bag. What was more important was having flexible letters going into the final round, rather than trying to score well on this turn.

You can't win them all – although you can certainly try!

Day two was my toughest day as I lost three of my games.

Sometimes luck just wasn't on my side. I also

made mistakes in a few of the games I lost. In a game against Peter Sinton I missed a bonus on my second turn (EPIGAEAL) which lead to his double double for KEDGDEST (106 +5) in the same spot, an unassailable lead.

In a close loss I allowed my opponent to play a wrong word near the end of the game. This may have led to an even closer loss or perhaps a win if I had realised that the word was wrong.

However, by the end of day two I was in the lead, with Howard one game behind and with better spread. This meant that the pressure was on!

Play one game at a time

At lunchtime on day three I was elated, but also surprised, when I was informed that I had won A grade. I was so focused on playing each game at a time that I hadn't noticed what was going on with the overall scores. As it turned out, I won all my games on day three, meanwhile Howard dropped at least a couple. I'm glad I



Lyres Freeth with new President Cathy Casey

didn't know what was happening, as it may have affected my concentration.

It was wonderful to see everyone after a long time and I was blown away by how supportive everyone was—right from my first opponent complementing my play, to the many people (including opponents!) who were cheering me on to win. It also turns out that my daughter had a great time without me, went down for her naps, and didn't miss me too much. Thank you Liz, and your team for running a well organised and enjoyable tournament.

New player wins C grade

Laura says of her experience:

I just wanted to say that I thought the Nationals tournament was excellent. It was very well run by the team, and I felt supported as a player (and



Laura Griffiths, Christchurch C Grade winner and winner of the Georgie Trophy

newbie!) I thought the location suited well and it was nice to essentially have the run of the place. It was fun to meet so many people from around NZ.

Sunday's Dinner

By Lynn Wood, Independent

Here is the wee poem Lynn performed as part of the after dinner entertainment.

For Sunday's dinner we can boast
We have a leg of mutton roast
On Monday if the truth be told,
We have it with some pickles cold.
On Tuesday we some slices fry
On Wednesday yes we make a pie
On Thursday we to cut a dash
Make of it a savoury hash
By Friday now, it's got so narrow
We crack the bones and eat the marrow.



Aperitif, Monsieur? French loan words

by Mike Currie, Mt. Albert

Last issue I wrote an article on acceptable Yiddish words (*The Schlong and Short of Yiddish words*) mainly drawing from New York delis and Barbara Streisand movies. This issue I've given myself the far easier, but longer, task of analysing a handful of French loan words and was able to draw from wine, ballet, cheese, furniture and literature. The reason for this is that over 10,000 English words come from French. So, whether you speak French or not, you've probably greeted someone with BONJOUR, stirred a ROUX, sipped an APERITIF or DIGESTIF and certainly sat on your DERRIERE from time to time.

The -EAU suffix is French. From my schoolboy French I know BATEAU (X) is a boat, BERCEAU(X) a cot and CADEAU(X) a gift. A CORBEAU(S) is a raven. Another francophone bird is MOINEAU, the sparrow. You might 'eat like a bird' in English but you 'eat like a sparrow' in French. A FLAMBEAU(S/X) is a flaming torch which lights up a Mardi Gras

procession,
JAMBEAU(S/
X) mediaeval
leg armour,
and a
MANTEAU



(S/X) a Harry Potterish cloak.

A MORCEAU

(X) means a 'piece' in

French, as in a MORCEAU

*du FROMAGE

but as it

crossed The Channel it became a short literary or musical composition.

I had the pleasure of spreading FROMAGES over a double-double while playing Andrew Bradley at the Masters. VOILA!



Being gender sensitive, the French talk about BEAUJOLAIS NOUVEAU but NOUVELLE CUISINE. Every third Thursday of November the most popular VIN de PRIMEUR, BEAUJOLAIS NOUVEAU, is released for sale in France. Other French wines playable on the Scrabble board are MERLOT, CABERNET SAV (but not *SAUVIGNON) and even CHATEAU MOUTON (Sheep Castle.)

The -EUR suffix is also French. We are all familiar with chicken CHASSEUR, the forms of address



MONSIEUR and MADAME(D) as well as the now commonplace SABOTEURS and VOYEURS. But many French vocations must be new like BLAGEUR (a joker), CISELEUR (a chiseller or carver), COIFFEUR-SE (a male and female hairdresser respectively) or a CLAQUER (one hired to applaud dramatic performances such as the five thousand soldiers planted in the crowd who chanted and clapped as Emperor Nero came on stage.)

Many jobs are gender sensitive: MASSEUR/MASSEUSE, DANSEUR/ DANSEUSE, POSEUR/POSEUSE, FARCEUR/FARCEUSE (a writer or performer of farces), REVEUR/ REVEUSE (a daydreamer- not quite a job that one) and DISEUR/ DISEUSE (one who entertains with monologues.)

Others are distinctly male and have no female equivalent. A FLANEUR is one who saunters Parisian streets and does very little else, a FRISEUR is a hairdresser, an itinerant minstrel is known as a JONGLEUR or TROUVEUR, a PRONEUR flatters, a REMUEUR turns wine bottles, a

TRUQUEUR forges art, a TRACEUR is a parkour runner and a SIFFLEUR whistles in a professional capacity.



FRISEUR

Lawson Sue played OEILLADE not long ago in the triple lane (a glance). This - ADE suffix is seen elsewhere in FAÇADE, ROULADE, SACCADE (a rapid movement of the eye between fixation points), GLISSADE (a way of sliding down a steep slope of snow or ice, typically on the feet with the support of an ice axe) and COUVADE (in which a man takes to his bed and goes through certain rituals when his wife is having a child; as though he were physically affected by the birth. Not very helpful.)

Val Mills played ROSIERE against me recently. It is not, as I fancied, a rose bush



MEUNIERE

but a virtuous young girl. An OUVRIERE is a manual worker, a RIVIERE a necklace of precious stones and a MEUNIERE is a miller's wife or to cook in excessive flour as in sole meunière.

We all know FINESSE and DURESSE, but ALTESSE is highness, DUCHESSE is duchess, IDLESSE is idleness, IVRESSE



ROULADE



BARLEDUC

RICHESSE is the collective noun for pine martens.

Certain words have been smuggled in via the bedroom (ARMOIRE- a wardrobe), the pantry (Alastair Richards embarrassed me with BARLEDUC once upon a time - a preserve of whole white currants from which the seeds have been removed), and ballet (JETE- a leap, EN ARRIERE- travelling backwards, and PAS DE BOURREE – small, tight running steps, literally ‘steps of the crazy drunk.’)



Voltaire's NOVELLA featuring the word INGENU(E)

famous novella written by Voltaire. A TARTUFFE (TARTUFE) is a religious hypocrite, or a hypocritical pretender, after the eponymous protagonist in Molière's play while ENFANT

drunkenness and LARGESSE generosity. A PORTESSE is a small book of psalms and

RICHESSE is the collective noun for pine martens.

Others have permeated through from literary OEUVRRES. An INGENU(E) is an innocent young man (or woman,) used particularly in reference to a theatrical stock character who is entirely virginal and wholesome; L'Ingénue is a

TERRIBLE gained common currency after Cocteau's novel. A ROMAN à CLEF is a “novel with a key”: an account of actual persons, places or events in fictional guise.

What's unusual is that certain uncommon

French words have graced our Scrabble lexicon such as VOITURE



VOITURE

(car), SOUPCON (suspicion or a small amount), ETOURDI(E) (silly), GENDARME (policeman), SOIGNE (E) (well-groomed), and even DROIT DE SEIGNEUR (the “right of the lord” in feudal times to take the virginity of one of his vassals’ brides on her wedding night in precedence to her new husband.)

(Ed – I like that SOIGNEE makes GENOISE – a French sponge cake)

Others, however, remain unplayable, despite their frequency in common parlance. You can have GRAND but not *PRIX, VIN but not *COQ, CHAISE but not *LONGUE and neither *SAVOIR nor *FAIRE, nor *PINCE nor *NEZ. *SACREBLEU!



Molière's play featuring the word TARTUF(F)E

Mother Goose's nursery rhymes for Scrabblers

by Jennifer Smith, Kiwi Scrabblers

I started taking notice of the words in nursery rhymes the day I got D,U,M,P,T,Y on my rack, and wondered if Dumpty (as in the Humpty Dumpty nursery rhyme) was a word. It's not, but UMPTY, HUMPTY and NUMPTY are all OK. So I decided the nursery rhyme should be rewritten for Scrabblers.

HUMPTY NUMPTY sat on a wall
UMPTY HUMPTY had a great fall
All the king's horses and UMPTEEN king's men
Couldn't put HUMPTY together again.

It's interesting that any fanciful words in a nursery rhyme are usually in the first line, but Itsy Bitsy Spider, and Eeny Meeny Miny Mo do extend the nonsense to the last line as well. Here are my alternatives:

The DITSY BITSY spider climbed up the water spout.
Down came the rain, and washed the spider out.
Out came the sun, and dried up all the rain.
So, the MINCY ZINCY spider climbed up the spout again.

There are no other smallish -INCY words, and no other -ITSY words of any length.

Not *EENY, not *MEENY, but MINY and MOE
And you can catch a NIGGER by the toe
(Unless you're in Mumbai or Idaho -
Those countries squealed, so we let them go)
EENSY, TEENSY MINY MO.

NIGGER, of course, has been expurgated from the word list used (for example) in India, South Africa and the USA, but we in NZ still have it.

Hey Diddle Diddle does not have any non-words, but it inspired me to look for more -IDBLE words, which in turn inspired the following ballad:

Hey **DIDDLE DIDDLE**

The cheat did a **FIDDLE**

Concealing a blank in his hands

Our hero laughed to see such fraud

Cos she knew she could disrupt his plans.



HUMPTY NUMPTY

Playing **KIDDLE** in the **MIDDLE**

And challenging off **TIDDLES**

When he hooked with a D on the end

Suppressing a smirk, she did great work

Giving a lesson on how to defend.

Hey **DIDDLE DIDDLE**

She solved the **RIDDLE**

Without a hint of slowness

The cheat looked floored as she shut down the board

And blocked every spot for a bonus.



DITSY BITSY

spider

The cheat did a **PIDDLE**

And out leaked a **WIDDLE**

No wonder he wet his pants

If you play a gun player, you're not going to slay her -

Even cheats don't stand a chance!

(All 6-letter -IDBLE words are included. Bigger -IDBLE words are **GRIDDLE**, **QUIDBLE** and **STRIDDLE**.)

Early in my Scrabble career, I made up the following nursery rhyme to help me remember all the 4-letter -ILI words. There's never been a tournament since when I haven't at some stage mentally recited this rhyme to remind myself of an -ILI word!

Jack and **WILI** went up the **HILI**

To make love beside the water

WILI forgot to take her **PILI**

And now she has a daughter.

I was a little surprised to find that HORNER is OK. I've included all the 6-letter -ORNER words in this one:

Little Jack **HORNER**
Sat in the **CORNER**
Eating his cold meat pie
The greedy **SORNER**
Was very **LORNER**
And said, "What a drunkard am I!"



The day after I finished this rhyme, I got L,O,R,N,E,R,S on my rack, and was thrilled to bits to play it. My opponent challenged it, and I felt smug going up to the adjudicating computer - right up to the moment it was judged invalid! LORNER is an adjective (LORN, LORNER, LORNEST), so doesn't take an S. SORNER is a person who bludges food and bed from others.

All the bonus-sized -INKLE words fit nicely into the most famous nursery rhyme of all (and they all take an S!):

INKLE WINKLE TWINKLE star
SPRINKLE STRINKLE where you are
Up above the world so high
Like a diamond in the sky
CRINKLE WRINKLE KINKLE star
Now I know the words you are.



Goosie Goosie Gander can mislead Scrabblers with spelling:

It's **GOOSY GOOSEY** gander
Don't make a spelling blunder
Upstairs or downstairs
Just move the tiles asunder
Listen to the old man
He'll help you in your plight
Change ***GOOSIE** into **SOOGIE**
And then you'll have it right.



*GOOSY GOOSEY
gander*

A *Tisket A *Tasket has not one, but two, duds, but there are lots of alternative words that all fit the rhyme:

A ***TISKET**, a ***TASKET**

Just put them in a **CASKET**

Neither is legitimate

Each of them's a bastard!

A **BRISKET**, a **GASKET**

A green-and-yellow **BASKET**

I wrote them both upon a list

And on the way I dropped it.

A **FRISKET**, a **FLASKET**

A red-and-purple **BASKET**

I wrote them both (etc)

A **W(H)ISKET**, a **LASKET**

A pink-and-orange **BASKET**

I wrote them both (etc)

I dropped it, I dropped it

I dropped it from my fist

Hope no-one else has picked them
up

And put them on their list.

A **BRISKET**, a **CASKET**

A **FRISKET** and a **FLASKET**,

A **W(H)ISKET**, a **LASKET**

I think I've blown a **GASKET** -

I wrote them all upon a list

And now I need to ask it -

Has anybody picked it up

And put it in their **BASKET**?

In the early years of my Scrabble career, BAA and MAA were the only 3-letter - AA words. I remembered them as “only sheep and lamb noises are allowed”.

Then, as updated lists included CAA and FAA, I had to update my mnemonic. So the modern rhyme is now:

BAA, BAA black sheep

Have you any wool?

Yes sir, yes sir

Three bags full.

MAA, MAA black goat

Have you any cheese?

Yes sir, yes sir

But you didn't say “please”.

CAA, CAA black crow

Have you any worms?

Yes sir, yes sir

They have a lot of germs.

FAA, FAA black witch

Have you got a spell?

Yes sir, yes sir,

Don't forget to tell

Wool is for the **WOMANS**

And cheese is for the **MANS**

And worms are for the little kids

Who don't wash their hands!



Mary, Mary Quite Contrary reminds us of names that are ok words:

MARY, MARY, quite contrary
How does your bonus grow?
With a blank here and an S there
And 7 tiles all in a row

BARRY, BARRY, quite contrary
How does your bonus grow?
With a prefix here and a suffix there
And 8 tiles all in a row

HARRY, HARRY, quite contrary
How does your bonus grow?
With a bit of luck here and a big fluke there
And 9 tiles all in a row

JENNY, JENNY, quite contrary
Were does your bonus go?
With no space here, and no hooks there
My bonus has nowhere to go!



Little Miss BUFFET

Georgie Porgie's first name is a dud, but his "surname" PORGIE or PORGY is actually ok. I've changed them both, though. My granddaughter Georgia would be horrified that (without her E) she helps me to remember words about singing and orgies:

GORGIA, ORGIA, pudding and pie
Thrashed boys at Scrabble and made them cry
When the boys asked her to play
GORGIA said "I'll win again today".

However, Georgia would be glad I didn't use her as the subject of the next (naughty) nursery rhyme.

*There's no such word as *Muffet in our list, so we have to sing about (or sling off at) Miss Buffet instead:*

There is only one other -UFFET word, and that's BEAUFFET, which is the French word for sideboard, and the origin of the differently pronounced cuisine word, BUFFET.

Little Miss BUFFET
Sat on her **TUFFET**
Doing her turds and wees
A bloody great spider
Sat down beside her
And fright made her shit down her knees.

The cat that fell in the well helps us with the front hooks of -EL:

DING DONG BELL

Pussy **fell** in **well**

Don't be like **MEL**

Who hooked a dud on **EL**

'Stead of **B, C, D** and **G**

Or **M, P, S**, and **T**

What a stupid twat was she

Could have hooked an **E** or **Z**

But she first of all tried ***FEL**

And when challenged off tried ***WEL**

From this PO-ET-RY.



DING DONG BEL(L)

And the mice in Three Blind Mice give us a chance to sing about some plurals:

One blind **MOUSE**, three blind **MOUSES**

Let's have some fun

And see how they run

They all ran after the farmers' **WIFES**

Who cut off their tails with carving **KNIFES**

Whatever you play in the rest of your **LIFES**

Don't play *MICES!



MOUSE(S)

Another mouse provides us with a Scrabble-related nursery rhyme. The Dickory of Hickory Dickory Dock is not in our word list. The only alternative -ICKORY word is CHICKORY, which produces my favourite Scrabble nursery rhyme:

HICKORY CHICKORY DOCK

I've just had a terrible shock

When the game was done

I thought I'd won

But I hadn't been pressing my clock!



And there you have it – the newly invented, but perfect, rhyming slang for the dreaded forgetting of the clock. Have you done a "Hickory Chickory" lately?

We sang all these nursery rhymes at the National Championship dinner in Auckland at King's Birthday Weekend, and finished with a resounding rendition of the Bingo song (not quite a nursery rhyme), which reminds us of 12 -INGO words:

There was an Aussie, had a dog
And **DINGO** was its name-o!
D-I-N-G-O, D-I-N-G-O, D-I-N-G-O
And **DINGO** was its name-o!

There was a greenie, had a cause
And **JINGO** was its name-o!
J-I-N-G-O etc

There was an Inuit, had a mound
And **PINGO** was its name-o!
P-I-N-G-O etc

There was a stranger, had a speech
And **LINGO** was its name-o!
L-I-N-G-O etc

There was a man, had a pet
OLINGO was its name-o!
O-L-I-N-G-O etc

There was a person, had a thing
And **THINGO** was its name-o!
T-H-I-N-G-O etc

There was a boozer, had some booze
And **STINGO** was its name-o!
S-T-I-N-G-O etc

There was a gardener, had a plant
And **ERINGO** was its name-o!
E-R-I-N-G-O etc

There was a tourist, had a dog
And **GRINGO** was its name-o!
G-R-I-N-G-O etc

There was a renter, had a lease
And **INGO** was its name-o!
-I-N-G-O etc

There was a farmer, had a bird
FLAMINGO was its name-o!
F-l-a-m-I-N-G-O etc

There was a Scrabbler, had a word
And **BINGO** was his play-o!
B-I-N-G-O etc

But 10 was all he scored for it
Tho' **BINGO** was his play-o
He-only-scored-a-10, etc. -
'Cos **BINGO** ain't a **BINGO**!



Quiz answers: (From page 11).

Six 6-Letter words made from ARCHIVE.
ACHIER, ARCHEI, CAHIER, CAVIER,
ERIACH, VARECH

Ask Liz

by Liz Fagerlund, Mt. Albert

During the Nationals there were only a small number of things I was asked to adjudicate on – here are two of them.

1. No valid plays

This one arose three times – and for an occurrence that seldom happens, so it was very unusual for that to happen that often!

In three games I was called over as neither player could make a play – so it wasn't a matter of one player going out and doubling their opponent's remaining tiles. Instead, as both players had tiles remaining, each player needed to subtract the total points of their own remaining tiles from their own score as per rule 8.3 below.

If both players have tiles left, the value of the tiles held by each is deducted from their respective score.

2. Tiles left in the bag

I was called over for one occurrence of this. After the results slip had been completed and signed, and the tiles put back in 4 x squares of 25, it was discovered that one tile had been left in the bag. Rule 6:11 applies to tiles left in the bag:

If any tiles are discovered in the bag which players had thought to be empty, before the result sheet has been signed, then: Both players must

see the tiles. Any tiles that may have been removed from players' racks in the belief that the game was over are replaced; the players ascertain who should have drawn replacement tiles earliest and that player adds the tiles to his or her rack. If both players still have tiles after this process, play resumes. If only one player has tiles, the game is over and the result recalculated as necessary. Under no circumstances may any moves be replayed.

As the result slip had been completed, this rule was no longer relevant. This also demonstrates that it is important for results slips to be completed before blocking the tiles on the board ready for the next game, as these players had done. It's also important to note that had the result slip not been completed and the board not rearranged (in other words all plays still on the board) that no moves can be replayed. This may sound unfair if one person plays at the end thinking their opponent only has a certain number of tiles left, or that they have played their last tiles. Consequently, it is a good idea for both players to be aware of whether the bag is empty (or not!)

Tricky Matariki

Inspired by Patrick Carter, Mt. Albert

Ed: Last year Patrick wrote a blog, for the Scrabble Nuts website, on Matariki, which I've amended slightly for this article.

For Matariki I wondered what words could be made from the word:



Unfortunately *TAMARIKI has not yet made it into our Scrabble word list. The longest words have six letters and there are only four:-

AMRITA - Indian beverage that bestows immortality. This has two alternate spellings of AMRIT and AMREETA

KARAIT -
Venomous Indian
snake - also
KRAIT

TAMARI -
Concentrated
sauce of soya
beans and salt

AMTRAK - Military vehicle that is used for moving on both land and water. Can also be spelled as AMTRAC



So then I wondered about the te reo Maori words in that letter combination, having just started te reo lessons at Selwyn College. I started to wax lyrical:

'The ARIKI woke on her bed of TARA fronds. Briefly touching the TIKI that she always wore she went in search of KAI. The RATA was in bloom and, together with the AKA, was enwtined around the large MATAI tree, close to her night's resting place...'

There are 21 five letter words, all unique combinations except for the AARTI/ATRIA/RAITA/RIATA/TAIRA/ TIARA and KARMA/MAKAR/MARKA groups.

AARTI - Indian ceremony lighting candles to various gods - also ARTI

AKITA - Large
Japanese dog

AMRIT - Indian
beverage - See
AMRITA above

ARIKI - The firstborn
child of a notable
Maori family.



AKITA

ATRIA - Plural of ATRIUM, a square hall lighted from above



IMARI

also CARAT and CARRAT

KARMA – what you get (my definition) derived from Sanskrit.

KIAAT - Tropical African tree

KRAIT - Venomous Indian snake. See KARAIT above

MAKAR - A Scottish word meaning maker or poet.

MARIA - An alternative name for a female horse. Does not take ad S.

MARKA - The unit of currency in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

MATAI - Coniferous evergreen NZ tree



MARIA and foal

IMARI - Type of Japanese porcelain decorated in red

KARAT - Unit of quality for gold -



KIAAT is a type of tree

MIKRA - Plural of Greek unit of length
MIKRON (also MICRON).

RAITA - Indian dish of chopped vegetables in yoghurt

RAKIA - Balkan fruit brandy. Nice alternative spelling - RAKIJA.

RIATA - A Spanish word for a lariat - also REATA

TAIRA – A large South American member of the weasel family

TIARA - A crown with three tiers

TRAIK - to make one's way wearily

Ed: I'm looking forward to playing KIAAT

Tournament Calendar 2023

Tournament	Location	Dates
Tauranga	Tauranga	19-20 August
Christchurch	Christchurch	9-10 September
Swisstember	Wellington	16-17 September
Mt. Albert	Auckland	7-8 October
Dunedin	Queenstown	14-15 October
Whanganui	Whanganui	21-22 October
Dunedin	Otago	18-19 Nov

How they do it in South Africa

Submitted by Dylan Early, Scrabble Wellington

Ed: Dylan found the following two articles in his archives, both written by his belated friend Arlene Fine. Rather than print another chapter from The Scrabble Players Handbook, I thought you might enjoy these instead!

HOWBEIT YUKE CANN IMPROV YORE GAMEY

Scrabble tips by Arlene Fine

(Ed: Each word used is a valid word)

1. FIRTH OFFAL, YEW MAZHBI KNUTS ANN LOVAT DEGAME
2. FECUND, HWAN ORTOLAN WATT AYWORD MEANES (AWLWORTS - RICHEN VOCAB ! DONUT BEDAMN LAZZI
3. READD DELISTS AUF SEPHENS MHORR EN MHORR FURLONG THYMES - SEPTEMVIR THRU DECEMVIR, AL THO METHINKS IAMB STURTING DISJUNE. LOTAH WHIRRS (LOANWORDS) AR FRENCH, ENGLISH, GERMAN AN SCOTCH - ASKESES Demeanings.
4. FORA ASTART, LOOKUP WORDAGES. YILL HAFTER MAKEUP YIRR RHONE LISTETH. THEGN PUTAMINA PHIAL, ORDO A NANOGRAM TESTON COMPUTE.
5. HOOKIES - PEEPUL: LYSIN TOMMY NYES! HUMUS SPENDALL DAE EN OLIVENITE ZHO YU CANTHI WHEECH HOOKY FITTS WHEARE. TRIDARN ARD!
6. DEWING BETA SCORSES PLAYA BIGG PARTI - SCAWTITE! TRYE KEPPIT DE SCAWS LEVULIN. NEVE, NEVE, MISWORDS. DISPRED IZARD WOT WUD COOST PLENCH. SEAWAYS TUI KETCHUP. DONNAT TRIDUUM MOOVES. DOO NOTT BE FIRKIN STEWPOTS.
7. (FAGOTTO MENSCHEN) RACKWORK. JAMBUL LETTRES ROWND (CONSONOUS/AVOWAL). AGOOD WRACK MUSTH BALLANS. AWRACK FULVOUS BLUDY YUKY THINGIES KHUD MAIKO UEY FELSIC. YEW WOODCHUCK OLLAV THEMING.
8. GAMA SCRABBLE SEEMERS TUBAE HALFWIT AND HAFIZ LUCKEN AWL. PIQUING AGOOD CUMBER-NASION WULL MAKELESS AGGRO. AGGRY?

9. WHITRACK? THATAWAY USURE TENNO HOWE MEENY TYLERS
BELEAPT ATT ENDGAME. DOODAH CARRACT TING. TREK, TREK,
TREK. BEDOUIN GOODLY ADIT!

THEE ABOVES OLFACTS.

Translation on page 36.

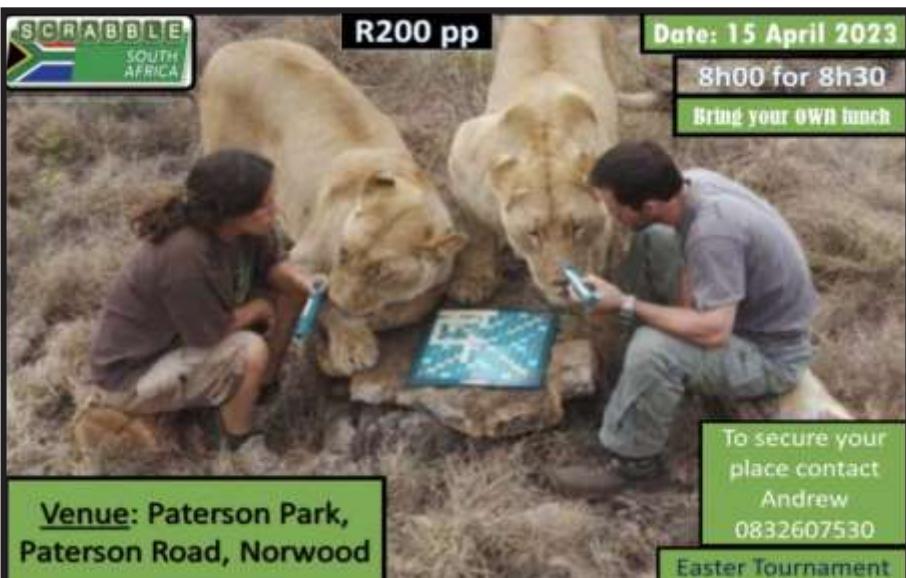
Arle Fini's Noshery Rhimes

JACKEEN JEEL WINDUP AHULL
TUI FETICH APAY LOWE AUTO
JAK FELID DOWNA
OONT BAROQUE HIZZ CROWNER
ANN JEELY KAME TUMPLINE ARF TOR

Ed: There's a bit of a nursery rhyme theme going on in this mag.

LEETLE BOOH BEEP ZEE LUSTRE SEEP
EN DEADED NOWHERE TUI FIAUNT DEME.
LIEF IDEM ALOIN, ANTA DEWOOL COOM HOLM
VEGAN THETA YILLS BEELINE VEHM.

Advertisement for a tourney:



SCRABBLE
SOUTH AFRICA

R200 pp

Date: 15 April 2023

8h00 for 8h30

Bring your OWN lunch

**Venue: Paterson Park,
Paterson Road, Norwood**

**To secure your
place contact
Andrew
0832607530**

Easter Tournament

Club News

Jean Boyle

By Rosemary Cleary, Whanganui

Many of you will remember Jean Boyle who passed away recently aged 93, for her wonderful, gentle manner, a genuine lady.

Jean was a member of the Whanganui Scrabble club and travelled each Monday night from her home in Bulls to play at the club until her late eighties. A mother of seven,

grand and great grandmother, Jean loved people around her and hosted members of the club at her home for games days as well as running a small social scrabble group in Bulls.

Jean Boyle



We will remember her with great fondness and respect for her generosity of spirit and unfailing kindness.

Howbeit You Can Improve Your Game - Translation *(From page 34.)*

1. First of all, you must be nuts and love the game.
2. Second, one ought to learn what a word means (all words) - Enrich vocab! Do not be damn lazy.
3. Read the lists of sevens more and more for a long time - September through December, although I think I am starting this June. Lots of words (loanwords) are French, English, German and Scotch - ask the meanings.
4. For a start, look up words. You'll have to make up your own lists, then put them in a file, or do an anagram test on the computer.
5. Hooks - people: listen to me nice. You must spend all day and all of the night so you can see which hook fits where. Try darn hard!
6. Doing better, scores play a big part - score tight! Try keep the scores level. Never, never miss words. The spread is hard what would cost plenty. See ways to catch up. Do not try dumb moves. Do not be feckin stupid!!
7. Forgot to mention rack work. Jumble letters around (consonants / vowels). A good rack must balance. A rack full of bloody, yucky things could make you feel sick. You would chuck all of them in.
8. Game of Scrabble seems to be half wit and half luck. Picking a good combination will make you less aggro. Agree?
9. Why track? That way you're sure to know how many tiles are left at the endgame. Do the correct thing - track, track, track. Be doing good at it.

The above all facts

Off the rack

What scrabblers have been up to



Alex Casey



Most of you will know that Alex writes for the Spinoff. At the recent Media Awards she won the Best Reporting Lifestyle section.

Here are the judges comments:

JUDGES: Eleanor Black and Josie Steenhart

“Alex submitted an impressively varied, thoroughly reported and very well written portfolio. We particularly enjoyed the unexpected angles she took and her unique voice.”

Congratulations Alex! You can read Alex's articles at the Spinoff website: <https://thespinoff.co.nz/>

Mike Curry, Mt. Albert

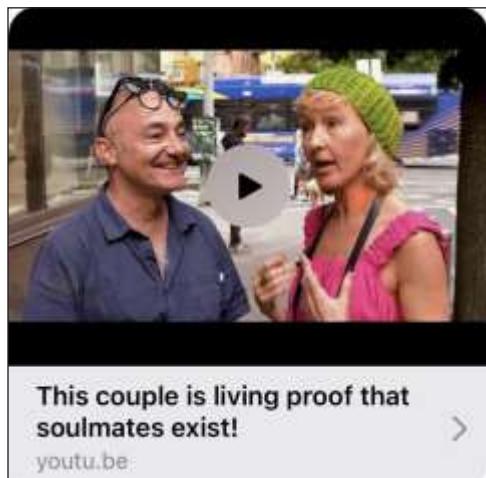
Mike, needs no introduction. Mike and Karen, or should I say Norbert and Star are off on an overseas adventure. When in New York they got stopped by an online content creator, Eric Jeng, who asked if they would be willing to be interviewed for a Youtube clip: <https://youtu.be/49yAn0UNyYY>

Eric Jeng is a NYC-based content creator. He interviews strangers on the street and tells their stories. He is passionate about telling stories and exploring what it's like to be human.

Here are his channels if you are interested in seeing more of his work:

Tiktok: <https://www.tiktok.com/@ericj3ng?lang=en>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/ericj3ng/>



Animal Noises

by Patrick Carter, Mt. Albert

Adding an S to a word that ends in -ING is always a tricky proposition. Some that you feel sure should be OK are not and some which you think look stupid turn out to be allowed.

I am still grumpy about a tournament game I lost when my opponent had nowhere else to put her bingo except to put an S on BERRYING which had been played earlier. We both thought that the word wouldn't be right, but she had to try it because the game was lost otherwise. Of course it turned out to be allowed and that was game over. Try using it in a sentence. How about:

"The berryings we have gone on this year have produced much more fruit than last year"



BERRYING(S)

I doesn't sound right at all to my ear, and spell checker is underlining the word to tell me that it doesn't like it either.

My rule of thumb is that if you can use it as a noun then it can be pluralised, but it certainly doesn't work for me in all cases. Take the word LEAPING. If your child is being over active you might say:

"Stop all the leaping"

That seems OK to me and it is clearly using the word as a noun. You might equally have said "Stop all the jumping" Maybe you should have because jumping is defined as a noun - the act of jumping - so JUMPINGS is also allowed. Leaping is not defined as the act of leaping so therefore the plural cannot be used. Who decided that?



JUMPING(S)



CHIRPING(S) and WARBLING(S)

Nowhere does this seem more random than in the noises of animals

You can be kept awake on multiple nights by the CHIRPINGS of birds around your house, but you can only be kept awake for one night by the TWEETING of those same birds because that cannot be pluralised. It would be OK if some of those birds were warblers because they could have multiple WARBLINGS

The DRONING of bees cannot be pluralised but you can have multiple instances of BUZZINGS.



PURRING(S)

Here are a few more; The MEOUING, MEOWING and MIAOWING of cats is a harsh sound that should only be heard once, but let's have lots of PURRINGS. Perhaps they are dreaming of the SQUEAKINGS from mice they have caught.

Dogs have a bad deal because they are allowed only one instance of BARKING, but multiple instances of YELPINGS or WHIMPERINGS. Perhaps that is the reason they are also allowed a lot of GROWLINGS

Horses can indulge in as many NEIGHINGS as they like, but donkeys have to be restricted to just one BRAYING

Cows can only have one MOOING but the bulls can have as many BELLOWINGS as they like

Chickens are restricted to one lot of CLUCKING but you can be woken by

the CROWINGS of roosters on multiple days.

Whereas we should obviously listen to our sheep. It



CROWING(S)

doesn't matter how often they make a noise, whether it is BAAINGS or BLEATINGS.

The HONKING of geese, the QUACKING of ducks and the GOBBLING of turkeys should all clearly only be heard once.



BAAING(S) and BLEATING(S)

Out in the wild there are fewer restrictions. Not only can you hear all the ROARINGS from the lions, but all the TRUMPETINGS from the elephants as well. That last one is interesting because the S could have been placed at either end - STRUMPETING is also good, but that is a completely different subject.

Ed: The puzzle in Puzzle Pozzy was a recent blog written by Patrick for the Mt. Albert Scrabble Club's website. He came to club asking if I had done it yet and lamenting the fact there seemed to be no rhyme or reason as to whether animal 'ing' noises could be "s"ed. I said "Sounds like a good article for Forwards!." Sure enough Patrick sent through the above article the next day – Thank you!



ROARING(S)

Ten more wicked words you'd seldom squeeze on a Scrabble board

by **Mike Currie, Mt. Albert**

I love books which celebrate our weird and wonderful lexicon like Erin McKean's Weird and Wonderful Words, Max Cryer's Godzone Dictionary and Slang down the Ages by Jonathon Green.

While the words in this poem are probably too long for a Scrabble board except DEASIL (also DEASIUL) and BILIMBI (a seven with three i's like MINISKI and SHIVITI), all could feasibly be extended from shorter words (ANYTHING (ARIAN), WIDDERS(HINS), (DISEM)BOSOMED and even YAFFING(ALE) To be honest,

I chose these words because of their amusing sounds or their unusual meanings.

If you fish and manage it to catch a proper cod,

Then the worm in turn's an ANGLETWITCH seen dangling from your rod.

And if that fish you wish to tell your friends about or cousins

Then the secret that you spill will then be DISEMBOSOMED.

A BILIMBI comes from an evergreen tree,
a cucumber-shaped fruit.

But there's no greater fruit than a grapefruit fruit
(in French a POMPELMOOSE.)

Perhaps you are a Christian, Zoroastrian, Rastafarian

But for those who oppose, and anything goes they are
known as ANYTHINGARIAN.

When I lived in the UK, I would stare down the plughole

And the water went down WIDDERSHINS but now New Zealand's home



ANGLETWITCH



POMPELMOOSE

And the water rotates clockwise or DEASIL as it's known.

If you're still in doubt, just figure it out next time at the washbowl.

If you've ever gazed at a coalminer and thought how he's so short.



YAFFINGALE

It's because he bends when the tunnel ends. He is a MOUDIEWART.

A YAFFINGALE's a woodpecker which is green by description.

And the OXYRHYNCUS snouted fish was worshipped by Egyptians.

.....



AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP
2024

(to be held in conjunction with the City of Sydney International Masters, January 27 & 28)

WHEN: Australia Day, Friday 26 January 2024,
8.30am check-in for 9am start

WHERE: Bankstown Sports Club,
8 Greenfield Parade, Bankstown
(on-site accommodation available at Mercure Sydney Bankstown)

FORMAT: 8 games, 25 minutes per player,
Australian Draw, CSW19

ENTRY FEE: \$30

PRIZES: Cash for 1ST, 2ND & 3RD,
High game & High word

ENTRIES TO ORGANISER: Joanne Craig by email
josephinite@aol.com
(mobile on the day 0410509778)

DIRECTOR: Paul Richards

Hall of Fame

by Jennifer Smith, Kiwi Scrabblers

Michael FARADAY

I was born in 1791, and I'm proud to say that despite having an impoverished upbringing in Britain as the son of a blacksmith and servant, I became, according to Ernest Rutherford, "one of the greatest scientific discoverers of all time".

I left school at 13 and became an apprentice bookbinder. There, I became absorbed by books I bound, including the "Encyclopedia Britannica", and a 600-page book called "Conversations on Chemistry". In my day, science was the preserve of people who were born into wealthy families, but that didn't stop me - I started spending my meagre pay on chemicals and apparatus to investigate some of the things I had been reading about.

Then I was given a couple of life-changing gifts. Firstly, my older brother, a blacksmith, gave me a shilling so I could go to some public lectures on chemistry. Secondly, a customer at our bookshop gave me tickets to hear Sir Humphrey Davy giving four lectures at the Royal Institution. I took copious notes at these demonstrations, wrote them up with my own additions, and sent the



Michael Faraday

resulting book to Mr Davy as a tribute.

And then Mr Davy had an unfortunate accident – but fortunate for me – and was hurt in an explosion when an experiment went wrong. For a while, he was unable to write, so, no doubt remembering my earlier note-taking effort, he asked me to become

his note-taker, and eventually, at age 21, his lab assistant at the Royal Institution (where I stayed for 54 years, ending up as Professor of Chemistry from 1833). Almost immediately, Mr Davy took me as his secretary on a tour of Europe, where I met other great scientists, like Ampere in Paris and Volt in Milan. The tour was a sort of university education for me, and I went from strength to strength, in the early days acknowledged in Davy's papers with "indebted to Mr Michael Faraday for much able assistance" to making my own discoveries later.

In 1821, I published my work on electromagnetic rotation, which is the principle behind the electric motor, but I couldn't carry out further research on that for a decade, as I was busy with other projects. For example, in 1826 I founded the Royal Institution's Friday

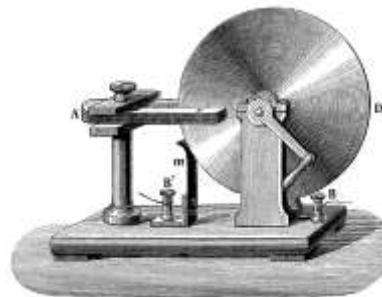
Evening Discourses and the Christmas Lectures, both of which, I'm gratified to see, continue to this day 200 years later. I myself gave many lectures - some scientists have described me as the outstanding lecturer of my time.

In 1831, I discovered electromagnetic induction, the principle behind the electric transformer and generator, which resulted in electricity being transformed from a curiosity into a powerful new technology. I continued to explore electricity, discovering the laws of electrolysis, which has led to the development of batteries, but also worked with gas liquefaction and refrigeration, and discovered benzine.

Two discoveries are named for me, Michael Faraday: the Faraday Cage (offering protection for people, keeping experiments from interference, and creating dead zones for mobile communications); and the Faraday Effect, linking electromagnetism and light.

I was devoutly religious. So during the Crimean War, when the British government asked me to advise on the production of chemical weapons for use in the war, I had to refuse on ethical grounds.

I tried to be modest about my achievements. Before I died in 1867, I turned down the offer of burial in Westminster Abbey, because I preferred a more modest resting place alongside my wife Sarah in London's Highgate Cemetery. I do have a



FARADAY disc generator

memorial plaque in Westminster Abbey, though, and I'm honoured that it's near Isaac Newton's tomb.

My name has been given to science as FARADAY/S, a unit of electricity, and FARAD, a unit of electrical capacitance. Remember me if you play ABFARAD(S), FARADIC, FARADAIC, FARADISE or FARADISM (therapeutic use of current). DARAF, the reverse spelling of FARAD, is also worth remembering. It's used as an electrical inverse unit of capacitance.

*[Editor's note: Using the same naming convention, other inverse units of capacitance are YRNEH, the inverse of HENRY, and MHO, the inverse of OHM. It amuses me to think it was lucky somebody with a name like TCHAIKOVSKY wasn't a scientist – YRNEH is bad enough, but imagine an inverse unit called a *YKSVOKIAHCT!!!]*

What I'm Reading

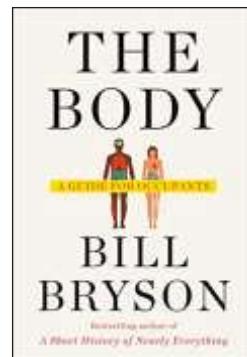
The Body (A Guide for Occupants) by Bill Bryson

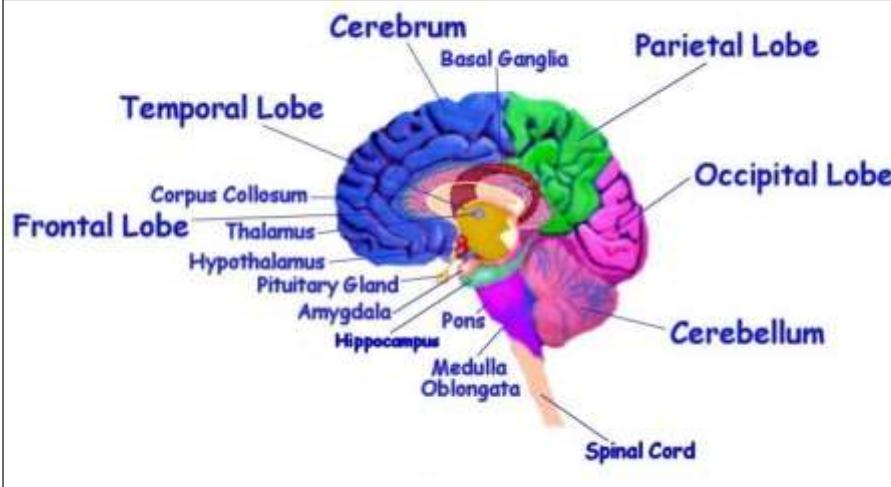
By Mike Currie, Mt. Albert

If you're an eclectic fact ferreter like me, then you'll love this book. There are 40,000 species of microbe inside you and a total of trillions. The three OSSICLES inside your ear (hammer, anvil and stirrup) would fit on a shirt button. Typical adults secrete 2.5 pints of saliva a day or 200 deep baths per lifetime. Your heart pulses with jolts powerful enough to spurt blood three metres into the air if your aorta were ever unlucky enough to be severed. Heart disease kills about the same number of Americans each year as cancer, flu, pneumonia, and accidents combined. One in three Americans die of heart disease.

The facts and words below I have garnered from *Chapter 4: The Brain*.

1. The main strand of a NEURON(E) is an AXON(E). At its terminal end it is split into branchlike or RAMOSE DENDRITES. Our intelligence lies between the tiny spaces between our nerve cell endings, the SYNAPTIC entanglement.
2. Our brains are wrinkled by deep fissures known as SULCI and GYRI which give it more surface area and the appearance of a walnut.
3. Each hemisphere of the brain is divided into four lobes, the most useful of which for Scrabblers is the PARIETAL (S) lobe controlling touch and temperature.
(Ed: the FRONTAL lobe is also very useful for Scrabblers as it is responsible for cognitive functions such as attention, thinking, memory, reasoning and learning).
4. The BASAL GANGLIA (one GANGLION) is a group of NUCLEI interconnected with the cerebral CORTEX, THALAMUS, and BRAINSTEM, associated with a variety of functions: motor control, cognition, emotions, and learning. GANGLIA (L/R) are primarily made up of SOMATA or SOMAS and often interconnect with other ganglia to form a complex system of ganglia known as a PLEXUS.
5. The HIPPOCAMPUS (from Greek for seahorse as it looks like a seahorse) has a major role in learning and memory. The AMYGDALA(E) (from Greek for





Parts of the brain

almond as it looks like an almond)
handles stressful emotions such as fear, anger and anxiety.



- GLIAL cells are a type of cell that provides physical and chemical support to neurons and are sometimes called the "glue" of the nervous system, or just GLIAS. They outnumber brain cells ten to one and produce MYELIN(E).
- The EPENDYMA is the thin lining of the ventricular system of the brain whose cells are tall and tan-coloured and vibrate slowly as if walking. Tall and tan and young and lovely / The cells from EPENDYMA go walking.
- The brain stem consists of the MIDBRAIN PONS and the MEDULLA *OBLONGATA, which I always thought would make a

great name for a thrash metal group.

- The PINEAL(S) gland (from Latin for pinecone as it looks like a pinecone) or CONARIUM (plural CONARIA) produces melatonin which modulates sleep patterns.
- The CLAUSTRUM (from Latin for 'to shut' as it is an enclosed place), located between the INSULA(E) and the PUTAMEN (from Latin for nutshell and you can guess why), has been shown to have widespread activity to numerous CORTICAL components, all of which have been associated with sustained attention. This is because of widespread connectivity to *fronto-PARIETAL areas, the cingulate cortex, and THALAMI.

Mailbox

Full Circle

From John Foster, Independent

Hi Val,

Congratulations on becoming a life member. Welcome to the club. We have now come full circle as you were the president who presented me with my badge.

Oldest Player?

And again from John Foster

As you know there was speculation that Shirley Martin may have exceeded June Mackwell's record as the oldest player at this year's Masters.

I have done the math and unfortunately for Shirley it is close but no cigar.

On the final day Shirley was 84 years and 254 days old, still 34 days short of June's 84 years and 288 days.

Female Champions

From Jeff Grant, Independent (edited)

Hi Val,

Congratulations on your Life Membership - well deserved! It was nice to catch up with you at the weekend. Like me, you probably hoped for a few places higher. Losing my last four games didn't help. I Enjoyed the tourney though.

It was great that Lyres won the A grade. Good to have some new blood. Actually, the ladies have done quite well over the years at the Nationals.



Here are the female champions:

1980 Sue Marrow
1982 Glenyss Buchanan
1987 Glennis Hale
2009 Joanne Craig
2010 Lynne Butler
2017 Joanne Craig
2022 Joanne Craig
2023 Lyres Freeth

Jeff then goes on to also mention June Mackwell who turned 100 on the 9th June.

Ed: My enduring memory of June was her telling me in no uncertain terms to "Piss Off" when I stood behind her one day to watch her game. During the home scrabble era I had many a game of scrabble with her, in her flat in Bayswater and later Devonport. She was always knitting some amazing creation for the Devonport wool shop. '

June sadly passed away on the 13th of August 2023. Condolences to her family from the NZ Scrabble family.



Allie Quinn (94) and June Mackwell (100) during a recent visit.

Allie said June didn't know her or remember anything about Scrabble - but don't they both look great!

Scrabble Aliases

From Lyn Toka, Kiwi Scrabblers

Hello Val,
Re your sign-off name in Mailbox in the last *Forwords*, it seems to me that "me, sillier Val" obviously doesn't apply to you at all. Also, the position of editor demands a certain gravitas.

I think you need a more suitable pseudonym. So, after discarding such goodies as
Marvillis Lee and Meris La Ville, I offer you a new identity to consider.

"Me, sillier Val" is not brill.
What's a name with some style that will thrill?
Well: La Vermiselli?
Or Lisa Mervelli?
No, let's choose Elmira Sevill.

P.S. Can anyone do better?

Ed: Lyn's letter ties in quite nicely with Jeff Grant's article in the 150 Edition Supplement!

Another Nursery Rhyme

From Jennifer Smith, Kiwi Scrabblers

Since our nursery rhyme singalong at the nationals, I've developed an addiction! I wake up in the middle of the night with a nursery rhyme running through my head, and can't get back to sleep until I've modified it for Scrabble.

Here's last night's effort!

Little Boy Blue

Come learn some new words
Vocab is important
And not just for nerds
But where is the man whose first
name is Blue?
He's high in the rankings
And you could be, too.

**Don't use a big word
when a singularly
unloquacious and
diminutive linguistic
expression will
satisfactorily
accomplish the
contemporary
necessity.**

Submitted by Dylan Early

Puzzle Pozzy

'Weird' Words

By Sue McCrae, Masterton

I was inspired to make this quiz after playing a game with Zoe (the computer) on the Scrabble Go app. Such high scores don't come often to me, so I saved the photo and, after basking in the glory for at least 10 minutes, decided it would be useful to find out the meaning of some of the more obscure words.

(I played her at "Master" level).

Do you know the meanings of the following words?:



1. LOUED
2. BOWIE
3. BECKE
4. TUFA
5. THIAZOLE
6. MINYAN
7. VEDUTA
8. BECKET
9. AGRIZED
10. SRIRACHA

And what about these more commonly used words?:

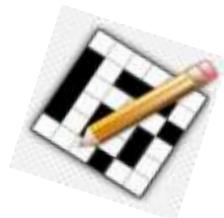
11. PIROG
12. EXO
13. FEU
14. VAR
15. ETA
16. QAT

Answers on page 50.



Drawing a Blank

By Jeff Grant, *Independent*



1. Some time ago we discussed the promising combination **AEIRSY?**. It looks like there should be lots of words in this rack, but at the time there were none! Since then, one uncommon word that fits these tiles has come into the Scrabble lexicon. Do you know it?

Hint: it's not *YARDIES or *PAYRISE.

2. In a recent online game I had the rack **AACHST?**. It also looks good, but no word immediately sprung to mind. The blank can actually be used for seven different letters. Each word ends in -s and they are all rather obscure.

How many can you find?

Answers on page 50.

Does It Take an S?

By Patrick Carter, *Mt. Albert*



If your opponent puts an S on a seven letter word that ends in -ING it is always worth considering a challenge. Just to show you how tricky that can be I am going to give you 20 words of eight letters ending in -INGS. See if you can tell which ones are legal and which ones could be challenged off.

I will give you a hint. Ten of them are good and 10 of them are not. Can you tell which ones are correct?

BARKINGS	MOATINGS	SAUTINGS
BRAKINGS	MEOWINGS	SEARINGS
DARTINGS	PEALINGS	SORTINGS
DRONINGS	REARINGS	STORINGS
LEAFINGS	RESTINGS	TEASINGS
LEAPINGS	RIOTINGS	TERMINGS
LEERINGS	SALTINGS	TRADINGS

Answers on page 50.

Puzzle Pozzy Solutions

'Weird' Words - answers (From page 48)



1. LOUED - (*past tense*) To love knot at one end and an eye at the other
2. BOWIE - Type of hunting knife
3. BECKE - A beak
4. TUFA - Porous rock formed as a deposit from springs
5. THIAZOLE - Colourless liquid with a pungent smell
6. MINYAN - Number of people required by Jewish law to be present at a religious service
7. VEDUTA - (Italian) Painting of a town or city
8. BECKET - A loop of rope having a knot at one end and an eye at the other
9. AGRIZED - (*past tense*) To terrify
10. SRIRACHA - (Thai) A spicy sauce
11. PIROG - A large Russian pie
12. EXO - (Australian slang) Excellent
13. FEU - (Scottish) type of rent
14. VAR - Unit of reactive power of an alternating current
15. ETA - Seventh letter in the Greek alphabet
16. QAT - (Arabic) Evergreen shrub

Drawing a Blank - answers (From page 49)

1. AEIRSY? makes *RIMAYES* pl. *RIMAYE*, (French) *A bergschrund*, a type of crevasse.

2. AACHST? makes seven words:

ACANTHS - pl. ACANTH, a prickly plant

ACHATES - Provisions (plural only), also ACATES

CALTHAS - pl. CALTHA, marsh marigold

CHARTAS - pl. CHARTA, a charter

CHATTAS - pl. CHATTA, an umbrella

DATCHAS - pl. DATCHA, a Russian cottage, also DACHA

MATCHAS - pl. MATCHA, Japanese green tea

Does It Take an S? - answers (From page 49)

The ones that are correct are:

BRAKINGS LEERINGS REARINGS RESTINGS RIOTINGS

SALTINGS SEARINGS SORTINGS TEASINGS TRADINGS

Tournament results

Mt. Albert - Saturday

13 May 2023

7 games

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave	E Grade			
A Grade								
1 Alastair Richards (GM)	IND	6	398	433	1	Glenda Geard	IND	6 606 410
2 Andrew Bradley (GM)	MTA	5	133	404	2	Alexander Gandar	MTA	6 426 410
3 Lawson Sue (GM)	MTA	4	123	425	3	Antonia Aarts	MTA	4 303 375
4 John Foster (GM)	IND	4	105	402	4	Anne Scatchard	WRE	4 -235 327
5 Olivia En (E)	WAN	4	-31	409	5	Junior Gesmundo	PAP	3 32 353
6 Cicely Bruce (GM)	WRE	2	-147	399	6	Graeme Quinn	WRE	3 -273 328
7 Patrick Carter (GM)	MTA	2	-203	385	7	Jackie Reid	MTA	2 -279 326
8 Liz Fagerlund (GM)	MTA	1	-378	383	8	Annette Caisley	WRE	0 -580 284

B Grade

1 Jason Simpson	WRE	6	289	417
2 Jane Walton	KIW	4	278	422
3 Mike Currie	MTA	4	237	416
4 Lynn Wood	IND	4	-113	363
5 Jeanette Grimmer	ROD	3	116	383
6 Margie Hurly	WRE	3	62	407
7 Jennifer Smith	KIW	3	-382	361
8 Lorraine Van Veen	IND	1	-487	371

C Grade

1 Yoon Kim Fong	KIW	5	224	418
2 Shirley Martin	KIW	5	88	397
3 Mary Curtis	WRE	4	101	394
4 Stan Gregec	IND	3	284	417
5 Mary Gray	MTA	3	-31	397
6 Delcie Macbeth	IND	3	-91	399
7 Pam Barlow	IND	3	-164	374
8 Su Walker	IND	2	-411	356

D Grade

1 Roger Cole-Baker	MTA	6	182	390
2 Betty Eriksen	WAN	5	197	381
3 Cathy Casey	WRE	5	188	388
4 Dianne Cole-Baker	MTA	3	-32	367
5 Lynn Carter	IND	3	-51	387
6 Suzanne Harding	WRE	2	-13	373
7 Jill Paterson	WRE	2	-176	371
8 Merelyn Fuemana	MTA	2	-295	356

E Grade

1 Glenda Geard	IND	6	606	410
2 Alexander Gandar	MTA	6	426	410
3 Antonia Aarts	MTA	4	303	375
4 Anne Scatchard	WRE	4	-235	327
5 Junior Gesmundo	PAP	3	32	353
6 Graeme Quinn	WRE	3	-273	328
7 Jackie Reid	MTA	2	-279	326
8 Annette Caisley	WRE	0	-580	284

Mt. Albert - Sunday

14 May 2023

7 games

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
A Grade				
1 Alastair Richards (GM)	IND	7	1038	493
2 Liz Fagerlund (GM)	MTA	5	105	412
3 Olivia En (E)	WAN	5	-49	408
4 Patrick Carter (GM)	MTA	4	100	415
5 John Foster (GM)	IND	3	-233	402
6 Lawson Sue (GM)	MTA	2	-255	386
7 Val Mills (E)	MTA	1	-282	377
8 Cicely Bruce (GM)	WRE	1	-424	387

B Grade

1 Jennifer Smith	KIW	5	93	400
2 Lorraine Van Veen	IND	4	188	419
3 Mike Currie	MTA	4	39	433
4 Jeanette Grimmer	ROD	3	20	397
5 Jason Simpson	WRE	3	-8	388
6 Lynn Wood	IND	3	-70	385
7 Jane Walton	KIW	3	-97	393
8 Margie Hurly	WRE	3	-165	381

C Grade

1 Chris Higgins	IND	6	439	422
2 Mary Curtis	WRE	5	155	408
3 Shirley Martin	KIW	4	305	422
4 Yoon Kim Fong	KIW	4	147	394
5 Mary Gray	MTA	4	38	377
6 Pam Barlow	IND	4	-99	355
7 Cathy Casey	WRE	2	-191	379
8 Lynn Carter	IND	2	-219	371
9 Delcie Macbeth	IND	2	-226	370
10 Betty Eriksen	WAN	2	-349	337

D Grade

1	Antonia Aarts	MTA	5	308	385	1	Laura Griffiths	CHC	16	1354	427
2	Jill Paterson	WRE	5	202	375	2	Chris Higgins	IND	15	418	402
3	Junior Gesmundo	PAP	5	190	360	3	Stan Gregec	TGA	14	938	413
4	Merelyn Fuemana	MTA	5	78	357	4	Mary Gray	MTA	13.5	-59	382
5	Suzanne Harding	WRE	4	297	385	5	Anne Goldstein	CHC	13	418	397
6	Glenda Geard	IND	4	280	396	6	Rosalind Phillips	IND	12	-357	377
7	Anne Scatchard	WRE	3	-19	336	7	Lorraine Van Veen	IND	11	125	401
8	Graeme Quinn	WRE	2	-197	321	8	Su Walker	IND	10.5	-35	394
9	Jackie Reid	MTA	1	-285	327	9	Delcie Macbeth	IND	10	-43	386
10	Annette Caisley	WRE	1	-854	275	10	Mary Curtis	WRE	9	83	400

Nationals

3-5 June 2023

22 games

Name Club Wins Spread Ave

A Grade

1	Lyres Freeth (GM)	IND	18	959	435	1	Karen Miller	IND	16	611	378
2	Howard Warner (GM)	WEL	15	1186	454	2	Jena Yousif	WRE	14	616	388
3	Peter Sinton (GM)	DUN	13	713	428	3	Ruth Groffman	DUN	13.5	646	379
4	Blue Thorogood (GM)	IND	12	310	439	4	Jill Paterson	WRE	13	12	367
5	Joanne Craig (GM)	IND	12	28	432	5	Heather Landon	TGA	13	-60	371
6	Dylan Early (GM)	WEL	11	-160	425	6	Merelyn Fuemana	MTA	12	-206	363
7	Gil Quiballo (GM)	IND	10	377	440	7	Lynn Carter	IND	11.5	-99	385
8	Stanley Ngundi (GM)	WEL	10	137	419	8	Roger Cole-Baker	MTA	11	768	387
9	Jeff Grant (GM)	IND	10	-510	414	9	Cathy Casey	WRE	11	211	378
10	Anderina McLean (GM)	WAN	8	-886	390	10	Betty Eriksen	WAN	10	-331	367
11	Andrew Bradley (GM)	MTA	7	-958	399	11	Nola Borrell	IND	9	122	393
12	Scott Chaput (E)	IND	6	-1196	398	12	Michael Hyndman	WEL	8	-925	352

B Grade

1	Lawson Sue (GM)	MTA	18	1320	424
2	Cicely Bruce (GM)	WRE	16	798	420
3	Jason Simpson	WRE	14	412	406
4	Glennis Hale (GM)	IND	12	353	401
5	Lynn Wood	IND	11	-6	389
6	Val Mills (E)	MTA	11	-169	389
7	Jennifer Smith	KIW	11	-497	375
8	Yoon Kim Fong	KIW	10	56	394
9	Jane Walton	KIW	10	-527	377
10	Margie Hurly	WRE	9	-410	389
11	Peter Johnstone	CHC	9	-575	375
12	Shirley Martin	KIW	8	-284	385
13	Murray Rogers (E)	IND	8	-298	384
14	Rosemary Cleary (E)	WAN	7	-173	369



Lawson Sue, Nationals B grade winner

E Grade

1	Suzanne Harding	WRE	17	902	392
2	Sue Hensley	DUN	16	882	370
3	Megg Hewlett	CHC	14	932	386
4	Junior Gesmundo	PAP	13	672	374
5	Marilyn Sinclair	CHC	13	478	365
6	Glenda Geard	IND	12	349	372
7	Ruth Godwin	IND	12	150	338
8	Geoff Vautier	IND	11	-83	356
9	Anne Scatchard	WRE	11	-134	335
10	Rodney Jardine	MTA	10	-251	364
11	Judy Driscoll	IND	10	-274	353
12	Jackie Reid	MTA	7	-544	348
13	Frances Higham	PAP	6	-1344	308
14	Annette Caisley	WRE	2	-1735	302



Nationals team prize winners - Whangarei
 L-R: Jena Yousif, Suzanne Harding
 (E grade winner), and Cicely Bruce

Whangarei

1-2 July 2023

14 games

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
A Grade					
1	Lawson Sue (GM)	MTA	10	437	414
2	Cicely Bruce (GM)	WRE	9	250	413
3	Andrew Bradley (GM)	MTA	8	375	411
4	Glennis Hale (GM)	IND	8	137	403
5	Jason Simpson	WRE	6	-30	417
6	Herb Ramsay	IND	5	-144	396
7	Liz Fagerlund (GM)	MTA	5	-396	384
8	Jennifer Smith	KIW	5	-629	379
B Grade					
1	Jane Walton	KIW	11	714	430
2	Mike Currie	MTA	11	166	413
3	Su Walker	IND	7	47	389



Karen Miller, Nationals D grade winner

4	Yoon Kim Fong	KIW	7	35	385
5	Margie Hurly	WRE	7	-174	385
6	Mary Gray	MTA	5	51	387
7	Mary Curtis	WRE	5	-654	371
8	Jeanette Grimmer	ROD	3	-185	399

C Grade

1	Jenny Litchfield	WRE	10	263	379
2	Cathy Casey	WRE	9	406	394
3	Roger Cole-Baker	MTA	8	331	382
4	Lynn Carter	IND	6	-206	382
5	Jena Yousif	WRE	6	-252	373
6	Betty Eriksen	WAN	6	-288	364
7	Bev Edwards	WRE	6	-309	361
8	Jill Paterson	WRE	5	55	388

D Grade

1	Merelyn Fuema	MTA	12	1021	408
2	Dianne Cole-Baker	MTA	9	470	370
3	Suzanne Harding	WRE	9	361	373
4	June Dowling	WRE	8	-28	349
5	Julia Schiller	PAP	7	-11	366
6	Anne Scatchard	WRE	5	-396	322
7	Antonia Aarts	MTA	4	-432	351
8	Tim Henneveld	IND	2	-985	292

E Grade

1	Frances Higham	PAP	10	660	349
2	Margaret Peters	WRE	9.5	279	340
3	Sue McQuade	WRE	8	21	332
4	Janny Henneveld	IND	7.5	15	322
5	Jackie Reid	MTA	7	218	336
6	Annette Caisley	WRE	7	-64	316
7	Graeme Quinn	WRE	6	73	332
8	Sue Harris	WRE	1	-1202	265

Rankings as at 13 August 2023

	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%		Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%
1	Alastair Richards (GM)	2386	456.5	570	80%	35	Marianne Bentley (E)	1620	339.5	755	45%
2	Howard Warner (GM)	2239	2601.5	3461	75%	36	Lynn Wood	1603	2623	5460	48%
3	Lyres Freeth (GM)	2177	759.5	1154	66%	37	Peter Johnstone	1601	395	771	51%
4	Dylan Early (GM)	2148	318	475	67%	38	Margie Hurly	1594	563	1153	49%
5	Jeff Grant (GM)	2141	1921	2590	74%	39	Shirley Martin	1573	1236	2492	50%
6	Joanne Craig (GM)	2119	497.5	767	65%	40	Chris Higgins	1563	213.5	372	57%
7	Patrick Carter (GM)	2105	979	1532	64%	41	Yoon Kim Fong	1553	864	1680	51%
8	Blue Thorogood (GM)	2095	887	1267	70%	42	Karen Gray	1526	362.5	694	52%
9	Peter Sinton (GM)	2080	864.5	1238	70%	43	Laura Griffiths	1526	44.5	64	70%
10	Andrew Bradley (GM)	1985	1155.5	2161	53%	44	John Baird	1522	416.5	776	54%
11	Gil Quiballo (GM)	1973	133.5	230	58%	45	Helen Sillis	1518	1017	2080	49%
12	Lawson Sue (GM)	1960	1409.5	2595	54%	46	Rosalind Phillips	1517	724.5	1416	51%
13	Stanley Ngundi (GM)	1933	147.5	270	55%	47	Stan Gregec	1515	256	477	54%
14	Cicely Bruce (GM)	1918	1083	1980	55%	48	Vicky Robertson	1514	494	1041	47%
15	Nick Ascroft (E)	1905	333.5	603	55%	49	David Gunn	1510	1596	3263	49%
16	Anderina McLean (GM)	1895	1071	2007	53%	50	Yvette Hewlett	1505	574.5	1184	49%
17	Karen Richards (E)	1884	129	231	56%	51	Lorraine Van Veen	1503	1212.5	2468	49%
18	Scott Chaput (E)	1848	383	695	55%	52	Paul Freeman	1469	150.5	272	55%
19	Paul Richards	1841	65	120	54%	53	Jeanette Grimmer	1440	408	839	49%
20	Olivia En (E)	1841	1067	2062	52%	54	Anne Goldstein	1439	371	745	50%
21	Glennis Hale (GM)	1804	1846.5	3392	54%	55	Bernie Jardine	1431	398	743	54%
22	Liz Fagerlund (GM)	1768	1672.5	3253	51%	56	Selena Chan	1422	435.5	866	50%
23	John Foster (GM)	1767	1867.5	3362	56%	57	Pam Barlow	1415	964	1924	50%
24	Lois Binnie	1760	277.5	545	51%	58	Su Walker	1411	1430	2811	51%
25	Val Mills (E)	1751	1797	3667	49%	59	Mary Curtis	1409	611.5	1191	51%
26	Mike Currie	1719	141	243	58%	60	Delcie Macbeth	1407	1211.5	2367	51%
27	Herb Ramsay	1710	346	604	57%	61	Jean O'Brien	1400	1674	3318	50%
28	Jennifer Smith	1706	1479.5	3093	48%	62	Barney Bonthron	1398	164.5	289	57%
29	Jason Simpson	1691	192	362	53%	63	Roger Coates	1391	988.5	2083	47%
30	Jane Walton	1687	369.5	764	48%	64	Mary Gray	1388	930.5	1871	50%
31	Murray Rogers (E)	1649	1285.5	2449	52%	65	Karen Miller	1373	769	1491	52%
32	Paul Lister (E)	1638	941	1726	55%	66	Carolyn Kyle	1365	1304	2643	49%
33	Glenyss Buchanan	1631	791	1718	46%	67	Jenny Litchfield	1333	260.5	479	54%
34	Rosemary Cleary (E)	1621	1019	2194	46%						

	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%		Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%
68	Clare Wall	1332	439	872	50%	103	Glenda Geard	878	1361.5	2752	49%
69	Roger Cole-Baker	1310	918.5	1788	51%	104	Junior Gesmundo	862	423.5	857	49%
70	Bev Edwards	1301	390	776	50%	105	Tony Charlton	828	481.5	1012	48%
71	Ruth Groffman	1265	897	1818	49%	106	Chris Handley	821	492.5	983	50%
72	Shirley Hol	1264	924.5	1959	47%	107	Judy Driscoll	796	421.5	1042	40%
73	Cathy Casey	1261	162	298	54%	108	Antonia Aarts	794	469	993	47%
74	Tobias Devereux	1259	84	125	67%	109	Ruth Godwin	779	686.5	1450	47%
75	Suzanne Liddall	1247	225	413	54%	110	Llane Hadden	772	117.5	258	46%
76	Lyn Toka	1246	721.5	1381	52%	111	Rodney Jardine	772	332	686	48%
77	Heather Landon	1244	852.5	1693	50%	112	Steve Wood	763	32.5	60	54%
78	Merelyn Fuemana	1221	302.5	570	53%	113	Anne Scatchard	762	819	1614	51%
79	Jena Yousif	1203	769.5	1542	50%	114	Sharon Teasdale	731	84	167	50%
80	Nola Borrell	1201	702	1347	52%	115	Noeline Monsef	713	110	235	47%
81	Lynn Carter	1200	943	1837	51%	116	Dorothy Bakel	707	155	329	47%
82	Betty Eriksen	1173	2112	4207	50%	117	Margaret Toso	695	207	464	45%
83	Jill Paterson	1153	172.5	325	53%	118	Madelaine Green	654	196.5	384	51%
84	Tara Hurley	1148	171.5	313	55%	119	Margaret Penniket	644	98	214	46%
85	Dianne Cole-Baker	1105	842.5	1673	50%	120	Frances Higham	607	413	1046	39%
86	Suzanne Harding	1099	854.5	1660	51%	121	Tim Henneveld	601	596.5	1309	46%
87	Malcolm Graham	1058	892.5	1764	51%	122	Anne-Louise Milne	585	234.5	651	36%
88	Julia Schiller	1052	434	926	47%	123	Jacqueline				
89	Michael Hyndman	1038	245.5	474	52%		Coldham-Fussell	575	863.5	1768	49%
90	Marian Ross	1019	787	1535	51%	124	Sharon McKenzie	560	76.5	163	47%
91	Sue Hensley	1014	115.5	202	57%	125	Jillian Greening	551	521	1072	49%
92	Mandy Thorogood	1012	132	247	53%	126	Margaret Peters	503	106.5	292	36%
93	Joanna Fox	1000	321	638	50%	127	Jackie Reid	500	217.5	493	44%
94	Sheila Reed	984	404	842	48%	128	Janny Henneveld	484	624	1291	48%
95	Megg Hewlett	984	105	179	59%	129	Dael Shaw	465	69	135	51%
96	Grant Paulin	977	110.5	235	47%	130	Annette Coombes	457	983	2143	46%
97	Alexander Gandar	977	24.5	42	58%	131	Marc Van Hoecke	455	104	222	47%
98	Patricia Bennett	947	46	106	43%	132	Graeme Quinn	406	61.5	161	38%
99	Colleen Cook	946	517	1075	48%	133	Lynn Thompson	405	398	941	42%
100	Geoff Vautier	919	143.5	375	38%	134	Sue McQuade	353	18	48	38%
101	Marilyn Sinclair	897	299.5	595	50%	135	Judy Cronin	314	270.5	660	41%
102	Hanna Dodge	884	338	627	54%	136	Annette Caisley	245	16	72	22%

Club	Club Contact	Phone Number	Email	Meeting Day & Time
Christchurch (CHC)	Peter Johnstone	027 258 2629	pojopete@gmail.com	12.30 pm Wed 6.45 pm Thurs
Dunedin (DUN)	Tobias Devereux	03 453 1108	tobias.devereux13@gmail.com	7 pm Tues
Kapiti (KAP)	<i>In Recess</i>	-	-	-
Kiwi Scrabblers (KIW)	Barney Bonthron	027 466 1970	Barney.Bonthron@gmail.com	1 pm/7 pm Alternate Thurs
Lower Hutt (LOH)	Glenyss Buchanan	04 569 5433	glenyss.buchanan@xtra.co.nz	7.30 pm Tues
Masterton (MAS)	Sue McRae	027 4490 601	sue.mcrae.nz@gmail.com	1 pm Wed
Mt. Albert (MTA)	Helen Scott	027 433 3339	helenruthscott@hotmail.com	7 pm Mon
Nelson (NEL)	Tony Charlton	03 545 1159	tonycharlton44@gmail.com	7 pm Wed
Papatoetoe (PAP)	Frances Higham	09 278 4595	jambo@actrix.co.nz	1 pm Mon
Rodney (ROD)	Vivienne Mickelson	09 902 9207	vivienne.moss20@gmail.com	12.45 pm Mon
Rotorua (ROT)	<i>In Recess</i>	-	-	-
Tauranga (TGA)	Fay Wenzlick/ Pam Fulton	021 164 8180 (Fay)	fultonrp@xtra.co.nz (Pam)	9.20 am Tues
Waitara (WTA)	Ngaire Kemp	06 754 4017	ngairelyndac@slingshot.co.nz	1 pm Wed
Whanganui (WAN)	Lynne Butler	027 428 5758	scrabblynne@gmail.com	1 pm Mon
Scrabble Wellington (WEL)	Nick Ascroft	-	nick_ascroft@hotmail.com	7 pm Thurs
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