

forwords



First ever!
Supplement to the 150th edition

For the first time ever we have a supplement to an edition of Forwards. I had the idea to ask past editors for contributions to this mag and was fascinated with what I received. It made me realise just where this mag has come from. I thought there was too much to put into the mag itself, so voila! A supplement.

Past *Forwards* editors:

1. Sue Marrow - October 1985-October 1987 (1-9)
2. David Lloyd - January 1988 - October 1989 (10-16)
3. Jeff Grant - December 1989 - June 2001 (17-63)
4. Lynne Butler - September 2001- December 2005 (64-81)
5. Jennifer Smith - March 2006 - Spring 2013 (82-113)
6. Olivia En and Anderina McLean - Summer 2013 - Summer 2019/20 (113-137)
7. Val Mills Winter 2020 (138) - Present

Thanks to the past editors that ran with my idea and contributed something. There is such a variety of takes on each one's stint as editor. I loved seeing what came in.

Here they are for you, our readers, to enjoy.

First Editor: Sue Marrow

Oct 1985-Oct 1987 (No. 1-9)



Sue Marrow

It seems a lifetime ago since I visited Charlie and Daphne Curl at their home in Te Atatu to discuss my idea of starting a New Zealand Scrabble magazine. The year was 1985. The Australian Scrabble players had their magazine '*Onwords*', so in keeping with the 'nonword', we chose the name '*Forwords*'. I think it was Charlie and Daphne's son that designed the cover - the kiwi with a Scrabble tile in its beak.

I bought myself a portable manual typewriter, and the NZASP paid for a long-necked stapler for me, and I was in business. I painstakingly typed the entire eight to 10 pages, with the help of contributors that would post me in articles, club news, tournament results, cartoons, photos etc.

I would take it to the local stationery shop, where I would photocopy 60-70 copies times 10 pages. I would collate and staple them together, put them in envelopes, and lick the stamps. No computers or emails back then, or self-adhesive stamps.

The other day when I was looking through a drawer, I found a copy of *Forwords* from March 1986.

It featured an article by Glynis Jennings of Whangarei, about a Scrabble Computer called 'Monty'.

My competitive Scrabble playing started around 1977 or 1978 when I spotted a little ad in the *North Shore Times*, inviting people to form a Scrabble Club. I phoned and spoke with Georgie Offringa, and with 'ring ins' of her friends and fellow table tennis players, the North Shore Scrabble Club was formed. We had a tournament to raise money for Telethon, and it was announced on air "the amount raised by the North Shore Scrabble Club, New Zealand's ONLY Scrabble club". This caught the attention of Noel Maisey of the Tauranga Scrabble club, and other Scrabble clubs, and we later found there were Scrabble Clubs in Lower Hutt and Waiheke Island.

Soon after, more Scrabble Clubs were formed - Mt. Albert, Wellington, Hamilton, Whangarei, Mt Maunganui, Tokoroa, Hastings, Pakuranga, Dunedin, Sydenham, New Plymouth, Masterton, and others. I remember attending the inaugural meeting in Hamilton when the NZASP was formed, and the first executive committee was voted in. I'm not sure if this was before or after the first New Zealand Championship was held, in 1980, hosted by the Tauranga Club,

and adjudicated by Noel Maisey. I was fortunate to win the first National Championship. (My only claim to fame). It was a bit controversial, because it was based on the highest overall points average, and not the amount of games won. This was changed for subsequent competitions, but I still managed to maintain a good level of competition.

My competitive Scrabble playing came to an abrupt end, when I joined the bank in 1987, and worked full time, and also a late night Thursday, which was the North Shore Scrabble Club night. I worked for the ASB for 26 years and lived in Auckland for 41 years.

In 2012, my husband Paul and I decided on a lifestyle change. We had been touring around Europe for two

months, and when we got home, it was hard to settle back into the working routine. My role at ASB was Premium Account Manager, and Paul had worked as a cabinetmaker for over 40 years. We sold up and moved to Raglan, and opened a shop - *Raglan Vintage & Retro*. I had always been a collector of all things retro, and had plenty of stock. Paul's cabinetmaking skills were great for furniture restoration. For the first year we had a shop in the main street of Raglan, and then moved to bigger premises on Raglan Wharf. It was 'such fun'. In the quiet times I would play online Scrabble.

We retired in February 2020. I play online Scrabble every day on '*The Internet Scrabble Club (ISC)*'. I start my day with at least six games. Win or lose, I still enjoy it immensely.

Third Editor: Jeff Grant

Dec 89-June 01 (No. 17-63)



Jeff Grant

My last *Forwards* as editor was issue no. 63 in June 2001.

From the Editor's Note:

"Thanks to all the people who have contributed to Forwards over the years. Special thanks to Glennis [Hale] for her help in the old 'cut and paste' days, and to Glenda [Foster] for her input work and layout expertise, which makes the modern Forwards such an entertaining, informative and professional magazine. Finally, a big thank you to my wife Pat for her constant support and encouragement."

Anagram Corner Revisited

It was an honour to help take *Forwords* from the 'cut and paste' days of the 1980s and '90s through to the computer technology of the 21st century. A succession of great editors and layout gurus have enhanced the magazine considerably in later years. We are rightly proud of our Kiwi Scrabble mag, *Forwords*. Long may it thrive!

One of the regular early columns was 'Anagram Corner', celebrating the skill and fun of transposing letters - an activity dear to the heart of Scrabble players everywhere. Over the years we anagrammed the names of many Scrabblers. Sometimes it resulted in a single word:

JUNE WARD - UNDERJAW

JEAN BOYLE - ENJOYABLE

PETER SINTON - SEPTENTRION

Others were appropriate:

PAUL LISTER - RISE UP TALL

GLENNIS HALE - ENGLISH LANE

GEORGIE OFFRINGA - FAIR
GOING, GO FREE

Of course some were a little negative or risqué. Generally this file wasn't dipped into much. We only ever had a single complaint, on religious grounds. There was in fact very little feedback.

We once transposed the names of six fictitious Scrabblers, who just happened to have remarkably apt anagrams, such as:

RUBEN HUTSON - BONUS HUNTER
MARGARET FRICANI - TERRIFIC
ANAGRAM

Nobody seemed to notice.

We were also able to exhibit some excellent longer examples for Scrabblers' enjoyment, for example:

ALPHABETICALLY - I PLAY ALL
THE ABC

CONTAMINATED - NO
ADMITTANCE!

LIFE ON MARS - ALIEN FORMS

APPLE MACINTOSH - LAPTOP
MACHINES

A SENTENCE OF DEATH - FACES
ONE AT THE END

IVANHOE BY SIR WALTER SCOTT
- A NOVEL BY A SCOTTISH
WRITER

So keep learning your GELATIN
TAGLINE, RAVIEST VERITAS and
SNARFED FARDENS. Even a
FUNFAIR RUFFIAN or POOPING
POGONIP may win you a game
SOMEDAY (SAMOYED).

Fifth Editor: Jennifer Smith

March 2006 - Spring 2013 (No. 82-113)



Jennifer Smith

I was responsible for 32 issues; numbers 82 to 113 (2006 – 2013). I enjoyed every moment of the job. But, my word, it's a very time-consuming one.

I don't think anyone who hasn't actually done the job appreciates how much time it takes to put out a mag of about 48 pages every three months. The average reader probably just looks at the mag and thinks, "How can it be that much work? – everybody else writes the articles!" Yeah, right. I won't bore you with a description of what an editor does, and why it takes so much time.

The person who does the layout (Lyres these days, but Glenda Foster and Vicky Robertson in my day) also spends huge amounts of time doing their very talented bit. Without their skill and meticulous attention to detail, our *Forwards* would not be the world-class publication it is.

I'll tell you something you may think is strange: no matter how many hours I spent putting an issue together,

reading and editing all the contributed articles, writing some myself, and proof-reading everything a zillion times, the moment the printed magazine arrived in the post, I was compelled to sit down immediately and read it from cover to cover, as if I were seeing it for the first time. I'm willing to bet that every other editor and past editor has done exactly the same! We get the same thrill from reading *Forwards* as everyone else does!

Because I know how much an editor has to do, I've tried to support editors after me by contributing articles whenever I can. It's actually not very noble of me, because writing articles is one of the things I like doing most. Also, I love words, so writing articles about words is the most fun!

I wrote my first *Hall of Fame* article (about people and their eponymous word/s) for issue No.99, and have written one for all the issue issues since (bar one – I don't know how I managed to miss doing one for issue 147!). It's harder and harder to find interesting subjects now that I've done so many (although there are still heaps of people who have contributed scientific words for our language), so if you know of an interesting eponym, please let me know. I'd be more than happy to write about it.

Interesting as those topics are, I have enjoyed investigating other quirky word topics even more.

The one thing I am sorry about, is that I don't remember all the interesting wordy things I've ever found out or written about or read about in *Forwords*. Or perhaps I should say, I regret I haven't made the effort to memorise or learn and revise all the words I've researched, and all the word articles other contributors have written.

I well remember an opponent playing a word, and when I challenged it, she said in great amazement — "Why are you challenging that? I learnt it in an article you wrote."

Embarrassing, but true.

I am so full of admiration for the huge vocab many of our players have. You'll never hear me describe a Scrabble player as "lucky" if they remember amazing words, anagrams, etc., because I know they actually train themselves to remember, and constantly work on it. We could ALL create that sort of "luck" for ourselves – we just have to want it enough!

Hall of Fame (or Infamy)

Hi. My name is Vidkun Quisling. I was a Norwegian army officer, and I founded Norway's fascist party in 1933. In December 1939, I met with Adolf Hitler and urged him to occupy Norway. Following the German invasion of April 1940, I then served as a figurehead in the puppet government set up by the German invasion forces – and that's how I sealed my linguistic fate!

Before the end of 1940, QUISLING was being used generically in English to refer to any traitor, person who commits treason, or collaborator. Winston Churchill, George Orwell and H G Wells all used the word in their wartime writings. I lived to see my name immortalised, but not much longer. I was executed for treason soon after the liberation of Norway in 1945.

Remember me when you play QUISLING(S) or QUISLINGISM(S).

- Source: *Mirriam-Webster Inc.*

[Hall of Fame (or Infamy) is a new feature. Please feel free to contribute an article, or suggest an article, if you know of a person who has "given" their name to any of our official Scrabble words.]

Jennifer's first Hall of Fame article from issue No.99 (Winter 2010)

Sixth Co-Editors: Olivia En and Anderina McLean

Summer 13-Summer 19/20 (No. 113-137)

Olivia says:



Olivia En

When I first mooted to Anderina that we should join forces and co-edit *Forwards*, I confess that I had no idea just how large a chunk I was talking her into biting off with me. At the time, I had three children under four, two of whom were under 20 months. Anderina had a child under three herself and added a second by the time we got around to publishing our third issue (Spring 2014). By the conclusion of our tenure as editors, I had managed to get divorced, complete a Masters degree, add a fourth child to my family, and buy a house as a single mum, while Anderina moved cities, changed jobs, bought her first home, and represented New Zealand in a couple of world championships. Those were busy times.

If I'm to be completely honest, they were quite stressful times as well because I always felt as if a deadline was looming over my head.

When I first mooted to Anderina that we should join forces and co-edit *Forwards*, I confess that I had no idea just how large a chunk I was talking her into biting off with me.

No sooner was one issue published, then we were wondering what to put in the next.

Yet, through 24 issues consisting of approximately 1200 pages, the one thing that stands out for me is that Anderina was the perfect editing partner. I never had a moment when I felt as if I was being left with an unfair share of the work. We were never mismatched when it came to our work standards. And when life inevitably intruded (having babies, getting divorced, writing dissertations, and travelling vast distances to represent your country all tend to get in the way of *Forwards* editing), we picked up each other's slack, and remembered to thank each other for it.

I sincerely admire every other person who has stepped up and edited *Forwards* over



Nigel Richards memes never got shared enough

the years, because they have done it completely on their own. I had someone to bounce ideas off, to fret with about what should go on the front cover, to help chase up contributions, to write content when few contributions were forthcoming, and to pick up my mistakes. Possibly there were times when working as a pair slowed us down because of double-handling or waiting to discuss layout decisions, but I'm still thankful that Anderina was on my *Forwords* editing journey with me. If nothing else, it was great to have someone with whom to share the relief and elation when we published our last ever issue. No more scanning through pages to make sure capital letters were properly deployed, no more changing numerals into words and vice versa depending on the context, no more deadlines. We celebrated with an extravagant Italian meal... because food is yet another thing we don't disagree about.

Anderina says:



Anderina McLean Māori word for 'urinate'. And, a bit after that, but a while before James

I can remember, early on in my Scrabble career, challenging the word MEME. I assumed it was two syllables, like the truncated parody of a vocalist's

warm-up, or the

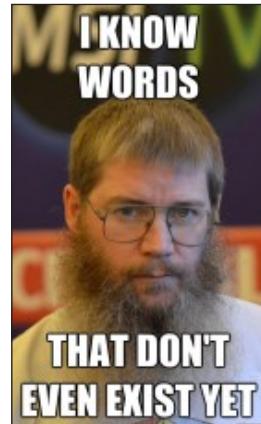
Cameron's movie came out, I had a job as a carer for a teenager who liked video games. I can remember thinking then that AVATARS would make a dazzling

Scrabble play:

three A's, and such a modern usage that many of my more senior opponents might not recognise it.

Yet when Val asked for my reflection about editing *Forwords*, particularly "changes ... during your time", what struck me was that ours was the first editorship that really coexisted with mass Social Media usage. I lost count of how many people tagged me in that VENISON cartoon, as my first Christmas as *Forwords* editor approached. It's a wonderful cartoon, and could scarcely be more relevant, and we did feature it on the cover of issue No. 117. But the downside was, of course, with the ease with which such things are now shared, most of our readers had seen it already by then.

However, it is my opinion that the Nigel Richards memes never got shared enough. We did put quite a few in various issues of *Forwords*, but when I tracked them down again this Autumn to look for my favourites, I must admit I had some "LOLZ" over





*VENISON cartoon:
Featured on the cover of No. 117
Summer 2014*

ones I don't remember seeing before. While admittedly it's pretty niche humour, that 90% of my Facebook friends wouldn't understand, it just so happens that *Forwords'* readers are the very niche for that humour.

What does this mean, in terms of the little magazine we're so immensely proud of? I don't have any particularly sage insight about that. I am part of the last generation of 'digital immigrants', and can barely imagine what it must have been like for earlier editors to compile and lay out *Forwords* on paper rather than as a digital file.

And on the flipside, the future of *Forwords* seems certain to incorporate even more mind-boggling digital technologies. Although I'm still too intimidated by Artificial Intelligence to have even touched it, I can think of two examples of minor struggles from my editing era that could potentially have been improved upon by access to such resources. (I expect I'll get over my wariness eventually; I mean, you should see how confidently I can now use the self-checkout lanes at the supermarket, that I used to feel so panicky about!)

Though we each have many capabilities, Olivia and I do not have between us one ounce of skill as visual artists. We are perfectly capable of imagining the image we want our readers to see, but neither of us can render such images in any recognisable form. So we used to beg or bully anyone we could think of, including but not limited to our far more capable layout editors, Glenda and Lyres. These days, it would presumably be a fairly simple matter to instruct an AI, "draw a cartoon of two kangaroos boxing, with these two people's faces", and chances are it'd look quite a bit better than what we eventually put on the cover of issue No. 115!

We also often struggled (as I suspect all the editors before and afterwards have struggled likewise) with content submitted for the magazine that boiled

down to just a list of allowable words with definitions. It was such a toil to find engaging ways to present such data! We turned them into crosswords, into songs (please tell me you still think of me whenever you see the word FILK!), into quizzes, added pictures, and so on. Now, present and future editors could just feed such a list into ChatGPT and ask it to, for example, “generate a Shakespearean sonnet featuring these words”!

In searching for an appropriate way to conclude, I just googled the phrase, “I, for one, welcome our new robot overlords”, which is something my geeky friends Ben and Craig used to

say in all kinds of unexpected contexts. My search yielded a relevant article on knowyourmeme.com, and the lyrics to a rap. Reading these led me to look up the word *NERDCORE on Zyzzyva, and then look it up again on my cellphone app when I realised that I’m typing this on my oldest laptop and its version of Zyzzyva hasn’t been updated beyond CSW15. And if that isn’t the best possible conclusion to a reflection about how social media and digital technology have, and will yet, change the nature of writing for and editing the journal of the NZASP, then I’m even more obsolete than I thought!



*Featured on the cover of No. 115
Winter 2015*

Seventh Editor: Val Mills

Winter 2020 - present (138-)



Val Mills

So, I had the mag all ready to go to send to Lyres, except for what I had to write. It sat like that for a week. It's Wednesday and on Friday I fly to Thailand for my nephew's wedding. I do not want the magazine to be in my 'court' on my return. After getting home from Māori last night I watched two hours of MasterChef Australia, on demand. I tell myself, I'll get up at 5 am tomorrow, light a fire, get all cozy and start. I do love early mornings but not when I've had a late night. The alarm goes off, I press the snooze button (I wish those things hadn't been invented). But I do get up before the next reminder. I light the fire, put a wash on (well, why not have it going while I'm writing), get more wood in, make a cup of tea and finally sit down with my phone (yes, I 'write' on my phone) to write. Of course it's easy once you start. It's just getting to that point. One of my daughters loves to tell me that procrastination is a positive thing. I'm not convinced.

Thinking about my tenure so far as editor of this mag the two words that come to me are procrastination and gratefulness.

Then there's gratefulness. I know I'm always saying thank you but really, I mean it! I do not like writing, the worst part for me of being the President of the NZASP was writing something for the mag, and the worst part of being the editor of *Forwords* is writing an editorial!

Thank goodness there are those of you out there who LOVE to write. You send stuff to me without me even having to ask, you produce articles for me when I ask for something specific. I love seeing what comes in. The... [see *I can't think of the word*]... ideas (?) that you have for articles are incredible. Some are funny, some informative, some clever—but all are inspiring and creative. I'm fine with writing the 'list of words' type article that frustrated the *%\$ out of Anderina, but some of you know how to elevate articles like that to another level.

So again, *merci, mille *fois.

Layout Editor: Vicky Robertson

Autumn 2011 - Spring 2013 (102-112)



Vicky Robertson

I did the layout from 2011 to 2013. For the entire period I worked with Jennifer Smith as editor. I took over from Glenda who had been doing

a great job of it with Publisher on a PC. I switched to Apple Mac and used InDesign. I made a new heading banner for the front page and a new look to the insides with a two column grid. Jennifer often gave me an illustration or cartoon to do. I really enjoyed working with Jennifer.

She had some really good ideas for articles and kept it interesting and fun.

I still remember words from the stories she wrote on a theme where she would weave in as many obscure scrabble words as possible. She would send me an email with her suggested order of stories and I would do my best to make it fit, which it usually did as she had done her word counts. And you can always tweak the size of the photos to make it all work.

I've attached my two favourite covers. The cartoon is one Jennifer came up with which she asked me to illustrate, and a young Howard with accolades and trophies he had won.



*Forwords issues No. 107 (Winter 2012) and No. 106 (Autumn 2012)
Designed by Vicky as layout editor*

Layout Editor: Lyres Freeth

Winter 2016 - Present (No. 123-)



Lyres Freeth

I started doing *Forwords* layout in Winter 2016. When I was asked, I had just finished my Masters degree so I had a bit more spare time, and thought why not?

I didn't have much of an idea of the work that would entail. My previous experience was computer design at high school and working on a small newsletter. Nothing quite the size of *Forwords*! I didn't even have an appropriate computer at the time.

My first few editions were formatted on university computers. When Alastair moved to New Zealand in late 2016, I acquired the use of his computer.

The editors I have worked with are Anderina and Olivia, and presently Val. I format *Forwords* using Microsoft Publisher (as did Glenda before me) as it is simple to use, even for larger documents. A few years ago, Glennis Hale gifted me all her old *Forwords* editions, starting with the very first one. As well as being an interesting read, they often come in handy with our 'Twenty Years Ago' articles. Thank you Glennis!

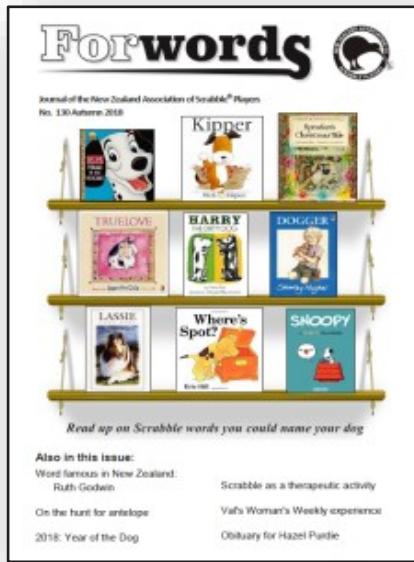
As previous editors have said, it's hard to appreciate the work that goes into each issue unless you've had the chance to be a part of producing an edition. My job involves moving all the collated articles into the Publisher template, adding photos, cartoons, clipart, tournament results and rankings - and making sure everything fits! Editions are usually 48, 52 or 56 pages long (a number divisible by four). In recent years they have been on the longer side as we get a lot of great content, as well as our regular features.



Forwords cover - No. 142 (Winter 2021)

One of my favourite covers was from Winter 2021 (No. 142) – *The Pyjama Girls*. I was so happy that Val agreed when I asked if we could put this photo on the cover.

Another favourite is Autumn 2018 (No. 130), which involved a bit of extra formatting, featuring children's books about dogs. I know my one year old daughter would approve!



**Forwords Cover - No. 130
(Autumn 2018)**

And finally a note on behalf of our fabulous Website manager Suzanne Liddall.

All 149 issues of *Forwords* now on our Website

Suzanne has recently updated the website to include all copies of *Forwords*, Starting with issue No.1! This was no mean feat, as over 100 issues were scanned by hand. Fortunately she was able to use someone else's Adobe Pro to rotate each issue after scanning. However issues No.98 and No.112 were inadvertently missed. If anyone else is able to rotate these for Suzanne, please let her know.

Suzanne would like to thank Olivia En, Anderina McLean and Lynn Wood for locating the missing issues, especially Lynn who left her precious collection of *Forwords* magazines with Suzanne for several months. It is appropriate to be celebrating this achievement of Suzanne's at the same time as the 150th issue. So thank you Suzanne for all that hard work. It is a great achievement and resource for NZ Scrabble.

