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Why I can Anagram

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In the News

What I'm Reading

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# Editorial

I was sending photos to Lyres the other day from the prize-givings of tournaments I had recently attended and I couldn't believe how many there were! Mind you, going to three in a row, kind of helped. I write about the Queenstown Tournament later on in this edition, but going to Whanganui after a very long time of not going, was also special. Before that I'd been to the Kiwi and Tauranga Tourneys (two in a row) and also the Wellington tournament in September. I arrived at Lynn Wood's in Wellington to stay for the Wellington Tournament and was greeted by this welcoming board.



*Lynn Wood with her welcoming board*

Now I'm steeling myself for the New Year onslaught – three days in Whangarei, Wellington, and then Jafa-versary.

I do actually have a life outside of Scrabble but you wouldn't think so. I sometimes wonder about the time spent learning Scrabble words (why don't I do the same with French and Maori?!) but occasionally it pays off. I add words to my \*cardbox maybe three or four times a year. I am quite systematic in adding the sevens and eights, but I also add words that just take my fancy, or combinations of letters that 'I just wish I had known, at that tourney!' My last list of words to add in, included the MEGA– sevens and eights.

At club on Monday night my opponent played \*MEGALOAD. Normally I would have thought it ok, as it made perfect sense to me. But I had just added all those MEGA words to my \*cardbox and although I couldn't say I knew them all yet, I didn't remember \*MEGALOAD, so I challenged and it came off.

As I was reading Mike Currie's (H) EUREKA article in this edition the word FOGBOW looked interesting. I wondered how many words ended in BOW and actually there are not too many of six to eight letters, so they are on my list to add to my \*cardbox. However there are a lot more that start with BOW. They may or may not be added depending on how many words I want to add at once.

More serendipity with this edition. I had decided that I wanted to have

Christmas anagrams on the cover, and then the article from Selena Chan, on anagramming arrived in my mailbox.

I said to Partick Carter that I would like a puzzle and the next day his article/quiz arrived with the “beautiful” hooks to some eight letter words.

Then Jan Rivers, a relative newcomer to our club asked if I would like an article about books she had read recently on the etymology of words. It's great to have newcomers contributing to the magazine.

A couple of words that have interested me in my latest addition of words to my \*cardbox are words that at first look seem ordinary but then you realise there's a couple of extra letters in there, for example not EROTIC but EROTETIC, not DILATE but DILATATE.

As we come to the end of another year and the start of a new one I wish you all the best for Christmas and the holiday season, and a new year filled with whatever it is you want!

*Val Mills*

## Words from the President

*by Cathy Casey, Whangarei*

First of all, a huge thanks to Lawson, Dylan and Laura for opening up their lives to allow Alexander Gandar and his team to create the beautiful documentary *Every Word Counts*.

If you haven't seen it yet, make yourself a cuppa, click on this link and settle in for a great watch:

(28 minutes)

<https://thespinoff.co.nz/videos/every-word-counts/welcome-to-the-world-of-competitive-scrabble-every-word-counts-the-spinoff>

My second huge vote of thanks is to Alexander and his film crew for moving easily among us and spending time crafting this fine fly-on-the-wall take on the world of competitive New Zealand Scrabble.

I think the doco captured the spirit of our beautiful game and did Scrabble proud.

Everyone who has seen it has been left hankering for more and itching to play!



*Cathy Casey*

It wasn't just the hours of directing filming and the months of editing that Alexander needs to be thanked for, he also did sterling work himself in front of the cameras talking about Scrabble on TVNZ's *Breakfast* and getting a double page spread in *Canvas*, the magazine that comes free with the *New Zealand Herald*.

His two radio interviews are well worth listening to:

Here is Alexander talking tiles with Jesse Mulligan on Radio NZ

(12 mins):

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/afternoons/audio/2018914349/a-spotlight-on-a-scrabble-playing-great-in-aotearoa>

And an informative podcast with Alexander on Breakfast 95bFM

(9 minutes):

<https://95bfm.com/bcast/i-v-w-alexander-gander-16-november-2023>

The doco and the attendant publicity has shown New Zealand what nice and interesting folks we are and that Scrabble Clubs are welcoming places for people, especially young people, who want to move from social Scrabble to competitive playing. Alexander has shown with his own exciting journey that it can be done. I am proud to have played my part in helping him along.

I first met Alexander in 2020 when I was playing a challenge match against his boss *The Spinoff's* founder Duncan Greive in their board room. Duncan is a good Scrabble player, from university days he says, and wanted to see how he rated against me (from the lower competitive ranks of F grade at the time). Liz Fagerlund came along as the adjudicator.



It was a hilarious evening and *Spinoff* staff came and went as they were attracted by the hoots of

laughter coming from their board room. Alexander popped his head in and was immediately fascinated. He told me he regularly played at home with his mum. I invited him to come along on a Monday night to the Mt Albert Scrabble Club. His co-worker, my daughter Alex Casey had already joined the club, so he would have a Scrabble buddy.



*Alexander after beating Val Mills on his first night at the Mt. Albert Scrabble Club*

A few weeks later Alexander turned up one Monday night. It was March 12, 2022. I remember the date well because Alexander played his first game against me he and beat me by 379 to 373 in a nail biter. He then went on to beat A Grade player Val Mills by 382 to 359. In his third game, Alexander almost beat A Grader Liz Fagerlund. Not bad for a newbie to competitive Scrabble!

No one was surprised when a few weeks later, Alexander played in his first tournament at Mt. Albert and won six of his seven games to take out D Grade. He was safely hooked!

The rest, as they say is history.

It is taking that first step into club Scrabble that we as an Association need to facilitate. As I wrote in the last issue, we are very keen to get a taskforce together to trial a few things next year to get more young people involved. Glad to say Alexander has put his hand up to assist. Watch this space!



***Woop Woop! Alexander wins D grade at the March 2022 Mt. Albert Tournament - with Liz Fagerlund***

## Tournament Calendar 2024

Tournament	Location	Dates
Nelson	Nelson	17-18 Feb
Rotorua	Rotorua	2-3 Mar
*Masters	Christchurch	29-31 Mar
Dunedin	Dunedin	13-14 Apr
Christchurch	Christchurch	4-5 May
Mt. Albert	Auckland	18-19 May
Nationals	Wellington	1-3 June
Whangarei	Whangarei	6-7 July
Kiwi	Hamilton	3-4 August
Tauranga	Tauranga	24-25 Aug
Christchurch	Christchurch	7-8 September
Mt Albert	Auckland	5-6 October
Dunedin	Queenstown	19-20 October
Whanganui	Whanganui	26-27 Oct
*Trans-Tasman	Auckland	15-17 Nov
Dunedin	Otago	30 Nov – 1 Dec
* Limited entry		



# The HANTING meaning of TANGHIN

*by Jennifer Smith, Kiwi Scrabblers*



*Parts of the  
TANGHIN plant*

I chickened out of playing HANTING at the Whanganui Tournament. However, I discovered later that it would have been okay (it means haunting).

innocent, and led a charmed life thereafter.

If you didn't vomit at all, of course you died from the poison.

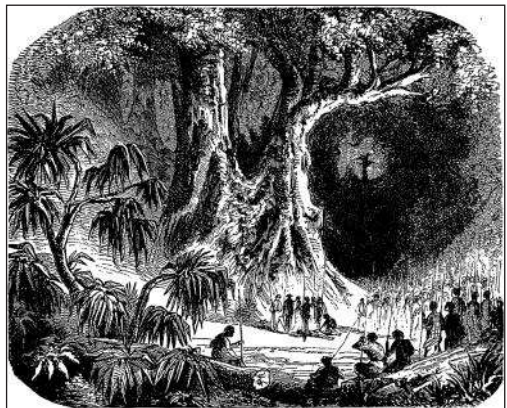
And if you had a partial vomit, only vomiting up one or two pieces of skin? . . . Well, then, you were put to death by being buried alive.

That practice just may have been considered barbaric, because in later times, the practice was modified, and the poison was only used on the dogs belonging to both accuser and accused. Whoever's dog died was deemed to be guilty. (Oh yes, much more humane! And it certainly would have discouraged people from accusing somebody of something!)

HANTING is an anagram of TANGHIN, which has one of the weirdest meanings ever. It's a poison made from the kernel of the TANGHIN nut from a TANGHIN tree in Madagascar.

Historically, the poison was used to test the guilt of someone suspected of a crime like murder. The kernel was ground up and mixed with water and a bit of banana juice. The accused was forced to swallow three pieces of chicken skin (each about an inch square) whole, and then made to drink the poison, followed by copious amounts of rice water or a flour soup to induce vomiting.

If you vomited up all three pieces of skin, you were deemed to be



*A 19th century artist's depiction of a trial using  
TANGHIN*

# Golden Bay Primary Schools Tournament

*by Murray Rogers, Independent*

This year I worked with two primary schools, Takaka Primary and Motupipi almost weekly from about midyear. I also worked with Collingwood Area School for a two-hour session at the beginning of November. I stressed four points during the lessons which I wrote on a large whiteboard with a big 'do not erase' sign. These were :

1. Power tiles on power spots.
2. Front or back hooks making an additional perpendicular word.
3. Playing a word that also makes one or more two-letter words.
4. Knowing when to save or use 'S' and blank tiles, and to use them wisely.

I also wrote all the two-letter words on the whiteboard, plus every J, Q, X, and Z three-letter words, for easy reference during the sessions. Near the end of the year I asked the students to write the four points on a piece of paper to take with them. I figured this would be easier to retain, as opposed to a handout.

On Thursday the 16th of November the three primary schools



*Murray Rogers and a helper watch on during the Primary Schools Tournament*

participated in the tournament. There were seven students from Motupipi, four from Takaka, and six from Collingwood, plus one homeschooler. I reached out to the homeschool community because there are so many in Golden Bay, some of whom I worked with in the past, and I wanted to give them the opportunity to participate. There were 18 students in total which was perfect, so I created three grades of six based on ability, with a maximum of three from one school per grade. This enabled everyone to always play someone from a different school.

Having run the primary schools' tournament six times previously, with Motupipi easily dominating every year, it was refreshing to have a complete turnaround with



*The kids at play*





*Murray Rogers with the tournament winners:  
L-R: Oakie (A Grade winner), Niko (B grade winner),  
Otis (C grade winner), Jamie (A Grade 2nd),  
Aleera (B grade 2nd), Marley, (C grade 2nd)*

Takaka winning 10.5 of 12 games with just four players. Two were first in their grade and two came second. Collingwood had one student come first and one come second, and Motupipi did not place. There were some very close games with two draws and three games, each decided by one, two, and three points. Again, I used the system whereby the first successful challenge was taken off the board and given another go but the second successful challenge resulted in a lost turn. The youngest player was year 3, the rest were years 5 and 6.

There were no bingos this year but there were a number of seven-letter words played including AVOCADO with the second 'O' already on the board. OTARINE was played through an existing 'A'. She had the 'A' on her rack but couldn't get all seven letters down. I was chuffed to see this play as I had stressed remembering the most common combination of seven letters the previous few weeks -

AEINORT. One player played the four-letter f word (naughty boy!) followed shortly after by ER on the end (naughtier boy!) and finally an 'S' back hook on EX extending to SEX (naughtiest boy!). Just about everyone came to have a look at it, thanks to someone's prompting. At least they got a momentary kick from it,

then back to more serious activity.

There were three parent helpers who helped check the challenges and ensure the scores matched. It seemed that all the participants enjoyed the experience. The teacher from Takaka Primary said that her students were ecstatic upon returning to school later that day.



*Oakie, the overall winner from Collingwood, receiving her certificate*

# Why I Can Anagram

*by Selena Chan, Christchurch*



*Selena Chan*

I am sure many of you are indulging in the daily 'Hard Word' which became available recently on the [stuff.co.nz](https://stuff.co.nz) website. You are

provided with a collection of letters, a definition as a clue, and given a minute to solve the word. Generally, the word has at least seven letters, with most between nine to 12 letters in length. I have dipped into the puzzle most days and met with success.

So why are scrabblers able to complete this puzzle? The short one found in *The Press* is even easier, as it is mostly five to six letters long. Basically, a glance at the scrambled letters and voila, solutions pop into my head! Twenty years of playing scrabble has contributed to this ability, which some of my colleagues find perplexing. What is this skill founded on?

Anagramming skills draw on a whole host of cognitive skills honed through deliberate practice. (for summary of deliberate practice see - <https://jamesclear.com/deliberate-practice-theory> and *Forwards* issues 121 *Summer 2015* and 138 *Winter 2020*).

Deliberate practice helps us extend our vocabulary, so that we know what a word looks like when we 'see' it.

Repetitive anagramming practice using Zyzyva or similar, means our pattern recognition of how words are structured, becomes intuitive. Through juggling letter combinations continually in our heads and on the scrabble rack, our brains acquire some cognitive flexibility or fluidity to 'see beyond the dross' and to proceed to identify likely words. This is especially important in scrabble, as unlike the 'Hard Word' puzzle, the letters on our rack (and associated letters on the board) may not actually make a viable word. Plus, there is no 'definition' or clue as to the word.

Deliberate practice also means that we attain the insight required to 'see' a word and are able to creatively work with a rack, to spot unusual letter combinations. Some of the most conscientious of us may have memorised word lists and these add to our vocabulary. Exposure to the thousands of words in the scrabble dictionary, help our brain discern patterns and in turn avails the opportunity for our brain to go 'ah ha' as the most likely pattern appears in our mind's eye. Some may think that it is a miraculous skill but even the most gifted anagrammer, still needs to have put some hard yards in before they can instantly unravel a jumble of letters into valid words.

For newer scrabble players, some tips towards becoming an expert anagrammer include:

- Building a strong vocabulary. In scrabble, this may entail studying word lists.
- Practicing anagramming by drawing five, six, seven or eight tiles and working out as many words as possible from each draw. Use a dictionary or an anagramming programme to check the possibilities (e.g. Zyzzyva or <https://www.anagrammer.com/scrabble/>)
- Always try your very best to find an anagram (e.g. the one in 'Hard Word') and only check when possibilities are exhausted. You need to stretch your expertise to be able to get over the mental threshold into skilled practice.
- Understanding word patterns, breaking words up into syllables or being familiar with letter groupings and then shuffling letters on your rack, to turn up the right combinations that trigger your memory of likely words.
- Setting yourself challenges or goals as - in completing anagram puzzles daily. Practicing anagramming through playing scrabble may be insufficient practice volume when compared to being able to cycle through dozens in a few minutes. There are some anagram games online

which may be useful for this, but I use Zyzzyva's quiz function.

Also see *Forwards* issue 133 Summer 2018 for a more academic discussion on improving your anagramming skills. In summary, approach the learning as a game and enjoy it as you become a better anagrammer.

### More Christmas Anagrams:



C A N  
A S S A U L T  
(2)

S T R E A K Y  
R O U T  
(2)

A S C E N  
D A N C Y  
(2)

S E R P E N T S

I T E M  
S T O L E

C O O R D I  
N A T E S

Answers (including cover anagrams)  
on page 45.

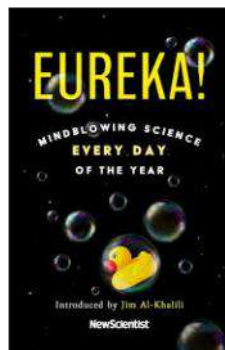
# Eureka

*by Mike Currie, Mt. Albert*

*This article is inspired by the book (H)EUREKA ! Mind-blowing science every day of the year. Introduced by Jim Al-Khalili. New Scientist.*

*What would happen if you jumped into a pool of jelly?  
Do happy people get ill less? Why is the sea blue?  
Why do boomerangs come back? Do spiders drink water?  
Do doctors live longer?*

From January to December, one thought-provoking question is answered each day (without jokes.) Here are ten of them, rehashed for scrabblers and punsters.



## Why don't bats get dizzy?

Although bats, like us, have OTOLITH organs which help orientation and cause dizziness when upset, their SACCULE is slightly rotated forwards and their UTRICLE, which is part of the balancing system in the vestibule, is more sensitive to horizontal acceleration. They also keep their heads perfectly straight when flying. Moreover, when we hang upside down, the force of gravity causes all the blood in our bodies, between eight to 12 pints, to start to rush to our heads, giving us that dizzy and lightheaded feeling. Bats, on the other hand, are tiny compared to humans, and small enough that gravity does not affect how blood flows through their bodies. Except for BATMAN.

## Are rainbows always multicoloured?

In rainbows, each water drop forms its own diffraction pattern, depending on its size, thus creating the seven colours of the rainbow. The smaller the drop, the broader the bands. However, when the drops are small enough, these bands become so broad that all the colours overlap, mixing them all together to make white in what is known as a FOGBOW. A MOONBOW is an optical phenomenon caused when the light from the moon is refracted through water droplets in the air. A SUNBOW is an arch resembling a rainbow made by the sun shining through vapor or mist. And if you ever wondered how heavy a rainbow is, it's actually pretty light.

## How big is the internet?

A good estimate floating around is 1 YOTTABYTE or a trillion TERABYTES. Yet this figure dates from 2014 and it's probably safe to assume it's considerably more than that now. Incidentally, a YOTTABYTE is 1,000 ZETABYTES. A KIBIBYTE is equal to 1024 BYTES. A PEBIBYTE is equivalent to 250 BYTES and a PETABYTE is equal to two to the 50th power of BYTES.

Ever feel you BYTE off more than you can chew?

## How do flowers drink water?

Water is drawn through VASCULAR structures, known as XYLEMS, which act like straws. On a hot day a full-grown birch or SYCAMORE can draw upwards of 500 litres from the ground, about the same amount as is held in a standard paddling pool. Suck it up.

## Why do dogs have black noses?



***BASENJI***

Most dogs have black noses, including the Alaskan MALAMUTE, the BASENJI and BORZOI.

Dogs have black noses as a protection against sunburn. While the rest of the dog's body is protected by fur, light-coloured noses are exposed to the sun. However, VIZSLAS have red noses, matching their coats. It is

not unusual for puppies of any breed to start out with pink noses that then darken in maturity, but some dogs have pink noses all their lives when they have two recessive ALLELES, a genetic mutation known as \*Dudley-nosed.

My dog has no nose. How does he smell?

Terrible.

## Why do raspberries have little hairs?

The hairs on raspberries are the remains of the female parts of the raspberry flower which have not fallen away. In the flower, the female hair-like styles are collected in the centre with the male ANTHERS arranged around the edge. Each style, topped by a STIGMA, is connected to an ovary, forming a PISTIL. Each ovary swells to produce a segment of the final fruit. Each of these segments is known as a DRUPELET and a raspberry is a DRUPE, a collection of these segments, rather than a berry.



***Raspberries (DRUPES) are made up of DRUPELETS***

What makes a bathroom fit for a Prince?

A raspberry bidet.



## Why do we have fat?

Our fat is stored in our ADIPOSE/ ADIPOUS tissue. It has ENDOCRINE (gland-related) functions, both metabolic and reproductive. Aboriginal peoples in hot climates with intermittent food supplies tend to carry fat on the belly or buttocks, just as camels store fat on their backs. Baby fat counters hypothermia whereas adults' love handles are for reproduction, hard times and famine. In that case I am ready for famine.

## Why do planes have round windows?

The windows on aircraft are small and round and set low in the FUSELAGE for safety. Otherwise, the AIRFRAME will weaken under pressure. Will invisible airplanes ever be a thing? I don't know. I just can't see them taking off.

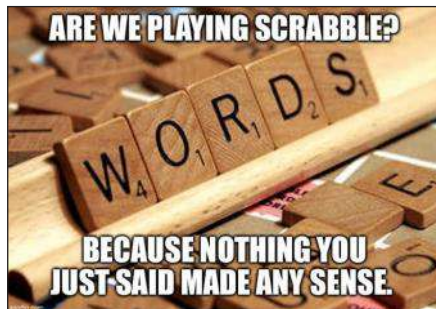
## Are green potatoes poisonous?



*Green potatoes contain toxic SOLANINE*

The green colouring of a potato is, in fact, harmless chlorophyll, but it acts as a warning that the potato has elevated levels of SOLANINE, a

poisonous steroid GLYCOSIDE of the SAPONIN group. It gives it a bitter taste causing dry mouth, thirst, palpitations or even delirium,



hallucinations or paralysis. Throw it away. Mum was right.

Who is the most powerful potato?  
Darth Tater.

What's a potato's favourite TV show?  
Starch Trek.

Why do potatoes make good detectives?  
Because they keep their eyes peeled.

## Why are pears pear-shaped?

Apples, pears, MEDLARS and QUINCES are known as POMES. The fleshy part of the POME grows from tissue between the stem and the CARPELS, the female reproductive part of the flower. Plant hormones, known as AUXINS, guide growth and shape. Some speculate a longer neck made pears less likely to drop prematurely or seed-dispersing birds were able to carry the necked fruit over longer distances.

Why didn't the pear and the banana get married?

Because fruit cantaloupe.

# This and that: THISNESS and THATNESS

**by Jennifer Smith, Kiwi Scrabblers**

I discovered the word THATNESS recently. What a weird word, I thought, not just because of its meaning (the quality of being a definite thing), but because I was none the wiser after learning its meaning!

It sent me off on a search for similar words among the 4180 -NESS words.

THUS, HERE and THERE, I found THIS word and THAT word. I never knew WHAT THING I would find NEXT, or WHERE! I found at a least a dozen OTHER SUCH words, ALL with the same weirdness and non-usefulness and nebulousNESS of meaning:

THUSNESS  
HERENESS and THERENESS  
THISNESS and THATNESS  
WHATNESS and THINGNESS  
NEXTNESS  
WERENESS  
ALLNESS and OTHERNESS  
SUCHNESS

My highly cynical and critical brain said, "This is ridiculous - how the hell would you use any of those in a sentence?"

The universe has a way of answering that sort of cynicism. Less than two hours later I was reading a book (*The Bee Sting* by Paul Murray), and came

across a perfect example of THERENESS in a sentence, and it made wonderful sense!

*"Sometimes after he drank a couple of beers, he'd come out with crazy ideas. For instance: if a dog's sense of smell was fifty thousand times more powerful than human's, that meant that instead of humans' binary perception of There/Gone, dogs must have a spectrum of THERENESS. Like, say you're here, then you go out. To me, you're gone. But to a dog you are still mostly here, because your smell lingers much longer, and that's their strongest sense."*

Wow, WOW, WOW!!

The first wow for finding one of the words in some prose.

The second wow for finding it coincidentally, such a short time after discovering the word.

And the third wow for the interesting dog theory itself.

*Perhaps Forwards should have a competition for the best sentence containing one of the words I've mentioned. This would be my entry: After four hours of holding the line when I rang Telecom, I was delighted to be told that my NEXTNESS in the queue was now only 73rd.*

*Ed: send those entries in.*

# MODERATO CANTABILE: Italian loan words

*by Mike Currie, Mt. Albert*

Having written articles in other editions on Yiddish loan words (The Schlong and Short of it), French loan words (Aperitif, monsieur) and Spanish loan words (Chorizo con cerveza), I thought I'd explore the rich lexicon of Italian words which have permeated our language. You've probably heard of most of them, maybe played a handful of them. Part of the fun of playing Scrabble is finding out what words mean and part of the fun of learning a language is finding out what words literally mean in the home language. MALARIA for example comes from the Italian for 'bad air', the unwholesome atmosphere caused by the exhalations of marshes, to which the disease was formerly attributed. QUARANTINE comes from the Italian for forty. Ships arriving in Venice from ports infected with The Black Death, were required to sit at anchor for 40 days before landing.

Vivaldi, Puccini, Verdi, Scarlatti, Rossini and Corelli. Chances are if he ends in an 'i' he's probably Italian. Most Italian loan words are from music. Instruments like PIANO (quiet) or PICCOLO (small), OBOE, OCARINA (little goose) or CELESTA (heavenly). OBO(E) actually comes from the French HAUT BOIS (high



wood) and amazingly HAUTBOIS is acceptable. Also, the Italians know how music should be played- MODERATO (moderately), CANTABILE (SONGLIKE), ADAGIO(S) (slowly), ALLEGRO(S) (fast),

ANDANTE(S) (moderately slowly - literally 'walking'), PRESTO(S) (quickly), LARGO(S) (slowly and dignified). As these are all TEMPOS then a piece of music played at this speed also adopts this name and hence pluralises as a noun. Mahler regularly included ADAGIOS in his symphonies (but he wasn't Italian). For some reason, maybe because they are Italian, none of them take an -ES so \*LARGOES is undignified.

Curiously, some musical terms are gender sensitive. A female opera star is a DIVA but who uses DIVO? A good performance elicits BRAVO but for a female we should shout BRAVA!



*CELESTA*

Unsurprisingly, a **CASTRATO**, a male singer castrated in boyhood so as to retain a **SOPRANO** or **ALTO** voice, has no feminine form but does pluralise (**CASTRATI**.)

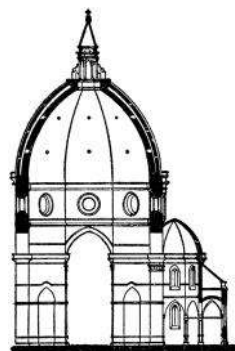
Other interesting Italian musical terms for scrabblers are **OSTINATO** (a motif that repeats persistently - literally 'obstinate'- with the plural form **OSTINATI**); **CADENZA** (an improvisation by a soloist **VIRTUOSO**/A in a stylistic **BRAVURA**); a **CONTINUO** (in **BAROQUE** music, a continuous accompanying part that includes a bassline and harmonies); **DUET**, **DUETTO** and **DUETTINO**; **LEGATO(S)** (a smooth, slurred connection between musical notes - literally 'tied together'); and **TREMOLO** (or trembling effect.)

**SONATA** may come in handy with a pair of A's, **CONCERTO**, **CONCERTI** and **TOCCATA** with a pair of C's, **FALSETTO**, **CORNETTO** and **CANTATA** with a pair of T's and **SOPRANO** with a pair of O's.

In one of my articles on diminutives I mentioned these pint-sized musical expressions Italian has endowed us with:

**CONCERTINO** (a little concerto), **ANDANTINO** (a little slower i.e. quicker than **ANDANTE** or 'walking'), **DUETTINO** (an unpretentious duet), **TENORINO** (a midget male opera singer?) An **OTTAVINO** is not eight glasses of wine but a miniature virginal, a sort of harpsichord, pitched

one octave higher than its larger version. Val Mills once played **PIANINO** against me. In the triple lane of all places. A miniature piano. A mute for an instrument can also be called a **SORDINO**, literally 'slightly muffled or deaf.'



***DUOMO with a CUPOLA***

Italian has also donated a plethora of artistic and architectural terms. A **CUPOLA** is a huge dome like the one at the **DUOMO** (cathedral) in **FLORENCE**. **VILLAS**, **PATIOS**, **PERGOLAS** and **VERANDAS** are all Italian. **FRESCO**, meaning "cool" or "fresh," describes the fast technique required of fresco painting before it dries in the Mediterranean sun. (Dining **ALFRESCO** is also fine.)

**GESSO** is a white ground of plaster, used especially in the Renaissance to prepare panels or canvas for painting or gilding. Unusually, this one pluralises with an 'E'. Hence **GESOES** and **GESOED**.

**IMPASTO** is the process of laying on paint or pigment thickly so that it stands out from a surface. An **INTAGLIO** is a design incised or engraved into a material. If you've ever watched *The Life of Brian*, you'll know the Romans were no strangers



to (S)GRAFFITI (or (S)GRAFFITO in the singular.) To prove himself worthy to be a member of the group, Brian has to daub the anti-Roman slogan "Romans go home" on the walls of Pontius Pilate's palace written in Latin for the Romans to read. He has just completed the phrase '*Romanes eunt domus*' when he is caught by a centurion (John Cleese), who twists his ear and promptly corrects his grammar. If you're online you can watch it here- <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=191415088453747>



In fact, most Roman GRAFFITI took the form of phallic images or EROTICA rather than political slogans. The wealth of artistic terms should come as no surprise considering Italy gave us Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Raphael, Donatello, Botticelli and Caravaggio. Caravaggio regularly used the effect of contrasting light and shadow known as CHIAROSCURO (literally 'bright/dark') but you'd be hard pushed to squeeze that on a Scrabble board.

Italian is also the language of poetry. Dante's Divine Comedy consists of 100 CANTOS, which are grouped together into three sections, or CANTICLES: INFERNO, Purgatorio, and Paradiso. Dante also established

the SESTINA (from the high probability stem) which is a complex verse form, usually unrhymed, consisting of six STANZAS of six lines each and a three-line ENVOI. Boccaccio's Decameron, which was said to influence Chaucer's Canterbury tales, was the first poem to be written in OTTAVA RIMA, consisting of eight IAMBIC lines, related to the CANZONE. Petrarch was writing SONNETS two hundred years before Shakespeare.

Italian food is world renowned. LASAGNE, RAVIOLI, POLENTA, RISOTTO, SALAMI and SCAMPI were all born here. All pastas are pluralised - TORTELLINI (little pies); CANNELLINI (small tubes); CAPELLINI (fine hair) - and like LANGOSTINO

or MARASCHINO cherries, a bit too long for the Scrabble board. FUSILLI (spindles) and GNOCCHI (knots in wood) would fit though.



*Ariel's BABYCINO*

I'd feel warm and fuzzy if I could play BABYCINO (a fluffy or frothed-up hot milk) or even CLOPPINO, an Italian stew whose ingredients are 'chopped into small pieces'. Breads, like pastas, pluralise- CROSTINO/CROSTINI; PANINO/PANINI; GRISSINO/GRISSINI- as does PECORINO/PECORINI, a cheese made from ewe's milk.





***SPUMONE/  
SPUMONI***

\*Pecora is 'sheep' in Italian. Hence PECORINO- little sheep or lamb. If you like ice cream, GELATO, GELATOS, GELATI and GELATIS are all acceptable.

SPUMONI/E is ice cream in layers of different colours and flavours often with candied fruits and nuts. If you like VINO, CHIANTI, MOSCATO and FRASCATI are fine. Or something stronger like SAMBUCA, VERMOUTH, MARTINI or GRAPPA (but not \*CAMPARI). BOLOGNA is a sausage. CALZONE is a folded PIZZA. CIABATTA has three A's and is a crusty bread (literally 'slipper' because its flattened oval form resembles a well-worn slipper.)

Italian has seeped into our landscape. While you will be familiar with LAGOON, MARINA, LIDO and RIVIERA, perhaps LITTORAL

(coastline) is new or SIROCCO (a Mediterranean wind.)

The Godfather came from Sicily and gave us MAFIA, MAFIOSO, Robert de Niro, VENDETTA and OMERTA(S), a code of silence about criminal activity and a refusal to give evidence to the police. Mussolini, Machiavelli and Berlusconi were all Italian and so we acquired MANIFESTO (literally 'poster') and POLITICO (a politician.) Italian has even permeated games and sports. If you have a FIANCHETTO (little flank) bishop in chess, it commands a long diagonal behind a knight's pawn, usually in front of the castled king. In Italian, CATENACCIO means 'door-bolt', which implies a highly organised and effective backline defence in soccer.

So in short, the influence of Italian can be witnessed in fields as diverse as music, art, architecture, poetry, food, alcohol, our landscape, their mafia and games and sports. Truly tremendous. CAPISCE?



***A LITTORAL LIDO***

# Hall of Fame

*by Jennifer Smith, Kiwi Scrabblers*

Hallo. Allow me to introduce myself: Antoon van Dyck, born in Antwerp in the Netherlands in 1599, the seventh of twelve children. My father was a silk merchant, and my mother an embroiderer.

I'm sure you will have heard of me, because I made a name for myself as a painter from a very young age. In fact, I was a successful independent painter even while studying the Italian masters in my late teens.

The famous Rubens offered me the opportunity to join his studio, and a chance to work with him as an assistant-cum-collaborator. And so I continued to develop my skills, adopting lush, vibrant colours, and a talent for portraiture. As a friend of Rubens, I moved in his social (ie. noble!) circle. Because of my parents, I liked to dress and behave in a distinguished manner, wearing silks (of course!), as well as hats with feathers and brooches and gold chains across my chest, and I was always accompanied by servants. All this almost automatically gave me the connections to become a world-class artist.

In 1621, I received an invitation to visit the court of King James I in England, where I spent a few months, before further developing my portraiture craft in Italy for another six years - in



*Probably the most famous painting of Charles I (Three aspects)*

Genoa, I developed a full-length portrait style. I returned to Flanders, once again established a thriving studio in Antwerp, and I don't think it's immodest to say I became a worthy adversary of Rubens.

I was very charming to my patrons, and, like Rubens, was well able to mix in aristocratic and court circles, which added to my ability to obtain commissions. By 1630, I was the court painter of the Habsburg Governor of Flanders, the Archduchess Isabella. In this period I also produced many religious works, including large altarpieces, and began printmaking.

But I'm best known for my paintings of the aristocracy, most notably . . .

In April 1632, I was invited by Charles I of England to be England's leading

court painter. (King Charles was the most passionate collector of art and saw painting as a way of promoting his exalted view of the monarchy.) I was taken under the wing of the court immediately, and in July, the king not only knighted me, but granted me a comfortable pension of £200 a year as “principalle Paynter in ordinary to their majesties”. That equates to about \$US47,850 of today’s money - I imagine that would be very acceptable even to a 21st century artist, would it not? Portraiture in England during the eighteenth century was highly profitable even for artists not painting the royal family.

King Charles was very short, less than 5 feet (1.5 m) tall – I imagine you didn’t know that, did you? His lack of height presented challenges to a portrait artist, and the fact that people don’t realise how small he was is testament to my skill. I portrayed him mounted on his horse looking down at the viewer; beside his horse, but with the horse’s head lowered; seated, with his wife or one of his children, etc. However, unlike earlier painters, I refrained from drastically altering his or anyone else’s appearance to flatter them.

I painted large numbers of portraits of the King and Queen, as well as their children. Many portraits were done in several versions, to be sent as diplomatic gifts or given to supporters of the increasingly embattled king. Altogether, I probably painted forty portraits of King Charles himself, as

well as about thirty of the Queen (Henrietta Maria), many of his children, and countless other courtiers. The King and Queen frequently visited my studio – they hardly sat for another painter while I lived.



*Portrait of Mary,  
daughter of Charles  
I with her husband  
the Prince of Orange,  
1641*

For the rest of my life, I travelled and studied in Italy, but I frequently returned to England because that was the epicentre of my career. Towards the end of my life, working in England became increasingly difficult due to the continuing political turmoil – the conflict made my life uncertain, as I relied heavily on the aristocrats as a source of income. By the time I returned to England for the last time, I was seriously ill. I died on 9 December 1641, just a week after the birth of my only legitimate child, Justiniana, and – sadly - on the day she was baptised.

Despite my being Catholic, the king erected a tomb for me in St. Paul’s (Anglican) Cathedral in London. I was honoured by this indication of how well the King regarded me. I like to think my contributions to English art left an impression in British art up until

the twentieth century and perhaps beyond. Unfortunately, the Great Fire of London of 1666 destroyed my final resting place, but I am included in a memorial that was installed in the new cathedral in 1913.

When I was knighted, I had changed my name to the anglicised Anthony Vandyke. And that was the name used for my eponyms. I chose what my sitters wore to emphasise their wealth, social status and regalness. In fact, I was one of the first to dress my sitters so romantically. (I thank my parents for this sense of fashion.) Much later, the garments worn by my models inspired the name of the VANDYKE collar, "a wide collar across the shoulders edged copiously with lace". Many later portraits show VANDYKE handkerchiefs, Gainsborough's *The Blue Boy* wears a VANDYKE outfit, and in George III's time, VANDYKE fancy-dress costumes were popular.

I'm delighted that my stylistic choice influenced not only the genre of



*David Beckham  
sporting a VANDYKE  
beard*

portraiture (with detailed hands, long fingers and distinct features), but that I was also an influencer of appearance and fashion! And not just because of my portraits!

I would even describe myself as a "fashionista". I wore simple, loose-fitting clothing that was stylish but not overly flashy. My most significant look that is still on-trend today is my famous shapely pointed and trimmed goatee, or mustache and beard combo. This look, so fondly referred to as the VANDYKE, is still seen today on various male celebrities and other men across the world.



*Portrait of Charles  
Cavendish (1620-1643),  
officer in the Royalist  
army wearing a later-  
named VANDYKE collar*

A confusing number of different pigments used in painting have been called "VANDYKE brown" - some predate me, and art experts today are still not sure if I used any of them. VANDYKE brown is an early photographic printing process using the same colour.

The word VANDYKE can be extended to verbs and adjectives: VANDYKE means to notch or zigzag; VANDYKED and VANDYKING describe the pointed zigzaggy pattern demonstrated on the VANDYKE collars. Remember me when you any of these words.

# Twenty Years Ago in *Forwards*

From *Forwards* edition 73, December 2003.

L<sub>1</sub>

Here's an interesting poem for a set of six letter words. Most words contain at least two or more of the startling letter (except the Q and X where knowing your doubles becomes less useful). I hope to play one of these words next time I have a rack of double ups!

Page 6

## Six Appeal

A	is for	ARMADA	galleons at sea
B	is for	BAOBAB	an African tree
C	is for	COCCYX	the base of the back
D	is for	DODDED	thrown down with a thwack
E	is for	ETERNE	that ever withstands
F	is for	FEOFFS	some old feudal lands
G	is for	GIGGIT	to rush and not fall
H	is for	HIGHTH	a measure of tall
I	is for	IRITIC	of eyes dully shallow
J	is for	JEJUNE	so youthfully callow
K	is for	KULAKI	peasants with wealth
L	is for	LYFULL	in very good health
M	is for	MOMISM	dependence on Mother
N	is for	NANKIN	some cotton or other
O	is for	OOLONG	black dragon tea
P	is for	PIPPIN	as nice as can be
Q	is for	QUAIGH	a Scots cup for liquor
R	is for	RORTER	a fraudster or tricker
S	is for	SOSSES	dishfuls of slop
T	is for	TITTUP	to skippity-hop
U	is for	URUBUS	vultures in flocks
V	is for	VIVARY	a glass-sided box
W	is for	WOWSER	who drinks lemonade
X	is for	XYSTOS	a tree-lined parade
Y	is for	YOWLEY	the yellowhammer bird
Z	is for	ZIZZLE	a rare Scrabble word!

by Jaffer Gentry



armada



baobab



oolong



urubus



# In the News

## Words of the Year

### Language

## Hallucinate, AI, authenticity: dictionaries' words of the year make our biggest fears clear

In a world of chatbots and influencers, Merriam-Webster, Cambridge and Collins are in rare agreement

**Matthew Cantor** in Los Angeles

 @CantorMatthew

Tue 5 Dec 2023 21:52 GMT

A *Guardian* article on words of the year. <https://amp.theguardian.com/science/2023/dec/05/dictionaries-word-of-the-year-merriam-webster-cambridge-oxford>

In short:

Miriam Webster – Authentic

Oxford - \*Rizz

Cambridge – Hallucinate

Read the article to find out the sense in which these words are being used.

.....

POP CULTURE November 9, 2023

## Ten easy steps to get really good at Scrabble



Alex Casey  
Senior writer

 Share Story

And from Alex Casey: An article in *The Spinoff*

[https://thespinoff.co.nz/pop-culture/09-11-2023/ten-easy-steps-to-get-really-good-at-scrabble?utm\\_source=spinoff-share-button&utm\\_medium=spinoff-web-mobile](https://thespinoff.co.nz/pop-culture/09-11-2023/ten-easy-steps-to-get-really-good-at-scrabble?utm_source=spinoff-share-button&utm_medium=spinoff-web-mobile)

# Bruh, what's a Fanum tax? Your guide to Gen Alpha slang

Jewel Topsfield

November 19, 2023, • 08:34am

An interesting article from *Stuff*:

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/technology/301011362/bruh-whats-a-fanum-tax-your-guide-to-gen-alpha-slang>

It all started with \*bruh.

Suddenly “\*bruh” was my ten year-old’s response to just about anything. It could be the verbal equivalent of an eye roll, or an interjection that meant anything from “wow” to “yay” to “d’uh!” to “seriously?”

Next he accused me of being “cringe” (my crime: gushing that something was “awesome”).

Then I was apparently “roasted” (jokingly mocked) in an argument.

A kid yelled out “Only in Ohio!” from a car window. I “searched it up” as my son would say (translation: I Googled it) and this seemed to be a meme about weird things that happen in Ohio, set to a hip-hop song by the cult rapper and internet personality Lil B.

My son’s friend started saying “\*rizz”, which he thought (but wasn’t sure) meant cool.

It was \*skibidi that bamboozled me. “Brr \*Skibidi dob dob dob yes yes!” my

son says on the walk to school.

“What does \*skibidi mean?” I asked. He showed me an animated YouTube series with a head popping out of a toilet and chanting \*skibidi a lot. “But what does \*skibidi mean?” I said.

“Muuuum,” he groaned. “It doesn’t mean anything.”

Feeling old? Welcome to the world of Generation Alpha, who are carving out their own linguistic identity and baffling older generations with their slang, sense of humour and memes.

Sydney-based social researcher Mark McCrindle first coined the term Gen Alpha to describe those born between about 2010 and 2024.

He says Gen Alphas, the oldest of whom are entering their teens, are developing a global slang informed by social media platforms such as TikTok and YouTube as well as cooperative video games.

“They are a multicultural generation, a globally connected one and one that is at an age where slang is always a key part of their code and their coming of age,” McCrindle says.

Gen Alpha slang burst into the zeitgeist last month after a song

parody was posted on TikTok, featuring a character from video game Fortnite dancing while a voice shrilled:

“Sticking out your \*gyat for the \*rizzler; You’re so \*skibidi; You’re so Fanum tax; I just wanna be your sigma; Freaking come here; Give me your Ohio ...”

Know Your Meme, an online encyclopedia documenting memes and other internet culture phenomena, said the song had gone viral for using a number of Gen Alpha and Gen Z slang terms – but not necessarily using them correctly.

“If you are over 18 this song may break your brain,” KnowYourMeme warned on TikTok.

Three Gen Alphas from Melbourne’s inner west – Mabel, Crystal and Pat – say the parody song is everywhere.

“It’s been on my For You page [on TikTok] for like two, three days or something, it wouldn’t go away,” says 13-year-old Pat.

They say they are familiar with many of the terms. A \*rizzler, they agree, is someone who is flirtatious, someone older generations might call a pick-up artist.

A \*gyat or \*gyatt is a “\*thicc” (slang for curvaceous) bottom. Is that a compliment? “Some people could use it as a compliment,” Crystal, 12, says. “My friends use it...in a joking way, they don’t personally name anyone.”

Pat says some of the lyrics in the slang parody song on TikTok, such as “You’re so \*skibidi; You’re so Fanum Tax” – don’t make a lot of sense. “It’s just a mash-up of really cringey catchphrases into one song.”

While a lot of young people say \*skibidi, he says, it’s not an actual word. It’s just a reference to a “really dumb” YouTube show.

Fanum tax is a gag referring to YouTube creator Fanum, who “taxes” people by stealing their food. Pat says the term was made popular by Kai Cenat, a personality on video live-streaming service Twitch.

“Pretty much when Kai Cenat streams his videos, Fanum would always come in and steal a lot of his food,” Pat says. “Fans just call it Fanum Tax.”

Suddenly, Gen Alpha slang is everywhere, with publications from Business Insider to The New York Times trying to define \*skibidi, \*gyat and Fanum tax.

I ask what other slang terms they use.

Mabel, 10, says \*bruh is used a lot by both boys and girls, with even preps and year ones “randomly” saying it. Pat says if his friend said something stupid like “Columbia and Cambodia are the same thing” he might respond with “bruh!” – adding though that the term is “really 2017-ish”.

Bet is another way of saying OK. Flex is to show off or boast. Sus, which

was used in the video game Among Us to denote someone suspected of being an impostor, refers to something or someone questionable.

“Everyone in my class says sus, even the teacher,” Mabel says. To roast is to make fun of someone. “A roast battle is where you are insulting each other,” Mabel says.

In August, The Wall Street Journal devoted almost 800 words to explaining \*rizz, a slang term used by Gen Alpha and Gen Z. If this is TL;DR (texting slang for too long; didn’t read), \*rizz is generally defined as short for charisma.

Every year the *Macquarie Dictionary* adds about 1000 new words – many of which originate from social media. To qualify, a new word must be firmly established in Australian English.

Managing editor Victoria Morgan says \*rizz was submitted by a member of the public at the beginning of the year and as of November 17 was in *Macquarie Dictionary Online*.

“\*Rizz did start overseas, but as it’s in such common use here now we do have to cover it,” Morgan says. “That’s one that was definitely popularised and did the rounds on TikTok.”

She will add Fanum tax and \*rizzler to the new word file for consideration. Morgan says it can be mortifying for her nephews to have an aunt who works at *Macquarie Dictionary*.

“I grilled one nephew on \*bussin after I heard him use it while out together in mid-2022, while I made the other demonstrate the latest dance in public,” Morgan says.

\*Bussin, an exclamation indicating appreciation and approval, went into the *Macquarie Dictionary* in October 2022. “They also gave me the phrase ‘fax, no printer’, which is similar to ‘no cap’,” Morgan says. “Fax, no printer” and “no cap” (which was added to the *Macquarie Dictionary* in late 2022) both mean no lies – that something is true.

“What we find with Generation Alpha is everything can be instantly shared and followed and everything is happening much quicker than it used to,” Morgan says.

“Now that \*rizz has crossed the rubicon and is in, automatically it’s going to become uncool with a certain generation. They will want to stop using it and they will move on to something else, but I can see \*rizz staying for a very long time.”

At the risk of expunging these terms from the Gen Alpha lexicon, here is an attempt to explain some of the meanings. (Some of these words are also used by Gen Z.) And don’t worry, I get it. There is only one word that adequately describes the horror of a Gen X journalist trying to \*mumsplain the slang used by Gen Alpha: \*CRIIINGE!

**Cringe:** When someone or something is extremely embarrassing or awkward. Also used by Gen Z, cringe is used as an adjective instead of a verb. Example: “That outfit is so cringe.”

**\*Rizz/\*Rizzler:** Rizz, which is short for charisma, was popularised by YouTuber Kai Cenat in 2021. The word was added to the Macquarie Dictionary in late September as both a noun (charisma) and verb (“to attract a partner, especially for a sexual encounter”). Rizzler is defined in Urban Dictionary – a crowdsourced online slang dictionary– as someone efficient at picking up women.

**Bet:** Shortened version of “you bet”. Means OK, for sure.

**\*Gyat or \*Gyatt:** Curvaceous bottom

**Noob:** Someone inexperienced, especially in computing or gaming.

**\*Bruh:** Shortened way of saying brother. A versatile interjection that can convey exasperation, excitement, embarrassment or surprise. It can be used by any gender.

**Fanum tax:** A term referring to popular YouTube creator Fanum “taxing” people by stealing their food.

**\*Dogwater:** A derogatory term for someone unskilled, especially at a video game. Also used outside gaming to denote something is “trash”.

**Sus:** Short for suspicious or suspect. Popularised by the video game Among Us, where players try to identify the imposter sabotaging their mission.

**Roast:** Playfully insult or tease

**\*Bussin:** An exclamation indicating appreciation that originated in African American Vernacular English and is widely used by Gen Alpha and Gen Z. Usually describes delicious food. It was added to the *Macquarie Dictionary* in October 2022.

**\*Skibidi:** Although often used by Gen Alpha, \*skibidi does not have an agreed meaning. The slang originated from a dance song by Russian rave band Little Big. A remix was used in the “Skibidi Toilet” YouTube shorts by channel DaFuq?!Boom!, which feature a head in a toilet singing the song.

**Drip:** Slang from Gen Z, meaning a trendy sense of style.

**Cap/No Cap:** Cap means to lie, while no cap is telling the truth. The terms, which originate from African American communities, were added to the *Macquarie Dictionary* in September 2022.

*Ed: Oh No? My nine year old granddaughter \*bruhed me the other day! Thank goodness I had just read this article...*



# Fun with Fruits

*by Jennifer Smith, Kiwi Scrabblers*

We hear a lot at the moment about caring for our planet, not wasting produce, etc, by choosing to buy fruits and vegetables that are ugly, misshapen, blemished or otherwise less perfect than what we've come to expect to buy in supermarkets. Or even ones that are past their "use-by" date.

I was inspired to write an article after I played FRUITS recently. (Now, there's a word that's past its "use-by" date!) It's an obsolete spelling of FRUITS - not quite how we're used to seeing it spelt. How many other "old" fruits appear in our word list?

The simple PRUNE can be disguised as PRUINE or PREWYN; and the APRICOT as ABRICOCK or APRICOCK. Various spelling are acceptable for fruits that are not quite so common in New Zealand, eg: the NAARTJE, NARTJIE, or NAARTJIE; the PAWPAW, PAPA or PAPAYA; and the LYCHEE, LICHEE, LICHI or LITCHI.



*NAARTJE/ NARTJIE,  
NAARTJIE*

I was disappointed that I couldn't find any others. However, I had some fun finding some words that could be an imperfect spelling of fruits we know. See if you can add anything to this tongue-in-cheek list:

PLUM - PLUMB  
APPLE - APPEL  
PEACH - PECH  
PEAR - PEARE  
LEMON -  
LEMAN or LIMEN  
GRAPE - GRAIP  
OLIVE - OLLAV  
MELON - MULLEN  
PERSIMMON - PSAMMON  
NECTARINE - NECTAREAN  
MANGO - MANGEAO  
ORANGE - ORANG  
MANDARIN - MANDARINE  
LIME - LYME  
CURRANT - CURRENT  
QUINCE - QUINZE  
CHERRY - CHIRRE



FIG - FEG (FEG = segment of orange to Australians, but that's how they reckon we pronounce FIG!)

Try them! Your opponent might not want to "swallow" them, and you'd get an extra five points for any FRUITS they don't like the look of!

# What I'm Reading

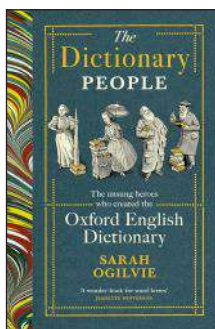
By Jan Rivers, Mt. Albert

(with a new lens since re-joining the Mt Albert Scrabble Club...) I had a dabble with the club when in the throes of career and family responsibilities without time to fully realise "The Joy of Scrabble".

As a retired librarian and voracious reader I have always had many titles on the go. For some, finding new Scrabble words is the only reason to read and my habit of referencing meanings as I go, now has added intent.

These titles set in Oxford might not be news to similarly inclined readers. Recent leisure reads for those with an etymological bent include:

**The Dictionary People: the unsung heroes who created the Oxford English Dictionary,**  
Ogilvie, Sarah, 2023



chapter on New Zealanders!

This \*Abcedary of contributors is definitely a dipper, not to be read in one bite. With short chapters about the many contributors it's a fascinating read and includes a

**The Bookbinder of Jericho,**  
Williams, Pip, 2023

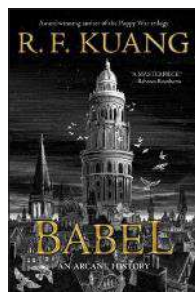
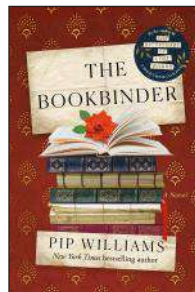
Sort of sequel to *The Dictionary of Lost Words*

by the same author, still in Oxford however this novel is backgrounded by the suffragists and World War One in England.

**Babel, or the Necessity of Violence: an arcane history of the Oxford Translators' Revolution,**  
Kuang, R. F. (Rebecca F.), 2022

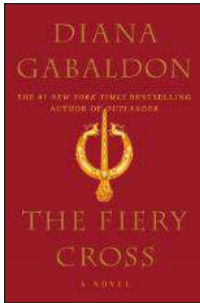
This novel is definitely a banquet not a dipper! I resisted the dense, footnoted novel with a fantasy label until I was seduced by *Yellowface*, Kuang's hilarious

contemporary satire of the publishing world. There are numerous reviews of *Babel* about, but if you are a fan of the Inklings, Rowling or Phillip Pullman and thought Oxford had been done, Kuang brings a deep scholarly background and demonstrates an inside knowledge of academia and student life from a fresh outsiders viewpoint. Add in subtle class and political commentary and a plot about translators harvested from the British Empire, and a parallel Victorian Oxford world becomes very credible.



## The Fiery Cross, Diana Galbadon

By Val Mills, Mt. Albert



So much for saying I was giving the Outlander books series a rest for a while. I was browsing in an op shop with Lynn Wood in Wellington and found the fifth book in the series,

*The Fiery Cross*, for sale. Two bucks for 900 pages so I had to buy it and hope Air New Zealand did not weigh my luggage on the way home.

I'm only halfway through it but already I seem to be looking up a word on most pages. Quite a few are not in our list!

Here's my collection so far:

- FLEAM - a lancet for bleeding horses
- CHINKAPIN - a tree
- STRAMASH - a racket
- BROSE - oatmeal
- PARRITCH - porridge
- KEEK - to peek or glance
- IPECAC - roots used a purgative. I was surprised that the two people I talked to about this word, knew it already. Judy Driscoll from her medical



*IPECAC  
syrup*

background and Dylan Early who immediately said 'Well it's the anagram of ICECAP.'

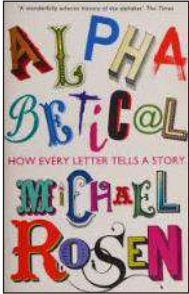


- UMBEL - a flower cluster
- HARDSCRABBLE - a great effort made in the face of great difficulties. Can you believe this word was actually in the book? It is the only allowable word I could find that contains the word Scrabble (apart from the 'Scrabble' words, if you know what I mean. )
- SLAINTE- Irish toast as in 'cheers!'. You can't 'S' it but I'm sure a lot of you have played it.
- CAROMED - to collide with and rebound. My parents had a carom board but I had no idea it was a verb. The disk certainly did a lot of colliding and rebounding and made a lot of noise!
- UILLEAN - pipes as in a type of bagpipe, and one way to get rid of a pile of bad tiles. Doesn't take an S but does take another N!
- CROWDY - a mixture of meal and water. Also CROWDIE
- UNSONSIE - unlucky. I've known SONSIE (SONSIE) and SONSIER for ages but had no idea what it meant and that you could UN it.

*More from this book if I manage to finish it before the next mag.*

## Alphabetical by Michael Rosen

By Jennifer Smith, Kiwi Scrabblers



I'm reading a really interesting book at the moment, *Alphabetical*, by Michael Rosen, which other scrabblers might enjoy.

It has a chapter for every letter of our alphabet, and is full of interesting bits and pieces about

alphabets, eg. Chinese doesn't have an alphabet, and Arabic doesn't have any vowels.

I found it particularly interesting that centuries ago, many noun plurals in our language were formed by adding -EN. Not many of these words remain now; the most common remnants still being used seem to be CHILDREN, MEN and WOMEN. I thought OXEN might be another. And I'm sure I've come across others (labelled as obsolete) in our list, eg. EYEN (eyes). Look out for them.

## Off the Rack

What scrabblers have been up to



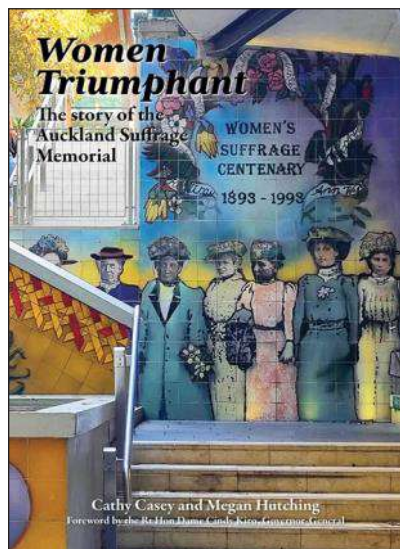
*Lawson Sue has been creating Thanksgiving masterpieces*

## Cathy Casey

Cathy has been writing again:

### Women Triumphant: The Story of the Auckland Suffrage Memorial

*By Cathy Casey and Megan Hutching*



2023 is the 130th anniversary of women's suffrage and 28 November is the 130th anniversary of the first general election in Aotearoa New Zealand when women voted.

Women Triumphant is the story of the Auckland Suffrage Memorial which pays homage to some of the local women who helped bring about that momentous change.

The memorial was designed and built in 1993 by artists Jan Morrison and Claudia Pond Eyley to commemorate 100 years of women's suffrage with

funding from the Suffrage Year Centennial Trust and the Auckland City Council.

Using 2000 hand-made ceramic tiles, the memorial is a colourful and contemplative space for women over four levels in Te Hā o Hine Place (formerly Khartoum Place) in central Auckland.

With the artists, Cathy and Megan Hutching tell the story of the memorial's creation and explain the meaning behind its beautiful imagery and symbolism.

We identify the local women on the memorial and celebrate the different ways they contributed to the goal of suffrage.

We also document the successful campaign by the women of Auckland and their representative organisations to retain and protect the memorial in its current location, in the face of two very public attempts to have it removed.

As Her Excellency The Governor General Cindy Kiro says in her Foreword, the story of the Auckland Suffrage Memorial " ... is a cautionary tale, and serves to remind us that the feminist project is ongoing, never completed, and cannot be taken for granted."

# Let's laugh away our stress with ANTS

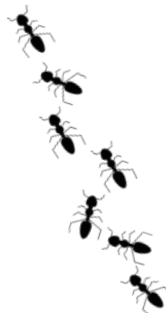
*Ed: Not sure where this came from but it appeared on my Facebook page from a friend of mine who happens to be German*

1. 5 ants + 5 ants = Tenants
2. To bring an ant from another country into your country - Important
3. Ant that goes to school - Brilliant
4. Ant that is looking for a job - Applicant
5. A spy ant - Informant
6. A very little ant - Infant
7. An ant that uses a gun - Militant
8. An ant that is a specialist - Consultant
9. A proud ant - Arrogant
10. An ant that is cruel and oppressive - Tyrant
11. An ant that is friendly and lovely - Coolant
12. An ant that has changed from evil to good deeds - Repentant
13. An ant that accumulated so much food in summer for use in winter - Abundant
14. An ant that isn't willing - Reluctant
15. An ant that keeps financial account - Accountant
16. An ant that occupies a flat - Occupant
17. A huge ant - Giant
18. An ant that is important - Significant





19. An ant that has big legs - Elephant
20. A sarcastic ant - Mordant
21. An extremely fast ant - Instant
22. A noisy ant - Rant
23. An ant that doesn't keep moving - Constant
24. A dirty ant - Pollutant
25. An ant that annoys - Irritant
26. An ant that lacks knowledge - Ignorant
27. An ant that can take anything without complaining - Tolerant
28. An ant that wastes resources - Extravagant
29. A very careful ant - Vigilant
30. An ant that maintains good odour - Deodorant
31. An ant that finds it hard to move - Adamant
32. An ant that refused to move - Redundant
33. An ant that is into business - Merchant
34. A Political ant - Aspirant
35. An ant that sues someone to court - Complainant
36. A happy ant - Jubilant
37. An ant that is patient - Tolerant
38. An ant that does not cooperate - Recalcitrant
39. An ant that doesn't agree easily - Reluctant
40. An ant that runs away from school unjustified - Truant



# Club News



## Tournament in Queenstown 15-16 October 2023

Three tournaments on three consecutive weekends. What had gotten into me? I've never indulged in a Scrab-fest like that before and the jewel in the crown was the middle weekend in Queenstown.

I arrived mid-afternoon on Friday, as did other entrants. So we made our way to the venue together which was all of a five minute car ride to the Wyndham Gardens in Queenstown. This hotel is close the Remarkables Shopping Centre and indeed the Remarkables themselves! Later that afternoon I walked back to the airport to meet Lynn Wood and that only took 20 minutes.

The tournament was run by the Dunedin Scrabble Club, in particular Ruth Groffman and her band of willing helpers.



*Walking back to the hotel from the shopping centre*

The room we stayed had a kitchen and laundry facilities so we could eat in or eat out as we pleased. But the absolutely best thing about it was that each morning we just had to take a lift down to the lobby to the room we were playing in. Numbers for this tourney were limited by the size of the playing room but it held 24 comfortably, and perhaps a few more.

I know that overseas, tournaments are often held in a hotel where you can also stay, but I had not experienced this before. I have to say, I really liked it.

The tournament ran smoothly and lots of chocolate was had for the spot prizes. Thanks to Ruth and her team for giving us the opportunity to play in such a fabulous place. I would love to go again.

## Mt Albert

Our October tournament had the "Ruby" theme this year to celebrate 40 years of tournaments, with lots of RED prizes and themed spot prizes. With committee members out of action by being overseas or dealing with health matters it came down to Liz Fagelund and myself to run the tournament. This made it clear just how useful it is to have other members in the club being able to step up in situations like this.

The kitchen was ably run by Merelyn Fuemana and in the end all club members helped however they could.

Speaking of Merelyn, our club's AGM was held on Monday 4th December, and she received the prize for attendance, having attended 42/43 nights. Mike Currie was the most improved player.

Liz Fagerlund is back on the committee as president, Julie Atkinson is our new treasurer and Helen Scott continues as our able and efficient secretary.

## **Radical Open Scrabble Tourney a Big Success**

*By Cathy Casey, NZASP President  
(and currently lurking between C and D grade)*

The Giant Round Robin in Whangarei this past weekend was a roaring success.

Congratulations to organiser Cicely Bruce and the Whangarei Scrabble Club for hosting the first (and longest) Open Scrabble tournament in New Zealand under competition rules. Twenty five scrabblers from all over the country played 30 games against each other over three days. Many thanks to Murray Landon who had to tweak his scrabble scoring programme to cope with 25 players at one grade level.

The tournament was a big success, with very high quality Scrabble which led to a tight finish between Chris Tallman and Lawson Sue to decide the winner (Chris won on spread). It was also hugely successful for building new friendships among the contestants. Players like me from lower grades got to play with scrabblers we would never normally have had the chance to play including Grand Masters like Lawson Sue, Liz Fagerlund, Cicely Bruce and Anderina McLean.

In NZASC tournaments we play in allocated grades. The open format allowed me to meet a wonderful bunch of new people from higher grades that I didn't really know very well. And what a lovely bunch they are. The tone was set on the first morning by Jennifer Smith who opened the tournament with a wonderfully funny poem that mentioned every player in the tournament.

Many people remarked that the mix really helped improve camaraderie and social bonding between players across all grades. All in all, the Open tourney was a lovely way to get to know people better and I think we are a closer-knit Scrabble family as a result.

It was an amazing educational opportunity for players from lower grades too. I learned lots from playing against higher grade scrabblers. I found out that just like we bottom dwellers, higher grade players can:

(i) Play phoney words.

(ii) Make mistakes and...

(iii) Get beaten!

Our friendly post-mortems at the end of each game allowed us a glimpse of others' successful (and unsuccessful) strategies.



*25 players competed at the Giant Round Robin in Whangarei*

I wasn't among the winners and didn't quite meet my expectancy, but I absolutely loved every game including the textbook thrashing I got by Lorraine Van Veen (which gave her 497 points and a spread of 223 points). Lorraine had three bingos: CORNIEST (68), GELATING (75), and TRIPODS (65).

One of the highlights of the tournament for me was making both Chris Tallman (the eventual winner), and Lawson Sue (the close second), sweat blood to scrape their wins over me. Both games went to the wire. Such fun.

Another highlight for me was playing with New Zealand's only blind Scrabble player, Olivia En. It was awe inspiring to watch Olivia play using her fingertips on specialised braille equipment. She is one of the top players in the country and she finished 9th in the Round Robin.

(I also remember it for being one of my 11 wins!)

So all in all, the Open tourney was hugely successful and enjoyed by all players. Thank you to all the entrants, especially those in lower grades who were initially nervous. Playing 30 games over three days is a hard slog and everyone who competed should be well proud of themselves.

Let's have more open tournaments. Who's next?

PS: A huge shout out to the Whangarei Scrabble Club Committee for providing the delicious buffet lunches.

# The Big Question

*by Jennifer Smith, Kiwi Scrabblers*

*Once upon a time, they used to ask questions like  
"Who killed Cock Robin?"*

*You will remember one of the responses:*

*"I," said the sparrow,  
"With my bow and arrow  
I killed Cock Robin."*

*Today, we are less interested in Cock Robin and  
more interested in the  
Round Robin, and we want to know who will win it.*

*I asked around, and here are the responses I got:*

Who'll win the Round Robin?

I, said Cicely,  
I'll win quite easily,  
I'll win the Round Robin.

Who'll win the Round Robin?

I, said Liz,  
I'm a Scrabble wiz;  
I, said Val,  
I use Zyzzyva \*cardbox well;  
But I, said Cathy,  
I'm wordy and \*mathy,  
I'll win the Round Robin.

Who'll win the Round Robin?

I, said Jennifer Smith,  
I will win forthwith!  
I, said Kim,  
My spread will be maximum;



*Jennifer Smith reciting 'The  
Big Question' at the Giant  
Round Robin tournament*



*Val Mills - 3rd*



*Liz Fagerlund - 4th*

I, said Alexander,  
My scores are much grander,  
I'll win the Round Robin.

Who'll win the Round Robin?  
Su (don't call me Susan!)  
Said, It's a foregone conclusion,  
I'll win the Round Robin;  
But McQ of the Whangarei Sues  
Said, I'm never going to lose,  
I reckon I'll win the Round Robin.

Who will win the Round Robin?  
I, said Margie Hurly,  
In all the hurly-burly,  
I'll win the Round Robin.  
I, said Bernie,  
I can win this tourney;  
I, said Anderina,  
In this Whangarei arena,  
I'll win the Round Robin;  
But I, said Lynn,  
Flew from Wellington to win -  
I'll win the Round Robin.

Who'll win the Round Robin?  
I, said Lawson,  
My play is always awesome,  
I, said Olivia,  
It's a well-known bit of trivia,  
That I always win Round Robins;  
I, said Mike C,  
I'll "Just do it!" like Nike,  
I'll win the Round Robin.



*Lynn Wood - 6th*



*Lawson Sue - 2nd*



Who'll win the Round Robin?  
I, said Jane,  
I've got a Scrabble brain;  
I, said Tara,  
With bonus words like MASCARA,  
I'll win the Round Robin.

Who'll win the Round Robin?  
I, said Jenny,  
I've as good a chance as any;  
Watch out, said Mary,  
I will beat the unwary;  
I, said Chris,  
Canadians excel at this,  
I'll win the Round Robin.

Who'll win the Round Robin?  
I, said Rodney,  
Just you wait and see!  
I, said Betty,  
They'll shower me with confetti;  
I, said Lorraine,  
We'll be breaking out the champagne;  
And when I win, said Graeme,  
There'll be absolute bloody mayhem!

So ...  
Who will win the Round Robin?  
Leave it to the scorer to post on the internet  
And on Sunday we'll know the grand winner.



*Chris Tallman -  
the overall winner*



*Jennifer Smith - 3rd*

# Mailbox



## Sevens or eights?

*Submitted by Jennifer Smith, Kiwi Scrabblers*

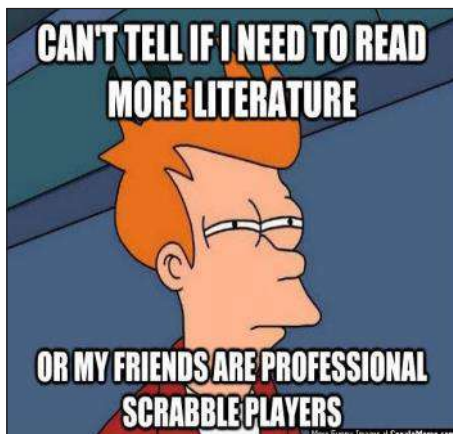
In conversation with Roger Coates at Scrabble Club, I was telling him how, when I first started playing Scrabble, I wouldn't take any notice of eight-letter words. It took me many years to realise that eight-letter words were every bit as important. Roger laughed, and admitted that he'd been the same.

It's probably the hardest thing for new members to get to grips with – to look beyond the seven letters on their rack!

Now that we've been playing for an eternity, we are much better at playing through existing letters already on the board, and more confident about hooks, and therefore not so reliant on an S to get our word on the board.

I wondered how often I play eights, rather than sevens. So I looked at my recent result sheets I still had available. Unlike Pam Robson, who (she once told me) saved the score sheet of every single game she had ever played (!!), I could only find results showing the most recent 42 bonus words I'd played: 14 of them (ie. 33.3%) of them were eights.

The program we use to keep our records from Club night (developed by Steven Brown many years ago), records all the bonus words played



each week. Roger and I believe our membership (which is small, averaging 14 to 16 people each week) would be fairly representative of the range and experience of Scrabble skills across the country. So Roger collected the words from our last six months (23 sessions) for me to find the simple statistics.

From a total of 722 words, 198 (ie. 27.4%) of them were eights. Pretty much the same as my results.

So, do you reckon that's a fair average for us all? You might find it interesting to compare your personal figures with ours.

# Puzzle Pozzy

## Front Hooks for the Connoisseur

by Patrick Carter, Mt. Albert



Just like objects of rare beauty or vintage wines there are some hooks that you learn not because you think they will improve your game, but because you hope one day to make a beautiful play.

Knowing that E goes in front of REV to make EREV is useful and another step up the ladder is learning to put U in front of PRAISE to make UPRAISE. How about a hook in front of an eight letter word that makes a nine letter word your opponent did not expect was a possibility because it isn't related to a similar seven or eight letter word? Now that is something for the true connoisseur to treasure!

We are not talking about putting an S in front of WALLOWED because that would surprise nobody. And while an S in front of DEIGNING might look avant garde your opponent might have known the words SDEIGNS or SDEIGNED.

The words below are all eight letter words which take a beautiful front hook to make a nine letter word. I have tried to keep it to eight letter words with a reasonable chance of being played. These will be rare enough as they are, but Hell could freeze over before you have a chance to put W in front of ITCHWEED to make WITCHWEED.

Make nine letter words by putting a letter in front of each of these 30 words.

- |              |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. ANTIPOLE  | 11. ANGULATE | 21. HORNTAIL |
| 2. STRINGER  | 12. ASPEROUS | 22. LANGUAGE |
| 3. PARTICLE  | 13. ENTANGLE | 23. LATERITE |
| 4. MELINITE  | 14. ANNULATE | 24. ODOMETER |
| 5. ANTELOPE  | 15. ANOREXIC | 25. RAINBAND |
| 6. LATINISE  | 16. ESSONITE | 26. RAVISHED |
| 7. LEPIDOTE  | 17. COPULATE | 27. REMASTER |
| 8. ETIOLATE  | 18. HEATLESS | 28. RAILHEAD |
| 9. CARINATE  | 19. AURIFORM | 29. UNCINATE |
| 10. ACTIVIST | 20. LUSTROUS | 30. THIONINE |

*Answers on page 46.*

# Ask Liz

by Liz Fagerlund, Mt. Albert



*Liz Fagerlund*

## 1. Playing out

there are still many players who do not do the correct thing with the timer when playing out (in spite of this rule change being in 2017),

which is to neutralise the timer. I have experienced players starting my timer, or starting it, then (without prompting) neutralising it. Either of these actions, if the player not going out, is down to a few seconds in time, can be the difference of a win or a loss if their time goes over due to restarting instead of neutralising the timer. Of course, if the final play is not immediately accepted, then the timer can be restarted. See 8.2 and 8.2.1 below for correct procedure.

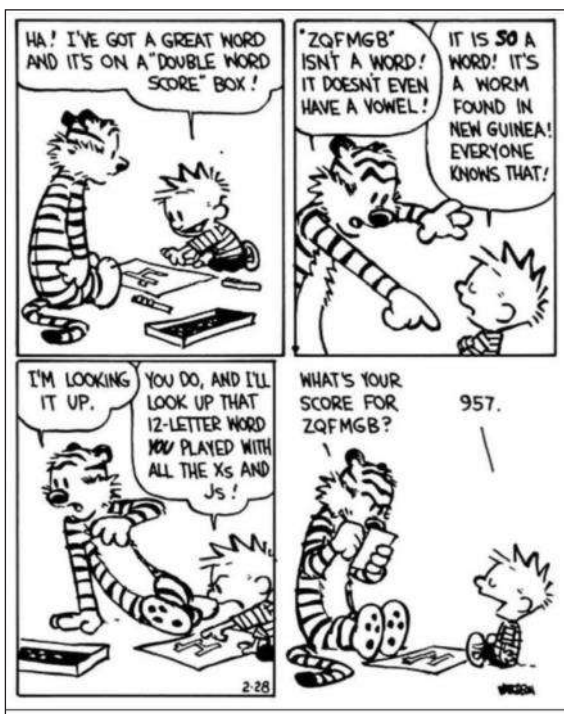
**Rule 8.2:** A player attempting to play out must neutralise the timer, rather than starting the opponent's timer. The opponent must then either: accept the turn by revealing his or her unplayed tiles; call 'hold'; or challenge the turn.

**Rule 8.2.1:** Right to restart the Timer If a player has attempted to play out, and the opponent fails to accept

the turn within approximately five seconds, then the player is entitled to restart the opponent's timer while awaiting the opponent's action. If an opponent's timer is so started, the opponent must neutralise the time after deciding either to accept the turn or to challenge.

## 2. Final results – errors in recording

Sometimes at the end of a tournament a player will point out that they have been given too few or too many wins.



*Submitted by Dylan Early, Scrabble Wellington*

This happened is a recent tournament I attended – occasionally the person inputting results may have put the results in incorrectly, giving the wrong player the win. Sometimes the results slip has been filled in with the wrong player given the win – as was the case in this instance. It took a while to sort out, going through the results sheets for the grade concerned and comparing with the inputted scores - the players involved fetched and checked their score sheets, and it was agreed they had made the error. This was corrected and both players asked to sign the corrected results slip. (I heard a comment from someone that the rightful loser of that game did not have to agree to sign - in other words someone thought it was fine to accept a win that they didn't earn – that

would seem highly unethical!). Both players were at fault for not checking the results slip properly at the time – I'm sure many of us have been guilty of this. It's a good idea to check progress results that get printed out and displayed and make sure it agrees with the number of wins you think you have. If Elixs is being used and progress results are being sent to [www.scrabble.org.nz](http://www.scrabble.org.nz) then you can check progress there.

**Rule 8.6:** Totals for each player are carried to the bottom of the score sheet. Both players must ensure that their score sheets agree. The results slip is to be filled in with the required information, **checked and signed by both players.**

## Christmas Anagrams Solutions:

*From cover page:*

ITS CHARMS - CHRISTMAS

SMART HERETICS - CHRISTMAS TREE

MUDDLING PUP - PLUM PUDDING

THIS CHARMER'S FAT - FATHER CHRISTMAS

BE THE HELM - BETHLEHEM

TINSEL THING - SILENT NIGHT

*From page 11:*

CAN ASSAULT - SANTA CLAUS

STREAKY ROUT - ROAST TURKEY

ASCENDANCY - CANDY CANES

SERPENTS - PRESENTS

ITEM STOLE - MISTLETOE

DECORATIONS - COORDINATES



# Puzzle Pozzy Solutions

## Front Hooks for the Connoisseur - answers

From page 43.



1. R-ANTIPOLE: Verb meaning to act in a wild way
  2. A-STRINGER: A falconer who keeps a goshawk
  3. S-PARTICLE: A shadow particle produced in the Big Bang
  4. G-MELINITE: A rhombohedral zeolitic mineral
  5. G-ANTELOPE: An armoured glove
  6. P-LATINISE: To coat something with platinum
  7. E-LEPIDOTE: A large rhododendron
  8. P-ETIOLATE: Having a petiole (a leafstalk)
  9. E-CARINATE: Not having a keel
  10. L-ACTIVIST: A person who strongly advocates breastfeeding
  11. M-ANGULATE: Australian slang for bending something out of shape
  12. J-ASPEROUS: Of or like Jasper (a type of gemstone)
  13. P-ENTANGLE: A five pointed star
  14. C-ANNULATE: To insert a tube into a body cavity
  15. T-ANOREXIC: Someone obsessed with maintaining a deep tan
  16. H-ESSONITE: A variety of garnet
  17. S-COPULATE: Like little tufts of hairs
  18. W-HEATLESS: Without wheat
  19. T-AURIFORM: Having the form of a bull
  20. B-LUSTROUS: Inclined to bluster
  21. T-HORNTAIL: A hummingbird with bright green plumage
  22. S-LANGUAGE: A slang language
  23. E-LATERITE: A rubberlike mineral resin
  24. H-ODOMETER: Instrument for measuring distance. Same as odometer.
  25. T-RAINBAND: A band of citizens trained to bear arms
  26. Y-RAVISHED: Seized and carried off by force
  27. C-REMASTER: A thin muscle which draws up the testicle
  28. T-RAILHEAD: The end of a cattle trail
  29. R-UNCINATE: Cut like a feather with the lobe pointing downwards
  30. E-THIONINE: An amino acid
- The last one could lead to an even more beautiful hook – METHIONINE.

*Perhaps the word that your opponent might have known is PENTANGLE. I put it in because I hadn't thought of it before. Perhaps because of the pronunciation. I would say PEN-tangle, but en-TAN-gle, but maybe that is just me.*



# Tournament results

## Whanganui

21-22 October 2023

15 games

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
<b>A Grade</b>					
1	Howard Warner (GM)	WEL	11	976	451
2	Chris Tallman	IND	11	896	442
3	Dylan Early (GM)	WEL	8	-254	432
4	Olivia En (E) Anderina McLean	WAN	7	-936	370
5	(GM)	WAN	6	431	434
6	Lynne Butler (GM)	WAN	6	-390	404
7	Val Mills (E)	MTA	6	-407	391
8	Cicely Bruce (GM)	WRE	5	-316	402

### B Grade

1	Liz Fagerlund (GM)	MTA	11	852	427
2	Jennifer Smith	KIW	9	221	402
3	Helen Sillis	WTA	8	130	387
4	Yvette Hewlett	IND	7	62	375
5	Lynn Wood	IND	7	-115	373
6	Yoon Kim Fong	KIW	6	-251	383
7	Clare Wall	IND	6	-366	374
8	Jean O'Brien	IND	6	-533	357

### C Grade

1	Joanne Morley	IND	10	566	403
2	Nola Borrell	IND	9	645	404
3	Tara Hurley	IND	8	-46	387
4	Betty Eriksen	WAN	7	131	385
5	Judy Driscoll	IND	7	-487	357
6	Kate Davidson	WEL	4	-809	342

## Dunedin

18-19 November 2023

15 games

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
<b>A Grade</b>					
1	Olivia En	WAN	12	1213	440
2	Lynn Wood	IND	12	655	413
3	Lois Binnie	CHC	9	270	411
4	Paul Freeman	DUN	5	-600	371
5	Jean O'Brien	IND	4	-738	350
6	Peter Johnstone	CHC	3	-800	378

### B Grade

1	Carolyn Kyle	IND	11	514	382
2	Tobias Devereux	DUN	10	210	392
3	Ruth Groffman	DUN	9	667	375
4	Shirley Hol	CHC	8	-106	367
5	Marian Ross	DUN	4	-477	360
6	Grant Paulin	DUN	3	-808	319

### C Grade

1	Sue Hensley	DUN	11	290	376
2	Sharon Teasdale	DUN	10	531	382
3	Megg Hewlett	CHC	9.5	462	385
4	Malcolm Graham	IND	9	288	372
5	Chris Handley	DUN	9	235	363
6	Hanna Dodge	CHC	8	178	372
7	Noeline Monsef	CHC	7	-268	341
8	Marc Van Hoecke	DUN	7	-343	348
9	Anne-Louise Milne	DUN	4.5	-623	325



*Val Mills with  
Jafa-versary grade  
winners Yoon Kim  
Fong (C) and Mike  
Currie (B)*

**Giant Round Robin****5-7 January 2024**

30 games

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
1	Chris Tallman	IND	25	2952	460
2	Lawson Sue (GM)	MTA	25	1641	429
3	Jennifer Smith	KIW	20	531	412
4	Val Mills (E)	MTA	19	2205	445
5	Liz Fagerlund (GM)	MTA	19	1462	408
6	Lynn Wood	IND	19	995	402
7	Mike Currie	MTA	19	763	415
8	Lorraine Van Veen	IND	18	765	394
9	Olivia En (E)	WAN	18	438	400
10	Margie Hurly	WRE	18	352	401
11	Cicely Bruce (GM)	WRE	17	1019	430
12	Anderina McLean (GM)	WAN	17	622	425
13	Jane Walton	KIW	17	245	400
14	Yoon Kim Fong	KIW	16	-193	382
15	Alexander Gandar	MTA	15	576	405
16	Bernie Jardine	MTA	15	249	403
17	Su Walker	IND	15	227	407
18	Mary Curtis	WRE	15	-122	376
19	Betty Eriksen	WAN	14	-282	368
20	Tara Hurley	IND	12	-409	377
21	Jenny Litchfield	WRE	12	-803	378
22	Cathy Casey	WRE	11	-704	377
23	Graeme Quinn	WRE	7	-2675	318
24	Rodney Jardine	MTA	5	-3982	307
25	Sue McQuade	WRE	2	-4372	282

**Wellington—Saturday****20 January 2024**

7 games

	Name	Wins	Spread
<b>A Grade</b>			
1	Gil Quiballo	6	415
2	Dylan Early	5	625
3	Nick Ascroft	4	23
4	Lawson Sue	4	-195
5	Howard Warner	3	76
6	Anderina McLean	3	-100

7	Stanley Ngundi	3	-167
8	Val Mills	0	-677

**B Grade**

1	Lynn Wood	5	413
2	Murray Rogers	4	364
3	Glenyss Buchanan	4	37
4	Rosemary Cleary	4	-192
5	Jane Walton	3	314
6	Yoon Kim Fong	3	26
7	Anne Goldstein	3	-399
8	Sue McRae	2	-563

**C Grade**

1	Stan Gregec	6	403
2	Betty Eriksen	5	428
3	Clare Wall	5	124
4	Nola Borrell	4	-132
5	Fran Lowe	3	46
6	Malcolm Graham	2	-129
7	Jena Yousif	2	-144
8	Roger Cole-Baker	1	-596

**D Grade**

1	Marcus Henry	7	578
2	Diane Cole-Baker	5	290
3	Judy Driscoll	5	215
4	Patricia Bennett	4	13
5	Megg Hewlett	2	170
6	Mike Davidson	2	-306
7	Neil Price	2	-405
8	Jonas Wiberg	1	-555

**Wellington—Sunday****21 January 2024**

7 games

	Name	Wins	Spread
<b>A Grade</b>			
1	Chris Tallman	5	705
2	Dylan Early	5	331
3	Howard Warner	5	112
4	Gil Quiballo	4	-37
5	Val Mills	3	-24
6	Nick Ascroft	3	-280
7	Lawson Sue	2	-273
8	Stanley Ngundi	1	-534

**B Grade**

1	Murray Rogers	7	385
2	Jane Walton	5	470
3	Rosemary Cleary	4	83
4	Chris Bell	4	-236
5	Yoon Kim Fong	2.5	-139
6	Lynn Wood	2	-5
7	Roger Cole-Baker	2	-246
8	Anne Goldstein	1.5	-312

**C Grade**

1	Michael Hyndman	6	522
2	Jonas Wiberg	6	180
3	Nola Borrell	4	78
4	Tara Hurley	4	61
5	Megg Hewlett	4	-50
6	Jena Yousif	4	-97
7	Sheila Reid	3	37
8	Patricia Bennett	3	5
9	Betty Eriksen	3	-54
10	Diane Cole-Baker	3	-93
11	Judy Driscoll	1	-207
12	Malcolm Graham	1	-382

**Jafa-versary****27-28 January 2024**

15 games

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
<b>A Grade</b>					
1	Cicely Bruce (GM)	WRE	13	397	434
2	Chris Tallman	IND	10	830	446
3	Patrick Carter (GM)	MTA	10	696	441
4	Lawson Sue (GM)	MTA	7	-246	416
5	Olivia En (E)	WAN	6	127	417
6	Glennis Hale (GM)	IND	6	-868	382
7	Val Mills (E)	MTA	4	-127	404
8	Liz Fagerlund (GM)	MTA	4	-809	372

**B Grade**

1	Mike Currie	MTA	10	-5	406
2	Jason Simpson	WRE	9	656	426
3	Murray Rogers (E)	IND	9	579	407
4	John Foster (GM)	IND	8.5	-20	396
5	Jane Walton	KIW	7	75	385
6	Jennifer Smith	KIW	7	25	390
7	Lynn Wood	IND	5	-801	353
8	Shirley Martin	KIW	4.5	-509	368

**C Grade**

1	Yoon Kim Fong	KIW	10	118	404
2	Delcie Macbeth	IND	9	516	417
3	Mary Gray	MTA	9	204	394
4	Merelyn Fuemana	MTA	8	365	398
5	Mary Curtis	WRE	8	339	400
6	Jeanette Grimmer	ROD	8	-72	384
7	Cathy Casey	WRE	8	-215	368
8	Betty Eriksen	WAN	7	103	379
9	Bernie Jardine	MTA	7	-121	389
10	Su Walker	IND	1	-1237	354

**D Grade**

1	Alexander Gandar	MTA	11	1047	425
2	Jena Yousif	WRE	10	623	382
3	Antonia Aarts	MTA	9.5	110	388
4	Tara Hurley	IND	8	176	375
5	Suzanne Harding	WRE	8	-514	348
6	Malcolm Graham	IND	7.5	-73	360
7	Dianne Cole-Baker	MTA	7	47	364
8	Roger Cole-Baker	MTA	6	-125	376
9	Jonas Wiberg	CHC	5	-694	339
10	Glenda Geard	IND	3	-597	341

**E Grade**

1	Rodney Jardine	MTA	13	1216	388
2	Calum Henderson	MTA	11	900	377
3	Jackie Reid	MTA	10	332	335
4	Ruth Godwin	IND	8	533	342
5	Anne Scatchard	WRE	8	150	324
6	Frances Higham	PAP	8	-163	320
7	Jan Rivers		8	-167	346
8	Graeme Quinn	WRE	6	-556	314
9	Annette Caisley	WRE	2	-1001	295
10	Maheu Papa T-Pole	MTA	1	-1244	269



*Alexander Gandar, Jafa-versary  
D grade winner, with Val Mills*

# Rankings as at 28th January 2024

	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%		Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%
1	Howard Warner (GM)	2193	2628.5	3504	75%	32	Margie Hurly	1601	585	1196	49%
2	Dylan Early (GM)	2165	348	518	67%	33	Lorraine Van Veen	1581	1244.5	2524	49%
3	Jeff Grant (GM)	2164	1931	2604	74%	34	David Gunn	1576	1605	3276	49%
4	Chris Tallman	2134	58	80	72%	35	Peter Johnstone	1567	407	800	51%
5	Patrick Carter (GM)	2119	998	1561	64%	36	Sue McRae	1565	257.5	476	54%
6	Joanne Craig (GM)	2119	497.5	767	65%	37	Chris Higgins	1563	213.5	372	57%
7	Blue Thorogood (GM)	2095	898	1281	70%	38	Laura Griffiths	1541	60.5	93	65%
8	Peter Sinton (GM)	2080	864.5	1238	70%	39	Karen Gray	1539	378.5	724	52%
9	Gil Quiballo (GM)	2036	153.5	258	59%	40	Shirley Martin	1533	1254.5	2534	50%
10	Andrew Bradley (GM)	1994	1162.5	2175	53%	41	Vicky Robertson	1528	498	1048	48%
11	Cicely Bruce (GM)	1933	1149	2095	55%	42	Lynn Wood	1525	2686	5602	48%
12	Lawson Sue (GM)	1923	1460.5	2681	54%	43	John Baird	1522	416.5	776	54%
13	Stanley Ngundi (GM)	1895	151.5	284	53%	44	Stan Gregec	1515	274	510	54%
14	Nick Ascroft (E)	1891	348.5	631	55%	45	Paul Freeman	1513	159.5	287	56%
15	Scott Chaput (E)	1828	391	709	55%	46	Anne Goldstein	1506	404	802	50%
16	Anderina McLean (GM)	1826	1117	2094	53%	47	Yoon Kim Fong	1499	914	1779	51%
17	Glennis Hale (GM)	1804	1868	3435	54%	48	Delcie Macbeth	1498	1239.5	2410	51%
18	Mike Currie	1779	179	301	59%	49	Jeanette Grimmer	1467	432	882	49%
19	Olivia En (E)	1769	1116	2163	52%	50	Roger Coates	1467	998.5	2097	48%
20	Murray Rogers (E)	1750	1330.5	2521	53%	51	Selena Chan	1462	444.5	880	51%
21	Jason Simpson	1743	210	391	54%	52	Yvette Hewlett	1444	585.5	1213	48%
22	Val Mills (E)	1742	1861	3797	49%	53	Clare Wall	1433	464	922	50%
23	John Foster (GM)	1734	1882	3391	55%	54	Helen Sillis	1419	1039	2137	49%
24	Liz Fagerlund (GM)	1719	1731	3369	51%	55	Mary Curtis	1385	645.5	1262	51%
25	Herb Ramsay	1714	353	618	57%	56	Bernie Jardine	1382	438.5	829	53%
26	Lois Binnie	1702	297.5	589	51%	57	Karen Miller	1373	769	1491	52%
27	Jennifer Smith	1662	1530.5	3193	48%	58	Mary Gray	1363	942.5	1900	50%
28	Paul Lister (E)	1640	947	1740	54%	59	Pam Barlow	1345	969	1938	50%
29	Glenyss Buchanan	1637	795	1725	46%	60	Cathy Casey	1330	190	356	53%
30	Rosemary Cleary (E)	1631	1034	2222	47%	61	Merelyn Fuemana	1326	318.5	599	53%
31	Jane Walton	1624	416.5	855	49%	62	Shirley Hol	1306	931.5	1973	47%

Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%
63 Bev Edwards	1301	390	776	50%	94 Geoff Vautier	919	143.5	375	38%
64 Jenny Litchfield	1292	271.5	508	53%	95 Megg Hewlett	916	134	234	57%
65 Suzanne Liddall	1289	235	427	55%	96 Judy Driscoll	912	443.5	1099	40%
66 Jean O'Brien	1273	1702.5	3391	50%	97 Tony Charlton	896	493.5	1040	47%
67 Alexander Gandar	1271	59.5	100	60%	98 Rodney Jardine	850	372	770	48%
68 Betty Eriksen	1269	2177.5	4337	50%	99 Marilyn Sinclair	843	319.5	636	50%
69 Tobias Devereux	1259	84	125	67%	100 Glenda Geard	813	1375	2795	49%
70 Lyn Toka	1234	729.5	1395	52%	101 Chris Handley	812	497.5	995	50%
71 Nola Borrell	1223	732	1404	52%	102 Noeline Monsef	794	124.5	264	47%
72 Carolyn Kyle	1208	1328	2701	49%	103 Llana Hadden	749	122.5	272	45%
73 Ruth Groffman	1208	936	1890	50%	104 Junior Gesmundo	735	424.5	871	49%
74 Su Walker	1205	1450	2869	51%	105 Sharon Teasdale	731	84	167	50%
75 Sue Hensley	1196	143	246	58%	106 Jacqueline				
76 Jena Yousif	1183	792.5	1585	50%	Coldham-Fussell	672	872.5	1782	49%
77 Lynn Carter	1173	951	1851	51%	107 Tim Henneveld	651	604.5	1323	46%
78 Michael Hyndman	1154	257.5	495	52%	108 Anne Scatchard	624	844.5	1670	51%
79 Jill Paterson	1153	172.5	325	53%	109 Janny Henneveld	612	633	1305	49%
80 Heather Landon	1142	865.5	1721	50%	110 Anne-Louise Milne	608	247.5	680	36%
81 Tara Hurley	1136	208.5	393	53%	111 Dorothy Bakel	607	160	343	47%
82 Marian Ross	1109	802	1564	51%	112 Jackie Reid	600	233.5	520	45%
83 Roger Cole-Baker	1104	931.5	1831	51%	113 Ruth Godwin	596	706.5	1491	47%
84 Joanna Fox	1099	345.5	682	51%	114 Frances Higham	596	421	1061	40%
85 Suzanne Harding	1096	884	1718	51%	115 Madelaine Green	552	202	398	51%
86 Dianne Cole-Baker	1075	857.5	1702	50%	116 Graeme Quinn	529	81.5	219	37%
87 Mandy Thorogood	1072	140	261	54%	117 Marc Van Hoecke	455	104	222	47%
88 Antonia Aarts	1050	496.5	1036	48%	118 Jillian Greening	435	524	1086	48%
89 Malcolm Graham	1037	918	1822	50%	119 Dael Shaw	415	73	149	49%
90 Colleen Cook	982	526	1089	48%	120 Sharon McKenzie	405	79.5	177	45%
91 Patricia Bennett	962	57	134	43%	121 Judy Cronin	356	275.5	672	41%
92 Grant Paulin	944	116.5	247	47%	122 Sue McQuade	316	19	77	25%
93 Hanna Dodge	922	350	653	54%	123 Annette Caisley	125	21	99	21%

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)	<i>In Recess</i>			
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
Whangarei (WRE)	Anne Scatchard	09 435 0137 027 660 1763	annescatchard@yahoo.com	1 pm Thurs

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