

# forwords



Journal of the New Zealand Association of Scrabble® Players  
No. 156 Summer 2024-25



***Team NZ: Trans-Tasman winning team***

## **Also in this issue:**

Word Famous in NZ:  
Phil Andrews

Trans-Tasman reports

Getting ready for CSW24

Only on a Scrabble board

CSW24: New words are  
ADORBS, GRIMDARK or pure  
WOKERY – AMIRITE?

Shakesperean insults

Bonus boards

Puzzle Pozzy

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# Editorial

When I look back on 2024, I can't help thinking about the number of Scrabblers who have died in that year — or as I like to think, 'gone to Scrabble heaven'. I know that if I start naming them I will miss someone out but since the last magazine both Annette Coombs and Pam Barlow have passed away. It's especially poignant for me as when the Pakuranga Club folded, there were only six members; Jeanette Owler, Pat Wareing, Pam Barlow, Margaret Cherry, and Lawson and me, and now there are only four of us left..... On the other side of the coin, I caught up with Lyres and had the best cuddles with Micah, the latest addition to the Richard's family. So lovely to hold a wee one again!

The daughters of both Margaret and Pam contacted me, to see if I would like their 'Scrabble gear'. I gladly said yes, not quite knowing what to expect.

Pam's came in a large cardboard box, with about six scrabble sets(!), heaps of dictionaries, scrabble magnets, tile bags, racks and a scrabble notebook. Looking at the notebook I saw that Pam had started to make lists of seven-letter anagrams, combinations of letters that only made one word, up to combinations that made eight words. Looking at the combinations that made two words, a couple took my fancy and were ones that I hadn't yet leaned. These were TIDYING and

DIGNITY, and ARRIVES and VARIERS.

Margaret's gear came in a bag that I remember her daughter Janice making, out of Scrabble fabric, with a matching tile bag. She also had a fair few Scrabble dictionaries, word lists and books.

I'm pleased to say that both their main boards (tiles, racks and clocks) have found new homes with two very grateful, reasonably new, Mt. Albert club members. I love it that the legacy of these two keen players is continuing with newer players. It's the way it should be

You will see that this magazine focuses heavily on the Trans-Tasman tournament. Enough said. Read about it here! Anderina played a word I'd never seen before and did not know – GODSLOT!

I've had a bit of feedback also on DARTITIS – see Jennifer Smith's letter in *Mailbox*. Various people have also talked to me about the word. I was telling my son about it, thinking he would find it amusing, especially as he now has a house with a garage and a dart board. He said, it sounds like what golfers get when they just can't make the putt. And yes, there is a word for this – YIPS, One definition is *"involuntary wrist spasms that occur most commonly when golfers are trying to putt"*.

But not only golfers get the YIPS. Players in any number of sports can be affected. So next time you see your opponent holding two tiles, going to place them, and then taking them back again, it could be a case of the YIPS.

Lynn Wood commented recently that she needed to know the word SIMIAN(S) for the code-cracker she was doing. These letters also make

ANIMIS and SAIMIN(S). Its always helpful to know words that get rid of two Is.

So here we are the beginning of the next quarter-century, Who know what this year will hold, but Happy New Year to you all, and lets all enjoy our next 365 day journey round the sun.

*Val Mills*



*Trans-Tasman Players (New Zealanders in black and Australians in green)*

*Back, L-R*

*Joanne Craig, Victor Tung, Chris Ostrowski, Howard Warner, Bob Jackman, Karen Richards, Jane Taylor, Andrew Bradley, Rod Talbot, Patrick Carter, Asanka Dissanayake, Cicely Bruce, Blue Thorogood.*

*Front, L-R*

*Jason Simpson, Russell Honeybun, Esther Perrins, Lawson Sue, Paul Richards, Anderina McLean, Ryan Sutton, Dylan Early, Rocky Sharma, Chris Tallman, Stanley Ngundi.*

.....  
*Front cover photo: Trans Tasman Team NZ*

*Back, L-R*

*Cicely Bruce, Jason Simpson, Chris Tallman, Andrew Bradley, Howard Warner, Joanne Craig, Blue Thorogood*

*Front, Stanley Ngudi, Dylan Early, Anderina McLean, Lawson Sue, Patrick Carter*

# Words from the President

*by Cathy Casey, Whangarei*



*Cathy Casey*

It's a Scrabble weekend that I will remember forever.

The weekend that we beat the Australians to win the Trans-Tasman Challenge (TTC) for the first time in 14 years.

The weekend that we livestreamed our top games for the first time.

The weekend that John Foster presented the John Foster Cup to top Kiwi player Howard Warner.

I am so proud to have been a part of a weekend that platformed New Zealand Scrabble at its best.

You will read the details in this edition of *Forwards* but I just want to add my reflections and a few thank yous as your very proud NZASP president.

Out of the 288 games played, New Zealand had 165 wins to Australia's 123. A huge thank you to our twelve players who all contributed to what was in the end a resounding victory: Cicely Bruce, Jason Simpson, Chris Tallman, Andrew Bradley, Howard Warner, Joanne Craig, Blue Thorogood, Stanley Ngundi, Dylan Early, Anderina McLean, Lawson Sue and Patrick Carter.

There were mammoth tussles, many of which played out live on the streaming table creating a new "must see" for anyone at all interested in Scrabble.

Livestreaming was one of the ways the Youth Scrabble Promotion Committee decided might bring more young people into our sport. NZASP is indebted to the dynamic duo of Chris Tallman and Alexander Gandar who together brought streaming off the drawing board and into existence. Together with a team of volunteer annotators and top notch commentators they ensured that the live commentated tile action at the TTC was watched by thousands of viewers in New Zealand and overseas. If you didn't watch live, don't worry. You can watch it now and it is well worth it. Pick a game, make a cuppa and prepare to be entranced. (<https://www.youtube.com/@ScrabbleNZ>).

The feedback NZASP has received from viewers about the commentary has been universally positive. People loved the informative and chatty discourse of the knowledgeable commentators. I was sitting next to the streaming table but also listening to the commentary through headphones. It really added a whole new level of meaning for me (a lowly C Grade player).





*The Trans-Tasman in action*

*Alexander Gandar, technical director (centre)  
and Courtney Smith, annotator (right)*

I learned so much from watching the play and learning about playing strategies. The close games became absolutely nail biting. It was so much fun to listen to. I heard from lots of people who only meant to watch one game and stayed on for many more.

It wasn't just the friendly rivalry that captivated me, it was the genuine international friendships that players have built up over the 15 years of this competition. Both teams having dinner together in a Mt. Eden Restaurant on the Saturday night was the most natural thing in the world. Play hard and relax easy. So too was the massively warm reception given to John Foster who arrived on Sunday afternoon to watch the last few games and say a few words at the prizegiving.

Along with Australian captain Bob Jackman, John set up the Trans-Tasman Challenge and donated a trophy to the highest Kiwi player.

John presented the cup to Howard Warner after a gargantuan tussle between him and Dylan Early. Both won 18 of their 24 games, with Howard winning on spread.

We hope to build on the excellent publicity we have received through

livestreaming the Trans-Tasman Challenge and secure sponsorship to ensure we can provide livestreaming of this tournament and our Masters and Nationals into the future.

Watch this space!



*John Foster (left) presenting the John Foster Cup to highest Kiwi player and overall winner Howard Warner (right).*

# Word Famous in New Zealand



*Ed: I was privileged to meet Phil Andrews at the Tauranga Tournament and he graciously agreed to write the following for Forwards.*

## Phil Andrews: A Man of Letters

*By Phil Andrews, Rotorua*

'HADE? I challenge it.' Words Phil Andrews likes, in this case, to hear from a Scrabble opponent. With a lifelong interest in geology he has garnered a handy number of geological and mining terms, to use in the hope that their unfamiliarity will yield him those extra five points from an unsuccessful challenge. And what does HADE mean? It's an old mining term for the angle a fault plane makes with the vertical. How about 'NORITE' and 'NAPPE', or 'GABBRO' and 'GUYOT'? You'll have to look those ones up.

Phil trained as a secondary school teacher, becoming Head of English at Reporoa College, then at Rotorua Lakes. He then tutored at Waiariki Polytechnic, where he became Head of the Arts and Communication Department.

Collecting and displaying rocks, fossils and

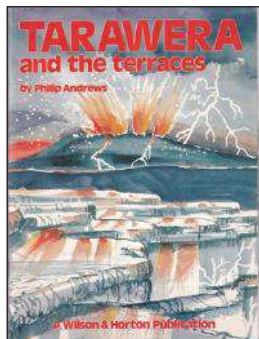
microscopic minerals, and entering them in National Show competitions has for many years occupied his spare time, with special attention to entries in competitions for NZ fossils and for small cut and polished slabs of fossil wood. That long-term interest in matters geological led him to write *Stones, Bones and Steam*, a book dealing with a variety of geological matters, from a mysterious German mineral explorer to Rotorua's steam bores 'wars'.

Writing has been a particular passion, beginning with a published novel in 1968, followed over the years by a further fifteen publications, some commissioned, other funded by grants. One of his latest books, in full colour, is *Lakes of Rotorua*, a book he says he'd had in mind to write for some decades. His main genre has

been local history, with three biographies and books on Rotorua's street names, the Government Gardens, old historic sites and buildings, and Mokoia Island. His best-selling book by



*Phil and Jocelyn*



far has been *Tarawera and the Terraces*, first commissioned in 1985 (at short notice) by Wilson and Horton, with the second and third

editions self-published. Over three decades thirteen thousand copies sold. In addition, for twenty-five years he wrote a weekly history column for local newspapers.

'I love the challenge of historical research,' he said. 'Finding out stories of the past is like unearthing buried treasure.' Literally unearthing treasures of a sort was for many years a hobby, as a collector of old bottles. Other finds included remains of dolls, ceramic items, and even sewing machines. Digging locations have ranged from the main street of Westport to a farm-house at Kutarere, as well at bush sites and thermal areas.

Phil's first Scrabble board was a *Funworder* set, bought in Thames in the early 1960s. He and wife Jocelyn played now and then, but only nine or ten years ago did he join the Rotorua Scrabble Club, started by Tim and Janny Henneveld. Phil and Tim taught at the same high school. Phil is still impressed that, despite his having a Master's degree in English and despite English being the Hennevelts'

second language, they can still sometimes beat him.

Until his knees gave out Phil spent forty years as a distance runner, on the track, in cross-country harriers, and in road races including marathons, with a best marathon time of a fraction under two hours thirty-eight minutes. Tramping and camping have always been a favourite recreation. At eighty-five Phil still enjoys a couple of nights in a tent by a river in the middle of nowhere. And for decades he and wife Jocelyn have travelled the country in their campervan, their first being a Commer van which rusted away on them, and their latest a Ford Transit which is trying to do the same. Nowadays he enjoys days at the nearby bowling club, for which he was for ten years the secretary. As a member for forty years of the Rotorua and District Historical Society he served 27 of those years as president, three as secretary and a decade as newsletter editor, as well as contributing talks and writing the booklet celebrating the Society's fifty years. His work in the field of history earned him a Queen's Service Medal.

Nowadays he has cut down on many of his former involvements, after twenty years on the board of Te Amorangi Museum, ten years on the Rotorua branch of what was then NZ Historic Places Trust, a decade as secretary of Rotorua's branch of Amnesty International, time as a member of the Rotorua Civic and



Heritage Trust, and eleven years with the Management Board of Whakarewarewa Forest Park. He has also been a member of the local Collectors' Club, the Rotorua Gem, Rock and Mineral Club and the New Zealand Geological Society.

As for Scrabble, he plays a tight game but confesses to two weaknesses: an inability to recall all those three and four letter words in his word lists, and a failure to come up with many seven letter words. He recalls how in his first year with the club he played an opponent who scored three bonus words against him.. 'That was staggering,' says Phil, 'but I found out that despite his propensity for seven-letter words it was sometimes worth challenging because he was a poor speller!'

A keen player Phil confesses to being horrified by some of the words allowed into the Scrabble vocabulary. For instance, he believed the word innit is really pushing the boundaries of acceptability. "Still," he says, 'if it's okay to use then I suppose at a pinch I'd use it – but fortunately so far I have never had to.'

*Layout Ed: Very interesting! I'm pretty sure I read Tarawera and the Terraces for a high school assignment many years ago!*

## Twenty Years Ago in Forwards

*From Forwards edition 77, December 2004.*

The origins of three terms:

### Dead Ringer

In medieval Britain it was not uncommon for people to be buried when they had merely collapsed unconscious or were in a coma. The gentry began burying relatives with a piece of string attached to a bell above ground. Many bodies were exhumed after the bell was rung and continued to live a long and healthy life. Friends were amazed to see someone who looked exactly like the pal they had recently buried — or a dead ringer.

### Going Freelance

In the Middle Ages, knights and lords could hire out their services to the highest bidder. The Free Lancer became part of literature when Sir Walter Scott wrote in *Ivanhoe* in 1820: "Ivanhoe offers Richard the services of my Free Lancers." It became the term for the self-employed.

### As Pissed as a Newt

A newt was the name given to boys who looked after gentlemen's horses in the 17th and 18th centuries. During an evening, the gentlemen would send alcoholic drinks out to the boys — who were often found rolling drunk.

# Behind the Screen: The origins of New Zealand's first Scrabble Stream

***By Chris Tallman, Independent***

*I have finally given in to Val Mills', many requests for me to write one of these! I'll be detailing how the live stream many of you enjoyed at the 2024 Trans-Tasman Challenge (TTC) came to be.*

I'm originally from Vancouver, Canada, though I moved to New Zealand to be with my partner Tara in September 2023. In the weeks before I arrived in New Zealand, in late August of that year, I toured around North America to visit some good friends and say goodbye. During that trip I visited my good friend Josh Sokol in Montreal, and was inducted into the world of Scrabble (and chess) streaming. We played a few games in a food court with me wearing my "Waikato, Aotearoa" shirt that Tara shipped over, and the chat thought it was some sort of heavy metal band name.

My first tournament in New Zealand was in early October 2023 in Auckland. Tara was on a pre-planned holiday in Vietnam, so I was on my own for this one. I ended up at the same café as Andrew Bradley for lunch on the second day, and he was eager to introduce me to film-maker and Scrabble player Alexander

Gandar. You may know him as the creator of the Scrabble documentary *Every Word Counts*. This turned out to be the perfect symbiosis – Alexander's media background and technical skills with my Scrabble connections in North America, which have been producing Scrabble streams for several years.

In early January 2024, Whangarei club hosted the Giant Round Robin – a really cool format (I vote to do something like that again!). Tara had mentioned our President Cathy Casey of Whangarei as a good friend and someone she really enjoyed playing because of the relentless banter and trash-talk between them. Even (especially) during tournaments. I think inspired by the success of the Giant Round Robin. Cathy approached Alexander, Tara, and I in Whangarei (the "young people" – there are more of us now!) with about a hundred off the wall ideas to promote Scrabble and bring in more young players.

Cathy formed the Scrabble Youth Promotion Committee then (with us four, plus additions of Murray Rogers, Calum Henderson, Ruth Groffman, Stan Gregec, and Jonas Wiberg), and

we started meeting online monthly-ish to brainstorm ideas on how to encourage young players to join our scene. I'd seen first-hand that many new young players in North America, including a few that joined tournaments I'd started running in Vancouver, had discovered the game through watching streams (and we have at least one of our own – Cooper Ashley). So streaming became one of our initiatives. We were originally thinking of trying to stream the Nationals in early June 2024, but I'm glad we took the time to gather gear, skills, and testing time — we needed it!

My friend Kenji Matsumoto, who would eventually help us with several streaming tests, and commentate for the TTC itself, visited me in New Zealand in March, and played in the Rotorua tournament. Alexander couldn't attend Rotorua, but he did give us a tour of Auckland a few days later, and the three of us made plans to work together.

Alexander and I had just reached out to Will Anderson, an American Scrabble Youtuber who has made videos with millions of views, and who is also the 2017 US Nationals champion (I think Alexander was a bit star-struck!) to get some info on gear requirements for streaming. Among other things, Will mentioned internet speed-testing potential venues to ensure that streaming, which uses a lot of bandwidth would be viable. Kenji wasn't sure about bridge clubs, so I



*Chris Tallman at work*  
Photo credit: Lawson Sue

asked Liz Fagerlund about it in Rotorua. Liz would (of course) be a vital contributor to the Trans-Tasman stream being a success, as tournament director. In particular, she liaised with the Mt. Eden venue management to give us set-up time, faster internet, etc., and adjusted the pairings draw many times to accommodate the stream.

Will also got us in touch with Josh Greenway (of Toronto), the stream producer for events such as the Niagara Falls International Open, and many others. At the 2024 Nationals, it was decided by a vote that I could join the Trans-Tasman team despite my temporary visa status (I've applied to change that – and I hope I did okay for New Zealand!). Right afterwards, I was voted Vice-President of the association, which Tara found amusing.

A few days after Nationals, Alexander and I had a zoom meeting with Josh.



### *Testing the livestream*

He was immediately amazingly helpful. He gave us his hardware and software ‘blueprints’ and suggested strongly that we do lots of testing, starting with online-based woogles.io ‘skirmishes’ in which two players commentate while two others play – a format he created. The New Zealand version was re-branded “*Friendly FreNZy*” by Josh’s friend Shan Abbasi (the “zed” implied-pronunciation faux-pas aside, we liked the name!). Shan also helped Alexander create the graphics for the Frenzies and participated in the very first test version with myself, Alexander, and Laura Griffiths (and he filled in commentating for the TTC on short notice – thanks Shan!).

Moving from streaming online play to streaming live play was a huge jump. Firstly, we needed to acquire webcams, stands, and other associated gear. The upfront cost

topped \$1,000, but this wasn’t a problem thanks to the executive committee (at the time, Cathy, Stan, Liz, Suzanne Liddall, and Cicely Bruce) believing in the idea, and allocating our small committee the available pool of funds left over from the Ryman sponsorship. For a first testing venue, we chose Lamplight Books, a bookstore in Parnell co-owned by Alexander’s partner Courtney (who also annotated one of the days at the TTC). Lawson Sue and Calum Henderson agreed to be our guinea pigs and play a few games on camera, and Kenji called in to test commentate.

There were further complications, in contrast to online play where this auto-generates. We needed a way to display data like scores, unseen tiles, game clocks, etc. In this we were helped by another tech whiz – Josh Castellano (of Virginia).



***Testing live play with Calum Henderson (left), Alexander Gandar (middle), Chris Tallman (right)***

*Photo credit: Lawson Sue*

He's developed a script to translate Quackle data so that it can be displayed on stream. I met Josh C five years ago at my favourite tournament, Hood River in Oregon, which is where the rack you may have been staring across the board at while playing me comes from!

Alexander and I took the footage from the Lamplight test and posted it, along with a litany of questions, in a Discord server that Josh Greenway has created, called Scrabble Vision. This server is Josh's brainchild and is intended to act as a resource to help the development of Scrabble streams everywhere. It included a very useful commentators' guide written by Josh that Alexander and I adapted for the TTC. Our questions were answered by Josh G, Will, and Josh Sokol, and we made massive improvements. The biggest fix being that, during the Lamplight test, Kenji's commentary was 20 seconds behind the footage, since he was watching the delayed

Youtube link instead of a separate live link). Alexander later utilised Discord again to chat silently to the TTC commentators (in case, while watching, you were wondering where their 'secret' info was coming from!)

Those improvements were (mostly) on display during our next live test at Mt. Albert club. Mt. Albert players were happy to volunteer to play on stream – Liz, Mike Currie, Patrick, Andrew, and Lawson all participated, with Howard and Lewis calling in to provide commentary. Alexander also got a bit more practice with the useful but notoriously finicky streaming program OBS (including interacting with live chat for the first time!) during our debut public live stream on our Youtube channel ([www.youtube.com/@ScrabbleNZ](https://www.youtube.com/@ScrabbleNZ)). This was an online Frenzy between myself, Lewis, Dylan Early, and Josh Sokol.

In late October, we were nearing readiness for the big event, but there were two major things left to do: recruiting commentators and making sure the Australians were on board. My nightmare scenario was that the Aussies wouldn't want to play on stream, killing the project. Instead they turned out to be very enthusiastic, to the point where several of them, including Trans-Tasman founder Bob Jackman, expressed interest in collaborating with us to bring quality live-streaming to Australia as well.





**Bob Jackman (left) vs. Dylan Early (right)  
during the TTC**

*Photo credit: Cathy Casey*

Liz was able to point us in the direction of several Aussie commentators. We had Josh Watt (that's the fourth Josh if you're counting), Julie Brice, Helen Hynes (we wanted some female representation in the 'booth' – and both did a great job), and former Trans-Tasman competitor Naween Fernando. Josh Watt advertised for us in Australian Scrabble circles, hence the many Aussie players you may have noticed in the live chat, and he also provided bios of all the Aussie players, so non-Aussie commentators could talk intelligently about them. (He also provided tactical nuggets like "x is a closed board player" which I told him in the spirit of the Challenge I'd keep to myself!) All Kiwi players provided information about themselves for their bios – thanks to the team for that!

The addition of Josh Sokol and Kenji Matsumoto to the commentary team enabled us to advertise that some of the biggest names in Scrabble were

involved. This helped attract international viewers. The fact is that they're both amazing players, so their game insights were great. For example, I'm not surprised when I watched back my game against Victor Tung, that Kenji had clocked my setup of JOINT minutes before I played it.

And of course we wanted some Kiwis to commentate. The slight issue was that many of our best options were either playing or helping in other capacities. Luckily Scott Chaput reached out and was happy to commentate, which was really, really helpful, as the schedule moved around 10+ times. Mike Currie also commentated for us, and Lewis Hawkins was set to, before family obligations prevented him. I'd be remiss not to mention the other people involved. The annotators were Calum, Cooper, Tara, and Courtney, and 'player liaison' Cathy.

I removed myself from the streaming side of things in days leading up to the tournament. This was as I attempted to switch to playing mode and study a few words, and move



**Tara Hurley (left - annotating) and Alexander Gandar (right)**

*Photo credit: Cathy Casey*

from Hamilton to Auckland at the same time. Alexander meanwhile took a week off his job and ramped up for the stream. He had meetings with all our commentators (including at 10:30 pm the night before go time), visiting the venue with Liz a bunch of times, and testing and retesting everything.

During the tournament itself it was weird for me to see Alexander and the team problem solving and not going over there to help. In fact I bumped the camera immediately before my first streamed game and caused them more problems! I was originally not scheduled to play on stream until day two, but (another!) last minute change meant that I'd be doing it on Friday, with Kenji and Scott commentating. This was a strange twist of fate since Kenji also commentated me during my only other times being streamed, at 2014 US Nationals, and 2018 Canadian Nationals.

I think fittingly, New Zealand won the event and showcased our talent and enthusiasm for the game to the world through the live stream. My sense is that the streaming was part of what excited our team and pushed us to play well. I also hope that the knowledge that the stream will exist (and maybe sponsorship? - stay tuned) for our other major events going forward will attract more players, both home-grown new ones, New Zealanders lured out of 'retirement', and international players.

– Maybe even Nigel?

## **A Steep Learning Curve: Additional thoughts**

*By Alexander Gandar, Mt. Albert*

You know the one thing about Scrabble that has never ceased to amaze me is how much you learn. Usually you're learning words, but over pretty much the entirety of 2024 I had to take a bit of a break from words while we learned how to make a live Scrabble broadcast from scratch. I think Chris's comprehensive history gives a powerful sense of how much work went into the endeavour. The only other element I want to highlight is the graphic design. It was very important to me that the tournament's presence online carried an air of prestige. It is two nations competing after all, and the fact that it was to be our first official tournament broadcast meant this could be the first that a lot of people would see of New Zealand Scrabble. The stakes felt high! So we worked incredibly hard on it. Myself and my partner Courtney experimented with the design and branding for hours and hours and hours. Trying things, liking them, throwing them away, starting again, etcetera etcetera. I'm very proud of the final product. I think it feels slick and professional, and is deceptively simple. Here's hoping we haven't set the bar too high for ourselves for future tournaments!

Subsequent to the stream, a lot of people have asked about our viewing numbers. The simplest answer is that we had a couple of thousand views

over the course of the weekend, which I think is genuinely excellent for our debut. And even more important than quantity was quality. We had many Scrabble champions, past and present, from all over the globe, popping up in the live chat. A decent percentage of our local viewers were coming via *The Spinoff*, thanks to the brilliant article that Calum Henderson wrote about the tournament and its live-stream, which had the YouTube links embedded for the duration of the weekend. If you haven't read that yet you can check it out here - [www.thespinoff.co.nz/sports/15-11-2024/watch-live-new-zealand-vs-australia-in-the-trans-tasman-scrabble-challenge](http://www.thespinoff.co.nz/sports/15-11-2024/watch-live-new-zealand-vs-australia-in-the-trans-tasman-scrabble-challenge) – enormous thanks to Calum for his efforts!

Huge thanks are also due to everyone who helped us out along the way:

Lawson, Calum (again), Cooper, Tara, Courtney, Mike, Laura, Lewis, Scott, Howard, Dylan, the North American commentators, the Australian commentators, Cathy, and of course the mighty Liz. We really couldn't have done it without a rally of support from everyone involved. It's been a bit overwhelming how positive everyone has been about the final product, and we're excited to see what next year brings in the streaming space. And I have to apologise for any tech issues you saw. I'm still learning and there is so much to manage while we're live. But as the great Josh Sokol said to me off air on the first day: 'try not to worry about anything that goes wrong while we're doing it, it's just great that we are in fact doing it, and we're only going to get better from here.'

## Puzzle Pozy

### Number Associations

*Submitted by Diane and Roger Cole-Baker*

How many of these can you find?

For example: 24 H in a D = 24 Hours in a Day

- |                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. 5 F on a H    | 8. 18 H in a GC    |
| 2. 26 L in the A | 9. 39 B of the O T |
| 3. 7 D of the W  | 10. 90 D in a R A  |
| 4. 52 W in a Y   | 11. 21 D on a D    |
| 5. 7 W of the W  | 12. 15 P in a R T  |
| 6. 12 S of the Z | 13. 3 W on a T     |
| 7. 13 in a B D   | 14. 11 P in a C T  |



Answers on page 49.

- |                     |
|---------------------|
| 15. 12 M in the Y   |
| 16. 13 is U F S!    |
| 17. 8 T on a O      |
| 18. 3 S on a T      |
| 19. 64 S on a CB    |
| 20. 3 BM (S H T R!) |

# Ask Liz

by Liz Fagerlund, Mt. Albert

*This isn't really going over specific rules, but just a couple of things I'd like to write about.*

## 1. The ideal information to put on a tournament entry form.

A lot of clubs are now not fully committing themselves to a specific format. Instead, the number of games and format is dependent on the number of entries – so a single round robin of 13 games or double round robin of 14 games, or round robin(s) depending on numbers.

I think that's a great idea. It gives clubs more scope and saves entrants from being unhappy with the format when it is not strictly as advertised.

Another thing that is still on a lot of entry forms is 'clocks compulsory in all grades'. Sometimes this is on its own or along with NZASP Rules of Play. I just want to say I think every tournament player actually knows that clocks are compulsory in all tournaments. They have been compulsory for at least 26 or 27 years! It's a lot of the other rules that players don't know. Of course, no need to quote any specific rules (including clocks) in the entry form. Just a reference to NZASP rules of play in [scrabble.org.nz/](https://scrabble.org.nz/) is all that's needed.

## 2. I strongly recommend club tournaments using Murray Landon's excellent scoring programme Elixs.



*Liz Fagerlund*

Most clubs do use this now which is great. It's easy to set up the draw, print off ongoing results and best of all, post game by game results online. The game by game results can be found on the NZASP website, and are eagerly followed by many of our members (and others). Go to [scrabble.org.nz](https://scrabble.org.nz) and near the top of the home page click on Elixs results: <https://landonsoftware.azurewebsites.net/Elixs/Results>

Tournament organisers and scorers just need internet at the playing venue to post results, or use a hotspot from a mobile phone if available.

Murray is constantly doing upgrades, including for the Trans-Tasman Challenge. As it was a two team event, he performed an upgrade to make it easy to do a team draw, and post ongoing individual and team results. Anyone who followed along will agree it was fantastic coverage.

# 2024 Trans Tasman Review

## First Reserve

By Val Mills, Mt. Albert



When Liz emailed me with those words, I didn't know whether to freak out or be overjoyed! There wasn't much time to get match-ready if I was needed. I had already agreed to look after the kitchen for the tournament so I would be at the premises if there was a last minute call up. But I think Liz was quietly wondering if that happened, could she do the kitchen as well as run the tournament singlehandedly?

As it happened, I was not called upon to play, and I had a great weekend feeling part of the event but without the stress. Joanne Craig and Esther Perrins stayed with me so I vicariously got the tourney vibes from them.

However the best thing ever was the live streaming. I could put my ear pods in, listen and watch the live stream on my phone, and then sit quietly behind another player and watch that game too. Scrabble bliss!

Anyone that has doubts about scrabble being a spectator sport needs to give it a try. It was especially interesting to see what the commentators had to say. Thanks to all of you that commented. The insight into what a player might be thinking or what they might play was fascinating. Good to know that we are

not the only ones who miss something or don't see a place to go on the board.

You may wonder if any cups of tea or food appeared for the players, but yes it did. This was largely due the help I received from Annette Caisley and Glennis Hale. I didn't have to even ask! They appeared and just got on with it. Annette especially worked her butt off, at the same time supporting Jason. Another great thing about working in the kitchen; you get to talk to all the players.

I was so grateful to those that turned up with food. Julie's two carrot cakes, Cicely's lemon drizzle muffins, Jason's afghans, Liz's mini quiches – yum, yum, yum! It certainly made my life easier.

On Saturday night Cathy arranged a dinner across the road from the venue. This was another opportunity to spend time with the Aussie team and NZ Scrabblers that I wouldn't normally get to socialise with.

On Sunday, Liz asked if I would go and pick up John Foster so he could come and be part of the final afternoon and prizegiving. It was great to catch up with him in the car. As John is not driving now, a decision he came to himself, he is not getting to tournaments like he used to. Although he says he still plays against the computer.



The Trans-Tasman was conceived by John and Bob Jackman, so it was appropriate that he was there. He spoke at the prizegiving and lots of players were glad to see him again.

A funny thing happened when I got home. We got in the door and I said “now where’s that bag with the chicken I bought for tea?” It was nowhere to be found. I rang Liz to see if she had picked it up, but no. Liz and I had been the last to leave and there was nothing lying around. She rang me back to say that Anderina was having a drink with her sister in the pub opposite, and she would go to the venue and have another look.

Fortunately the venue was still open as another group was using it. I’m not sure what made her look in the fridge, but she did, and there was my bag with all the things I needed to keep cool till the last minute. Luckily she was going to Liz’s place, and my bag, (chicken and all), turned up at club the following night.

The tournament was one of the best I have attended. Liz had thought of everything and ran it superbly. Cathy was there representing the association and doing lots in the background. Alexander and Chris had tested, tested and retested the live streaming and even with the odd hiccup, Alexander managed to keep it all going. Well done to the live streaming team and to the NZASP for a great tournament. I would definitely be happy to be first reserve again.

## **How to win by the WEENIEST margin: my Trans-Tasman Challenge**

*By Howard Warner, Scrabble Wellington*

The ‘Word Blacks’ (or ‘All Blanks’, if you prefer) burst out of the blocks from round one and never looked back. In fact, it was not till after the halfway mark that we even lost a round.

By lunchtime on the third day, we had won the test. This was very satisfying given how many times before the Aussies had monstered us in this biennial contest.

But there were still individual placings to compete for. Dylan and I were ahead of the pack, so we turned from being supportive teammates to fierce rivals. Throughout the last day, we were going neck-a-neck each round. I had built up a very healthy spread, so I just had to ensure I stayed even with Dylan on wins.

I was still ‘filthy’ with myself for dropping a game on day 1, against Australia’s lowest-ranked player Chris Ostrowski. I had three ways of winning in the endgame but chose the wrong path. I felt sure it would come back to bite me. And that’s how it seemed, after the penultimate round, when I was obliterated by the very same opponent, playing a blinder. Only to find that Dylan had dropped his game as well.

In the final game, against top-ranked Australian Esther Perrins, I drew my worst racks of the tournament by far, and on the live stream to boot. I was sure I had blown it this time. My shoulders slumped. Then Dylan came over to my table to shake my hand. He had lost his game as well.



*Howard Warner,  
overall TTC winner*

(As his opponent Victor Tung said later: “You owe me a beer, Howard – I did what you asked!”)

Over the weekend, I played some nice words for big scores, including GOBURRAS (an Aussie word, in response to all the great NZ words my opponents played), DEISHEAL, OVIDUCT, RINGETTE, PINNULAE, MISPOINT, SHASTRA, SCANDIC, BEJABERS, TOXAEMIC, DYSPNEIC, NAIVIST and FRANCIZE (a natural, extending onto an E on the TWS line, for 124 points). My luckiest non-challenged phony was \*sleeze for 70 points (SLEEZY is OK), against Jane Taylor.

I seldom remember games, but a few stuck with me for odd quirks. Against Rocky Sharma, I was seven points behind on a very closed board. I had AURICLE on my rack with nowhere to go, and there were three tiles left in the bag. I played off LU for five points, to set up a possible bingo channel. Then I picked up – who would credit it!

– LU again. I was able to play AURICLE (this time) in the place I had created. And won the game.

Against Ryan Sutton, my first five turns each scored 24 points. Then for good measure, I went out on a 24 point play.

But the most memorable game by far was my first tussle with Esther (see

pictured game board). She had been romping along while I just tried not to get too far behind. With one full rack each and three tiles remaining in the bag, the score was 446-380 to Esther. I was sitting on WEEEGST, and there was a blank unseen. I had many places to score well with the W, but that wasn't going to win me the game.

After a very long think, I played off the G for seven, setting up a spot for a useful 50 point W play next turn if all else failed. But it also gave me a chance of picking up I, N, R or T for a bonus word. Or the blank – which is what I got.

Now I could whack down SWEETIE, SWEETEN, SWEETER or WEETEST, hooking under the A of ALIBIED. Or SWEETEST or TWEETERS through the T of TOUZE. However, it was obvious that Esther, such a wily old campaigner, could block both my spots and take out the game. For instance by playing VEE or VIE onto the T (if she had the V).

However, Esther didn't know exactly what I had. So it was now her turn to wind down the clock while sifting through all the permutations. I have a theory (or superstition?) that the longer you spend thinking about all options in an endgame, the more chance you'll pick the wrong one – as I did against Chris Ostrowski on day one. And so it happened for Esther. Instead of playing defensively and making the win safe, she was seduced by the option of bonusing through the T with NAVETTES. That put her some 120 points ahead. I immediately nine-timered through the N with WEENIEST, for 140. Definitely not the 'most weeny' score of the game. (And ironically, my opening play had been WEENY – another of those odd quirks.)

Anyway, the final scoreline was 540 to 520, in my favour. I'm sure Esther will have nightmares about this one choice in an otherwise brilliant game. And I finally got to play a game that I can remember in detail.



*Howard vs. Esther Perrins*

### Tournament Calendar 2025

Tournament	Location	Dates
Dunedin	Dunedin	5-6 April
*Masters	Auckland	18-20 April
SI Champs	Christchurch	10-11 May
Mt Albert	Auckland	17 & 18 May
Nationals	Hamilton	31 May – 2 June
Whangarei	Whangarei	5-6 July
Kiwi Scrabblers	Hamilton	2-3 August
Tauranga	Tauranga	23-24 August
Canterbury Open	Christchurch	6-7 September
Wairarapa Open	Carterton	27-28 September
Mt Albert	Auckland	4-5 October
Dunedin	Queenstown	October 18-19
Whanganui	Whanganui	25-26 October
Swissvember	Wellington	November
Otago Lions Open	Dunedin	November 29-30
* Limited entry		

## Lawson Sue vs Rod Talbot

By Dylan Early, Scrabble Wellington

Lawson to play, holding EEEORZ?

He declines OOZE (33) through BIGOT and finds a beautiful setup that not even Quackle found. He played AE using the A of VIFDAS for two points. It was so well disguised that not even the commentators knew what was coming next.

Lawson played DZO (63), keeping EEPR?. This marked a turning point in the game.



*Ed: I was watching and listening to this game, online, and yes Lawson did flummox the commentators by playing the E. However, we all know that Lawson is the master of the setup move, and also loves to have a bit of fun. It did get rid of one of his three E's. So I wasn't totally surprised, and as Dylan says, it was a turning point in the game. But in the end 33 points was scored for two moves, which actually is pretty average... Sorry to rain on your parade Lawson. Any other views on this?*

# Bonus Boards

## What might have been

*By Howard Warner,  
Scrabble Wellington*

During a game in the recent Whanganui tournament, I equalled a couple of New Zealand tournament records yet came away feeling dispirited. How could that be?

The records were 'six bonus words in a game' and 'five in succession'. My first five turns were ACQUEST (104), ABUSION (84), INSANEST (74), COLLYRIA (85) and IMMERGED (67). By this stage, I was on 414 points. Later in the game, I played PERONEUS for 66.

Shortly after that, I found myself with a seventh bonus word ready to go down – which could have given me the record outright. My rack was DEEEFN, with just the 'I' of WAITE to play through. I could play either NEEDFIRE or REDEFINE (but not FINEERED). However, pesky Olivia – after a long, time-ticking, nerve-racking think – blocked the lane with PED. And just like that, the moment was gone.



*Olivia En (pictured) vs. Howard  
and the six bonus game*

The final score was 603-394. Olivia did really well considering that I was using up so many tiles and she wasn't close to a bingo herself.



## For Future Losers – Beat these records? (Please)

By Lawson Sue, Mt. Albert

'Twas the morning after an unforgettable day's play in Whangarei, 7th July, 2024. It was somewhat tempered by a relaxing night at the Dickens Inn, a couple of G and Ts, a steak dinner and watching the All Blacks play their first test under a new coach. After the game, dessert beckoned, with a rich chocolate ice-cream and lemon lime bitters sorbet combo. Some people swear that a cup of tea does wonders, but ice-cream does the same with that sense of devilment.

My first game was against Glennis Hale. If I could repeat the result of yesterday, that would at least be a positive start, and a sign of things to follow. I get to start.

It was an auspicious start by both of us. We both change four tiles. I now have ADEERSS and bonus with RESEDAS (68). Glennis has a modest move. I change five tiles due to having no vowels. Glennis plays her first bingo, RETAINED (68, through the A). Her next turn is her second bingo, LIVENER (71). I respond with one of my own, ISATINE (75). Glennis responds with DZHO for a cool 57 points and mitigates my bonus nicely. Scores are 164 vs. 217 to Glennis. After five turns apiece, two bingo's each and all natural tiles, the blanks have yet to make an appearance.



*Glennis vs. Lawson*

Glennis's sixth turn was an impressive try that she was doubtful of — WAFERING (80+5). I always appreciate a bit of bravery. Her third bingo in four turns. Score 200 vs. 302 to Glennis.

On her eighth turn, she plays TEAROOm (70), and finally a blank appears. Unrelentless is this woman. On the next and ninth turn, she plays VLoLATEs (84, with another blank for the O). Her fifth bingo to my two. Scores 290 vs. 486 to Glennis.

On the twelfth turn I play \*RAUNCES (73), an unchallenged phony. I think I confused it with paunces and raunges. Nevertheless, there are eight bingos between us, with Glennis's five and my three. Final score Glennis 601 vs. 391.

Apparently this equals the NZ record for the most bonuses in a tournament game.

## You think things can't get worse.....right?

### Game 2, vs Chris T

Chris starts and opens with a wonderful natural, TAXIMEN (98). His second turn, another natural, FOULING (85). Lets not stop there, in his next turn we see the first blank in rESHAPE (84), hooking the S to make (FOULING)S. Score, Chris 267 vs. 73.

Why stop at three bingos in a row? On his fourth turn he plays RANCOReD (65+5), going through an E. That is four in a row and potentially more. Score Chris 337 vs. 101.

The shape of the board had closed a little but further bingo's are possible if one knows nine and 10 letter words. If I had opened up with my next move, I could have been looking at being on the wrong side of another record: five bingo's in a row, currently held by Allie Quinn. I had to make sure that didn't happen and if Chris managed to complete such an impressive feat, he would have to work for it. I played safe. (Allie, you owe me one).

Chris's next turn was still a credible 45 points. At least it wasn't a bingo – \*Chris' averted (pun intended).

That was all but a minor calm in the storm. On his next turn, Chris plays OVerLIeS (74), the first E being a



*Lawson vs. Chris T*

blank, and going through an existing E. His fifth bingo in six turns. Score now, Chris 456 vs. 155.

But Chris wasn't finished yet. On his eighth turn, he plays TASTILY (87). Tasty for him, a bitter one for me. His sixth bingo in eight turns. Score at that stage, Chris 549 vs. 202.

The game peters along to its natural end with the final score being Chris on 657 vs. 347.

There was one respite, Chris could have broke 700, but made a mistake. I suspect a concentration lapse — or he couldn't count that high, ha!

An impressive six bingo's in a game, great score and great play. Once again, on the wrong side of possible records.

I challenge anyone to beat such run of plays.....please!

# New words are ADORBS, GRIMDARK or pure WOKERY – AMIRITE?

*By Howard Warner, Scrabble Wellington*

It's five years since Collins Scrabble Words (CSW), our official lexicon, was last updated. That is, if you discount the 2021 outlier in which 180-odd supposed 'slur words' were removed but no words were added.

Now with CSW24 being endorsed around the world including New Zealand, we have an interesting set of new words to play with.

Any dictionary update presents a contemporary snapshot of society seen through an English-language lens. Thus many of these words spring from fields that have flourished since the last CSW edition, including:

## Online gaming

AVI, EDGELORD, ESPORT, GAMEPAD, INT, LAGGY, NERF, RESPAWN, THUMBPAD.

## Social media

ADORBS, AT (as a verb), BANTZ, BOUJEE/BOUGIER/BOUIER/BOURGIE, DOXX, MEETUP, NEG, NOOCH, POSTROLL, SHITPOST, SITCH, TOMOZ, UNLIKING

## Computing

AUTOPLAY,

BACKEND, BYTECODE, CHIPLET, DEEPFAKE, ECOMM, INFODUMP, PATHING, REGEX, ROUTABLE, UPTHREAD



*AVI—short for  
avatar*

## Manga/fantasy fiction

FANART, GRIMDARK, HENTAI, HOPEPUNK, JOUSEI, SEINEN, SHOJO/SHOUJO, SHONEN, RETCON, WAIFU, WEBCOMIC

## The Covid-19 pandemic

MASKNE (a rash caused by excessive mask wearing), MASKLESS, RONA, UNMUTE (the thing that Zoom newbies had trouble with during lockdown), VAX – and COVID itself.

**Wokeness** (what used to be called 'political correctness')

CISHET, TRANSFEM (odd that this is acceptable while TRANSMAN has come out), UNCANCEL, WOKERY, WOKEISM.

**Rude or slur words** (despite the previous dictionary 'purge')

FAP, BAWBAG, BELLEND (descriptive UK slang for a particular body part – and thus an unlikeable



person), BIPHOBIA and BIPHOBIC, CHONK and CHONKY, CORNHOLE, DUMBASS, NORMIE (the opposite of ASPIE, which is also expurgated – go figure!), NUTBALL, PINKWASH and RATFUCK. Excuse me for

repeating all these nasty words, but Collins has seen fit to allow them – so they're officially deemed unlikely to offend.

### Words that are spelled as

**pronounced** (somewhere in the world or by some milieu or other)

AMIRITE, BAW, BRUH, COULDA, DONCHA, FINNA, FOLX, IMMA, LEWK, NOICE, SHOULDNA, SHOULDNA, TRYNA, WAGWAN, WOULDNA

### Shortened forms

Many abbreviations, mostly from youth culture and txt-spk:

AGGY, ARO, BRUV, COORD, CUCK, FAM, FAV, GASTRO, GUAC, HUNDO, INDY, LOC, NOOCH, PARM, RANDO, SITCH, SPOSE, ZUKE

But even more 'portmanteau' words (or 'blends'):

ALTCOIN (alternative to bitcoin)  
BACNE (back + acne)  
BUJO (bullet journal)  
BOPOS (body positivity)  
BRALETTE (brasier + lightweight + corset) – a triple-decker  
CISHET (cisgender + heterosexual)



*A place to GLAMP*

CHUNGUS (chunky + humungous)  
CRYBULLY (crybaby + bully)  
DIPTTEL (diplomatic intelligence)  
EDGELOD (edginess + warlord)  
FAUXHAWK (faux +

mohawk)  
FRUNK (front trunk)  
GLAMAZON (glamour + amazon)  
GLAMP (glamour + v. to camp)  
IDPOL (identity politics)  
INFOSEC (information security)  
JAMOK (java + mocha)  
KEYTAR (keyboard + guitar),  
MIDROLL (middle of advertisement + roll of film)  
MOBO (motherboard)  
MOCAP (motion capture)  
NIBLING (nephew/niece + sibling)  
REGEX (regular expression)  
RETCN (retroactive continuity)  
SCUMBRO (scummy + brother)  
SPLOOT (splay + scoot)  
SPONCON (sponsored content)  
SHART (shit + fart – an embarrassing social faux-pas)  
UNSUB (identified subject)  
XENNIAL (Gen X + millennial)  
ZEDONK, ZEEDONK and ZONKEY (zebra + donkey),  
ZOODLE (zucchini + noodle)



*LOC—short for dreadlock*

ZOOMER (Gen Z + Zoom + Boomer)  
– another triple-decker  
ZORSE (zebra + horse)

**Alternative spellings** (where several exist already – as if we need more!)

AATMAN, BADAMASH, EPKWELE  
(and several other new versions of this Equatorial Guinean monetary unit), FIZZOG, GALABEYA, GEPIK, HRYVNI, JILEBI, JUBBA, KHYAL, PIEROGY etc.

### Ethnic loanwords

Nowhere near as many as in previous updates. The most common source of borrowed words is India. Following closely behind are Korea and Japan (mostly to do with popular culture and food). But no contributions from Australia, New Zealand, South Africa – obviously the Commonwealth ‘First World’ is no longer seen as a linguistic leader.

### Useful additions

Without doubt, the most useful new word will be UWU – a cutesy letter-based emoticon and the low-probability dumper we’ve been waiting for.



*UWU - a cute face emoticon*

There are also a few high-probably seven- and eight-letter anagrams that didn't previously yield a word:

ADULTED, AIRDASH, BAGSIED, BEANIER, BLONDIE, COHESIN, GOETTAS, HOGLETS, LAGGIER, NEGGING, PRONING, RAILGUN, RULESET, YEETING



*PANDEIRO*



*Hedgehog and HOGLET*

BOUGIEST, CIDERIES, GERMLINE, LAGGIEST, LOSARTAN, MOLTINGS, PANDEIRO, ROASTERY, ROUTABLE, SALINATE, SPEEDRAN, TORTIERE, UNDERHIT, UNMALTED

### About time!

Some words that we’ve all known for some time and wondered why they’re not allowed yet:

BLONDIE, BODYCAM, BOTOX, BULGOGI, CARNITAS, COSMO, EYEROLL, FUGAZI, INNIE, KOMBUCHA, OUTIE, PALEO, PAWPRINT, RAPEY, SKEEZY, SLUSHEE, STABBY, THINGIE, TOPDRESS, TRAMADOL, UNPAIR, VACAY, VIBED, YEEHAW, ZHUZH.



Probably the one omission that's annoyed most people over the years is SEALION. We all know it's a large Pacific seal with ears and mane. However, the word's



**SEALION (ANISOLE)**

belated entry into our lexicon refers to a type of vicious online trolling. Thus it also exists in the verb forms SEALIONED and SEALIONING.

### **Plurals and 'verbings'**

In this update, there are far fewer changes to word formation (e.g. addition of a plural ending) or conversions from one part of speech to another.

Here are a few new plurals that took my eye:

BONSAI-S

DABBING-S: a method of inhaling concentrated cannabis

FRANCO-S (previously only an adjective meaning 'franked', now a monetary unit of Equatorial Guinea)

GNOCCHI-S

HOKKU-S

IDLING-S

IRITIDES (pl. of IRITIS),

KIPPOT (pl. of KIPPAH)

LATER-S

LICHANOI (pl. of LICHANOS)

MIDLIFE-S (previously only MIDLIVES)

MOLTING-S

RAPPINI-S

SESTETTI (pl. of SESTETTO)

TELEA (pl. of TELOS)

THRENOI (pl. of THRENOS)

And some conversions:

ABYE-D

ANGSTED,

ANGSTING

ATTED, ATTING: in a social media post, to

disparage a claim or opinion prefaced by the 'at sign'

BANDSAW-N (now a verb)

BOTOX (previously only the adjective BOTOXED was allowable)

CRUELED, CRUELING; CRUELLED, CRUELLING (a common Aussie term)

EELED: (NZ) to fish for eels (previously only EELING-S)

FAPS, FAPPED, FAPPING: to masturbate noisily (previously it was an adjective meaning 'drunk')

GREEKED (previously only GREEK and GREEKING-S)

IXNAYS, IXNAYED, IXNAYING

LIPOED, LIPOING

MEIKLER, MEIKLEST (previously just MEIKLE)

MIDDER, MIDDEST

PANTSED, PANTSSES, PANTSING

PEATED

PRONED, PRONING

SHIVED, SHIVING (to use a shiv – though it should probably take a double V)

SNARKED, SNARKING (to be snarky)

VERBED (previously only VERBING-S)

VIBED, VIBING

ZIPLINED.

## My faves

And finally, a selection of words that appeal to me for their quirkiness of meaning . Nothing to do with their usefulness in Scrabble:

DAITH: a piercing that loops around the inner cartilage of the ear (from a Hebrew word for 'knowledge', suggesting that such a piercing admits only intelligent speech).  
EPIGYNE/EPIGYNUM: the external genital structure of female spiders (is it coincidental that the new plural EPIGYNA rhymes with 'vagina'?)  
FLOOF (and FLOOFY): an excessively furry or hairy pet  
HIRAETH: (Welsh) a longing for one's childhood home or a place that can no longer be revisited.  
KAYFABE: in professional wrestling, tacit agreement to act as if obviously scripted moves are genuine.  
KUMBAYA: adj. denoting an idealistic, harmonious, 'happy-clappy' world  
LEAFER: one who travels to wooded areas in autumn to view colourful foliage  
OSSICONE: one of the twin conical knobs on the head of a giraffe  
REMOANER: a blend of 'remainder' (one opposed to Brexit) + moan, i.e. someone who 'Brexiters'

would find very irksome

SHOEGAZE: a genre of rock music with distorted instrumentals and vocals, performed by unemotional nerds

SIDEBOOB: part of a woman's breast exposed by today's upper-body fashion garments

SLASHIE: one who has multiple jobs or professions and writes them in a string with 'slashes' (e.g. "Howard is a media mogul/ astronaut/Scrabble player")

SPLOOT: of certain pets such as Welsh corgis, to relax by lying flat on the stomach with limbs outstretched

STAN: to follow a famous person's career obsessively (derived from a character in a song by rapper

Eminem, who kidnaps his idol)

THUGLIFE: ("I didn't choose the thuglife, the thuglife chose me" – Tupac Shakur)

ZOOMER: one of the generation born around 2000, who grew up using Zoom (on the pattern of BOOMER and DOOMER: another new word, meaning one who expects civilization to end soon).

No doubt you'll all have your own. I look forward to hearing about them.



*ZIPLINE is now a verb with ZIPLINED and ZIPLINING(S)*

# Only on a Scrabble Board

## Best Game Ever

*By Clare Wall, Scrabble  
Wellington*

It's game one at the Dunedin Lion tournament on Saturday 30 December and I'm raring to go. Anne Goldstein and I are facing off for the first of three times we'll play each other over the weekend. I'm starting, and look down at my first rack: BEEINRT. I reach into the dark recesses of my brain and recall a word I'm sure someone's inflicted on me — BENTIER.

Mentally crossing my fingers I plonk it down on the board for 74. Anne challenges it, but fortunately my hazy recollection is correct, so I'm 79 points up. Anne responds a couple of turns later with CURTAINS for 74 and we're pretty even.

A few undistinguished turns later and I see EBO?IES on my rack with somewhere to play it. I slap down EBO?IES for 71. It's still close at that point. Three turns later and I see a place for VENTRAL coming down from the top right triple, hooking onto COUCH to make COUCHE. I know COUCHE is a valid word in French but am much less sure in English, however it's worth 96 so I decide to go for it. Again, Anne challenges and I'm stoked to find that COUCHE is OK, giving me 101 points.



*Clare's 611 game*

I'm now about 100 points ahead and feeling hopeful that I might win this first game. Alas my pickup after that move is rubbish so I change on my next turn. I pick up the Q and am able to hook QUOP under XI on a double word score to make 50 and I'm starting to pull further ahead on 471 to 295.

I have a great pickup and find TOADIED, hooking the E in front of MO to make EMO for 77, giving me a total of 548. This is already one of my highest ever tournament scores so I'm delighted! In my last pickup I get the blank along with the W and K and can see the top left triple is open. I find WaLK, putting the K on the double letter score for 63 points. This gives me a final total of 611. Anne goes out and makes 369.

I've never scored more than 600 either at a club or tournament, so this is monumental for me! As Lynn Wood says, I had a 'flop 'em out' game where words just appeared on my rack and there were places to put

them. Anne got her revenge the second time we played. I obviously used up all my luck in that game as I didn't meet my expectancy in the tournament and went down a few rating points. But it was worth it!

## No Picnic

*By Patrick Carter, Mt. Albert*

Just thought I'd share this endgame playing against the computer.

The computer had just played QI leaving three tiles in the bag.

I am eight points ahead and the unseen tiles are A B E H I L N O O X

I rearranged the letters to make PICNIC, but of course I can't play it.

It doesn't look worrying for bingos, but AX making RAJA and AXEL could score 47.



Playing PIC alongside QI (top right) scores 41 and I would still be ahead so that looks best doesn't it?

I emptied the bag and the X was in the bag so AX wasn't the problem after all.

The remaining tiles were:  
ABHILOO.

See if you can figure out what the computer played. I wonder if Nigel would find it during a tournament game.

Answer on page 41.

## An Aggravating Situation

*Submitted by Anderina McLean, Whanganui*

Here's an aggravating situation from the Whanganui tournament, October 2024.

The bag was empty, and the scores were Cicely: 408 - Me: 386.

I had "AS" on my rack, and I had tile tracked correctly, so I knew she had only "I" remaining. In order to win this game, I needed to go out, scoring at least 21 points (20 points would give me a draw, with the two points from her remaining tile).

What especially aggravates me about this situation, is that I had several minutes on my clock, and I said to myself, "Take your time! Keep looking! Use up every second you have, in case there's an opportunity you haven't yet spotted!" So I did. I looked and looked, and I put my two tiles in all sorts of outlandish places, jokingly saying to my opponent things like, "how about this?" and "would you let me have this one?"

Once I at last surrendered, going out and scoring only 14, but still with at least 30 seconds on my clock, then clever, poker-faced Cicely released the breath she'd been metaphorically holding, and pointed out the move I should have made to win.

How long does it take you to find the winning play with "AS" from this position?

Answer on page 47.





# Hall of Fame

*by Jennifer Smith, Kiwi Scrabblers*

## Arse and Bottle

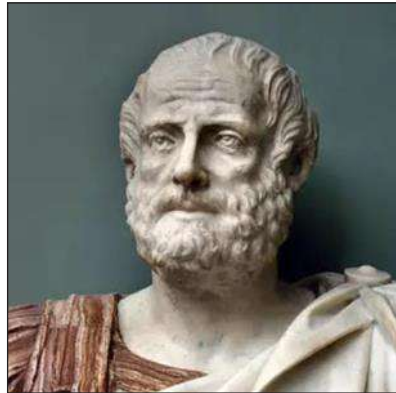
Greetings, present day mankind.

I am an ancient Greek philosopher and polymath (a person of great and varied learning), born in the city of Stagira in northern Greece in 384BC during the Classical period. My parents died when I was a child, so I was brought up by a guardian. At about age 18, I joined Plato's Academy in Athens where I became distinguished as a researcher and lecturer, earning for myself the nickname "mind of the school" by my tutor Plato himself.

I remained there until I was aged 37, when I left (shortly after Plato died), to tutor Philip II of Macedon's son, who was to become Alexander the Great.

As I was a metic (a resident alien to the city), I could not own property in Athens and so I rented a building known as the Lyceum, in which I established my own school.

I conducted courses and research at the school for the next twelve years, often lecturing small groups of distinguished students. I also built a large library which included manuscripts, maps, and museum objects, and which eventually housed many of my hundreds of books (written on papyrus scrolls) on logic, metaphysics, mathematics, physics,



*ARISTOTLE*

biology, botany, ethics, politics, agriculture, medicine, dance, and theatre. You name it: I studied it, conducted observations about it, and wrote about it.

I was one of the first people to record any geological observations; I stated that geological change was too slow to be observed in one person's lifetime. I was the first person known to conjecture the existence of a landmass in the southern high-latitude region, which I called Antarctica – there's a range of mountains there named after me.

I was the first person to study biology systematically - biology forms a large part of my writings – and I distinguished about 500 species of animals.

I was revered among medieval Muslim scholars as "The First Teacher", while among medieval Christians I was known simply as "The Philosopher".

More than 2300 years after my death, people still name me as one of the most influential people who ever lived, because I contributed to almost every field of human knowledge in existence in my lifetime, as well as founding many new fields. I have been called the father of logic, biology, political science, zoology, embryology, natural law, scientific method, rhetoric, psychology, realism, criticism, individualism and meteorology. My name, you will have guessed, is Aristotle.

No doubt you will be expecting there to be numerous lofty or intellectual eponyms in my honour in your official Scrabble word list? There's certainly plenty of scope and plenty of worthy topics that could benefit by being named ARISTOTLE or some derivation of my name.

Alas! There are but two. One means "bottle". And the other is even more lowly and demeaning – it means "arse"!! I can thank (or blame?) the inventive Cockneys for my ignominious eponyms.

According to their rhyming language tradition, they started with the phrase "bottle and glass" for arse, and as usual, only used the first word of the phrase so its meaning is undecipherable by the uninitiated. So

BOTTLE = ARSE, to start with. (This gave rise to expressions like "losing your bottle", being so scared you lose control of your bowel.)

But then, to make the meaning even more obscure, they started using my name for bottle because of the rhyme. So ARISTOTLE = ARSE, after a time. Then, to make things even more obscure, they shortened my name. So now, ARIS = ARSE. This generally freed up ARISTOTLE to mean BOTTLE most of the time.

Do I think my eponyms are demeaning? Or insulting? Or embarrassing? No historian has mentioned that I have a sense of humour, but just for the record, I do think it's funny. And if I were still writing my treatises today, I'd certainly write a few scrolls about Cockney rhyming slang!

So remember me when you play ARIS or ARSE or BOTTLE or POLYMATH or LYCEUM or COCKNEY, because you might never get a chance to play the nine-letter ARISTOTLE. (And – pun intended - I bet you haven't noticed that my anagram is TOTALISER?)

# World Seniors Championship 2024

***By Joanne Craig, Independent***

Nigel Richards and I were the only NZ players in the World Seniors Championship held in Kuala Lumpur from October 21-23.

It was my fifth time competing in the World Seniors (I won it in Christchurch in 2017), but Nigel's first and he romped home on 23 wins (out of 25 games) from 42 competitors. He beat me 454-409 in game four with LO(C)KINGS (89), yEChIER/ C(LOCKINGS) (90) and JOLTS (78) to my (E)OLIENNE (70).

I came fifth and won a trophy for winning the age 65-69 age band.

My highest game was 591-363 in the first round against Siva Sivalasundram (from Australia) but Nigel had the highest game of the tournament at 629.

My favourite word played was FUTHARC (a runic alphabet) which I had read about at the National Museum of Denmark when I was in Copenhagen in August. Variant spellings are FUTHARK, FUTHORC and FUTHORK.

Top ten place-getters (who received prizemoney):

Winner: Nigel Richards

Runner-up: Sam Kantimathi

Third: Sally Martin

Fourth: Sunny Bhatia

Fifth: Joanne Craig

Sixth: Sreepathy Iyer

Seventh: Shaik Ahmed

Eighth: Howard Rayner

Ninth: Susan Rayner

Tenth: Tony Hunt

Age-band winners:

Age 55-59: Nigel Richards

Age 60-64: Sally Martin

Age 65-69: Joanne Craig

Age 70-74: Sam Kantimathi

Age 75-79: Zeenath Ariff

Age 80-84: Olga Visser

Age 85-89: Tan Jin Chor



***Battle between two New Zealanders:  
Joanne Craig and Nigel Richards***



*The top ten place-getters with organiser Mohammed Ali Ismail  
(Joanne first on the left and Nigel 7th from the left)*

The presentation was held upon completion of the tournament but we had a wonderful group buffet dinner in

a revolving restaurant atop KL Tower thanks to organisers Mohammed Ali Ismail and Hassan Anas.



*More on FUTHARC from the National Museum of Denmark:*

### **The Runes—the first writing**

On the model of the Roman or Greek alphabet the Germani developed their own writing system in the second century AD: runes. Runes were used for more than 1000 years in the north. The alphabet is called the “futhark” after the first six characters. In the Iron Age runes were used for short texts, for example masters’ marks and owners’ inscriptions in the style of the Latin inscriptions on Roman objects. In the 5th-6th centuries the runes



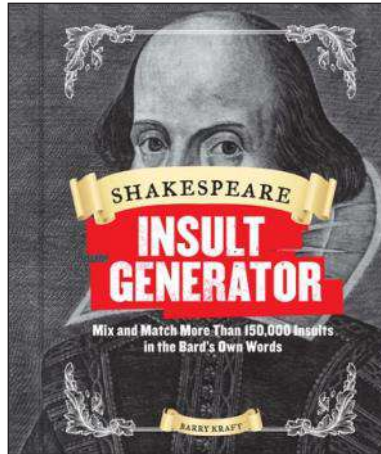
***FUTHARC/FUTHARK/ FUTHORC/  
FUTHORK at the National Museum of  
Denmark***

were also used for magical inscriptions on gold pendants.

# Shakespearean Insults

by Mike Currie, Mt. Albert

In October, during the Mt. Albert tournament, Arabella, Liz Fagerlund's granddaughter, did a brilliant job of entering in the scores after each round. To amuse her, I lent her my *Shakespeare Insult Generator* and asked her to insult



Lawson, Liz and myself every time we deposited a result. Consisting of 162 moveable rectangular cards with insults used in one or more of his 38 plays, you can mix and match your wicked invectives from the inventive world of Shakespearean scurrility and wordsmithery. The first word is always an adjective, the second a compound adjective and the third a person, animal or thing.

So as the weekend progressed, we were creatively sworn at.

"You ARTLESS (crude), motley-minded CODPIECE!"

"THOU BESLUBBERING (slobbering) muddy-METTLED DUNGHILL (heap of excrement)!"

You CAUTELOUS (deceitful) fat-kidneyed GIGLET (giddy girl)!"

I guess insults are topical in the light of the expurgation of slur words from the CSW lexicon this year as we catch up with the rest of the world. Removing slur words focusing on race, religion or sexual orientation such as \*ABO (an Aborigine), \*FAGGIER and \*FAGGERY (but not \*FAG), \*GOY (a non-

Jew), \*LEZ (a lesbian), \*MICK and \*MICKY (an Irishman), \*NEGRO, \*NIGGER, POOF, \*POOFTER, \*POOFTAH, \*RAGHEAD (an Arab), \*REDSKIN (a native American), \*SPAZ (a clumsy person), \*YID (a Jew), \*WOG (a non-white foreigner). The definition my dad once gave of 'Western oriental gentleman' is probably a false etymology or backronym. Some of these slurs I haven't even seen before: \*BUFTY (a homosexual); \*BLACKAMoor (an archaic term for a \*negro/\*negrress) and \*SHVARTZE (a Yiddish word for a black person.) Well, I'll probably never get the chance to play them now with what seems to be an imminent bowdlerization.

The withdrawal of Pope-related words such as \*PAPISH, \*PAPISM, \*PAPIST and \*NONPAPIST surprises me but



reflects the reversal of high tier swear words over the last 500 years. Nowadays, insults relating to body parts and bodily functions are considered high tier swears (consider the 'C' and 'F' words) whereas religious cussing (OMG!) is common currency and hardly even considered offensive. In Shakespeare's England the opposite was true so ZOUNDS! (God's wounds) would have put a few Elizabethan noses out of joint whereas "AROINT thee, rump-fed RONION" (Go away, you well-fed scabby creature), spoken to the witches in Macbeth, wouldn't have batted an eyelid. This is hardly surprising given people could be fined for not going to church and Catholics would be burnt at the stake in Elizabethan England. When James VI of Scotland became James I of England and England became Jacobean, the Act to Restrain Abuses of Players of 1606 made it illegal for actors to 'jestingly or profanely speak or use the holy Name of God or of Christ Jesus, or of the Holy Ghost or of the Trinity' on pain of a severe fine.

The Bard's barbs reflect the zeitgeist of the time. The Great Plague occurred in the same year as the Great Fire of London, 1666, and Shakespearean slander reflected this: "Thou art a boil, a plague sore" (King Lear, Act 2, Scene 2). A BUBO, in other words. The Globe Theatre was closed multiple times by the plague.



In Elizabethan times, children born out of wedlock faced many difficulties. They were often condemned by society for sinful and corrupt acts. A tragedian stock character, they were seldom to be trusted. Edmund is one such schemer and troublemaker in King Lear: "Thou WHORESON (bastard) zed, thou unnecessary letter!" (King Lear, Act 2, Scene 2) Personally, I don't think many Scrabblers would consider 'Z' an unnecessary letter but there you go.

Shakespeare's age was also sexist and hierarchical. Servants only spoke in prose and were insulted with their own lowly status: "You SCULLION! You RAMPALLIAN! You FUSTILARIAN! I'll tickle your catastrophe!" (You kitchen servant, mean wretch, fat and slovenly person) chortles Falstaff offensively to Mistress Quickly in Henry IV Part 2. A man who does woman's work was disrespectfully termed a COTQUEAN and one married to an unfaithful spouse was a CUCKOLD, CORNUTO or SKIMMINGTON, a stock character in Shakespearean comedy.

CORNUTO comes from the cuckold's horns, from the Italian "one who is horned". This is an allusion to the mating habits of stags, who forfeit their mates when they are defeated by another male. Other aspersions can be similarly decoded with a little detective work.



**GOATISH** means  
*lustful*

GOATISH is  
lustful, as goats  
are symbols of  
lust in Greek  
myths.

Male goats  
become  
sexually active

after only a few weeks. A COXCOMB is a vain and conceited person, like Chanticleer the cockerel strutting the farmyard, and comes from 'the crest or comb of a domestic cock' or COCKSCOMB. If a fishmonger sells fish, then a FLESHMONGER sells flesh: a butcher, slave trader or fornicator.

As William Shakespeare is credited with adding over 1,700 words to the English language, including many that are still used today, such as "bandit", "critic", "dauntless", "dwindle", "elbow", "green-eyed (monster)", "lackluster", "lonely", "skim-milk", and "swagger", then it comes as no surprise that he coined verbal revilements from such disparate areas as dogs, toads, slugs, pigs, cheese, eggs, eyes, dunghills, rags, thimbles and candles. "What a slug." "A very toad." "Thou pigeon-egg." "Thou thimble."

Idiots can be CLODPOLES, CLODPATES, HALFWITS, OXHEADS, DUPES, LOGGERHEADS, GECKS or MOONCALVES (as Caliban is reviled in *The Tempest*.) Or just WITLESS.



**BANDIT**

Many disparagements derive from bodily shape or defect. LUBBERLY (clumsy); MAMMERING (stammering) (also MAMMER); PLUMPY (fat) or poetically put, a 'horseback breaker.' "Away, you STARVELING, you elf-skin, you dried newt's-tongue, bull's-PIZZLE, you STOCKFISH!" (Henry IV Part 1) STARVELING stands to reason: a weak or hungry person. STOCKFISH is unsalted cod. A PIZZLE: a penis.

Many more stem from character traits. "Thou subtle, PERJURED, false, disloyal man!" "You poor, base, RASCALLY, cheating lack-linen mate!" CRUDY meant crude. PANDERLY pimping. A SNEAPING BAWCOCK was a nipping, biting, snide, underhand fellow. A COZENER was an impostor or cheat, from 'to COZEN', meaning to cheat, trick, dupe, or deceive. In Shakespeare, the word RENEGADO means a TURNCOAT, renegade, or deserter (usually deserting their religion rather than their country or political party.) For example, in *Twelfth Night*, Maria says, "YOND gull Malvolio is turned heathen, a very RENEGADO".

Lawson Sue once surprised me with PRINCOX, a saucy insolent boy.

Saucy perhaps he is. Insolent never. (*Ed: Boy always.*)

Elizabethans still clung to the theory of the four humours set out by Hippocrates and Galen and that certain organs were the 'seats' of certain emotions. The



# Golden Bay Youth Scrabble Tournaments

*by Murray Rogers, Independent*

## Primary Schools Tournament

The annual Golden Bay Primary Schools Scrabble tournament took place on 12 November. There were three schools and two home-schoolers participating for a total of 19 children with everyone playing three games.

One school in the area said they were too busy all year and one school expressed last minute interest so they only received two 30 minute sessions beforehand. The other two schools had one hour or longer sessions throughout the year.

The players were divided into grades of four so they could all play each other once. The fourth grade had seven children. I teamed up the least experienced ones together having

been told one of them may not last the day, which was the case. I set up the draw so it was rare for someone to play another from the same school. The format was the same as previous years so I won't repeat myself.

There was one bonus word, SALTIER, with the S placed on the end of RAVE. They were all up to the challenge and seemed to enjoy themselves. One thing I noticed during the year was a lack of spelling and basic math skills from some of the students. From conversations I have had with others, this unfortunately seems to be a current reality.



*Golden Bay Primary Schools Tournament: 1st and 2nd placers in each grade*

## Secondary School tournament

The Golden Bay Secondary School tournament occurred on 19 November in the new library with seven from one high school plus one home-schooler. It was very difficult to get confirmation for the longest time but in the end there was a 45 minute practice session the day before.



*Secondary School players*

With eight children participating, four of whom I worked with in the past, it was a perfect number for two grades of four playing each other once for a total of three games. The teacher in charge, whom I have known for over 30 years (we homeschooled as parents in a group together in the early 90s), emphasized to make sure they have fun. I pushed all the tables

close together so they could socialise while playing but still competing enough. I used the five-point challenge rule, but many of them still got caught out on phoneys.

One boy was the only player to win all three games bonusing with STUDENT with the second T on the end of PAR and BLINDED with the second D on the end of WAVE. I had worked with

him quite often in the past, even going to his home during the holidays.

Even with the informality of the day, I still felt it was successful. I was invited by the teacher to come back next year for once a month sessions, so I think I have finally made some inroads.

*Photos courtesy of Murray Rogers.*



*JAGUARS was a good find but wouldn't go down during the Primary Schools tournament*



# Getting Ready for CSW24

*by Dylan Early, Scrabble Wellington*

*Now that NZ has adopted CSW24, I thought it would be a good idea to write a little how-to guide on updating your Scrabble software. Most of the updates are quite simple, but if you get stuck, I'd be happy to help. Just email me at [earlydylan@gmail.com](mailto:earlydylan@gmail.com). Happy downloading, updating and installing.*

## Zyzzzyva

Zyzzzyva v24.0 is the latest version and can be downloaded from <https://scrabble.collinsdictionary.com/tools/>. Follow these instructions to Install the Zyzzzyva v24.0

### Step 1: Preparation

If you use Zyzzzyva card box, back it up before installing the new version of Zyzzzyva. Copy the file called Anagrams.db to a separate location in case it gets deleted during the installation. Here's an example of where to find it  
C:\Users\dylan\collinszyzzzyva\quiz\data\CSW19

If you already have an older version of Zyzzzyva on your machine, you don't need to uninstall it but make sure it's closed otherwise it may interfere with the installation and corrupt the new version.

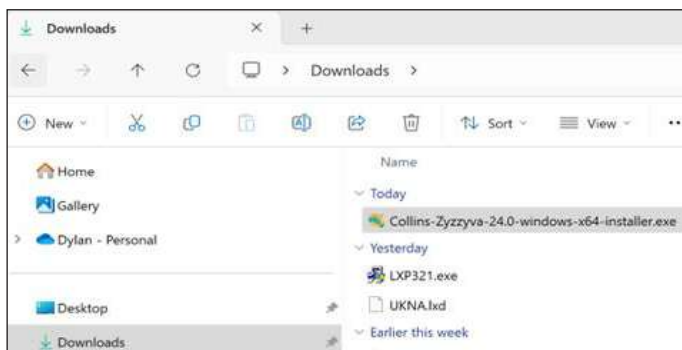
Make sure you have enough data for a 52 Mb download.

### Step 2: Download Zyzzzyva v24

In your internet browser, navigate to <https://scrabble.collinsdictionary.com/tools/> and click the relevant option, e.g. Windows 64 bit. There is a separate file for Mac OS users.

### Step 3: Install Zyzzzyva v24

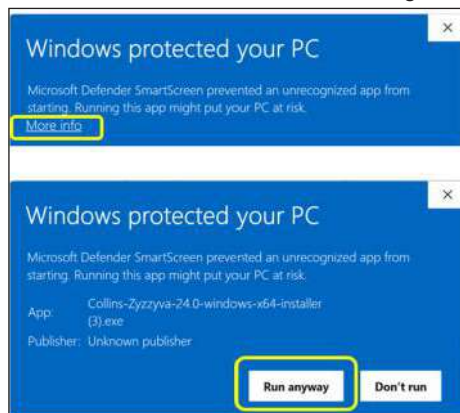
In Windows Explorer, navigate to your Downloads folder and double click the executable file "Collins-Zyzzzyva-24.0-windows-x64-installer.exe".



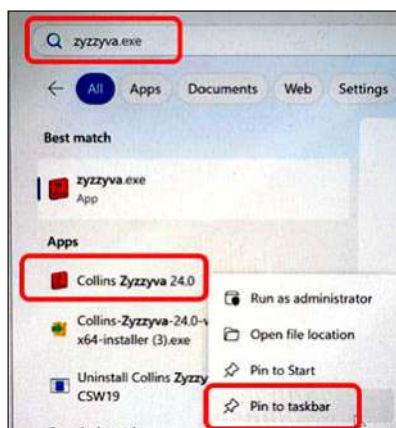
*Step 3: The downloads folder*

Override your antivirus programme temporarily if it prevents you from running the executable file. On a typical Windows machine, you will click “More info” and “Run anyway”.

Follow the setup wizard prompts and accept the licence agreement until Zyzzyva has been installed.



*Step 3*



*Step 4*

#### Step 4: Open Zyzzyva v24

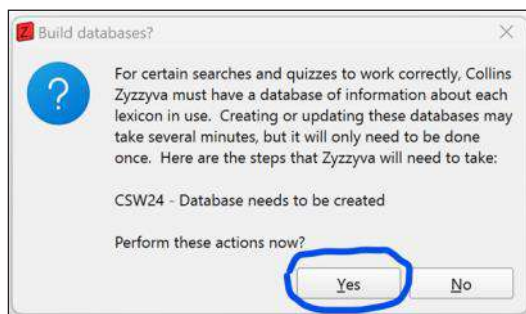
After installation, open the programme by clicking Start and typing Zyzzyva into the search box. Collins Zyzzyva 24.0 will appear under Apps.

Right-click it and select “Pin to taskbar”. This will put a new icon permanently on your taskbar at the bottom of the screen. Note: It looks identical to the older version of Zyzzyva but you can tell the difference by hovering over the icon with your mouse.

Click the Zyzzyva v24 icon to open it.

#### Step 5: Setup CSW24

When you open Zyzzyva v24 for the first time, it will prompt you to build databases. Click Yes to perform these actions now. This allows Zyzzyva to create the lexicons.

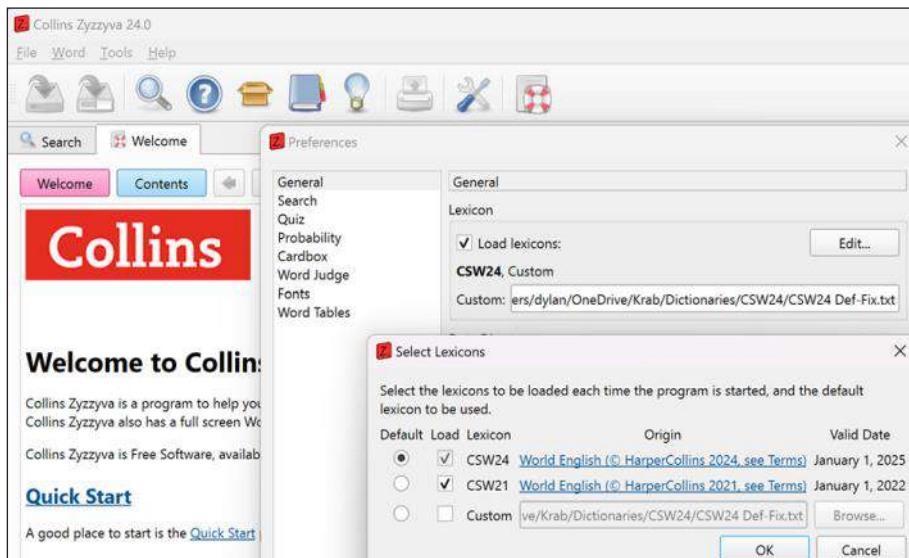


*Step 5*

### Step 6: Setup CSW21 (Optional but Recommended)

If you'd like to see the difference between CSW21 and CSW24, then you will need to create the CSW21 database as well.

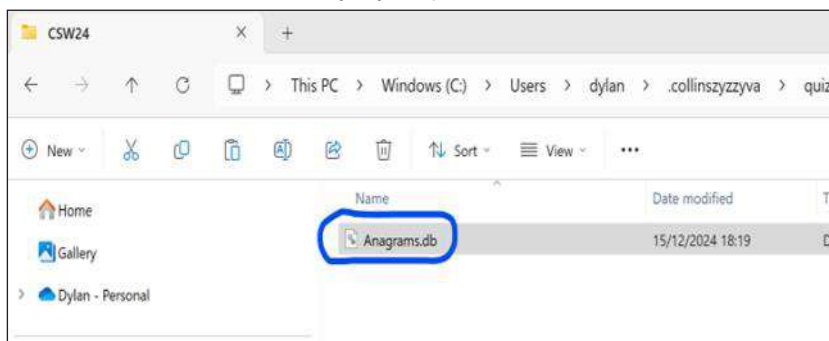
Click the preferences icon (spanner and screwdriver) > General > Edit. Then select the lexicons you want to use (CSW24 and CSW21) and click OK. Ensure CSW24 is the default.



*Step 6: Setup CSW21 lexicon in Zyzzyva*

### Step 7: Restore your Card Box (Optional)

Copy the card box backup (Anagrams.db) and past it into the new CSW24 folder. The likely pathname is C:\Users\YourName\collinszyzzyva\quiz\data\CSW24.

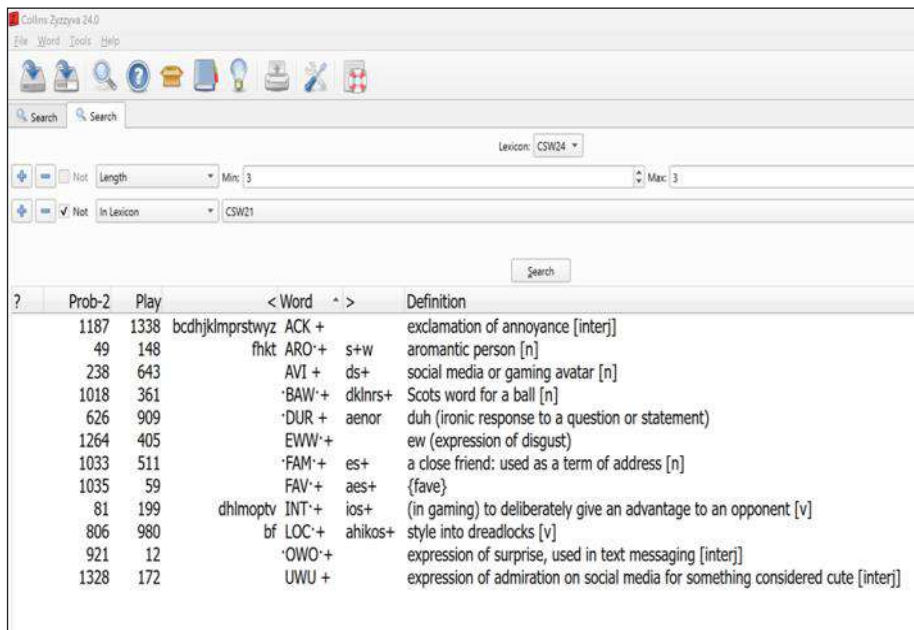


*Step 7*

## Step 8: Search New Words

To find the new words, ensure CSW24 is the default lexicon, then click Search > Not In Lexicon CSW21. This returns all the new words.

Tip: It's a good idea to limit your search by word length otherwise it may take a very long time to complete. Typically, new words are suffixed with a plus (+) sign.



*Step 8: Zyzzyva search of the new 3-letter words suffixed with a + sign*

**Warning:** Although it's possible to run both old and new versions of Zyzzyva simultaneously, it can cause corruption and is not recommended (as Howard will attest).

## An Aggravating Situation - solution

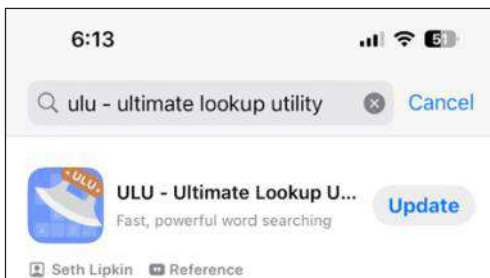
(from page 33):

For exactly 21 points, play AS in the fourth row, making AS(TONY), (ODE)A, and (PIG)S.

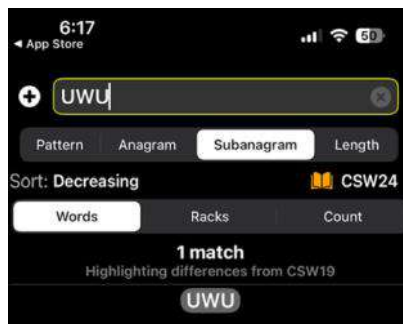
(In case you're wondering, I played SA in the far left column, to make SA(FE) and A(HI). And naturally, I have berated myself ever since about the perils of "playing it SAFE"!)

## ULU

The ULU app for iOS users has been updated with CSW24 by its creator, Seth Lipkin. Simply go to the Apple App Store and search “Ultimate Lookup Utility” and follow the prompts to install or update the app. It includes multiple lexicons, including CSW15, CSW19, CSW22 and CSW24. To view the differences between CSW19 and CSW24, go to Settings and select CSW24 as the Base Lexicon. This will highlight all the new words with a grey lozenge.



*Search for the ULU app in the Apple App store*



*In ULU new words are highlighted in grey*

## Quackle

The creators of Quackle have made it easy to upload any lexicon as a text file.

### Step 1: Download CSW24

Download the full CSW24 word list in text format (3 MB) and save it on your computer.

### Step 2: Add Lexicon to Quackle

Open Quackle, click "Settings" next to History and Choices, then next to "Lexicon", click "Edit".

Click "Add words from file". In Windows Explorer, browse to the CSW24 text file you saved in Step 1, name the lexicon "CSW24" and click "Save Changes".

Note: Before you save, check the word count in the Lexicon information section – it should be 280,887 words.

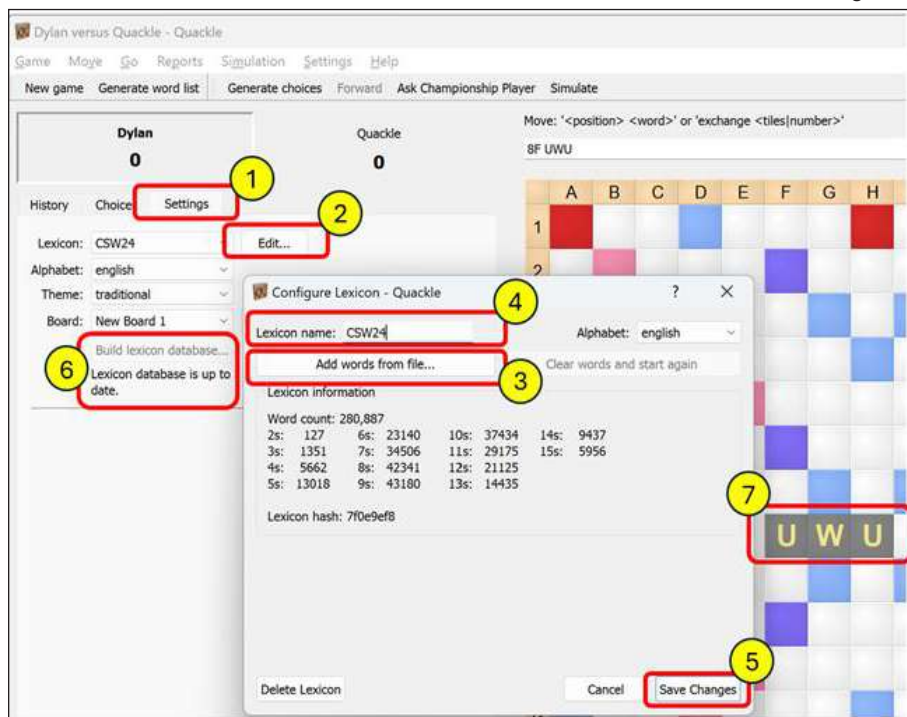
Click "Build Lexicon Database" to finish the setup.

### Step 3: Test

Test that it worked by starting a new game with yourself as either "Human" or "Player with unknown racks".

Give yourself a test rack like UUUUWWV and click "Generate Choices". If UWU is one of the moves suggested by Quackle, then you know the update was successful.





*Quackle: Step 2 and 3*

## Puzzle Pozzy Solutions



### Number Associations—Answers (from page 16)

- |                                  |                                      |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. 5 Fingers in a Hand           | 11. 21 Dots on a Dice                |
| 2. 26 Letters in the Alphabet    | 12. 15 Players in a Rugby Team       |
| 3. 7 days of the Week            | 13. 3 Wheels on a Tricycle           |
| 4. 52 Weeks in a Year            | 14. 11 Players in a Cricket Team     |
| 5. 7 Wonders of the World        | 15. 12 Months in the Year            |
| 6. 12 Signs of the Zodiac        | 16. 13 is Unlucky For Some!          |
| 7. 13 in a Baker's Dozen         | 17. 8 Tentacles on an Octopus        |
| 8. 18 Holes on a Golf Course     | 18. 3 Sides on a Triangle            |
| 9. 39 Books of the Old Testament | 19. 64 squares on a Chess Board      |
| 10. 90 Degrees in a Right Angle  | 20. 3 Blind Mice (see how they run!) |

# Mailbox



## Re Dartitis

*From Jennifer Smith, Kiwi Scrabblers*

I've been reading an interesting book, "*The Dictionary People*", about the people who contributed to the New English Dictionary (the forerunner to the Oxford English Dictionary).

The *New English Dictionary* was to be the first dictionary that described how words were actually being used. It was driven mostly by its best known editor, James Murray, who in 1879 sent an appeal to newspapers and journals, schools, universities, and hundreds of clubs throughout Britain, America and the rest of the world to send in samples of words "that strike you as rare, obsolete, old-fashioned, new, peculiar, or used in a peculiar way" in books that they were reading.

That means that the OED could be described as the *Wikipedia* of the 19th century. The crowdsourced response was massive, for over 70 years (1858-1928), thousands of members of the public sent in hundreds of thousands of examples (as 4"x6" slips) from all over the world - Australia, South Africa, NZ, USA, Europe, Congo, Japan. (It still invites contributions from the public.) The dictionary was published, volume by volume over many years.

Your mention of

DARTITIS reminded me of this little piece of trivia from the book:

The editor was advised not to include an entry for APPENDICITIS (because it was "just another -ITIS word"). But then in 1902 Edward VI's coronation was postponed because the king had an attack of appendicitis. Everybody was saying the word, but they couldn't find it in the "A" section of the dictionary that had already been published! The word APPENDICITIS didn't get included until the 1933 supplement.

.....

## More from JEFF

*From Jeff Grant, Independent*

Well done on the latest Scrabble mag. Lots of interesting stuff. Keep up the great work!

Of course I had a particular interest in Jennifer's '*Hall of Fame*' piece on the Aussie politician Jeff Kennett. My favourite two definitions of JEFF are 'a circus rope' and 'to gamble with printers' quadrats thrown like dice.'

# Tournament results

## Trans-Tasman Challenge

15-17 November 2024

24 games

	Name	Wins	Spread
1	Howard Warner	18	1504
2	Dylan Early	18	868
3	Blue Thorogood	17	660
4	Joanne Craig	16	1240
5	Chris Tallman	16	1058
6	Russell Honeybun	16	586
7	Esther Perrins	14	1367
8	Stanley Ngundi	14	28
9	Cicely Bruce	14	0
10	Patrick Carter	14	-3
11	Andrew Bradley	13	372
12	Bob Jackman	11	411
13	Victor Tung	11	240
14	Ryan Sutton	11	-443
15	Asanka Dissanayake	11	-808
16	Karen Richards	10	243
17	Anderina McLean	10	-531
18	Rod Talbot	10	-772
19	Lawson Sue	10	-908
20	Paul Richards	8	-797
21	Rocky Sharma	8	-888
22	Chris Ostrowski	8	-1404
23	Jane Taylor	5	-991
24	Jason Simpson	5	-1032



*Jason Simpson & Cicely Bruce with the Trans-Tasman Challenge shield*

## Kara Kokopu

24 November 2024

8 games

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
<b>A Grade</b>					
1	Liz Fagerlund (GM)	MTA	7	342	421
2	Jenny Litchfield	WRE	5	459	436
3	Su Walker	IND	4	55	394
4	Jason Simpson	WRE	4	-15	399
5	Suzanne Liddall	WRE	4	-204	398
6	Margie Hurly	WRE	3	-22	378
7	Bev Edwards	WRE	3	-159	359
8	Cathy Casey	WRE	2	-456	355

## B Grade

1	Ben Tu'itahi	MTA	7	786	406
2	Terry Johnson	WRE	7	708	380
3	Tess Harris		5	224	344
4	Graeme Quinn	WRE	5	131	345
5	Cooper Ashley	MTA	4	314	376
6	Anne Scatchard	WRE	4	-79	304
7	Maheu Papua T-Pole	MTA	4	-236	359
8	Annette Caisley	WRE	2	-540	295
9	Sue McQuade	WRE	1	-555	293
10	Lynn Thompson	WRE	1	-753	286

## Dunedin

30 November – 1 December 2024

15 games

	Name		Wins	Spread	
<b>A Grade</b>					
1	Lewis Hawkins (E)	CHC	13	1115	429
2	Karen Gray	DUN	9	397	399
3	Lynn Wood	IND	7.5	1	391
4	Murray Rogers (E)	IND	7.5	-398	384
5	Laura Griffiths	CHC	7	372	419
6	Peter Johnstone	CHC	7	-265	380
7	Clare Wall	IND	5	-625	385
8	Anne Goldstein	CHC	4	-597	385

**B Grade**

1	Sue Hensley	DUN	9.5	351	379
2	Marian Ross	DUN	8	151	370
3	Ruth Groffman	DUN	8	-222	349
4	Carolyn Kyle	IND	7.5	-34	358
5	Jonas Wiberg	CHC	7	38	361
6	Megg Hewlett	CHC	7	7	363
7	Michael Hyndman	WEL	7	-75	367
8	Betty Eriksen	WAN	6	-216	354

**C Grade**

1	Grant Paulin	DUN	12	979	408
2	Malcolm Graham	IND	11	639	393
3	Hanna Dodge	CHC	9	338	377
4	Anne-Louise Milne	DUN	7	-480	371
5	Marc Van Hoecke	DUN	5	-302	358
6	Maheu Papau T-Pole	MTA	1	-1174	338

**Janniversary—Saturday****18 January 2025**

7 games

	Name	Wins	Spread
<b>A Grade</b>			
1	Howard Warner	5	539
2	Gil Quiballo	5	209
3	Joanne Craig	5	182
4	Anderina McLean	4	9
5	Dylan Early	3	-8
6	Lawson Sue	2	-246
7	Scott Chaput	2	-264
8	Nick Ascroft	2	-421

**B Grade**

1	Sue McRae	5	340
2	Liz Fagerlund	5	111
3	Lynn Wood	4.5	225
4	Olivia En	3.5	60
5	Glenyss Buchanan	3	75
6	Stan Gregec	3	-343
7	Val Mills	2	-83
8	Clare Wall	2	-385

**C Grade**

1	Malcolm Graham	6	197
2	David Grounds	5	429
3	Nola Borrell	5	83
4	Aidan Robins	4	226
5	Fran Lowe	4	136
6	Chris Bell	4	86
7	Michael Hyndman	4	17
8	Dianne Cole-Baker	4	-189
9	Betty Eriksen	3	194
10	Roger Cole-Baker	3	-10
11	Tony Charlton	3	-92
12	Judy Driscoll	2	-159
13	Neil Price	2	-337
14	Patricia Bennett	0	-581

**D Grade**

1	Glenys Hansen	6	324
2	Vicki Jones	6	313
3	Maheu Papau T-Pole	5	133
4	Taanga Lawrence	4	101
5	Sandra McCullough	3.5	67
6	Shelley Harris	2	-457
7	Sheila Reed	1.5	-192
8	Sarah Le Gros	0	-289

**Janniversary—Sunday****19 January 2025**

7 games

	Name	Wins	Spread
<b>A Grade</b>			
1	Howard Warner	5	657
2	Gil Quiballo	5	256
3	Joanne Craig	4	14
4	Anderina McLean	3	37
5	Val Mills	3	-166
6	Lawson Sue	3	-227
7	Scott Chaput	3	-300
8	Dylan Early	2	-271

**B Grade**

1	Liz Fagerlund	6	230
2	Olivia En	5	541
3	Chris Bell	4	-16
4	Nola Borrell	4	-147
5	Lynn Wood	3	-25
6	Clare Wall	3	-120
7	Glenyss Buchanan	2	-151
8	Yvette Hewlett	1	-312

**C Grade**

1	David Grounds	6	528
2	Aidan Robins	5	192
3	Roger Cole-Baker	3	73
4	Dianne Cole-Baker	3	-65
5	Betty Eriksen	3	-137
6	Michael Hyndman	3	-163
7	Marcus Henry	3	-264
8	Malcolm Graham	2	-164

**D Grade**

1	Judy Driscoll	6	147
2	Vicki Jones	5	260
3	Jez Patridge	4	294
4	Tony Charlton	4	-136
5	Taanga Lawrence	3	44
6	Patricia Bennett	3	-23
7	Maheu Papau T-Pole	2	-392
8	Neil Price	1	-194

**Jafa-versary****28-29 January 2025**

14 games

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
<b>A Grade</b>					
1	Cicely Bruce (GM)	WRE	11	649	422
2	Patrick Carter (GM)	MTA	7	86	406
3	Val Mills (E)	MTA	7	32	435
4	Glennis Hale (GM)	IND	7	-254	388
5	Liz Fagerlund (GM)	MTA	6.5	-82	405
6	Jason Simpson (E)	WRE	6	58	398
7	Mike Currie (E)	MTA	6	-408	400
8	Lawson Sue (GM)	MTA	5.5	-81	394

**B Grade**

1	Alexander Gandar	MTA	9	383	417
2	Jennifer Smith	KIW	8	149	396
3	Jeanette Grimmer	ROD	7	377	406
4	Lorraine Van Veen	IND	7	-50	392
5	Lynn Wood	IND	7	-114	381
6	Murray Rogers (E)	IND	7	-198	393
7	Shirley Martin	KIW	6	-184	390
8	Delcie Macbeth	IND	5	-363	369

**C Grade**

1	Su Walker	IND	10	338	407
2	Mary Curtis	WRE	8	262	398
3	Clare Wall	IND	8	204	397
4	Jena Yousif	WRE	8	135	391
5	Jenny Litchfield	WRE	8	-111	379
6	Cathy Casey	WRE	7	293	385
7	Merelyn Fuemana	MTA	7	36	386
8	Lynn Carter	IND	5	-130	389
9	Mary Gray	MTA	5	-407	363
10	Bernie Jardine	MTA	4	-620	371

**D Grade**

1	Roger Cole-Baker	MTA	9	559	370
2	Terry Johnson	WRE	8.5	297	395
3	Jill Paterson	IND	8	188	398
4	Calum Henderson	MTA	8	113	377
5	Heather Landon	TGA	7.5	20	373
6	Malcolm Graham	CHC	7	-46	359
7	Suzanne Harding	WRE	6	-135	373
8	Dianne Cole-Baker	MTA	6	-380	362
9	Mike Harris	MTA	6	-472	348
10	Betty Eriksen	WAN	4	-144	351

**E Grade**

1	Cooper Ashley	MTA	12	871	377
2	Ben Tu'itahi	MTA	11	1175	401
3	Rodney Jardine	MTA	8	101	368
4	Frances Higham	IND	7	55	341
5	Clementine Mills	MTA	7	18	357
6	Ruth Godwin	ROT	7	2	338
7	Anne Scatchard	WRE	6	-125	326
8	Maheu Papau T-Pole	MTA	6	-604	346
9	Jan Rivers	MTA	3	-444	341
10	Annette Caisley	WRE	3	-1049	303



# Rankings as at 2 March 2025

	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%		Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%
1	Chris Tallman (GM)	2238	151.5	199	76%	35	Margie Hurly	1576	594	1212	49%
2	Howard Warner (GM)	2236	2733.5	3641	75%	36	Alexander Gandar	1576	114	184	62%
3	Blue Thorogood (GM)	2148	939	1332	70%	37	Paul Freeman	1573	183.5	331	55%
4	Joanne Craig (GM)	2141	520.5	803	65%	38	Shirley Martin	1572	1314	2665	49%
5	Jeff Grant (GM)	2139	1938	2618	74%	39	Vicky Robertson	1570	524	1092	48%
6	Gil Quiballo (GM)	2118	200.5	325	62%	40	Sue McRae	1554	268.5	505	53%
7	Dylan Early (GM)	2114	401	599	67%	41	Yoon Kim Fong	1545	985	1925	51%
8	Peter Sinton (GM)	2107	894.5	1283	70%	42	Peter Johnstone	1539	459	918	50%
9	Andrew Bradley (GM)	2055	1224	2273	54%	43	Laura Griffiths	1538	87.5	158	55%
10	Patrick Carter (GM)	2017	1017	1603	63%	44	Rosemary Cleary (E)	1530	1067.5	2308	46%
11	Lewis Hawkins (E)	1961	349	566	62%	45	Jeanette Grimmer	1524	459.5	938	49%
12	Cicely Bruce (GM)	1932	1279.5	2331	55%	46	Lynn Wood	1520	2814.5	5873	48%
13	Lawson Sue (GM)	1910	1554	2864	54%	47	Lorraine Van Veen	1498	1300.5	2656	49%
14	Lynne Butler (GM)	1888	1016.5	1703	60%	48	Stan Gregec	1483	289	543	53%
15	Val Mills (E)	1884	1983.5	4025	49%	49	Clare Wall	1479	543	1067	51%
16	Anderina McLean (GM)	1872	1176	2202	53%	50	David Gunn	1478	1626	3330	49%
17	Stanley Ngundi (GM)	1850	174.5	335	52%	51	Anne Goldstein	1451	439	883	50%
18	Scott Chaput (E)	1848	417	768	54%	52	Yvette Hewlett	1449	626.5	1293	48%
19	Liz Fagerlund (GM)	1842	1845.5	3567	52%	53	Selena Chan	1442	456.5	908	50%
20	Nick Ascroft (E)	1831	380.5	691	55%	54	Chris Bell	1432	111	218	51%
21	Glennis Hale (GM)	1815	1906	3514	54%	55	Helen Sillis	1423	1108	2272	49%
22	Norma Fisher	1776	33	67	49%	56	Delcie Macbeth	1414	1281.5	2506	51%
23	Mike Currie (E)	1773	217	393	55%	57	Roger Coates	1390	1018.5	2138	48%
24	Jason Simpson (E)	1772	270.5	517	52%	58	Rosalind Phillips	1383	739.5	1452	51%
25	Olivia En (E)	1740	1176.5	2278	52%	59	Merelyn Fuemana	1373	347.5	655	53%
26	John Foster (GM)	1734	1882	3391	55%	60	Jean O'Brien	1364	1763.5	3526	50%
27	Jane Walton	1727	448	920	49%	61	Mary Curtis	1356	690.5	1345	51%
28	Paul Lister (E)	1665	962	1777	54%	62	Jenny Litchfield	1331	308.5	579	53%
29	Lois Binnie	1652	333.5	677	49%	63	Karen Miller	1326	791	1540	51%
30	Jennifer Smith	1642	1605	3354	48%	64	Su Walker	1323	1502	2969	51%
31	Murray Rogers (E)	1635	1395	2653	53%	65	Suzanne Liddall	1316	275.5	505	55%
32	Glenyss Buchanan	1632	813	1761	46%	66	Nola Borrell	1316	805	1547	52%
33	Karen Gray	1605	410.5	782	52%	67	Jena Yousif	1305	850.5	1707	50%
34	Herb Ramsay	1604	380	691	55%	68	Cathy Casey	1301	256	492	52%

Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%
69 Bev Edwards	1298	409	820	50%	105 Patricia Bennett	796	81	184	44%
70 Mary Gray	1278	992.5	2006	49%	106 Ben Tu'itahi	792	56	82	68%
71 Sue Hensley	1229	205	370	55%	107 Neil Price	775	22	64	34%
72 Bernie Jardine	1228	484.5	933	52%	108 Glenda Geard	757	1381	2808	49%
73 Fran Lowe	1221	195	372	52%	109 Cooper Ashley	750	52	107	49%
74 Lyn Toka	1217	734.5	1409	52%	110 Llane Hadden	749	145.5	316	46%
75 Carolyn Kyle	1201	1382.5	2811	49%	111 Rodney Jardine	739	426	874	49%
76 Roger Cole-Baker	1182	988.5	1943	51%	112 Junior Gesmundo	735	424.5	871	49%
77 Lynn Carter	1159	973	1893	51%	113 Anne-Louise Milne	704	285.5	750	38%
78 Jill Paterson	1159	180.5	339	53%	114 Jacqueline				
79 Joanna Fox	1154	364.5	726	50%	Coldham-Fussell	657	902.5	1835	49%
80 Joanne Morley	1148	275	526	52%	115 Leanna Christie	616	19	42	45%
81 Tara Hurley	1135	268.5	498	54%	116 Graeme Quinn	606	107.5	263	41%
82 Megg Hewlett	1134	200	359	56%	117 Ruth Godwin	568	741.5	1546	48%
83 Marian Ross	1124	857	1674	51%	118 Anne Scatchard	550	899.5	1787	50%
84 Heather Landon	1120	897	1789	50%	119 Dorothy Bakel	538	176	382	46%
85 Dianne Cole-Baker	1110	910.5	1807	50%	120 Jillian Greening	537	543	1125	48%
86 Jonas Wiberg	1106	53	102	52%	121 Sharon McKenzie	525	91	205	44%
87 Michael Hyndman	1104	292.5	568	51%	122 Kelly Thomas	515	22.5	57	39%
88 Calum Henderson	1095	53	77	69%	123 Marc Van Hoecke	506	113	249	45%
89 Malcolm Graham	1091	1011.5	1986	51%	124 Jenny Duncan	451	18	40	45%
90 Ruth Groffman	1082	1022.5	2057	50%	125 Tim Henneveld	440	620.5	1376	45%
91 Suzanne Harding	1055	962	1857	52%	126 Noeline Monsef	430	140	323	43%
92 Grant Paulin	1037	136.5	277	49%	127 Madelaine Green	419	218	442	49%
93 Lyn Dawson	1029	480	932	52%	128 Maheu				
94 Betty Eriksen	1002	2302.5	4597	50%	Papau T-Pole	382	40	126	32%
95 Colleen Link	970	61	100	61%	129 Frances Higham	349	435	1103	39%
96 Antonia Aarts	958	508.5	1064	48%	130 Jan Rivers	343	48	100	48%
97 Geoff Vautier	931	156.5	395	40%	131 Janny Henneveld	275	641	1346	48%
98 Mike Harris	929	29	56	52%	132 Sue McQuade	154	26	105	25%
99 Judy Driscoll	897	500.5	1206	42%	133 Annette Caisley	88	58	220	26%
100 Hanna Dodge	883	405	753	54%					
101 Colleen Cook	872	530	1103	48%					
102 Marilyn Sinclair	857	361.5	706	51%					
103 Tony Charlton	840	525.5	1098	48%					
104 Vicki Jones	800	29	56	52%					

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)	Sue Hensley	027 424 4386	sue.hensley@gmail.com	7 pm Tues
Featherston (FTN)	Fran Lowe	021 055 4897	lowefran66@gmail.com	6.30 pm Mon
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
Martinborough (MTB)	Victoria Jones	021 054 0212	vicbjones@gmail.com	Every 2nd Fri 9.30 am
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)	Ruth Godwin	027 349 6061	ruthmgodwin@gmail.com	9 am Thurs
Tauranga (TGA)	Jo Ann Ingram	021 836 067	tauranga.scrabble@gmail.com	9.20 am Tues
Waitara (WTA)	Ngaire Kemp	06 754 4017	ngairelyndac@slingshot.co.nz	1 pm Wed
Whanganui (WAN)	Rosie Cleary	(06) 347 1837	rosecleary@icloud.com	1 pm Mon
Scrabble Wellington (WEL)	Nick Ascroft	-	nick_ascroft@hotmail.com	7 pm Thurs
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