

March 2022 Issue No. 148



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Closing date for contributions to next issue of Across the Board 7 May 2022

VALE GRAHAM BELL

Across Australia, our heartfelt sympathy is extended to the friends and family of Graham Bell, Western Australian President upon his sudden passing peacefully at home on 29 November 2021.. Graham was a very thoughtful and insightful contributing member to the CASPA committee.

He is remembered by his Western Australian Scrabble community as a gentle and respected player. At present Russell Honeybun will be able to handle any queries on behalf of the Western Australian Scrabble community.



Graham Bell, sweeping the field in 2019

CASPA TREASURER

Recently John Hamilton, in his capacity as Chair of the WESPA Rules Committee, coordinated the addition of "virtual rules" in time for the inaugural 2021 virtual WESPA Championship.

Having fulfilled this onerous task, John has now taken over the reins of the CASPA Treasurer from Rene Chelton. We sincerely thank Rene for the seven years she has devoted to the association, and thank John for taking on the role.

AUSTRALIAN NATIONALS

The Queensland committee is well and truly gearing-up for the Nationals to be held over Easter at the Gold Coast and we hope that this could be the big step that interstaters take to travel. They always put on a "good turn" and the competition is always of quality and intense. In Victoria, there has been an appreciable decline in club and tournament numbers due to the Omicron variant, but we are hopeful that it will resume normal levels, sooner than later. We would hope that all clubs and tournament organisers are taking the appropriate COVID-19 safety steps to ensure a safe event.

CSW21

At least, in Victoria, the transition to CSW21 has gone without a hitch, in that most clubs have adopted the new listing with deleted words. As previously mentioned, it is up to tournaments and club organisers to determine and advertise which reference will be used.

WORLD ENGLISH SPEAKING PLAYERS' ASSOCIATION

WESPA is currently ironing out details of country quotas and venue requirements in preparation for seeking bids for the next inperson WESPA Championship, most likely will be held in 2023 (northern summer/fall).

2021 GLADIATORS' VIRTUAL WESPA CHAMPIONSHIP

Since my last report, the inaugural virtual 2021 Gladiators' Virtual WESPA Championship has been held and won by Alastair Richards (New Zealand - but only 'cos he was ours till he met and married Lyres Freeth (a"fellow" New Zealand Scrabble player) and now resides in New Zealand.

Alastair narrowly defeated our own David Eldar by 4-3 games in the exciting final, with a 13-point lead. Peter Kougi was beaten to 3rd place by Will Anderson of the US, and



Peter Kough (4th) and Mythili Rudra (44th) (Mr & Mrs)

retained 4th place. Congratulations to all on a wonderful and interesting tournament. The Pakistani Association ran it very smoothly.

Because there were "dropouts" due to time differences (including Andrew Fisher) across the world, Australia was granted more entries and Kashi Thiris and the Lam brothers, Alex and Jeffrey participated. Final placings were:

2nd - David Eldar

4th - Peter Kougi

38th - Trevor Halsall

44th - Mythili Rudra

72nd - John Holgate

97th - Jeffrey Lam

99th - Alex Lam

102nd - Kashi Thiris

n.b. Gladiators is the name of a Pakistani company which sponsored the event.

Carol Johnsen Coordinator

WESPA Championship

December 2021

Many of you will recall the first WESPA Championship, held in Perth, Australia, in 2015. Since then, it has be played in Nairobi, Kenya, 2017, and Goa, India, 2019. For 2021, the event was forced online (thanks, COVID!).

Virtual play brings its own challenges – having to organise games between players in different timezones, and most importantly, players needing confidence that their opponent isn't cheating.

Pakistan Scrabble players offered to organise the event. They secured sponsorship from local organisations (a pharmaceutical company and a cricket team).

Scrabble is very big in Pakistan, with most players being under age 25. Scrabble is reported extensively in the news, treated as the sport that it is. Top players, like Waseem Khatri, are employed in schools, teaching youngsters Scrabble. The Pakistanis developed protocols to address potential cheating, and tested these on the virtual world youth event a few months earlier. The most important of these procedures was having every game monitored by humans, and recorded for later review.

Only one player was evicted from the tournament, when he was caught reaching under the table regularly, and then playing an inspired move. When confronted, he said he was patting his dog! With this extreme monitoring in place, it could be said that cheating was less likely to occur, than in a face-to-face event.

The problem of matching people throughout the world was solved, adapted from a model proposed by Chris May, such that no players would have to compete between the hours of midnight and 7am, their time. This involved splitting the world into time zones, then having mini matches between different combinations of time zones. The organisers also allowed players to choose a different timezone as their base, if they were truly "night-birds", or had to avoid prior commitments.

The initial phase took place over two weekends, with 8 short sessions of 4 games (each session matched players for different timezones). From over 100 players, the top eight were chosen to move on to the final weekend. These were the quarter finalists, after 32 games:

Peter Kougi (Australia) 25 wins David Eldar (Australia) 24 Will Anderson (USA) 24 Pall Gallen (Northern Ireland) 23 Alastair Richards (New Zealand) 22 Wellington Jighere (Nigeria) 21.5 Eta Karo (Nigeria) 21.5 Sherwin Rodrigues (India) 21

Congratulations to Peter Kougi, who lead the field for most of the 32-game tournament.

The full results of this stage are here https://wespac2021.org/result/wespac2021/ht ml/M-standings.html

A few things to note with this lineup – Two Australians were finalists (or three, if you count one who defected to New Zealand 5 years ago) and two were Nigerians, including Wellington Jighere, who was the first inaugural WESPA Champion in 2015. Nigerians are reputed to be the strongest players in the world, but Australians showed them how it is done, this time.

Three of the eight were alumni of the first World Youth Scrabble Championship helped in Wollongong, Australia, in 2006. This is why it is so important to foster the interest of young players – those youngsters playing now, will become world champions in 15 years time.

So, back to the tournament:

Quarter finals were "best of 5 games." David defeated Eta 3:0; Alastair defeated Paul 3:0; Peter defeated Sherwin 3:1; Will defeated Wellington 3:2;

Semi-finals: Alastair defeated Peter 3:0; David defeated Will 3:1

Now, the final playoff, between two young(ish) Australian-born players, David and Alastair.

This match was best of 7, and went down to the final game. Alastair clinched the deal with a brilliant set-up in his endgame. Not knowing the identity of the final tile in the bag, he left himself with AR, because whatever that tile turned out to be, he could play out – RAX,

ARD, ARE etc. It turned out to be K, making an easy ARK. However, in order to do this, he had to allow David the possibility to play an X for a large score, which he did. Alastair spent approximately half his 15-minute game time working out his final two moves. He would have calculated to the last point, all the possible scenarios. Endgames are his strength.

All games were played on Woogles.io The final games remain for you to replay. Go to https://woogles.io/tournament/wespac2021 a nd then you can see the games between Rospo and deldar in the Recent Games tab. Click on the scores to play through the actual game.

Alastair started competing as a 7-year old (in Adelaide in 1999), after attending Bunbury, WA Club from the age of 5. As a teenager, he finished 10th in the World Scrabble Championship in Warsaw, Poland (2011) https://www.wespa.org/aardvark/html/tourna ments/176.html . In 2014, he also finished in the top 8, and went into the guarter final playhttps://www.wespa.org/aardvark/html/tou rnaments/354.htmloffs, but was eliminated (2:1) in a best of 3 match (2:1) by the eventual champion, Craig Beevers. This event was called Scrabble Champions Tournament, because Mattel had refused to allow anyone to use the name "World Scrabble Championship". Alastair is currently a doctor in an Auckland hospital, while he finishes qualifying as a specialist nephrologist, and is married to a fellow Scrabble player.

Most competitors enjoyed playing this event virtually, given that there was no other choice this time. As a spectator, it is more exciting to watch than face-to-face games, because of the much shorter time (15 minutes versus 25). Expert commentary was provided by top players from around the world, including Australia's Edward Okulicz and Naween Fernando, WESPA Championship 2023 will be face-to-face, and expressions of interest are currently being sought. However, there have been some requests for WESPA to continue running a virtual event as well, given that it allows players to compete from their homes, with no need for visas, time off work, and expensive travel.

wespac2021.org

Around the States

ACT

Not a lot of activity to report due to COVID and the Christmas break!

John Hamilton, our President, has been initiating discussions on whether ACT Scrabble players will move to the new dictionary where words deemed as offensive have been removed (CSW21) or stay with the old dictionary (CSW19). If we decide to go to the new dictionary, it is likely that we would not implement the change for our tournaments and social play until after the Australian Championships (which will be CSW19). The ACT committee has decided to give all ACT members a vote in due course.

Tournament Roundup

Our Canberra Tournament (8 games) was held on January 8, 2022, at the Southern Cross Club in Woden. Many thanks to Owen Randall, Susan MacGillivray, Vincent Nguyen and Tim Reddan for running the event in John's unavoidable absence. Also, thanks to all those who helped pitch in at the last minute.

There was a single division with Susan MacGillivray winning the event with 7 games, followed by Ronnie Bennett and then Caroline Scowcroft both with 6 wins. Ronnie snared both the high game prize (529) and the high word prize (**REJOINS** 116). Susan and Jeff Danaher had the best rating increases of +42 and +41 respectively.

Upcoming ACT Tournaments

Please note the dates of the following upcoming ACT tournaments, all of which will be held at the Southern Cross Club, Woden: March 19, April 9, May 21, June 25. Please consult the Scrabble Australia website for the latest details.

New South Wales

City of Sydney International Masters 29-30 Jan, 2022 Report

The cavernous Whitlam Room of the Revesby Workers Club was chosen to host CSIM 2022. Thirty doughty players emerged from their

Covid-19 isolation to partake in this prestigious tournament wearing masks while sitting at widely-spaced tables. For those wishing to take some exercise during games, they could risk 5 points per challenged word and take a long walk to one the challenge computers located at the periphery of the hall.

Among the combatants were five interstate players and one international player - Lynn Wood, New Zealand's equivalent to John Barker (not meaning any disrespect). Lynn has established a national high of 5107 tournament games played in her country while our John Barker has set a record of 7852 in Australia, excluding many played before records started being kept from 1998. Bob Jackman would reach 7003 at the conclusion of this tournament.

Here's a piece of trivia – John Barker actually won a CSIM tournament prior to 1998. For



Bob Jackman, NSW President, with his newly acquired name badge indicating that he has played over 7000 tournamant games as at the end of January. Only superceded nationally by John Barker on 7852 but ahead of Karen Richards on 6806 followed by Rod Talbot at 6201

this latest CSIM however, the bookies would have to favour either Chris May (defending champ and two-time winner) or Andrew Fisher (seven-time champ) with Joanne Craig and Esther Perrins on the second rung of betting.

A couple of notable games were reported. Rene Chelton lost a close game to Noel Barrett 498-474 in which each player put down four bingos. The stewards should have taken a swab Rene! In the drawn match between Tony Hunt and I (Graeme Lock Lee), the agreed score was 421 each. As Tony was about to sign the score sheet, a spectator declared that one of Graeme's words was overscored by 1 point. I checked the word and the spectator's observation was correct. Tony was now confronted with an ethical dilemma of whether or not to ask for a recount with 38 seconds of his clock remaining. We had both agreed that one of my words was overscored by one point, but what about all the other word scores? As

Tony was pondering what to do, I was also pondering whether I would insist on laboriously counting the score for every single word played – undoubtedly pushing Tony's clock overtime. I had 99 seconds left on my clock but wasn't intending to ask for a recount anyway. Tony avoided the ethical controversy by gracefully accepting the draw. There are lessons to be learnt!

Over the course of the 18-game tournament there would be six different players taking the lead. The sequential leaders over the first five rounds were Esther, Chris, Joanne, Bob and Graeme (rabbit) and by the 7th round when Bob regained the lead from Graeme, the two favourites were hemmed in at 7th (Chris) and 18th place (Andrew). By the end of the first day, the favourites would have allayed the bookies' nerves somewhat by improving to 6th and 7th place tucked in just behind the rabbit.



Announcing a New Online Scrabble Club!

Scrabble NSW is launching an online club in 2022. Suitable for players of all ages and abilities who want to enjoy the social and competitive aspects of club play without leaving home. Perfect for those looking to try out the online playing environment for the first time!

How to take part: join the virtual Scrabble NSW club room on the Woogles site (access details on the Scrabble NSW website under *Online Play with Woogles*). The site is free to use, but you will need to set up a user account to play games.

When: regular moderated meetings starting at 7pm on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month, paired with optional Zoom call. The club room is also free to use 24/7 for informal games.

Who to contact with questions: Chris May, busker221@gmail.com.

Scrabble NSW would like to thank the team at Woogles for their work developing their site and making it freely available.

http://www.scrabble.org.au/nsw/woogles.html

In the back stretch, the stayer Bob was overtaken by Joanne who in turn was overtaken in round 14 by a fast-finishing Andrew and Chris on margin. Until round 17, Andrew kept his nose in front of Chris by one game and a superior margin. This race had developed into a typical Melbourne Cup finish. The final round draw revealed that Joanne and Esther could get a placing but the winner could only be either Andrew or Chris. The highly unlikely scenario was that Chris would have to win by over 200 points against Noel Barrett. while at the same time, Andrew would have to lose to dark horse Paul Richards. But that is precisely what happened! Andrew sportingly congratulated Chris on his 3rd championship win. The first four placegetters followed the pre-tournament rankings so the bookies were mightily relieved. Dark horse Paul Richards flew home to Qld with a meritorious 6th place and a bagful of rating points. The High Rating Gain prize for players rated below 1400 was awarded to Lvnn Wood: the High Rating Gain (70 points) prize was grabbed by Graeme Lock Lee over the ever-improving Lam brothers (Jeffery managed a victory over his mentor Tony Hunt); High Game (616 against Noel) was played by Joanne Craig and High Word (136 for SOUPIEST) was played by John Barker.

After the prize-giving ceremony, Chris followed tradition by shouting drinks at the bar. Celebrations continued for those who waited to watch Ash Barty win the Australian Open.

Graeme Lock Lee

Upcoming Tournaments

March 5 ~ Matchplay Qualifier ~ Club Burwood RSL ~ Shaftsbury Avenue, Burwood ~ Bob Jackman ~ 0400 226 541 ~ riackman@ozemail.com.au

March 20 ~ Empire Bay ~ Under 1400 rated ~ Empire Bay Progress Hall ~ 1/3 Gordon Rd, Empire Bay ~ Robyn Cameron ~ 0434 426 486 ~ robyncameron@y7mail.com

April 2 ~ Lake Macquarie ~ Private Home ~ Balcolyn ~ Richard Birch ~ 0418 428 459 ~ richardbirch@me.com

April 12 ~ OITOO in the Shire ~ 6 games, 22 min ~ Gunnamatta Park, Nicholson Parade, Cronulla ~ Tony Hunt ~ 417 470 167 ~ audio-lifeportrait@gmail.com

Queensland

I was only able to make it to one Queensland tournament in the last 3 months, so thanks to those who kept everything running smoothly. Paul Richards organised the tournament at the new venue at Aspley, Diana McManus hosted the Southport tournament and Olga Visser ran the popular Last Chance at Coorparoo in December, the 9 game round robin with promotions and demotions.

Congratulations to Karen Richards who snuck into the 2021 National record books at the December tournament with her 4 consecutive bonus words; I was her unfortunate opponent. Although numbers are understandably lower than usual at tournaments, it is good to many of the regular players plus a few of the newer ones.

It was concerning to hear that our computer operator, Lou Woolard, lost everything in a house fire in 2021, so we were glad to be able give him some financial support through donations and raffles. Thank you everyone. Lou was very grateful. We wish him well as he starts university this year.

We were sad to hear that Anne Warner had passed away last month. Anne had been a regular player at Redcliffe and Toowoomba before that and at tournaments in past years. She will be fondly remembered.

We are finally hosting the National champs at Easter after 2 years of Covid related cancellations but we are looking for more entries. See the notice in this ATB re the Nationals and hope to see your entry soon.

Jane Brown

New Record, Karen Richards.

With only a few weeks of 2021 left, Karen Richards claimed the record for the most consecutive bonus words for 2021 at the Last Chance tournament in Queensland on 19th December 2021.

Her words were: **OUTLAST** 71, **VICEROY** 91, **STAIRED** 80, **REVENGER** 74.

South Australia

On Sunday the 13th February SA held the Battle of the Sexes tournament at the local bridge club rooms. 9 men played 13 women so some tweaking had to be employed!



The Battle of the Sexes Victors South Australia

We were visited by two ladies from Crystal Brook (over 2 hours away). Geraldine and Mary Jane who both entered the tournament and joined up as members. They plan to start a scrabble club in Crystal Brook and were looking for tips on how to do it. We assisted with some equipment to get them started.

Several family members drew each other, husband and wife teams, Michael vs Rowena and Antony vs Susan along with mother and son Emanuel vs Louisa. I believe they are all still on speaking terms.

I am told that the ladies have never won this tournament so the men were keen to hold on to their winning streak. The ladies made a good start but were unable to bring it home. A 31.5 to 13.5 score gave them the men the gold.

Tony Miller and Rowena Vnuk managed to draw only to discover a rogue tile under the board afterwards. These things happen to the best of us don't they.

Anyway the ladies have some work to do to become a bigger threat next year, but well done to our fabulous gentlemen players.

Judy Mansfield

Victoria

With the challenges faced by COVID now starting to abate for the moment, 2022 promises to see some exciting events this year.

We have commenced the year offering three accolades that can be vied for across the entire year. The Most Improved player celebrates the player in Victoria who achieves the best rating increase this year. The Best New Player and Returning Player awards have been added to encourage greater participation at our events. Each award is \$250, and we are thankful to Rob York for his support for part of the funding.

Players will be kept up to date through the year with progress and we hope this is hotly competed!

The first two in person events were a contrast of new and established events; the Bil Rose Aestival was our first event of the year and the first to use CSW21. Players were able to use the updated apps for verification and the day went off smoothly.

Andrew Fisher won the event, at the same event where his 2000 game milestone was celebrated. Liz McKean's 1000 game milestone was also celebrated and we thank

both players for their enduring support of Scrabble in this country!

The Plate and Side was introduced in 2021 and sees those players rated under 1300 vying for the title whilst a side event (using 5pp Challenge) is played out for those rated above 1300.

Congratulations to Oscar Ivanovski for winning the Victorian Plate. Congratulations also go to Edward Okulicz for winning the Side event.

Focus now turns to celebrating our history and honouring one of Victorian Scrabble's most notable players; Ruth Fewings. COVID prevented us from celebrating this in 2020 and we finally get the chance to do this in March.

Our next update for ATB will include a report on this event and others.

Nick Ivanovski

Observation

It has recently come to my notice that there is more than one Victorian player who calculates their score in another language which is rather quirky, considering our game is based on language, and more particularly, the English language. So their brains are operating in tandem?

The German player counts up in French (which they also knew) when sometimes playing other Victorian French-speaking players but, funnily enough, when they had to subtract, they did it in German!

The Thai player calculates in Thai because their maths are not the best and it is faster if they do it in Thai, particularly as you are playing against the clock. Opponents have been known to ask what they are saying, particularly near the end of game if close but, of course, a player only needs to give a total in English and they need to be assured that the Thai player.is not swearing at and/or abusing them!

The South African player always thinks (and counts) in Afrikaans and speaks in English – it is just an instinctive act and hasn't changed in the years since migrating to Australia.

Other languages which I know players use are Mandarin and Italian.

Carol Johnsen

Scrabblers can survive anything

Noel Coulter of Victorian Scrabble sent in this picture of his car. It came off second best after his car collided with a tree travelling in the other direction.



Not sure if this is true but, there was an avid Scrabble player who would not miss a tournament. He would travel anywhere to play in Scrabble Tournaments. Come rain and come shine.

He met a girl who played just a bit of Scrabble, here and there. After a couple of years of marriage, she got fed up with him disappearing on weekends to play in a tournament somewhere.

"You know what?" she said to him, "I think you play way too much Scrabble. I think you should cut down on it a bit and spend more time with me

"You sound just like my ex-wife", he snapped.

"You never told me you were married before", she said, astounded.

"I was never married before!"

Courtesy: Noel Barrett

The WORD GUIDE



available from **Don Hadley**, 10 Barnard Street, Gladstone NSW 2440 email <u>dh101187@gmail.com</u> \$40.00 plus postage and packing

Receiving ATB

Our magazine, Across the Board (ATB) is produced in an electronic format as well as a hard copy. If your membership is up-to-date, you will receive your hard copy every quarter as usual. If you have requested an electronic copy, it will be emailed to you by your State's Membership Officer.

To read this version and take advantage of navigation tools, you will need a recent version of Adobe Reader, which is a free download from http://www.adobe.com.

If you wish to receive the ATB via email, please notify your State Membership Officer.

Contacts for Membership Officers appear on the website and on page 2:

http://www.scrabble.org.au/about/states.htm

Editor: Richard Birch richardbirch@me.com

WORD BUILDER

Collins 2019 words shaded for ease of identification

All core words by length to 9 letters, with part of speech and hooks designated for each word.

343 pages - A5 format

\$40 including postage ~ Mail cheque to: Bob Jackman, 31 Gwandalan Crescent, Berowra NSW 2081

MAGNIFICENT SEVENS

A new word book from Bob Jackman

The complete guide to seven-letter words (soon to be updated to CSW19) with part of speech and hook status designated for each word.

Nearly 5000 definitions of unusual verbs, adjectives, gerunds and heavy letter sevens, now at your fingertips

174 pages – A5 format

\$22.00 includes postage

Mail cheque to: Bob Jackman 31 Gwandalan Crescent Berowra NSW 2081

Contributions to Across the Board

We are always looking for items of interest to publish in your magazine. If you have an idea but not sure how to go about getting it included, just email the Editor outlining what you have in mind. We are happy to include high resolution photos of Scrabble related events, short stories, annotated games, puzzles, articles on strategy or word power. When submitting by email, be sure to include "ATB" in the subject line. richardbirch@me.com

2022 AUSTRALIAN SCRABBLE CHAMPIONSHIP

16 April to 18 April 2022

Southport RSL Club, 36 Scarborough Street, Southport, Queensland.

Generous cash and other prizes in both divisions.

Championship: Players rated **1300** or above or reaching **1300** in the six

months period prior to the championship have the option

to play in this section.

Plate: Players rated under 1300.

Entry fee: \$160 Includes lunch each day

Please note, the entry fee includes lunch each day at the venue, a condition of the venue hire. Licensing laws state that only food or drink purchased on the premises may be consumed there.

Format: Australian rules, free challenge, 25 min games,

CSW19 reference, WESPA rated. 24 games, reset after game 12.

8 games Saturday, 9 Sunday & 7 on Monday.

All players must register by 8.30am at the venue on 16 April and be ready to start play by 9am. If you are running late you must ring the emergency number below.

All players will be required to abide by the Queensland Health regulations current at the time of the tournament.

More details and entry form available at scrabble.org.au/events/22AUS/flyer.html where there is information about submitting your entry and payment.

Entries can be submitted immediately but we request that bank transfer payments are not made until March 1st to allow for any unforeseen cancellations. Entries and payment required by 2nd April latest.

Enquiries: Jane Brown jb.edits@bigpond.net.au 0417 903 079

Emergency phone numbers during tournament: Judy 0481 179 636; Martin 0438 457 566

2022 AUSTRALIAN SCRABBLE CHAMPIONSHIP

Registrations will be accepted until April 2nd 2022

Name								
Address								
Phone Email								
Rating Championship: 1300+ Plate: below 1300								
Are you bringing a digital clock? a rotating board?								
PAYMENT \$160 Payable by April 2nd Are you paying by Bank Transfer? Please do not pay until March 1st if paying by bank transfer. Bank: NAB BSB: 084917 Ac No: 218714671 Ac Name: ASPA Queensland. Reference your payment with first 3 letters of your first name and first 3 letters of your last name. Eg JANBRO is reference for Jane Brown or Cheque Payable to ASPA Queensland. Send your cheque or money order with this form. Cash at check-in is only acceptable in extreme circumstances. EFTPOS facilities will not be available Please specify any dietary requirements, or special playing needs								
Email completed form to Judy Mason <u>jmasp123@optusnet.com.au</u> OR post to: Australian Scrabble Championship								
c/o Judy Mason, PO Box 322, Margate Qld 4019								
Enquiries: to Jane Brown jb.edits@bigpond.net.au 0417 903 079								
Further information at https://bit.ly/3vaejlm								

The State of Scrabble in the State of South Australia Daniel Piechnick

The story: The pandemic really put a damper on most Scrabble in SA. A few clandestine (but legal) groups were running at people's houses, but most clubs were out of action. After ten years or so of running Pub Scrabble, Adam Kretschmer needed to do other things, and has put Pub Scrabble on hiatus. Enormous credit needs to be given to Adam, for running Pub Scrabble. It's where much of our current player base came in from.

Some players reassessed their lives, and decided to part ways with Scrabble. A few marginal clubs also closed down.

One of our newer players set up a new club, at The Highway, but was called away by FIFO commitments. Adam had lent us his Pub Scrabble gear, and I'd been hauling it along. Rather than close this new and promising club, I simply continued running it myself.

I think it's fair to say that everyone who plays long-term, should at some point do something significant. I took this opportunity to have my turn, and make it my personal project to grow Scrabble in SA.

Adam added me to the Meetup group he'd been using for Pub Scrabble for many years. Meetup is a site where you can advertise your group, and people can search for groups they might like to join. I was running one club, but I was talking to potential new players from all over Adelaide.

Another player suggested that Living Choice in Fullarton might be a good venue for a club. This is a very fancy retirement complex, and their on-site restaurant was very happy to let us use their spacious main room and lounges. This is a very nice venue indeed. Since I had all the gear, and could easily print more scoresheets, I was happy to oblige.

However, these clubs were both on the same side of the city, so I asked for a volunteer from the other side of the city to organise a venue. Again, I brought along all the gear, and we now have another successful club.

So, I'm now running three clubs, and also hauling the gear to tournaments. I'm happy to do this, but hopefully I can hand over part of this responsibility to others this year.

Scrabble is now growing in this state, and we've had a significant influx of members. It's hard to gauge, but in 2021, we may have gained twenty new players (who I expect to return.)

The main purpose of this article is to share what I've learned over the past year, so it can help others grow Scrabble. I'll link to all the mentioned resources, at the end.

Recruitment: We've been using Meetup for years, and it's where virtually all our new players come from. It's about \$200/year. I understand others have tried Meetup, with minimal success, but we've done it well, with all our events listed on there. We also add "guests" so it's clear that other people are coming. I've also put a lot of effort into communicating with everyone who joins the group. Take a look at ours.

Especially at this time, I've been re-recruiting people. I talk to all the active players, and ask them if they have any contact with an inactive player they could bring along to one of my clubs. We've regained a few players this way. This will continue to be necessary, as more hermit crabs emerge from their shells throughout this year.

Legacy clubs: We still have clubs running at community centres, often in the middle of the day. It's usually the same stalwarts, who have been running them for a very long time. It's extremely hard for those clubs to grow, and many of them eventually just relocate to one of the players' kitchen tables.

These older club players don't need to change, but a new system needs to be built over the top of this.

Venues: All the clubs I run are held at restaurants or hotels of various descriptions, as Pub Scrabble was. These places are happy to have a well-behaved group of new customers, on a quiet day of the week. It's a free venue for us, and we can buy dinner and drinks. It's a win-win. Many people just come straight from work. I'm starting to switch to a dedicated dinner time before play (rather than having people playing and eating concurrently.)

Time: Clubs need to be held in the evening, if they're on a weekday. If you exclude working

people, you're excluding too many people. I tried an afternoon club, and attendance was poor. When I moved the club to the evening, attendance and interest suddenly jumped. All the clubs I run start around six.

Play format: The recruitment and retention of new players is paramount. If you can get the "newbie experience" right, you can keep a good percentage of the new players who come along. At my clubs, I manually pair everyone. New players are carefully paired with existing players who are extremely newbie-friendly. Ideally, that means other new or newish players. (I don't pair brand newbies with each other for their very first game. Someone who knows the ropes is better.) If you ever pair people who arrive together with each other, they will play one two-hour game, and never return.

There's something huge, that I never realised, until I started talking to the people who didn't return. Newbies must have somewhat-evenly matched opponents. Playing with a friendly and helpful 1300-rated player who wins by 200 is a poor experience. This is even more important than friendliness. If you've had people not come back to your club, this is is probably the reason. People don't want to be pulverised by experts.

I don't make anything compulsory for new players. Scoring is optional. I give them a scoresheet, and tell them they can keep track for both players, or just themselves, or just let the opponent do it.

Also, I've created a "newbie scoresheet", with all the two-letter words at the top. This gives new players a big leg-up. Players can play as many games as they like, and leave when they feel like it.

The clock isn't used for newbies. Clocks are terrifying and annoying, even with my experiment of not applying any penalty for going overtime. We actually hide the clocks, in all our photos.

The only objective of the newbie experience is that the player has fun, and comes back. All other rules and procedures can wait. If someone doesn't come back, what they learned doesn't matter. You can wean people onto proper scoring, challenges, and the like, later. I'm also in no hurry to get people to tournaments.

Critical mass: This all feeds into what I call critical mass. It can be hard to reach. This is where a club has about 4 newish players, such that they (and other new players) can all play each other. Until you get to this point, things can be a struggle. Who do the new and newish players play? They play experienced players, they get walloped, and then they leave, and you still don't have critical mass. You get over this eventually, by recruiting a few new players who are either highly competent newbies, or come back despite being walloped. These people are invaluable. They can play experienced players or newbies, as required.

You try it: If you want to help Scrabble, set up a club. That's a very positive thing you can do. If you really want to help, go and support a whole lot of other people to start their own clubs. I repeatedly announce this offer at tournaments. I ask the players if they might fancy running a club. I offer to bring all gear every week, get them new players, and do everything else. All they need to do is find a venue, and be the official club proprietor.

Eventually, I'll hand more of the responsibility over to the proprietors of my clubs. Maybe then, I can start up clubs in some new areas.

Decline: There's a larger picture of the decline of Scrabble that needs to be addressed. It would be easy to feel that organised Scrabble is alive, but is on the way out. The membership has halved over the last twenty years.

Most organisations and pastimes have been forced to compete with all the entertainment that comes with technology. This is very real, but I'd argue that this has been a one-off event. People are now seeking to get away from technology, and interact with people. This headwind is becoming a gentle tailwind. This isn't just my theorising and wishful thinking. Take a look at board games in general. They're exploding in popularity. Good times (or at least decent times) are ahead for Scrabble. If you want to put in the work, and start planting seeds, now is a great time. We've done that here in SA.

Thank you for reading. Please feel free to contact me.

See <u>pegaweb.com/words</u> for details, and links to all the things I've talked about.

When will international play be feasible?

by Karen Richards

(who has played the most internationallyrated games in the world – not always successfully)

Gone are the days of grabbing your passport (plus visa, if required), organising travel insurance online, and then simply arriving at the international airport 2 hours ahead of your flight. Limited international travel should be possible within the next few months (just watch the media). However, there will be hoops to jump through, and maybe tests, perhaps requiring arrival at the airport well ahead of flights. Whatever, the thrill of meeting a variety of international players, and exploring new places, is one of life's great pleasures and privileges.

Below are details of two completely different excursions that might interest serious competitors.

Other international events can be found at wespa.org/tournaments/index

For instance, Isle of Man in May is organised by an Australian, Gillian Street.

NEW ZEALAND NATIONALS June 4 to 6, 2022

Cashmere Club in Christchurch – 46 Colombo Street (venue of 2010 Trans Tasman).

For details, contact Liz Fagerlund scrabbliz@inspire.net.nz

The expected format will be the same as 2021. This is NOT an Open event, but rather there are multiple small groups, with 12 players engaged in a double-round-robin (22 games). It will likely finish around 3:30pm on the Monday. (Being a round robin, you *may* be able to negotiate playing your last game earlier, to facilitate catching a flight on Monday night, depending on the cooperation of your last opponent).

The dictionary will be CSW19. As such, it is not eligible for WESPA-rating. There will be a 5-point penalty challenge. Prize money is low,

but is spread evenly around many groups (80+players). However, it will be great fun.

Australian citizens don't need a visa. However, there may be COVID-related requirements to complete beforehand (assuming borders are open again by June)

USA Collins ~ two events July 2022 (62 games total)

The second suggested excursion is completely different, for multiple reasons. Many overseas players are under the misconception that, if you travel to US or Canada, you *must* use the North American dictionary (called TWL). In fact, approximately one fifth of all competitors, and half of the top players, actually compete using the world dictionary that we use, called CSW or simply "Collins". Just tick the correct box when you enter an event!

Word Cup ~ 31 games

9 July to 13 July

Near Chicago (DoubleTree by Hilton Lisle, Naperville).

This is organised by WGPO (Word Game Players Organisation) plus CoCo (Collins Coalition).

For the first time, the annual Word Cup (in its 10th interation) will be rated by WESPA. That means it will be using the expurgated dictionary, CSW21 (CSW19 minus 419 words). It will also have a 5-point penalty challenge rule. Minimum first prize is US\$10,000 for Collins Division.

They are very strict about vaccination. At time of writng - things may change before then - you will probably need two doses plus booster, for the tournaments. This may differ from the general government entry requirement to US, which may only require 2 doses. Astra Zeneca is acceptable (event though they don't provide it in US).

For details, visit one of these websites https://wordgameplayers.org/ or https://www.cocoscrabble.org/news/announci ng-word-cup-2022?

2022 Scrabble Players Championship ~ 31 games 23 July to 27th July

Baltimore

If you really love Scrabble, and want to make the most of your travel dollar, consider combining Word Cup with the event previously called "North American Scrabble Championship". This event is organised by NASPA (North American Scrabble Players Association). You need to become a temporary member of NASPA, which costs nothing. Details are on website. http://www.scrabbleplayers.org/w/2022_Scrabble_Players_Championship

They expect 2 Collins divisions. Anyone rated below the cutoff (WESPA 1400) is welcome to play in the top division.

About competing in USA:

You will need an ESTA (electronic system of travel authorisation). This is instead of a visa, and lasts 2 years. It is simple and fast to obtain online, well before you leave Australia. https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/ (If you also travel to Canada, they have a similar ESTA in lieu of visa. However, theirs is valid until your current

passport expires, be that in 6 months, or 5 years).

For both tournaments, accommodation is available in the hotel where the tournament is held. Even though this appears expensive, I recommend staying where you are playing. It means not having to walk the streets at night. If you stay elsewhere, it may look cheaper, but you then have to pay extra with your entry, as a "commuter fee". (Tip: most US hotels only provide coffee – take some tea bags).

Tournaments may not provide score books. Sometimes they sell scorebooks. There is a template on

http://scrabble.org.au/resources/scores.htm . Most hotels will print these for you, in emergencies.

Travel insurance is vital. It costs more now, because of the high chance of COVID issues – check the fine print – eg will you be covered for the extra cost of staying in US, if Australia suddenly locks you out, again? There are many things not covered, so know your rights before you travel. Covermore provide basic insurance. AllClear Travel used to provide international cover for those with pre-existing medical conditions, and hope to offer it again soon.



Need a missing tile?

We may have what you want — no cost to you.

Contact Carol Johnsen caroljscrabble@gmail.com

0476 639 195

A photo of a tile from the set would assist.

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Club Directory

Any changes to this club directory should be made to the Editor editor@scrabble.org.au as well as your State representative. Club information to be limited to name of club, time of operation, club contact and contact phone number. Full details can be obtained by visiting http://www.scrabble.org.au/clubs/index.htm

ACT (area code 02)

Southern Cross Club, Woden Thurs 9 am to 1 pm, Terry Horan ~ 0424 229 254

Southern Cross Club, Woden Wed 7 pm to 10 pm Tim Reddan \sim (02) 6179 5000

New South Wales (area code 02)

Baulkham Hills~Tue 7pm~Chris Ostrowski~0410 448 286

Belmont ~ Mon 1.30 - 4.30pm ~

Bob Burr ~ 0431 887 087

Bomaderry – Wed 10:30am-4:30pm – Margaret Neal 0428 429 077

Bondi ~ Wed 7.00 pm ~ Owen Fisher ~ 0412 931 440

Bowral 2nd & 4th Fridays, Sylvia Carless 0419 165 293

Brunswick Valley, Tues 1-4pm, Barbara Hancock ~ 0479 183 183

Coffs Harbour ~ Wed 1-4pm ~ Keith Bancroft ~ 0421 334 216

Empire Bay ~ Tue 9.15-12.30 ~ Shirley Crocker 4369 2634

Inner West Day (Marrickville) ~ Tues 9.30-13.30, Sue Tuckett, 0401 644 096

Lake Macquarie ~ Thursday 9.00 am - 1.00 pm ~ Richard Birch 0418 428 459

Lane Cove: Thursdays 5.30 to 9.00pm Norma Tracey 0448 419 049

Lismore ~ Wed 11-3 pm – Ademyi Johnson ~ 6622 0649

Macarthur, 1st & 3rd Wed 7pm, Tony Hunt 0417 470167 Maitland ~ Tue 10-2pm ~ Pam Rowlands ~ 0421 111 253

Mittagong 2nd-4th Tues, 10am-4pm, George Khamis 0405 201 552

Newcastle ~ Sat 11.30-3.30pm ~ Julie Russell 4956 3008.

Nowra ~ Sat from 12.30 ~ Greg Hopson ~ 0438 897 540

Orange ~ Alt Sun from 2pm ~ Audrey Ferris ~ 6362 0068 Ourimbah ~ Thurs 10 –2pm ~ Sandra Elliott 0410 438 525

Port Macquarie, Tues 1-3pm, Wayne Willis 0415 572 017

Revesby ~ Tue from 7pm ~ Peter Griffiths 0432 638 994

South West Rocks \sim Alternate Thurs 10am – 4pm \sim Shirley Winkler \sim 6566 7220

St George ~ Tues 10-3pm ~ Jo Anne Deady ~ 9718 4069

Sutherland ~ Thur 10.30-4.00 ~ Ann Fiddler~9589 0128

Sydney ~ Monthly Sunday Comp 11.30am ~ Cheryl Michler, 0408 595 219

Tahmoor ~ Mon from 1pm ~ Bev Batros 0409 913 679

Terrigal ~ Mon 10am-2pm ~ Mike Oxby ~ 4332 6485

Turramurra ~ Tues 6pm ~ Janine Whittaker ~ 0408 421 340

Ulladulla ~ Mon 1pm - 5pm ~ Gary Pollard ~ 4456 5139

Wagga Wagga ~ Wed 7pm ~ Norm Byng 0418 293 453

Waverley ~ Tue 1 pm ~ Devorah Ullman ~ 0434 190 396

Wollongong ~ Mon evening and Thursday daytime ~

Rene Chelton ~ 4283 2442

Woy Woy ~ Thur noon-4pm ~ Denise Smith ~ 4365 5645

Queensland (area code 07)

Albert & Logan, Mon 12-4.30p.m., Marilyn Smith 040 3205 040

Bargara, Thu 1.30pm Virginia Christian ~ 4159 1935

Brunswick Valley, Tues 1-4pm, Steve Bellerby ~ 02 6684 0872

Bundaberg, Liz Blanch 4155 2231

Coominya, Tues 6.30pm, Matthew Forno 0417 446 556

Coorparoo, Tues 9am-1pm, Benita O'Neill ~ 3398 4494

Lismore, Weds 1pm, Ademyi Johnson, (02) 6622 0649

Logan City, Tues noon – 4.30pm, Karrin Henderson 3133 3204

Redcliffe, Weds 1pm, Trish Brighton 0402 736 532

Redcliffe, Thurs 7pm, Trish Brighton 0402 736 532

Southport, Weds 1pm ~ Diana McManus 0419 022 520

Toowoomba, Tues, 10,00am, Jane Brown, 0417 903 079

Toowoomba, Thurs 6.30pm, Jane Brown 0417 903 079

Townsville, 2nd Weds of month $\sim 5.30\mbox{-}8.30$ p.m., Julie Walder. 4740 4175, Mob 0408 011 185.

South Australia (area code 08)

Blackwood ~ Wednesday 1-4 ~ Raelene Nicholls 0416 203 515 ~ nichollsraelene@gmail.com

Brighton ~ Thursday 12:30pm ~ Julie Hockley 0410 053 973

Collinswood ~ Friday 6:00pm ~ Rob Marotta ~ 0401 978 098

Fullarton ~ Friday 6:30pm ~

Tracey Kneebone ~ 0418 816 482

Pub Scrabble at Highway ~ Monday 6:00pm ~ Baheej Al Kassem ~ 414 081 641

Henley & Grange ~ Friday 1pm ~ Jacqui Pearce 0439 806 309

Noarlunga / Christies Beach ~ Wednesday 7.30pm ~ Robyn Davill 0401 364 019

Port Adelaide Library ~ Monday (excl. Public Holidays) 2:30-5:30pm ~ sarah.antoniw@cityofpae.sa.gov.au

Prospect ~ Tuesday 1.30pm ~ Louisa Atsas 0432 907 646

Tasmania (area code 03)

Beaumaris ~ Sun 2pm ~ Marion Merickel ~ 6372 5337

Bellerive ~ Thu 7pm ~ Margaret Bishop ~ 6244 5545

Glenorchy ~ Tue 1pm ~ Jill Norton ~ 6228 1861

Kingborough ~ Tue 7.30pm ~ Khen Meerding ~ 6229 5840

Ulverstone ~ Wed 9.30am ~ Jan Hill ~ 6425 5415

Victoria (area code 03)

Ballarat - Tues 10m - Marjorie Clark - 0456 098 982 Balwyn ~ Mon 1pm ~ Mari Miller ~ 9850 2366 Bentleigh - Wednesday 1pm-4pm (during School terms) Carol Johnsen 0476 639 195 Box Hill - now called Surrey Hills (see below) Cranbourne ~ Monday 9.30am-1pm ~ Cranbourne Library ~ Gayle Cameron - 0420 934 176 Essendon ~ Tue 7pm ~ Rob York ~ 0417 512 535 Fairfield/Northcote ~ Mon 7-9pm ~ Rob York ~ 0417 512 535 Fitzroy - Occasional - Nick Ivanovski - 0412 175 251 Frankston North ~ Sat 1-5pm - Ray Alford ~ 5977 0819 Geelong ~ Sat 1.30pm ~ Marlene Ellis ~ 5275 0363 Golden Age (Mt Waverley) ~ Mondays - 9.30-3pm and Wed 9.30am-3pm ~ Lynne Goodinson - 0402 164 329 Greensborough Wednesday 1-4pm ~ Marisa Nuccitelli ~ 9459 4529

Langwarrin ~ Tue 1-4pm ~ Alan Burn 0407 524 797

Mt Martha ~ Tue 1pm ~ Marjorie Barnes ~ 0402 081 466

Paynesville ~ Tues 10am ~ Sylvia Galloway ~ 5156 7443

Rosanna ~ 2nd & 4th Thurs ~ 6.30pm ~

Rob Hutchinson ~ 0407 533 525

Surrey Hills – 1st, 3rd & 5th Tuesdays - Judith
McNaughton – 0447 387 493

Warburton – Friday 10am-2pm –

Lay-Hoon Ng – 0408 802 207

Watsonia ~ Wed 12-3pm ~ Angie Winkler ~ 9439 1634.

Western Australia (area code O8) Albany ~ Mon 10am ~ Jane Taylor ~ 0429 448 666

Welshpool ~ Mon 7pm ~ temporarily closed

Bunbury ~ Fri 9am ~ Marie Cross ~ 9721 5704

Darlington ~ Tue 9am ~ Carmelita Maxwell ~ 9299 6713

Esperance ~ Sat 1pm ~ Ann Wallace ~ 0412 942 205

Floreat – Tues 12.30pm – Wendy Naunton – 9446 3108

Hamersley ~ Tues 1pm ~Mike Clarke ~ 0438 606 617

Hamersley ~ Sat 1pm ~ Mike Clarke ~ 0438 606 617

Mandurah ~ Wed 8.30am ~ Marg Fisher ~ 9581 6852

Manjimup ~ Wed 1 pm ~ Pat Parkinson ~ 9771 2882

Melville ~ Mon 10am ~ Alan Mathews ~ 0400 330 615

Nedlands ~ Tues 9.45 am ~ Chris Hassell ~ 0428 846 325

Perth ~ Thurs 9 am ~ Anne Stewart ~ 0410 346 849

Spearwood ~ Tues 10 am ~ Jenny Coetzee ~ 9434 9349

Bassendean ~ Wed 9am ~ Anne Stewart ~ 0410 346 849

Records 2022 so far...

High game score	616	Daniel Piechnick 616 against Susan Roberts 203 at 16.01.2022 SA January
Large game margin	413	Daniel Piechnick 616 against Susan Roberts 203 at 16.01.2022 SA January
High drawn game	381	Karyn Crease 381 against Baheej Al Kassem 381 at 08.01.2022 SSJAN22
High combined score	965	Daniel Piechnick 479 against Carmel Dodd 486 at 16.01.2022 SA January
High average score	486.4	(7 games) Andrew Fisher at 16.01.2022 Bil Rose Aestival 2022
High average spread	156.0	(7 games) Andrew Fisher at 16.01.2022 Bil Rose Aestival 2022
High losing score	479	Daniel Piechnick 479 against Carmel Dodd 486 at 16.01.2022 SA January
High word	167	SCHOOLED: Daniel Piechnick at 16.01.2022 SA January

Results Roundup

ACT

20.11.2021 ACT Championship

OPEN: 1 Jakob Teitelbaum; 2 Ronnie Bennett; 3 John Spaan; **HG** Susan MacGillivray 581; **HW** John Spaan **DECRIAL** 158

08.01.2022 ACT January

A: 1 Susan MacGillivray; 2 Ronnie Bennett; 3 Caroline Scowcroft; HG Ronnie Bennett 529: HW Ronnie Bennett REJOINS 116

NSW

13.11.2021 2021 NSW Championship

OPEN: 1 Chris May; 2 Tony Hunt; 3 Rod Talbot; **HG** Joanne Craig 578; **HW** Esther Perrins ARBORIST 149

11.12.2021 Sutherland

A: 1 Joanne Craig; 2 Victor Tung; 3 Bob Jackman; HG Bob Jackman 569; HW Bob Jackman INQILABS 126

B: 1 Monica Dwyer; 2 Shaun Donnelly; 3 Natalie Tadday; HG Janine Whittaker 491; HW Janine Whittaker SIGHTER 96

C: 1 Anne Hough; 2 Al Thawer; 3 Ann Fiddler; HG Devorah Ullman 472; HW Greg Hopson JESTING 104

21.12.2021 OITOO by River

OPEN: 1 Tony Hunt; 2 Steven Savona; 3 Margaret Berliner; **HG** Tony Hunt 510; **HW** Tony Hunt **SPEWERS** 96

08.01.2022 Janboree

A SECTION: 1 Tony Hunt; 2 Bob Jackman; 3 Joanne Craig; HG Rod Talbot 546; HW Tony Hunt EPISTLER 140

B SECTION: 1 Moana Nepia; 2 Lynn Carter; 3 Sunny Wright; HG Rene Chelton 555; HW Natalie Tadday MISLEADS 94

C SECTION: 1 Jenny Templeton; 2 Devorah Ullman; 3 Liz Jackman; HG Krystyna Batten 436

15.01.2022 Bundanoon

OPEN: 1 Joanne Craig; 2 Tony Hunt; 3 Ryan Sutton; **HG** Ryan Sutton; 559; **HW** Tony Hunt **SNOOZIER** 125

30.01.2022 City of Sydney Masters

OPEN: 1 Chris May; 2 Andrew Fisher; 3 Joanne Craig; **HG** Joanne Craig 616; **HW** John Barker **SOUPLEST** 136

QLD

07.11.2021 Aspley

A: 1 Cameron Farlow; 2 Karen Richards; 3 Trish Brighton; HG Cameron Farlow 572; HW Cameron Farlow GLADNESS 140

B: 1 Yvette Copley; 2 Olga Visser; 3 Jean Gillespie; **HG** Olga Visser 468; **HW** Yvette Copley **METERING** 82

C: 1 Diana McManus; 2 Joel Philip; 3 Anitha Philip; HG Diana McManus 435; HW Diana McManus CLOUDING 98

05.12.2021 Southport Xmas

ALL: 1 Cameron Farlow; 2 Karrin Henderson; 3 Martin Waterworth; HG Karrin Henderson 561; HW Karen Woodhead THICKENS 101

19.12.2021 Last Chance

ALL: 1 Cameron Farlow; 2 Olga Visser; 3 Jerene Philip; **HG** Edward Okulicz 557; **HW** Jerene Philip **ADJUSTED** 98

16.01.2022 Logan Clovers 2022

A: 1 Cameron Farlow; 2 Sheryl Davidson; 3 Paul Richards; HG Cameron Farlow 517; HW Trish Brighton JAGHIRE 107

B: 1 Roslyn Murphy; 2 Jenny Schafer; 3 Kerry Reimers; **HG** Roslyn Murphy 479; **HW** Elize Plaganyi **SHARING** 94

SA

14.11.2021 SA November

A: 1 Daniel Piechnick; 2 Michael Vnuk; 3 Antony Kimber; HG Daniel Piechnick; HW Daniel Piechnick RECTIONS 140

B: 1 Tim Guidera; 2 Louisa Atsas; 3 Julie Robins; **HG** Mel Leckie. 453; **HW** Mel Leckie **SWEATING** 94

27.11.2021 Seaford November

A: 1 Daniel Piechnick; 2 Jane Taylor; 3 Antony Kimber; HG Antony Kimber 533; HW Jane Taylor UNLINING 140

B: 1 Dieter Jedamski; 2 Judy Mansfield; 3 Baheej Al Kassem; **HG** Dieter Jedamski 448; **HW** Paula Brown **FEASTING** 94

04.12.2021 Pub Scrabble December

A: 1 Daniel Piechnick; 2 Antony Kimber; 3
Francoise Finlayson; HG Jane Taylor 501; HW
Nancy Sparling OBSERVE 111

B: 1 Helen Jones; 2 Judy Mansfield; 3 Wendi Symes **HG** Helen Jones 475; **HW** Baheej Al Kassem **FETTERS** 92

C: 1 Louisa Atsas; 2 Elana Jaremyn; 3 Emanuel Atsas; HG Louisa Atsas 540; HW Louisa Atsas FAULTIER 96

27.12.2021 Xmas Leftovers

A: 1 Daniel Piechnick; 2 Jane Taylor; 3 Antony Kimber; HG Daniel Piechnick 593; HW Daniel Piechnick FETIDER 108

B: 1 Emanuel Atsas; 2 Neal Whibley; 3 Paula Brown; **HG** Emanuel Atsas 452; **HW** Neal Whibley **TEACHING** 98

08.01.2022 SS January 22

A: 1 Daniel Piechnick; 2 Antony Kimber; 3 Victoria Gates; HG Daniel Piechnick 513; HW Susan Roberts REQUITE 103

16.01.2022 SA January

A: 1 Carmel Dodd; 2 Jane Taylor; 3 Antony Kimber; HG Daniel Piechnick 616; HW Daniel Piechnick SCHOOLED 167

B: 1 Judy Mansfield; 2 Victoria Gates; 3 Louisa Atsas; HG Paula Brown 581; HW Paula Brown SPUNKING 128

TAS

27.11.2021 Ross 2021A

OPEN: 1 Martin Rose; 2 Khen Meerding; 3 Betty Smith; **HG** John Hayes 596; **HW** John Hayes **BISEXUAL** 122

14.12.2021 Kingston Dec 2021

OPEN: 1 Martin Rose; 2 Ros Wilkinson; 3 Stephen Mooney Pursell; **HG** Martin Rose 474

VIC

13.11.2021 Victorian Champs 21

OPEN: 1 David Eldar; 2 Andrew Fisher; 3 Trevor Halsall; **HG** Andrew Fisher 627; **HW** Lainie Chojna **ABRASION** 149

21.11.2021 Scrabble Festival

A: 1 Norma Fisher; 2 Geoff Wright; 3 Barry Harridge; HG Norma Fisher 500; HW Shaun Donnelly BENDERS 90

B: 1 Noel Coulter; 2 John Rider; 3 Mal Eden; HG Mal Eden 494; HW Noel Coulter CLIMAXES 101

C: 1 Siva Sivapalasundram; 2 Ann Goodwin; 3 Dominica Krstic; **HG** Carol Rollmann 502; **HW** Dominica Krstic **MENDERS** 91

05.12.2021 Vic December

A: 1 Geoff Wright; 2 Nick Ivanovski; 3 Chris Scholten; HG Nick Ivanovski 560; HW Mal Eden TREADING 95

B: 1 Siva Sivapalasundram; 2 Luke Breen; 3 Dominica Krstic; **HG** Siva Sivapalasundram 534; **HW** Annette Casey **NASTIER** 106

12.12.2021 Bayside 2

A: 1 Dianne Davis; 2 Mythili Rudra; 3 Peter Kougi; **HG** Peter Kougi 550; **HW** Jenny Brysha ATTAINED 131

B: 1 Noel Coulter; 2 Oscar Ivanovski; 3 Oliver Podesser; **HG** Oscar Ivanovski 559; **HW** Oscar Ivanovski **DETRAIN** 103

28.12.2021 Decathon 21

A: 1 Edward Okulicz; 2 Anand Bharadwaj; 3 David Eldar; HG David Eldar 587; HW Norma Fisher OPTICALS 131

B: 1 June Valentine; 2 John Rider; 3 Kashi Thiris; **HG** Kashi Thiris 548; **HW** Kashi Thiris NARTJIE 114

C: 1 Oscar Ivanovski; 2 Siva Sivapalasundram; 3 Oliver Podesser; HG Oscar Ivanovski 586; HW Oscar Ivanovski LOFTIER 93

16.01.2022 Bil Rose Aestival 2022

AESTIVAL: 1 Andrew Fisher; **2** Edward Okulicz; **3** Norma Fisher; **HG** Norma Fisher 591; **HW** Noel Coulter **NARROWED** 131

30.01.2022 Plate and Side

PLATE: 1 Oscar Ivanovski; 2 Rob Hutchinson; 3 Kris Howat; HG Oscar Ivanovski 514; HW Mohammed Hegazi HELPERS 105

SIDE: 1 Edward Okulicz; 2 Geoff Wright; 3 Nick Ivanovski; HG Trevor Halsall 617; HW Geoff Wright IDEALIZE 104

WA

30.01.2022 January Round Robin

DIVISION ONE: 1 Jegatheva Jegathesan; **2** Sally Martin; **3** Ian Ting; **HG** Sally Martin 562; **HW** Sally Martin **EXCIMER** 115

DIVISION TWO: 1 John Salmon; **2** John Minas; **3** Cori Lodder; **HG** John Salmon 514; **HW** Cori Lodder, **JUSTEST** 103

DIV THREE: 1 Henny Yates; **2** Janet Kirk; **3** Chris Sanders; **HG** Henny Yates 501; **HW** Henny Yates **ENOUIRER** 99

TWO AND THREE LETTER WORDS ALLOWABLE IN TOURNAMENT SCRABBLE®

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DAL FAN HUT ALT AWA BOB CAZ DOS ELD FOY GIS HEM OM GI ON ALU AWE BOD CEE DAM DOT ELF FAP GIT HYE FRA HEN AA GO 00 AAH AMA AWK BOG CEL DAN DOW ELK FAR FRO GJU HEP HYP AB GU OP AAL AME AWL BOH CEP DAP DOX ELL FAS FRY GNU HER ICE AD HA OR AAS AMI AWN BOI CHA DAS DOY ELM FAT FUB GOA **HES** ICH ΑE HE OS ABA AMP AXE BOK CHE DAW DRY ELS FAW FUD **GOB** HET ICK AYE CHI DAY ELT ICY AG ΗI OU ABB **AMU** BON DSO FAX **FUG** GOD HEW OW AH HM ABS ANA AYS BOO CID DEB DUB **EME** FAY FUM GOE HEX IDE FED ΑI HO OX ABY AND AYU BOP CIG DEE DUD **EMO** FUN GON HEY IDS IFF AL ID OY ACE ANE AZO BOR CIS DEF DUE **EMS** FEE **FUR** GOO HIC AM IF PA ACH ANI BAA BOS CIT DEG DUG **EMU** FEG GAB GOR HID IFS AN IN PE ACT ANN BAC BOT CLY DEI DUH END FEH GAD GOS HIE IGG ΡI AR IO ADD ANS BAD BOW COB DEL DUI ENE FEM GAE GOT HIM ILK IS PO FEN GAG AS ADO ANT BAE BOX COD DEN DUM ENG GOV HIN ILL AΤ IT ΟI ADS ANY BAG BOY COG DEP DUN ENS FER GAK GOX HIP IMP AW JA RE ADZ APE BAH BRA COL DEV DUO EON **FES** GAL GRR HIS ING JO SH AFF APO BAL **BRO** CON DEW DUP FET GAM HIT INK AX **ERA GUB** SI AY KA AFT APP BAM BRR COO DEX DUX **ERE** FEU GAN **GUE HMM** INN BA ΚI SO AGA APT BAN BRU COP DEY DYE ERF FEW GAP GUL HOA INS BE KO ST AGE ARB BAO BUB COR DIB DZO **ERG** FEY GAR **GUM** HOB ION BI ΚY ΤA AGO ARC BAP BUD COS DID EAN **ERK** FEZ GAS GUN HOC IOS BO LA ΤE AGS ARD BAR BUG COT DIE EAR **ERM** FIB GAT **GUP** HOD IRE LI TI AHA ARE BAS COW DIF EAS ERN FID GAU **GUR** HOE IRK BY BUM DIG EAT FIE GAW **GUS** HOG ISH CH LO TO AHI ARF BAT BUN COX **ERR** ΜA ARK BAY EAU **ERS** GAY GUT ISM DA UG AHS BUR COY DIM FIG HOH DE ME UH AIA ARM BED BUS COZ DIN **EBB ESS** FIL GED **GUV** HOI ISO ARS BEE BUT CRU DIP **ECH** EST FIN GEE GUY HOM ITA DI MI UM AID DO MM UN AIL ART **BEG** BUY CRY DIS **ECO** ETA FIR GEL GYM HON ITS UP AIM BEL BYE DIT **ECU** ETH FIT **GEM** GYP IVY ΕA MO ARY CUB HOO ASH BYS ED MU UR AIN BEN CUD DIV EDH EUK FIX GEN HAD HOP IWI EE MY US AIR ASK BES CAA CUE DOB **EDS EVE** FIZ **GEO** HAE HOS JAB UT ASP BET CAB EEK FLU HAG JAG EF NA AIS CUM DOC **EVO GER** HOT NE WE AIT ASS BEY CAD CUP DOD EEL EWE FLY GET HAH HOW JAI EH EL NO WO AJI ATE BEZ CAF CUR DOE EEN **EWK** FOB **GEY** HAJ HOX JAK EM NU XΙ AKA ATS BIB CAG CUT DOF EEW EWT FOE GHI HAM HOY JAM EN NY XU AKE ATT BID CAL CUZ DOG EFF **EXO** FOG GIB HAN HUB JAP BIG CAM CWM **EFS** EYE FOH GID JAR ER OB YA ALA AUA DOH HAO HUE YE CAN EFT GIE ES OD ALB AUE BIN DAB DOL FAA FON HAP HUG JAW ET OE YO CAP DAD EGG FAB GIF HAS JAY ALE AUF BIO DOM FOO HUH EW OF YU ALF AUK BIS CAR DAE DON **EGO** FAD FOP GIG HAT HUI JEE OH ZAALL AVA BIT CAT DAG DOO EHS FAE FOR GIN HAW JET EX HUM CAW FA OI ZEALP AVE BIZ DAH DOP EIK FAG FOU GIO HAY HUN JEU CAY FE OK ALS AVO BOA DAK DOR EKE FAH FOX GIP HEH HUP JIB

JIG KOS LOX MMM NIB OHM OXO POH REC SAC SKI TAO TSK VAU WIG YOM JIN KOW LOY MNA NID OHO OXY POI RED SAD SKY TAP TUB VAV WIN YON JIZ KUE LUD MOA NIE OHS OYE POL REE SAE SLY TAR TUG VAW WIS YOU JOB KYE LUG MOB NIL OIK OYS POM REF SAG SMA TAS TUI VAX WIT YOW JOE KYU LUM MOC NIM OIL PAC POO REG SAI SNY TAT TUM VEE WIZ YUG JOG LAB LUN MOD NIP OIS PAD POP REH SAL SOB TAU TUN VEG WOE YUK JOL LAC LUR MOE NIS OKA PAH POS REI SAM SOC TAV TUP VET WOF YUM JOR LAD LUV MOG NIT OKE PAK POT REM SAN SOD TAW TUT VEX WOK YUP JOT LAG LUX MOI NIX OLD PAL POW REN SAP SOG TAX TUX VIA WON YUS JOW LAH LUZ MOL NOB OLE PAM POX REO SAR SOH TAY TWA VID WOO ZAG JOY LAM LYE MOM NOD OLM PAN POZ REP SAT SOL TEA TWO VIE WOP ZAP JUD LAP LYM MON NOG OMA PAP PRE RES SAU SOM TEC TWP VIG WOS ZAS JUG LAR MAA MOO NOH OMS PAR PRO RET SAV SON TED TYE VIM WOT ZAX JUN LAS MAC MOP NOM ONE PAS PRY REV SAW SOP TEE TYG VIN WOW ZEA JUS LAT MAD MOR NON ONO PAT PSI REW SAX SOS TEF UDO VIS WOX ZED JUT LAV MAE MOS NOO ONS PAV PST REX SAY SOT TEG UDS VLY WRY ZEE KAB LAW MAG MOT NOR ONY PAW PUB REZ SAZ SOU TEL UEY VOE WUD ZEK KAE LAX MAK MOU NOS OOF PAX PUD RHO SEA SOV TEN UFO VOG WUS ZEL KAF LAY MAL MOW NOT OOH PAY PUG RHY SEC SOW TES UGH VOL WUZ ZEN KAI LEA MAM MOY NOW OOM PEA PUH RIA SED SOX TET UGS VOM WYE ZEP KAK LED MAN MOZ NOX OON PEC PUL RIB SEE SOY TEW UKE VOR WYN ZEX KAM LEE MAP MUD NOY OOP PED PUN RID SEG SOZ TEX ULE VOW XED ZHO KAS LEG MAR MUG NTH OOR PEE PUP RIF SEI SPA THE ULU VOX XIS ZIG KAT LEI MAS MUM NUB OOS PEG PUR RIG SEL SPY THO UME VUG YAD ZIN KAW LEK MAT MUN NUG OOT PEH PUS RIM SEN SRI THY UMM VUM YAE ZIP KAY LEP MAW MUS NUN OPA PEL PUT RIN SER STY TIC UMP WAB YAG ZIT KEA LET MAX MUT NUR OPE PEN PUY RIP SET SUB TID UMS WAD YAH ZIZ KEB LEU MAY MUX NUS OPS PEP PWN RIT SEV SUD TIE UMU WAE YAK ZOA KED LEV MED MYC NUT OPT PER PYA RIZ SEW SUE TIG UNI WAG YAM ZOL KEF LEW MEE NAB NYE ORA PES PYE ROB SEX SUG TIK UNS WAI YAP ZOO KEG LEX MEG NAE NYM ORB PET PYX ROC SEY SUI TIL UPO WAN YAR ZOS KEN LEY MEH NAG NYS ORC PEW QAT ROD SEZ SUK TIN UPS WAP YAS ZUZ KEP LIB MEL NAH OAF ORD PHI QIN ROE SHA SUM TIP URB WAR YAW ZZZ KET LID MEM NAM OAK ORE PHO OIS ROK SHE SUN TIS URD WAS YAY KEX LIE MEN NAN OAR ORF PHT QUA ROM SHH SUP TIT URE WAT YEA KEY LIG MES NAP OAT ORG PIA RAD ROO SHO SUO TIX URN WAW YEH KHI LIN MET NAS OBA ORS PIC RAG ROT SHY SUR TIZ URP WAX YEN KID LIP MEU NAT OBE ORT PIE RAH ROW SIB SUS TOC USE WAY YEP KIF LIS MEW NAV OBI OSE PIG RAI RUB SIC SWY TOD UTA WAZ YER KIN LIT MHO NAW OBO OUD PIN RAJ RUC SIF SYE TOE UTE WEB YES KIP LOB MIB NAY OBS OUK PIP RAM RUD SIG SYN TOG UTS WED YET KIR LOD MIC NEB OCA OUP PIR RAN RUE SIK TAB TOM UTU WEE YEW KIS LOG MID NED OCH OUR PIS RAP RUG SIM TAD TON UVA WEM YEX KIT LOO MIG NEE ODA OUS PIT RAS RUM SIN TAE TOO VAC WEN YEZ KOA LOP MIL NEF ODD OUT PIU RAT RUN SIP TAG TOP VAE WET YGO KOB LOR MIM NEG ODE OVA PIX RAV RUT SIR TAI TOR VAG WEX YIN KOI LOS MIR NEK ODS OWE PLU RAW RYA SIS TAJ TOT VAN WEY YIP KON LOT MIS NEP OES OWL PLY RAX RYE SIT TAK TOW VAR WHA YOB KOP LOU MIX NET OFF OWN POA RAY RYU SIX TAM TOY VAS WHO YOD

KOR LOW MIZ NEW OFT OWT POD REB SAB SKA TAN TRY VAT WHY YOK

Ratings Snapshot

Top 200 at 7 February 2022

	donigo O		77	1100	10	PEC	oo at 7 i ebi uai y	LULL
1	David Eldar	2127	68	Therese Nichols	1458	135	Kris Howat	1275
2	Chris May	2034	69	Antonios Syrigos	1457		Margaret Gibson	1270
3	Jakob Teitelbaum	2025	70	Greg Pinchbeck	1450		•	1269
			1 1				Peter Bauer	
4	Andrew Fisher	1996	71	Khen Meerding	1449		Darren Chaitman	1265
5	Cameron Farlow	1970	72	Ray Alford	1447	139	Cheryle Jerram	1264
6	Naween Fernando	1948	73	Jegatheva Jegathesan	1444	140	Glenys Logan	1261
7	Anand Bharadwaj	1945	74	Sam Amarasinghe	1440		Julie Pampling	1257
8	Joanne Craig	1889	75	Geoff Shepheard	1428		Jan Hill	1254
9	Esther Perrins	1882	76	Chris Scholten	1428			
			1 1				Mal Eden	1251
10	Edward Okulicz	1881	77	Benjamin Lee	1420		Rod Casey	1248
11	Peter Kougi	1856	78	Ivor Zetler	1417	145	Natalie Tadday	1246
12	Daniel Piechnick	1812	79	Malcolm McAnulty	1416	146	Arnold Appelhof	1245
13	Michael McKenna	1788	80	Kerry Constable	1415	147	Joyce Browett	1238
14	Ryan Sutton	1781	81	Martin Waterworth	1414		Richard Birch	1235
15	David Vanzyl	1775	82	Margaret Neal	1414		Anne Stewart	1234
16	Trevor Halsall	1754	83	Ros Wilkinson	1406			
							Sharon Sorensen	1233
17	Ron Baginski	1752	84	Adam Kauschke	1399	151	Wendy Taylor	1231
18	Bob Jackman	1747	85	Alex Lam	1399	152	Lorraine Thomas	1228
19	Adam Kretschmer	1741	86	Roberta Tait	1398	153	Robin Andersen	1228
20	Rod Talbot	1734	87	Keith Bioletti	1395		Moana Nepia	1226
21	Mythili Rudra	1731	88	Tony Williams	1395		Khwanjai Thammaping	1226
22	Wayne Jones	1724	89	Colleen Birch	1393			
23	Tony Hunt	1716	90	Gwen Lampre	1392		Francoise Finlayson	1225
24		1708	91		1386		Sue Gergelifi	1223
	Rael Hayman			Liz Blanch		158	Christie Godby	1223
25	Russell Honeybun	1701	92	Carol Johnsen	1385	159	Nancy Sparling	1222
26	Tim Mason	1688	93	Alex Boiko	1385	160	Kannan Sethuraman	1216
27	Stephen Mooney Pursell	1683	94	Faye Williams	1384		Marion Miller	1213
28	Victor Tung	1663	95	Jyoti Chandna	1383		Elaine Capewell	1210
29	Graham Bell	1654	96	Anne Zion	1382		Sylvia Galloway	1207
30	John Holgate	1653	97	Caroline Polak Scowcroft	1378		, ,	
31	John Hamilton	1642	98	Karrin Henderson	1376		Janine Whittaker	1204
32	Noel Barrett	1630	99	Margaret Webb	1370		Cori Lodder	1204
33		1624		John Rider	1369	166	Ian Hoffman	1201
	Geoff Wright		1			167	Dieter Jedamski	1198
34	Nick Ivanovski	1621		John Barker	1367	168	Frank Csarics	1198
35	Carmel Dodd	1620		Keri Heart	1359	169	Rob Hutchinson	1197
36	Helen Hynes	1614		Tim Reddan	1357		Yvette Copley	1197
37	Karen Richards	1610	104	Margaret Griggs	1355			
38	Nat Podesser	1579	105	Felicity Devitt	1353		Victoria Gates	1191
39	John Spaan	1577	106	Lainie Chojna	1351		Jenny Schafer	1190
40	Chris Hall	1575		Carolyn Watt	1350		Rob York	1189
41	Paul Richards	1567		Angie Pearse	1349	174	Roslyn Murphy	1187
42	Tony Miller	1562		Monica Dwyer	1349	175	Kerry Reimers	1186
43	Trevor Tao				1345	176	Hanne Marks	1175
		1556		Tracey Kneebone		177		1175
44	Dianne Ward	1555		Barry Harridge	1335		John Salmon	1174
45	Ronnie Bennett	1554		Chris Ostrowski	1335			1169
46	Norma Fisher	1553	113	Judy Godfrey	1333		George Khamis	
47	Rocky Sharma	1549	114	Olga Visser	1330	180	Jan Chapman	1169
48	Sally Martin	1543	115	Lexie Neale	1329		Rowena Vnuk	1166
49	Antony Kimber	1542	116	Hailey Sutton	1329		Helen Jones	1163
50	Martin Rose	1536	117	Peter Shaw	1328	183	Yvonne Edwards	1162
51	Graeme Lock Lee	1535		Shaun Donnelly	1328	184	Steven Savona	1162
52	Sheryl Davidson	1533		June Valentine	1322	185	Tim Walton	1160
53	Michael Vnuk	1507		Jenny Brysha	1317		Norma Tracey	1155
							Anne Schick	1151
54	Jane Taylor	1501	1	Susan Roberts	1315		Karen Woodhead	1149
55	Tony Loui	1492	122	Shirley de Silva	1315		Oliver Podesser	1148
56	lan Ting	1486	123	Penny Wells	1314			
57	Julie Brice	1486		Pam Bennett	1307		Jenny Mitchell	1143
58	Dianne Brumby	1484		Gillian Street	1300		Siva Sivapalasundram	1139
59	Alan Burn	1477		Susan MacGillivray	1299		Betty Smith	1138
60	Kashi Thiris	1475	127	Maureen See	1297	193	Shelley Cartwright	1133
61	Edie Mueller	1474	128	Phillip Hamilton	1291	194	Oscar Ivanovski	1133
62	Dianne Davis	1470		Noel Coulter	1289		John Linney	1133
63	Jon Ford-King	1469	1	Jacqui Pearce	1286		Alan Mathews	1132
64	Garth van <i>Vliet</i>	1468		Louise Love	1285		Sandra Elliott	1132
65	Jane Brown		1 1		1280		Rob Marotta	1128
		1464		John Hayes				
66	Heather Long	1463		Larrie Strautmanis	1279		Judy Mansfield	1128
67	Trish Brighton	1459	134	Barbara Joffe	1279	200	Wendi Symes	1128