

# ACROSS THE BOARD



The inaugural Mel Leckie Memorial Tournament was held in January in South Australia. Vice President and Tournament Director Antony Kimber presented Carmel Dodd with the Mel Leckie Memorial Tournament Trophy for achieving the highest ratings gain. *Story inside.*

The Official Newsletter of the  
Australian Scrabble® Players Association  
March 2024 ~ Issue No. 155

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[paulrichards7@gmail.com](mailto:paulrichards7@gmail.com)  
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Judy Mason 0481 179 636  
[jmasp@optusnet.com.au](mailto:jmasp@optusnet.com.au)  
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### **South Australia**

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0437 140 314

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Treasurer - Peter Kougi

### **Western Australia**

President ~ Chris Hall

Closing date for  
contributions to next  
issue of **Across the Board**  
**7 May 2024**

# TRANS-TASMAN CHALLENGE

The biannual Trans-Tasman Challenge has been scheduled to take place from Friday 15th November to Sunday 17th November in the Mt Eden Village Centre, Auckland. The qualification period for this event has been truncated to coincide with the end of Australian Masters and State Challenge in early September. 12 Australians will take part and the dictionary of preference will be CSW19.

## Australian Women's Championship

*The second Australian Women's Championship was held over the Australia Day long weekend before the City of Sydney International Masters at Bankstown Sports Club.*

The thirty seven entries was an increase of over thirty percent from the first championship which was held in Adelaide in 2023, and also included three international entries from New Zealand and twelve from interstate.

The tournament was once again generously directed by Paul Richards and eight games were played over the day. Paul was sternly corrected when he announced that the last round was to be King of the Hill, because of course it was Queen of the Hill!

A prize for the best Australian themed word was won by Lexie Neale with the word sausages. Lexie was awarded a cash prize and an Australia Day silver teaspoon which we quickly established was not purchased from Woolworths!

Last year's first three place getters again prevailed with Jane Taylor coming first, Joanne Craig second and Dianne Brumby third. Dianne also took out High Game with

609 points and Janine Whittaker won High Word with 131 points for torrid.

We look forward to next year's tournament which will be in Townsville as an adjunct to the Queensland Championships in August. There will be side events on Magnetic Island, social Scrabble and the tournament may even be extended to more than one day. We are also hoping that Tasmania may host the fourth event but this has yet to be confirmed.

*Jane Taylor*



## Receiving ATB

Our magazine, *Across the Board (ATB)* is produced as a PDF. If you wish to receive a hard copy (ie printed) please contact your State Membership Officer to discuss delivery options.

If your membership is up-to-date, you will receive your copy every quarter emailed to you by your State's Membership Officer.

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

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

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

Editor: Richard Birch [richardbirch@me.com](mailto:richardbirch@me.com)

# Around the States

## ACT

### January Tournament

#### *Saturday 20 January 2024*

Congratulations to Owen Randall who won the ACT January tournament with an impressive 8 wins out of 8 games. Owen also achieved a rating gain of 72, the highest increase on the day. Runners up were John Hamilton and Tim Reddan, both with 6 wins. The highest game score was achieved by John Hamilton (635). Arlene Willians played the highest word (**REQUINS**) FOR 137.

### Upcoming tournaments

Upcoming tournaments are planned for Saturday 16 March ([susan.macgillivray@gmail.com](mailto:susan.macgillivray@gmail.com)) and Sunday 5 May ([treddan@iinet.net.au](mailto:treddan@iinet.net.au)). Tournaments are played at the Southern Cross Club in Woden and all players are welcome.

## New South Wales

### NSW Tournament Roundup

Only 22 players contested the annual Sutherland Tournament organised by Ann Fiddler on 2nd September. Veterans John Holgate and John Barker took out the honours in A Division and B Division respectively. Krystyna Batten recorded the high word of the day with **RESPONDS** for 167 points.

A week later, 28 players made the trip to Bundanoon for John Hamilton's annual event in the local primary school. This was an Open event and again John Holgate prevailed with 8 wins out of the 9 games. Ryan Sutton was runner-up on spread with John Spaan from the ACT a game back in third place. Vincent Nguyen, also from the ACT, recorded the high word score of 149 with **ENSLAVES**.

The first event for 2024 was the JanBoree, held on January 6th at Club Burwood RSL. This event has been run continuously by Scrabble NSW since 2002 when Chris May was the winner of A Division. The event is always staged as a Round Robin in groups of 10 playing 9 games, and we were fortunate in that exactly 50 players attended. It was run as a Hybrid event in that players preferring to

play CSW22 could do so if they wished, with their opponent forced to comply.

Winners of the 5 Divisions were Edward Okulicz (Vic), Phillip Hamilton, Sharon Sorensen, Ryder Lo and Nathan Tang. John Barker recorded the high word score with 158 for **RELEVANT**.

The last reportable event for the period was our signature event, the City of Sydney International Masters at Bankstown Sports Club. Helped by a small contingent of New Zealand players, including top-rated Howard Warner, and several ladies who had been playing in the preceding Women's Championship our numbers swelled to 52.

Barry Harridge made the trip from Melbourne to run the event of 18 games played over two days. The lead changed many times with Joanne Craig, Esther Perrins, Victor Tung and Bob Jackman all reaching the lead at various stages but it was Victor who was the one to win the last game and overtake his sparring partner Esther Perrins on spread. Ayorinde Saidu and Karen Richards won their final games to jump into the top 5 with Esther and Bob and feature in the prizemoney. This was Victor's first win in a major event, well-deserved given his consistency and contribution to the running of NSW events over the years.

### Upcoming Tournaments

Check our tournament calendar at <https://scrabble.org.au/nsw/calendar.html> for upcoming events.

### Matchplay Progress

The 2023 Matchplay playoffs were completed two weeks prior to the 2024 Matchplay Qualifier. In B Division, Peter Griffiths notched up the award for the second years running, this time narrowly beating Steven Savona 6 games to 5. In A Division Esther Perrins came from behind to edge out Joanne Craig, winning 6 games to 4.

## Queensland

Queensland Scrabble resumed in 2024 with the Logan Clovers tournament won by Cameron Farlow in Section A and Jeanette Hansen in Section B.

School scrabble club resumed at Holland Park State School and will continue throughout the year. A proposal has been requested and is being prepared for Brisbane State High School to run a scrabble course in their Master Class sessions commencing in term 2. This will be overseen by Roberta Tait with the assistance of Natalie Page and Paul Richards. Progressive results at the end of January in the yearly Queensland Tournament Prize see Cameron Farlow in the lead with 70 points, Karen Richards with 68 points and Olga Visser with 52 points. On the Club side, Coorparoo lead with 147 points, followed by Southport on 122 and Toowoomba on 95. Since August 2023 Queensland players have participated in 8 local, 6 interstate and 7 international tournaments.

*Paul Richards  
President Scrabble Queensland*

## **South Australia**

*To honour the memory of the late Mel Leckie, a very colourful and sometimes very loud member of our Scrabble community, Scrabble SA has renamed the regular January tournament the Mel Leckie Memorial Tournament.*

Mel's mother, Barbara Spears has very generously donated two hundred dollars for the purchase of a perpetual trophy and a further three hundred dollars for ongoing engraving work. Thank you so much Barbara.

It has been decided between consultation with the SA Scrabble Committee and Barbara that the trophy would be won by the player that improves his/her (none of this woke gender identity stuff here, thank you very much, as Mel would have hated that) rating the most on the day. Thus a lower ranked player has much if not more than the same chances as a top player.

The tournament was held on January 21st with twenty four players competing in two divisions of twelve. Not since pre-Covid days has there been this many players in a tournament outside of the State Championships.

Before play got underway, Barbara spoke briefly of Mel, the memorial tournament and the awarding of the trophy.

As the day progressed various people were staking a claim on the trophy; Baheej Al Kassem and Emmanuel Atsas among them. At the conclusion of game six, the inaugural winner of the trophy was Carmel Dodd with an



*Vice President and Tournament Director Antony Kimber presented Carmel Dodd with the Mel Leckie Memorial Tournament Trophy for achieving the highest ratings gain.*



*The Mel Leckie Memorial Tournament Trophy for achieving the highest ratings gain, an annual event.*

impressive ratings gain of forty seven points from her six wins out of six. Congratulations, Carmel.

Thank you to all players, Scrabble SA, Barbara Spears and Mel too, she thought she had no worth but this could not be further from the truth.

*Neal Whibley*

## **Tasmania**

Check website for upcoming tournaments.  
[scrabble.org.au/events/calendar.shtml](http://scrabble.org.au/events/calendar.shtml)

## **Victoria**

The Scrabble year has started well with the successful running of our first two events for 2024.

The longstanding Bil Rose Aestival was run in a newly found Camberwell venue and was received with positivity.

Congratulations to division winners David Eldar, Oscar Ivanovski, Oliver Podesser, and Luke Breen for emerging victorious.

The Plate and Side saw two new names added to the winners' circle for this event: both Noel Coulter and Geoff Wright taking out the respective titles.

All our clubs have returned from summer hiatus and things are slowly getting back to normal.

The Victorian calendar is still being collated, so stay tuned to the Victorian website for all information. Recent additions include a two day event in Wodonga in July and the second Bayside event to be held in Mordialloc in October.

A 4 game Friday Nigh Recreational is being trialled in March to help us generate newer players.

I look forward to updating you with news from Victoria next time.

*Many thanks  
Nick Ivanovski*

*President, Scrabble Victoria*

Check website for upcoming tournaments.  
[scrabble.org.au/events/calendar.shtml](http://scrabble.org.au/events/calendar.shtml)

## **Western Australia**

Check website for upcoming tournaments.  
[scrabble.org.au/events/calendar.shtml](http://scrabble.org.au/events/calendar.shtml)

# **WINNING WORDS** Updated for Collins 2019 (CSW19)

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**Bob Jackman, 31 Gwandalan Crescent, Berowra NSW 2081**

## War of the words: the 'schism' rocking the Scrabble world.

*This article first appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald on December 12, 2023 and is reproduced here with the kind permission of the author.*

“**BAE, DAE, FAE, GAE, HAE, KAE** ...” Before any Scrabble tournament, I’d wander the halls like a Tibetan monk, mumbling scripture. “Even thy meek beef wedges,” I’d say, another ploy to retrieve each **-AE** combo, ignoring the mnemonic’s every **E** to keep the consonants: **VNTHYMKBFWDGS**.

So deep went my geekery, I’d lose sight of words as units of meaning. Take red, say. We know the colour, but immersed in Scrabble-think, you only see the hook-plays, treating **RED** as a chance to make **ARED, BRED, CRED, ERED**, etc, on one plane, and something high-scoring on the perpendicular.

Instead of red, the word, you succumb to red, the Triple Word Score. Or **RED**, the cluster bank, where prime scaffolds like **RE-** and **-ED** can help build all-tile bingos, gaining a 50-point bonus for your trouble.

And trouble, as it happens, is what engulfs modern Scrabble. Andrew Fisher, an Australian maestro, calls it a schism. Stefan Fatsis, the US voice of Scrabble, prefers a fracturing. Either way, it’s a dog’s breakfast, the whole mess linked to a bunch of baffling letters.

Back at square one, there was OSW, or Official Scrabble Words, a master list of legit plays drawn from *Chambers*. Meanwhile, North America favoured the *Official Scrabble Players Dictionary* – or OSPD – derived from *Merriam-Webster*. Over time, those two lists merged into SOWPODS, an anagram-acronym soon rivalled by CSW, or Collins Scrabble Words, which absorbed SOWPODS but then “added many Maori words – like **REO, TAONGA, TIRITI** – and other good stuff,” recounts Fisher.

Enter John Chew, the chief executive of NASPA, the North American Scrabble Players Association, who ousted vulgarities from the OSPD listings back in 2020, including **REDNECK, SPAZ** and **YID**. Few argued. **LEZ**

may be a handy **Z**-coup, say, but society has since evolved. Scrabble needed edifying.

Until this year’s backflip. While some words remain taboo, plenty of exiles have been readmitted. Like an unwoke reawakening, the **N**-word is out, yet **MULATTO** and **ASPIE** are suddenly viable again. “Nobody was asking to reinstate half the slurs,” as Josh Sokol, the 2023 US champ said in Fatsis’ recent *Slate* feature. “Nobody.”

Compounding the chaos, a smatter of bogus plurals has also lobbed. **ROUX**, the kitchen base, is both singular and plural, but now **ROUXES** is deemed match-fit by Chew’s revamp, along with **FECESES\*** and **DEBRISES\*** which don’t exist. Or not beyond the OSPD universe.

The glitch hinges on the “front-matter rule”, as Fatsis laments, where any noun is falsely deemed **-S** worthy unless otherwise stipulated. Then there’s the drop-down function on Merriam’s homepage, a medley of “false positives” designed to lead users to towards valid entries. A menu may offer **BRUTALER\***. say, which doesn’t own full “word status” in the lexicon, yet its mention as a **BRUTAL** signpost sees the non-word endorsed.

Yet the feceses really hit the fan, as Fisher explains, when different lists govern different contests. At home, say, NSW accepts most vulgarities, unlike “the woker Victoria”. Meanwhile, plenty of homegrown stuff – like **RAKALI\*** and **MICRONAP\*** or even dud as verb – are still vetoed, unless Macquarie is amalgamated into the database.

Confused? I don’t blame you. This year in Vegas, where Fisher placed fifth in the world and Melbourne’s David Eldar won overall with the likes of **FYCE** and **SOSATIE** (an African meat dish), the word **HAOLE** (Hawaiian for a white person) was challenged as a deemed slur, only to be passed. As for **HUBRISES**, given this latest muddle, who among the elite would have enough **COJONESES\*** to play it?

<https://www.smh.com.au/culture/books/war-of-the-words-the-schism-rocking-the-scrabble-world-20231211-p5eqoq.html>

*Annotations by editor*

# Club Directory

Any changes to this club directory should be made to the Editor [editor@scrabble.org.au](mailto: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 ~ (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

Empire Bay ~ Tue 9.15-12.30 ~  
Shirley Crockner 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  
Julie Simonds, 0427 035 465

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

Newcastle ~ Saturday 12-4 pm ~  
Chris O'Neill ~ 4952 3001 or 0421 400 867

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

Ourimbah ~ Thurs 10-2pm ~ Sandra Elliott 0410 438 525

Petersham, Mondays fortnightly from 7pm. ~  
Ryan Sutton 0432 384 240

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

South West Rocks ~ Alternate Thurs 10am ~ 4pm ~  
Shirley Winkler ~ 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 Oxyb ~ 4332 6485

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

Waverley ~ Tue 1 pm ~ Deborah 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 12-4.30pm,  
Marilyn Smith 0403 205 040

Bargara, Thurs 1.30pm, Virginia Christian 4159 1935

Brunswick Valley, Tues 1-4pm,  
Stephen Bellerby 0407 844 718

Bundaberg, Liz Blanch 4155 2231

Coominya, Matthew Forno 0417 446 556

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

Logan City, Tues 12 ~ 4.30pm,  
Karrin Henderson 3133 3204

Redcliffe, Wed 1pm, Trish Brighton 0402 736 532

Redcliffe, Thurs 7pm, Trish Brighton 0402 736 532

Southport, Wed 1pm, Diana McManus 0419 022 520

Sunshine Coast, Trevor Sauer, 5445 7770

Toowoomba, Thurs 6.30pm, Jane Brown 0417 903 079

Townsville, 2nd Wed of month, 5.30-8.30 pm,  
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

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 Meeding ~ 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 ~ Marj Miller ~ 9850 2366

Bentleigh - Wednesday 1pm-4pm (during School terms)  
Carol Johnsen 0476 639 195

Box Hill – now called Surrey Hills (see below)

Brunswick East - New club Pub Scrabble, 2nd Thursday of the month - 4pm-8pm, Alchemy Brewing Company, 396 Lygon Street, East Brunswick, Rob York - 0417 512 535 - tryerbrook@gmail.com

Brunswick - 2nd Thurs - 4pm-8pm - Rob York - 0417 512 535

Cranbourne ~ Monday 9.30am-1pm ~ Cranbourne Library ~ Gayle Cameron ~ 0419 302 185.

Essendon ~ Tue 7pm ~ Rob York ~ 0417 512 535

Fairfield/Northcote – Mon 7-9pm ~ Rob York ~ 0417 512 535

Fitzroy - New club Pub Scrabble  
1st Wednesday of the month - 7pm-10pm  
Boardies Bar, 189 Smith Street, Fitzroy  
Nick Ivanovski - 0412 175 251 - nicksfbemail@gmail.com

Geelong ~ Sat 1.30pm ~ Marlene Ellis ~ 5275 0363

Golden Age (Mt Waverley) ~ Wed 9.30am-noon ~ Lynne Goodinson - 0402 164 329

Greensborough Wednesday 1-4pm ~ Marisa Nuccitelli ~ 9459 4529

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

Maldon - (new club) 1st Saturday of the month  
Maldon Athenaeum Library  
Tina Fratta - 0437 094 469

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

Paynesville ~ Tues 10am ~ Sylvia Galloway ~ 5156 7443

Rosanna ~ 2nd & 4th Thurs ~ 6.30pm ~ Watsonia Library ~ Rob Hutchinson ~ 0407 533 525

Surrey Hills – Tuesdays fortnightly - Judith McNaughton – 0447 387 493

Warburton – 1st Saturday of the month - 1pm-4pm  
Wednesday 10 am - noon  
Lay-Hoon Ng – 0408 802 207

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

Wodonga ~ Saturday 10am-Noon ~  
Hyphen Wodonga Library, 126 Hovell St, Wodonga  
Luke Breen ~ l.t.breen@outlook.com ~ 0424 841 438

## Western Australia (area code 08)

Albany – Mon 9am -Jane Taylor – 0429 448 666

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

Darlington – Tues 9am –

Carmelita Maxwell – 0415 183 545

Floreat – Tues 12.30pm –

Wendy Naunton – 0411 824 502

Hamersley (Tues) – 1pm – Joan Dye – 0400 761 356

Hamersley (Sat) – 1pm – Mike Clarke – 0438 606 617

Mandurah – Wed 8.30am – Marj Fisher – 9581 6852

Manjimup – Wed 1pm – Pat Parkinson – 9771 2882

Melville – Mon 10am – Rosie Anghie – 9450 6856

Nedlands – Tues 9.30am – Chris Hassell – 0428 846 325

Perth – Thurs 9.30am – Anne Stewart – 0410 346 849

Spearwood – Tues 10am –

Vera Ruddick – 0438 803 823

## 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.

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Bob Jackman, 31 Gwandalan Crescent,  
Berowra NSW 2081

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# Results Roundup

## ACT

### 18.11.2023 ACT Champs

**CHAMPS:** **1** Ryan Sutton; **2** Noel Barrett;  
**3** Ronnie Bennett; **HG** Ryan Sutton 620;  
**HW** Noel Barrett **MALIGNED** 158

### 20.01.2024 January ACT

**OPEN:** **1** Owen Randall; **2** John Hamilton;  
**3** Tim Reddan; **HG** John Hamilton 624;  
**HW** Arlene Williams **REQUINS** 137

## NSW

### 26.11.2023 Central Coast Open

**A SECTION:** **1** Rod Talbot; **2** Jyoti Chandna;  
**3** Tony Hunt; **HG** Tony Hunt 588; **HW** Vinh  
Nguyen **DUNKERS** 103

### 02.12.2023 SUTHERLAND

**A DIVISION:** **1** John Holgate; **2** Greg Pinchbeck;  
**3** Bob Jackman; **HG** Therese Nichols 533;  
**HW** Greg Pinchbeck **WHEEZING** 134

**B DIVISION:** **1** John Barker; **2** Janine Whittaker;  
**3** Dorothy Fields; **HG** John Barker 459;  
**HW** Krystyna Batten **RESPONDS** 167

### 09.12.2023 Bundanoon 2023

**A:** **1** John Holgate; **2** Ryan Sutton; **3** John  
Spaan; **HG** John Spaan 547; **HW** Vincent  
Nguyen **ENSLAVES** 149

### 06.01.2024 JANBOREE

**A DIVISION:** **1** Edward Okulicz; **2** Karen  
Richards; **3** Tony Hunt; **HG** Tony Hunt 524

**B DIVISION:** **1** Phillip Hamilton; **2** Alex Lam;  
**3** Garth Van Vliet; **HG** Ivor Zetler 544;  
**HW** Asanka Dissanayake **GENERALS** 131

**C DIVISION:** **1** Sharon Sorensen; **2** Josh Watt;  
**3** John Barker; **HG** John Barker 628; **HW** John  
Barker **RELEVANT** 158

**D DIVISION:** **1** Ryder Lo; **2** Rene Chelton;  
**3** Devorah Ullman; **HG** Ryder Lo 502;  
**HW** Krystyna Batten **BRUNCHES** 98

**E DIVISION:** **1** Nathan Tang; **2** Kelvin Korn;  
**3** Chi Wai Lo; **HG** Nathan Tang 532; **HW** Nathan  
**REPLANTS** 131

### 26.01.2024 Women's Championship

**OPEN:** **1** Jane Taylor; **2** Joanne Craig; **3** Dianne  
Brumby; **HG** Dianne Brumby 609; **HW** Janine  
Whittaker **TORRIDER** 131

### 28.01.2024 CSIM 2024

**OPEN:** **1** Victor Tung; **2** Esther Perrins;  
**3** Ayorinde Saidu; **HG** Victor Tung 600;  
**HW** Janine Whittaker **VIOLATES** 150

## QLD

### 19.11.2023 November Tournament

**A:** **1** Cameron Farlow; **2** Jane Brown; **3** Roberta  
Tait; **HG** Karen Richards 589; **HW** Jenny Schafer  
**GRIZZLED** 106

**B:** **1** Jeanette Hansen; **2** Elize Plaganyi; **3** Patti  
Ashwin; **HG** Jeanette Hansen 506; **HW** Jeanette  
Hansen **SLITHER** 108

### 03.12.2023 Southport Christmas

**A:** **1** Sheryl Davidson; **2** Cameron Farlow;  
**3** Martin Waterworth; **HG** Cameron Farlow 569;  
**HW** Karen Woodhead **DOATINGS** 149

**B:** **1** Elize Plaganyi; **2** Liz Catchpole; **3** Graham  
Bradley; **HG** Graham Bradley 469; **HW** Mary  
Wilmott **TIRADES** 98

### 17.12.2023 Last Chance

**ALL:** **1** Olga Visser; **2** Cameron Farlow; **3** Arnold  
Appelhof; **HG** Cameron Farlow 543; **HW** Martin  
Waterworth **WORTHIES** 106

### 21.01.2024 Logan Clovers

**A:** **1** Cameron Farlow; **2** Martin Waterworth;  
**3** Liz Blanch; **HG** Cameron Farlow 541;  
**HW** Cameron Farlow **STROYED** 101

**B:** **1** Jeanette Hansen; **2** Karen Woodhead;  
**3** Ashwin Page; **HG** Karen Woodhead 490;  
**HW** Gaile Clark **SQUID** 109

## SA

### 18.11.2023 Border Challenge

**A:** **1** Carmel Dodd; **2** Adam Kretschmer; **3** Jane  
Taylor; **HG** Helen Jones 612; **HW** Angie Pearse  
**DEARNESS** 149

### 26.11.2023 SA Civil War

**NORTH-SOUTH:** **1** Malcolm McNulty; **2** Adam  
Kretschmer; **3** Suzanne Healey; **HG** Michael  
Vnuk 578; **HW** Michael Vnuk **INTRADOS** 168

### 09.12.2023 South Australia December

**A:** **1** Susan Roberts; **2** Jane Taylor; **3** Antony  
Kimber; **HG** Jane Taylor 522; **HW** Jane Taylor  
**ZINGARO** 104

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### 27.12.2023 Xmas Leftovers

**A:** 1 Tony Miller; **2** Francoise Finlayson;  
**3** Michael Vnuk; **HG** Michael Vnuk 558;  
**HW** Carmel Dodd **MISCHIEF** 118

**B:** 1 Karyn Crease; **2** Wendi Symes; **3** Susan Roberts; **HG** Karyn Crease 491; **HW** Suzanne Healey **UNTAKEN** 114

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### 13.01.2024 Seaford January

**A:** 1 Jane Taylor; **2** Antony Kimber; **3** Angie Pearse; **HG** Jane Taylor 526; **HW** Carmel Dodd **WALTZERS** 122

**B:** 1 Judy Mansfield; **2** Susan Roberts;  
**3** Rowena Vnuk; **HG** Judy Mansfield 531;  
**HW** Rowena Vnuk **DESCRIBE** 98

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### 21.01.2024 MEL LECKIE

**A:** 1 Carmel Dodd; **2** Geoff Wright; **3** Michael Vnuk; **HG** Dieter Jedamski 520; **HW** Judy Mansfield **FEARLESS** 140

**B:** 1 Baheej Al Kassem; **2** Susan Roberts;  
**3** Margaret Sella; **HG** Rowena Vnuk 504;  
**HW** Julie Robins **ZINGIEST** 122

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## TAS

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### 18.11.2023 Ross Spring

**OPEN:** 1 Ros Wilkinson; **2** Jan Hill; **3** Sandy McConnell; **HG** Jan Hill 546; **HW** Jan Hill **HIPSTER** 91

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### 16.12.2023 Kingston December

**OPEN:** 1 Martin Rose; **2** Stephen Mooney Pursell; **3** Jon Ford-King; **HG** Stephen Mooney Pursell 544; **HW** Stephen Mooney Pursell **COUGHED** 111

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### 16.01.2024 Kingston January

**OPEN:** 1 Stephen Mooney Pursell; **2** Ros Wilkinson; **3** Penny Wells; **HG** Stephen Mooney Pursell 547; **HW** Pam Thomas **POXIEST** 114

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### 03.02.2024 Ulverstone Saturday

**OPEN:** 1 Dianne Brumby; **2** Martin Rose; **3** Jan Hill; **HG** Martin Rose 538; **HW** Jan Hill **FLORIDER** 158

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### 04.02.2024 Ulverstone Sunday

**OPEN:** 1 Dianne Brumby; **2** Margaret Griggs; **3** Lynne Jarvis **HG** Dianne Brumby, Ros Wilkinson 471; **HW** Margaret Griggs **ZESTIER** 114

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## VIC

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### 26.11.2023 McKinnon Fundraiser

**OPEN:** 1 David Eldar; **2** Geoff Wright; **3** Dianne Davis; **HG** Edward Okulicz 602; **HW** David Eldar **DIFFUSER** 194

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### 10.12.2023 Before Xmas

**OPEN:** 1 Oscar Ivanovski; **2** Nick Ivanovski;  
**3** Jenny Brysha; **HG** Nick Ivanovski 536;  
**HW** Jenny Brysha **PURVIEW** 111

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### 27.12.2023 Decathlon 2023

**OPEN:** 1 David Eldar; **2** Edward Okulicz;  
**3** Naween Fernando; **HG** Ayorinde Saidu 642;  
**HW** Paula Messer **GRIEVERS** 185

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### 13.01.2024 BIL ROSE AESTIVAL 2024

**AUKS:** 1 David Eldar; **2** Trevor Halsall; **3** Andrew Fisher; **HG** David Eldar 539; **HW** Nick Ivanovski **TRAINERS** 131

**BROLGAS:** 1 Oscar Ivanovski; **2** Chris Scholten;  
**3** Dianne Davis; **HG** Chris Scholten 515;  
**HW** Dianne Davis **WHARFIES** 167

**CHAFFINCHES:** 1 Oliver Podesser; **2** Noel Coulter; **3** Glenys Dettmann; **HG** Oliver Podesser 506; **HW** Glenys Dettmann **TAILERS** 98

**DOVES:** 1 Luke Breen; **2** Carol Rollmann;  
**3** Annette Casey; **HG** Angie Winkler 490;  
**HW** Angie Winkler **ZONER** 93

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### 04.02.2024 Vic Plate and Side 24

**PLATE:** 1 Noel Coulter; **2** Paula Messer;  
**3** Jayanthi Viswanathan; **HG** Frank Csarics 505;  
**HW** Carol Rollmann **SHERIFFS** 104

**SIDE:** 1 Geoff Wright; **2** Rex Shakespeare;  
**3** Shaun Donnelly; **HG** Dianne Davis 503;  
**HW** Rob Hutchinson **SURGERY** 100

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## WA

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### 10.12.2023 Graham Bell Memorial

**OPEN:** 1 Ian Ting; **2** Sally Martin; **3** Anne Zion;  
**HG** Cori Lodder 579; **HW** Sally Martin **MADERISE** 158

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### 14.01.2024 January Open

**OPEN:** 1 Max Mason; **2** Benjamin Lee; **3** Sally Martin; **HG** Russell Honeybun 662; **HW** Russell Honeybun **INFIRMED** 167

# Records 2024 so far...

<i>High game score</i>	<b>662</b>	Russell Honeybun 662 against Alan Mathews 283 at 14.01.2024 January Open
<i>Large game margin</i>	<b>420</b>	Kelvin Korn 519 against Jerry Hou 99 at 06.01.2024 JANBOREE
<i>High drawn game</i>	<b>375</b>	Sylvia Galloway 375 against Frank Csarics 375 at 13.01.2024 BIL ROSE AESTIVAL 2024
<i>High combined score</i>	<b>986</b>	Edward Okulicz 497 against Karen Richards 489 at 06.01.2024 JANBOREE
<i>High average score</i>	<b>473.1</b>	(8 games) Cameron Farlow at 21.01.2024 Logan Clovers
<i>High average spread</i>	<b>158.4</b>	(8 games) Kelvin Korn at 06.01.2024 JANBOREE
<i>High losing score</i>	<b>489</b>	Karen Richards 489 against Edward Okulicz 497 at 06.01.2024 JANBOREE
<i>Long winning streak</i>	<b>10</b>	Carmel Dodd at 26.01.2024 Women's Championship and 28.01.2024 CSIM 2024
<i>High word</i>	<b>167</b>	<b>WHARFIES:</b> Dianne Davis at 13.01.2024 BIL ROSE AESTIVAL 2024 <b>INFIRMED:</b> Russell Honeybun at 14.01.2024 January Open

*High opening score*

*High play, not bonus*

*High play, not triple triple*

*Long word*

*Many bingos*

*Many consecutive bingos*

**These categories are looking for entries.  
Please let webmaster know if you fit in here.**

## Historical Records

### 1998 to 2021

*These records were achieved during officially rated Australian tournaments.*

### The 700 Club

<b>764</b>	Russell Honeybun against Joy Deans 243 at 26.08.2007 Yokine
<b>749</b>	Norma Fisher against Shaun Donnelly 164 at 14.09.2019 Geelong
<b>744</b>	Anand Bharadwaj against Carol Johnsen 338 at 21.07.2019 two ways
<b>736</b>	David Vanzyl against Judy Jones 261 at 19.11.2017 Open Nov
<b>735</b>	Alastair Richards against Olga Visser 286 at 08.10.2012 Cairns Oktoberfest Mon
<b>732</b>	Chris May against Karen Richards 315 at 22.07.2012 Winter Masters
<b>728</b>	John Holgate against [Unknown] in 1983
<b>727</b>	Alastair Richards against Malcolm McAnulty 235 at 08.03.2015 SA Championship
<b>722</b>	Michael Cameron against Tony Miller 251 at 27.08.2016 August Pub Tourney
<b>721</b>	Edward Okulicz against Michael McKenna 489 at 05.01.2014 Janboree
<b>720</b>	Ryan Anderson against Patti Ashwin 372 at 08.08.2009 Magnetic Is Saturday
<b>710</b>	Jeffery Lam against Vinh Nguyen 223 at 05.01.2021 oitoo by lake 05012021
<b>706</b>	Naween Fernando against Dawn Browning 327 at 10.01.2009 MARATHON 09
<b>701</b>	Jeffery Lam against Dylan Cheav 200 at 23.08.2020 junior chipping norton

# Ratings Snapshot

Top 200 at 7 February 2024

1	David Eldar	2113	68	Darren Chaitman	1451	135	Owen Randall	1285
2	Edward Okulicz	1968	69	Jane Brown	1450	136	Richard Birch	1277
3	Cameron Farlow	1929	70	Martin Rose	1445	137	Peter Griffiths	1276
4	Naween Fernando	1921	71	Garth van Vliet	1443	138	Moana Nepia	1275
5	Peter Kougi	1915	72	Susan Rayner	1442	139	Steven Savona	1273
6	Andrew Fisher	1906	73	Paul Richards	1434	140	Noel Coulter	1268
7	Trevor Halsall	1874	74	Jon Ford-King	1433	141	Faye Williams	1266
8	Esther Perrins	1874	75	Liz Blanch	1425	142	Jacqui Pearce	1266
9	Russell Honeybun	1826	76	Chris Scholten	1423	143	Tracey Kneebone	1265
10	Daniel Piechnick	1803	77	Alex Lam	1417	144	Natalie Tadday	1259
11	Adam Kretschmer	1755	78	Peter Shaw	1416	145	Sharon Sorensen	1258
12	Joanne Craig	1741	79	Norma Fisher	1416	146	Yvette Copley	1258
13	Mythili Rudra	1741	80	Kate Gullan	1409	147	Gary Pollard	1254
14	John Holgate	1735	81	Khen Meerding	1404	148	Sandra Masel	1242
15	Victor Tung	1724	82	Alex Boiko	1398	149	Jeffery Lam	1242
16	Max Mason	1718	83	Adam Kauschke	1398	150	Jean Noonan	1235
17	Rod Talbot	1715	84	Chris Ostrowski	1397	151	Anne Schick	1232
18	Stephen Mooney Pursell	1704	85	Neil McLean	1388	152	Rod Casey	1232
19	Geoff Wright	1694	86	Ivor Zetler	1387	153	Vicki Russell	1232
20	Ryan Sutton	1690	87	Jenny Brysha	1387	154	Anne Stewart	1231
21	Derek McKenzie	1687	88	Sheryl Davidson	1386	155	Sue Gergelifi	1228
22	Bob Jackman	1663	89	Justin Moyle	1386	156	Lexie Neale	1225
23	Carmel Dodd	1658	90	Margaret Webb	1386	157	Penny Wells	1225
24	Nick Ivanovski	1654	91	Judy Godfrey	1385	158	Vincent Nguyen	1211
25	John Spaan	1652	92	Josh Watt	1381	159	Susan Roberts	1210
26	Karen Richards	1635	93	Phillip Hamilton	1380	160	Norma Tracey	1208
27	David Vanzyl	1621	94	Kashi Thiris	1377	161	Nancy Sparling	1205
28	Ronnie Bennett	1615	95	Francoise Finlayson	1376	162	Margaret Griggs	1204
29	Rael Hayman	1612	96	Benjamin Lee	1373	163	John Rider	1196
30	Alistair Kane	1607	97	Jegatheva Jegathesan	1371	164	Elaine Capewell	1194
31	Trevor Tao	1596	98	Geoff Shepheard	1368	165	Yvonne Edwards	1188
32	Nat Podesser	1593	99	Shaun Donnelly	1367	166	Khwanjai Thammaping	1188
33	Ian Ting	1588	100	Helen Metaxas	1365	167	Marion Miller	1187
34	Rocky Sharma	1585	101	Tim Reddan	1358	168	Karen Woodhead	1186
35	Jyoti Chandna	1579	102	Kris Howat	1356	169	Rob Marotta	1185
36	Dianne Brumby	1577	103	Glenys Logan	1356	170	Sylvia Galloway	1183
37	Chris Hall	1576	104	Kerry Constable	1356	171	Asanka Dissanayake	1182
38	Sally Martin	1560	105	Yan Rui Ko	1356	172	John Minas	1181
39	Tony Hunt	1558	106	Therese Nichols	1353	173	John Salmon	1180
40	John Hamilton	1556	107	Martin Waterworth	1352	174	Barbara Joffe	1180
41	Helen Hynes	1545	108	Victoria Gates	1352	175	Alan Mathews	1179
42	Jane Taylor	1544	109	Arnold Appelfhof	1344	176	Rhonda Reynish	1178
43	Noel Barrett	1539	110	Rex Shakespeare	1342	177	Dieter Jedamski	1177
44	Heather Long	1536	111	Susan MacGillivray	1338	178	Pam Bennett	1177
45	Oscar Ivanovski	1536	112	Keri Heart	1337	179	Kerry Reimers	1175
46	Dianne Ward	1532	113	Carolyn Watt	1337	180	Cheryl Michler	1171
47	Dianne Davis	1513	114	Olga Visser	1331	181	Caroline Polak Scowcroft	1170
48	Greg Pinchbeck	1502	115	Karrin Henderson	1331	182	Josef Peeters	1170
49	Diyath Visidagamage	1500	116	Aaradhya Srivastava	1325	183	Tim Walton	1170
50	Graeme Lock Lee	1493	117	Colleen Birch	1324	184	Mardi Healy	1170
51	Howard Rayner	1493	118	John Barker	1319	185	Karyn Crease	1165
52	Julie Brice	1489	119	Maureen See	1316	186	Paula Messer	1164
53	Alan Burn	1489	120	Monica Dwyer	1314	187	Oliver Podesser	1161
54	Tony Miller	1488	121	Janine Whittaker	1310	188	Hanne Marks	1158
55	Malcolm McNulty	1488	122	Rob Hutchinson	1309	189	Margaret Sella	1158
56	Gwen Lampre	1486	123	Angie Pearse	1298	190	Heather Bernstein	1157
57	Michael Vnuk	1482	124	Judy Mansfield	1298	191	Kim Grayson	1155
58	Lois Binnie	1482	125	Hailey Sutton	1297	192	Wendi Symes	1154
59	Marianne Bentley	1479	126	Lainie Mercieca	1297	193	Lynne Jarvis	1152
60	Antony Kimber	1474	127	June Valentine	1292	194	Jayanthi Viswanathan	1150
61	Roberta Tait	1474	128	Rob York	1291	195	Margaret Neal	1149
62	Antonios Syrigos	1474	129	Ros Wilkinson	1291	196	Tony Kalayzich	1148
63	Tony Williams	1465	130	Barry Harridge	1290	197	Pam Thomas	1147
64	Edie Mueller	1461	131	Jan Hill	1289	198	Jan Chapman	1147
65	Anne Zion	1454	132	Gillian Street	1289	199	Stephen Saunders	1147
66	Carol Johnsen	1452	133	Louise Love	1287	200	Josie Mally	1144
67	Ray Alford	1451	134	John Linney	1286			

## Dream 1

Your opponent opens the game by playing **CH** horizontally with the **H** on the star. Your rack is **AIMRSST**. You immediately (I said this is a dream) see the only seven, **TSARISM**, which could get you various scores depending on the other word formed: **ACH** (71), **ICH** (75), **CHA** (69), **CHI** (69). But you want more and you start looking for eights. You reject **THRIMSAS** (66) through the **H** because of its low score (a **THRIMSA** or **THRYMSA** was a 7th-century Anglo-Saxon gold coin.), and, being rather smartish, decide on **SMARTISH** (92), which extends down from the top TWS to the **H**.

However, you begin to wonder if ‘Christmas’ might be allowed uncapitalised. After all, **YULE** and **NOEL**, which both mean ‘Christmas’, are allowed. Also playable are some other religious periods (eg **EASTER**, **LENT**, **ADVENT**), even if the words are allowable for other reasons.

‘Christmas’ would score 101, as it is a 9 letter word that reaches the TWS on the right-hand side. You start to think it’s worth a punt. Even if it’s challenged off, it’s early in the game and there are likely to be quite a few other possibilities to play a (smaller) bonus elsewhere.

So you lay out ‘Christmas’ on the board, but you can see your opponent itching to press the clock and shout ‘Challenge!’ in a most un-Christmassy manner. Hmm. You reconsider. Your mental ‘Ho, ho, ho!’ becomes ‘No, no, no!’ until you dredge up a word from the back of your mind. And then it’s ‘Go, go, go!’ as you play **CHARTISMS** for 101. Your opponent challenges, but the word stays on, and they never catch up for the rest of the game.

## Dream 2

The scores have been fairly even for most of the game, but your opponent has just played **PRANCER** to jump to a 70-point lead. They have one tile on their rack and you have **BEILNTZ**. There are lots of words that could give you a good score, such as **BENZIL**, **BEZIL**, **BLITZ**, **ZIBET**, **ZINEB**, **ZEIN**, **BIZ**, etc, but none allow you to catch up completely, and your tracking shows that your opponent has the last **S** and there are several high-scoring places to play it. You need to go out with a bonus now.

Your opponent’s **PRANCER** reminds you of Santa’s reindeer. In Clement Clarke Moore’s famous poem ‘A Visit From St Nicholas’ (more commonly known by its first words ‘Twas the night before Christmas’), St Nick’s reindeer are named. The key lines run through your head:

More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,  
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name:

“Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now Prancer and Vixen!

On, Comet! on, Cupid! on, Donder and Blitzen!

**DASHER**, **DANCER**, **VIXEN**, **COMET**, **CUPID** and **DONDER** are all allowed in Scrabble. Can you try ‘Blitzen’? You hesitate. Yes. No. And then you play **BLINTZE** for the bonus and the win!

## Dream 3

You are way behind in a tournament game a few days before Christmas. Most of the top left corner is empty, except for **RAISING** down the left side, starting on the third square. Your rack is **AELNPQU**. There is only one tile left in the bag. Your tile tracking shows seven unhelpful consonants (**BGLMVVW**) and a solitary vowel (**U**). Your opponent must have all but one of these, but which one?

You are about to play **PLAQUE** horizontally, forming **PRAISING** and scoring 49. Even with this score, you’ll still be over a hundred behind and you’re heading for your fourth loss in a row. You’re beginning to think that Scrooge was initially right about Christmas. Bah! Humbug! And then in the distance you hear Mariah Carey’s ‘All I Want for Christmas Is You’. It’s Christmas and it’s so hard to escape songs like this. It makes you feel worse. Bah! Humbug! But the song worms its way inside your brain. ‘All I want for Christmas is you.’ The song is on repeat and you reinterpret the words. ‘All I want for Christmas is you ... you ... you ... U ... U ... U.’ You have an idea. It is the only way to win.

I don’t want a lot for Christmas.

There is just one thing I need  
I don’t care about the presents  
Underneath the Christmas tree

I just want U for my own  
More than you could ever know  
Make my wish come true  
All I want for Christmas is U, yeah.

*[with apologies to the songwriters Mariah Carey and Walter Afanasieff]*

You play only the **P** to make **PRAISING** (11) and you put your hand in the tile bag for that final tile. The tile bag is like a Christmas stocking. Have you been naughty or nice? Will it be a lump of coal – one of the consonants? Or will it be a shiny toy – the only vowel? You slowly draw it out and yes, it is the **U!** No more ‘Bah! Humbug! This is ‘Jingle Bells!’

Now you watch anxiously as your opponent ponders their rack full of consonants. But they are a long way ahead and they don’t give it much thought. **VAV** is played around an **A** elsewhere on the board. ‘Jingle bells, jingle all the way.’ You play **UNEQUAL** across the top and making **UPRAISING** for a total of 164. You also gain 13 from your opponent’s rack and they lose 13. It’s more than enough for the win.

## Dream 4

The novelty word theme at the Scrabble tournament is Christmas words. In your game, you have **CRACKER** on your rack, which is a cracker of a word and nicely fits the Christmas theme. Unfortunately, there is nowhere to play it on the tight board. The two **cs** in the word are particularly awkward for hooking on to other words.

Your opponent slots in **NUT** in the top right corner, extending down from the TWS, and claims that **NUT** is a Christmas word because people often eat and enjoy nuts at Christmas. ‘Yes,’ you say, ‘And how will you get the nuts out of their shells?’ Then you play **NUTCRACKER** for 113. Not only is a nutcracker useful for Christmas nuts, but The Nutcracker

is Tchaikovsky’s famous ballet, which is set on Christmas Eve.

You go on to win the game and then the tournament with a clean sweep. Furthermore, **NUTCRACKER** gives you the prize for the highest word of the tournament and the game is the event’s highest game score, plus **NUTCRACKER** wins a novelty prize. All your Christmases have come at once.

Finally, this cartoon from Scott Metzger ([metzgercartoons.com](http://metzgercartoons.com)) is an oldie but a goodie.



I hope that the New Year brings you lots of blanks and Ss (except when you’re playing me)! [‘Christmas’ and ‘Blitzen’ are definitely not allowed because they are only capitalised.]

*Michael Vnuk*

## 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](mailto:richardbirch@me.com)

*It's another year and things are not looking good for the world, but there's always Scrabble, so you are slightly optimistic – just. The first Scrabble tournament you attend is a short 4 game tournament on New Year's Day itself.*

One of your racks in game 1 is **IMNPRTU**. You see both 'Trump' and 'Putin', which immediately causes your optimism meter to drop below zero. **TRUMP** is an allowable word, but you wouldn't be able to force yourself to play it, even if there was a slot for it. 'Putin' is not allowed, but it has an anagram, **INPUT**. However, you then think of the only bonus with the rack, an eight that needs a G. You check and there is a G on the board, but **TRUMPING** does not quite fit. This makes you grumpy, so you just play **GRUMP**. It reinforces your mood. And you go on to lose the game and become even more grumpy.

In the second game, one of your racks near the end is **EGHINW?**. The rack has 7 sevens and lots of eights. You are preparing to play **WHEeZING** through a **Z** for a great score, but your opponent unwittingly blocks it, and your only bonus playable is **WHINGE?** elsewhere. The blank could be **D**, **R** or **S**, but you dither over its identity and take too long, which means that you have to rush your next play in the endgame. But you are not quick enough and you go over time by a few seconds and you lose the game by 6 points due to the time adjustment. You whinge about your losses, but no one listens.

In the third game, your opponent gives you a silly grin (ugh!) and opens with **HAPPY** played vertically and ending on the star. You glare at your opponent and then glare at your letters. The rack is not that bad really, but **N** and **U** are doubled, so you unload them to make **UNHAPPY**. Your opponent takes the hint and is more subdued. But then they add **ING** to the end to make **UNHAPPYING**. Where did that come from? From Shakespeare – **UNHAPPY** can be a verb meaning to make unhappy or unfortunate.

Your next rack is **AEENRWY** and you see the two words **NEW** and **YEAR**. Is it a **HAPPY NEW YEAR** or an **UNHAPPY NEW YEAR**? There are no sevens in the rack, but there are two eights.

You see that **GREENWAY** (a strip of land set aside for recreational or environmental purposes) is playable off the **G** at the end of **UNHAPPYING**, but it would leave the **Y** in the last column – a triple-triple risk – so you wonder if you can play anywhere else. In fact, you can play the other eight, **ANYWHERE**, through the **H** of **UNHAPPYING**. It scores 84, which is 4 more than **GREENWAY**, but it has its own risk, as the word stops adjacent to a DWS square. You know it takes an **S**, but maybe your opponent doesn't know that, or is not prepared to risk it. And, since **ANYWHERE** is a bonus, you'll have a whole new rack and you might get an **S** yourself. So you play **ANYWHERE**.

Your opponent plays **QAT** forming **TA** with your **ANYWHERE**. The ending is still available. Fortunately, you draw an **S**. Unfortunately, you have no bonus. Reluctantly, you play **SAD** making **ANYWHERE'S** (44). You would have preferred to keep the **S** to make a bonus later. Sadly, that is the last **S** you get for the game, and you don't draw the blanks either. Your mood darkens again. You are unable to bingo during the rest of the game and you are soundly beaten. Three losses in three games. Now you are now sad, grumpy and unhappy while you whinge.

In the final game, the scores are fairly close. Your opponent plays **ENJOY** ('Are you trying to tell me something? you mutter indistinctly) for a solid score and takes the final tile from the bag. The **Y** is on the bottom row, fifth square from the left. Your rack is **ADEGOOR**. 'Goody!' you think. **GOODY** will be 48, but it's not good enough to catch up, and your tracking shows that your opponent can play out in several places. You'll have to do better than 48.

And then you remember **GOODYEAR**. It's another word from Shakespeare, being (among other things) a euphemism for the devil. But you don't care too much, as you have a triple-triple bonus out play. The 185 points makes you win the game by a big margin and gives you the prize for highest word. You go home happier than when you arrived. The New Year is going to be a good year after all.

*[Next Scrabble dream: Australia Day.]*



The theme for the novelty words at the Australia Day Scrabble tournament is in two parts: Australian animals and Australian plants. Already on the animal list are words such as **KANGA**, **ROO**, **EMU**, **CROC**, **QUOLL**, **BILBY** and **DINGOES**. The plant list includes **GUM**, **MULGA**, **HAKEA** and **WATTLES**. Your only contribution is **EURO**, and you have to explain to several people that a **EURO** is actually an Australian animal, a type of wallaby. The word has been allowed for many years. **EURO** gained another meaning in the 1990s when the word was invented to name the new European currency.

It's the last game of the tournament and your opponent opens with **QIN**. Your rack is **AAIRSTU**. You immediately see 'Austria', which is not allowed, unlike some other country names, such as **CHINA**, **JAPAN** and **INDIA**. 'Austria' also doesn't anagram into something allowable, in the same way that 'Estonia' makes **ATONIES**, 'Iceland' makes **INLACED**, and 'Algeria' makes **REGALIA**, **LAIRAGE** and **RAILAGE**. If **AL** was on the board, you could wrap 'Austria' around it to form 'Australia', but it's not allowed anyway. You remember that 'Australian' is an anagram of the allowed **SATURNALIA**. Then you think how 'Darwin' makes **INWARD**, 'Hobart' forms **ATHROB** and **BROTHA**, 'Broome' makes **BOOMER**, 'Whyalla' makes **HALLWAY**, 'Bendigo' makes **BINGOED** and **BOINGED**, 'Ulverstone' becomes **VOLUNTEERS** ...

Then you stop daydreaming and just play **QUA** (13).

A few turns later, you have four **Os** on your rack. Unfortunately, you don't have the right letters to make **BOOBOOK** (a small Australian owl) or **POTOROO** (a small marsupial, sometimes called a rat-kangaroo).

Later, you have **ECHIDNA**, but it doesn't fit anywhere on the board. Nevertheless, at least you can play its anagram, **CHAINED**.

Near the end, your opponent plays **NUMBATS** vertically. 'Don't forget to add that to the Australian animals,' you say to your opponent through slightly gritted teeth. (The **NUMBAT** is a Western Australian marsupial also known as the banded anteater.) **NUMBATS** is a good score, too, and your opponent is nearly a

hundred ahead and they have taken the last two tiles. Your tracking shows that they have several places to go out. You must score big to win.

Your rack is the unpromising **CEIJVUO**. The rack might be okay earlier in a game, when you could unload the big consonants for good scores over several turns, but you don't have the time now. You look at the board. The **N** from **NUMBATS** is in the top row, in the third column, and the left and middle TWS squares in the top row are both reachable. You think of **NOVICE** (36), **UNVOICE** (48) and **JUNCO** (51) (being a North American bird).

And then you remember **CUNJEVOI**. You are in such a hurry to play the triple-triple bonus that you drop the tiles, but after you sort yourself out, you announce the score: 'Three hundred and two ... and out!' And you pound the clock triumphantly to end the game.

Your opponent challenges, of course, but you get the tick. You want to stand on your chair and do your loudest kookaburra impression, but you restrain yourself, especially because your opponent graciously congratulates you for the word and the win.

As soon as the table is tidied and the result slip is handed in, you race over to the sheets for novelty words, because **CUNJEVOI** is an Australian plant. **CUNJEVOI** grows in wetter areas of Australia, Asia and Pacific islands. Parts of the plant were eaten by Australian Aboriginal people, but cooking was needed to render the plant's poisons harmless. The name **CUNJEVOI** used in Australia seems to be from a Queensland Aboriginal language.

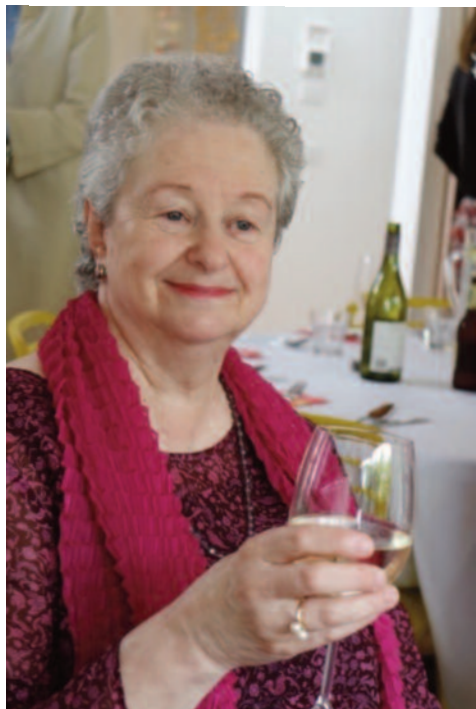
And then you add **CUNJEVOI** to the animals list, because it is also a sea squirt, which is found on rocks along the coast and which is often used as fish bait. The name **CUNJEVOI** for this creature seems to be from a New South Wales Aboriginal language.

You are reminded of the line from Australia's anthem: 'Our land abounds in nature's gifts.'

## Notes:

All words have been checked with Zyzzyva using CSW21.

Definitions are from reliable sources.



*I was saddened to hear of Barbara's passing.*

Most reading this would not be aware of the role Barbara played in the development of organised Scrabble in New South Wales.

At a time when the Sydney Scrabble club had been the only outlet for competition play in Sydney for many years, she decided in 1989

to start her own club, the North Shore Scrabble Club based in Turramurra.

Enthusiasm was her trademark, and the club quickly attracted many players including myself. She was also a music teacher and one of her students was the daughter of my long time Scrabble sparring partner, Peter Sheehan, who suggested we attend.

It was not long before competitions were being organised by Barbara to include Wollongong Club just starting up under the leadership of the Cheltons and St George Club, under Maureen Wilkins.

It was following those events that clubs in New South Wales started to flourish with Balmain, Revesby, Bondi, Wyong, Gosford, Newcastle, Blacktown and Nowra being some of the early ones.

Many new club leaders then followed the example set by Barbara and organised their own competitions, laying the foundations for a healthy Scrabble scene in New South Wales to follow.

Barbara was no slouch over the board. I remember her as a difficult opponent in the 50 rated games we played against each other while she was in living in Sydney. Her reward for her prowess and contribution to the growth of Scrabble in this country came in 1999 when she represented Australia in the World championship in Melbourne.

May she be remembered for a long time for her contribution to the growth of Scrabble,

## Break It Up, Break It Up

Barbara Berlin

This article by Barbara Berlin was first published in August 1989.

*And now some advice for those who frugally, if not stubbornly, hoard "ING" on their rack. If nothing comes up that you can recoGNise, you are not thinking creatively, imaginatively, florally!*

**IMAGINE** flowers – **GARDENIA**, **MAGNOLIA**, **GLOXINIA**, **BEGONIA** or the far-flung rainforest's **ANGICOS**, **SERINGA**, **NGAIOS** – the former **GERMAINE** to the Amazon **REGION**

where **IGUANAS** are **GENERIC**. So, **SIGNORS** and **SIGNORAS**, please don't be an **AGONIST** over the present participle (or the gerund) because very often the solution presents **POIGNANT SIGNALS**.

Don't **AGONISE**. For **AGONIES** can cause **ANGINAL** stress even **VAGINAL** distress. (**SIGNORINAS**, you too) and I know this because one of my **GUNGIER GENITORS** of ancient **LINEAGE** was a specialist in **OOGONIAL** behaviour. He swore lovesick seaweed was the **GENITAL GELATIN FRINGE**

that **ENGIRDS** all **ORGANIC** disorders with **ORIGINS** in the **GROIN**, and that **SANGUINE** subject we call by the **GENETIC** term, “sex”.

The cure he recommended was a cold **BAGNIO** in **ORIGANE VINEGAR** followed by a visit to the **GYMNASIUM**, and a **MIDNIGHT** stopover in a deserted **FOREIGN GENIZAH**, there to be served **MULLIGAN**, **KAOLIANG**, **GNOCCI** au **GRATIN** and **SANGRIA** by a **BENIGN**, **GENIAL**, **GENOMIC** old **GALOPIN**, until a wild band of **INDIGENT INGRATE**, **GITANO BRIGANDS** kick over a **GUERIDON**, smashing the **LUCIGEN** – their **INTRIGUE** **IGNITED** by the **EXIGENT** wailing of some **SARANGI** and the throbbing of **ZIGAN** **GITTERNS** and a pitchblack **VIRGINAL** played by a **NEGROID VIRGIN**.

I trust that you are not offended by **GONADIC** references or **DIAGNOSIS** not **CONDIGN** to a **GAINLY** matron. Should it **BEGIN** to go **AGAINST** the **GRAIN**, I'll not **GAINSAY** your right to **FEIGN** criticism so long as you don't **DENIGRADE** me because you do know I love to **GALLIVANT** and **GARNISH** the truth.

How can I **IMPUGN** by words while you pelt me with **IGNEOUS (L)INGOTS**, **GNEISS**, **GANISTER**, **GREISEN** and **GRINDSTONE**, crush me into **GUNITES**, dip me into **DRAINAGE** and throw me to the **TIGLONS** and the odd wild **SANGLIER**?

Now if you think this is all too **IGNOBLE**, and you aim to **DIGNIFY**, perhaps **MAGNIFY** something **TANGIER**, **ZINGIE**R perhaps? Try a bit of **TZIGANY** down along the **DRAGLINE** of the **GANTLINE**. There's an **ORIGINAL ENIGMA MIGRANT ENGINEER** with the **SCUNGIE**ST of oilrags in his **TIGRINE** hands are possibly quite **IGNORANT** of. Come along you **IGNORES SIGNORES**, stop flapping like Nick Greiner in **GLUTELIN**. **GREMLINS** will **SHANGHAI** you for a few **GUINEAS** and make you feel like a **GENUINE GHERKIN** under whose **GREENISH GANOID** surface **GIGANTIC GANGLIA** will flourish – all part of a **GRANDIOSE DESIGN** and their **INGENUITY** no doubt.

Meanwhile across the **INDIGO** sunset, flocks of homing **WI(D)GEON** and **PIGEON** swoop in **TRIANGLE** full **PERIGON** over some **PENGUINS** becoming **ANGRIER** by the **INTEGER**, and absolutely **IGNORE** the sex-

mad **GRUNION** and **GWINIAD** which **GLISTEN** in the **GRAINED** sand.

Now a **VIGNETTE** about a lapsed **BEGUINE**, a trifle **NEGLIGEE**, whose interests were dancing the **BEGUINE** and eating **BEIGNETS**.

She was a dear little **PIGSNEY**, somewhat **INGENUUE**, but **GAMINE**. Violated by a **GIRNIE GORILLIAN BOSTANGI**, she cast a **LEGLIN** child. To **LIGHTEN** her load (and to **HEIGHTEN** the pathos) she hid her **EIGNE** in a **GLENOID**, **LIGNEOUS WANIGAN**, complete with **MAGNETIC** lid to protect it from prowling **DINGOES** and many a longnosed **PANGOLIN** or **WENDIGO**. She had recently met a **KNIGHT** disattached from his **REGIMENT**, though his rank **GRINDS** no axe. She, ever **(A)GNOSTIC** and **REGINAL**, did not **RENIG** in her determination to **ENGIRD** the **ANGELIC** babe in pink **GIRLONDS** of **ORGANDIE** and **ENSILAGE** the poor thing in a **GALENITE** and **GALENOID GIRNEL**, feed it on **TANGERINE** juice laced with **GUINNESS\*** and **GLONAIN**; dangle a bag of little **GUNDIES** for it to **GRIN** at, so that she could race off to a wild **ZIGANA** and an **ENERGETIC RIGADOON** till dawn, after which the **GENTLE KNIGHT** would **REGAIN** his composure, his **POIGNARD**, his **SIGNET** rings and his **WIGAN TAGLIONI** so that he might hop on his white steed who'd **NEIGH** in approval. What **(PRO)GNOSIS** does this **SIGNIFY**?

Well the situation leaves no **MARGIN** for **PERIGEAN LINKAGE** at all! His **HIGHNESS** the babe has **MUGGINS** chance with such a **MALENGINE GRANNIE** for a mother and although his father (who was all of **EIGHTEEN!**) was no **NIDGET**, he was no **GENIUS** either, ever craving escape (like the errant **KNIGHT**) would **GREIN** for a puff on his **NARG(Ξ)ILE**. I have a **NIGGLY** feeling the **KNIGHT** was pleased to quit the **FINAGLE** with his erstwhile **REGINA** of the **KNIGHT**. Isn't cold-heartedness the **GENTIER** part of valour?

Don't philanderers of his ilk and **VINTAGE** boast without a **SMIDGEN** of guilt – while **SIGNARY** weaves the letters on to his **INSIGNIA** the **ENSIGN**: “**GRINNERS** are **WINNERS**”.

*Barbara Berlin 24/8/89  
Transcribed by Liz Jackman 2024*

# 2024 Australian Scrabble Championship

will be held at the South Perth Community Centre,  
cnr South Terrace & Sandgate St, South Perth, WA

**during the Easter weekend of**

**Saturday 30th March ~ Monday 1st April**

There will be two divisions:

**Championship**, for players rated at least **1300**, and

**Plate**, for players rated below **1200**, at the time of entry.

*Players rated between 1200 and 1300 may choose to play in either division.*

*You may use either an Australian rating or WESPA rating to determine eligibility.*

**Format:** 24 games over three days (8 Saturday, 9 Sunday, 7 Monday)

**Lexicon:** Championship: CSW21

Plate: currently CSW19 but could change to CSW21

**Challenges:** Single challenge (no penalty for incorrect challenges)

The registration form can be accessed

via the Tournament Calendar

or directly at <https://tinyurl.com/auscrabble24>.



**Need a missing tile?**

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

**Contact Carol Johnsen**  
[caroljscrabble@gmail.com](mailto:caroljscrabble@gmail.com)

**0476 639 195**

**A photo of a tile from the set would assist.**