

B, A, U, L, K, H, A, M, H, I, L, L, S, S, C, R, A, B, B, L, E, C, L, U, B,
N, E, W, S, L, E, T, T, E, R,

No 25 December 2019/January 2020

HAPPY NEW YEAR from Chris



A new decade and Scrabble continues at Baulkham Hills Club. After a couple of weeks' break, we're back into it. I wish everyone a happy and healthy year ahead.

CHRISTMAS PARTY



2019 ended on an exciting note with our annual Christmas party. Instead of the planned visit to the Seven Hills-Toongabbie RSL as in the past few years, Marion made the generous gesture of offering her home (second time in a month) for the Yuletide festivities. And what a good party it turned out to be. Virtually all our members were able to make it and it was particularly delightful to see Renate Wood there after she had not been able to attend Tuesday nights for a long time.



The food, festivities and friendships made for an excellent celebration and apart from the added joy of several games of Scrabble, we were treated to a botanical exploration of Marion's impressive garden. Marion also organized a competition to see who could recognize songs from the past. Barbara and Bob both displayed signs of misspent youth, because obviously they had done nothing but listen to the radio in their younger years.



And oh, yes. The food was delicious!

A big thank you to Marion for her hospitality.



THE WITCHES: SATURDAY 18th JANUARY

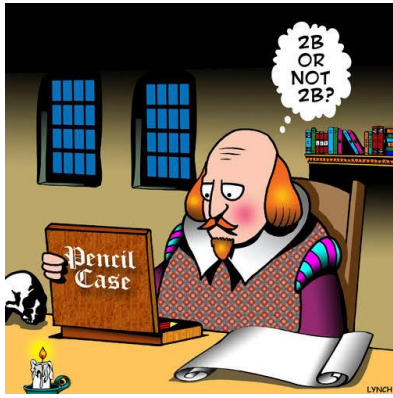
Our resident thespian, Glenn Levett, does more than act. He is both writer and director for the play, "The Witches", a melodrama about magic, Mother Goose and mayhem.

I am going to the Sat 18th 2pm session and would be happy to take anyone who wants to go. Just let me know. There are sessions on Jan 11th and 18th at 2pm and 7pm.

For bookings go to: www.trybooking.com/548180

John Lees Centre
15 Evan Street
Penrith NSW 2750

Chris



SAY THAT AGAIN?

Most of us have sayings that stick with us all our lives. Whether they are famous quotes by people from the past or simply words of wisdom that grandma used to tell us, those words can be inspirational, nostalgic or give us an insight into people and the world around us.

I did some research into the origins of the ones our club members contributed and it makes for interesting reading.

Barbara recalls how her mother often said, "Look after the pennies and the pounds will look after themselves".



This saying originated in the mid-18th century where it first appeared in a letter from the Earl of Stanhope to his son.

Coral's contribution is "Another one bites the dust".



Most sources attribute this saying to the mid-18th century writer Tobias Smollett but "His enemies shall lick the dust" dates back to the King James Bible of 1611. Either way, a long time before Freddie Mercury and Queen.

Diana's son always says "Oh, you're killing me, mate" when he gets quotas to fill in his job.



There's no real history to this saying but it sounds very Australian!

Marion was inspired by Alice when she contributed "It's not the years in your life but the life in your years". Marion is amazed (as all of us are) by Alice's enthusiasm and endless energy in making jams, carving pumpkins and displaying wonderful Christmas lights every year. To say nothing of her support for our club in so many ways.



This saying is attributed to the famous American President Abraham Lincoln. It reminds us that while we all have a life, it is what we do with that life that really counts.

Renate's favourite is "The grass may look greener on the other side but it needs just as much mowing".



This variation on "The grass is always greener" has been around for a couple of hundred years but the original concept was first expressed by the Latin writer Ovid in 1BC.

Bob clearly reveals his love of theatre in his favourite saying, “Exit, pursued by a bear”, the classic stage direction by none other than William Shakespeare in his play, *A Winter’s Tale*.



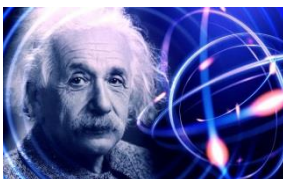
This stage direction is acknowledged as the most famous ever written, and results in the death (off-stage, thankfully) of one of the characters.

Gerard finds a lot of meaning in “I had a better offer”, the universal excuse for not turning up. Gerard sees it as a traditional saying in the Blacktown City Council!



Often used in business when you get a better job, the saying does seem to have been adapted from a 1611 reference in a book by Lady Penn which suggests it is good to offer up a better prayer to God.

As for me, I have so many. From Albert Einstein, I really like his observation that “There are two things in the universe that are infinite: the universe and human stupidity. And sometimes I’m not too sure about the universe.” On a lighter note, my Mum used to say “Intelligent people never get bored”. Consequently, whenever I’m bored, I keep very quiet!

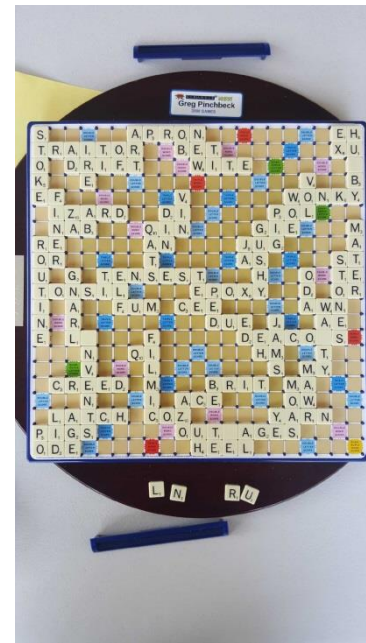


I am a real fan of Einstein’s quotes. I also like his observation that “Genius is 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration”.

Chris

SUPER SCRABBLE

I suppose it’s expected that a Scrabble newsletter has something more about Scrabble so here we go.



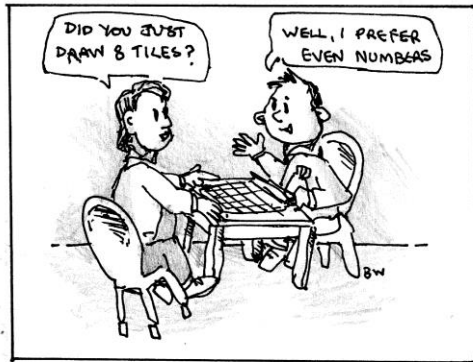
For Christmas, a good friend of mine, Greg Pinchbeck, received a gift we would all enjoy. It’s Super Scrabble, a game that has 200 tiles and a larger board but the rules remain the same. Greg and I have had many enjoyable games in the weeks after Christmas. Sadly, Greg’s skills cause me great angst, as can be seen in the score sheet below.

WORD		SCORE	PROG	TRACKING	WORD		SCORE	PROG
N120	10			A A A A A	YH	22		
Year	22	32		A A A A A	Bear	27	49	
Quilts	72	104		E E E E E	Quoted	74	121	
WAD	53	137		E E E E E	Mus	23	144	
TOY	27	164		I I I I I	SONA	23	167	
Pinna	24	178		I I I I I	ALL	8	175	
As	37	215		O O O O O	Charts	36	213	
RIP	11	226		O O O O O	Map	17	230	
Chimp	82	308		U U U U U	Leaf	27	257	
Disgust	77	385		U U U U U	AB	26	280	
Carrots	74	459		J K Q X Z	Tia	6	286	
Wish	13	472		S S S S S	B	7	293	
203	63	535			U	2	292	
Qua	25	560			Porch	43	335	
U2	10	566		B B C C	Bill	21	356	
				D D D D	Wet	20	376	
				F F G G G	Food	20	396	
				H H	Nug	33	429	
				L L L L	Everest	80	509	
				M M	Bark	57	566	
				N N N N N	Fish	37	603	
				P P	Row	26	629	
				R R R R R	Sea	23	652	
				T T T T T	Row	12	660	
				V V W W Y Y	Row	33	713	
Time Adjustment	12	1011			Just	54	747	
Value of Tiles Used	18	1029			Just	54	747	
TOTAL	8	1036			Time Adjustment	37	780	
					Value of Tiles Used	18	792	
					TOTAL	10	804	

And yes, he did score 1036 points!



Bob Williams' imagination has no bounds. Who would have thought there is so much material in Scrabble that it can provide an endless source for cartoons? For Bob, it doesn't seem to be a problem. Enjoy these creations!



THE STORY OF SCRABBLE

In a past edition of our newsletter, there was a brief history of the development of Scrabble.

This article reveals how other people can be in achieving our goals.



Alfred Mosher Butts was fond of chess, crosswords and jigsaw puzzles, and the influence of all of these can be seen in Scrabble.

Butts' first opponent was his wife Nina who, in a twist that would seem scandalous today, had been his schoolteacher growing up. Was it her fault that Butts always claimed to be a terrible speller? Invariably, Mrs Butts beat him at his own game, reportedly once playing the word 'quixotic' across two triple-word scores, notching up close to 300 points in a single turn.

The story may have ended there were it not for one James Brunot, an aspiring entrepreneur who owned an early set of Criss-Cross Words, as the game was known at the time. When he retired from his day job in 1948, he approached Butts offering to make and sell the game. Brunot also came up with the name Scrabble, lodging a successful copyright application that same year. Then in 1952, the president of Macy's department store happened to see a Scrabble game in progress while holidaying in Florida. The store began stocking it and was soon shifting 6,000 sets weekly.

It just goes to show how important others can be in our lives!

Happy Scrabbling
Chris