

Sydney National Scrabble Championship

The 2021 Nationals were the seventh to be held in Sydney and the fourth under my presidency. Only two of the past seven winners were present at this year's event, John Holgate who won in 1987 and David Eldar who won in 2014.

When the Nationals were originally scheduled for Sydney in 2021 I made the initial booking at the Bankstown Sports Club, in September 2019. When the COVID pandemic hit in 2020,

NSW stepped aside to let Queensland host the cancelled 2020 Nationals one year later. But when Queensland were unable to secure

[Continued on page 4](#)



Joint winners of Highest Word Score at the Sydney Nationals Scrabble Championship with Bob Jackman NSW President, (left) Peter Kougi (centre) **PROPAGES** for 149 and Rael Hayman **SCANNERS** for 149.

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Closing date for
contributions to next
issue of **Across the Board**
7 August 2021

Trans Tasman Tournament

Scrabble Australia is pleased to also announce that this historic event is on in Australia this year! It is being held over 3 days from Friday 19 - Sunday 21 November in Canberra at the Dickson Tradies venue, 2 Badham Street, Dickson. For any enquiries; John Hamilton at jjhamilton@gmail.com : 0400 650 349.

Further details and selection criteria can be found at :
<https://www.scrabble.org.au/ratings/selective/2021TT.html>

- Carol Johnsen
CASPA Coordinator

Advert For Scrabble Australia Youth Coordinator

Expressions of interest are called for anyone interested in taking on this role. There is already good support from Tony Hunt and his sub-committee of helpers.

Contact CASPA Coordinator, Carol Johnsen at caroljscrabble@gmail.com

Advert For Scrabble Australia Publicity Office

This is a call for expressions of interest in becoming Scrabble Australia's Publicity Officer. An interest and knowledge of various social media would be advantageous.

Contact CASPA Coordinator, Carol Johnsen at caroljscrabble@gmail.com

ACT Championships & Trans-Tasman

I am excited to be able to announce that the Trans-Tasman event is back on and will be in Canberra this year. The Trans-Tasman is a 3 day team event that pits the best from New Zealand against the best from Australia. Selection process for the Trans-Tasman will be released by CASPA in due course.

This years ACT Championships will be held alongside the Trans-Tasman in the same venue. The venue has onsite accommodation.

Details for both events are below. Any queries about either competition should be directed towards me - 0400 650 349 or jjhamilton5@gmail.com

For those traveling to the event, there is onsite accommodation available at <https://www.qualityhoteldickson.com.au/>

If you wish to arrange different accommodation, any accommodation located on Northbourne Avenue will be suitable for traveling to/from the event via light rail.

Venue: Dickson Tradies, 2 Badham Street, Dickson, ACT

Dates:

Trans-Tasman (24 games): Friday 19th - Sunday 21st November

ACT Championships (16 games): Saturday 20th - Sunday 21st November

Both events will be WESPA rated. Further details will be announced closer to the event.

John Hamilton

Around the States

Australian Capital Territory

Tournament Roundup

In the National Championships held in Bankstown on April 3–5, 2021, of particular merit for ACT players were Jakob Teitelbaum coming a clear second in the Championship Section, Noel Barrett not far off the pace in eighth place, and Susan McGillivray who achieved a creditable second place in the Plate.

The ACT April Tournament was held on April 17, 2021, at the Griffin Centre, Canberra with 16 players participating. John Hamilton was the director. Karen Richards, Ronnie Bennett and John Spaan filled the first three places respectively, with the high game taken out by John Spaan (601) who also scored the high word **ZEROING** (116). Our novice player, Debra Birkby, won a very credible three games in her first tournament, and Ronnie Bennett, Jeff Danaher and Arlene Williams

Nationals Write Up

continued from page 1

the preferred Southport RSL club the 2021 Nationals reverted to Sydney.

As luck would have it, I had not cancelled the original unsecured booking at Bankstown, but they had rebooked the space. Fortunately, they offered us the Grand Ballroom at the same price as quoted for our original space and threw in a large breakout area. As a result, the 90 people who attended were treated to the most luxuriant and comfortable playing conditions ever experienced in Australia.

Due to COVID still being a factor in large gatherings, certain restrictions were placed on us but these were all found to work in our favour. Tables were pushed together to enable maximum distance between opponents. Drinking water was provided to players in bottles due to water in jugs not being allowed. Paperless draws were in effect, these already having been trialled successfully at our two leadup No Frills tournaments. It was a simple and effective process of accessing draws and results by electronic device, using the appropriate QR codes. Cash handling at entry was reduced to a minimum due to online prepayment, plus payment by card and EFTPOS being an option at the door.

Scrabble NSW purchased an app that enabled quick and effective contact with media outlets. As a result there was a flurry of media activity, some coming to fruition and some not. The Guardian online published two excellent articles; the Project showed interest but could not quite manage to get a reporter

to Bankstown; and after the event Tony Hunt appeared on the Morning Show with young Plate winner Alex Lam. During setup on Good Friday, Sky News called in and requested an interview with a player in the city. John Holgate obliged and left setup for a 5pm appointment in the city, only to be shuffled into a small box to stare at a camera and answer questions without any physical contact with his interviewer. On the Sunday I was scheduled to speak to Chris Smith on 2GB in the middle of game 12. As I was sitting opposite Ivor Zetler waiting for the call to come, I saw that I had failed to notice Ivor's **MH** played a few moves earlier. Ivor then challenged off my **MOLERAT*** just prior to my taking that call.

That is all I can offer in the way of anecdotes, as during the planning stage I had forgotten to delegate a committee member to collect them and even better, to write a report. A full montage of winners was published to the Scrabble NSW facebook site, www.facebook.com/aspansw.

All I can add here is a big thanks to all those 90 players who made the effort to support our event despite the circumstances. I trust you were adequately 'Spoilt in Sydney' with our superb venue and innovations. And congratulations to all the winners, especially Chris May from NSW, our new National Champion, and 11 year old Alex Lam, winner of the Plate Division.

Bob Jackman, Organiser

achieved their all-time peak ratings. Congratulations to all players.

We have tournaments coming up on Saturday May 22 (ACT May Tournament, 5 games) and on Saturday June 26 (ACT Winter Open, 8 games). Please email our President John Hamilton on jjhamilton5@gmail.com for details.

We are also extremely pleased to announce that the Trans-Tasman Tournament between Australia's and New Zealand's selected best will now go ahead (yippee!) in Canberra on Saturday, Sunday and Monday November 20–22. The ACT Championships will also run on that same weekend, but on Saturday and Sunday only. Both events will be held at the Dickson Tradies Club in Dickson, Canberra. Again, please email John Hamilton for details.

*Arlene Williams
(Secretary/Public Officer for Scrabble ACT).*

New South Wales

Annual General Meeting Sunday 4th October 2021

In line with our Constitution, all committee positions will be declared vacant at the AGM on Sunday 4th October, and a new committee will be elected. Nomination forms can be found on our website at

<https://scrabble.org.au/nsw/AGMNoms.html>

and these should be completed and returned to the Secretary by Friday 27th August 2021 in order to nominate someone for the committee

Matchplay

B Division Matchplay has reached the finals stage due to the need to reduce the finals field to 4. Up-and-comer Steven Savona won his best of 7 against Devorah Ullman while Margaret Berliiner won her best of seven against Josie Malley leading to a future playoff between Steven and Margaret

In A Division Noel Barrett was the first play to advance beating John Barker 4-0 in their best of 7.

Tournament Round-Up.

Apart from the National Championship, two tournaments were organised by the NSW Committee in the quarter. Our trusted

Revesby Workers Club was the venue for both.

The No Frills Gap 1 Tournament held on 27th February was won by Rod Talbot with 7 wins out of 8, with Joanne Craig and Bob Jackman in the placings both on 6 wins. Two weeks later at the No Frills Gap 2 it was John Holgate who won with seven wins, this time with Bob and Victor Tung in the minors with 6 wins. The high word in the No Frills 1 was 148 for **BRUISERS** scored by Yvonne Edwards, while for the No Frills 2 it was **DENIZEN** for 130, scored by Natalie Tadday. These tournaments were used to test the viability of paperless draws in preparation for the Nationals as well test a system of data entry by and adjudication by players. Both trials were successful.

The East Hills Out in the Open Open was organised by Tony Hunt as a midweek tournament to cater children on school holidays. Ten out of the 18 players were juniors, but it was the adults who filled the major placings. Chris Ostrowski won the with 5 wins out of 6 games, with Garth Van Vliet the runner up on spread, Tony himself was third with the best spread of the winners of 4 games. Young Alex Lam scored high word with 121 for **GROANERS**. 15 year-old Jack Bell was the best performing new player, with a starting rating of 889.

Behind the Nationals Scenes

I have written a brief report about the Nationals, published elsewhere in the issue. Here I would like to pay tribute to some of the behind the scenes committee helpers without whose efforts the event would not have been the success it was.

Firstly, to George Khamis, who with Liz and I made a preliminary visit to the venue to determine its suitability. Later George was instrumental in acquiring extra clocks from overseas, and organising nametags and lanyards to be ready for all players on the day. Then to Richard Birch, who had the foresight to suggest and arrange a square reader to be used with credit cards in lieu of taking cash at the door. This was successfully trialled at leadup events. Richard also created the QR codes which helped drive the paperless draw

process which, also trialled prior to the event and in force over the three days.

Graeme Lock Lee transformed an existing defunct CSIM website into a fully functional Nationals website where entries could be made, latest entries could be viewed with player status, hotel could be booked, draws could be accessed each round as could progressive results. The site is still in place at <http://www.scrabble.org.au/nsw/auschamp/> for anyone who missed it and full results can be found there. I challenge anyone to come up with a more informative Scrabble event website anywhere in the world.

Dorothy Field sourced and had trophy plates engraved, and managed the clock numbering system which meant that no clocks were moved during the event and equipment owners could easily find their gear at event's end.

John Holgate was instrumental in getting good press coverage for the event, as previously discussed, with much of it showing Scrabble in a positive light.

And finally to all those committee members including Chris Ostrowski, Janine Whittaker, Monica Dwyer and Liz Jackman who gave up the best part of their Good Friday setting up the room and organising the player bags.

This event was a team event from start to finish and I thank all those involved for their part, thus enabling 90 willing players to "Spoil Themselves in Sydney"

Rating Gainers

No Frills Gap 1	27/2	Norma Tracey	+72
No Frills Gap 2	14/3	John Holgate	+42
OITOO East hills	13/4	Patrick Huynh	+34

Milestones

These people achieved significant milestones in the past 12 months and may not have been acknowledged here:

Tony Hunt	4000 games
Ivor Zetler	3000 games
Richard Birch	3000 games
Veena Mohe	2000 games
Lexie Neale	2000 games
Sue Fullerton	1000 games
Monica Dwyer	1000 games

Upcoming Tournaments

Refer to NSW Tournament calendar at <https://scrabble.org.au/nsw/calendar.html>

Queensland

Seven Queenslanders made the trip to Sydney at Easter to take part in the National Championships with three of them there travelling together on an adventurous road trip. Sound like everyone had a great time and managed to avoid any Covid lockdowns.

Well done everyone and especially Cameron Farlow, who came 5th and Karen Richards, 9th. I think mention should also be made of Sheryl Davidson who pulled herself up from next to bottom at the end of day one to finish 22nd. Great fighting spirit, Sheryl.

Back in Queensland we have had three tournaments this year at Coorparoo. The tournaments have been shall we say, intimate, because numbers have been down.

We would like to see more players returning to tournament play. There are regular tournaments planned in the South East and I hope some will make it to Townsville and Magnetic Island for their tournaments in June and July. Please make a note of the dates for our State Championship, Aug 21st and 22nd at Southport RSL. Hope to see many of you there.

Jane Brown

Upcoming Tournaments

www.scrabble.org.au/events/calendar.shtml

South Australia

After our delayed AGM in December we have held two committee meetings and have decided to share the writing of the ATB article each quarter so I (Jane Taylor) have volunteered for the May edition. We have also welcomed two additional committee members Baheej Al Kasseem and Daniel Piechnick giving us a committee of eleven in total.

In February we held our 4/4/4 event. Players could opt to play 4 games in the morning, afternoon and evening with the diehards opting for all twelve. The novelty prizes for the event were for words scoring 44 points. It was great to welcome five new players, including 3 couples, it was Valentine's Day

after all and what a better way to celebrate than a whole day playing our favourite game!

Our two day State Championships held in March were an excellent warm up for the Australian Championships held in April. We were pleased to welcome five interstate players including returning champion Trevor Halsall from Victoria, Colleen and Richard Birch from New South Wales, Carol Johnsen from Victoria and Angie Pearse who is now technically a South Australian as she has permanently relocated here. It was great to have one of our former youth players, James Gunner act as Tournament Director. Daniel Piechnick won the event. The theme word for the event was WOMAD (as this music festival was running at the same time) and the highest scoring word starting with the WOMAD letters won a block of chocolate. Karyn Crease scored 90 for wearier, Paula Brown scored 83 for outside, Michael Vnuk scored 100 for mbaqanga, Carmel Dodd scored 101 for agonizes and Julie Robbins scored 91 for ditzier. There was also a prize for an alphabetically first word scoring 21 points which was won by Mel Leckie with ago.

Ten South Australians attended the Australian Championships held at the Bankstown Sports Club in Sydney. It is such a great venue; close to public transport, with an on-site hotel and fabulous ethnic food available locally. Another former Youth Player, John Hamilton capably ran the tournament. Congratulations to our eldest player, 87 year old Rene Charlton who achieved her 5000 tournament game milestone during the event. What a contrast to the two youngest players aged 8 and 11 who both performed admirably in the Plate Section thanks to a lot of encouragement from our Youth Development Officer, Tony Hunt. Congratulations New South Wales for running an excellent event in trying times.

After the Australian Championships I spent a few additional days in the state and was welcomed to the Bombaderry Scrabble Club who run a tournament in Lexie Neale's delightful home with distant mountain views on the first Wednesday of the month. The club, which was started by Lindy Lawson (who has since moved to Port Mcquarie) formerly ran at the bowling club but due to Covid restrictions had to relocate to a private home. The tournament had 3 divisions with a

theme and a mystery word sealed in an envelope. It is a well run club with lots of records kept and plenty of encouragement for new players with annual certificates of achievement for high game, high word, average score and average margin.

I then went on to spend a few days in Nowra with the very hospitable Sunny Wright and we enjoyed many a game over the board before arriving home on the Saturday after Easter ready to attend the April South Australian tournament the next day. It was great to be joined by Geoff Wright from Victoria plus 2 new players who returned for another tournament in 4 divisions of 6 players in a round robin event. The theme for the mystery word was seroja as the cyclone was looming in Western Australia at the time.

Well that's all the news from South Australia. I will hand the baton on to another committee member for the next edition.

Jane Taylor

Upcoming Tournaments

www.scrabble.org.au/events/calendar.shtml

Tasmania

Upcoming Tournaments

www.scrabble.org.au/events/calendar.shtml

Victoria

The second quarter of 2021 has seen more players return to tournament play and a continuation of our policy to provide multiple platforms for members to play Scrabble.

We remain thankful to Balwyn Community Centre for providing us with a certainty of venue through 2021 with the second quarter of the year seeing us run our Nationals After-Party, May tournament and the (anticipated) return of the Victorian Championships.

At the time of writing, we are gearing up for our premier event of the Victorian Scrabble Calendar. After a year like no other in memory, having face to face play is very welcome.

Our online offerings of Duplicate and Saturday Online events continue to have a loyal following, and has recently seen an online record broken by Tony Hunt. His 668 at our

May online event is the new record score for a rated online event in this country.

We have added another event to our calendar later in the year as we return to the peninsula for Bayside Scrabble 2 in October.

Naween Fernando has recently joined our Committee and I would like to take the opportunity to welcome him to the fray as we embark on a campaign of regrowth and development in our sport.

The second half of the year promises much, and given our strategy of being able to offer Scrabble events on multiple platforms, we are positioned well to have more people at our clubs and events.

Upcoming Tournaments

Most tournaments held at Balwyn Community Centre, 412 Whitehorse Rd, Surrey Hills unless otherwise noted.

For entries and enquiries: Contact Nick Ivanovski 0421 175 251 :
nicksfbemail@gmail.com

Jun Sat, 12 & Sun 13 – Victorian Championship – 16 games

Jul Sun 4 – Midwinter – 7 games

Jul Sun 18 – July Tournament – 7 games

Aug Sun 15 – The Classic (plus AGM) – 6 games

Sept Sun 19 – Vernal Festival – 7 games

Oct Sun 17 – October Tournament – 7 games

Oct Sun 31 – Bayside Scrabble 2 – 6 games – Mordy HQ (Mordialloc Sporting Club, 528 Main St, Mordialloc

Nov Sun 14 – November Tournament - 7 games

Dec Sun 5 – December Tournament – 7 games

Western Australia

Our tournament program for 2021 got off to an inauspicious start with a COVID-19 lockdown forcing ASPA(WA) to cancel its opening tournament for the year.

COVID-19 restrictions meant that a face to face version of the Joy Deans Memorial Open could not be held last year (see page 24 of the September 2020 ATB for a report of the simulated version "held" instead). This year a

face to face event was held in March 2021. Chris Hall emphatically won the event and received the coveted perpetual trophy, a collector's edition Scrabble set donated to ASPA(WA) by her family shortly after her death.

*Graham Bell
Chairperson ASPA(WA)*

Upcoming Tournaments

WA Championship: 6-7 June – Carol Hudson – 9370 5692

Bassendean: 27 June – Carol Hudson – 9370 5692

AGM Tournament: 18 July – Carol Hudson – 9370 5692

**Club Details
are on
pages 10 & 11**

**Results Roundup is
on page 16**

20 Word Quiz

Some sevens. Some might have multiple anagrams, but we are looking for a specific line of commonality.

Level = Expert

Solutions on page 19

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| 1. ACEINRS | 11. HILMMOU |
| 2. BHIMSTU | 12. DIIIMRU |
| 3. BHIMORU | 13. HIILMTU |
| 4. ACDIMMU | 14. CEMRRUY |
| 5. ACEIMSU | 15. EHIMNRU |
| 6. ACCILMU | 16. ACCDINS |
| 7. BDIMNUU | 17. CIILNOS |
| 8. BEIMRSU | 18. HLP RSUU |
| 9. EFIMMRU | 19. HILMTUU |
| 10. AFHIMNU | 20. IMRTTUY |

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

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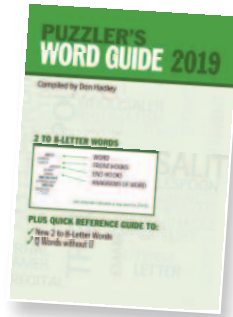
31 Gwandalan Crescent

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

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ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING YAHOO GROUPS RE OZSCRABBLE

In October 2020, Yahoo made the decision to shut down Yahoo Groups. As at December 15 2020, we will no longer be able to send or receive emails from Yahoo Groups.

The website will no longer be accessible.

The newsgroup Ozscrabble, which has been in operation in one form or another for around 30 years will cease to function.

To help aid in the transition away from Yahoo Groups, a Google Group has been set up to allow for email messages and discussions as it has been here. Equally, you can post from the new group itself.

The Group is called Scrabble Australia and can be found at the link below

<https://groups.google.com/g/scrabble-australia>

Join the Group and set your profile up in there; as with Yahoo Groups, there is an email address with which you can post

scrabble-australia@googlegroups.com.

It is really sad to see Ozscrabble close. Hopefully, we can continue in Google Groups and thus maintain a proper conversation within the Scrabble Community

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 Arlene Williams (02) 6161 6507

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

New South Wales (area code 02)

Banora Point ~ Fri 1-3pm ~ Anne Bennett ~ 5513 0319

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

Belmont ~ Mon 1.30 – 4.30pm ~
Bob Burr ~ 0431 887 087

Blacktown ~ Thur 9.30am-3pm ~
Jan Pincott ~ 0421 103 910

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

Brisbane Waters~Wed 6.30-9.30pm ~ Trish Windhurst ~
4341 9929

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

Bundanoon, 1st-3rd Wed ~ 10am-4pm Sandy
Mackenzie 0423 518 947

Cessnock ~ Thurs 9.30-1.00 pm. 4990 9599,

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

Kiama ~ Tues 4pm – 8pm ~ Marie Dalton ~ 4233 2778

Lake Macquarie ~ Thurs ~ 10-1.00pm ~ Morisset
Library, 39 Yambo St Morisset 4921 0573

Lane Cove 2nd-4th Thur, 6.00 ~
Anne Hrovat 0414 560 536

Lismore ~ Wed 11-3 pm ~ Ademiyi 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

Moulamein ~Tues 7.30 pm ~
Josef Peeters ~ 0497 001 284

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

Nowra ~ Sat from 12.30 ~ Rodney Wallace 0412 931 780

Oatlands ~ Wednesday 9.30am-4pm ~
Lauraine Overton 9626 9359

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

Ramsgate ~ Thurs 1-4.30 ~ Marg Cassoff ~ 9553 0307

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

Sanctuary Point ~ Thurs 12.30 - 4.30 ~ Margaret Hille
0437 708 672

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

Sydney's West ~ All Fri ~ Frances de Lange ~ 9671 7336

Tahmoor ~ Mon from 1pm ~ Murray Hamer 4655 6755

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

Tumut ~ Fri 10am – 3pm ~ Bev Sutton ~ 6947 6505

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

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

Umina Beach ~ Wed 9-12pm ~ Doreen Picker
0407 297 713

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

Banora Point, Fri 1-3 pm, Anne Bennett 5513 0319

Bargara, Thu 1.30pm Virginia Christian 4159 1935

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

Bundaberg, Liz Blanch 4155 2231

Cairns ~ Caroline Polak Scowcroft ~ 0400 427 627

Coominya, Tues 6.30pm, Matthew Forno 0417 446 556

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

Lismore, Weds 1pm, Ademiyi 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

Sunshine Coast ~ Nambour RSL ~ Fridays 2-4pm ~
Anna Palmer ~ 07 5457 3116 or M: 0401 799 650.

Toowoomba, Tues, 10.30am, Jane Brown, 0417 903 079

Toowoomba, Thurs 6.30pm, Jane Brown 0417 903 079

Townsville, 2nd Weds of month ~ 5.30-8.30 p.m., Julie

Walder. 4740 4175, Mob 0408 011 185.

Underwood, Tues 1-6pm, Marilyn Smith 040 3205 040

South Australia (area code 08)

Blackwood ~ Wednesday 12-4 ~ Raelene Nicholls
0416 203 515 ~ nichollsraelene@gmail.com

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

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

Maslin Beach ~ Wednesday 1-4.30pm ~
Rosemarie Mitchell 0448 948 224

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

Nurirootpa Library ~ Tuesday 1:30pm ~ (08) 8563 8440

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

Seaside (Yankalilla) ~ Monday 1pm ~
Lorraine Downes 8558 2549

Victor Harbor ~ Wednesday 1pm ~
Marilyn Evans 0401 337 686

West Torrens Community Centre ~ Monday 2-4pm ~
Katherine 8416 6333

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

**Many clubs listed here have
suspended regular meetings due
to COVID-19 restrictions.**

**When those restrictions are lifted
there will no doubt be many
changes to this list.**

**We would hope to bring this list
up to date when that happens.**

Victoria (area code 03)

Ballarat ~ Tues 10m ~ Marjorie Clark ~ 0456 098 982

Balwyn ~ Mon 1pm ~ Marj Miller ~ 9850 2366

Bentleigh - Mondays 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 ~ Christiane McCann ~ 0432 290 880

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 - New club - Friday 10am-2pm - Lay-Hoon
Ng ~ 0408 802 207

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

Welshpool ~ Mon 7pm ~ temporarily closed

Wodonga ~ Thur 1st & 3rd 5-8pm ~
Ruth Grogan ~ 0448 989 833

Western Australia (area code 08)

Albany ~ Mon 10am ~ Jane Taylor ~ 0429 448 666

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

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 ~ Joan Dye ~ 9345 4275

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

Rockingham ~ Mon 9.15am ~ Dee Harrison ~
0431 345 139

Spearwood ~ Tues 10 am ~ Jenny Coetzee ~ 9434 9349

A year ago, Hasbro (US) told NASPA (the North American equivalent of CASPA, who cover Canada and USA), that they must remove words considered slurs, from their Scrabble® playing list. It was a political move along the lines of “Black Lives Matter”.

WESPA, who come under the auspices of Mattel, were not involved at this stage. However, months later, Mattel spoke to WESPA about the possibility of removing “Hate Speech” from the Collins Word list (played throughout the World). WESPA advised Collins that:

- (a) Players did not want politics to be involved in their game;
- (b) It would be extremely difficult to define what is hate speech when so many countries are involved – an example would be **WOG**. If you hear the word spoken in Australia, it most likely means that someone is feeling ill, whereas in other countries it can potentially be hate speech;
- (c) Players prefer that any word list is linguistically sound/consistent.

WESPA consulted its member countries circa August 2020, and confirmed that the majority were against any expurgation.

In a surprise move, without any consultation, in January 2021, Mattel told WESPA that they had demanded that Collins change their word list, to remove 400+ words. This list has not yet been promulgated, but the initial draft included words such as **BAAS**, even though we all know what noise a lamb makes (Apparently it means “a boss” in South Africa).

WESPA Dictionary Committee, which always works with Collins to ensure the word list is accurate and consistent, were completely overlooked. This is despite the fact that WESPA’s contract with Mattel specifically mentions that Mattel has endorsed WESPA’s right to determine matters which affect international tournament play, such as ratings and rules (which cover the dictionary to be used).

As expected, WESPA were not amused, and called an extraordinary meeting, where all member countries were asked to vote.

Because Mattel had given WESPA no option to either refuse to accept expurgations, or to monitor the selection of words to be expunged, it was obvious that the only power WESPA had to resist this move, was to step back from Mattel. What this means, is that they presented a motion to start adjusting the WESPA constitution, to remove any mention of the name Scrabble®, such that members would be free to play other dictionaries besides Collins CSW19 (expurgated) and even play other games. This vote was rejected by the majority of countries who voted – many national associations either didn’t vote, or intentionally refrained from voting.

As of now, WESPA have been forbidden from sharing the entire draft list with member countries. However, some of the proposed omissions have been shared. It is obvious that the decisions to expurgate were made by people without any concern for linguistic purity. This Mattel Board was made up of mostly white US males, and reflects their biases. As an example **HAOLE** (a US word) will be banned, but not the word **JAJA** which is probably more offensive to an Aucklander.

One thing to note, is that this move is in no way intended to make the game “family-friendly”.

Firstly, removing any word from the word list does not guarantee it will not appear on the board, and remain there, if the opponent declines to challenge.

Secondly, there are many words which will remain, and which will probably shock the average parent or teacher, much more than **HAOLE** or **HARELIP** – things like **C*****, **F*****, **W**KER**, **F*LCH**, **M*LF**, **SL*T** etc.

It remains to be seen how competitive Scrabblers will react to the list, when it is finally available. There will be at least a six month delay prior to its inception (after release) in which time there will be much discussion, angst, and possibly even a demand for a second vote by WESPA, to consider again, the option of opening up the players association so that players themselves can decide what is an appropriate word list, rather than having a politically determined list arbitrarily imposed on them.

Mattel insists that hate words must be removed from play. The guru of clever thinking, Edward de Bono, has a scheme for analysing a new proposition: PMI. Instead of leaping to a conclusion and then defending it, make three columns for plus, minus and interesting, and only then weigh it up. Do it yourself before reading further. Here is how I see it.

Plus:

It is embarrassing or offensive to see such words. It may make Scrabble more acceptable for children, as seen by schools or parents.

Minus:

It is difficult if not impossible to create a list of banned words. A word like **WOG** may have an innocent and an offensive meaning. A word like **WOG** may be adopted and embraced by the target group.

The perceived offensiveness of words may change over time: **BINT** was used as an offhand term for a girl by British forces in WW1 but is now more commonly, especially in the east, it is known in its original sense as 'daughter' in Arabic.

Sometimes a word may be offensive for one part of speech only: **POOF** as a noun might be offensive but **POOF** as an interjection might be okay.

Perceptions may be different in other countries, eg we in Australia may not have realised that **ESKIMO*** had been regarded as a slur. A whitewash will take away the opportunity to discuss the nuances, for instance how **ABO** used to be just an abbreviation but is now regarded as hateful.

For Scrabble players, words are chiefly a tool of the game: meanings are relatively unimportant. And even moderately ambitious players use word lists and studying the deletion list may be a concentrated distillation of horror.

A similar move by Hasbro in North America caused a split in the Scrabble scene.

No discussion or consultation with Scrabble players was done.

Interesting:

Well before this, the Collins Scrabble Dictionary used to have a disclaimer about offensive words. It is pointless to ascribe motives to Mattel's ukase. Mattel has said that the review will be ongoing which might mean that changes may be more frequent than the usual five year cycle. Collins have already removed software resources and the online checker has, unannounced, removed and redefined words. ASPA rules make no mention of allowable words and do not mandate any lexicon.

The Upshot

It is useful to think of the parts of the Scrabble scene. Online players may well have been the lobbyists. The other platform Words With Friends purges offensive and rude words and adds extra words at the drop of a hat. We do not know whether Collins Dictionary was happy, but presumably they have prepared the list of banned words and it does not reflect well on their lexicography.

Will the policy of ongoing revision make printed books obsolete? WESPA has been ordered to toe the line or else. If there is a new printed word list will it carry an endorsement by WESPA? Will WESPA sanction tournaments using CSW19?

What will ASPA do? The 2021 AGM revealed that there are States opposed to the change, and it was established that each State may decide, and ratifiability is not an issue. Scrabble clubs will probably follow their State body. They may be reluctant to buy books.

Follow the issue

Facebook is a hotbed of opinions. Media reporting is often facile. The WESPA website has not yet announced anything. Our Scrabble Australia website will try to give impartial summaries.

See

<https://www.scrabble.org.au/words/purge.html> where the banned words may be seen (behind a clickable warning).

Finally let us remember: It's not what you play but the way that you play it.

Letters to the Editor

The views published here are those of individual members of the Australian Scrabble community. These views do not necessarily reflect those of the producers of this publication.

Word List issues.

The uproar over the decision to remove slurs from our lexicon has me a bit confused. I've heard and read a lot of arguments which while not wrong, don't seem to be effectively arguing against what's happened or what was up for discussion.

Yes, the list is heavily skewed towards a United States sensibility of what's offensive. Yes, many of the words have been reclaimed, or in other contexts aren't considered slurs. You don't have to convince me of that.

But the fact is, I don't know anyone who thinks expurgation is a good idea. Arguing that these changes to the list are clumsy and pointless isn't worthwhile. For me, the issue is simple: is this worth severing links with the trademark holder? Nobody will ever convince me of that.

Organised Scrabble isn't in a good way, and can't afford to lose that link. We're struggling and any chance we have to grow would need ongoing good relationships with Mattel in Australia.

Besides which, for all the flailing and yelling about how undemocratic this process has been, I don't recall too many people causing a stir when Mattel UK decided to switch affiliations from Chambers to Collins and we were more or less forced to change based on that commercial decision - we all accepted that this was the best response to something forced upon us.

The same is true today about this. Also if people think there was a lack of consultation, well, I want to know where the pitchforks were when the WESPA Dictionary Committee just decided to add a bunch of words that had previously been disallowed on the grounds that they were deemed only to exist in phrases.

Some of those decisions were ludicrous, as proven one update later when some of the more egregious ones were then deleted.

Apparently, those changes were just peachy, even though they had a far larger impact on the lexicon than this expurgation. Very few people were fighting for lexical purity and the integrity of the list as it was -- as if our list hasn't always been arbitrary and weird in places. But all of a sudden we take out the N word and a lot of people suddenly have very strong opinions. Without wishing to ascribe ugly motives to anyone, this isn't a good look.

When taken purely intellectually, I don't agree with expurgation, but

this isn't the hill I'm going to die on. I support the decision to retain the link with Mattel at the cost of these words.

Edward Okulicz



The current debate on expurgation of words has raised an issue that the Scrabble community needs to think about.

What words in the dictionary should be disallowed for use in tournaments? At present words that start with a capital letter are not allowed. Some words used to be allowed and are now not – e.g., pH.

The current debate suggests words considered 'hate speech' should be excluded. In the discussion it has been noted offensive words (e.g., SLUT) and swear words are just as bad as the 'hate speech', but are not going to be removed.

There have been issues in the past with the media where scrabble coverage has been adjusted because an offensive word appears on the board.

We are also trying to recruit new players, many of school age, to the game. In North America, they have a school tournament version of the Scrabble word list which removes most of the offensive words.

Do we need to develop a similar list for school and family friendly play? Do we need to use this list for all tournament play?

The word list has always been the ammunition in the war of words across the board. Do we

need to ban the use of the equivalent of nuclear and chemical weapons in the game? Scrabble uses tiles to make allowable words to score points.

The knowledge required has always been what words are allowed plus the best way to use them to strategic advantage and scoring of points. The list of words allowable has always been a moving feast with new words coming in and old words going out as times change.

The current debate is a golden opportunity to consider if we should make the tournament game family and media friendly by removing all hateful and offensive words so that no one needs to blush or apologise for words played on the board.

Paul Richards



In 12 years time we'll be celebrating the centenary of the invention of Scrabble. It's proved itself as more than a fad. As with everything that endures over time, some things stay the same, others change.

Long term Scrabble players are used to the fact that every few years there are additions and deletions to the word list. Although the mechanism of this current proposed cull (brand holder intervention) is different to the usual mechanism (dictionary revision), maybe we should just see it in this light.

It's just the process of the evolution of the game. We are currently in a great position globally with regards to English language Scrabble. As CSW gains more traction in North America we are moving to a situation where there is uniformity of word list throughout the world.

This is fantastic for global competition. Its also a favourable environment for attracting new players. WESPA (World English-Language Scrabble Players Association) called for a vote from member countries and the result of the vote was to accept Mattel's request to remove a bunch of words deemed to be offensive.

It was a close vote, but the fact that the decision was made following a democratic process means it should be respected. I do not think its helpful to further engage in discussions about particular words and why they are allowed or not.

This just brings more attention to the words that, for some people, are problematic. The overriding concern, in my view, is maintaining the cohesiveness that we currently enjoy.

It would be sad indeed if some countries (or states) diverged with different word lists. Concerns about Mattel continually seeking revisions to the word list are overblown. Scrabble is a small part of Mattel's universe and they've had their virtue-signalling moment in the sun. Its a one-off.

I'd prefer we focus on the many positives of the game, move on from this blip in unity with the other countries under the WESPA umbrella. I've gotten over the fact that I can't play **PH*** anymore. I'm sure, in time, I'll get over not being able to play one of the anagrams of **BOA**. And you will too. Let's move on.

Tony Hunt



A message from Presidents of New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania regarding the imminent CSW19 expurgation

Players will be aware of the controversy and outrage regarding Mattel's recent decision to purge our word list of what they deem offensive words. Mattel is planning to introduce a purged list, CSW19X, to be used in club and tournament play. This decision was made without consultation and forced on WESPA under threat of litigation and not being able to use the Scrabble trademark.

At the CASPA AGM held at Easter, the question was raised whether individual States could opt out of adopting the expurgated CSW19 list and still have their games rated nationally by CASPA. This was agreed to by CASPA as rules do not state which word list must be used. This is very pleasing as we have no wish to divide CASPA.

Currently, New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania have indicated that they will not be adopting the purged list CSW19X but will stay with the current list CSW19.

These are some points to support the rejection of the purged list:

1. Australian Players will have no need to become familiar with a list of 400 offensive words if CSW21 is rejected
2. In Australia we play with the Australian Scrabble rules which do not mandate the use of any particular word source
3. Removing words from a lexicon used by 0.1% of Scrabble players (the ones that play competition) will not remove their use in society. It is an act of window-dressing
4. Mattel do nothing to promote competitive Scrabble so why should the few competition players there are have to play without their arbitrarily expurgated words
5. Tournament players never intend to be rude or offensive in playing a word someone deems to be offensive
6. The adoption of a particular word list is not part of the rules in Australia. It is a playing condition, same as length of game or penalty system in place
7. It is a better stance to take to stand up to Mattel bullying than to let their words and actions defeat you
8. Mattel directives on playable words have no legal weight in Australia. It is the Australian government who would decide what is essentially a freedom of speech/legal rights issue.

*Bob Jackman, NSW President;
Jane Brown, Queensland President;
Martin Rose, Tasmania President*

Results Roundup

ACT

13.03.2021 ACT March

OPEN: 1 John Hamilton; 2 Noel Barrett; 3 Terry Horan; **HG** Noel Barrett 566; **HW** John Hamilton
SPRAYING 95

20.03.2021 Nationals Warmup

A: 1 Jakob Teitelbaum; 2 Rod Talbot; 3 Alex Boiko; **HG** Tony Hunt 620; **HW** Ronnie Bennett
STODGERS 158

17.04.2021 Canberra April

1 Karen Richards; 2 Ronnie Bennett; 3 John Spaan; **HG** John Spaan 601; **HW** John Spaan
ZEROING 116

NSW

13.02.2021 matchplay qualifier

A SECTION: 1 Bob Jackman; 2 Joanne Craig; 3 Rod Talbot; **HG** Joanne Craig 586; **HW** Chris Ostrowski
QUATRIN 118

B SECTION: 1 Vincent Nguyen; 2 Margaret Berliner; 3 Marion Miller; **HG** Devorah Ullman 513; **HW** Vincent Nguyen
HARPIES 105

27.02.2021 NO FRILLS GAP

OPEN: 1 Rod Talbot; 2 Joanne Craig; 3 Bob Jackman; **HG** Rod Talbot 569; **HW** Yvonne Edwards
BRUISERS 149

14.03.2021 NO FRILLS 2

OPEN: 1 John Holgate; 2 Bob Jackman; 3 Victor Tung; **HG** Greg Pinchbeck 558; **HW** Natalie Tadday
DENIZEN 130

03.04.2021 OZ CHAMPS

CHAMPIONSHIP: 1 Chris May; 2 Jakob Teitelbaum; 3 David Eldar; **HG** Peter Kougi 664; **HW** Rael Hayman
SCANNERS 149

PLATE: 1 Alex Lam; 2 Susan MacGillivray; 3 Susan Roberts; **HG** Louisa Atsas 552; **HW** Dorothy Fields
SCURVIES 176

13.04.2021 OITOO East Hills

OPEN: 1 Chris Ostrowski; 2 Garth van Vliet; 3 Tony Hunt; **HG** Alex Lam 572; **HW** Alex Lam
GROANERS 121

QLD

07.03.2021 March Madness

A: 1 Karen Richards; 2 Olga Visser; 3 Cameron Farlow; **HG** Sheryl Davidson 560; **HW** Paul Richards
DITZIEST 128

B: 1 Patti Ashwin; 2 Jeanette Hansen; 3 Gaile Clark; **HG** Kerry Reimers 460; **HW** Jeanette Hansen
TANKARDS 101

02.05.2021 May Day

A: 1 Cameron Farlow; **2** Karen Richards; **3** Paul Richards; **HG** Cameron Farlow 581; **HW** Cameron Farlow **ROSEOLAS** 122

B: 1 Jeanette Hansen; **2** Martin Waterworth; **3** Elize Plaganyi; **HG** Jeanette Hansen 482; **HW** Jeanette Hansen **TOURIST** 99

SA

14.02.2021 4-4-4

OPEN: 1 Adam Kretschmer; **2** Jane Taylor; **3** Antonios Syrigos; **HG** Antony Kimber 570; **HW** Daniel Piechnick **ANTIQUER** 194

06.03.2021 SA Champs

OPEN: 1 Daniel Piechnick; **2** Adam Kretschmer; **3** Carmel Dodd; **HG** Tony Miller 624; **HW** Larrie Strautmanis **STEERING** 140

11.04.2021 SA April

A: 1 Carmel Dodd; **2** Daniel Piechnick; **3** Geoff Wright; **HG** Daniel Piechnick 557; **HW** Daniel Piechnick **NOSEBAG** 95

B: 1 Malcolm McAnulty; **2** Susan Roberts; **3** Angie Pearse; **HG** Malcolm McAnulty 523; **HW** Rowena **BANDIED** 101

C: 1 Victoria Gates; **2** Helen Jones; **3** Fiona Braendler; **HG** Suzanne Healey 486; **HW** Neal Whibley **TALLOW** 104

D: 1 Emanuel Atsas; **2** Baheej Al Kassem; **3** Paula Brown; **HG** Baheej Al Kassem 424; **HW** Baheej Al Kassem **ELATION** 85

02.05.2021 SA May

A: 1 Carmel Dodd; **2** Jane Taylor; **3** Daniel Piechnick; **HG** Daniel Piechnick 651; **HW** Carmel Dodd **HINDLEG** 99

B: 1 Elana Jaremy; **2** Baheej Al Kassem; **3** Emanuel Atsas; **HG** Baheej Al Kassem 485; **HW** Wendy Drake **SEEKING** 101

TAS

20.03.2021 Ross March

OPEN: 1 Martin Rose; **2** Jan Hill; **3** Margaret Bishop; **HG** Jan Hill 479

VIC

28.02.2021 Bil Rose Aestival 2021

AVOCETS: 1 David Eldar; **2** Naweene Fernando; **3** Andrew Fisher; **HG** David Eldar 561; **HW** Andrew Fisher **EXOCRINE** 114

BUSTARD: 1 John Rider; **2** Rod Casey; **3** Jenny Brysha; **HG** Shirley De Silva 539; **HW** Lainie Chojna **LATHERER** 176

CURLEWS: 1 Kannan Sethuraman; **2** Paula Messer; **3** Christiane McCann; **HG** Khwanjai Thammaping 479

DRONGOS: 1 Darren Chaitman; **2** Oscar Ivanovski; **3** Balada Catanchin; **HG** Darren Chaitman 482; **HW** Oscar Ivanovski **RETAXES** 96

EMUS: 1 Fintan Conway; **2** Lay-hoon Ng; **3** Hilary Conway; **HG** Gayle Cameron 430; **HW** Elaine McGinnes **JOSTLES** 109

14.03.2021 Teams Challenge

A: 1 Shaun Donnelly; **2** Jenny Brysha; **3** Oscar Ivanovski; **HG** Geoff Wright 555

18.04.2021 NATS AFTERPARTY

A: 1 Edward Okulicz; **2** Dianne Davis; **3** Geoff Wright; **HG** Gwen Lampre 512; **HW** John Rider **OESTRONE** 122

B: 1 Lorraine Thomas; **2** Oscar Ivanovski; **3** Noel Coulter; **HG** Noel Coulter 509; **HW** Glen Chandler **BLASTER** 83

C: 1 Balada Catanchin; **2** Lay-hoon Ng; **3** Angie Winkler; **HG** Elizabeth McKean 469; **HW** Rena Aitken **HASHIER** 94

WA

14.03.2021 Joy Deans Memorial

A: 1 Chris Hall; **2** Cori Lodder; **3** Geoff Shepheard; **HG** Benjamin Lee 521; **HW** Delys Carbon **WOOFERS** 109

11.04.2021 APR21RR

A: 1 David Vanzyl; **2** Graham Bell; **3** Chris Hall; **HG** Graham Bell 546; **HW** David Vanzyl **CHINTZES** 128

B: 1 Judy Godfrey; **2** Faye Williams; **3** Donna Sekkouah; **HG** Judy Godfrey 471; **HW** Alan Mathews **BRIDGES** 86

C: 1 Jenny Coetzee; **2** Carol Hudson; **3** Janet Kirk; **HG** Henry Yates 486; **HW** Jenny Coetzee **QAIDS** 103

Scrabble And The Opportunities Of Growth Open To Us

If you are reading this article, it means you are a loyal member of an Association that has been looking after Scrabble players since 1985.

In those early days, there were many challenges that beset players including not being able to use the name “Scrabble”, use of different dictionaries and then, eventually, a double dictionary.

In more recent times, these challenges have taken the form of a trending decrease in membership, the restrictions on COVID and debate around the removal of certain words from the playing list.

There has been much written on that last point and I certainly do not want to add to that in any way, except to note that when it comes to fruition, it will be in an environment where there are far more opportunities for more players to enter our sport.

We need to be in a position where we can adapt to the changing landscapes and take advantage of the situation we are in. It may not be easy to see but this is the reality we face.

Ironically, it is another one of those challenges which has made Scrabble, and in particular, competitive and club Scrabble, an opportunity for growth, and it means I remain extremely positive about the scene itself.

2020 saw many restrictions come into play, which led to a hiatus of face to face events but was there a corresponding decrease in interest in Scrabble? If anything, and judging by the articles generated, the answer to that is no.

Board games saw a resurgence – Mattel’s financials increased as a result. Social media continues to feature many leagues, especially online.

As we continue our return to face to face play, the opportunities for growth lie in focusing on the players that make up the overall Scrabble world. The way the game is played is evolving and looking at opportunities from a multiple platform and multiple format aspect, these are plentiful should we choose to pursue them.

Online Play

It is safe to say that if you grow up enjoying Scrabble, it remains with you. Our overall rating list (not just what is viewed on the current ratings) are filled with names of players who have simply ceased playing face to face.

It is not the case that they have stopped playing Scrabble but that they may be playing it in a different format. The research backs this up.

Online leagues are numerous and include players no longer seen in face to face events.

Giving players the chance to be members and still play in a “members” environment should always have been a massive opportunity for us rather than simply considering them as lost because they no longer turn up on a Sunday to play a full day event.

Victoria has reacted to this and the result is a rated online system; one which can be used not only for virtual events, but also hybrid ones (where players play online but attend at a venue much like you would for face to face events).

I wrote in ATB a year ago about the online events we were running – in the ensuing year, we are still going strong, offering a 5 game afternoon tournament each month.

But it goes further than that: online offerings allow us to provide things like Duplicate Scrabble. Duplicate was originally touted as a means of playing socially distant Scrabble whilst still having a competition – and is a very different beast to general two player fare.

Duplicate Scrabble is a very popular format in the non-English Scrabble playing world, especially in French.

Those who play it find it highly engaging and enjoyable. Let’s pursue it as a viable option our members can take advantage of.

Other Languages

On the topic of non-English Scrabble, it is noteworthy that there are a number of apps that offer the opportunity to play in other languages.

French, German, Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese are amongst the versions that have been on official Scrabble apps for the last 9 or so years.

Multicultural countries like ourselves have the possibility to embrace different versions and become a playing arena for more people that we would never have seen before.

Victoria is exploring this from June as we launch French Scrabble through our Association – it will be interesting to see how it goes.



In conclusion, the changes that COVID has brought about gives us the welcome chance to innovate. Our collective Associations should focus on attracting players in a push for growth at grass roots levels.

Offering officially approved word lists in a variety of languages whilst using the officially

licensed apps that offer them means we can provide our current and prospective players the ability to play Scrabble on multiple platforms in multiple formats.

Doing this means we will become open to more players wanting to join, knowing we can offer something for them that is in line with more modern requirements.

All of this can be done easily whilst maintaining a vibrant face to face scene.

At the 2021 CASPA AGM, Presidents supported the concept of a strategic document for the game. Using the above as a blueprint should bring ourselves into the ascendancy once more.

Eureka!

Hanne Marks

Have started reading Magda Szubanski’s memoir, Reckoning. (The Text Publishing Company, 2015.)

Magda has a way with words and sentences.

On page 13 she mentions her great grandmother “... who wore black BOMBASINE with a bustle every day of her life ...”

“**BOMBASINE** or **BOMBAZINE**, noun, a twilled or corded fabric of silk and worsted, or of cotton and worsted”. Interesting “compound words” ...so to speak, NB: “**BOMBYX-ES**, silkworm”.

On page 32 her mother laughs and says “**OCH, WHEESHT**, and be away with you.” (And **WHEESHT** is a verb, sez Zyzzyva).

On page 51, describing the land around the suburb where she was living, Magda remarks that “Beneath the grey sagging gum trees the ground was **HARDSCRABBLE**, the grass sharp as burnt matchsticks”; now, that word is too

long to be included in the Collins Scrabble Dictionary, and Zyzzyva maintains that it means “a great effort made in the face of difficulties” ... only one of my admittedly ageing dictionaries, my Merriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition, (c) 2001, includes it with three definitions that suits this use of it: “Being or related to a place of barren or barely arable soil”. Because Zyzzyva defines it as a noun, **HARDSCRABLES** is also allowed! (I seem to recall having come across this word in an earlier article ... gotta love it!)

And on page 59, which is where I’m up to, discussing her father’s prognosis after having a tumour excised, she ponders: “Five (years) is the magic number in terms of cancer survival. Against our will we were all gamblers in a **CRAPSHOOT** with lousy odds.”

She certainly does have a way with words and sentences. Will find me a nook and settle down to finish the book as soon as possible.

20 Word Quiz

Solutions from page 8

Elements or element related

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. ARSENIC | 8. ERBIUMS | 15. RHENIUM |
| 2. BISMUTH | 9. FERMIUM | 16. SCANDIC |
| 3. BOHRIMUM | 10. HAFNIUM | 17. SILICON |
| 4. CADIUM | 11. HOLMIUM | 18. SULPHUR |
| 5. CAESIUM | 12. IRIDIUM | 19. THULIUM |
| 6. CALCIUM | 13. LITHIUM | 20. YTTRIUM |
| 7. DUBNIUM | 14. MERCURY | |

MADE UP GAME

Tim Reddan

This is a made up game/play

It has two unusual play elements. The first is that the first 8 plays (all vertical) create an eight-letter word horizontally.

Note that the horizontal word is built one letter at a time:

A	A
AN	AN
ANT	ANT
ANTI	ANTI
ANTIC	ANTIC
ANTICK	ANTICK
ANTICKE	ANTICKE
ANTICKED	ANTICKED

By my calculations, there are only 30 such eight-letter words in the word list:

AMENDERS	ANTICKED	ARTISTES
BANDARIS	BARBELLS	BITTERNS
CHAINERS	CHIASMAL	CHIASMIC
DEWISEES	DEVISERS	DEVOTEES
DIVERSED	HOARSENS	MANDIRAS
MAXIMALS	MODERNER	PANDANIS
PARKINGS	PASTERNS	PELTASTS
PEPSINES	PERCENTS	POLYPEDS
REPOSERS	TANGIEST	TASSELLS
TASSELLY	TESTERNS	WOOSSELLS

The second interesting thing is that the fifth move of Player A is a seven-letter word tacked on the end of another seven to make a fourteen-letter word.

Although possible I have never heard of it happening in Australia.

There are 9,397 fourteen-letter words (in CSW19). The front of only 1,024 of these are seven-letter words. The back of them contains 1,047 seven-letter words.

So for any of the front sevens or back sevens one could extend the word to a fourteen-letter word using seven tiles.

In a smaller number of the fourteen-letter words both the front and back seven letters form words in their own right. By my reckoning, there are only 279 of these fourteen-letter words.

For example:

FLANNELMOUTHED,
HYDROXYAPATITE, and
SPARKLEBERRIES

The probability of playing any fourteen-letter word in a real game is vanishingly small.

Nevertheless it is fun to contemplate being able to do it.

If someone plays **UNTHINK** or **WARRANT** or **TRAFFIC** or **EXTRACT** on their first move with the final consonant on the centre star, pray you have the word "**ABILITY**" on your rack so that you can make Scrabble history.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
1	W														
2	A		T					A	G		A		U		P
3	T		R					D	O		L		N		Y
4	E		I					H	M		F		D		R
5	R		L		D			A	B		A		R		A
6	J	O	B	C	E	N	T	R	E		Q		U		m
7	E		I		W			M	E		U		N		I
8	T		E		A			A	N	T	I	C	K	E	D
9			S		X				I		O		Y		O
10					I					Z		N		E	L
11					N					Z		V		L	O
12					G					I		I		A	G
13										E		V		S	I
14			R	O	O	F	T	O	P	S		E		H	E
15															S

PLAYER A	SCORE		PLAYER 5	SCORE	
ADHARMA	84	84	GOMBEEN	89	89
TIZzIES	90	174	ALFAQUI	73	162
CONVIVE	96	270	UNDRUNK	88	250
EYELASH	93	363	PYRAmID	134	384
OLOGIES	137	500	JOBCENTRE	72	456
WATERJET	221	721	DEWAXING	130	586
TRILBIES	74	795	ROOFTOPS	73	659
UE	-2	793		+2	671

Ratings Snapshot

Top 200 at 11 May 2021

1	David Eldar	2130	68	Dianne Davis	1436	135	Tracey Kneebone	1248
2	Chris May	2078	69	Alan Burn	1429	136	Christie Godby	1245
3	Jakob Teitelbaum	2040	70	Greg Pinchbeck	1427	137	Francoise Finlayson	1243
4	Andrew Fisher	2009	71	Chris Scholten	1421	138	Susan Roberts	1243
5	Naween Fernando	1938	72	Malcolm McAnulty	1418	139	Maureen See	1242
6	Anand Bharadwaj	1933	73	Adam Kauschke	1412	140	Sandra Masel	1240
7	Esther Perrins	1925	74	Barry Harridge	1409	141	Lorraine Thomas	1235
8	Cameron Farlow	1890	75	Khen Meering	1406	142	Alex Lam	1232
9	Peter Kougi	1870	76	Therese Nichols	1405	143	Janine Whittaker	1231
10	Edward Okulicz	1851	77	John Barker	1402	144	John Hayes	1231
11	Daniel Piechnick	1837	78	Sharon Sorensen	1402	145	Wendy Taylor	1231
12	Trevor Halsall	1835	79	Peter Shaw	1401	146	Anne Schick	1226
13	Michael Cameron	1797	80	Trish Brighton	1401	147	Marjorie Giffen	1221
14	Joanne Craig	1780	81	Julie Brice	1401	148	Natalie Tadday	1220
15	David Vanzyl	1775	82	Kerry Constable	1400	149	Anne Stewart	1218
16	Graham Bell	1742	83	Tony Williams	1399	150	Rob York	1217
17	Victor Tung	1737	84	Roberta Tait	1398	151	Moana Nepia	1214
18	Wayne Jones	1732	85	Lexie Neale	1395	152	Noel Coulter	1214
19	Mythili Rudra	1728	86	Gwen Lampre	1392	153	Elaine Capewell	1210
20	Karen Richards	1727	87	Louise Love	1386	154	Yvonne Edwards	1205
21	Adam Kretschmer	1723	88	Caroline Polak Scowcroft	1384	155	Patti Ashwin	1202
22	Stephen Mooney Pursell	1721	89	Olga Visser	1382	156	Jeanette Hansen	1202
23	Rael Hayman	1704	90	Marj Miller	1379	157	Robin Andersen	1200
24	Carmel Dodd	1703	91	Geoff Shepheard	1379	158	Tim Walton	1200
25	Bob Jackman	1698	92	Keri Heart	1367	159	Khwanjai Thammaping	1188
26	John Holgate	1693	93	Colleen Birch	1367	160	Mal Eden	1186
27	Andrew Hamblin	1685	94	Monica Dwyer	1367	161	Frank Csarics	1184
28	John Hamilton	1666	95	Chris Ostrowski	1358	162	Kannan Sethuraman	1183
29	Rod Talbot	1648	96	Margaret Neal	1356	163	Hanne Marks	1176
30	Joan Rosenthal	1639	97	Jenny Brysha	1355	164	Rhona Kenyon	1174
31	Trevor Tao	1627	98	Keith Bioletti	1353	165	Yvette Copley	1171
32	Nick Ivanovski	1621	99	Felicity Devitt	1351	166	Jenny Schafer	1168
33	Geoff Wright	1611	100	Lainie Chojna	1353	167	Tony Kalayzich	1167
34	Simon Walton	1596	101	Angie Pearse	1349	168	Cori Lodder	1166
35	Tony Hunt	1593	102	Karrin Henderson	1346	169	John Salmon	1162
36	Jane Taylor	1584	103	Liz Blanch	1343	170	Marion Miller	1161
37	John Spaan	1578	104	Benjamin Lee	1339	171	Arlene Williams	1160
38	Jane Brown	1563	105	Margaret Griggs	1333	172	Betty Smith	1154
39	Nat Podesser	1563	106	Margaret Webb	1329	173	Victoria Gates	1153
40	Ronnie Bennett	1563	107	Hailey Sutton	1328	174	Glen Chandler	1150
41	Norma Fisher	1562	108	Faye Williams	1323	175	Dianne Gibson	1149
42	Paul Richards	1561	109	Phillip Hamilton	1323	176	Judy Mansfield	1149
43	Tony Miller	1559	110	Martin Waterworth	1322	177	Alan Mathews	1141
44	Chris Hall	1558	111	Judy Godfrey	1320	178	Rowena Vnuk	1135
45	Noel Barrett	1556	112	Shaun Donnelly	1314	179	Leslie Smith	1134
46	Rocky Sharma	1540	113	Penny Wells	1312	180	Dieter Jedamski	1133
47	Michael Vnuk	1532	114	John Rider	1309	181	Peter Wilkins	1133
48	Dianne Ward	1530	115	Rhonda Rickard	1309	182	Paula Messer	1132
49	Graeme Lock Lee	1524	116	Tim Reddan	1306	183	Lynne Jarvis	1131
50	Edie Mueller	1524	117	Margaret Bishop	1303	184	Helen Jones	1131
51	Ian Ting	1510	118	Kris Howat	1296	185	Alison Pollard	1128
52	Sheryl Davidson	1503	119	Cheryle Jerram	1294	186	Rob Marotta	1128
53	Antony Kimber	1493	120	Shirley de Silva	1292	187	Jane Walker	1128
54	Jegatheva Jegathesan	1483	121	Jan Hill	1289	188	Bernice Jonathan	1127
55	Ivor Zetler	1482	122	Rod Casey	1289	189	Bonnie Donehue	1125
56	Carol Johnsen	1474	123	Jacqui Pearce	1285	190	Owen Randall	1124
57	Mark Smith	1471	124	Larrie Strautmanis	1279	191	Karyn Crease	1124
58	Antonios Syrigos	1468	125	Richard Birch	1277	192	Wendi Symes	1122
59	Dianne Brumby	1467	126	Susan MacGillivray	1274	193	Rhonda Reynish	1117
60	Heather Long	1463	127	Norma Tracey	1270	194	Oscar Ivanovski	1113
61	Martin Rose	1460	128	Peter Bauer	1269	195	Margaret Berliner	1107
62	Jyoti Chandna	1454	129	Glenys Logan	1269	196	Sunny Wright	1105
63	Arnold Appelhof	1452	130	Darren Chaitman	1265	197	Beth Peters	1105
64	Alex Boiko	1449	131	June Valentine	1263	198	Donna Sekkouah	1102
65	Garth van Vliet	1441	132	Gary Pollard	1262	199	Kerry Reimers	1098
66	Kashi Thirisi	1441	133	Margaret Gibson	1258	200	Jean Gillespie	1096
67	Jon Ford-King	1437	134	Sue Gergelifi	1249			

Slur Words Deleted

This is a list of deleted words deemed by an American committee to be slur words. This has been compiled by a researcher who compared CSW19 with a newer list.

There may be more comprehensive lists available later and we would hope to publish them here when they become available..

ABO	BUFTIES	DYKIER	GYPPING	KAFFIRBOOM
ABOS	BUFTY	DYKIEST	GYPPO	KAFFIRBOOMS
AMAKWEREKWERE	BULLDIKE	FAGGERIES	GYPPOS	KAFFIRS
ASPIE	BULLDIKES	FAGGERY	GYPSTER	KAFIR
ASPIES	BULLDYKE	FAGGIER	GYPSTERS	KAFIRS
BAASES	BULLDYKES	FAGGIEST	HAOLE	KANAKA
BACKRA	BUMBOY	FAGGOTIER	HAOLES	KANAKAS
BACKRAS	BUMBOYS	FAGGOTIEST	HARELIP	KIKE
BAKRA	CHINKIE	FAGGOTRIES	HARELIPPED	KIKES
BAKRAS	CHINKIES	FAGGOTRY	HARELIPS	LES
BANTU	CHOLO	FAGGOTY	HASBIAN	LESBO
BANTUS	CHOLOS	FAGGY	HASBIANS	LESBOS
BINGHI	COCKSUCKER	GAMMAT	HONKEY	LESES
BINGHIS	COCKSUCKERS	GAMMATS	HONKEYS	LEZ
BINT	COOLIE	GINZO	HONKIE	LEZES
BINTS	COOLIES	GINZOES	HONKIES	LEZZ
BLACKAMOOR	COOLY	GINZOS	HONKY	LEZZA
BLACKAMOORS	COPPERSKIN	GIPPO	HORI	LEZZAS
BLACKFELLA	COPPERSKINS	GIPPOES	HORIS	LEZZES
BLACKFELLAS	CRACKA	GIPPOS	HUNKEY	LEZZIE
BOCHE	CRACKAS	GOLLIWOG	HUNKEYS	LEZZIES
BOCHES	CRIP	GOLLIWOGG	HUNKIE	LEZZY
BOGTROTTER	CRIPPLEDOM	GOLLIWOGGS	HUNKIES	LUBRA
BOGTROTTERS	CRIPPLEDOMS	GOLLIWOGS	JESUIT	LUBRAS
BOHUNK	CRIPS	GOLLYWOG	JESUITIC	MICK
BOHUNKS	DAGO	GOLLYWOGS	JESUITICAL	MICKS
BOONG	DAGOES	GOY	JESUITICALLY	MOFFIE
BOONGA	DAGOS	GOYIM	JESUITISM	MOFFIES
BOONGAS	DARKEY	GOYISCH	JESUITISMS	MONGED
BOONGS	DARKEYS	GOYISH	JESUITRIES	MONGOL
BOSCHE	DARKIE	GOYISHE	JESUITRY	MONGOLIAN
BOSCHES	DARKIES	GOYS	JESUITS	MONGOLISM
BOSSBOY	DARKY	GRINGA	JEW	MONGOLISMS
BOSSBOYS	DIKEY	GRINGAS	JEWED	MONGOLOID
BUBBA	DIKIER	GRINGO	JEWING	MONGOLOIDS
BUBBAS	DIKIEST	GRINGOS	JEWS	MONGOLS
BUCKRA	DOGAN	GYPPED	JIGABOO	MULATRESS
BUCKRAS	DOGANS	GYPPER	JIGABOOS	MULATRESSES
BUFTIE	DYKEY	GYPPERS	KAFFIR	MULATTA

MULATTAS	NIGGERED	PICKANINNIES	REDNECK	SKIMO
MULATTO	NIGGERHEAD	PICKANINNY	REDNECKED	SKIMOS
MULATTOES	NIGGERHEADS	PICKNEY	REDNECKS	SPASTICS
MULATTOS	NIGGERIER	PICKNEYS	REDSKIN	SPAZ
MULATTRESS	NIGGERIEST	PIKEY	REDSKINS	SPAZZ
MULATTRESSES	NIGGERING	PIKEYS	REFFO	SPAZZED
MUNT	NIGGERISH	POLACK	REFFOS	SPAZZES
MUNTS	NIGGERISM	POLACKS	RETARDATE	SPAZZING
MUNTU	NIGGERISMS	POOFIER	RETARDATES	SPIC
MUNTUS	NIGGERLING	POOFIEST	SAKAI	SPICKS
NANCE	NIGGERLINGS	POOFS	SAKAIS	SPICS
NANCES	NIGGERS	POOFTAH	SCHIZIER	SPIK
NANCIER	NIGGERY	POOFTAHS	SCHIZIEST	SPIKS
NANCIES	NITCHIE	POOFTER	SCHIZO	SQUAW
NANCIEST	NITCHIES	POOFTERS	SCHIZOS	SQUAWMAN
NANCIFIED	NONHANDICAPPED	POOFY	SCHIZY	SQUAWMEN
NANCY	NONPAPIST	POOVE	SCHIZZIER	SQUAWS
NEGRESS	NONPAPISTS	POOVERIES	SCHIZZIEST	TAIG
NEGRESSES	OCTAROON	POOVERY	SCHIZZY	TAIGS
NEGRO	OCTAROONS	POOVES	SCHVARTZE	TOWELHEAD
NEGROES	OCTOROON	POOVIER	SCHVARTZES	TOWELHEADS
NEGROHEAD	OCTOROONS	POOVIEST	SCHWARTZE	UMLUNGU
NEGROHEADS	OFAY	POOVY	SCHWARTZES	UMLUNGUS
NEGROID	OFAYS	POPERIES	SEMIMUTE	VENDU
NEGROIDAL	PAPISH	POPERY	SEMIMUTES	VENDUS
NEGROIDS	PAPISHER	POPISH	SHEENEY	WETBACK
NEGROISM	PAPISHERS	POPISHLY	SHEENEYS	WETBACKS
NEGROISMS	PAPISHES	POUFTAH	SHEENIE	WHITEYS
NEGROPHIL	PAPISM	POUFTAHS	SHEENIES	WHITIES
NEGROPHILE	PAPISMS	POUFTER	SHEGETZ	WIGGA
NEGROPHILES	PAPIST	POUFTERS	SHEMALE	WIGGAS
NEGROPHILISM	PAPISTIC	QUADROON	SHEMALES	WIGGER
NEGROPHILISMS	PAPISTICAL	QUADROONS	SHICKSA	WIGGERS
NEGROPHILIST	PAPISTICALLY	QUARTEROON	SHICKSAS	WOG
NEGROPHILISTS	PAPISTRIES	QUARTEROONS	SHIKSA	WOGGISH
NEGROPHILS	PAPISTRY	QUASHEE	SHIKSAS	WOGS
NEGROPHOBE	PAPISTS	QUASHEES	SHIKSE	WOOFTAH
NEGROPHOBES	PECKERWOOD	QUASHIE	SHIKSEH	WOOFTAHS
NEGROPHOBIA	PECKERWOODS	QUASHIES	SHIKSEHS	WOOFTER
NEGROPHOBIAS	PICANINNIES	QUEERDOM	SHIKSES	WOOFTERS
NIGER	PICANINNY	QUEERDOMS	SHIRTLIFTER	YID
NIGERS	PICCANIN	QUINTROON	SHIRTLIFTERS	YIDS
NIGGER	PICCANINNIES	QUINTROONS	SHKOTZIM	ZAMBO
NIGGERDOM	PICCANINNY	RAGHEAD	SHVARTZE	ZAMBOS
NIGGERDOMS	PICCANINS	RAGHEADS	SHVARTZES	

Our Seven Up Series. Part 4: New South Wales

New South Wales has hosted 7 Australian Championships. Previous Champions were Chris May (2021), Daniel Piechnick (2014), David Eldar (2007), Paul Cleary (1999), Joan Rosenthal (1995), Nick Ivanovski (1990) and John Holgate in 1987.

Our national website archives were created in 1998. The following table shows entry numbers for those four events.

Entry Numbers			
	<i>Championship</i>	<i>Plate</i>	<i>Total</i>
1999	90	—	90
2007	116	43	159
2014	88	66	154
2021	48	42	90

Of these 12 players took part in the last four events, 34 in three of them, 69 in two of them and 206 in one of them.

Average scores have gradually edged up over time whilst Championship averages have remained about 30 points higher than Plate averages.

Average Scores		
	<i>Championship</i>	<i>Plate</i>
1999	376	—
2007	383	354
2014	396	366
2021	400	369

The highest average score by any player was 467 by David Eldar in this year's event.

The high game by any player was Peter Kougi's score of 664 in 2021. The high word over the four events went to Peter Kougi (**FLAKIEST** in 2014) and Paul Cleary (**IDEOLOGY** in 1999), who both scored 176.

John Holgate won the first Australian Championship held in Sydney in 1987. In 2021, some 34 years later, he finished 12th in the Championship.

WINNING WORDS Updated for Collins 2019 (CSW19)

All the twos, threes and fours logically grouped into hooks and part of speech, with definitions of all unusual words, new words italicised, large font for easy reading.

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