



# ACROSS THE BOARD



David Eldar wins the WESPA Championship in Las Vegas

# CASPA Office Holders

---

**CASPA Coordinator:** Carol Johnsen **VIC**

---

**Newsletter Editor ATB:** Richard Birch **NSW**

---

## **Trademark (Mattel)**

**Liaison Officer:** Carol Johnsen **VIC**

---

**Youth Coordinator:** Tony Hunt **NSW**

---

**Treasurer:** John Hamilton **ACT**

---

**Rules Officer:** CASPA Coordinator (*Carol Johnsen*) **VIC**

---

**Web Coordinator:** Barry Harridge **VIC**

---

### **Aust Capital Territory**

President ~ Tim Reddan  
[treddan@iinet.net.au](mailto:treddan@iinet.net.au)  
Treasurer ~ Owen Randall  
[ojr@netspeed.com.au](mailto:ojr@netspeed.com.au)  
Secretary/Public Officer ~  
Lexia Smallwood  
[lexiahome@gmail.com](mailto:lexiahome@gmail.com)

### **New South Wales**

President ~ Bob Jackman  
[rjackman@ozemail.com.au](mailto:rjackman@ozemail.com.au)  
0400 226 541  
Treasurer ~ John Holgate  
[john.holgate@ozemail.com.au](mailto:john.holgate@ozemail.com.au)  
0413 168 548  
Membership ~ Colleen Birch  
[colleenbirch@gmail.com](mailto:colleenbirch@gmail.com)

### **Queensland**

President ~ Paul Richards  
[paulrichards7@gmail.com](mailto:paulrichards7@gmail.com)  
Sec/Treasurer/  
Judy Mason 0481 179 636  
[jmasp@optusnet.com.au](mailto:jmasp@optusnet.com.au)  
Membership Jane Brown 0417 903 079  
[Jb.edits@bigpond.net.au](mailto:Jb.edits@bigpond.net.au)

### **South Australia**

President - Jane Taylor  
[jsroadshow@gmail.com](mailto:jsroadshow@gmail.com)  
0408 981 833  
Treasurer - Judy Mansfield  
[jfm9594@icloud.com](mailto:jfm9594@icloud.com)  
0415 568 603

### **Tasmania**

President ~ Martin Rose  
[Martin@TheRoses.com](mailto:Martin@TheRoses.com)  
0427 664 342  
Vice President: Jan Hill  
[Jhill03@bigpond.net.au](mailto:Jhill03@bigpond.net.au)  
0417 058 214  
Secretary: Margaret Bishop  
[bishopm@y7mail.com](mailto:bishopm@y7mail.com)  
0455 134 060  
Treasurer and membership officer:  
Jon Ford – King  
[jfordking@yahoo.com](mailto:jfordking@yahoo.com)  
0437 140 314

### **Victoria**

[www.scrabblevictoria.org.au](http://www.scrabblevictoria.org.au)  
President - Nick Ivanovski  
Vice President - Christie Godby  
Secretary - Carol Johnsen  
Treasurer - Peter Kougi

### **Western Australia**

President ~ Chris Hall

Closing date for  
contributions to next  
issue of **Across the Board**  
**7 November 2023**

## WESPA Championship

What an exciting time it was when, in Las Vegas in July, David Eldar defeated Harshan Lambadasuriya of England to become the 2023 WESPA Champion on the final day in the play-off (best of 7 games) between 1st & 2nd of the 132 players who participated. It went down to the wire. This is the second time David has won the title, the first was in 2017 and it was, once again, defeating Harshan in the best of five games then.

Australia's team quota of 13 placed:

- 5 Andrew Fisher (Vic)
- 16 Russell Honeybun (WA)
- 28 Trevor Halsall (Vic)
- 31 Anand Bharadwaj (Vic)
- 63 Cameron Fisher (Qld)
- 67 John Holgate (NSW)
- 73 Bob Jackman (NSW)
- 87 Sally Martin (WA)
- 98 Jane Taylor (SA)
- 108 Adam Kretschmer (SA)
- 113 Paul Richards (Qld)
- 115 Graeme Lock Lee (NSW)
- 120 Karen Richards (Qld)

## WESPA Biennial General Meeting

Elections were held for the Executive Committee with Chris Lipe (Chair), Jason Broersma (Treasurer) and myself [Carol Johnsen] (Secretary) elected unopposed. The results of the election for the 8 committee members are:

- Lukeman Omo-Owolabi (Liberia)
- Tariq Pervez (Pakistan)
- Toke Ada (Nigeria)
- Tony Leah (NASPA - US & Canada)
- Limo Kipkemoi (Kenya)
- Wayne Kelly (ABSP - UK)
- Haruna Adamu (Ghana)
- Kong Chock Heng (Malaysia)

The following resolution from Australia was resoundingly carried:

THAT WESPA highlights to the Scrabble brand-holders the angst the expurgation has caused and ask the next word list update be done by Collings with no interference from Mattel.

## SCRABBLE as a demonstration sport in Official African Games

Yes, that's right - Along with other demonstration sports such as E-sports, mixed martial arts, pickleball, speedball, sambo and teoball. The 13th African Games takes place in Legon, Ghana from 8th - 23rd March 2024. Currently Nigeria, Kenya, Ghana, Uganda, South Africa, Zambia, Liberia, Sierra Leone, The Gambia, Cameroon and Botswana all promote the game in secondary schools, universities and Government-sponsored semi-professional players, hence the success in procuring this great opportunity.

## Masters/State Challenge, Sydney - 2 & 3 September

Good luck to all those competing in this annual event hosted by ASPA NSW this year at the Revesby Sports Club.. A special thank you to those who are playing so soon after having competed in the WESPA Championship.

WESPA Youth Cup and Side Tournament, Trang, Thailand - 30 November to 3 December 2023

Congratulations to the 8 young players who have qualified and to those who will be participating in Trang, Thailand in December 2023. The adult Side Event has prizemoney of \$US4000, with top players competing. For more info .

## ASPA (ACT) Annual Elections

Congratulations and welcome to Tim Reddan for his election as ACT President. Thanks to out-going President John Hamilton for his contributions and, more so, for his continued work as CASPA Treasurer.

*Carol Johnsen*

*In August 2023, the Australian Scrabble Community lost one of its greatest players, Chris May, who passed away due to complications from bowel cancer at just 39 years of age.*

His Scrabble career started at the Balmain Scrabble Club in 1999. The professionalism with which he carried himself during games was as remarked-upon as his aptitude. He made his tournament debut in September 1999, and in his first year improved his national ranking from 469 to 44. He entered the top 10 in 2003 and never looked back. He went on to be a fixture in the top 10 of the world rankings too, and always played like it.

He won two Australian Championships, State Championships in four states and took home trophies at major titles consistently. He represented Australia with great distinction at multiple World Championships and team events such as the Trans Tasman Challenge and the Alchemist Cup/Causeway Challenge where he was three times part of a winning Australian team.

All the while, he excelled in other parts of life. He completed a dual degree in Arts and Law

and his acuity in these fields was the same as in Scrabble. Both an accomplished musician and researcher, he earned a PhD from Oxford University, studying the music of Arvo Pärt. He played a number of other board games, was a keen squash player, and was an expert on cricket and tennis. He travelled extensively and intrepidly – including a trip to North Korea – and was as worldly as he was academic.

Chris continued to play Scrabble at a high level even after his diagnosis. His last major title came at the 2022 NSW Championships – seemingly nothing could affect his intellectual firepower. He loved the game and its community, counting many of us as personal friends, and contributed greatly to the organisational aspect of the game. He served on the NSW Committee for several years and was the driving force behind the creation of the WESPA Rules used in international tournaments.

Chris is survived by his wife Ksenia and daughter Natasha. When you remember him, keep them in your thoughts too. May we all learn from Chris's sterling example – try hard, work meticulously, and always look to do better.



A collection of wooden Scrabble tiles with various letters and numbers scattered across the top of the page. The tiles are light-colored with dark letters and numbers.

## AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

# 2024

(to be held in conjunction with the City of  
Sydney International Masters, January 27 & 28)

**WHEN:** Australia Day, Friday 26 January 2024,  
8.30am check-in for 9am start

---

**WHERE:** Bankstown Sports Club,  
8 Greenfield Parade, Bankstown  
(on-site accommodation available at Mercure Sydney Bankstown)

---

**FORMAT:** 8 games, 25 minutes per player,  
Australian Draw, CSW19

---

**ENTRY FEE:** \$30

---

**PRIZES:** Cash for 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2<sup>ND</sup> & 3<sup>RD</sup>,  
High game & High word

---

**ENTRIES TO ORGANISER:** Joanne Craig by email  
josephinite@aol.com  
(mobile on the day 0410509778)

---

**DIRECTOR:** Paul Richards

---

### *Some insights from David Eldar on the WESPA Championship and his games.*

The astonishing heatwave I faced upon exiting the airport was a sore reminder of why I don't ever spend too long in Vegas (in my heyday, I spent months living here in a house with 10 bros, and have visited a few times since). I am certainly a fan of Vegas - there are lots of great ways to entertain yourself, the food is of the highest level and I wish there was more time to go and see the exceptional shows that are on every night.

Jetlag is a killer - I couldn't stay up past 6pm and when I woke up it was 3am, so I ordered a boatload of fat American food to my door - as usual forgetting how portion sizing works in America and ending up with enough food for 3 moderately sized Scrabble players.

### WESPA Championship Games

Play took place in a giant ballroom which would have probably been classy in the 1970's but not now. The players barely filled the space which was at times good, but also a reminder of how far things have sunk for competitive Scrabble since I started playing. Certainly when this event was in the Riviera casino, there was a much bigger showing.

On Day 1 ended up with 6-2 (the last two games of the day). Olatunde Oduwale (Nigeria) dropped **ONA\*** against me, and I rode to a 6-0 start, before dropping to Henry and another frustrating loss to Wellington Jighere (Nigeria). Had a 600 margin win against Qatari player Maria Christine Caoile.

The regrets began on Day 2. Against Kevin Fraley (USA), I played an atrocious pre-endgame.

<https://www.cross-tables.com/annotated.php?u=43562#20>.

Here, what I need to do is score enough over two turns to prevent his bingo winning. Instead, what I did is exactly opposite that, draining my clock and settling on some pathetic equity play (I saw a lot of bingos to draw with **CEVT**), which loses to getting outscored or refished on, both consequences which I had considered. Simply **VOX**, or even blocking with **TEXT** would perform much better. **VOX** of course would have won this game comfortably, as well as several other

plays such as **WOVE** and **WIN**. This is a huge mistake, and in the end I lost by 5 points - the amount of points lost on my annoying challenge of **EGRESSED** - perhaps if I looked for **SLEDGERS** I would have left that alone, but I couldn't be certain it was valid.

A bad game against Joshua Castellano (Canada) was riddled with mistakes, but a lucky break against Russell Honeybun (Australia) as he let me get away with the atrocious **ALVEATE\***. I tilted against Alec Sjöholm (USA), playing too fast, opening - **OUB/AIRE**, missing **OUREBI**, which is a 10 point error and then lost the game.

Against Anand Bharadwaj I randomly missed **ENTRYIST** and later **REDSHIFT** with a blank, after using way too much time early.

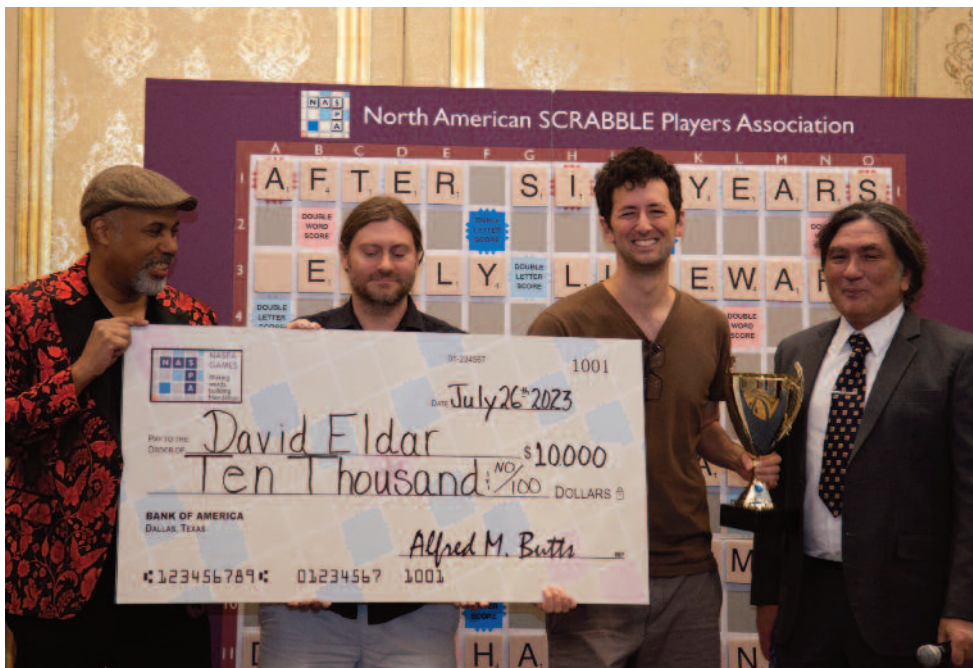
Against Thacha Kooiwrat (Thailand) I drew well and was cruising to an easy victory **UNTIL I DON'T** and the pre-endgame got tricky. I made a mistake and then emotionally checked out of the game. Even then, I still just had to **LOOK**, because it turns out all I had to do to win was **TO PLAY OUT AND I MISSED IT**. Missing an outplay is a new one for me - I'm legitimately not sure the last time I lost a game like that.

I play like garbage against Tony Leah already having written myself off for the tournament.

<https://www.cross-tables.com/annotated.php?u=43564#22>

I played fast and bad up to this point, randomly dropping 10 or 20 points of equity needlessly in a blur. After **EH** I was so bereft, I stared at this rack for ages ruing his block of **KEMBOS** and wondering how the hell I'm supposed to win this game. Then it came to me in a flash - the valid **SOKEMEN!** Tony cracked up when I played my move. What on earth was I thinking about!? Somehow he missed his fish and I go on to win this miracle game.

Double blanked again against Alec Sjöholm, I lose this heartbreaker when I had an easy win. I saw **EANED**, then **CREEDAL**. I remembered my game with Harshan - just take the 40 points. But these situations are very different and I was compensating for the wrong thing, another horrendous pre-endgame play - failing to block the obvious bingo line. I see **LEANED** a second after I play the clock and



David Eldar (3rd left) with Tournament Director Art Moore (left), WESPA Chair Chris Lipe (2nd left) and NASPA Exec John Chew (right)

sink through to the bottom of the Titanic when Alec slaps down **GIDDIEST**. I had feebly reasoned at least there was an **I** in the bag for me to draw and win with (he did in fact draw said **I**).

Against David Wiegand (USA), I miss **COZENER** for over 100 points after looking for minutes, then draw **DOGGIEST** onto my rack and simply **CANNOT** place it as a word anywhere in my memory. **DOGGIER** particularly sounds phoney. I can't decide and make some terrible inferior play, a 40 point

punt. As soon as I hit the clock I know it's valid, obviously. Somehow I win anyway.

Learning the 9s has really shifted my skill level and study regime in a much grosser way than I thought it would. **AORN** I think I have about a quarter of the 9s in my cardbox and I just don't feel like I'm anywhere near done with that project, and expect it to take at least 2-3 more years to completion. That said, that's what it takes to learn them, and I want to know them. Safe to say also without two elite players moving to Melbourne, I would never have become this good.

## 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

### **Annual Elections**

Congratulations and welcome to Tim Reddan for his election as ACT President. Thanks to out-going President John Hamilton for his contributions and, more so, for his continued work as CASPA Treasurer.

### **New South Wales**

*Scrabble NSW lost two of its longtime players during the quarter. Nonie English passed away quietly in early June after a short illness, having played continuously from 1998 through to 2018.*

Chris May lost his battle with cancer in early August. Despite the burden of treatment, Chris made it to Melbourne to compete in the Nationals one last time this year. He had previously won the Nationals in 2011 in Canberra and again in Sydney in 2021. He first played as a teenager at the Baulkham Hills Tournament in 1999 and from then on it was all uphill, as he rose to be third ranked player in the world at one stage.

His list of other Scrabble achievements are too numerous to include here, but include having won a British Championship while studying at Oxford and been a member of the thrice victorious Australian Team in the Malaysian Causeway Challenge. During his illness, Chris married his partner Ksenia and just prior to his passing became the proud father of Natasha.

### **Masters and State Challenge**

Scrabble NSW looks forward to hosting the Australian Masters and State Challenge at the Revesby Workers Club in early September. Onlookers can check our website for progressive results as the tournament unfolds.

Women should take note of the Australian Women's Championship, to take place on Australia Day at the prestigious Bankstown Sports Club, as a lead up to the City of Sydney Masters on the following two days at the same venue.

### **Tournament Roundup**

Six tournaments were played during the quarter with the first being the Central Coast

nearly Winter Tournament in late May. 28 players were split into three Divisions with Bob Jackman, John Linney and Krystyna Batten being the Divisional winners, all with 7 wins. Youth player Vinh Nguyen achieved the high word of the day with 107 for **WAITERS**. The tournament also saw to the return to directing of George Khamis.

Next up was Sydney's first ever Northern Beaches event held at the new Zetler residence in Newport. Thirteen people made the trip north, with the person travelling the furthest in Noel Barrett (from Goulburn) taking out the honours in only losing two of his 10 games. Liz Jackman achieved high word with **STRAINED** for 122.

Two weeks later we ventured south to Wollongong, where 40 players were split into 5 Divisions for a Round robin of 7 games. Joanne Craig, Lexie Neale, Marion Miller, Julie Banister and Vinh Nguyen were the Divisional winners. Joanne also achieved high game score with 600. At this tournament we also paid tribute to long term stalwart of the Wollongong Words Club Keith Bioletti who passed away earlier in the year.

The major event for the quarter was the Winter Masters on the weekend of 15th and 16th July. This event was run by Scrabble NSW as a stand alone event as in the early years, due to marked reduction in interest in the sister event the Winter Challenge. This year's Masters event belonged to Rod Talbot as he powered to a 17 out of 18 game win, winning his first 13 games on the trot picking up rating 133 points in the process. John Holgate and Bob Jackman occupied the minor placings, in preparation for their upcoming trip to Las Vegas for the Word Championships. Graeme Lock Lee, also Vegas-bound, found some of the limelight by notching both high game of 577 and high word of **STOCKADE** for 183 in the same game. He later found out that **STOCKADE** had been underscored by 20, bring the actual score to 203.

The last tournament for the quarter was the WYC fundraiser organised by junior Vinh Nguyen under the guidance of Tony Hunt. 24 players took part, including six new juniors from the Cabramatta area. Tony won the A



Division narrowly over Garth van Vliet, while Devorah Ullman of Waverley Club took out the honours in B Division. Tony also achieved a high game of 689 which was later found to be overscored by 14 points.

## Matchplay Progress

The Under 1300 Matchplay has progressed to the stage where 3 of the 4 Round 1 matches have been decided. Peter Griffiths, Sharon Sorensen and Steven Savona have all won through to the semifinals, with paired to next play each other in a best of 9.

In the Over 1300 Matchplay, Rael Hayman Joanne Craig and Greg Pinchbeck won their Round 1 clashes. Joanne has already progressed to the final by beating Greg Pinchbeck in their semifinal.

## Upcoming Tournaments

More information and flyers (where provided) for the following events can be found in our continually updated Tournament calendar on the Scrabble NSW website at <https://scrabble.org.au/nsw/>

Sunday 17th September – Revesby – Peter Griffiths 0432 638 994

Tuesday 26th September – Oatley – Tony Hunt 0417 470 167

Sat to Mon – 30th Sep to 2nd Oct – NSW Championship – Bob Jackman 0400 226 541

Saturday 14th September - Spring Marathon – Steven Savona 0411 815 981

Saturday 4th November - Lake Macquarie – Richard Birch 0418 428 459

Saturday 9th December – Bundanoon – John Hamilton – 0422 782 802

### Vale Jon Strang

**Members of Nowra and Bomaderry Clubs were saddened to learn of the recent death of Jon Strang.**

Jon brought Scrabble to the Shoalhaven when he started the Nowra Club in 1996. He played in many local tournaments and was the instigator of the popular Nowra tournament.

Always a keen competitor and wily opponent, Jon is greatly missed.

*Lexie Neale*

## Queensland

**Queenslanders played scrabble in a range of places this quarter. Local events were held in Coorparoo, Southport, Toowoomba and Townsville.**

The Queensland trio of Cameron Farlow, Karen Richards and Paul Richards travelled to Las Vegas to take part in the NASPA Double Down which included the WESPA Championship.

Preparations are well underway for the Queensland Championships to be held at Coorparoo on 19th & 20th August 2023. We already have entries from Brisbane, Toowoomba, Townsville, Victoria and New Zealand. Everyone is welcome to attend. There will be an award for the Queensland member with the highest rating gain over the last year.

It will also be the commencement of earning points towards the Queensland Tournament Player and Club of the Year awards that will be presented at the Queensland Championships each coming year.

Julie Brice has accepted the challenge to begin a review of the ASPA Queensland constitution and rules and aims to have an initial report for the AGM which is held in October.

*Paul Richards  
President Scrabble Queensland*

### Vale Lyn Mandelikova and Sheila Ward

I am sad to report that two Qldd players have passed away in the last month. Both Lyn and Sheila were long-time tournament players and members of Coorparoo Club. Both had illnesses, Lyn playing at club and in tournaments until 3 months ago.

Lyn played with groups of friends and local club in Redland, a number of days a week.

Sheila had long-term health issues and mostly only played at home, and still enjoyed cryptic crosswords in the last several years. She had travelled a lot and played in Townsville and in the Norfolk Scrabble Festival. They will be remembered and missed.

*Martin Waterworth*

## South Australia

*Every year SA holds its Scrabble SA Annual General Meeting (AGM) in the lunch break of a Scrabble tournament. We try to keep the formalities brief so we can get to the important business of playing Scrabble.*

The AGM was a bit different this year as the President (Jane Taylor) and two of our senior members were playing Scrabble in the USA. The meeting was chaired by the Vice President (Antony Kimber). As player numbers are still down due to COVID, and three members were overseas, we actively sought proxy representation for members not at the tournament. We had twelve members present at the meeting and eight represented by proxies easily meeting the quorum requirements.

Antony read the President's report supplied by Jane. This covered a busy year of tournaments in SA and detailed decisions voted on at CASPA. This was followed by the Treasurer's report given by Judy Mansfield. It was good to hear our funds are healthy but the drop in membership due to COVID is a concern.

The election of a new committee is always the highlight of an AGM. The remaining members of the last committee were standing again. A sixth member nominated to join the committee. The new SA Committee is Jane Taylor, Antony Kimber, Judy Mansfield, Daniel Piechnick, Tony Miller and Rowena Vnuk. In SA we finalise the officer roles at the first committee meeting after the AGM.

There was some discussion about the structure and timing of tournaments, and that was the AGM done and dusted.

The tournament was a 6 game tournament. As we only had 14 players, the tournament director took a show of hands to determine whether to play in two divisions or one. The preference was two divisions. Division A was a five game round robin followed by a "King of the Hill" playoff. Division B was Australian Draw. Baheej's win in Division B was close. Only one point of margin separated first and second place.

The novelty prize was based on the keyword **SOCCER** in honour of the 2023 Women's World Cup. A block of chocolate was the prize for high words starting with **S, O, C, E** and **R**. The high word ending in also scored a block of chocolate.

**Division A:** 1 Daniel Piechnick; **2** Francoise Finlayson; **3** Victoria Gates; **HG** Victoria Gate 516; **HW** Daniel Piechnick **JETPACK** 100

**Division B:** 1 Baheej Al Kassem; **2** Rowena Vnuk; **3** Louisa Atsas; **HG** Baheej Al Kassem 473; **HW** Neal Whibley **PIVOTED** 116

**Novelty Prizes:** Baheej Al Kassem **STEARIN**, Louisa Atsas **OXIDE**, Judy Mansfield **CARRIES**, Rowena Vnuk **HERMETIC**, Francoise Finlayson **EREV** and Kenn Rawlings **ROVER**.  
*Antony Kimber*

---

## Road Trip

Jane Taylor and I recently undertook a 1,600 km road trip in the name of scrabble. We headed off to Mount Gambier to check out the new venue for the Border Challenge being played in November between SA and Victoria. It was a dreary drizzly drive helped by a few bakery stops along the way and Jane's thermos.

We found the Masonic Lodge easily and checked out the facilities available. The Lodge itself has clearly been around for a while, retaining some faded grandeur, but perfectly set up for scrabble tournaments with lots of space, plenty of tables and chairs and a huge kitchen.

As luck would have it we had booked accommodation right next door at the Grand Central Motel. There is another motel across the road, a beautiful pub on the corner and a shopping centre just down the road.

The next morning we drove to Preston for the Victorian championship tournament. This was a beautiful trip through some scenic spots again checking out local bakeries along the way. However our bubble was somewhat burst by the 4 lane highway leading into Preston. After missing our turn off and backtracking we then crept through peak hour traffic towards our hotel. We were relieved to arrive and ready ourselves for the next 2 days of scrabble.

We set our sights for home the following day and had an uneventful trip until nearly there when we realised something was leaking from the car. After a quick stop to check the damage, Jane's husband assured us it was nothing serious and we should make it home safely. We trusted him and we did indeed arrive home safe but rather glad to be out of the car.

*Judy Mansfield*

## Tasmania

Check website for upcoming tournaments.

## Victoria

*By the time readers see this report, many things will have occurred.*

The Australian contingent will have returned from Las Vegas, with two Victorians coming in the top 5 and one of those, David Eldar, taking out the top prize at the WESPA Championship. David's list of accolades makes him unique in the World; the only player to have won a World Youth Scrabble Championship, a World Championship, and now a WESPA Championship.

The event was a hugely entertaining one to watch from a distance and I hope it inspires many more players to explore what international play has to offer.

The Victorian AGM will have taken place in August and, all things going smoothly, I will again have the honour of presiding over Scrabble Victoria.

The priority for the 2023/24 year will be one of membership growth. Like most parts of the country, Victoria has not been immune to a reduction in membership. Whilst ours has not been as marked as others, it is important to plan for the future and to ensure we are adopting a model that attracts players and keeps them coming back.

It is why we have introduced a membership initiative and explored event structures designed to be most attractive to new(er) players. A recent event – The Recreational – attracted nine new players to event play, by way of example.

There is a lot of work that needs to be done when it comes to growing our overall scene and I am proud of the work the Committee has put in.

The next year brings us to the leadup to the 40th anniversary of ASPA Victoria and it remains a goal to ensure we head into this milestone stronger than recent times.

Thank you for reading.

*Nick Ivanovski*

## Victorian Championship and the Tight Australian Format

This year's Victorian Championship was a fascinating event to observe, especially in the way everything ended up. The use of a Tight Australian Draw for the second year in a row has yielded valuable information when it comes to big event draw determination and I wanted to take the opportunity to share that with a wider audience.

For many a year, post-Nationals conversations tended to include discussion of how the draw can impact the outcome of the event, especially as the end of the event is reached. Resets done mid-event have meant that the top part of the field are likely to have played each other and we've ended up with first versus tenth in the final round, with second playing ninth or somesuch.

Many concepts were tried – and in last year's Victorian, the first iteration of what would be called a Tight Australian Draw was implemented. By the time, the 2023 Nationals came, a different iteration had been considered and applied.

The concept of Tight Australian, in very much a lay sense, is to try to guarantee a fairness in the draw; if you are doing well, you should always be playing people at the same level as you rather than continuing to play down the rest of the draw to avoid repeats. Equally, if you are not doing so well, the same concept applies except you are avoiding higher positioned players simply to avoid repeats.

I was fortunate to have a copy of the original Tight Australian and it has one advantage over later versions; repeats are unlimited. This is an advantage, especially around the top of the ladder: ideally, if you have a highly ranked player running away with the event, you want their draw to still be with top performing players as it is likely to bring them back to the field.

Which leads us to this year... how did everything go? This year's Victorian was held at The Olympic Hotel in Preston – the same venue as the 2022 AMSTC. The upstairs room was comfortable enough for 40 players (and could go to more), making it an ideal venue for an event like the Victorian.

Thirty eight players joined us for the King's Birthday weekend and played 18 games. Ten

S C R A B B L E

Victoria



THE  
VICTORIAN  
CHAMPIONSHIP

2 DAYS. 18 GAMES.

CSW 21. WESPA RATED

WHO WILL WIN IN JUNE?



@ THE OLYMPIC HOTEL, PRESTON - 10-11 JUNE 2023

*The Promo for the recent Victorian Championship*

## The Victorian Committee for 2023\24



games on day one and eight on the final day. It attracted players from NSW, Queensland, SA, and New Zealand in addition to a healthy number of local players. Players had access to food nearby for lunch, and were kept refreshed with continuous tea, coffee, and biscuits.

The field was strong with most of the top Victorian players in attendance (though the 2022 Champion had moved to the USA in the meantime) and, was therefore, a good test for how applicable the original Tight Australian draw worked (or didn't).

So... how did it go?

We had a repeat as early as Game 4 – repeats are expected but not this early!! Upon further inspection, this was the very definition of an extraordinary occurrence. Two players from the round one draw had different results in their next two and ended up playing each other very soon after.

This outlier aside, by the end of the tournament a pattern had emerged at the top.

Those who ended up top 3 - David Eldar, Edward Okulicz, and Andrew Fisher – had multiple repeats against different top level opponents. In this context, David's phenomenal effort of 16-2 was huge... and a precursor, possibly, of how well he would do in Las Vegas. His 16-2 record included 4 games against Edward (who came 2nd ), 3 games against Andrew (who came 3rd), 3 against Naweem, 2 against Trevor, and 2 against Geoff Wright. His win was very well deserved.

So far so good then? Not necessarily. The same effect that was happening at the top also played out at the other end of the ladder. Those who finished closer to the bottom had multiple repeats as well, and the reaction to this is not necessarily going to be the same as from those at the top.

What to make of all this, then? Is it worth continuing with... for me, the answer is yes. Using a draw format that can lead to the type of games David had to face to win a premier event should be continued with... but how to look at what happened at the other end of the ladder.

What happened at either end of the table occurred because the player rating make up resembled a bell curve. But there is a far greater number of players ranked below 1000 than there are above 1700 so that shouldn't be happening.

The draw format would not be as much of an issue if the event was made attractive to get more players, especially at lower ratings.

The need to attract more players has never been more crucial, especially with the challenges over the past 3 years. Finding ways to get more in will mean we can continue to run premier events like the Victorian and grow as an organization at the same time.

Thank you for reading.

*Nick Ivanovsk*

## **Western Australia**

Check website for upcoming tournaments.

# 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 Crocker 4369 2634

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

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

Lane Cove: Thursdays 5.30 to 9.00pm  
Julie Simonds, 0427 035 465

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

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

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 Oxyby ~ 4332 6485

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

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 12-4.30pm,  
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)

Baumaris ~ Sun 2pm ~ Marion Merickel ~ 6372 5337

Bellerive ~ Thu 7pm ~ Margaret Bishop ~ 6244 5545

Glenorchy ~ Tue 1pm ~ Jill Norton ~ 6228 1861

Kingborough ~ Tue 7.30pm ~ Khen Meerding ~ 6229 5840

Ulverstone ~ Wed 9.30am ~ Jan Hill ~ 6425 5415

## Victoria (area code 03)

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

Balwyn ~ Mon 1pm ~ 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 - Mon 4pm-6pm - Luke Breen - 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.

**343 pages - A5 format**

\$40 including postage ~ Mail cheque to:

Bob Jackman, 31 Gwandalan Crescent,  
Berowra NSW 2081

## MAGNIFICENT SEVENS

A new word book from  
*Bob Jackman*

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

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

174 pages – A5 format

**\$22.00** includes postage

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

# Results Roundup

## ACT

### 5.06.2023 ACT WINTER OPEN

**OPEN:** 1 John Spaan; 2 John Hamilton; 3 Ronnie Bennett; **HG** Tony Williams 544; **HW** Tony Williams **QUINTAS** 136

**15.07.2023 ACT** AGM: 1 John Hamilton; 2 Tim Reddan; 3 Owen Randall; **HG** John Hamilton 566; **HW** John Hamilton **WELDING** 103

## NSW

### 21.05.2023 CCNEARLYWINTER3

**A SECTION:** 1 Bob Jackman; 2 Joanne Craig; 3 Rod Talbot; **HG** Bob Jackman 543; **HW** Tony Hunt **REINKED** 92

**B SECTION:** 1 John Linney; 2 Margaret Berliner; 3 Josie Mally; **HG** Norma Tracey 551; **HW** Donna Macdonald **TAKEOUT** 94

**C SECTION:** 1 Krystyna Batten; 2 Liz Jackman; 3 Kathryn Tiffen; **HG** Vinh Nguyen 565; **HW** Vinh Nguyen **WAITERS** 107

### 10.06.2023 Newport Inaugural

**OPEN:** 1 Noel Barrett; 2 Bob Jackman; 3 Ivor Zetler; **HG** Bob Jackman 559; **HW** Liz Jackman **STRAINED** 122

### 24.06.2023 Wgong Winter

**A:** 1 Joanne Craig; 2 Ryan Sutton; 3 Bob Jackman; **HG** Joanne Craig 600; **HW** Noel Barrett **WEARING** 104

**B:** 1 Lexie Neale; 2 Monica Dwyer; 3 Therese Nichols; **HG** Lexie Neale 505; **HW** Natalie Tadday **REVISIT** 103

**C:** 1 Marion Miller; 2 Sharon Sorensen; 3 Barbara Joffe; **HG** Marion Miller 520; **HW** Marion Miller **BANDIER** 89

**D:** 1 Julie Banister; 2 Ann Fiddler; 3 Dorothy Fields; **HG** Dorothy Fields 491; **HW** Ann Fiddler **EXTERIOR** 95

**E:** 1 Vinh Nguyen; 2 Liz Jackman; 3 Daniel Guilfoyle; **HG** Kelvin Korn 470; **HW** Kelvin Korn **THRIVES** 90

### 04.07.2023 OITO JULY

**OPEN:** 1 Tony Hunt; 2 Rael Hayman; 3 Garth van Vliet; **HG** Tony Hunt 633; **HW** Rael **UNTIEING** 140

### 16.07.2023 2023 Winter Masters

**OPEN:** 1 Rod Talbot; 2 John Holgate; 3 Bob Jackman; **HG** Graeme Lock Lee 577; **HW** Graeme Lock Lee **STOCKADE** 185

### 22.07.2023 WYC Fundraiser July

**A:** 1 Tony Hunt; 2 Garth van Vliet; 3 Ryan Sutton; **HG** Tony Hunt 689; **HW** Tony Hunt **ESCOTED** 126

**B:** 1 Devorah Ullman; 2 Vinh Nguyen; 3 Lara Cassar; **HG** Kelvin Korn 573; **HW** Vinh Nguyen **RESEWING** 110

## QLD

### 14.05.2023 Queensland May

**A:** 1 Cameron Farlow; 2 Karen Richards6; Blanch; **HG** Cameron Farlow 590; **HW** Martin Waterworth **DOWAGERS** 131

**B:** 1 Vicki Russell; 2 Kerry Reimers; 3 Karen Woodhead; **HG** Jenny Schafer 487; **HW** Ashwin Page **SEEDING** 119

### 04.06.2023 Southport Winter

**A:** 1 Cameron Farlow; 2 Paul Richards; 3 Karen Richards; **HG** Sue Gergelifi 610; **HW** Sue Gergelifi **SQUARING** 212

**B:** 1 Patti Ashwin; 2 Ted De Boer; 3 Graham Bradley; **HG** Graham Bradley 477

### 17.06.2023 Toowoomba Winter

**A:** 1 Paul Richards; 2 Karen Richards; 3 Karrin Henderson; **HG** Karen Richards 571; **HW** Karen Richards **ANXIOUS** 110

**B:** 1 Yvette Copley; 2 Anne Hough; 3 Jenny Schafer; **HG** Leslie Smith 517; **HW** Jenny Schafer **MANGLER** 91

### 16.07.2023 July Jaunt

**ALL:** 1 Cameron Farlow; 2 Roberta Tait; 3 Liz Blanch; **HG** Cameron Farlow 565; **HW** Kerry Reimers **WAKINGS** 122

### 29.07.2023 Townsville Saturday

**Round Robin:** 1 Julie Brice; 2 Julie Walder; 3 Liz Blanch; **HG** Julie Brice 520; **HW** Julie Walder **GUARDING** 158

### 30.07.2023 Townsville Sunday

**Round Robin:** 1 Helen Hynes; 2 Julie Brice; 3 Rob York; **HG** Julie Brice 508; **HW** Martin Waterworth **INCOMES** 106



---

### 10.08.2023 Thursday

**A:** 1 Karen Woodhead; **2** Jeanette Hansen; **3** Karrin Henderson; **HG** Karrin Henderson 480

## SA

---

### 13.05.2023 Sat Sessions May

**A:** 1 Carmel Dodd; **2** Daniel Piechnick; **3** Jane Taylor; **HG** Daniel Piechnick 570; **HW** Carmel Dodd **DEONTICS** 143

**B:** 1 Baheej Al Kassem; **2** Helen Jones; **3** Paula Brown; **HG** Helen Jones 477; **HW** Elana Jaremyrn **TAVERNS** 88

---

### 13.05.2023 Sat Sessions May

**A:** 1 Carmel Dodd; **2** Daniel Piechnick; **3** Jane Taylor; **HG** Daniel Piechnick 570; **HW** Carmel Dodd **DEONTICS** 143

**B:** 1 Baheej Al Kassem; **2** Helen Jones; **3** Paula Brown; **HG** Helen Jones 477; **HW** Elana Jaremyrn **TAVERNS** 88

---

### 21.05.2023 May 4-4 Option

**OPEN:** 1 Daniel Piechnick; **2** Carmel Dodd; **3** Michael Vnuk; **HG** Antony Kimber 606; **HW** Tony Miller **OVERHANG** 167

---

### 03.06.2023 Social Scrabble June 3

**A:** 1 Adam Kretschmer; **2** Antony Kimber; **3** Daniel Piechnick; **HG** Daniel Piechnick 506; **HW** Adam Kretschmer **ENJOYED** 117

**B:** 1 Helen Jones; **2** Susan Roberts; **3** Baheej Al Kassem; **HG** Susan Roberts 475; **HW** Susan Roberts **MARQUEES** 134

**C:** 1 Elana Jaremyrn; **2** Paula Brown; **3** Jane Li; **HG** Paula Brown 429; **HW** Jane Li **SAMURAI** 88

---

### 18.06.2023 SA June

**A:** 1 Jane Taylor; **2** Daniel Piechnick; **3** Carmel Dodd; **HG** Jane Taylor 542; **HW** Susan Roberts **SEMESTER** 131

**B:** 1 Baheej Al Kassem; **2** Rowena Vnuk; **3** Tim Guidera; **HG** Rowena Vnuk 509; **HW** Rowena Vnuk **EXHAUST** 90

---

### 08.07.2023 Saturday Sessions July

**A:** 1 Daniel Piechnick; **2** Jane Taylor; **3** Adam Kretschmer; **HG** Daniel Piechnick 503; **HW** Daniel Piechnick **MOOTING** 90

**B:** 1 Susan Roberts; **2** Fiona Braendler; **3** Wendi Symes; **HG** Wendi Symes 492; **HW** Paula Brown **PIERCED** 99

---

### 23.07.2023 SA July

**A:** 1 Daniel Piechnick; **2** Francoise Finlayson; **3** Victoria Gates; **HG** Victoria Gates 516; **HW** Daniel Piechnick **JETPACK** 100

**B:** 1 Baheej Al Kassem; **2** Rowena Vnuk; **3** Louisa Atsas; **HG** Baheej Al Kassem 473; **HW** Neal Whibley **PIVOTED** 116

---

### 05.08.2023 Saturday Sessions August

**A:** 1 Tony Miller; **2** Daniel Piechnick; **3** Adam Kretschmer; **HG** Adam Kretschmer 520; **HW** Daniel Piechnick **OUTBOXES** 110

**B:** 1 Judy Mansfield; **2** Francoise Finlayson; **3** Fiona Braendler; **HG** Baheej Al Kassem 496; **HW** Francoise Finlayson **RELAXES** 94

---

## TAS

---

### 21.05.2023 East Coast Two Day

**OPEN:** 1 Martin Rose; **2** Margaret Griggs; **3** Jon Ford-King; **HG** Ros Wilkinson 553; **HW** Jan Hill **WRAPPERS** 113

---

### 24.06.2023 Bellerive June Saturday

**OPEN:** 1 Jon Ford-King; **2** Khen Meerding; **3** Margaret Webb; **HG** Jan Hill 535; **HW** Jon Ford-king **ANTIGAY** 108

---

### 25.06.2023 Bellerive June Sunday

**OPEN:** 1 Pam Thomas; **2** Marion Merickel; **3** Ros Wilkinson; **HG** Margaret Griggs 518; **HW** Jon Ford-king **ANTIGAY** 108

---

### 15.07.2023 Kingston July Saturday

**OPEN:** 1 Helen Metaxas; **2** Jon Ford-King; **3** Margaret Webb; **HG** Ros Wilkinson 534; **HW** Cindy Brunniche **DORKIEST** 102

---

### 16.07.2023 Kingston July Sunday

**OPEN:** 1 Khen Meerding; **2** Lynne Jarvis; **3** Helen Metaxas; **HG** Margaret Bishop 532; **HW** Margaret Bishop **BEACHES** 102

---

## VIC

---

### 28.05.2023 SCRABBLE IN MAY 23

**A:** 1 Carol Johnsen; **2** Nick Ivanovski; **3** Angie Pearse; **HG** Nick Ivanovski 541; **HW** Rob Hutchinson **BANTERS** 101

**B:** 1 Christiane McCann; **2** Glen Chandler; **3** Frank Csarics; **HG** Christiane McCann 505; **HW** Doreen Ivanovski **SQUIRTS** 102

---

### 10.06.2023 Victorian Champs

**CHAMPIONSHIP:** 1 David Eldar; 2 Edward Okulicz; 3 Andrew Fisher; **HG** Andrew Fisher 651; **HW** Naween Fernando **IGNOBLER** 149

---

### 25.06.2023 Match Play Kickoff

**MATCH PLAY:** 1 Oscar Ivanovski; 2 Geoff Wright; 3 Carmel Dodd; **HG** Carmel Dodd 523; **HW** Rob York **RESTRAIN** 113

---

### 09.07.2023 MIDWINTER

**A:** 1 Geoff Wright; 2 Nick Ivanovski; 3 Oscar Ivanovski; **HG** Nick Ivanovski 523; **HW** Carol Johnsen **REINVEST** 95

**B:** 1 Glen Chandler; 2 Carol Mascitti; 3 Lay-Hoon Ng; **HG** Angie Winkler 504; **HW** Doreen Ivanovski **QUIZZES** 122

---

### 23.07.2023 Watsonia

**A:** 1 Nick Ivanovski; 2 Geoff Wright; 3 Heather Long; **HG** Neil McLean 484; **HW** Neil McLean **REVISIT** 99

**B:** 1 Sylvia Galloway; 2 Carol Mascitti; 3 Angie Winkler; **HG** Sylvia Galloway 507; **HW** Angie Winkler **JAMMERS** 91

---

### 30.07.2023 Recreational

**RECREATIONAL:** 1 Mardi Healy; 2 Judith Westwood; 3 Carol Rollmann; **HG** Angie Winkler 502; **HW** Rhonda Wells **HOOKIEST** 80

---

### 13.08.2023 The Classic/AGM 2023

**A:** 1 Geoff Wright; 2 Naween Fernando; 3 Nick Ivanovski; **HG** David Eldar 732; **HW** David Eldar **ENDOZOIC** 131

**B:** 1 Elizabeth McKean; 2 Frank Csarics; 3 Julie Robins; **HG** Carol Mascitti 555; **HW** Paula Messer **STRINGED** 149

---

## WA

---

### 21.05.2023 Melville 2023

**A DIVISION:** 1 Chris Hall; 2 Dianne Ward; 3 Ian Ting; **HG** Russell Honeybun 596; **HW** Geoff Shephard **BEDCOVER** 107

**B DIVISION:** 1 Anne Stewart; 2 John Salmon; 3 Delys Carbon; **HG** Alan Mathews 616; **HW** Alan Mathews **ZEAL** 106

**C DIVISION:** 1 Pat Locke; 2 Marge Roberts; 3 Bettina Tonkin; **HG** Marge Roberts 446; **HW** Marge Roberts **CURVIER** 97

---

### 04.06.2023 WA State Champs 2023

**OPEN:** 1 Russell Honeybun; 2 Chris Hall; 3 Sally Martin; **HG** Russell Honeybun 593; **HW** Edie Mueller **EVENTING** 158

---

### 09.07.2023 AGM BISECTION

**A:** 1 Benjamin Lee; 2 Russell Honeybun; 3 Chris Hall; **HG** Russell Honeybun 610; **HW** Faye Williams **SEXTAIN** 119

**B:** 1 Alan Mathews; 2 Cori Lodder; 3 Anne Stewart; **HG** Anne Stewart 502; **HW** Alan Mathews **JOISTED** 114

---

### 06.08.2023 Glenys Lawrie Memorial

**OPEN:** 1 Russell Honeybun; 2 Chris Hall; 3 Max Mason; **HG** Russell Honeybun 597; **HW** Henry Yates **BLINDEST** 149



**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.**

# Ratings Snapshot

Top 200 at 14 August 2023

1	David Eldar	2083	68	Dianne Brumby	1447	135	Gary Pollard	1254
2	Cameron Farlow	1936	69	Jon Ford-King	1439	136	Caroline Polak Scowcroft	1249
3	Naween Fernando	1922	70	Roberta Tait	1434	137	Rob York	1246
4	Andrew Fisher	1908	71	Tony Williams	1434	138	John Linney	1245
5	Peter Kougi	1896	72	Adam Kauschke	1425	139	Sharon Sorensen	1241
6	Edward Okulicz	1865	73	Ivor Zetler	1422	140	Yvette Copley	1241
7	Trevor Halsall	1842	74	Justin Moyle	1421	141	Sue Gergelifi	1239
8	Esther Perrins	1842	75	Liz Blanch	1420	142	Yvonne Edwards	1235
9	Russell Honeybun	1822	76	Peter Shaw	1416	143	Margaret Gibson	1234
10	Daniel Piechnick	1803	77	Kashi Thiris	1415	144	Anne Schick	1232
11	Victor Tung	1787	78	Chris Scholten	1414	145	Rod Casey	1232
12	Rod Talbot	1782	79	Malcolm McAnulty	1409	146	Natalie Tadday	1229
13	Joanne Craig	1777	80	Karrin Henderson	1406	147	Susan Roberts	1228
14	Michael Hornung	1775	81	Glenys Logan	1405	148	Khwanjai Thammaping	1227
15	Max Mason	1740	82	Rex Shakespeare	1400	149	Janine Whittaker	1226
16	Geoff Wright	1726	83	Margaret Webb	1400	150	Richard Birch	1218
17	Mythili Rudra	1725	84	Khen Meerding	1399	151	Karen Woodhead	1218
18	Bob Jackman	1720	85	Alex Boiko	1393	152	Margaret Neal	1218
19	Adam Kretschmer	1717	86	Trish Brighton	1385	153	Penny Wells	1216
20	John Holgate	1710	87	Lexie Neale	1379	154	John Barker	1214
21	Nick Ivanovski	1701	88	Angie Pearse	1378	155	Susan MacGillivray	1214
22	Stephen Mooney Pursell	1692	89	Carol Johnsen	1374	156	Barbara Joffe	1214
23	Ryan Sutton	1687	90	Kris Howat	1372	157	Moana Nepia	1212
24	Derek McKenzie	1687	91	Jegatheva Jegathesan	1372	158	Lynne Jarvis	1212
25	Ronnie Bennett	1678	92	Jenny Brysha	1371	159	Tracey Kneebone	1211
26	Rael Hayman	1670	93	Tim Reddan	1371	160	Martin Waterworth	1210
27	Chris Hall	1663	94	Anne Zion	1367	161	Jeffery Lam	1207
28	John Spaan	1660	95	Geoff Shepheard	1366	162	John Salmon	1202
29	David Vanzyl	1660	96	Judy Godfrey	1365	163	Anne Stewart	1199
30	Jane Taylor	1659	97	Therese Nichols	1365	164	Dieter Jedamski	1196
31	Tony Hunt	1644	98	Phillip Hamilton	1363	165	Cheryl Michler	1190
32	Rocky Sharma	1640	99	Shaun Donnelly	1360	166	Nancy Sparling	1188
33	Noel Barrett	1639	100	Kerry Constable	1356	167	Marion Miller	1187
34	Trevor Tao	1625	101	Neil McLean	1355	168	John Minas	1181
35	John Hamilton	1616	102	Helen Metaxas	1353	169	Kerry Reimers	1180
36	Alistair Kane	1613	103	Keri Heart	1350	170	Hanne Marks	1179
37	Nat Podesser	1607	104	Sheryl Davidson	1349	171	Tim Walton	1179
38	Sally Martin	1590	105	Maureen See	1347	172	Sylvia Galloway	1176
39	Carmel Dodd	1582	106	Chris Ostrowski	1335	173	Kim Grayson	1175
40	Paul Richards	1578	107	Arnold Appelhof	1328	174	Pam Bennett	1174
41	Graeme Lock Lee	1548	108	Barry Harridge	1320	175	Jayanthi Viswanathan	1174
42	Helen Hynes	1545	109	Rob Hutchinson	1319	176	Cori Lodder	1171
43	Karen Richards	1543	110	Benjamin Lee	1317	177	Karyn Crease	1171
44	Dianne Ward	1532	111	June Valentine	1316	178	Olga Visser	1168
45	Ian Ting	1532	112	Steven Savona	1303	179	Owen Randall	1168
46	Howard Rayner	1523	113	Carolyn Watt	1302	180	Margaret Bishop	1166
47	Heather Long	1517	114	Hailey Sutton	1297	181	Vicki Russell	1160
48	Martin Rose	1502	115	Peter Griffiths	1296	182	Mardi Healy	1160
49	Antony Kimber	1498	116	Colleen Birch	1295	183	Glen Chandler	1155
50	Alan Burn	1491	117	Noel Coulter	1293	184	Frank Csarics	1152
51	Eddie Mueller	1489	118	Monica Dwyer	1289	185	Helen Jones	1148
52	Gwen Lampre	1486	119	Gillian Street	1289	186	Jan Chapman	1147
53	Lois Binnie	1482	120	Francoise Finlayson	1286	187	Stephen Saunders	1147
54	Tony Miller	1476	121	Lainie Mercieca	1284	188	Norma Tracey	1141
55	Greg Pinchbeck	1475	122	Judy Mansfield	1282	189	Rhonda Reynish	1141
56	Dianne Davis	1475	123	Victoria Gates	1282	190	Jenny Mitchell	1137
57	Antonios Syrigos	1474	124	Ros Wilkinson	1281	191	Rowena Vnuk	1135
58	Jane Brown	1465	125	Jan Hill	1277	192	Sam Greenberg	1135
59	Michael Vnuk	1465	126	Faye Williams	1273	193	Betty Smith	1135
60	Oscar Ivanovski	1463	127	Shirley de Silva	1271	194	Christiane McCann	1134
61	Garth van Vliet	1459	128	John Hayes	1267	195	Christie Godby	1134
62	Norma Fisher	1456	129	Margaret Griggs	1266	196	Wendi Symes	1134
63	Jyoti Chandna	1452	130	Jacqui Pearce	1266	197	Michael Smitheram	1134
64	Alex Lam	1451	131	John Rider	1264	198	Robin Stewart	1134
65	Darren Chaitman	1451	132	Rob Marotta	1259	199	Josie Mally	1132
66	Julie Brice	1450	133	Julie Pampling	1257	200	Tony Kalayzich	1131
67	Susan Rayner	1450	134	Vincent Nguyen	1256			

*When I was in grade five (primary school), the pedagogy started to focus on the meanings of words. We all had to have the Devil's playbook – the dictionary. We were also quizzed on our understanding of word meanings.*

I only remember one of my failures in that I was asked to provide the meaning of **BIBLIOGRAPHY** and I didn't know what the word meant. Asked to guess I posited that it meant "study of the Bible." Our teacher, Mrs Searle, reprimanded a boy in our class for using the dictionary to look up the meaning of "rude" words. The boy had taken great delight in – complete with accompanying snickers – describing the meaning of **FART** but he was not brave enough to look up some of the more salty ones. I am sure Mrs Searle would be appalled by some of the words we can use in competitive Scrabble play. In fact whole groups of people seemed worried about words used off and on the Scrabble board.

*With the constant evolution of language, personal preferences and changing contexts, the "right" word rarely exists. However, understanding which words may be more appropriate than others in certain situations can reinforce our values of diversity, equity and inclusion while inviting others into our work. Most importantly, when we make thoughtful word choices, we can be part of creating a more inclusive environment*

(NRPA Equity Language Guide, 21 October 2021, page 3).

The National Recreation and Park Association is just one of a number of organisations in the USA that are explicitly concerned about the words that we use. The University of Washington has its *Equitable Language Guide*. The Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities produced their *Equity Language Guide* 6 December, 2018. American Psychological Association published their *Inclusive Language Guidelines* in 2021. The recent push by the corporate owners of Scrabble to remove "hate speech" seems just another example of this heightened awareness.

Some in the competitive Scrabble community see this as an attempt to control us, much like the Ministry of Truth in George Orwell's *1984*. In the novel, the Ministry of Truth is involved with news media, entertainment, the fine arts and educational books. Its purpose is to rewrite history to change the facts to fit Party doctrine for propaganda effect. Mattel and Hasbro state that their changes are merely to fit with the "family friendly" nature of the game.

Some players may not be aware of previous attempts to make recreational materials more family friendly. Thomas Bowdler, an English physician, created *The Family Shakespeare*, an expurgated edition of William Shakespeare's plays edited by his sister Henrietta Maria Bowdler. They sought a version they saw as more appropriate than the original for 19th century women and children. The term "**BOWDLERISE**" or "**BOWDLERIZE**" links the name with expurgation or omission of elements deemed unsuited to children, in literature and films and on television.

Recent attempts to make other books more acceptable to modern audiences have not met with much support. In 2023 new versions of Roald Dahl's books were published by Puffin Books to remove language deemed "inappropriate". Puffin had hired "sensitivity readers" to go over his texts to make sure the books could "continue to be enjoyed by all today". This was branded "absurd censorship" by author Sir Salman Rushdie. And even UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's spokesperson said: "When it comes to our rich and varied literary heritage, the PM agrees with the BFG that you shouldn't 'gobblefunk'\* around with words."

Ian Fleming Publications Ltd – the company that retains literary rights to James Bond series about 007, the iconic British secret service agent – commissioned a sensitivity review that will see some racially offensive language and outdated stereotypes removed from the works written by the company's namesake. Racial slurs toward black people will be removed but depictions of other ethnic minorities, such as a Korean character called "Oddjob" in *Goldfinger*, the seventh book, will

This day is published, in 10 vols. royal 18mo, price 3l. 3s. boards,  
**T**HE FAMILY SHAKSPEARE: in which nothing is added to the original Text: but those words and expressions are omitted which cannot with propriety be read aloud in a Family. By THOMAS BOWDLER, Esq., F. R. S. and S. A. " My great objects in this undertaking are to remove from the writings of Shakspeare, some defects which diminish their value; and, at the same time, to present to the public an edition of his Plays, which the parent, the guardian, and the instructor of youth, may place without fear in the hands of the pupil; and from which the pupil may derive instruction as well as pleasure; may improve his moral principles, while he refines his taste; and without incurring the danger of being hurt with any indelicacy of expression, may learn in the fate of Macbeth, that even a kingdom is dearly purchased, if virtue be the price of acquisition."—Preface. Printed for Longman, Hurst, Rees, Orme, and Brown, London.

## Advertisement for 1819 edition of *The Family Shakspeare*

(from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas\\_Bowdler](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Bowdler))

remain. According to *The Telegraph*, the new April 2023 editions will be published alongside an accompanying disclaimer that reads: "This book was written at a time when terms and attitudes which might be considered offensive by modern readers were commonplace." This disclaimer mirrors those put in place by streaming services like Disney+, which added warnings before content with racist depictions such as *The Jungle Book*.

George Packer, writing in the April 2023 edition of *The Atlantic*, in an article entitled "The Moral Case Against Euphemism - Banning words won't make the world more just" notes the proliferation of Equity-language guides among some of America's leading institutions, particularly nonprofits. The words these guides recommend or reject are sometimes exactly the same, justified in nearly identical language. This is because most of the guides draw on the same sources from activist organizations. Although the guides refer to language "evolving," these changes are a revolution from above. They haven't emerged organically from the shifting linguistic habits of large numbers of people. They are handed down in communiqués written by obscure "experts" who purport to speak for vaguely defined "communities," remaining unanswerable to a public that's being morally coerced. He notes:

*The rationale for equity language guides is hard to fault. They seek a world without*

*oppression and injustice. Because achieving this goal is beyond anyone's power, they turn to what can be controlled and try to purge language until it leaves no one out and can't harm those who already suffer. Avoiding slurs, calling attention to inadvertent insults, and speaking to people with dignity are essential things in any decent society... The guides follow the grammar of Puritan preaching to the last clause. Once you have embarked on this expedition, you can't stop at Oriental or thug, because that would leave far too much evil at large. So you take off in hot pursuit of gentrification and legal resident, food stamps and gun control, until the last sin is hunted down and made right - which can never happen in a fallen world.*

(page12)

PEN America (an association for poets, playwrights, editors, essayists, and novelists) notes that a number of legislators are even moving to stifle discussion of certain topics. PEN note in their publication *Educational Gag Orders: Legislative Restrictions on the Freedom to Read, Learn, and Teach* that between January and September 2021, 24 legislatures across the United States introduced 54 separate bills intended to restrict teaching and training in K-12 schools, higher education, and state agencies and institutions. The majority of these bills target discussions of race, racism, gender, and

American history, banning a series of “prohibited” or “divisive” concepts for teachers and trainers operating in K-12 schools, public universities, and workplace settings. These bills appear designed to impose government dictates on teaching and learning. Collectively, these bills are illiberal in their attempt to legislate that certain ideas and concepts be out of bounds, even, in many cases, in college classrooms among adults.

Perhaps an echo of **COMSTOCKERY** - in 1873, Thomas Anthony Comstock created the New York Society for the Suppression of Vice, an institution dedicated to moral supervision of the American public. Later that year, Comstock successfully influenced the United States Congress to pass the Comstock Laws, which made illegal the delivery by U.S. mail, or by other modes of transportation, of “obscene, lewd, or lascivious” material, as well as prohibiting any methods of production or publication of information pertaining to the procurement of abortion, the prevention of conception and the prevention of venereal disease. Some of Comstock’s ideas of what were “obscene, lewd, or lascivious” could be seen by many modern Westerners as quite broad; during his time of greatest power, some anatomy textbooks were prohibited from being sent to medical students by the United States Postal Service.

But back to the expurgation of the Scrabble word list. Nick Ascroft from New Zealand has

written on the subject (see his two articles from December 2012 on Newsroom.co.nz) and is not supportive. He outlines the various contradictions and omissions to the expurgation list. He concludes:

*To be sure you don't get the wrong end of the stick, especially if you work for Mattel, my point is not that these words should have been cut from the Scrabble dictionary, but that attempting to remove the offence from the English language is a Sisyphean task. Scrabble is a dictionary-based game. Proper nouns and words with punctuation in them are not allowed. These are easy to define. Slur words are not. Dictionaries do not signal them in any consistent way.*

So will the competitive Scrabble community in Australia heed the corporate edict on acceptable words that now is WESPA validated? I remember when we had play with either American (OSPD) or UK words (Chambers) and the great coming together of the eagle and the lion in the gryphon word list (or **GRIFFIN** or **GRYFON**). The move to Collins was also fraught with controversy (particularly with respect to some of the word definitions in the Official Dictionary). I am not the only player to mourn the loss of **PH\*** from Scrabble play but coped and moved on. So now, should the 2021 expurgated word list become the tournament norm, I will only look for places to play **BOA** (or **OBA** or **BAO**) and **ZEL** instead of the other forbidden anagrams.

## 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.

The perfect word study tool for new players. 138 pages - A5 format

\$20 includes postage: Mail cheque to:

Bob Jackman, 31 Gwandalan Crescent, Berowra NSW 2081

# SA vs VIC BORDER CHALLENGE 2023

Saturday 18 & Sunday 19 November  
Masonic Lodge, 4 Helen Street, Mt Gambier

## Enquiries/Entries:

SA – Jane Taylor – [jjsroadshow@gmail.com](mailto:jjsroadshow@gmail.com)

Vic – Carol Johnsen - [caroljscrabble@gmail.com](mailto:caroljscrabble@gmail.com)

## Accommodation nearby:

Grand Central Motel

6 Helen St (next door)

(08) 8725 8844

\$130 p.n. for 2 singles

Mid City Motel

15 Helen St (across street)

(08) 8725 7277

Rooms from \$145 p.n.

Shopping Centre and  
eateries nearby

Blue Lake, Mt Gambier

Friday 17 – Group dinner – Mack's Hotel,

Cnr Helen St & Bay Rd, Mt Gambier

Register with Jane Taylor 0408 981 833

[jjsroadshow@gmail.com](mailto:jjsroadshow@gmail.com)

Saturday 18 – Noon – Register at venue

Member: \$50 Non-member: \$60

Entry includes Saturday night dinner

& Sunday morning tea

CSW19 – 25 mins p.p.

5 games before dinner : 2 games after dinner

Sunday 19 - 9.00am – 3 games

Presentation

## SUNDAY EVENING WOOGLES



**Open to all members Australia-wide**

Enter the virtual club room any time after 6pm on Sundays, find an opponent and play

**Works on phone, tablet or PC**

If you are new to Woogles, first refer to the guide to online play at <https://scrabble.org.au/woogles>

**Bookmark <https://woogles.io/club/nswscrab> for direct entry to the playing room**

If you can't get to tournaments, and enjoy the thought of playing similarly rated players from anywhere in Australia, this is for you.

# Records 2023 so far...

<i>High game score</i>	<b>732</b>	David Eldar 732 against Oscar Ivanovski 278 at 13.08.2023 The Classic/AGM 2023
<i>Large game margin</i>	<b>518</b>	Kelvin Korn 573 against Annie Ly 55 at 22.07.2023 WYC Fundraiser July
<i>High drawn game</i>	<b>427</b>	Paul Richards 427 against Jane Brown 427 at 14.05.2023 Queensland May Rod Talbot 427 against John Holgate 427 at 26.02.2023 MATCHPLAY QUALIFIER 23
<i>High combined score</i>	<b>1054</b>	Cameron Farlow 645 against Ronnie Bennett 409 at 08.04.2023 AUS CHAMPS
<i>High average score</i>	<b>522.3</b>	(7 games) Russell Honeybun at 06.08.2023 Glenys Lawrie Memorial
<i>High average spread</i>	<b>176.7</b>	(7 games) Russell Honeybun at 06.08.2023 Glenys Lawrie Memorial
<i>High losing score</i>	<b>495</b>	Graeme Lock Lee 495 against Liz Jackman 496 at 16.07.2023 2023 Winter Masters
<i>Long winning streak</i>	<b>15</b>	David Eldar at 22.01.2023 THE PLATE AND SIDE and 05.02.2023 Bayside Open and 05.03.2023 SUNDAY SESSIONS 2
<i>High word</i>	<b>212</b>	<b>SQUARING</b> : Sue Gergelifi at 04.06.2023 Southport Winter
<i>High opening score</i>	<b>102</b>	<b>REQUEST</b> : Naween Fernando at AUS CHAMPS 08.04.2023
<i>High play, not bonus</i>	<b>162</b>	<b>FEI(JO)ADA</b> : Ronnie Bennett at Canberra Summer 18.02.2023
<i>High play, not triple triple</i>	<b>140</b>	<b>SEAQUAKE</b> : Michael Vnuk at Seaford April 29.04.2023
<i>Long word</i>	<b>10</b>	<b>REMIATES</b> : Edward Okulicz at AUS CHAMPS 08.04.2023
<i>Many bingos</i>	<b>6</b>	<b>SAINTLY; ABEYING; JONGLEUR; VIREMIAS; VIOLATED; VILIFIER</b> : Esther Perrins at AUS CHAMPS 08.04.2023 see board
<i>Many consecutive bingos</i>	<b>3</b>	<b>DIPPERS; FERNIEST; PERIDOTE</b> : Antony Kimber at AUS CHAMPS 08.04.2023 <b>SAINTLY; ABEYING; JONGLEUR</b> : Esther Perrins at AUS CHAMPS 08.04.2023 <b>VIREMIAS; VIOLATED; VILIFIER</b> : Esther Perrins at AUS CHAMPS 08.04.2023

## 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. [richardburch@me.com](mailto:richardburch@me.com)