

THE RETURN OF THE NEWSLETTER from Chris

It's not on the same level as Hollywood sequels but our newsletter is back. Personal circumstances also meant that I was unable to attend the Club for some months but in my absence, I'd like to thank the usual stalwarts for keeping things going. Thanks to everyone and especially Bob Williams who took the responsibility of taking my keys and, together with Alice Pullen, always ensuring the doors were open on Tuesday evenings.

While the Club continues with a regular ten or twelve players attending each week, our venue will be seeing changes soon. We will still be at Baulkham Hills North Public School but plans are afoot to demolish the current buildings and rebuild the entire school. Hopefully it will not be too disruptive for our Scrabble nights!

Just recently, some early building activity saw us change our venue to Marion Lovell's home at Cherrybrook just for one evening.



Marion proved to be a wonderful hostess, not only providing lots of space for the dozen members who showed up but also preparing some delicious refreshments.



2019 NEW WORD LISTS

Each few years, the Collins Scrabble dictionary is updated, a feature of our game that causes great excitement or perhaps for most of us, confusion.

The Club now has new reference sheets for all the new two- and three-letter words. The two-letter changes have made a significant impact on the way we play the game tactically: **EW**, **OK** and **ZE** have found several of us suddenly realizing we have opened up unexpected scoring opportunities for our opponents. Ditto with **BAO**, **BAE**, **DOX**, **UME**, **VAX** and **UME**. At least the Club has now purchased a set of the new lists from George Khamis who has provided us with useful colour-coded laminated pages that even have our Club identified at the top of the lists.

When we get to the new four-letter lists, it really becomes a challenge, and it is a brave (or perhaps, obsessed) Scrabblor who tries to learn them. Try some like **BLUD**, **FIFI**, **MACA** or **TIFO**. There are nine more. If you have OCD, go to <https://www.wespa.org/csw19ik.pdf> There you will find all 617 new two- to eight-letter words. Good luck!

CHRISTMAS PARTY



This year, our Christmas party will be held at the usual venue of the Seven Hills-Toongabbie RSL on Tuesday 17th December. Because finances are not as flush as in some previous years, all our members are asked to pay for their meal but at something like \$25 each, it's still great value. Spouses, partners, family and friends are most welcome.

NEW MEMBER

A hearty welcome to Coral Walker who has joined our Club on a regular basis.

THE BEST GIFT OF ALL



What do you get on a special occasion for someone who loves the game? Well, a Scrabble board of course! But not just an ordinary board. One with the names of your family intertwined with the skill of a Scrabble master. This is what my good friend Carol Morrison was lucky enough to receive on a milestone birthday (no secrets revealed) earlier this year.

I first made friends with Carol and her husband John in 1971 when I was posted as a teacher to Stanthorpe in Queensland. Our friendship has remained stable all those years but the size of the Morrison family hasn't. There are grandchildren galore but I am yet to hear they have the same enthusiasm for Scrabble that Carol has. Perhaps one day...

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Several proper names are allowable in Scrabble. Try these.

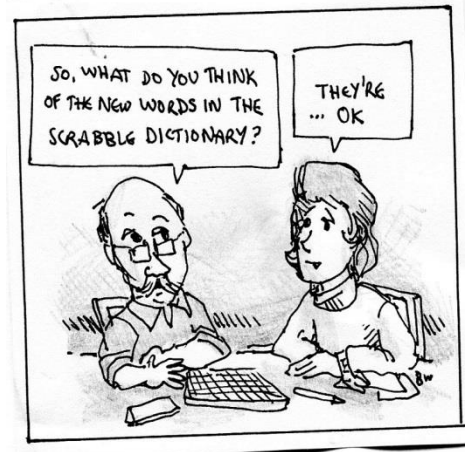
Four-letter names: **ALAN, ANNA, CHAD, DAVY, JESS, VERA**

Five-letter names: **COLIN, DONNA, FRITZ, GARTH, GEMMA, HENRY** (and **YRNEH** is good, too), **JONES, JUDAS, LAURA, LEWIS, MARIA, MAVIS, MOLLY, MOIRA, OSCAR**

Six-letter names: **BERTHA, JOSEPH, GRAHAM, HANSEL, JORDAN**



Our resident humorist, Bob Williams, has been at it again. Have a smile at these original cartoons.



THE HILLS TOURNAMENT

The highlight of our Scrabble year must surely be our annual Hills Tournament. The event took place on the 17th August. This year, we were fortunate enough to be allowed to use the Baulkham Hills North Primary School hall, an excellent venue that provided a superb, roomy space for our entrants.



I would particularly like to thank Sue Taylor, Deputy Principal of the school, who was so cooperative in making the hall available at no cost to the Club. This enabled us to provide a free catered lunch for all players, surely a first in any New South Wales tournament. The positive comments from visiting players augur well for the future. I would also like to thank KB Chickens of Baulkham Hills for their excellent prices which ensured no one went hungry.

Thank you to all our members who contributed in any way. I cannot recall all of you but the contribution of nibblies, fruit, and setting up of the hall was much appreciated. The photos capture some of the excitement of the day. Thanks to George Khamis for the pics.



No, I didn't win that one...



Yes, Bob Williams did win that one. In fact, for his first tournament, Bob won four out of eight games, a truly impressive debut.

Thank you to George Khamis who acted as an excellent Tournament Director as well as resident photographer.

VALE BOB SMITH

On a sad note, I would like to extend my sympathy to the family of Bob Smith who has been Tournament Director at several of our annual tournaments.

Bob was a gentleman's gentleman who contributed much to the Scrabble fraternity. Although not a player himself, Bob donated his time freely as a tournament director in so many events, including ours. Our hearts reach out to his wife, Denise, his son Mark and to all his extended family. Bob passed away after an illness that took him away from us far too early.

FULL RESULTS THE HILLS TOURNAMENT 2019

Division A

Rank	Player	Wins	Margin
1	Ryan Sutton	8	+513
2	Rod Talbot	6	+317
3	Jyoti Chandna	5	+291

High game [Jyoti Chandna](#) 509

High word [Marion Miller](#)
SPIRTLE

Division B

Rank	Player	Wins	Margin
1	Devorah Ullman	6	+525
2	Margaret Berliner	6	+267
3	Fay Van Oyen	6	+222

High game [Asher Chhabra](#) 502

High word [Devorah Ullman](#)
QUOTERS

Congratulations to all our winners.

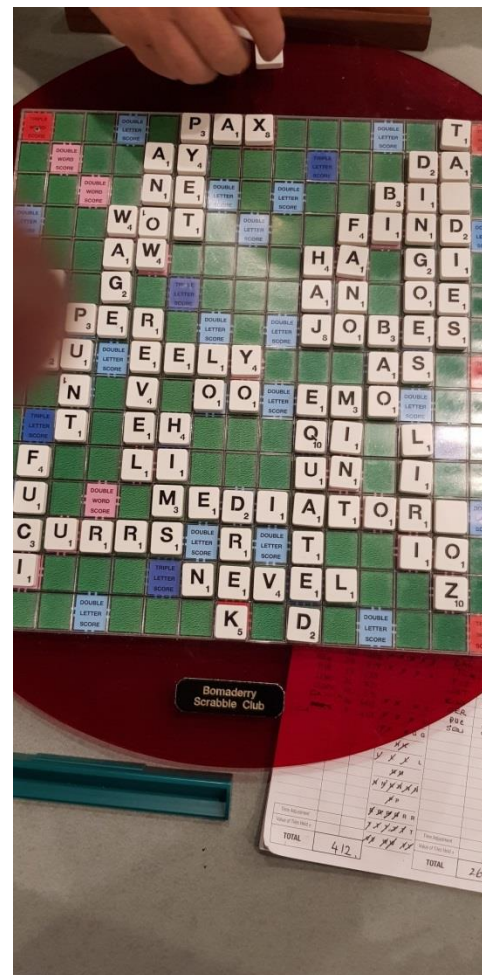


NSW CHAMPIONSHIPS

From the 5th to the 7th October, the NSW Championships were held at Waitara Magpies Club. In a victory for the girls, Joanne Craig was declared the winner. Joanne's success was the result of an incredible dedication to study. As they say, the harder you work, the luckier you get.

While my own results were less impressive, there was one game that led me to take the second ever photo of my board (I tend to have few opportunities for feeling proud of my efforts). I was playing Bob Jackman, three times Australian champion, and 175 points behind, when I finished with a flourish in the last three moves to lose by seventeen points.

Have a look at the word, TADDIES (a word that refers to tadpoles), that fell so beautifully onto Bob's previous bingo of DINGOES. It's a play that comes once in a lifetime!



It's just a pity I still lost 😞

Happy Scrabbling
Chris

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