

Scrabble Queensland

President's Report 2024-2025

Firstly a big thank you to the Committee who helped things run smoothly during the year.

Scrabble Queensland had a successful year with 28 local tournaments held with attendances increasing from 2023-2024 year.

Events and Outreach

- **Scout Jamboree.** A significant event this year was the Australian Scout Jamboree (held in Maryborough) where a team from Scrabble Queensland ran an activity tent over 7 days in January resulting in 1300 scouts being introduced to Scrabble and 170 indicating they wish to pursue Scrabble further. Of those, there is one competing regularly (in ACT) (as well as Ashwin in Qld who was already a Scrabble member)
- **Townsville Scrabble Festival.** The Scrabble year concluded with the Townsville Scrabble Festival which was well attended with the Queensland Championship having the highest attendance (60) (apart from the Nationals) of any tournament so far this year in Australia. This was the result of combining the Australian Women's Championship, Queensland championship and local events on Magnetic Island. The event had been promoted locally, interstate and in New Zealand over the last year which was a factor in achieving the good attendance.
- **MENSA Conference.** Karen Richards assisted Sarah and Oliver Klistorner with a presentation about Scrabble to the Australian MENSA Conference held in Brisbane on 11th October 2025.
- **Logan Area.** Olga Visser and Karrin Henderson have been active in the Logan area, using Facebook community pages to attract people to Scrabble session. They have also started attending board game evening run by another community group to see if they can get interest in Scrabble.
- **Noosa.** A tournament was held in February at Nambour/ Sunshine Coast after a break of a few years. (thanks to Ruth Jones for organising it). At this tournament we met Megan Marks who runs the Noosa Scrabble club – but was not aware of Scrabble Queensland. Megan has been a great addition to the Scrabble family and organised a tournament in Noosa in May and another organised for 1st November. She also joined us in Berlin at the World Seniors Championship. We love her enthusiasm.
- **Schools.** School Scrabble activities continued this year with us again invited to participate in the Brisbane State High School extension program (6 week sessions in Term 2 and Term 3). We have 4 regular scrabblers from Brisbane State High School, 3 of whom went to the World Youth Scrabble Championship. The Scrabble club at Holland Park State School continues to operate with Paul Richards attending most weeks during school term.
- **Media.** Segments about Scrabble were done for a Seniors segment with Bruce Paige on Channel Nine News (available to view on YouTube @ScrabbleAustralia). Channel Nine My Way have also filmed a segment, but it has not yet gone to air. Thank you to the Coorparoo Scrabble Club for participating in these programs.
- **West End Opportunity** – Queensland Scrabble has been offered the opportunity to run short events in a coffee shop at West End. Volunteer leaders required.
- If others are doing things to promote Scrabble, please let us know, and be aware we are ready to provide assistance as needed. We also can learn from your experience about what works and what doesn't as we try to increase participation in Scrabble.

Membership and Tournament attendance

- **Membership.** See a separate report from the Membership Officer (Jane Brown). Scrabble Queensland membership increased from 70 to 80 over the year which was good to see. There has been discussion at a national level about how to increase membership and trying to get all those playing in tournaments to join up. There has also been some discussion about creating a Social Membership category, and this will be discussed at our AGM.
- **Tournaments – Organisation.** All tournaments ran smoothly this year with no major issues. A big thank you to Karrin Henderson for doing the majority of the catering during the year, and Martin Waterworth for assistance with the draws and entering of results. It was good to see others becoming involved in the computer side (Yvette Copley and Gail Hamilton) The more that know how to do things, the more resilient we will be. It was great to return to the Sunshine Coast with Ruth Jones and Megan Marks organising tournaments. Julie Brice and her team put on a fantastic 9 days at the Townsville Scrabble Festival which was the second largest attended event for the year in Australia with 60 attending the Queensland Championship held as the final event in the Festival.
- **Tournament Attendance - Novices.** We had 127 individuals (from Queensland) take part in Queensland Tournaments last year. This included 56 people playing in their first ever tournament. This was partially the result of hard work by Karen Richards in following up with anyone who indicated they were interested in attending tournaments advertised on Facebook (thank you Karrin Henderson for doing the tournament posts on Facebook). By having someone reach out, there is a much greater chance of the interest turning to attending. One factor that help people to decide to attend was offering the half day option at tournaments. Although this can cause some problems in running the tournament (byes etc), I feel it is worthwhile to have this option to help gain new tournament players. Other states (SA, Vic) have also had new players come as a result of offering a short tournament option.
- **Tournament Statistics.**
 - **International Players** Queensland had 10 international players play tournaments here last year – the majority (8) at the Townsville Scrabble Festival
 - **Interstate Players.** We had 23 interstate players join us in tournaments last year with the majority (20) at the Townsville Scrabble Festival
 - **Queensland Players – Local Events.** 127 Queenslanders played last year
 - One Tournament only – 46 players
 - Two Tournaments – 22 players
 - Three Tournaments – 13 players
 - Four to 27 Tournaments -46 players (Olga Visser played every tournament except a short tournament in Townsville)
 - **Queensland Players – Interstate Events.** 18 Queenslanders played interstate
 - One Tournament Interstate – 3 players
 - Two Tournaments Interstate – 8 players
 - Three to 14 Tournaments Interstate – 7 players
 - **Queensland Players – International Events.** 7 players competed overseas.
 - One Tournament Overseas – 3 players
 - Two Tournaments Overseas – 2 players
 - Five Tournaments Overseas -1 player
 - Six Tournaments Overseas - 1 player.

Clubs. There has not been a lot of interaction between clubs and Scrabble Queensland over the year. Hopefully this means this are going okay with our various clubs. It was good to add the Noosa club to the list. In Logan, Olga Visser and Karrin Henderson have been working hard to get more members and trying various venues such as libraries and McDonalds to see what works for people.

Equipment.

- **New Equipment** - This year we purchased a new printer and new computer for the tournament kit. The old printer drivers are no longer available, and it is not supported by the manufacturer anymore. The superseded computer was becoming unreliable but is still on hand as a back up or use as a look up computer.
- **Look Up Computers** - Some of our look up computers do not support the latest Zyzzyva (Windows version is too old), but we have worked around that by using the custom dictionary facility to load CSW24.
- **Tiles** - It is proposed in the coming year to replace some of the black tile sets with a different colour that are more readable.
- **Clocks** - Clocks are major concern with many Flip Timers we use being unreliable. Do we need to buy more clocks, or start using smart phones with a clock app?
- **Boards** - The number of rotating boards members bring is also becoming an issue, with us frequently needing to supplement them with Coorparoo Club boards (Thank you Coorparoo Club).
- **Kit** - We have had a couple of occasions where we have needed to have two kits to support tournaments in Toowoomba and Southport when there was uncertainty whether someone could get the gear from one tournament to the next.

Communications

- This year we set up a Queensland Mailing list on google groups. If you are not on it and want to be, send me an email (paulrrichards7@gmail.com). If you have a gmail address, I can add you directly. Those with a non gmail address will get an email asking to confirm you want to join the list.
- **Website.** There have been some minor changes to the Scrabble Queensland website (queensland.scrabble.org.au) If there are things you would like added to the website, let me know (noting that a lot of stuff is available on the main Australian website (scrabble.org.au)). The main thing I have added is Next Events and Last Events with the flyer, entries and results. Do you look at this site?

Future Vision

- As we move forward, I would like see Scrabble Queensland become a strong and resilient organisation. As a foundation for this, in the next year I would like to revisit our constitution to make sure it is relevant and covers our needs. We also need to reconsider becoming an Incorporated Association. This gives legal protection to Office Bearers, but also allows us to apply for formal 'Not for Profit' status. Julie Brice was unable to get some local funding for the Townsville Scrabble Festival due the fact of us not being an incorporated entity. The issues of review of the Constitution and Incorporation are to be discussed at the AGM.
- I would like to see clubs continue to run tournaments (thank you to Toowoomba, Southport, Logan Clovers, and Noosa). If other clubs want to run tournaments, we can support you with what is needed – the main issue is a venue or just use a QAH slot we have booked. My aim is to have a minimum of one tournament every month.

A Final Question for Thought - How do we define if Scrabble Queensland is successful?

- Is it defined by how many members we have?
- Is it defined by how many tournaments we have?
- Is it defined by how many clubs there are?
- Is it defined by how much prizemoney we offer at tournaments?
- Is it defined by our bank balance?
- Is it defined by the achievements of our members in Interstate and overseas tournaments?
- Is it defined by how much fun we have together?

Happy Scrabbling.

Paul Richards

President,

Scrabble Queensland