



|N|o.|2|4|4| |A|U|G|U|S|T| |2|0|1|0|



www.crosswordclub.org



[The General] When a man talks rot, that's epigram: when he talks sense, then I agree with him. George Bernard Shaw, 1908, *Getting Married*, 1

|G|R|I|D|A|T|O|R|I|A|L|

|F|R|O|M| |T|H|E|
|A|D|J|U|D|I|C|A|T|O|R|

We have previously mentioned that the game *Letters and Numbers* will be coming to our TV screens soon. Some of the members of the ACC have already attended as audience in the production of some of the sessions and our dynamic compiler and Adjudicator Andrew Patterson (*zinzan*) has been a contestant on one of the shows (to be screened on 25 August: don't miss it!). Whilst not being the carry-over Champion, Andrew was awarded a copy of the handsome *Macquarie Dictionary* (5th ed). The show will be screened on SBS @ 6pm commencing Monday 2 August 2010. And the episodes we attended will be shown in September. One hundred episodes are being produced by Shine Australia and we think it will be well-worth watching to see if you can match the wordplay wizard David Astle (see p9). Also, you might enjoy hearing my distinctive applause . . .

The **Christmas in July** function held on 25 July at the Royal Oak Hotel in Fitzroy proved to be an outstanding success with a record 33 keen cruciverbalists in attendance. Some travelled great distances and we were delighted to renew acquaintances. See p9. We take this opportunity to let you know that the **Sydney Get-Together** will be held on Sunday 28 November at Wm Ryan's new hotel *The Harold Park Hotel*, cnr Wigram Road and Ross Street, Glebe NSW. Make a note in your Cruciverbal Diary now! See p9 for further details.

This month we have another challenging set of puzzles and a Quiz for you expertly chosen by our skilful Puzzle Set-up person **Ian Williams**. Some of our favourite compilers include *Jesso*, *Virgo*, *Southern Cross* and *Fortuna 48*. And we welcome back the 80th Birthday Lady *Cha-Cha* with a Slot 2 cryptic: Happy Birthday Catherine! The Slot 6 puzzle is a cryptic by *Crowsman* and we are sure you will enjoy his contribution immensely. Our Quiz this month is a timely Election Special by *Fortuna 48*. Kindly note the earlier closing mail date of Wednesday 25 August. Best of Luck with your solving this month.
—Patrick

Puzzles were well received this month, with good entries and few problems across the board. Many members appreciated the link between my address and Noel's 11ac.

Slot 1: Not too many problems here but a few solvers said this was harder than our usual Slot 1. We accepted *egence/egency* and *scepsis/skepsis*. We had 'backframe' for 'briefcase', causing down problems. A couple of other problems seemed to be of the transcription kind.

Slot 2: The main problem here was 'redski' or 'seaski' for 'jetski' and 'Niger' for 'Negeb', with a couple of entries having coarse for hoarse.

Slot 3: Almost trouble-free but perhaps the irregular symmetry was a problem with a couple of missed letters. There was *haoma* for *halma*, *inner* for *imbar* and *prom* for *prim*.

Slot 4: Again a very popular AJ with only a couple of trouble spots. There was 'ziphos' for 'xystos' and a couple of typos.

Slot 5: Some problems with 1dn 'oner', 'over' or 'ower' for 'oder'. I also received a pray wolf for gray wolf and 'wincy' for 'zincy'.

COTM: Votes were received across the puzzles this month, with multiple votes for different clues within each puzzle. The winner is Slot 2, 14ac. The clue was: **14** Russian water-craft? (3,3) Solution: JET SKI. Well done *Jesso* (Noel Jessop) and our thanks for the excellent and very challenging puzzle this month.
Jean Barbour

Forthcoming new book by David Astle

If you would like to learn more details about DA's new book due to be published in September visit the website below. It sets out the the basics – a blurb, a cover and the publication details:
<http://www.avenuebookstore.com.au/cms/index.php?page=bookstore&catid=24&prodid=3824>

|L|E|A|D|I|N|G| |F|I|G|U|R|E|S|

Puzzle No.	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Entries received	98	96	92	86	85	434
Correct entries	85	70	76	75	59	346
Success rate (%)	86.73	72.92	82.61	87.21	69.41	79.72
Prizewinners	J Balnaves Y McKindlay	S O'Brien R Wilson	P Garner M Cowan	M Galbreath	B Symons D Jones	from 110 members

|H|I|G|H|L|I|G|H|T|S|

	page
Half 'n Half by <i>Jesso</i>	3
Cryptic by <i>Cha-Cha</i>	4
Cryptic by <i>Southern Cross</i>	5
AJ by <i>Virgo</i>	6
The only game in town by <i>Fortuna 48</i>	7
Cryptic by <i>Crowsman</i>	8
Christmas in July	9
Quiz No 8/2010	9
Results of Quiz No 6/10	9
Oxford Word of the Month	9
Members' Comments	10

Prizewinner: July 2010 Slots 1-5: Verna Dinham

|L|E|A|D|I|N|G| |L|I|G|H|T|S|

President	Patrick Street	395 Canning St, North Carlton Vic 3054	Ph (03) 9347 1216	pstreet@bigpond.net.au
Secretary	Bev Cockburn	12 Norman St, Merrylands West NSW 2160	Ph (02) 9635 7802	bevco4@bigpond.com
Puzzle/Quiz submission	Ian Williams	12 Lindrum Cres, Holt ACT 2615	Ph (02) 6254 6860	ianw@webone.com.au

July 1-2010

B	R	I	E	F	C	A	S	E	B	O	M	B	E
A	N	L	T	C	A	A	G						
S	W	A	M	I	T	O	L	E	R	A	N	C	E
I	I	R	E	E	I	I	I	N					
L	U	M	P	S	U	M	P	A	C	I	F	I	C
I			S	P	S			E	Y				
S	L	A	P	O	N	T	H	E	W	R	I	S	T
K	S	L		U		E	T	A					
	U	P	T	O	N	E	S	E	L	B	O	W	S
P	I		O	C	A			T					
T	I	R	A	D	E	S	E	N	T	I	C	E	R
I	E	R	T	P	I	H	I						
S	A	S	S	A	F	R	A	S	O	N	I	O	N
A	T	M	I	I	N	N	G						
N	O	O	K	S	L	O	S	E	S	F	A	C	E

July 2-2010

B	O	L	I	V	A	R	P	E	P	P	E	R	S
R	E	I	O	U	R	Y	K						
I	N	A	C	C	E	S	S	I	B	I	L	I	T
G	A	D	O	E	S	T	A	N	D				
S	A	L	E	M	W	O	N	T	H	A	G	G	I
	I	T	O	E	E			V					
H	U	G	U	E	N	O	T	J	E	T	S	K	I
E	H			D	U	O				T	N		
R	E	T	A	I	L	G	I	N	S	L	I	N	G
B		N	H	L	U	N							
I	N	T	H	E	S	O	U	P	N	E	G	E	B
C	I	R	A	A	L	I	O						
I	N	D	E	T	E	R	M	I	N	A	T	E	L
D	E	I	S	N	M	S	A						
E	N	S	L	A	V	E	T	I	P	S	T	E	R

July 3-2010

M	A	G	N	A	T	E	K	I	T	S	C	H	
E	E	N	M	A	N	I	C	U	O				
D	I	S	C	O	V	E	R	W	E	I	G	H	T
I	I	T	I	N	S	T	R	I	P	I	G	E	
T	E	A	T		I			I	D	E	A	L	
A	P	A	R	A	S	I	T	I	C	S			
T	O	O	L	C	C	S	K	E	T	C	H		
E				C	I	T	E	S	X	A			
D	O	L	L	A	R	U	U	P	R	I	M		
	E	H	A	U	S	T	E	L	L	A	A		
V	A	G	U	E		H		A	C	I	D		
O	H	I	M	B	A	R	O	I	K	R			
D	R	O	N	G	O	R	E	F	I	N	E	R	Y
K	R	H	A	L	M	A	L	T	A				
A	R	N	U	T	S		D	I	S	U	S	E	D

July 4-2010

K	C	J		G	E	Z							
B	A	L	O	B	S	T	R	U	C	T	O	R	
F	R	L	K	A	H	L							
P	K	E	L	T	S	A	L	V	E	O	L	A	R
A	I	O	T	I	E								
D	E	S	C	E	N	D	E	N	T	R	U	L	Y
S	U		B	O		A							
Q	U	E	S	T	I	O	N	N	A	I	R	E	
U		O	A		R	O							
M	E	N	U	W	A	R	M	F	R	O	N	T	S
	P	N	D	I	N	R							
H	Y	D	R	O	S	K	I	X	Y	S	T	O	S
O	A	M	N	E	A	P							
V	O	E	T	G	A	N	G	E	R	N	A	I	F
P	E	N			S	D	C						

July 5-2010

O	N	S	A	F	A	R	I	P	R	O	A		
D	O	W	H	A	T	A	B	O	U	T	S		
E	V	O	K	E	R	I	Z	I	N	C	Y		
R	E	T	I	R	I	N	G	N	T	A	S		
O	L	S	I	U	E	X	T	O	R	T			
D	I	A	D	E	M	D	R	O	N	G	O		
E	S	T	E	E	M	B	E	F	O	O	L		
S	I	L	A	G	E	O	L	F	V	P	E		
S	N	E	L	G	R	A	Y	W	O	L	F		
A	G	A	I	N	C	S	T	R	I	A	L		
N	O	N	S	U	I	T	I	N	G	N	E		
S	I	S	T	B	A	S	S	E	T	E	D		

June 6-2010

T	U	T	O	R	G	R	A	N	T				
U	R	A	T	E	R	O	T	O	R				
T	A	S	T	E	A	T	O	N	E				
O	T	O	S	N	O	N	E	S					
R	E	E	S	T	T	R	E	S					
E	S	T	O	P	S	T	A	R	K				
S	M	E	A	R	T	A	K	E	N				
T	E	A	S	E	A	K	E	N	E				
O	A	S	T	S	R	E	N	T	E				
P	R	E	S	S	K	N	E	E	L				

MEMBERS RESULTS FOR JUNE Slot 6 & JULY 2010 Slots 1-5

MEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6
ALLEN W
ANDERSON C
ANNAND H	.					
ARCHIBALD C
AUSTIN A
BALNAVES J
BARBOUR J
BARNES J						.
BENNETT B
BENNETT D
BROTHERTON J						.
BUTLER D
CAINE R
CALLAN A&D
CAMPBELL G	.					
CHAMPION G			.			
CHANCE C	.	.	.			
COATES D
COCKBURN B
COLE G
COLGAN L						.
COLLINS M
COPLAND F						.
COWAN M
CROMER H
DAVIS K						.
DAVIS M	
DEARIE P
DE GRYS T	.	.				.
DENNIS M
DINHAM V
DOBELE T
DORRELL R
DUCKER R
FOWLER J						.
FREELAND J

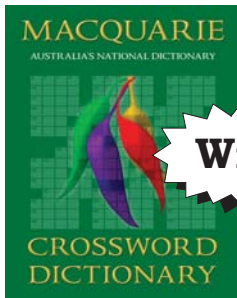
MEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6
FULLER G	.			.	.	
GALBREATH M
GALLI M	.					
GARDINER R
GARNER P	
GILLIS J	
GLISSAN B
GRAINGER D
GREENBERGER O
HAGAN B
HAMBLING C
HARPER K
HAZELL N
HEMSLEY D
HOCKING A	.					
HOWARD L
HOWARD V
HOWELLS S
IBBOTT B
JERMY A
JESSOP N
JONES C
JONES D
KENNEDY D
KNIGHT S				.		
LEEDS G
LLOYD G			.			
LORD P
McCLELLAND C
McGRATH J
McKENZIE I
McKINDLAY Y
McMANUS D
MARTIN A
MARTIN JOHN
MERCER P

MEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6
MILES A
NOBLE C
O'BRIEN E
O'BRIEN S
PARSONS D
PATTERSON A
PINDER S	.					
POTTS M	
PROCTER D
PROCTER M	.					
PYC M
RODDICK M
ROULSTON S
RYAN A
SHIELD A
SIEGMAN B	.			.	.	
SIMONS A
SMITH J
SOLOMON B
SPICER L
STANDARD J
STEINBERGER M
STOCKS J	.					
STOREY N
SYMONS B
TAYLOR R
TAYLOR S
TICKLE B
TOFONI B
TROLLOPE S
WAITES L
WALTER A
WENHAM J
WILCOX C
WILSON N
WILSON R
WIMBUSH R
WOOD J
ZUCAL H

A	U	G	U	S	T
2	0	1	0		
S	L	O	T		1

Half 'n Half
by
Jesso

Prizes: \$50



Win!

[2007 edn]

1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8
				9						10				
11			12			13								
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22	23									24	25			
			26	27				28						
29		30									31			32
33				34		35		36		37				
						38				39		40		
41								42						
				43						44				
45								46						
				47						48				

Across

- 1 Type of truck (3-2)
- 4 Rush (5)
- 9 Fish eggs (3)
- 10 Tree (5)
- 11 Former planet (5)
- 13 Prisoner (5)
- 14 Jewish robot (5)
- 15 Exploits (5)
- 16 China pear (5)
- 17 The sun (3)
- 18 School test (4)
- 19 Go wrong (3)
- 20 Transgression (3)
- 22 Mountain goat (4)
- 24 Confronts (5)
- 26 Cattle (4)
- 28 Mexican dollar (4)
- 29 Forearm bones (5)
- 31 Tibetan priest (4)
- 33 Cereal grass (3)
- 34 Gist (3)
- 36 Persian fairy (4)
- 38 Verily! (3)
- 39 Map-book (5)
- 41 Lively dance (5)
- 42 Secret store (5)

43 Port in Israel (5)

44 River in France (5)

45 Troublesome behaviour (sl.) (5)

46 Reggae-like music (3)

47 Relation (5)

48 Endures (5)

Down

- 1 Highest difficulty for the head (7)
- 2 Tobacco shoots? (5)
- 3 Extended for fifty-nine (6)
- 4 Marine director gives half-coughs about lake race (8)
- 5 Soldier leaves giraffe about Latin rubbish (6)
- 6 Things to be hung from court weapons (8)
- 7 Opposing aspect in verbose exchange (7)
- 8 Alternative to one child's prayers (7)
- 12 Some Soweto hero after shellfish (7)
- 21 Bad time in particular (4)
- 23 Join in co-operation with everything yielded initially (4)
- 25 Old tools cultivated the soil (7)
- 27 Hop on next endless kerfuffle with ancient Greek (8)
- 28 Police raised a court action for an insect shelter (4,4)
- 29 Country's expert backed university forever (7)
- 30 Info returned by Inspector-General in the French easy undress (7)
- 32 Solutions of awful rawness (7)
- 35 Author's identification at the side of railway (6)
- 37 Ethnic upset Alaric? (6)
- 40 Sort of sleek emblems (5)

|S|E|N|D|
|S|O|L|U|T|I|O|N|S|
|T|O|:

Slots 1-5: Andrew Patterson, 372 Great North Rd, Abbotsford NSW 2046.
e-mail: mcandap@bigpond.net.au
Closing mail date: Wednesday 25 August 2010.
e-lodgment: ianw@webone.com.au
Slot 6: Len Colgan, 1 Ailsa Avenue, Warradale, SA 5046
email: len.colgan@unisa.edu.au
Closing mail date: 10 September 2010.

G	O	O	D		
G	R	I	D	S	
P	A	G	E		11

A	U	G	U	S	T
2	0	1	0		
S	L	O	T		2

Cryptic by Cha-Cha

Prize
\$50
x2

1		2		3		4		5			6	7		8
9										10				
										11				
			12											
13		14												
15								16						
17						18		19						
20														
												21		22
23						24								
25						26								

Across

- Study a faculty with scruples (10)
- An animal has a right to a water container (4)
- Smooch more vigorously to generate a gene carrier (10)
- A lode will appear, so to speak (4)
- Clothing used as food covering (6,6)
- Tastier variety of player (7)
- Black hug for Sullivan to mark pronunciation (7)
- Fish in the raw for identification (3,4)
- French composer was not the first with the couple playing (7)
- An animal's age spans a very long period (7,5)
- Taking a silly risk is irritating (4)
- A new idiot, now the leader stormed the whole country (10)
- A headless donkey will go round and round (4)
- Hard hit near strike told in great detail (4-2-4)

- Get at an informer (4)


- A member of the public is embraced to and fro to represent an official (12)
- With misguided persistence, a trip is taken to find the vital ingredient (7)
- Fine white linen is all about a Doctor Ric (7)
- Small sovereign contains 500100015050 poison (4,6)
- Could engineer erect ATM in payment? (10)
- Make a meal of curry and rice. I will go out and put in a hand for cash (4,8)
- Ban innerspring – do not sit on this fence! (6,4)
- Dick, although not drunk in charge, daren't ask about his state of undress (5,5)
- Ran back within Len's tangled mesh (7)
- Look before to see what's coming (7)
- Fifty help with a back-up call (4)
- Homeowner stifles a cat-call (4)

Down

- Tilt to set the trigger (4)

GENERAL COMMENTS:

- Patrick, five years ago you gave me a gift membership in the ACC. I'd like you to know how much pleasure this has given me as (naturally) after your gift, I paid up year by year. I've been lucky to win a few prizes the latest being the *Chambers Crossword Completer* which has delighted me. I expect there's a long list of people I should be thanking. Please do me a favour and pass my grateful thanks to them all.
Brian Eggleton
- Thank goodness for AxWord especially when it tells you that you haven't completed the grid and you find a 3 letter word left out.
Joan Smith
- Many thanks to the President for organising another very successful and enjoyable Club luncheon in Melbourne. It's always good to eat well in the company of friendly people with a common interest. The trivia quiz and the crossword were, as always, highly entertaining especially since I won an excellent prize! I'd encourage all members to put the event in their social diary for next year!
Merv Collins
- My wife thanks the ACC very much for my \$50 prize for Slot 5 June. It's her birthday this month, apparently.
Graeme Cole
- Graeme also sent a clue that has been bugging him for quite a while and wonders at the explanation. Any help from members please. 'Pet becomes injured when sleeping in shed' (3) The answer is CAT.
- What a lovely surprise! Two prizes in one day – a big cheque and a marvellous book of lists.
Rosemary Dorrell
- I was thrilled to see six dots alongside my name in the July *Crozworld*, but my guilty conscience forces me to confess that I don't deserve the one for the May Slot 6 as I didn't send one in.
Rosemary Gardiner
- My thanks for the book prize for June Slot 1.
Paula Mercer

A U G U S T 2 0 1 0 S L O T 3
<h2 style="margin: 0;">Cryptic by Southern Cross</h2>


			1		2				3		4			
	5							6					7	
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9								10						
	11					12								
			13			14						15		
														17
	16													
18			19						20		21			
	22									23				
			24							25				

Across

- 5 Censures, being late aboard (6)
- 6 After a drink, boxer comes back for something uplifting (1,3,2)
- 9 Well bound (6)
- 10 Fire it off after a quiet drink (8)
- 11 Six-footer returns after end of game to scene of regular upheavals (4)
- 12 Very quietly replacing males in work of Gershwin's refreshing later period (10)
- 13 Audio component picks up fricative sound from Tolkien country (6,5)
- 18 Failure to accept SCC members somehow where the smallest performers are (4,6)
- 21 Grounded flier starts to kick, interfering with instruments (4)
- 22 Allow translation by Stannum in a mediaeval language (3,5)
- 23 An ornamental band on black-fish (6)
- 24 He needs to water thoroughly around the Casuarina (3-3)
- 25 Go on and on about something to be ironed? (6)

Down

- 1 I "Hair" arrangement to carry sound for ceremonial finale (4-4)
- 2 Shelves could have Laminex top and sides (6)
- 3 Articles about lover concealing Ecstasy in ingredient for skin lotion (4,4)
- 4 One who believes the eyes have it, so to speak (6)
- 5 The fruit a poet's transplanted (6)
- 7 Teacher's taken up paper on the second of optical light refractors (6)
- 8 ShriII preparation for adornment? (3-8)
- 14 Trip around in low cart with collector of half-frozen drop-offs ... (4,4)
- 15 ... removed when sent up (5,3)
- 16 Permits left, after a slow distribution (6)
- 17 A number getting terribly wet love, missing nothing (6)
- 19 Associate alderman to remain inside (6)
- 20 Bus travels up street into tunnel (6)

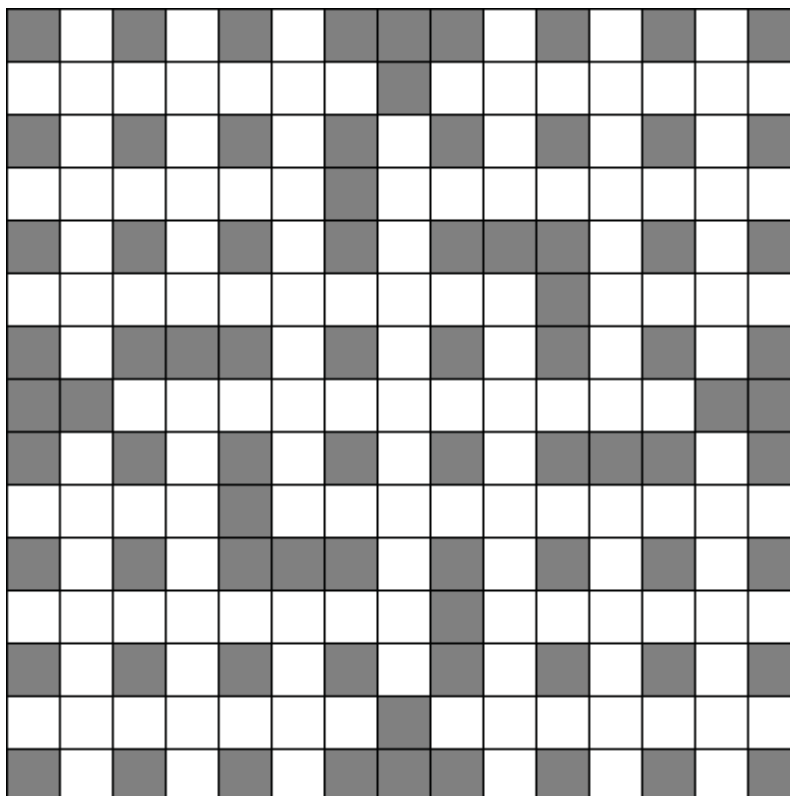
Explanations of July clues where provided by the setter. Thanks to Jean and Roy.

Slot 3: InGrid. Across: 1 anag, 5 kits+ch, 11 disc+over, 13 sounds like wait, 15 st+rip, 16 tea+t, 17 idea+l, 18 para+sit+ic, 22 sTRODe, 23 s+ketch, 26 sounds like sights, 27 doll+ar, 30 p+rim, 32 anag, 34 v+ague, 35 dm, 36 me bkwds+bar, 39 One Into Keg, 40 dron(e)+go, 41 re+finer+y, 42 ha+l+ma, 43 anag, 44 dis(u)sed. Down: 1 MEDI (T) ATED, 2 g+es+at+op backwds, 3 an+on, 4 mess(anag)+ie, 5 dm, 6 ice+ppick, 7 su+gg+e+st, 8 sHOT ELEphant, 10 TRAVelling bkwds, 12 c(it)ad, 19 ac+cr+a, 20 anag suitc, 21 is+sue, 24 ex+plain, 25 ham+dry+ad, 28 dm, 29 anag, 31 rack+ets, 33 broTHers+read, 34 avo(i)d(anag)+k, 37 moa(n)s, 38 dm, 39 anag.

Slot 5: Praxis. Across: 1 anag/a far/I; 7 pro/a; 10 anag; 11 Ev(OK)e; 12 Z/in/c/y; 14 r(anag)ing; 17 (T)ex/trot <; 18 Med/aid <all; 19 Ron in anag; 20: SE </teem; 22 Be(n)/fool; 24 is </L/age; 27 anag; 29 Ag/a/in; 30 t(rain)/anag; 31 no/n/suiting; 32 sit/t; Ed follows basset; Down 1: do </ER; 2: novel/I sing; 3 SWOTS = 'crams' and reverse STOWS = 'crams'; 4 ae in anag; 5: a/tri(u)m; 6: anag after RA; *7: Po/in/toff; 8: runt/0; 9: as/y(lots <)e; 13: anag; 15: Sans. after odes; 16: ideal/is T; 1: REM </CIA; 22: boa(St)s; 23: Ely/sit <; 25: N, S after lea; 26: anag; 28 d-elf<.

*POINT OFF is in neither Chambers nor Macquarie Dictionaries; but Webster's New World & Roget's A-Z Thesaurus define it thus: v. separate, group, detach

A U G U S T 2 0 1 0 S L O T 4
AJ by Virgo
Prize Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase & Fable 18th edn [2009] [rrp: \$69.95]




Solutions begin with the given letter. Solve the clues and place the solutions jigsaw-wise in the grid, where they fit

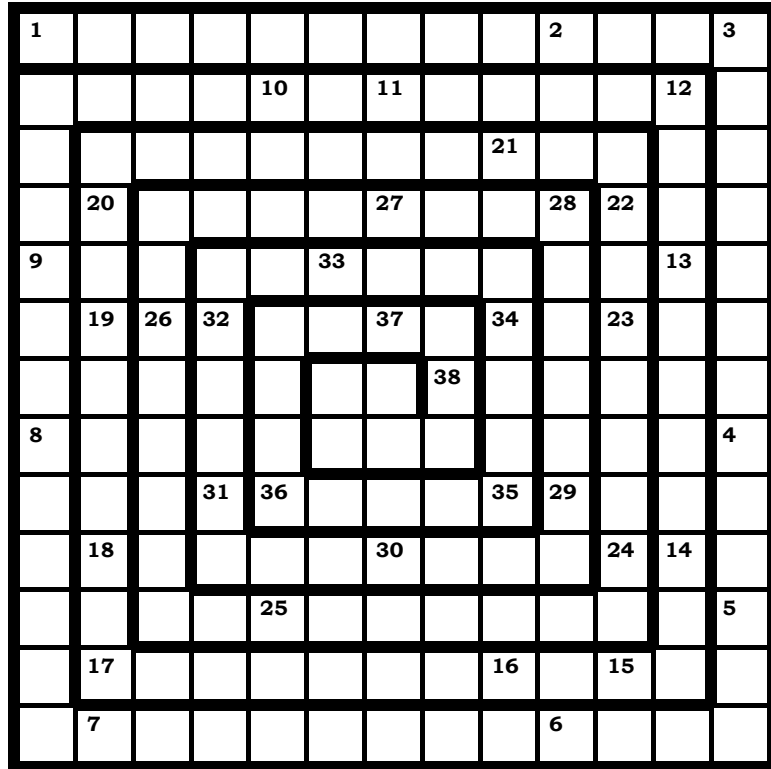
- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>A Catch at sea moved to eastern port (7-4)
 B Stubborn, but led the pack (11)
 C Seafood okay for jelly maker (4-6)
 D Fit, not hide, cap on Recorder (10)
 E Treasure measure and cave (8)
 F Mia's pig litters (7)
 G Heard to shake up and down, so turned after dance partners (7)
 H Say hello to a girl creature (6)
 I Jeremy lost river particles (4)
 J Enlists pleasure in conversation with awful puns (5,2)
 K Girl performed 'The Grasshopper' (7)
 L A cutlet with whiskers? (4,4)
 M The average gin cocktail makes sense (7)
 N New Age gas (4)
 O Stravinsky's ballet by another name or ten with the French (6)
 P The complete range of letters in near slap-up malls (6)</p> | <p>Q Cinchona medicine one of 59 overlapped (7)
 R A nation of vampires? Royal Observatory madness! (7)
 S Helvetian and Gaul endlessly make European currency (5,5)
 T Choppers appearing with golf equipment at nightfall! (8)
 U Strange starts using new cotton and not new yarn (7)
 V Jabs at the art of motion pictures in shortened suckers (8)
 W Wrinkled? Feed Zac and win smorgasbord (5-5)
 X Benzene derivative in a box – why will Buffalo Bill cross ends? (6)
 Y Once you're in conversation (4)
 Z Move closer to the animal house with the fourth form (4).</p> |
|---|--|

COMPILER PROFILES:

Merv Collins (The EmCee) migrated to Australia in the 60s to become an RAAF musician. Since then, he's made a living from music, teaching in High Schools, adjudicating, performing, conducting and generally showing off! Since retirement, he's exchanged his mouthpiece and baton for a ballpoint and paper and has been published in numerous magazines and newspapers in Australia and overseas on many diverse subjects including sport, music, religion and travel.

Cha-Cha (Catherine Hambling): "I started doing crosswords when I was at Boarding School at St Hilda's, Southport Qld [it beat doing homework!]. Later I graduated to cryptics and was really hooked. In the 1970's my daughter, Helen was helping to compile the early editions of TIME OFF and she suggested that I should try composing puzzles. With much trepidation I had a go and though these first efforts were very simple, they were published in TIME OFF and I was paid \$10! This did not last long as the paper soon ran out of space for puzzles. However Helen mentioned my exploits to a journalist friend and she decided to write an article about me. This was taken up by *The Sunday Mail* (it was Xmas 1989 and there was not much news about!). As a result, Shirl O'Brien and a couple of others contacted me and told me about the club. I had just retired from many years working in a Pathology Lab so I immediately joined. I had some puzzles in *CroZworld* after that, but stopped when our life got busier with travelling and grandchildren. (Tough – but someone had to do it!) Some urging has inspired me to try again for my 80th birthday in August!"

A U G U S T 2 0 1 0 S L O T 5
The only game in town by Fortuna 48
Prizes: \$50

[2006 edn]



When completed, the diagonals reveal four words associated with the theme. Two are read from the centre and two from the perimeter.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Wife-swap for the workers? (5,5) 2 Negative votes for re-alignment of nose (4) 3 Short time in government for competitive type of bee (8) 4 Good party member is facile (4) 5 Close former Senator (6) 6 Coalition partners claiming devotion to country ((9) 7 Politician, not really sane, goes to right (7) 8 Recent PM, not quite so rosy (4) 9 US politician amended tram code (8) 10 Key for betting authority (1,1,1) 11 Twice dance for superior deputy of abbot, during speech? (6) 12 Pretext for a type of bargain (4) 13 Adults Only have vote for God (6) 14 Has forged wins (4) 15 Do this after standing successfully (3) 16 Ousted leader to change direction of papal edict (8) 17 Party for a dog somewhere in Canada ?(3) 18 Earthy-green shade (5) 19 New qualifier for one reformed (3) 20 Fielding error to defeat party leader (9) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 21 Small private leak (4) 22 Semi public venue for drowning sorrows (3) 23 Seat: can be back or front (5) 24 Rough "hurry ups!" dump Left on the campaign trail (8) 25 Cricketer's favourite Winter sport? Putting down the Opposition? (8) 26 Small measure a way for would-be Lodger (7) 27 French author didn't quite make it to Russian Parliament (4) 28 Ask for a soft sound when the bells are rung (6) 29 Put name down backwards in this Victorian coastal town (5) 30 Establish by law a measure for capital site (5) 31 Make demands on A categories (4) 32 One positive, or many (4) 33 Tries to understand Kansas (5) 34 Back mushrooms on a gamble (4) 35 Desire one hundred to vote informally (5) 36 Raconteur keeps tally of the votes (6) 37 Sleep phase affected by radiation dosage (1,1,1) 38 Note for Irish short biography (6) |
|--|--|

"DRONGO": Max Roddick send us this interesting snippet:

"Duplications often happen. This month it was DRONGO which appeared in Slots 3 and 5, defined as 'the nitwit' and 'the dope', both of which are fine, but the primary meaning is 'a tropical bird' which opens a new world of possible clues: 'tropical bird confused Gordon' springs to mind). So, how did we Australians give it the dimwit connotation that it now has? The answer is found in the *Australian Oxford Dictionary* - "Sense 2 probably from *Drongo*, an unsuccessful racehorse of the 1920s." He must have been notorious, for when the Melbourne cartoonist Sam Wells returned from London, where he'd been working for some decades, and was asked what changes he now saw in Australia, he exclaimed 'Drongo's dead'!"

What's New in Print?


- 1. **Macquarie Encyclopedic Dictionary.** This second edition has been expanded to update and extend the encyclopedic coverage, and to include thousands of new words and senses, in particular those relating to the environment and climate change.
- 2. **Macquarie Budget Dictionary 2011.** The *Macquarie Budget Dictionary* meets the needs of readers without stretching their finances. It is updated annually with coverage of world English and Australian English distilled into a compact, easy-to-carry format. Available September 2010.

A U G U S T
2 0 1 0
S L O T 6

Cryptic by Crowsman

Prize

11th edn. 2008
rrp: \$99.95



1		2		3		4	5		6		7		8
					9								
10													
11					12								
13						14							
					15								16
	17			18				19	20				
21							22						
23									24				
25													
26								27					

Across

- 1 Recommend confining English marijuana supplier (6)
- 4 Inflated invoice (8)
- 10 Steals fitting in error (15)
- 11 Make law banishing outsiders bringing leader of pack (5)
- 12 They create illusions to manipulate court verdict (9)
- 13 Fiddle makes stitch again return (6)
- 14 Drives around concealing last of pot – on these? (7)
- 17 Invested and, holding sway, is catered for (7)
- 19 Fate determines material outcomes initially (6)
- 23 Fool returned after school's due (9)
- 24 Island goat wiped out crop (5)
- 25 War-time leader divides Russians with anticipated financial cutbacks (7,8)
- 26 Devoid of words, what mobile phone user should do (8)
- 27 Lanky workers, extremely lanky (6)

- 3 Former rover loses right to redress (7)
- 5 Rogue one gets exemption (8)
- 6 Presentation upon arrival guaranteed rest (7)
- 7 Commonsense is about you covering over food continuously (7,8)
- 8 Stop freethinker crossing south (6)
- 9 Person having broken down vessel (5)
- 15 Takes advantage of rising around first of light – withdraws from sight (8)
- 16 Tongue-in-cheek royal goes after short employment (8)
- 18 Rider has fish here in French lakefront? (7)
- 20 This Blanchett role attracted an Oscar? Yes and no (7)
- 21 Sparkling wit from priest? (6)
- 22 Taped indiscriminately, being able (5)

Down

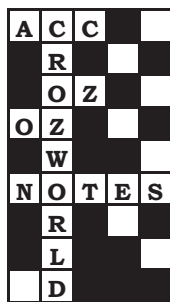
- 1 They fortified at the Horn and Fleece, perhaps (8)
- 2 After holiday, Pole has party in neat church (7,8)

**Post
Solution
to:**

Len Colgan
 1 Ailsa Avenue, Warradale, SA 5046.
 email: len.colgan@unisa.edu.au
 Closing mail date: 10 September 2010.

CLUE WRITING COMPETITION

Michael Kennedy has been appointed Adjudicator of the Clue Writing Competition in place of Steve Trollope who retired after more than five glorious years of adjudicating this popular Competition. We thank Michael for taking on this new role and wish him well in its management. Michael has some new ideas which he would like to introduce in this Competition so watch this space. For the next Competition Michael would like solvers to write a clue for **CHASTE (6)**. Send your entry to Michael Kennedy, 27 Hennessy Lane, Figtree NSW 2525 or by email to mlk@activ8.net.au
 Closing mail date: Friday **20 August 2010**. Book prize.



Results of Quiz 6/2010. Nothing to shriek about by Brian Symons.

Entries 36. Winner: Robyn Caine. Congratulations!

Results:

21: R Caine, B Cockburn, P Dearie, A Jermy, C Noble and A Walter. **20.5:** J Fowler, R Gardiner, K Harper, B Hagan, S Howells, G Leeds, A Miles, Ted O'Brien, M Potts, D Procter, A Simons, L Spicer, M Steinberger, N Storey and J Wenham. **20:** P Lord and B Glissan. **19.5:** G Cole, P Garner C Jones, R Dorrell, P Mercer and J Stocks. **19:** A Austin and N Wilson. **18.5:** B Siegman **18:** V Howard, C McLelland and T McPherson. **17.5:** R Wimbush. **17:** J Smith.

Answers:

GROUSE, CROW, OSTRICH, SKYLARK, CHAT, RAIL, TURKEY, THRUSH, GANDER, SWIFT, KNOT, SWALLOW, QUAIL, SNIPE, JAY, PARROT, GULL or ROOK, SQUAB, NIGHTINGALE, CHICKEN.

Adjudicator's Comments:

Nightingale and squab caused the most problems. FULLY explaining the heading implied a little more than the obvious anagram. Only a handful of entries saw that two more birds were alluded to namely, DUCK and SHRIKE. May I also bring to members' attention *Reading the OED?* This book is both erudite and amusing and often very laugh-out-loud funny. A great book for word lovers.

Members' Comments:

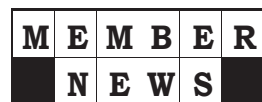
Lots of appreciative replies. My address was commented on as a clue or inspiration (Kookaburra place).

A "DUCK" is "NOTHING" if you like
With "SHRIEK" an anagram of "SHRIKE"
Therefore the answers must be words
Which also can be types of birds. (Robyn Caine)

The **CHRISTMAS IN JULY 2010 Get-Together** held on 25 July at the Royal Oak Hotel in Fitzroy was a sparkling success. With 33 dedicated cruciverbalists in attendance it proved to be a happy occasion for all concerned. Some of those in attendance included David & Joy Procter, Max Roddick, Valerie Howard, Merv & Chris Collins, Denis Coates & Pip Winter, Gillian Champion, Wendy Villiers, Robyn and Ian Caine, Cheryl & Richard Wilcox, Chris & Michael Heenan, John Davey, Alison Shield, Kath Harper, Alison Martin and Barbara and Phillip Morris. We were thrilled to welcome Catherine and Ted Hambling from Brisbane and David and Hazel Grainger from the ACT. The food and wine proved to be a happy marriage and the Quiz was won by Merv Collins with an impressive score. A neat little crossword by *stroz* topped off a wonderful day and the marvellous book prize was won by Alison Shield. Brill! See you next year!

2010 GET-TOGETHER AND HAVE FUN!!

The ACC's **Annual Get-Together** will be held at William 'Raoul' Ryan's new 'Gastropub' *The Harold Park Hotel*, cnr Wigram Road and Ross Street, Glebe NSW on **Sunday 28 November 2010** commencing at 11:30am. William says: "The year 2010 sees the hotel celebrate its 122nd birthday, and purchase by Australia's first fifth-generation hotelkeeper, William Ryan who enthuses that the Hotel will be just perfect for the ACC's Get-Together in November. As before, there will be an extensive menu on offer, \$8-\$10 entrees, \$12-\$19 mains with drinks at bar prices. Members can pay as they go on the day. The kitchen is twice the size of Raoul's previous hotel, so the more the merrier! There will be plenty of the Club's best known personalities in attendance. Why not come along and say 'hello'? We will have some prizes to give away and there will be a fascinating Quiz. Looking forward to meeting up again.



New Member: Lila Fry from Emerald, Qld (a Membership Gift from Jenny Wenham). Welcome Lila to the Wonderful World of *Crozworlding!*

Subscription renewals: Dr Bob Crossman

and Ken Watt.

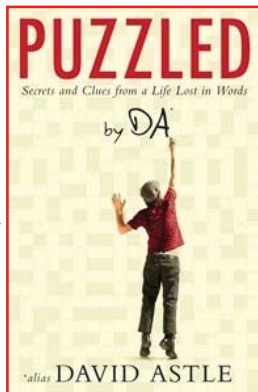
Puzzle Adjustment: Barbara Glissan gained dots for June slots 2, 3, 4 and 5. Jan Wood gained dots in slots 1-5 in July.

Quiz No 8/2010: Election Special by Fortuna 48

Answers appear in alphabetic order, and have a common definition. Send your solutions to Nea Storey, 10 Whiteman Street, Wanniasa, ACT 2903. Fax: 02 6231 0820. Email: neachy2@netspeed.com.au. Closing date Friday 10 September 2010. Book prize.

- 1 Deal illegally with assistant (8)
- 2 Deepest part for a perch (4)
- 3 Worry about Los Angeles (6)
- 4 Archaic simpleton's child (6)
- 5 Car to drive in Garden Paradise (4-6)
- 6 Cross Point (5)
- 7 One short of a comedy series (6)
- 8 Sounds Like Aeroplane or Cottee's (10)
- 9 Pilfered pork (6)
- 10 Independent one (4)
- 11 Ja! Ja! Lady Gaga behaves outrageously – no lady (8)
- 12 Yoko confused about German (7)
- 13 Most flower on arable land (6)
- 14 The early part of life needs nothing (4)
- 15 Abridged presentation of current affairs by the French (9)
- 16 Cheer about unknown heard? Why? (5)
- 17 Lab dish with drug (6)
- 18 Search for golden outlook (8)
- 19 The writer in scarlet (4)
- 20 Retract no vote, right? (4)
- 21 Heard rowin' (7)
- 22 The wisdom of Lew? (7)
- 23 Moss as monetary standard, I hear (8)
- 24 Chinese Dynasty precedes Napoleonic Marshal (7)
- 25 Poet, heard aright (6)

Wordplay Wizard **David Astle** — well-known to crossworders as 'DA' — has written a book titled **PUZZLED** which the book publishers Allen + Unwin will release in September (rrp \$29.95). David said that the book is "a cocktail of a kind, where every clue of a central puzzle is the next chapter, and every chapter throws open a new door [anagram of one word!] onto an aspect of wordplay, puzzle history or even my own puzzling history – how I ended up captive to the black-and-white squares." We are hopeful that the publishers will offer the book to ACC members at a special price. So watch this space!



The Australian Oxford Dictionary

WORD OF THE MONTH

noctambulist *n.* a sleepwalker. [ORIGIN: Latin *nox noctis* 'night' + *ambulare* 'walk'.]

The Australian Oxford Dictionary, Second Edition, 2004. Edited by Dr Bruce Moore. \$115.00 ISBN 9780195517965

The **OUP Australian National Dictionary** is now available free online. In honour of OUP's 100th anniversary of publishing in Australia, OUP have launched this wonderful national language resource readily available to all Australians – 10,000 words and idioms that make up the Australian contribution to the English language. Visit: <http://www.oup.com.au/> and click on Our Gift to the Nation.

July 1-2010: Half 'n Half by *The Eager Beaver* (Bev Cockburn)

- Some unusual definitions added interest. *Nea Storey*
- Not too easy, with some interesting words – inarm, egence, astringe. *Peter Dearie*
- 2 possible solutions for 8dn, agency or egence.

Tony De Gryz

- Found this harder than usual. I'd never heard of 'agency' and it's not in my dictionary. Thoroughly enjoyed 'up to one's elbows'!

Anne Simons

- A hard Slot 1, with several unfamiliar words.

Brian Symons

- Thanks Bev for an enjoyable slot 1 puzzle. 8dn 'egence' is an alternative spelling. In 20dn, I have used the English spelling 'sceptis' & avoided the US 'skepsis which I personally prefer. (Also prefer the spelling skeptic rather than sceptic)

Alan Walter

July 2-2010: Cryptic by *Jesso* (Noel Jessop)

- Particularly enjoyed 10ac, 16ac, 2dn, 6dn and 17dn.

Nea Storey

- I had no idea that 'Negeb' was an alternative name for 'Negev'. I hope no-one gets 11ac wrong!

Peter Dearie

- 12ac presumably criminal is an anagram for Huguenot and 21 should include 'hyphenated' or 3-4.
- At first I put 'tea-urn' for 14ac, which meant I had trouble with 'skydiving' + 'stingiest'. Like the clues for 'Wonthaggi' and 'indeterminately'.

Anne Simons

- An excellent Jessop concoction.

Brian Symons

- A good Slot 2 cryptic thanks Noel. In 9ac the 15-letter anagram took some time to solve. Liked your HO(a)RSE opera in 22dn and your town 'Wonthaggi' in 11ac. Also liked 12ac 'Huguenot' for French Protestant and 26dn 'Boyar' for Russian aristocrat's son. Good words.

Alan Walter

July 3-2010: Cryptic by *InGrid* (Jean Barbour)

- OIK – What a great addition to my vocabulary!
- Not a pushover by any means. 'Haustella' was a new word to me.

Peter Dearie

- 24dn, 'justify a former patent', 'a' is not only unnecessary but also wrong as an article because patent is used as an adjective, not a noun.

Tony De Gryz

- I'd never heard of 'haustella' or 'dissed' for that matter. Hope 'leghorn' is correct.

Anne Simons

- Learnt in 44ac 'dissed' = spoke disrespectfully, in 24dn 'patent' = plain and in 28dn that a 'leghorn' = straw plait. Also in 32ac 'proboscises' = haustella. 43ac 'arnuts' = plants, 42ac 'halma' = a game. 4dn emesis = sick. Thanks *InGrid*. (I had a few comments re DISSED but anyone with teenagers would have heard this term far too often!)

Alan Walter

July 4-2010: AJ by *Betelgeuse* (Gillian Champion)

- Yoop took quite a bit of time verifying in Google. Liked P-Kelts, didn't know drop scone is a pikelet. Is it valid to have a Dutch word with no indication of this in the clue? [re 25ac VOETGANGER – it's generally accepted as fair game to use a foreign word as long as it's a headword in Chambers or Macquarie, especially when the definition is taken directly from the dictionary entry, as it was in this case: IMW] *Tony Dobe*

- Q fell into place straight away, but S and H proved trickier! This puzzle took me a long time, and I had to resort to some guesswork.

Nea Storey

- Not surprisingly, 'voetganger' and 'laetropic' were among the last to be solved. A tricky AJ.

Peter Dearie

- Descendent must be right for the D clue, but is 'going down' DESCEND or DESCENDENT? In either case the

rest of the clue does not fit in. Is ESC the key for the finish (END) so that DENT can go round it? Thank heaven for LAEOTROPIC: that made it easier for NAIF. These two were the last words I completed. P-KELTS is right, I hope but I do not understand 'drop scones' (pikelets) that's off (-ie). VOETGANGER I should have guessed, being a Dutch word still in vogue, sooner than I did. XYSTOS is a walkway but how does 'in the middle of greeting INXS' apply, meaning what? Overall a difficult but satisfactory slot. I learned a few new words!

Tony De Gryz

- I took a long time to get BALU until I remembered my son's cubbing days and the Jungle Book.

Margaret Galbreath

- AJ was a stinker this month – thought I had it beaten until the P clue.

Pat Lord

- This was hard – took ages to get 'hydroski' and 'townsman'. Ditto for L, J, W and X.

Anne Simons

- A wonderful A-J. Iron Sands got my COTM.

Brian Symons

- J=J+O+LSO+N, LSO = London Symphony Orchestra, O=OB+STRUC+TOR = wall. Where OB is man reversing, STRUC(K) = almost hit & TOR = rock. BO = man's address. X = XYSTOS+walks (plural). Singular walk only was indicated in the clue P = P-Kelts = PIKELETS – IE = drop scone+s. Thanks for a very challenging AJ *Betelgeuse*.

July 5-2010: Cryptic by *Praxis* (Roy Wilson)

- Definitely difficult – took me a long while to confirm Elytis, because I was looking for an Ancient Greek poet!
- Odessans, Voigt and Elytis could not be found in any of my reference books. Non-suiting was the last answer solved. Please give word lengths instead of just 'two words'.

Peter Dearie

- 'Zincy' must be right (12ac) but where does 'impedance' apply?

Tony De Gryz

- ZINCY was hard. I didn't know the symbol for impedance till I decided that ZINCY had to be the answer and looked up Z and there it was.

Margaret Galbreath

- Tough. Finally worked out 'esteem and could not find 23dn in my references – and 'whatabouts'?

Anne Simons

- Another gem from Roy – I'm a bit unsure about point off.

Brian Symons

- Thanks for your mindbending *Zimenean* cryptic Roy. 12ac Z+IN+C+Y Z = impedance, C=cold, Y=year. 9dn AS + Y + STOL+E, AS = while, YE = the old and STOL = lots reversed. Prefer FULL indicators for 2 word clues.

Alan Walter

More excerpts from *READING THE OED* by Ammon Shea (text supplied courtesy Merv Collins)

- **Arrision** (n.) *The action of smiling at.* I don't know why *arrision* never caught on. Perhaps because it rhymes with *derision*.

- **Avidulous** (adj.) *Somewhat greedy.* Not excessively greedy, just somewhat greedy. The perfect word to describe such occurrences as when the cashier gives too much change and we neglect to draw his attention to it. The *OED* does not define it as such, but I like to think of *avidulous* as "acceptably greedy".

- **Constult** (v.) *To act stupidly together.* Taking part in an activity that is inordinately stupid just because one's friends are doing it is not the exclusive province of teenagers—it just seems that way.

- **Dilapidator** (n.) *A person who neglects a building and allows it to deteriorate.* The original meaning of dilapidate (from the Latin *dilapidare*, to squander) was to allow a building to fall into a state of disrepair. In New York dilapidators are simply known as landlords.

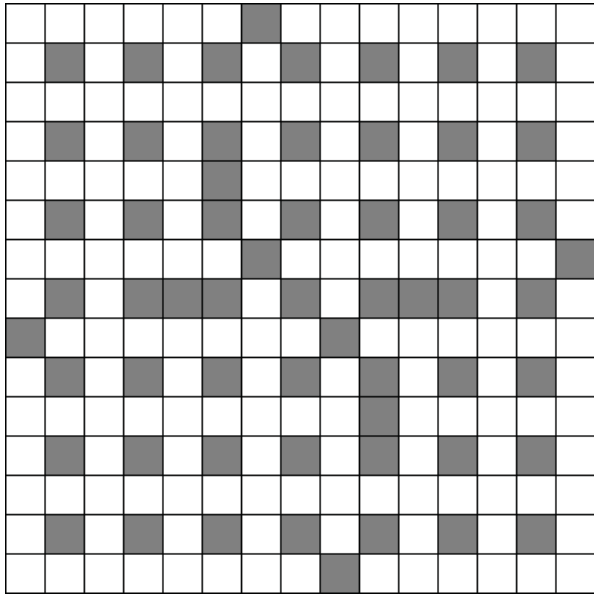
- **Fedity** (n., pl.) *Vile or repulsive practices.* It is never a bad idea to know one more word with which to describe foul or vile practices. Whether because you wish to condemn them or engage in them, it is certain to come in handy. *See also:* insordescant.

- **Illutible** (adj.) *Unable to be washed away.* A word that suits a wide range of subjects, from bicycle grease to adultery. *See also:* ablution.

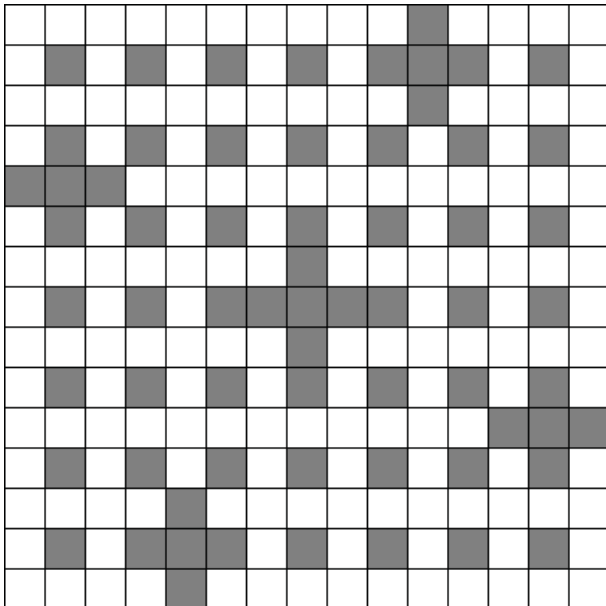
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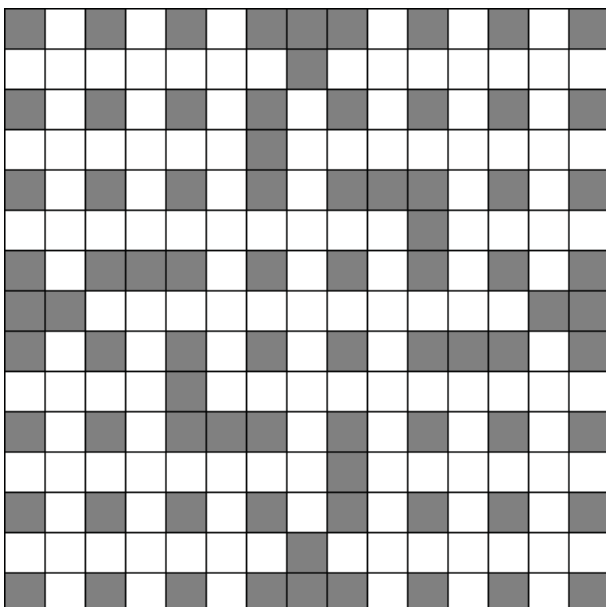
Send solution to: Len Colgan,
1 Ailsa Avenue, Warradale, SA 5046
Closing mail date: Friday 10 September 2010.
NAME:



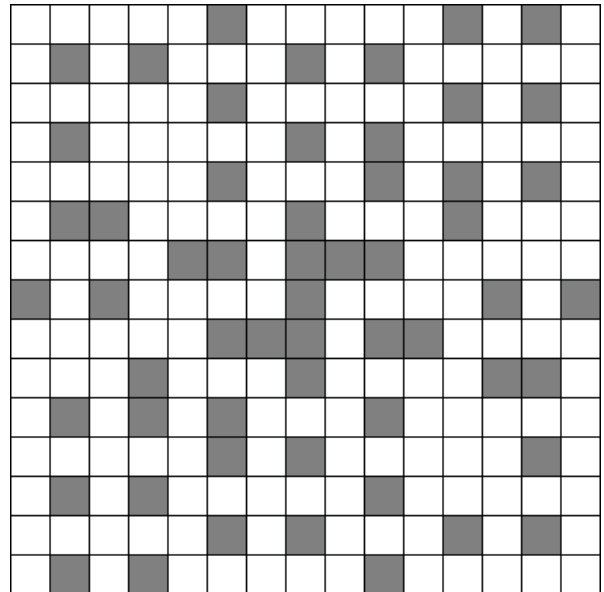
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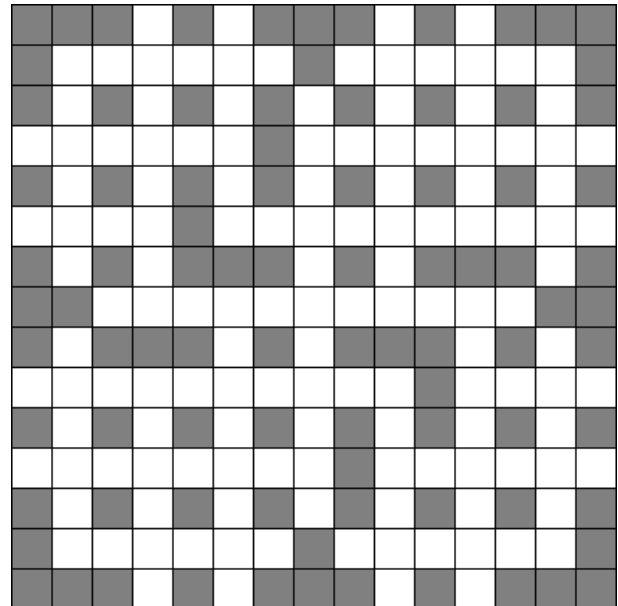
|A|U|G|U|S|T| |4| |2|0|1|0|



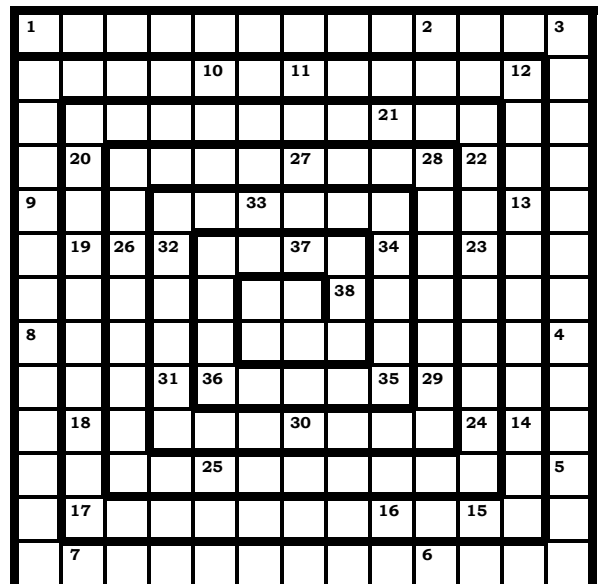
|A|U|G| |1| |2|0|1|0| NAME.....



|A|U|G|U|S|T| |3| |2|0|1|0|



|A|U|G|U|S|T| |5| |2|0|1|0|



Clue of the Month

June 6-2010: Word Squares by Barney Naga (Bob Hagan & Jeremy Barnes)

Entries 56. Correct 56. Success rate 100%.

Prizewinner: Dave and Al Callan. Congratulations!

Adjudicator's comments:

I must acknowledge that Bob was the driving force behind this cryptic challenge. He dabbled with this type of task back in the early days of the ACC and proposed that we try to fine-tune the format. We therefore attempted to set a puzzle that relied on the solving of conventional cryptic clues combined with the novelty of deciphering the correct word square sequences. We did a little practical research and concluded that because there is, necessarily, a number of unusual words, that the clues needed to be challenging but unambiguous. We also opted to provide the corner letters – partly to make the puzzle more solvable, but also to entice members to “have a go”. It is disappointing to have only 56 entries. However, as all entries were correct, it can be assumed that there were other members who may have come close to, but not quite fully completed, the task. If we were to have a similar puzzle published in the future I would urge members to accept the challenge as there was a very positive response from many (admittedly successful) solvers – some of which are included below.

—Jeremy Barnes

Solvers' Comments:

- Great fun puzzle! *Roy Taylor*
- Thanks for the puzzle. Had to go square-eyed for a while to fit the solutions in the grid. Found your clues very concise, so once a solution was found, I knew it was right and had to fit. Liked SMEAR the best. *Jack Stocks*
- “Tease” teased me. “Nones” was the last in the list and the last to dawn! *Andrew Miles*
- Thanks for something different and enjoyable – beautifully clued as usual. *Brian Symons*
- Many thanks *Barney Naga* for your “4 SQUARE” puzzle. It took quite some time to unravel. The prize of the 11th Edition of *Chambers* is well worth winning. (I only have the 9th Edition on my bookshelf). *Alan Walter*
- It wasn't an easy puzzle but I am hoping for a tick when the results are published. *Nea Storey*
- I've attached effort to your clever puzzle. I thoroughly enjoyed it and thought it a great change of pace. *Roy Wilson*
- This was certainly a challenge! I'm beginning to feel I'm losing the plot a bit lately and didn't really expect to finish this one. I'll feel so much better if I score a tick, so fingers crossed. Thanks for something different. *Shirl O'Brien*
- Have almost lost the hang of solving puzzles over the last few months as I have been flat strap culling my household possessions and trying to sell this house. Think I'm about there. I just had to do your puzzle lads – hope I'm right and the old brain hasn't quite atrophied. *Del Kennedy*
- What a novel idea! I enjoyed this challenge very much. Some excellent clues which you must have given a great deal of thought to. Is there a secret/method to write clues which “make sense” – ie read as a sentence? Eg “A coach tour to our regular places”. I particularly liked 7,5,6,10,12,19,20....all of them! TOPS! *Graeme Cole*
- It's always good to see something different. Nice clues, especially NONES. *Andrew Patterson*
- Thank you for your innovative puzzle which I have thankfully completed – your cluing was extremely devious

and for a long time I only had four answers!! I'm not sure how you two divide the toil – who does the clueing, who sets the puzzle?? *Bev Cockburn*

• Thank you for providing a great word puzzle with which to exercise the grey matter. *David Procter*

• Thank you for an interesting and challenging puzzle. I don't know if all the answers are correct, but at least they make word squares! *Robyn Caine*

• I much enjoyed this puzzle. It involved a lot of trial and error, but it was great to see it all fall into place. The hardest to get I thought was RENTE. I was stuck until the word fell out of the dictionary page into my lap. Then I understood the clue. *Margaret Galbreath*

• This was a very interesting puzzle, one which I have never come across before. I thought the clues very good, not so difficult as to make the puzzle unsolvable, but not easy either. Hope it gets a good response. *Peter Dearie*

• This was tough; some juggling needed to fit words in. A nice change. *Anne Simons*

• I wasn't going to attempt this but I am glad I did. I enjoyed once I got my head around it! *Ann Jermy*

• I enjoyed doing this with a different twist from the usual. *Hilary Cromer*

• Thank you both for your puzzle. I've had a bit of practice with the 25 letter grid as it turns up in “Brain Trainers” in the *Weekend Australian*, but to have it multiplied by four is a whole new ball game! I am most grateful to you for giving us the corner letters. Without those I would have been floundering still, I'm sure! *Margaret Davis*

• I enjoyed this – some strange words – but very fair clues. *Jill Freeland*

• Nice lot of new words there – reest, urate, rente, ottos, akene, nones all new to me. *Tony Dobebe*

• Thanks for an interesting and original puzzle. Its simplicity was deceiving and took a fair bit of greying grey cells activity to resolve. Some very good clues. *Jim Fowler*

• This was an interesting challenge – thanks! *Mike Potts*

• I was struggling with about half of the words solved until I started thinking outside the square(s)! Hopefully, I've completed it correctly. Thanks for your efforts. *Dave Parsons*

• This puzzle took me a very long time to solve and I think that the four given letters were a necessity, not just to help me get started! I noted that of the 20 clues, 15 are arrangements of letters in various ways to form the solutions – such as every 2nd letter, reverse orders, anagrams or a combination of these: TAKEN, AKENE, ASTOP, GRANT, TRESS, TUTOR, REEST, ROTOR, SMEAR, RENTE, OASTS, OTTOS, TASTE, KNEEL (ANAGRAM PLUS ADJUSTMENT) and NONES. Not in this category are PRESS, TEASE, URATE, ATONE and STARK. Knowing that ¾ of the clues were of the former group may help with any future puzzles from you, and just as well because the hardest part is to fit all the solutions in the four squares. Thanks to you and Bob for stimulating my brain with your clever puzzle. *Tony de Gry*

• I very much enjoyed the challenge of your Slot 6 puzzle – even if I do not have all the answers correct. It's good to see a different form of crossword on offer. *Susan Howells*

• Thanks for a great Slot 6. *Kate Harper*

• Thanks for an enjoyable puzzle with a difference. RENTE was my favourite clue – a new word for me, along with AKENE, OTTOS and REEST. *Jan Wood*

• Looked like a breeze, but complex clues and some strange words (AKENE, RENTE) and then “squaring the squares” made it very satisfying to finish. *Max Roddick*