



|N|o.|2|7|9| |J|U|L|Y| |2|0|1|3|



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We must use words as they are used or stand aside from life.  
Ivy Compton-Burnett, 1955, *Mother and Son*, Ch 9.

|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|

It has been more than 12 months since SBS announced that they "had made a decision to rest" the popular show *Letters and Numbers*. They said that they wanted to "develop other programs so they could continue to offer new, great content to their audiences." The last episode was transmitted on 27 June 2012. SBS then decided to air the UK version of *Letters and Numbers* at 5:45pm weekdays but that seems to have disappeared too. We know that some members of the ACC never missed an episode of the wonderfully entertaining and intellectually challenging Aussie show and would sincerely like to see its welcome return.

We will be privileged to have *Mr Dictionary* (David Astle) in attendance at our Christmas in July function on 28 July next. This might be an ideal opportunity to discuss with David whether the Aussie version of the *Letters and Numbers* show should return. Perhaps on the ABC-TV at say 6:30pm on weekdays? Any ideas? One can only hope that the louder the chorus, the more pause for thought in network corridors.

Our masterly Puzzle Editor, **Ian Williams**, has again selected a fascinating set of excellent puzzles and quizzes for you this month. Our perennial favourite *Southern Cross* is back and *Blue King* and *Kaeila* are there for your ongoing enjoyment. *Penobscot* has devised a Double Acrostic for you in Slot 5, and our outstanding Puzzle Editor – using the cruciverbonym of *Bogeyman* – has set the Slot 1 Half 'n Half puzzle. In Slot 6 *Manveru* has given us another superb Cryptic and *Flowerman* is featured in the Slot 7 spot with an excellent cryptic puzzle. Also, we have two marvellous Quizzes and Michael Kennedy has challenged members to enter the Clue Writing Competition by devising a clue for the phrase WEATHER VANE (7,4).

Finally don't forget about our Christmas in July on Sunday 28 July. See you there! Best of Luck with your solving.  
—Patrick

The prize for prescience in clueing must surely go *Manveru* for his FEDERAL clue – "all are defective and going backwards", indeed! Although it didn't win COTM – it was pipped by SUSPICIOUS DEATH (arguably, also quite apposite in the circumstances), you may rest assured, Michael, that you have our full support...Enough said! A difficult month for Prime Ministers and solvers alike. Although the puzzles graduated in difficulty, each one had at least a couple of very tricky clues.

**Slot 1:** The main problem was one of *Zinzan's* straight clues. "Applied lightly" is DABBED. DAUBED was considered at length but ultimately not accepted because, although it might involve a light application, that is not necessarily the case. On the contrary, a DAUB is equally a crude smear. The "baker" (O+V+EN) also drew a few OWENS, which satisfied the cryptic part of the clue but not the definition. *Crowsman's* sighting in this puzzle (LENS) did not go unremarked.

**Slot 2:** A warmly received debut by *Zythum* which was generally well solved. Ten separate clues nominated for COTM, including the winner, is testament to the quality. Still, there were two clues in particular which led Members into error. The formula is EQUATION found by EQUITATION (a "mounted activity" – on horse) minus IT (the "computer department"). The anagram of INSIDESNOT elicited a number of erroneous DISTENTIONs. The spelling is an acceptable variant for DISTENSION ("abnormal swelling"), but does not satisfy the anagram.

**Slot 3:** Members found *St Jude's* puzzle a real challenge. Few tripped up on the two borderline spellings – WHINGING & GOSSIPING – but there were plenty of other traps. UNDIES ("lingerie") minus IS gives UNDE, an heraldic wave. The rebound was REFLEX ("automatic") + I ("current") + ON ("is active"). REKNITTED ("repaired") was simple but deceptively hard to parse – N ("new interior") in RE-KITTED (re-equipped). All these clues received COTM nominations.

**Slot 4:** Probably the least difficult of the puzzles, *Manveru's* AJ nevertheless had three clues which saw more than a few solvers stumble. The "wandering" is ERRANTRY (not ERRANDRY) being ANT (the "soldier") trapped between ER ("queen"), R ("king") and RY ("borders of Romany"). K was a cryptic definition looking for typing (the "digital roll-out"), hence KEYPAD. At the end was a cracking clue – "his partner's late" – looking for a WIDOWER in an anagram of W ("with") + WEIRDO.

**Slot 5:** *Betelgeuse's* Diminished AJ had a solving time measured in weeks, not hours. For those still solving, you may now put down your pens and be released from mental torment! Comments were either "great puzzle" or "great puzzle, wrong place", but a nearly universal theme was awe at how Gillian manages to compile these fiends. Nor has she forsaken wit for difficulty – IS TAKEN, LAV & INKPOT all elicited COTM nominations and doubtless more than a few smiles.

**COTM:** Some months it can be a bit of a chore trawling through the clues to find one which stands out from the pack. Not so this month – there was a bounteous selection. In addition to those already mentioned – *Zinzan's* LANDAU, from *Zythum* FOCUSSES, SPLIT PIN & VESPIKE, and *Manveru's* SPELLCHECK and WIDOWER. Surprising, then, at how many entries made no nomination at all. Perhaps no further thought was possible after engaging with Slot 5! Finally, it was great to see how few blank spaces there were – I counted only four in the mail copies. Much improved! Best of solving. —Andrew Miles

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

Puzzle No.	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Entries received	114	112	89	109	62	486
Correct entries	88	87	68	92	54	389
Success rate (%)	77	78	76	84	87	80
Prizewinners	C Mackay-Sim R Wilson	M Blake V Lobsey	J Fowler K Harper	S Howells	C Anderson	from 114 members

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

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Half and Half by <i>Bogeyman</i>	3
Cryptic by <i>Blue King</i>	4
Cryptic by <i>Southern Cross</i>	5
AJ by <i>Kaeila</i>	6
Double Acrostic by <i>Penobscot</i>	7
Cryptic by <i>Manveru</i>	8
Bonus Quiz	9
Members' Comments	10
Results May 6	12
Cryptic by <i>Flowerman</i>	13
Quiz No 7/2013	14
Clue Writing Comp	16

Prizewinner: June 2013 Slots 1-5: Julie Leigh. Congratulations!

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

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<b>Puzzle Editor</b>	Ian Williams	12 Lindrum Cres, Holt ACT 2615	Ph (02) 6254 6860	ianw@webone.com.au

### June 1-2013

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

### June 2-2013

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

### June 3-2013

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

### June 4-2013

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

### June 5-2013

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

### May 6-2013

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



## MEMBERS RESULTS FOR MAY Slot 6 & JUNE Slots 1-5



MEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6
ABBOTT, Patricia	*					
ALLEN W	*	*	*	*	*	*
ANDERSON C	*	*	*	*	*	*
ARCHIBALD C	*					
AUSTIN A	*					
BARBOUR J	*					
BARNES J	*	*	*	*	*	*
BARRETT A	*	*	*	*	*	*
BAYLIS J	*	*	*	*	*	*
BENNETT B	*	*	*	*	*	*
BENNETT D	*	*	*	*	*	*
BLAKE M	*	*	*	*	*	*
BRYANT R	*	*	*	*	*	*
BUTLER D	*	*	*	*	*	*
CAINE R	*	*	*	*	*	*
CAMERON H	*	*	*	*	*	*
CARPENTER R	*	*	*	*	*	*
CARROLL L	*	*	*	*	*	*
CHAMPION G	*	*	*	*	*	*
COATES D	*	*	*	*	*	*
COCKBURN B	*	*	*	*	*	*
COLE G	*	*	*	*	*	*
COLGAN L	*	*	*	*	*	*
COWAN M	*	*	*	*	*	*
CROMER H	*	*	*	*	*	*
DAVIS M	*	*	*	*	*	*
DEARIE P	*	*	*	*	*	*
DENNIS M	*	*	*	*	*	*
DINHAM V	*	*	*	*	*	*
DOBELE T	*	*	*	*	*	*
DORRELL R	*	*	*	*	*	*
DOUGLAS R	*	*	*	*	*	*
DUCKER R	*	*	*	*	*	*
DYER A	*	*	*	*	*	*
EVANS Jean	*	*	*	*	*	*
FOWLER J	*	*	*	*	*	*
FREELAND J	*	*	*	*	*	*
FRY L	*	*	*	*	*	*

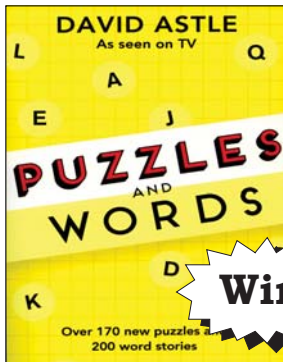
MEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6
FULLER G	*	*	*	*	*	*
GARNER P	*	*	*	*	*	*
GLISSAN B	*	*	*	*	*	*
GOODERICK R	*	*	*	*	*	*
GRAINGER D	*	*	*	*	*	*
GREENBERGER O	*	*	*	*	*	*
GREENING D	*	*	*	*	*	*
HAGAN B	*	*	*	*	*	*
HAMBLING C	*	*	*	*	*	*
HARPER K	*	*	*	*	*	*
HAZELL N	*	*	*	*	*	*
HEENAN C	*	*	*	*	*	*
HEMSLEY D	*	*	*	*	*	*
HOWARD L	*	*	*	*	*	*
HOWARD V	*	*	*	*	*	*
HOWELLS S	*	*	*	*	*	*
IBBOTT B	*	*	*	*	*	*
JAMES V	*	*	*	*	*	*
JARMAN L	*	*	*	*	*	*
JERMY A	*	*	*	*	*	*
JONES D	*	*	*	*	*	*
KENNEDY L	*	*	*	*	*	*
KENNEDY M	*	*	*	*	*	*
LEE C	*	*	*	*	*	*
LEEDS G	*	*	*	*	*	*
LEIGH J	*	*	*	*	*	*
LLOYD G	*	*	*	*	*	*
LOBSEY V	*	*	*	*	*	*
LORD P	*	*	*	*	*	*
McADOO G	*	*	*	*	*	*
MACKAY-SIM C	*	*	*	*	*	*
McCLELLAND C	*	*	*	*	*	*
McGRATH J	*	*	*	*	*	*
McKENZIE I	*	*	*	*	*	*
McMANUS D	*	*	*	*	*	*
MARTIN A	*	*	*	*	*	*
MEEK D	*	*	*	*	*	*

MEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6
MERCER P	*	*	*	*	*	*
MILES A	*	*	*	*	*	*
MILTON R	*	*	*	*	*	*
MOLINE R	*	*	*	*	*	*
MORRIS B	*	*	*	*	*	*
NOBLE C	*	*	*	*	*	*
O'BRIEN Eileen	*	*	*	*	*	*
PARSONS D	*	*	*	*	*	*
PATERSON A	*	*	*	*	*	*
PEARCE J	*	*	*	*	*	*
PINDER S	*	*	*	*	*	*
POTTS M	*	*	*	*	*	*
PROCTER D	*	*	*	*	*	*
PROCTER M	*	*	*	*	*	*
PYC M	*	*	*	*	*	*
QUINN C	*	*	*	*	*	*
RENDELL A	*	*	*	*	*	*
ROULSTON S	*	*	*	*	*	*
RYAN W	*	*	*	*	*	*
SHIELD A	*	*	*	*	*	*
SIMONS A	*	*	*	*	*	*
SKINNER R	*	*	*	*	*	*
SMITH J	*	*	*	*	*	*
STEINBERGER M	*	*	*	*	*	*
STOREY N	*	*	*	*	*	*
SYMONS B	*	*	*	*	*	*
TAYLOR R	*	*	*	*	*	*
TAYLOR S	*	*	*	*	*	*
THOMPSON I	*	*	*	*	*	*
TICKLE B	*	*	*	*	*	*
VILLIERS W	*	*	*	*	*	*
WAITES L	*	*	*	*	*	*
WALTER A	*	*	*	*	*	*
WENHAM J	*	*	*	*	*	*
WILCOX C	*	*	*	*	*	*
WILLIAMS I	*	*	*	*	*	*
WILSON R	*	*	*	*	*	*
WIMBUSH R	*	*	*	*	*	*
WOOD J	*	*	*	*	*	*
WOODFORD J	*	*	*	*	*	*
ZUCAL H	*	*	*	*	*	*

J	U	L	Y		
2	0	1	3		
S	L	O	T		1

**Half and Half  
by  
Bogeyman**

**Prizes: \$75**



**Autographed by DA**

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					28			29
30											
		31					32				
33				34							

This puzzle is dedicated to the members who recently expressed delight in "finally" being able to solve a Ximenean (barred) crossword. Here's another, we hope!

**Across**

- 1 Amicable (8)
- 7 Source of light and heat (4)
- 10 Boredom (5)
- 11 Courted (5)
- 13 Irritates (9)
- 14 Lump (4)
- 16 Drive (6)
- 17 Shire (6)
- 18 Mistakes (6)
- 19 Strive for (6)
- 20 Indulged in wild revelry (6)
- 23 Former German republic (6)
- 25 Lizard (6)
- 26 Continentals (6)
- 28 Design on metal or glass (4)
- 30 Is subject to (9)
- 31 Cherished ambition (5)
- 32 Run away (5)
- 33 Simple (4)
- 34 Discharges of debt (8)

**Down**

- 1 Plant giving iron to sailors (4)
- 2 Composing indoors with Oxford University, having no effect on sense (9)
- 3 Contents of drawers – roughly one pound (6)
- 4 Lives by large number of springs (6)
- 5 Case of distilled perchloric acid (6)
- 6 Recruits may cry "Young fellow" in return (6)
- 7 Exploit abundance, avoiding Sunday (4)
- 8 Flapping Cretan erne making a comeback (2-8)
- 9 Those who attempt a letter always have rupees (8)
- 12 Spanish sport boxing information shows things that need righting (10)
- 15 Endless Japanese film speech lacks alternative vigour (9)
- 16 Where one can't get closer to moon fairy suffering Bardic madness (8)
- 21 Catch the majority of partners returning (6)
- 22 Delivered regularly one flower (6)
- 23 Take bed from bridleway roughly, but with care (6)
- 24 Encounters note returning value (6)
- 27 Against Eastern railway – extremely! (4)
- 29 Hastens to high school that's central (4)

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

Slots 1-5: Brian Symons, 1 Kookaburra Pl, Grays Point NSW 2232.  
e-mail: [bms65@bigpond.com](mailto:bms65@bigpond.com)  
Closing mail date: Friday 26 July 2013.  
e-lodgment: [ianw@webone.com.au](mailto:ianw@webone.com.au)  
Slot 6: Michael Kennedy, 27 Hennessy Lane, Figtree NSW 2525.  
email: [manveru@bigpond.com](mailto:manveru@bigpond.com)  
Closing mail date: Friday 9 August 2013.

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

J	U	L	Y		
2	0	1	3		
S	L	O	T		2

## Cryptic by *Blue King*



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							28						

### Across

- 1 Old language from sly first class head driller? (8)
- 5 Short hard science generates internal cleanser? (6)
- 10 Penniless band entertain right after cattle in expensive place to live (11,4)
- 11 Plans for the highlands exposed by whistle blower hiding story on retro canned meat (6,4)
- 13 Fish at a guess (4)
- 15 Pass in at no time poorer (7)
- 17 Gold consumed over natural nitrogen compound (7)
- 18 Cold cuts around monarch's teeth maybe (7)
- 19 Eliminate waste in former island (7)
- 21 Several deliveries are complete (4)
- 22 Unwanted addition when grown up leads delinquent without right (10)
- 25 Winning position in a three horse race (15)
- 27 Slip and trip (6)
- 28 Begin again without fourth grade flier (8)


- 2 Senior officer with love for Bill's companion (3)
- 3 Rental bike ruined by aggressive small dog? (10)
- 4 Heads of Security Council dogged by curious rabble (5)
- 6 Truck alarm reversing in alternating corners other vehicles dodge a ... (4)
- 7 ... roadside snapper (5,6)
- 8 Child's play in sheep shelter or little house (7)
- 9 Miss winding track to find arctic flyer perhaps (3-5)
- 12 Editor-elect becomes sensitive investigator (3,8)
- 14 Does round great lake provide misrepresentations (10)
- 16 On aspect with books in (8)
- 18 Unwritten contents of revolutionary hymn (7)
- 20 Tenth rate trouble without the short request (7)
- 23 The Italian left invade the French city (5)
- 24 Make available minor surgery with half of 'em (4)
- 26 Beginnings of Arthurian knights' association beget pseudonym (3)

### Down

- 1 Completed, fifth perhaps (4-3)

### GENERAL COMMENTS:

- What a lovely surprise to receive a cheque for one of last month's puzzles. My immediate thought was 'just in time for the shoe sales', but my pressure cooker died on me – after 56 years of faithful service, so I can't complain. Now I have a new model (and I really have enough shoes), so I am delighted. Many thanks.  
*Joan McGrath*
- Many thanks for the wonderful *Oxford English Dictionary*. Now I've got no excuse for misspelling any of my entries. *Alison Shield*
- Thank you Patrick for all you do for the ACC and for my most beautifully crafted cheque for \$75. *Carole Noble*
- The slot 3 prize for May was very much appreciated — many thanks. *Al and Dave Callan*
- What a pleasure to welcome two new compilers! I enjoyed solving *Zythum's* puzzle, and wrestled with *Zplig's*. It's good for the club to have new people contributing. *Nea Storey*
- Thank-you ACC for my wonderful prize (winner May slots 1-5). It is much appreciated. *Ian Thompson*
- Quite a challenging batch this month, I think, unless it's just that my brain is getting tired. Rather racy too, with a vulgar swirling tassel set, a whisper of love of the ass, a prostitute and something very dirty – all in the space of two grids! No wonder there was so much gossiping in the mix. In all the excitement I forgot to look for a COTM. *Kath Harper*
- Three compilers using names beginning with the letter Z – it's making me dizzy. *Michael Kennedy*
- Another excellent new compiler in *Zythum* – a very good straightforward, but interesting puzzle. Ditto Ditto for *Zplig* but I guess that is really next month. What's with all the Z's? *Jim Fowler*

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


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				

Acknowledgement is made to *The Guardian*, in which this crossword originally appeared.

**Across**

- 1 Build up a sound team of workers (6)
- 5 Phone in about support following lecture! (8)
- 9 Heath cut by unemployed comic writer (4,4)
- 10 Restrain brother as above? (6)
- 11 They show the way trees changed, though at first a slight change (12)
- 13 Look at more than a hundred places (4)
- 14 Idealists, poor dears, getting me right in (8)
- 17 Analysis of metrical patterns locates containers in Israel (8)
- 18 One mobile holds ten beasts (4)
- 20 Balances, they say, and averages resources (4,3,5)
- 23 Having former PM in charge is like paradise (6)
- 24 Leave without real satisfaction (8)
- 25 Hold gems ordered for metallic fabric (4,4)
- 26 Force us to leave Guernsey in confusion (6)

**Down**

- 2 Bill leaves 1, uncertain of successful treatment (4)
- 3 Slump in the intermission, with no one rising (9)
- 4 Weather to continue? (6)
- 5 The strain of church union (3,7,5)
- 6 Research centre has model cloned finally and tagged (8)
- 7 Begin differently, in essence (5)
- 8 Sudden, painful withdrawal from unfriendly country (4,6)
- 12 Risky, like tip-and-run (5,3,2)
- 15 Spirit abroad at night? (9)
- 16 Top student is in a small boat (8)
- 19 Noise heard from sailing ship (6)
- 21 Fellows coming up, putting in a year with the church council (5)
- 22 Report to outlaw force (4)

**CROSSMAS CRUCIVERBAL 2013:** Our Annual Victorian Get-together this year will be **Christmas in July** and will be held at noon on Sunday 28 July at the Royal Oak Hotel, 442 Nicholson Street, North Fitzroy. We already have a good number attending but we need quite a few more. Help! Please. Pay on the day. Bookings and enquiries to Patrick Street, ph (03) 9347 1216 or email: [pstreet@bigpond.net.au](mailto:pstreet@bigpond.net.au) anytime now please. We are thrilled to welcome our Puzzle Editor and Adjudicators, Ian and Kay Williams from the ACT and William 'Raoul' Ryan from the prestigious Harold Park Hotel, NSW. There will be an exciting Crossword, a Quiz and plenty of prizes! Not to mention a lovely warming open fire. Come along and join in the merriment! We look forward to renewing acquaintances!

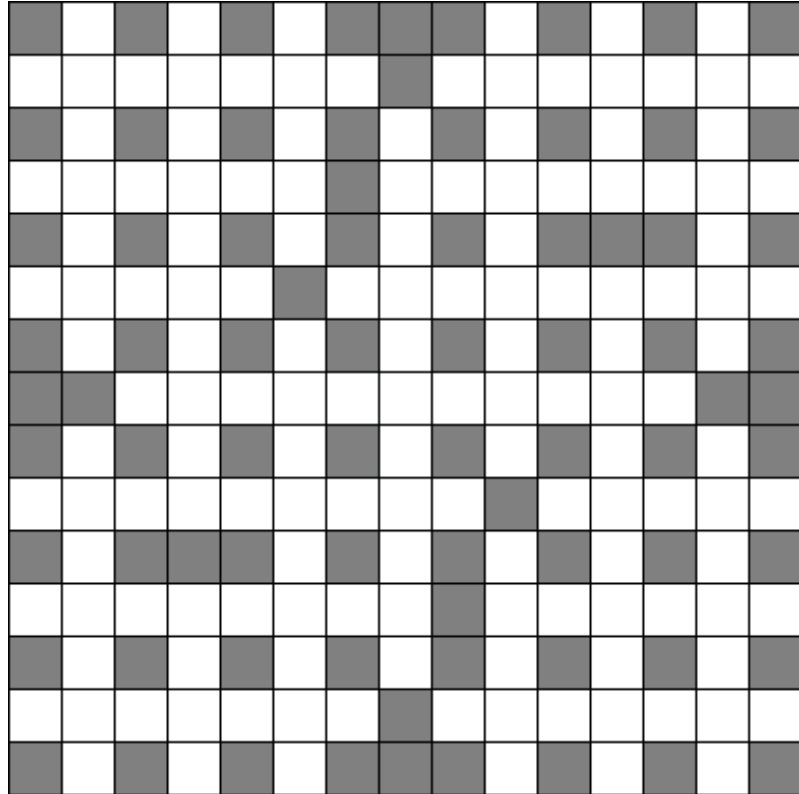
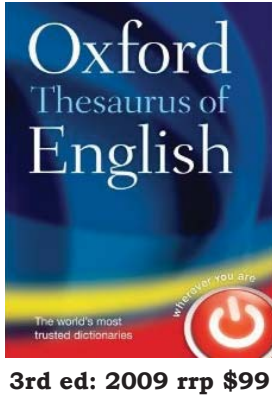
**GENERAL COMMENTS continued from p4:**

- Thanks so much for my slot 5 prize last month. It's wonderful! Alison Martin
- A very good selection this month. Brian Symons
- What a mixed bag of slots – 1 & 4 did not hurt, 2 – setting harder, 3 – a very tough 3 and 5 – an abomination! Raoul
- An easy start with 1 & 2 but then the wheels fell off. A really tough lot. Slot 5 should have been a Slot 8!! However when completed there is always a pleasant sense of achievement. Bob Hagan
- Congratulations to all compilers for their high standard of work. What a great club we belong to. Claire McClelland
- Thanks to all compilers. Another wonderful month of puzzling. I'm writing this in a motel in Narrabri, so no cards this month. Robyn Wimbush

J	U	L	Y		
2	0	1	3		
S	L	O	T		4

**AJ**  
by  
**Kaeila**

**Prize**



Solutions begin with the given letter.  
Place them in the grid, jigsaw-wise, where they fit.

- A** Perhaps Nepal supplies climbing gear (11)
- B** Warning - want hush-up included for disreputable group member (5,5)
- C** Actor Lucy, playing on hard surface (4,5)
- D** Display Devil's model to scale (11)
- E** Additional hundred mutated into lineage (10)
- F** In seconds, I found a green confection (5)
- G** Exultant about Gulf eel (7)
- H** Accidentally shot pilot with stolen weapon (3,6)
- I** Disregards sign: "Ore Blasting"! (7)
- J** Cry of derision ends Raj. Home rule better (4)
- K** Prisoner rumoured once to lengthen southern sledges (7)
- L** Set centre of fern in good propagation method (8)
- M** Homely parent having extremes of subtlety (5)
- N** Easier to relate tangle to scrap over egg (3,2,4)
- O** Old Titus found in goat establishment (5)
- P** Dad, employ short-stop! (5)
- Q** South American drums, associated in speech with a flash! (6)
- R** Rejection fuels a redhead's rebellion (7)
- S** Monicker certain to hold Guy back! (7)
- T** Current is confined, we hear (4)
- U** Mysterious old nut not revealed (6)
- V** Sellers almost sign following first of viewings (7)
- W** Plump, lewd elf blundered (4-3)
- X** Skin disease unknown to English Stewart Queen Mother (9)
- Y** Reported food tent first by eucalypt (8)
- Z** Enthusiastic God keeps every second balloon! (7)

**Explanations to June Grids, where provided by compilers.** Thanks to Roger, Drew and Michael.

**Slot 2 Zythum. Across:** 1 V + E in GIN, 4 A + CRIMEA\* + NA, 9 anag, 10 Double definition, 11 anag, 13 Hidden word, 14 CUSS in FOES, 17 SPLIT + NIP<, 19 B + R in LINE\*, 22 ORGAN + RISES\*, 23 Odd letters rev I hUsTIE, 25 GENERAL + ELECT + (NO + I) <, 26 anag, 27 RE + EVE. **Down:** 1 GO + (PRESS IS)\* (ref. to Japanese board game), 2 ESP in VINE, 3 IAN< + L, 4 CID in CIA<, 5 EQUitATION, 6 IN + T in ENDURED\*, 7 AC + AC + heads, 8 AS + HEN, 12 GLUT + E + N + FREE, 15 SENT(I) ENCE, 16 DI'S + LOVES\*, 18 LE(GEN)DS, 20 LATT(IC)E, 21 DR(ILL)S, 22 BOUGHT, 24 S + CAR.

**Slot 3 St Jude. Across:** 9 anag, 10 3xdef, 11 3xdef, 12 anag, 13 HOO + DIE, 14 EX + GI>+ O(U)S, 17 GALL + IZ + E (logarithmic base), 19 OB + SCENE, 20 W (HINGe) ING, 21 DIG + jEST, 24 GOY> + HURT, 26 REP + LACE, 28 A+ C + RID, 29 anag. **Down:** 1 sOrDiD + S, 2, 3 REC + L + AIMING, 4 BURR + O, 5 REFLEX + I + ON, 6 A+ butt homophone, 7 anag, 8 ASS + ESS + MEN + T, 13 DDef, 15 GO + S + SIPING, 16 RE (K) NITTED, 18 LE + ID + GER+ S, 22 anag, 23 W (ROT) E, 25 UNDiEs, 27 HW.

**Slot 4 Manveru. A** HW, **BE**+MUSE, **C**+RIM+A+L, **DEAD**+LOCK, **ER**+R+ANT+RY, **F** Rev hidden alL ARE DEFective, **G** Anag, **H** H (CHEAT\*) T, **I** Anag, **JA** + LOUS(y) + IE, **K** Cryptic definition **LUMBER**+JACK, **MEAL** + SURE, **N** Anag + A+L, **O**+RIG+AMI, **P(L)IERS**, **Q** DD,**R** HW, , **S** Cryptic definition, **TRE(ACL)E**, **U** Anag, **V** Anag - ITIT, **W** Anag, **X** HW, **Y** + f(ELLOW), **Z**+E+ HINT\*.

J	U	L	Y		
2	0	1	3		
S	L	O	T		5

**Double  
Acrostic  
by  
Penobscot**

**Prize:**

Win!

Solve the clues, place the solutions in the solution grid and place the letters in the indicated places in the citation grid. Bars represent the ends of lines. Reading down, the completed clues spell out a message appropriate to the solution.

**The Clues:**

- A** No tinned fruit salad for console displaying on box: (8)
- B** Fiddle about (sans first French). Ran but did no work (5)
- C** Strums piano casually: "Chopsticks" required? (7)
- D** Boy with H, no amateur, moved sideways (5)
- E** Coddles Molly's first and then the rest (7)
- F** Got up by Pat in a pet (5)
- G** Fine gal turning? Turning the pages maybe(7)
- H** Mild outcry from the aged (4)
- I** In speech remained dignified (5)
- J** Mean and all screwed up? (5)
- K** Give the nod to Royal Academy for this still life item? (4)
- L** Want. First sigh comes from smart (4)
- M** In a flurry why do Texans say this? (5)
- N** Six 'n four we hear for worthy in Fez (7)
- O** Da, da Gregor! Not good becoming upset in traffic! (9)
- P** Vine has wherewithal to die away poetically(7)
- Q** Lengthwise with potential ongoing content (5)
- R** Gandhi's potential to be spirited (7)
- S** Following this doxy would be comme il faut (5)
- T** Troggs to converted caves (7)
- U** I'm right angry about espousal (8)
- V** Gives the AA gusto. That's the American spirit! (7)
- W** Swift character, brutish, as Texans may say (5)
- X** Flimsy gear may lead to next gear (5)
- Y** Those who played with "The Cowboys"? (7)
- Z** Scarlet's place by North Irish Hill gives "The Trumpet's Martial Sound" (9)

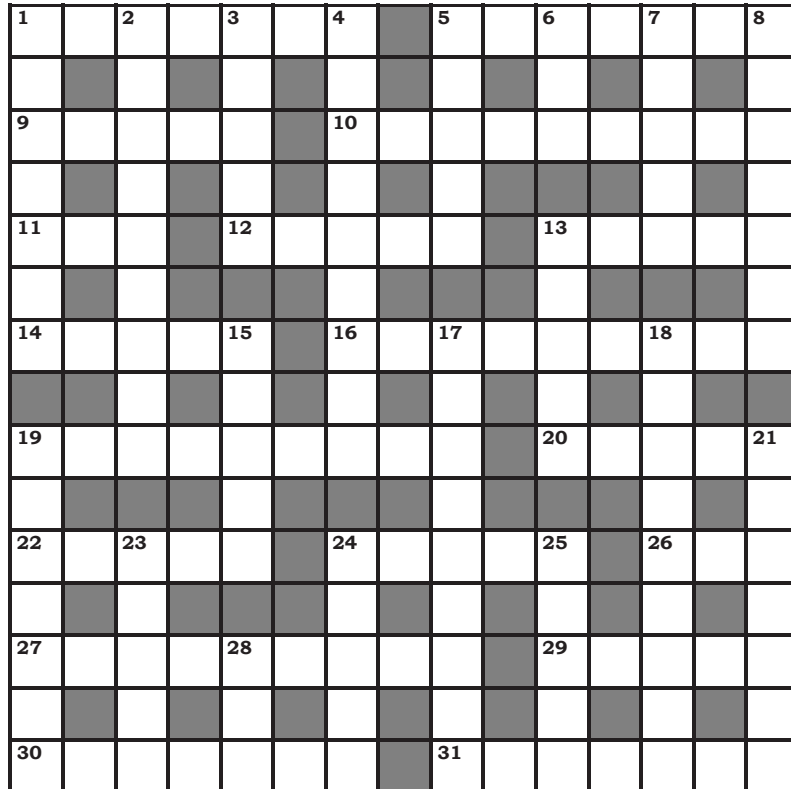
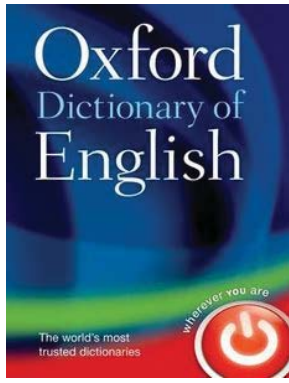
A	131	59	37	52	26	64	137	122
B	23	104	139	91	41			
C	9	99	147	100	21	145	53	
D	132	45	142	31	7			
E	47	140	15	128	82	113	66	
F	116	57	51	127	61			
G	101	114	120	134	14	44	152	
H	109	28	43	63				
I	34	60	158	5	115			
J	1	129	157	105	150			
K	98	10	73	17				
L	108	33	94	19				
M	85	48	107	12	89			
N	55	125	22	67	30	155	3	
O	83	102	138	18	110	39	50	68 124
P	76	81	46	154	8	42	2	
Q	112	123	135	49	38			
R	149	20	6	144	159	40	97	
S	106	146	84	119	130			
T	75	136	111	118	121	80	35	
U	32	62	79	87	90	13	27	71
V	148	153	65	95	54	92	4	
W	11	156	96	78	151			
X	58	16	86	77	143			
Y	36	69	133	29	74	117	25	
Z	24	126	93	70	141	88	56	103 72

1	J	2	P	3	N	4	V	5	I	6	R	7	D	8	P	9	C	10	K	11	W	12	M	13	U	14	G	15	E	16	X
17	K	18	O	19	L	20	R	21	C	22	N	23	B	24	Z	25	Y	26	A	27	U	28	H	29	Y	30	N	31	D	32	U
33	L	34	I	35	T	36	Y	37	A	38	Q	39	O	40	R	41	B	42	P	43	H	44	G	45	D	46	P	47	E	48	M
49	Q	50	O	51	F	52	A	53	C	54	V	55	N	56	Z	57	F	58	X	59	A	60	I	61	F	62	U	63	H	64	A
65	V	66	E	67	N	68	O	69	Y	70	Z	71	U	72	Z	73	K	74	Y	75	T	76	P	77	X	78	W	79	U	80	T
81	P	82	E	83	O	84	S	85	M	86	X	87	U	88	Z	89	M	90	U	91	B	92	V	93	Z	94	L	95	V	96	W
97	R	98	K	99	C	100	C	101	G	102	O	103	Z	104	B	105	J	106	S	107	M	108	L	109	H	110	O	111	T	112	Q
113	E	114	G	115	I	116	F	117	Y	118	T	119	S	120	G	121	T	122	A	123	Q	124	O	125	N	126	Z	127	F	128	E
129	J	130	S	131	A	132	D	133	Y	134	G	135	Q	136	T	137	A	138	O	139	B	140	E	141	Z	142	D	143	X	144	R
145	C	146	S	147	C	148	V	149	R	150	J	151	W	152	G	153	V	154	P	155	N	156	W	157	J	158	I	159	R		

J	U	L	Y		
2	0	1	3		
S	L	O	T		6

## Cryptic by Manveru

**Prize:**



### Across

- 1 Techniques are sadly lacking substance when it comes to blocks (7)
- 5 The visiting team lose mostly all in this country (7)
- 9 Ruler to measure runs after taking banned substance twice? (5)
- 10 Monitors roll screen redesigned to eliminate the opening of cracks (9)
- 11 Aussie Captain's two-way handle? (3)
- 12 Try to guess a yorker, going all around it? (5)
- 13 Afternoon crowd returning for tea (5)
- 14 Hick and Bell dropping edges after satisfactory year opening (5)
- 16 Used blade from creased kit in need of refurbishment right away (3-6)
- 19 One sounds low after cheat enters runs into doctored total (9)
- 20 Figures – 500, 0, 50, and 50 at the end of innings (5)
- 22 Bowled absolute line and length with second over? (5)
- 24 22 scores 1 for 50 and gets out of jail (5)
- 26 Protection is circular behind player's head (3)
- 27 Rule gets cheat to accept procedure? Right (9)
- 29 No score after Gilchrist's first catch with this? (5)
- 30 Home team's leading man is out after failing to take aim (7)
- 31 Peters out for discussing exercises (7)

### Down

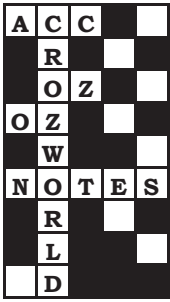
- 1 Spinner initially needs support for ball to work in a sloping manner (7)
- 2 Battered hips and knees could do with this fleecy protection (5,4)
- 3 England's first series without boundaries would be strange (5)
- 4 I sell rags perhaps! (5,4)

- 5 Test sees Australia declare after the start of session (5)
- 6 HRH book is an expose of The Ashes? (3)
- 7 New DRS covers umpire's rear with electronic instruments (5)
- 8 A singular total gets England's opener to 500? Bogus! (7)
- 13 Grilled openers after Simon Katich edges doosra (5)
- 15 Approves broadcast from the home of cricket (5)
- 17 No to e-mail when travelling – it's sensitive (9)
- 18 Make a call to open the batting, securing key half century (9)
- 19 Room in the sheds finds rookie taking an illicit drug infused with drop of laudanum (7)
- 21 End of series supplement section, including England's first two upsets (7)
- 23 Using spin on a flat track? (5)
- 24 Cover displays a spectacularly good performance, dismissing the last two (5)
- 25 Autographs posters (5)
- 28 It takes an age for measurement to show up every third delivery? (3)

**Send  
Solution  
to:**

**Michael Kennedy**  
27 Hennessy Lane, Figtree NSW 2525  
or by email to: [manveru@bigpond.com](mailto:manveru@bigpond.com)  
Closing mail date: Friday 9 August 2013.





**Bonus Quiz May 2013. Watch the Birdie by Neir B'Odet (Ted O'Brien).**

**Solutions:** 1 Apostle spoon 2 Bell-bottoms 3 Booby trap 4 Canary Wharf 5 Cardinal point 6 Chat room 7 Chicken-hearted 8 Crow bar 9 Cuckoo clock 10 Firebird Suite 11 Goose step 12 Hawk-eyed 13 Hobby-horse 14 Kiwi fruit 15 Lark Ascending 16 Martin Chuzzlewit 17 Parrot fashion 18 Peacock ore 19 Pelican crossing 20 Penguin suit 21 Pigeon-toed 22 Rail-motor 23 Robin Hood 24 Swan song 25 Turkey trot.

**Adjudicator's comments:** All members enjoyed the challenge and many expressed sadness that this was Ted's swan song (see 24 – how prophetic!). A few problems in this quiz, although many members achieved a full house. Apostle spoon (cuddle = spoon) and DJ as dinner jacket and hence penguin suit gave food for thought for some until the penny dropped although to others the phrases were said to be unfamiliar. Stravinsky's *Firebird Suite* was responsible for some errors, Firebird Dance and Flamingo Dance being alternative offerings. Chicken-livered and -hearted are listed in *Chambers* as "cowardly" and both were accepted. A variety of answers was given for 22: as the internet uncovered a number of rail vehicles that could have met the clue any answer containing the bird "rail" was accepted. Some spelling mistakes: hint – many members submitted their answers in capitals. Word and e-mail programs won't spell-check capitals. Convert them into lower case (in Word, Shift+F3 does it) and the spell check will operate. This could have saved one unfortunate member from submitting "cookoo clock".

—Kay Williams

**Solvers' Comments**

• Thanks to Ted O'Brien for his bird watch quiz. For 20 at first I thought DJ stood for Disc Jockey. It took some time to realise that this referred to Dinner Jacket. One needs to be a good "twitcher" to

spot all the relevant birds.

• Another great effort by the quiz master – so sad to know there won't be any more. No 18 took a lot of tracking down, and 20 had me completely bamboozled because I was stuck on the other meaning of DJ and kept picturing metal-head T-shirt instead of tuxedo.

Alan Walter

Kath Harper

Pat Lord

• Enjoyed the quiz.

• What a pity this was Ted's last quiz. They were always so enjoyable.

Robyn Caine

• Our thanks to Barbara for allowing us one last chance to enjoy being challenged by Ted. Would that some of the genes had been passed on to me!

Eileen O'Brien

• By coincidence the music of answers 10 and 15 was played on the ABC on the same day as I wrote out my answers. Sorry this is Ted's final quiz.

Rosemary Dorrell

• Ted's contributions to the Club will be missed. All in all, most enjoyable.

Peter Dearie

• It was sad to think that this is the last quiz from Ted. Thoroughly enjoyed it, and being a twitcher may have helped somewhat.

Catherine Jones

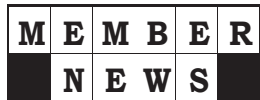
• A wonderful quiz. Had so much fun nutting it out. Many plaudits!

Phyl Heath

• I enjoyed the quiz, however a lot of the answers are not "common expressions".

Corryn Anderson

**Results: Winner Pat Lord. Congratulations! Correct 25:** Abbott P, Anderson C, Caine R, Cockburn B, Fowler J, Fry L, Garner P, Glissan B, Grainger D, Greenberger O, Harper K, Howells S, Jermy A, Jones D, Leeds G, Leigh J, Lemon G, Lord P, Martin A, McClelland C, Meek D, Miles A, Noble C, O'Brien E, Roulston S, Shield A, Simons A, Smith J, Storey N, Symons B, Thompson I, Walter A, Wenham J, Wilcox C. **24:** Allen W, Cole G, Dearie P, Dinham V, Gooderick R, Heath P, Jones C, McGrath J, Potts M, Procter M, Wimbush R. **23:** Dorrell R, Randall J, Siegman B.



**New Member:** We extend a warm welcome to **David Lloyd** from Payneham SA. Welcome to the Wonderful World of *CrozWorlding!*

**Quiz 4/2013 (23rd Anniversary Quiz) adjustment:** Caroline Mackay-Sim had 23 correct answers, Ken Watt had 22 correct and Peter Dearie 21 correct.

**Puzzle Adjustment:** Julie Leigh gained a dot for Slot 5 in May.

**Virgo's quizzes**

We have a good stock of the entertaining quizzes written by *Virgo* (Audrey Austin). Unfortunately she is not well enough to take on the job of adjudicating them but is happy to have them published if someone else is able to adjudicate. The job is not onerous and consists of assessing the answers, summarising any comments from solvers, picking a winner, writing a short report giving the results and sending it to Patrick for publication. It's essential to the publication process that you have e-mail. If you would like to do this for the Club (perhaps every two or three months or less frequently if we have more than one volunteer) please let Ian Williams know and he'll give you more detail.

**Crossword Puzzle Stock – a plea**

We try to give members a gentle introduction to the month's puzzles with a Half and Half. Our stock of these puzzles is rather low at present: if you feel like trying your skills at compiling, a Half and Half is a good way to start. Experienced compilers should submit any puzzles direct to Ian. If you're new to compiling, Ian has some guidelines that will help you to get started and he will help you through the process to publication.

The AJs in slot 4 are a popular form of puzzle. We have managed to fill the slot with quality puzzles for some years now but we're also running a bit short of AJs for the second half of the year. The harder and more off-beat puzzles that we publish in slots 5, 6 and 7 are also in fairly short supply from compilers other than 'the usual suspects', on whom we'd prefer not to call too often. If you have ideas for a different, or slightly harder, puzzle Ian would welcome your offerings.

**July 2013 Bonus Quiz**

**Flock Together by *The Busybodies*.**

Solve the anagrams represented by the following names. Each answer starts with a different letter of the alphabet. Send your entries to Bev Cockburn 12 Norman Street, Merrylands West NSW 2160. e-mail to [bevco4@bigpond.com](mailto:bevco4@bigpond.com). Closing Date: 9 August 2013. Book prize.

- 1 A.S. Borstal
- 2 Art Huxan
- 3 Br. Teetum
- 4 Denis Rapp
- 5 Di Gester
- 6 Dion Fiching (6,5)
- 7 Dr Kellie
- 8 Ev. Rye
- 9 F.J. Carolen
- 10 Faye Fingal
- 11 Frau Claret
- 12 Hattie Worth
- 13 Heather Dale (7-4)
- 14 Herr O. Cestacty (6-7)
- 15 L. Dribble
- 16 Mr Ron Cato
- 17 Mrs E. Regan
- 18 Nigel Ginath
- 19 Pat Shane
- 20 Pte. Ozoli
- 21 Sir Chino Border (10-4)
- 22 SRN Iodine
- 23 Theo Y. Earne
- 24 Tom Suite
- 25 Z. Lequat
- 26 Zali Logan

**June 1-2013: Half 'n Halfish by Zinzan (Andrew Patterson)**

- Great puzzle Andrew: loved the new idea for Slot 1. Favourite clues were 14ac, 8dn and also liked 20dn. Hope you have more of these for the club. *Joan Smith*
- 30dn could be DABBED or DAUBED, especially if smeared (daubed) is interpreted as applying lightly. [Sorry, but not unless that "interpretation" is in the references, which it's not - Adj] *Alan Dyer*
- 37dn: A SWAG of notes may well be valuable, but why is a SWAG of goods necessarily valuable? (The clue is non-cryptic and sought a definition of 'valuable goods', being a SWAG in the sense of booty or plunder: Adj.) *Alan Walter*
- A change from the usual half and half, and just right as a Slot 1. *Peter Dearie*
- Most enjoyable and fair. *Bev Cockburn*
- Loved 14 ac (LENS) - A sight to be seen indeed! Almost my COTM... *Dale McManus*
- Typical Zinzan. *Carole Noble*
- Zinzan's Half'n'Halfish was an enjoyable variation - quite niceish in fact! *Margaret Davis*

**June 2-2013: Cryptic by Zythum (Roger Douglas)**

- Commendable surface readings. 9ac is an excellent anagram, while 2dn, 4d, 15dn warrant special mention. *Len Colgan*
- My vote for the COTM goes to Slot 2, 14ac FOCUSES, with 26ac TASTELESS coming a close second. *Lesley Carroll*
- Enjoyable puzzle from Zythum: looking forward to more. Especially liked clues 27ac, 2 and 20dn. *Joan Smith*
- Some beautifully smooth surfaces, 21dn 24dn 22ac and the excellent 19ac. But for a top-rate anagram 9ac gets my clue of the month. *Rob Moline*
- A satisfying puzzle. All clues are fair, with good surface readings. *Tony Dobebe*
- My COTM goes to Slot 2 - 21dn DRILLS for its exceptional surface rendering. *Michael Kennedy*
- Nice debut, Zythum. *Raoul*
- 19 ac - B + E + R + LIN, B = bowled, R = runs, E + LIN = varied line. 5 dn - EQU(IT)ATION minus IT = EQUATION. 12 dn - GLUT + EN + FREE = oversupply + points + unrestricted. *Alan Walter*
- Welcome Zythum! I liked "SPLIT" to indicate a rich desert in 17ac. All in all, a well-clued puzzle. *Peter Dearie*
- Excellent first puzzle. Loved ASHEN. *Bev Cockburn*
- Welcome, gentle Zythum, one of our two new Z boys! *Dale McManus*
- Welcome Zythum. Took me a little while to get on your wavelength. *Carole Noble*
- Looking forward to the explanation for 5dn. I can't work out whether the answer is "equation" or "eruption". (See Alan Walter's comment above. You opted well: Adj.) *Robyn Caine*
- Welcome to a new compiler, with a good puzzle for starters. *Margaret Davis*
- TASTELESS: A wonderfully misleading clue! What are those twirly things called? (Baton, perhaps? Adj.) *Max Roddick*

**June 3-2013: Cryptic by St Jude (Drew Meek)**

- I found this crossword pretty tough, with the left hand side having me struggling for quite a while. In the end though, it was satisfying to get the puzzle out, and I learned quite a bit along the way. *Ian Thompson*
- This was the really difficult puzzler for us this month as we really had to dig to "prove up" a number of the answers, always assuming of course that they are correct. I'm not confident though. *Richard Skinner*
- I found this especially difficult and I am not confident with some answers (the answer/definition fits but that is as close as I get - e.g. 10ac BRASS - how is this cheating a prostitute?) Other answers that I am not making the [complete] logical leap on are RECLAIMING (3dn), GALLISE (17ac), SECULAR (11ac). The use of "back" in 27dn (EDDY) is misleading as "counter" doesn't really mean "back", especially as the intent is a rotational movement (the introduction of a reverse flow in fluid dynamics leads to whirls). *Alan Dyer*
- A couple of stinkers in Slot 3 - not too confident! *Eileen O'Brien*
- Have sent a little thank-you present to St. Jude in Helvetica. By the time it gets there it should be very ripe. *Raoul*
- 17ac: GALL + IS + E = to improve wine. 'e' is the "base" of the natural logarithms. 8dn: ASS + ESS + MEN + T. Four refers to 4dn BURRO = ASS. 25dn "lingerie is out" = UNDIES minus IS = UNDE. *Alan Walter*
- 15dn has me puzzled. No doubt this spelling can be found in a dictionary, but not in any that I possess. 6dn confused me - "next to" equals "abutting", not "abut". "Be next to a fish, reportedly" would have been better. 16dn: "reknitted" was very clever and should have prepared me for Slot 5! *Peter Dearie*
- REKNITTED took me a while. I didn't quite get 8dn (ASS ("Four" = Burro or Ass) + MEN take in ESS ("letter") to T ("model?")) or 11ac (Taken

- to be a triple definition referring to (1) something which happens in cycles (2) something lay or non-spiritual and (3) something coming or observed once in a lifetime or generation: Adj.). I thought there was an E in WHINGEING (not that I am whingeing). *Roy Taylor*
- Learnt two new words - UNDE and HOODIE! *Bev Cockburn*
- Lots of new words, and fingers crossed! But I loved BRASS. *Dale McManus*
- Easier than usual offerings from St Jude. *Carole Noble*
- Some thought required here. I am not sure about the 11ac clue. If "outside the church" is the definition, is it not in the wrong place? (See above: Adj.). I have given 5dn (REFLEXION) my COTM. *Margaret Davis*
- Got answers for this but cannot say I understood much of the clueing, so I hope they are correct (They are: Adj.) - must be getting old!! *Ann Jermy*

**June 4-2013: AJ by Manveru (Michael Kennedy)**

- Another exemplary Slot 4 by Manveru. The E clue particularly appealed due to its subtle definition and clever wordplay. *Len Colgan*
- COTM goes to slot 4, the S clue, although it was touch and go between it and the X clue in slot 5. *Alison Martin*
- My vote for COTM, for its humour as well as wordplay, goes to Manveru in slot 4 with the J clue - JALOUSIE. *Ian Thompson*
- Nice AJ from Manveru with good clues. Favourites were D I O and W. *Joan Smith*
- Pleasantly uncomplicated for an AJ: only needed references for a couple. *Rob Moline*
- JALOUSIE: I originally had this answer on the basis that there was a 1990 French film (screening) of that name. Feeling that this was a weak justification, I looked further and discovered that what I had always called a louvre window was in fact a JALOUSIE. Who new? *Mike Potts*
- A good AJ that required work but no surprises. *Alan Dyer*
- Is it a coincidence that Manveru is an anagram of Manure V? *Raoul*
- JA + LOUS + IE, where 'rubbish mostly' = LOUS. An enjoyable AJ thanks Manveru. *Alan Walter*
- Great clue for FEDERAL! An enjoyable slot with very good clues all round. *Peter Dearie*
- Enjoyable puzzle. Nearly gave WIDOWER COTM. *Roy Taylor*
- Excellent AJ. My COTM is the W clue - WIDOWER. *Bev Cockburn*
- Always my favourite, and again loved it. *Dale McManus*
- Excellent AJ, Manveru. No obscure words. *Carole Noble*
- I had difficulty with one of the 11-letter answers which held me up for a while, but when the penny finally dropped I couldn't believe it took me so long! *Margaret Davis*
- Many good ones. Liked ORIGAMI best. *Max Roddick*

**June 5-2013: Diminished AJ by Betelgeuse (Gillian Champion)**

- [It is of note that no solver identified the subtle-Nina in the slot 5. In a crossword that required solvers to remove a letter, to set OMIT (the V clue) in the first Across light was a stroke of genius: Adj] *Roger Douglas*
- Betelgeuse's "Diminished AJ" - was very clever and I found it particularly challenging. *Roger Douglas*
- I couldn't put it down until finished. Great fun, and I trust we will see another puzzle like this from Gillian in the future. *Len Colgan*
- Well, my brain is mush after wrestling with slot 5 - so hard to think up the right word, but so obvious when you got it. Great fun, though. *Alison Martin*
- I found Slot 5 by Betelgeuse the most difficult: a great concept for an AJ, and a feat in the art of compilation! *Nea Storey*
- I found slot 5 impossibly hard. *David Grainger*
- Slot 5 defeated me but I'm giving my COTM vote to her X clue - BOER. *Alison Shield*
- Another great brain-strainer from Betelgeuse. I hope I am right with STELLA and VITAL. Thanks for your puzzle. *Ian Thompson*
- Slot 5 was an excellent challenge that we thoroughly enjoyed. *Julie Leigh*
- Although I enjoyed it greatly, I feel that the Slot 5 puzzle was perhaps a little difficult for a Slot 5 and could have been a Slot 6. My COTM is Slot 5 M "Reserved by error" - IS TAKEN. *Susan Howells*
- Phew! What a batch! Slots 1, 2 & 3 were all testing but enjoyable and accounted for the first few days with just the odd blank space to carry over to the time allotted for Slot 4. But Slot 5 was the killer - all the rest of the time available was spent on this puzzle. It was very deviously constructed and most difficult. Incidentally, the only reference I could find for the spelling of the bird SITELLA was in the printed version of Chambers Dictionary, which I realise is our standard reference. All other dictionaries and all internet references (including Chambers on the net) spell it as SITELLA. But even with all this it was euphoric to be able to fill all the squares - so here's hoping! *Catherine Hambling*
- Devilish! Struggled to get a lot of the words, with so many obscurities. Then it was a struggle to get them in the grid (>50% of letters were ETAOI or N). Finally the LAV/OVERALLS crossing proved a starting-point. *Rob Moline*

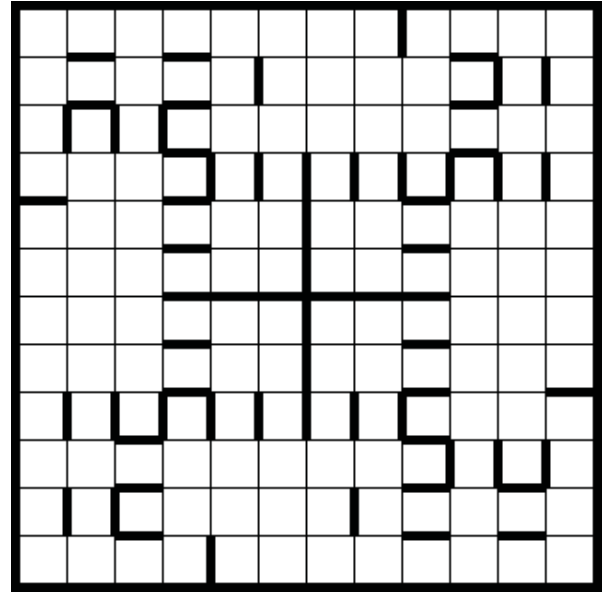
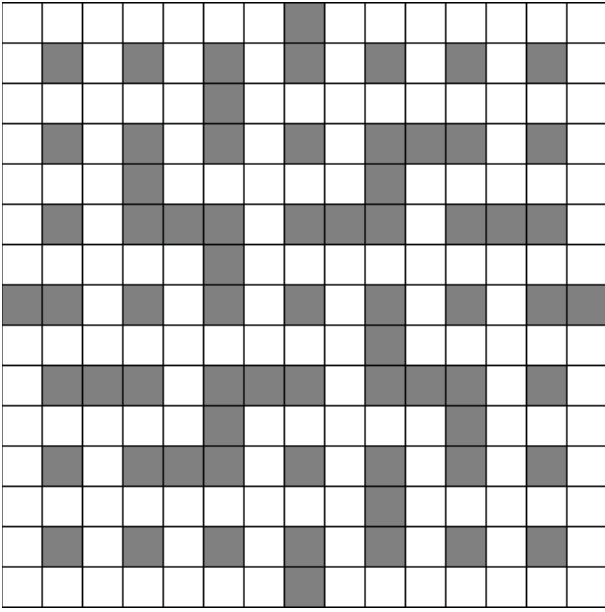
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|G|O|O|D| |G|R|I|D|S|

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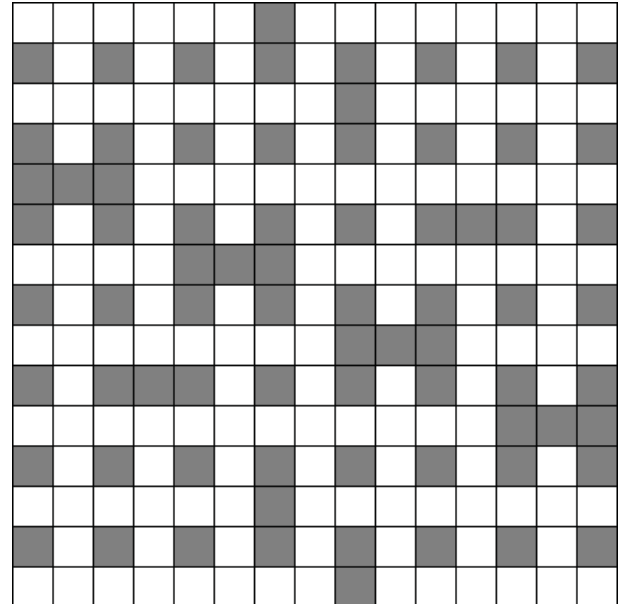
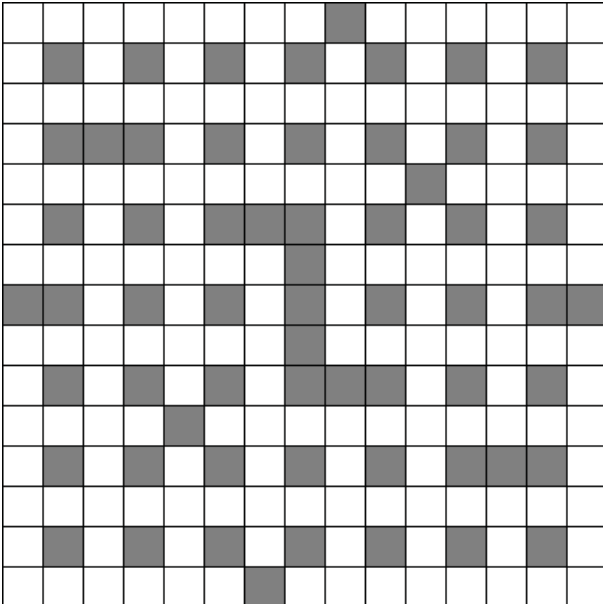
Send solution to: Michael Kennedy  
27 Hennessy Lane, Figtree NSW 2525.  
Closing mail date: Friday 9 August 2013.  
NAME: .....



Clue of the Month .....

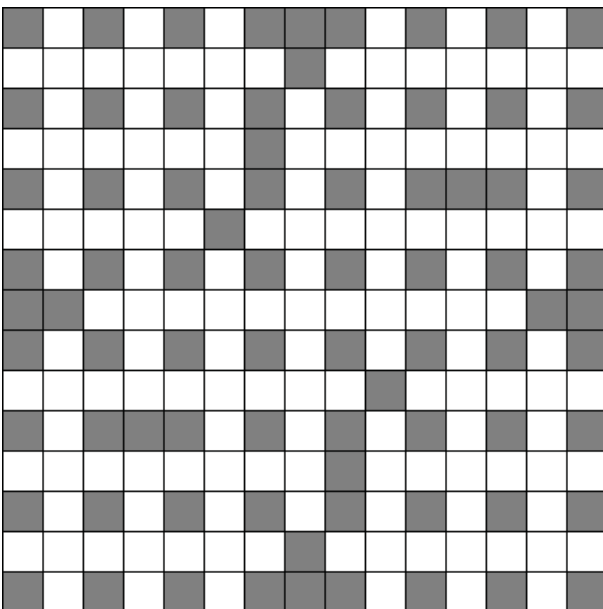
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|J|U|L|Y| |3| |2|0|1|3|



|J|U|L|Y| |4| |2|0|1|3|

|J|U|L|Y| |5| |2|0|1|3|



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

**May 6-2013: First Broadcast by *Bogeyman* (Ian Williams)**  
**Entries 75; Correct 22; Success rate 29%.**  
**Winner: Sonia Roulston. Many Congratulations!**

**Compiler comments:** Many thanks for the compliments and the many helpful comments. This puzzle arose when I was looking for an anagram for SPREAD for another puzzle and being amazed by the number of combinations of the letters making up words – and once I'd found eight one thing led to another... But I really must offer my apologies. I hadn't intended to include a "trick" clue in the puzzle, it being my ambition, one day, to provide a puzzle that exercises solvers but achieves a 100% success rate. Unfortunately not this time, as K NAP in 30dn provided a sting in the tail. The SNAP offered by 49 solvers met the definition of "break" but, to be properly clued, would have required the addition of an indicator to provide an S to the interpretation of the homophone of "sleep" as NAP. This was almost the only problem encountered apart from the 4 solvers who offered "cantrap" for CANTRIP in 21dn: while this is an alternative spelling, "fall" provides the TRIP whereas a more complex construction would be required to provide TRAP. A small number of typos provided other reasons for missed dots.

—Ian Williams

**Explanations: Across: 1** SP + RE+ AD (letters of theme), **5** Theme, **10** A (llit) ERATED, **11** Theme + G, **12** ED in SLAP >, **15** homophone "What'll" = "wattle" = DEWLAP, **16** Theme + C, **17** anag, **18** Heads, **19** Theme + G, **20** sPECK, **22** HW, **25** Theme + T, **27** DEN + REV>, **28** 'Eck's ma, **31** anag, **32** homophone "Night" + RATE, **33** Theme, **34** Theme. **Down: 2** Theme + A, **3** EX + pisTOLShot, **4** DO + DO, **5** HW, **6** REAR + ED, **7** EN + GULFS, **8** Theme, **9** Theme, **13** SCAR + PER, **14** BATS + MAN, **15** DE (TENT) E, **20** Theme, **21** CAN + TRIP, **23** P (REP) ARE, **24** Theme, **25** anag, **26** SCOT + IA, **29** AMI + D, **30** - "Sleep" - "Nap" leading to (recital of- homophone indicator) K NAP.

**Solvers' comments:**

- Clever puzzle with anagrams of SPREAD, some with an additional letter. 19ac tried P and F for 'force' before realizing G-Force. Liked 32ac homophone of NIGHT RATE. *Tony Dobeile*
- Very clever use of multiple anagrams SPREAD throughout the grid. It took a little while, but I eventually GRASPED the idea and SPARED no time completing it. *Jenny Wenham*
- I liked the theme but like Len's BEWILDERED puzzle, a lot unravels when the trick becomes evident. A fun sort of theme which we haven't really seen before. Lots of neat clues but 15ac and 24dn I still cannot quite be sure of. Thank you *Bogeyman*. *Andrew Patterson*
- Fair rubric: interesting theme and well clued. Possibly 21dn should have had a Scot. indicator? *Drew Meek*
- Many thanks for a very clever puzzle. All those anagrams and near-anagrams! My favourite was your devious K NAP. I wonder how many will put SNAP? [*Lots – IW*] *Bev Cockburn*
- Thanks, Ian. Just brilliant! *Brian Symons*
- Great Stuff. I can't believe that it took me 5 or 6 of the themed clues before the penny dropped! *William Ryan*
- Seems like every possible anagram of "Spread". I hadn't heard of an implement called a "spader" before, but found an American website that would have been happy to sell me one. *Ron Carpenter*
- I found it difficult going until the penny dropped. Very clever – "First Broadcast" indeed! *Dave Parsons*
- Enjoyed your puzzle. At first I was in DESPAiR, but...gotta be in it to win it! *Jan Wood*
- Tough. Mainly as I'm into Ximenean crosswords, this was a bit too loose for me. Also took a long time to see the theme – anagrams of SPREAD – especially being unable to solve 1ac. A few unknowns requiring references: spadger, pedal=plait, Prades, cantrip, deodar, knap (spadger Prades, cantrip, deodar, knap all non-words for my spell-checker). Scotia for Scotland a guess, via Canada. A few I'm unsure about. Couldn't parse 1ac Lay out for spread, SP=odds, re=on, but then left with AD=TIME? Not happy, if you mean anno domini. Except as one of the 8 theme anagrams it has no definition according to the instructions, so LAY OUT is not the definition of SPREAD. How does the clue work? [*I'd wondered initially whether to not give the puzzle a title or to clue 1ac, but Patrick suggested that it made the puzzle overly*

*difficult. I therefore gave it a cryptic title and, as one (across) was referred to as the key via "First", I thought it was justified (and helpful) to make it a full clue with definition, although I should have revisited the rubric to indicate the clueing of 1. IW*] Couldn't parse 15ac DUE->DEW homophone of "will be shortly", perhaps, but where does the LAP come from? [*"What will shortly" is "what'll" intended as a homophone for the wattle or dewlap. IW*] Unsure about 24dn SPADE is an implement, but is SPADER? "One with implement" might have been a sort of &lit-ish clue? [*Nice idea. Chambers is not too helpful as to the meaning but the SOED gives both the wielder and the implement – also see Ron's comment above. IW*] A few really nice clues: loved the way 13dn and 14dn went together as well as individually. Also liked the surface of 31ac, and the vivid picture in 22ac. In passing: not as bewildering as the BEWILDERING crossword, but a similar feel with half the words being near-anagrams.

*Rob Moline*

- Quite a masterpiece of compilation, to work in eight answers using the same 6 letters, plus another five using only one more – and to tie in 27ac with Rev. I also note that 12ac PEDALS uses the same 6 letters, with a change from R to L [*Well-spotted – I wish I'd noticed that...IW*]

*Nea Storey*

- Fantastic achievement to include thirteen answers on the SPREAD theme. What impressed me additionally was the less common and imaginative grid employed by *Bogeyman* to enable all of those 6 and 7 letter answers to fit together.

*Len Colgan*

- Enjoyed this one. I liked the symmetrical distribution of the themed words, also the fact that the key word provided both the anagind and the "fodder" for the theme.

*Mike Potts*

- A most interesting and clever use of the letters S\_P\_R\_E\_A\_D.

*Gabrielle Leeds*

- What diabolical mind dreams these up?

*Maureen Blake*

- Liked SCARPER. Couldn't find SPADER in my 2003 *Chambers*, but it's in the *SOED*. From the description it's what we'd call a rotary hoe.

*Max Roddick*

**COMMENTS for Slot 5 continued from p10:**

- If ever there was a case for a Slot to be worth two dots, it was this Slot 5! *Michael Kennedy*
- When I first read the explanation I thought we would be in real trouble but it turned out to be not quite as difficult as we feared and a whole lot of fun as well, despite the cruel sting in the tale of no numbering. COTM is difficult as always and if we could award to a group of clues slot 5 would win hands down just for its quirkiness. I particularly like the first "M" clue as it cleverly (I thought) confused us with one word becoming two words whereas all the other clues were either one or two but not both. So, that's our COTM. *Richard Skinner*
- Words fail me. But if they did not, I would offer BRILLIANT. How does she do it? I suspect several terms at Hogwarts. Thank you Gillian – you are single-handedly keeping the ravages of dementia at bay! (Even if I may occasionally act demented whilst attempting a solution). *Mike Potts*
- *Betelgeuse* produced yet another stinker – one of the hardest AJ's I have had the pleasure of completing. *Jim Fowler*
- Where do I start? I have not found any reference to "VISTAL" (leads to VITAL – the 5-letter S-word) but it is the only explanation I have. The use of old or obscure words made finding the requisite words difficult. While I could put the 7-letter words in early enough, it was not until I had 90% of the words I could confidently construct the grid. Bravo Zulu – really exercised the grey cells! *Alan Dyer*
- Amazing – SUPERB/SUPER. *Brian Symons*
- Had a nervous breakdown just reading the instructions but really enjoyed the working out, even though I was cross-eyed for some time afterward! Have chosen "Russian Throne" for C(heek) OTM with Inkpot a close second for C(lever)OTM! *Eileen O'Brien*
- Toughest slot in a long time. *Raoul*
- Every clue was an epic to solve; then fitting them in to a grid with so many multiple short answer words, made this puzzle staggeringly difficult to solve, with 40 answers!

*Alan Walter*

[Comments continued on p12]



## Quiz No 7/2013



by **Brian Symons**

- 1 accomplished
- 2 ape
- 3 grind
- 4 Greek letter
- 5 gentle
- 6 demure to the Scots
- 7 cover
- 8 energy
- 9 bright
- 10 between extremes

## Quiz 7/2013: Twenty Clues by Brian Symons.

20 definitions are given and all answers have something in common. Although no word lengths are given all answers are less than 6 letters except one of 8 letters. The eight letter word may require logical dictionary delving based on the commonality. All words are in *Chambers* and there are no abbreviations. Send your answers to Brian Symons, 1 Kookaburra Place, Grays Point NSW 2232 e-mail [bms65@bigpond.com](mailto:bms65@bigpond.com). Closing mail date 9 August 2013. Book Prize.

- 11 public
- 12 fish
- 13 combine
- 14 dull
- 15 wire measurement
- 16 herb
- 17 hero
- 18 polite
- 19 angry
- 20 tropical pods

### Results of Quiz 5/2013: In the Main by *Both Sides* (Nea Storey and Anne Simons)

Entries: 37 Correct: 18 Success Rate: 49%  
Winner: Jenny Wenham. Congratulations!

26: W Allen, G Cole, L Fry, K Harper, S Howells, A Jermy, D Jones, G Leeds, J McGrath, D Meek, A Miles, C Noble, E O'Brien, H Perrow, M Procter, A Shield, J Smith and J Wenham 25: R Caine, B Cockburn, P Dearie, V Dinham, V Fowler, D Grainger, B Hagan, P Lord, W Ryan, B Symons, R Taylor, I Thompson, A Walter and C Wilcox 24: P Garner, B Glissan, J Leigh and C McClelland 23: S Roulston.

**Solutions:** 1 Amberjack 2 Brassy 3 Copepod 4 Dentex 5 Elops 6 Findram 7 Gudgeon 8 Hassar 9 Inconnu 10 Jewfish 11 Kabeljoun 12 Launce 13 Medusa 14 Nursehound 15 Osseter 16 Paradise Fish 17 Quinnat 18 Roussette 19 Scalare 20 Tench 21 Urchin 22 Vendace 23 Wrasse 24 Xiphias 25 Yellowtail 26 Zebra Shark.

### Adjudicator's Comments:

The low success rate was due to 8 members putting NURSEHSHARK instead of NURSEHOUND (beagle). Re KABELJOUN — Nearly everyone (too many to quote below) pointed out that it should be KABELJOUW, which was what Anne originally printed, but I misread N for W and changed her clue to suit. I apologise to Anne and to all members. Everyone will get a tick for this clue.

—Nea Storey

### Members' Comments:

• Answers are all fish which is usually singular but in 11 KABELJOUS is the plural form. At first I thought that the answer implied KABELJOUN, but no such spelling existed, only KABELJOUW which did not quite fit your clever clue. In *Chambers Dictionary* I located the word OU which when pluralised is informal for a S. African man, so presumably OUSTED UGANDAN NATIVES can be referred to as OUS! Clue then gives KABEL+J+OUS the plural of KABELJOU. (*Ingenious, Alan, but see above – Adj.*) Alan Walter

• What a cracking quiz! Only knew seven of the edible suckers!

William Ryan

• There's something fishy about this quiz! Well done, *Both Sides*, to find fish to begin with every letter of the alphabet was no mean feat.

Carole Noble

• What a lot of fish there are in the sea. Plenty more? Jim Fowler

• It was a most enjoyable exercise to try and work out what the word could be and then see if it was in fact the name of a marine creature.

Bob Hagan

• Thank you for your clever quiz.

Claire McClelland

• Another great quiz. How clever to get an answer for each letter of the alphabet. You've found some very unusual fish. I love your clues. Most enjoyable.

Bev Cockburn

• This was not exactly an inventory of my fishmonger! So glad I found *FishBase* as several were not to be found in my dictionaries.

Pat Garner

• Many thanks for an interesting quiz.

Joan Smith

• Easier than trying to catch them with a line. An interesting

challenge.

Joan McGrath

• Lots of fishy things here were new to me.

Andrew Miles

• Many thanks for an entertaining & challenging quiz.

Alison Shield

• Enjoyed playing around with this puzzle. Few we don't have with our chips on Thursday nights!

Eileen O'Brien

• A fun and challenging quiz ... there are lots of good fish in the sea.

Robyn Caine

• Another of your enjoyable quizzes. Keep up the good work.

Marian Procter

• It was quite testing.

Ian Thompson

• I'm not sure that you would find FINDRAM in the main, as I could only find it referenced as being smoked haddock. I found this an enjoyable and challenging puzzle and learned several new words. (*Well, it WAS in the main before it got smoked! – Adj.*) Peter Dearie

• Fish and related sea creatures are certainly a rich source for cryptic crosswords. There are such unusual names and so many of them unknown to me. It was fun puzzling them out and then checking to see whether they actually existed.

Susan Howell

• Quite a challenge with lots of unfamiliar fishiness. Thanks for the workout.

Kath Harper

### COMMENTS for Slot 5 continued from p12:

• An innovative, challenging puzzle.

Ian McKenzie

• Brilliant though this puzzle is, a placing in Slot 6 might have been more appropriate – and certainly easier on my brain! "Model of old queen's birthplace" was one of the last clues solved. The final one deciphered was "...about prospects of life" and I had to delve into "Hoyle's" for inspiration for the ambitious bridge player. Peter Dearie

• Definitely "slot of the month". So I voted for IS TAKEN (MISTAKEN) as COTM even though there are not conventional clues. I also loved LAV (SLAV) and INKPOT (INKSPOT) and ARAGON (PARAGON).

Roy Taylor

• Really enjoyed No. 5 this month. A real challenge.

Claire McClelland

• Fantastic puzzle in the wrong place. Should have been Slot 6.

Bev Cockburn

• I am pathetic when faced with so many possibilities, and gave up, but the concept is brilliant, for more patient people! Maybe one day...

Dale McManus

• Whilst I appreciate the cleverness of this type of crossword I'm not a fan. Can't see the point of putting and taking letters. A great time-waster which should have been a Slot 7 in my opinion. I feel the same about last month's Snail. Sorry.

Carole Noble

• *Betelgeuse* has defeated me again, I fear.

Margaret Davis

• Didn't do No. 5 – too time consuming for the slot.

Ann Jermy

• I particularly enjoyed Slot 5.

Robyn Caine

**May 7-2013. Articles Aplenty by Crowsman (Len Colgan)**  
**Entries 62. Correct 59. Success rate 95%.**  
**Prizewinner: Marian Procter. Congratulations!**

**Correct:** W Allen, M Blake, R Caine, A & D Callan, L Carroll, G Champion, B Cockburn, G Cole, F Copland, M Cowan, P Dearie, T Dobebe, R Douglas, R Ducker, A Dyer, J Fowler, L Fry, B Glissan, R Gooderick, B Hagan, K Harper, S Howells, V James, A Jermy, D Jones, M Kennedy, G Leeds, J Leigh, P Lord, C McClelland, I McKenzie, T McPherson, A Martin, D Meek, A Miles, R Moline, C Noble, E O'Brien, D Parsons, A Patterson, H Perrow, M Potts, M Procter, M Pyc, M Roddick, W Ryan, A Simons, R Skinner, J Smith, M Steinberger, N Storey, B Symons, R Taylor, I Thompson, A Walter, J Wenham, C Wilcox, R Wimbush and J Wood.

**Adjudicator's Comments:** The common feature is that all answers end with the letter A. This restriction resulted in 6 place names, 5 plant names, 4 ailments and a couple of other uncommon words. The clue for ALABAMA involved its port city, Mobile.  
**—Crowsman (Len Colgan)**

**Explanations:** The explanations are in the same order as the clues. Oba(ma); O(ld) V(egeterians) A(te); acc(u)ra(te); double def; (b) anana; a Roma(n); (d)extra(l); h(yen)a; ugLY CRASH; malt + a; p and a; hAS LAsT (rev); Tong + a; ULTRAMarine; MoBiLe(rev) intermittently in AAAA; (I mean)(rev) in AA; anti + Gua(m); at a cam(er)a; curta(l)n + a; hagg(a)r(d) + a; le + u + coma; snow + pea(r); gar(anag) + I + cola; (ajar + a + ham)(rev); Pan(or)ama; anag; a + gal(Act I)a; ar(au + car)ia; raid(rev) + rh(o)ea; the + Obama with ro replacing a; synonym + anag; person + anon + gr(e)at + a.

**Solvers' Comments:**

- Can't believe it took me getting out 8-10 answers before the penny dropped. Really liked PANDA and ATACAMA. *William Ryan*
- Many thanks Len for your super-challenging ALPHA-puzzle. Altogether, there are 71 articles of A in your 32 answers, certainly Aplenty!  
*Alan Walter*
- Thanks for another interesting and challenging crossword. Definitely the toughest of this month's offerings. *Roger Douglas*
- Excellent puzzle with an ingenious common feature that gave just enough information to solve.  
*Ian McKenzie*
- It was a lot of fun as well as being educational. Besides the skilful grid design, I thought your clues were their usual high standard. I particularly enjoyed HYENA and LYCRA. *Michael Kennedy*
- This was no walk in the park. Favourite clues were for ARAUCARIA, CURTANA, and PANORAMA. Many more good clues, though. To fill in all the "A's" was a help. "A" very clever crossword.  
*Carole Noble*
- Thank you for a most interesting puzzle. I cannot justify EXTRA but nothing else seems to fit!  
*Maureen Blake*
- Another very enjoyable puzzle with a couple of new words thrown in.  
*Robyn Wimbush*
- Alpha became omega in this one-clever work. I had to search for mallows and swords and West African leaders, but most of the answers were apparent once I'd deconstructed your intricate clues. Loved the gold Cadillac!  
*Kath Harper*
- What a head scratcher this was: my brain enjoyed the exercise – I think!  
*Ann Jermy*
- Many thanks for a challenging puzzle with great clues. Favourites were ACCRA, LEUCOMA, ARAUCARIA and PERSONA NON GRATIA.  
*Joan Smith*
- A 'AAA' puzzle. ALABAMA was very tricky – MoBiLe <.  
*Andrew Miles*
- I twigged early to the pattern. I took a while to get ABSTRACT although I had ALGEBRA quite early. I don't understand the reference to "has its port" in ALABAMA. I look forward to that explanation.  
*Bev Cockburn*
- Hope I am right in thinking the connection is that all answers end in "A"! Brilliant!  
*Eileen O'Brien*
- I had about 6 or 7 answers worked out when I realized all answers ended in A – should have worked it out from the title! Having all last letters pre-filled I think makes puzzles a bit easier, and very kind of you to have answers in alpha order within word-length groups. Can't wait for the puzzle where all answers end in z!  
*Tony Dobebe*
- Spotting the theme early helped enormously, as it was definitely a pore through the dictionary sort of puzzle. The Roman Caesar

was groanworthy, as was Act I.

*Rob Moline*

- I enjoyed this puzzle. There were some difficult clues and obscure words but the clues were all well constructed. The best clue, in my opinion, was ALABAMA (an unusual kind of wordplay), followed by LYCRA, PANDA, ANTIGUA, ATACAMA, MAHARAJA, and THEOBROMA. I also liked the moderate number of botanical solutions of course.  
*Ian Thompson*

- How clever all ending in "A". Especially liked the ALABAMA one with Mobile in it. Also, ATACAMA could be COTM!  
*Marian Procter*

- I picked up on the theme quite quickly, but with so many unfamiliar words it took quite a while to solve. I hope I've spelt them all correctly. It took me ages to justify EXTRA. I should have known it would be a subtraction.  
*Jenny Wenham*

- An appetising plateful of intricately worked clues from *Crowsman*. The smoothest, I thought, was CURTANA. *Max Roddick*

- I enjoyed this one – although I was ready to give it the "A" at one stage. PANDA I thought was a neat clue, and EXTRA had me puzzled until about 5 minutes ago!  
*Michael Potts*

- Thanks Len for another challenge and some tough exercise for the brain cells. Particularly liked the clues for PERSONA NON GRATIA, EXTRA and AROMA.  
*Gillian Champion*

**Solution to Articles Aplenty by Crowsman**

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

**Clue Writing Competition continued from p16:**

**The smelly old bomb mangled the snake \*½**

This is a tough clue to finish with. It's an indirect anagram of BO (smelly) and car (old bomb) as indicated by *mangled*. *Smelly* for BO is incorrect as BO is a noun. However, that is minor compared with the problem of using indirect anagrams.

**Scoring System**

	Poor	Proper	Perfect
Definition	0	1	2
Secondaries	0	1	2
Fairness	0	1	2
Surface Reading	0	1	2
x-factor	0	1	2

**Star Rating:** No star; 1-2 \*; 3-4 \*\*; 5-7 \*\*\*; 8-9 \*\*\*\*; 10 \*\*\*\*\*

**Clue Writing Competition No 4/2013**

For the next competition, please write a clue for **weather vane** (7,4) complete with explanation. Note: only one clue per person. Send your clue and explanation to the adjudicator Michael Kennedy, 27 Hennessy Lane, Figtree NSW 2525 or by email to: [manveru@bigpond.com](mailto:manveru@bigpond.com)

Closing mail date: Friday 9 August 2013. Book prize.

## Results of the Clue Writing Competition No 3/2013

### Write a clue for COBRA (5)

Adjudicated by Michael Kennedy

Definition of **COBRA** from *Chambers* (12<sup>th</sup> Edition)

**n** a British government committee that is convened to co-ordinate action in cases of national emergency. [Cabinet Office Briefing Rooms, in which it meets]

**n** any poisonous snake of the genus *Naja*, found in India and Africa, which dilates the skin of its neck so as to resemble a hood. [Port *cobra* (*de capello*) snake (of the hood)]

From cars to aeronautics I've learnt a lot about cobras in recent weeks.

I was a little doubtful about referring to a cobra as a *Naja*, as this is technically the genus, not the snake itself. However, many animals are referred to by their genus name (*Feline* and *Canine* for example, although I'm yet to hear someone refer to a koala as a *Phascolarctos*). So in the spirit of all creatures great and small, I've let the *Naja*/cobra dilemma slide.

I received 22 clues (23 if you include the one non-member entry). In a two-snake race and by the tip of a fang, the winning clue comes from Drew Meek.

### Mr Swan appointed to Royal Academy by British committee \*\*\*\* (5)

The clues are listed in alphabetical order and the definitions, where appropriate, are *italicised*.

#### A charming subject \*\*\*

This is a quaint play on words for the first clue. It's based around the fact that a cobra is probably most well known for its tendency to be charmed by someone who, presumably, has limited career options. I would prefer a question mark to indicate the lateral-thinking requirement and a *perhaps* to reflect the fact that not all cobras are charmed, but otherwise I think it works well.

#### A loaf of bread, a god of sun and we have a wicked snake enow \*\*\*½

The *loaf* is COB and the *god of sun* is RA. The definition is deliberately whimsical in order to poetically enhance the clue. In the compiler's words, 'Omar Khayyam meets the Garden of Eden in Egypt'. A nice touch!

#### Boa constrictor disheartened another snake \*\*\*

This is an anagram of BOA and CR. I love the use of a boa constrictor to potentially produce *another snake*, but *another* is not a satisfactory anagram indicator in my opinion. *Disheartened* works, but I reckon *eviscerated* would have worked better with the surface sense.

#### Cab or clapped out Ford XC? \*\*\*½

An anagram of CAB OR, which gives you the name of a car model – the Ford XC Cobra. *Clapped out* is great for the surface sense, but I don't think it's the best anagram indicator, as it just means tired, exhausted or worn out. The question mark is a fair addition given the relatively obscure (well at least to me) definition.

#### Creature traditionally enticed out with bits of carob \*\*\*

An anagram of CAROB. Great surface sense and a well disguised definition. *Bits of* is borderline acceptable as an anagram indicator.

#### Drunken Aussie mate sounds snaky \*\*\*

Ha ha! It may help to be inebriated to fully appreciate the profundity of this clue. An *Aussie mate* is a cobbler, but a drunken one is more likely to sound like *cobra*. I haven't had time to conduct a field test on this, but I would assume several variations are possible. Maybe ... *could sound snaky* would be fairer. Nevertheless, it's an entertaining and imaginative clue.

#### Firm support for attack helicopter \*\*\*½

CO and BRA coming together to produce a type of helicopter. While the indications are well known, the associated surface reading is the best I've seen. You won't find the chopper definition in *Chambers*, but it does exist elsewhere.

#### Hooded killer eliminates doctor before detonating car-bomb \*\*\*

Remove MB (doctor) from an exploding *car-bomb* and you are left with *cobra*. Great clue at first glance, but I'm troubled by MB for doctor? GP, Dr, and MD are the tried and tested abbreviations, but as far as I can tell, MB is not. It means a Bachelor of Medicine, but not a doctor *per se*. Maybe ...*eliminates the last two before*... could have been an option. Otherwise, I love it!

#### Hooded one with coif, lacking condition, has support \*\*\*

Take *if* (condition) from *coif*, add bra and there you have it. Quite innovative parsing and an interesting surface reading.

### Killer whale thrown off course by bite from deadly reptile \*\*

This clue plays with an anagram of *orca* (killer whale) and *b* (a bite of by?). Starting on the bright side, the surface reading and definition are both spot on. However, the dark side looms the stronger with an indirect anagram and a dubiously derived B. Let's discuss Dad.

### King, perhaps, often seen in charming performances \*\*\*\*

Sometimes when a definition is hard to come by, this is a great option – providing an *example* of the answer. In this case it's a *king cobra* but it has been well disguised. The compiler has cleverly added the charming aspect of a cobra, making for an excellent clue all round.

### Low type and perhaps a king involved in disco brawl \*\*\*½

This clue has not one, but two definitions, as well as a secondary indicator with the answer contained within *disCO BRAwl*. It's rather unorthodox, and it's one of those clues where less would have been more. A *king perhaps*, would have sufficed as the definition.

### Marco brazenly kidnapped Naja \*\*\*

This one was submitted by a non-member. It's a simple containment clue. While it works well enough, one criticism would be that using unusual words such as *Marco* and *brazenly*, makes it a tad too obvious.

### Mr Swan appointed to Royal Academy by British committee \*\*\*\*

I commend this compiler for not only having a go at the British committee definition, but also coming up with a superb clue. *Mr Swan* (COB) is literally added to *Royal Academy* to produce COBRA (Interestingly, from my research, the *a* in COBRA was added purely for effect, and not because they met in Room A). It's a pity the clue isn't based on fact because it would be worthy of five stars.

### Nag, or aspire without anger \*\*\*

*Nag* is the name of one of two cobras from a poem, *Rikki-Tikki-Tavi*, by Rudyard Kipling (*Nagaina* is the name of the other cobra – both related to the *Naga* name). To get to cobra, take *ire* from *aspire* and you are left with *asp*, which can be a cobra. As *Nag* is an example of a cobra, it should be indicated as such. The clue's surface reading is a little strained but otherwise a satisfactory clue.

### Naja's firm support \*\*\*½

This one uses the standard CO for *firm* and BRA for *support*, both common fodder for the compiler. That doesn't make it any less valid of course, and it really comes down to how they are incorporated into the clue. More work is needed here to make the clue interesting so that it tells a story or creates an image.

### One leading a charmed life? \*\*\*½

Cuter than the tip of a snake's tongue! I would have liked a *perhaps* or something similar to indicate that not all cobras end up in a basket, but otherwise I like it. This one was the best of the cryptically-defined clues.

### Possible pilot's reaction on discovering this snake in the cockpit? \*\*\*½

The cobra (technically the Cobra Turn or Pugachev's Cobra) is also an aeronautical manoeuvre used mostly in combat. The clue creates a great image of a pilot taking sudden and extreme evasive action because of a snake in the cockpit. It is relatively obscure, however, and would see most solvers doing a cobra to get to the nearest search engine.

### Serpent to strike senior naval officer \*\*\*\*

A charade clue with *strike* (COB) and RA (Rear Admiral). Strike for cob is a real tester (*Chambers* has it listed as definition four), but it certainly does make for an excellent and consistent theme. I could see this in a slot 5.

### Snake charmer obtains Burmese reptiles as starters \*\*\*½

A simple but solid clue that uses the initial letters following the definition of *snake*. I appreciate the surface reading, as cobras are actually found in Burma. Not only that but the compiler has incorporated the snake charming as well.

### Snake egg eaten by rock crab \*\*\*½

Place O (egg) inside an anagram of *crab* as indicated by *rock*. The anagram is not the correct tense as it stands, as one needs to say *rocking*, but otherwise the clue works well.

### Start to compile original acrostics without Brother Naga \*\*\*½

Take the initial letters of the first three words, insert BR, and you have *naga*, which is actually a snake, especially a cobra. Outside the ACC, most solvers would be wondering who or what Brother Naga is, so definitely an in-house clue. Taking that into account, this is a fun clue that is accurately parsed. **[Continued on p15]**