



|N|o.|2|1|8| |J|U|N|E| |2|0|0|8



www.crosswordclub.org



A word in a dictionary is very much like a car in a mammoth motorshow
- full of potential but temporarily inactive.
Anthony Burgess, 1992, *A Mouthful of Air*, I, Ch 10.

|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|

In relation to the suggestion that the puzzles for Slots 1-5 be amalgamated, the Executive Committee has considered all of the matters raised. Less than 20 members (less than 10% of our membership) felt strongly enough to express any view on the issue. The "voting" was 10 in favour, 3 on the fence and 6 against. Those who opposed the proposal were, in general, more strongly against the idea than the supporters were in favour. A number mentioned the increased workload on the adjudicators, one member commenting that setters of Slot 6 grids should have to mark their own devilish puzzles. Significantly, while some adjudicators were in favour others were against. On the basis of the views expressed, it does not seem to be a vital issue for the majority of members. If we implement the proposal, there is a possibility that some of the adjudicators might relinquish this vital task, on which the operation of the Club competitions depends. We fully appreciate the considerable effort made, and the time spent, by our small band of dedicated adjudicators; without much stronger support from members for the proposal, we would not wish to add to their work either by asking them to take on more than the 500-600 puzzles that they currently assess in an average month or to take on an increased workload more frequently. Accordingly, the Executive Committee has decided to leave the system as it is, bearing in mind that it has worked satisfactorily for many years. Thank you to all those who took the time to express your views.

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. Favourites include *Jesso*, *Southern Cross* and *Virgo* and the ever-popular *InGrid* and *gizmojones*. The Slot 6 puzzle is a beauty by *The Busybodies* and the Quiz titled *The A-Z of Villains* by our indefatigable Secretary *The Eager Beaver* will keep you amused for ages. And there is a special message on p9 about the forthcoming Christmas in July Get-Together. Happy Crozworlding!

—Patrick

Though a relative newcomer to the 'pleasant task' of adjudicating, I've seen considerable changes. Six years ago there were far more last-minute entries, some going so far as sending their missives by Express Post. Transcription errors and blank squares were much more frequent and senders' names not uncommonly left out entirely. And in those days there were peculiar errors shared by entrants, leading to suspicions of collusion. What's behind these changes? E-lodgement? Delivery by e-mail? Dropping the (huge) 6- and 12-monthly prizes and boosting the minor ones? Improved *Crozworld* layout? Who knows. Some trivia: members with surnames L-Z collected 50% more perfect scores than the other half. E-judicated members did twice as well on Slot 5. Next year: results correlated with star sign. Special thanks to those who included a few words of personal greeting; they punctuate periods of concentration otherwise alleviated only by thoughts of a Coopers Pale when the evening's slog is over.

Slot 1: A high standard of entries for a well received puzzle. TEMPTS (which makes no sense either direct or cryptically) for 29ac TEMPOS, nor do ARCHERY for 19ac ALCHEMY or WICHELM for 1dn WYCHELM, the most popular errors.

Slot 2: Line and length from Noel Jessop, doyen of cryptic puzzle setters. 13ac CISSIES was the sticking point for very many solvers; SISSIES is an OK spelling of course, but not supported by the cryptic construction CI(T)IES + SS. CREATED for FREAKED and a couple of substitutes for NOME were the only other candidates for the adjudicator's highlighter.

Slot 3: An appreciative response to this offering from the very popular *Manveru*. ARISE was a common error for 9dn PRISE, a subtle clue for a light that should be criticised for being insufficiently (only 2 of 5 letters) checked. Due to the open-ended nature of the clue, this old Euchre player accepted BOWER for 23dn though JOKER is clearly a better answer.

Slot 4: This adjudicator was surprised by the identity of one entrant - Carole Noble, of the *Difficult Women* duo. It seems she hadn't seen the completed puzzle and couldn't resist her cobbler Joan Smith's clues! VILLACE (for VILLACH) and BREATHALISE (for BREATHALYSE) were the more common errors, both quite unsupportable.

Slot 5: Solutions submitted were of a high standard, but the low level of submission was testament to a very tough puzzle indeed. Were older - sorry, members of long standing - more successful? Perhaps; puzzles of this type were a regular feature of these pages some time back. And they know the special satisfaction of completing a *Brother Naga* confection. PAST was a common substitute for a (to me) very difficult 8ac PANT (with concomitant RUSE/SURE for a much less obscure 2dn RUNE).

COTM: Once again, *Virgo* has proved popular with CANDLE (Slot 1/17ac) and PUTIN (1ac) scoring well, but *Manveru*'s RUBIKS CUBE (Slot 3/15ac-27dn) scooped the pool with almost half the votes cast.

S.P. (Special Plea) to those who send a photocopy of their 'good grids': please mask your Slot 6 - it puts adjudicators who like to compete in an invidious position. As ever, quibbles are heartily welcomed.

—Doug Butler

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

Puzzle No.	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Entries received	111	106	103	104	64	488
Correct entries	93	78	86	88	50	395
Success rate (%)	83.8	73.6	83.8	84.6	78.1	80.5
Prizewinners	J Barbour T Abraham	M Kennedy C Noble	C McClelland B Tickle	A Martin	S Howells D Coates	from 115 members

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

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On your toes by <i>InGrid</i>	4
Cryptic by <i>Southern Cross</i>	5
AJ by <i>Virgo</i>	6
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Prizewinner: May 2008 Slots 1-5: Betty Siegman

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

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May 1-2008

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

May 2-2008

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

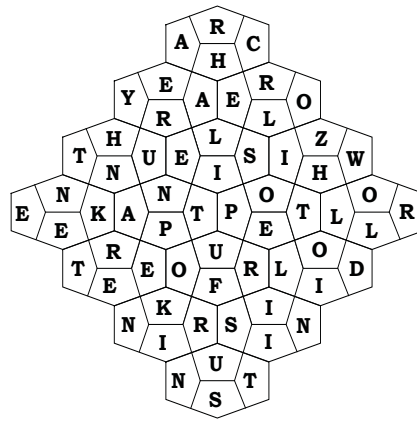
May 3-2008

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

May 4-2008

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

May 5-2008



Apr 6-2007

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



MEMBERS RESULTS FOR APR Slot 6 & MAY 2008 Slots 1-5



MEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6
ABRAHAM T
AINSWORTH Y
ALSTON B
ANDERSON C
AUSTIN A
BALNAVES J
BARBOUR J
BARNES J
BARRETT A
BENNETT B
BENNETT D
BUTLER D
CAINE R
CALLAN A & D
CAMPBELL G
CHAMPION G
CHANCE C
COATES D
COCKBURN B
COCKBURN M
COLE G
COLLINS M
COOKE L
COPLAND F
COWAN M
CROMER H
DAVIS M
DEARIE P
DENNIS M
DINHAM V
DUCKER R
FOOTT B
FOSTER C
FOWLER J
FREELAND J
FULLER D
GALBREATH M
GARNER P

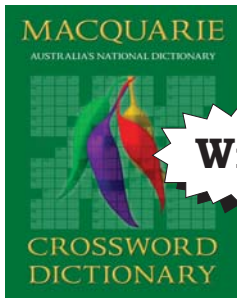
MEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6
GLISSAN B
GRAINGER D
GREENING D
HAGAN R
HARPER K
HAZELL N
HEMSLEY D
HOCKING A
HOWARD L
HOWARD V
HOWELLS S
HULL B
IBBOTT B
JERMY A
JESSOP N
JONES C
JONES D
KENNEDY D
KENNEDY M
KNIGHT S
KNIGHT V
LEE C
LEE N
LEEDS G
LLLOYD G
LOBSEY V
McCLELLAND C
MacDOUGALL I
McGRATH J
McKENZIE I
McKINDLAY Y
McPHERSON T
MARTIN A
MAY S
MEEK D
MERCER P
MILES A

MEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6
NOBLE C
O'BRIEN T
O'BRIEN S
O'ROURKE R
PARSONS D
PATERSON A
PROCTER D
PROCTER M
PULLEN K
PYC M
RAW M
RODDICK M
RYAN A
RYAN W
SAVANAH T
SHIELD A
SIEGMAN B
SMITH J
SOLOMON B
STANDARD J
STEINBERGER M
STOCKS J
STOREY N
SYMONS B
TAYLOR R
TAYLOR S
THOMPSON J
TICKLE B
TOFONI B
TROLLOPE S
VILLIERS W
WALTER A
WATT K
WATTS I
WENHAM J
WILCOX C
WILSON N
WILSON R
ZUCAL H

J	U	N	E		
2	0	0	8		
S	L	O	T		1

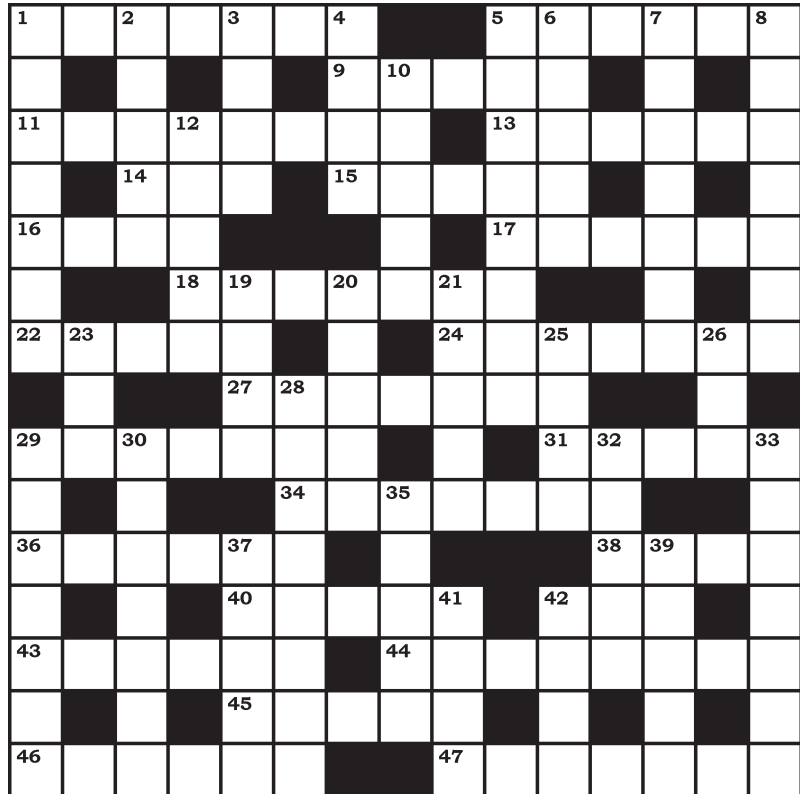
Cryptic
by
Jesso

Prizes: \$50



Win!

[2007 edn]



Across

- 1 Sentimentally (7)
- 5 Enflading (6)
- 9 Directed (5)
- 11 Medicinal vapour (8)
- 13 Detest (6)
- 14 Some (3)
- 15 Skewered food item (5)
- 16 U.S. state (4)
- 17 Jewels (6)
- 18 Retributive justice (7)
- 22 Renovated tyre (5)
- 24 Retitled (7)
- 27 Burst inward (7)
- 29 Imitator (coll.) (7)
- 31 Potter's clay (5)
- 34 Ugly sight (7)
- 36 Whispers, like the wind (6)
- 38 Old (4)
- 40 Different (5)
- 42 Argument for (3)
- 43 Plant or creature lacking pigment (6)
- 44 Eskimo dog (8)
- 45 Composition (5)
- 46 Rocky ravine (6)
- 47 Striae (7)

Down

- 1 Glossier piece of beef? That's right! (7)
- 2 Quiet dramatist to express contempt (5)
- 3 The same lady not noticed vainly? (4)
- 4 Pull any odd thousand (4)
- 5 Slipped back in river, pleased to change (8)
- 6 Fuss with last building material (5)
- 7 Put under, one may start as provisional (7)
- 8 Stabbed visitor by the sound of it (7)
- 10 Details of bad times (5)
- 12 Fruit shorter than a banana (5)
- 19 Record one chapter as impressive (4)
- 20 Discharge English politician they declared heartless (5)
- 21 The writer runs available second presses (5)
- 23 Self-contained in allegory? (3)
- 25 Close northern opening (4)
- 26 Priest relies without thing in law (3)
- 28 Woman is contracted to sell onions, initially with dignity (8)
- 29 A woman coming after caught a fool in a food plant (7)
- 30 Sounder tradesman (7)
- 32 Raise money to get better weapons (5)
- 33 Roles played without Bradman rumours heard (7)
- 35 Eastern dame wracked with disease (6)
- 37 Sweeten heavy ends without one (5)
- 39 Move upholstered sides with a cheese (5)
- 41 Reconstructed railway as light lines (4)
- 42 Reap mixed fruit (4)

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

Slots 1-5: Betty Siegman, 3 Burrawong St, Bateau Bay NSW 2261.
e-mail: betty_siegman@hotmail.com
Closing mail date: Friday 27 June 2008.
e-lodgment: ianw@webone.com.au

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

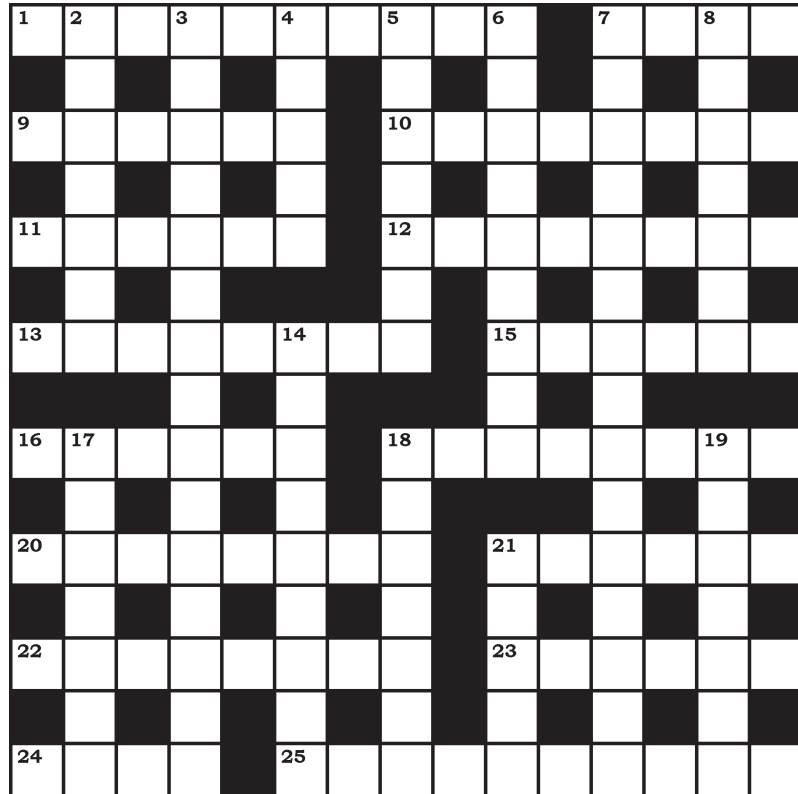
Slot 6: Bev Cockburn, 12 Norman St, Merrylands West NSW 2160
e-mail: bevco4@bigpond.com Closing mail date: 11 July 2008.

J	U	N	E		
2	0	0	8		
S	L	O	T		2

On your toes
by
InGrid



Themed solutions
are associated



Across


- 1 Rumour had nothing on Edgar Allan being in charge of story making (10)
- 7 Theme (4)
- 9 Analyse an old butterfly (6)
- 10 Not a soft forward to read? (8)
- 11 Ms Houston lost her head for a card on the bus (6)
- 12 Neophytes core will seek word of the body (8)
- 13 Smoke it or wear it (8)
- 15 Works about Old English puss (6)
- 16 A religious anecdote or two about secrets (6)
- 18 Theme (8)
- 20 Most bright to seat girl elsewhere (8)
- 21 Theme (6)
- 22 Equate new parking confusion to a game (8)
- 23 Isaac kept a Degas I'm overwhelmed by (6)
- 24 Theme (4)
- 25 Maladjusted genie grins while giving vitality (10)

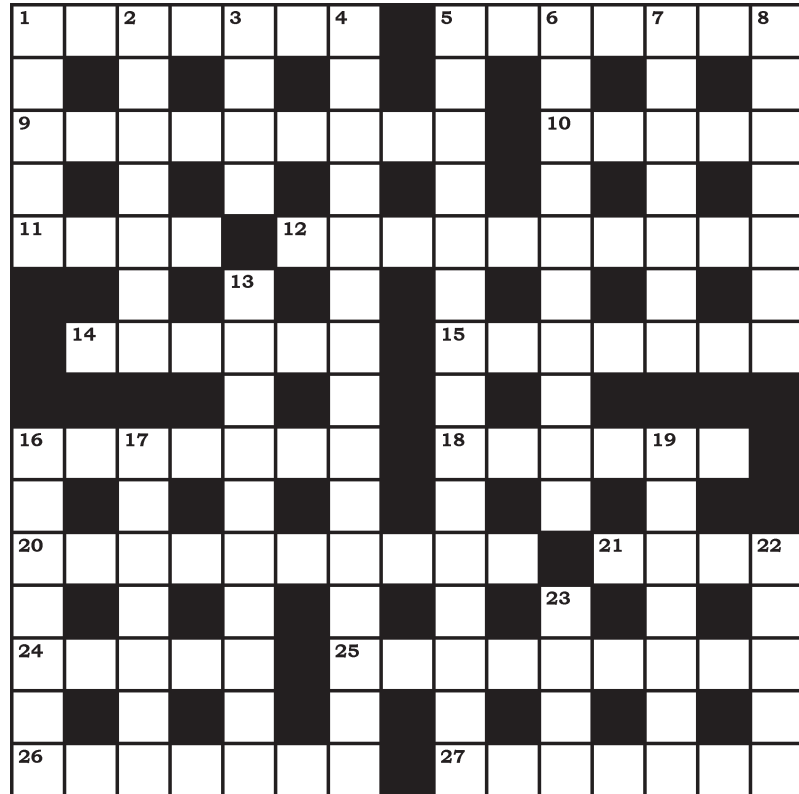
Down

- 2 Sure greeting at state school (7)
- 3 Cut joint talks over stance on transport (7,8)
- 4 Tart typically ends with devotion (5)
- 5 Theme (7)
- 6 Groomer a hot rake (9)
- 7 Power providers could have government vehicles (6,9)
- 8 Contain in hint about date (7)
- 14 Theme (9)
- 17 Lever that is shifted with ease (7)
- 18 Reflector of pet's perception (4-3)
- 19 Anticlimax permitted before slumping (3-4)
- 21 Called after President has accident (5)

GENERAL COMMENTS:

- My husband spotted this in the June issue of *Academic Reminders* (the catalogue of Clouston & Hall Booksellers Pty Ltd). In an advertisement for *When will Jesus Bring the Pork Chops?* by George Carlin they quote the following joke:
"When it comes to God's existence, I'm not an atheist and I'm not an agnostic. I'm an acrostic. The whole thing puzzles me ..."
Just thought I'd share it with you and other members. Nea Storey
- Many thanks for my prize of the *Macquarie Dictionary* which I won for April slot 1. I have been away and only just picked it up from the Post Office. It will add to my growing collection of reference books. Many thanks again. Shelia Taylor
- Thank you so much for the Book of Quotations as a prize for 'solving' Brian Symons' devilishly difficult quiz in the *Compendium*. I have never won a book prize before and was going to purchase a reference book next time I won a slot. I shall enjoy browsing through it (when Bruce had done with it) and it will be useful for compiling a crossword or quiz at a future date. I like your calligraphy very much – it was even on the post box. I was sad to read that Kev Layton had passed away. I loved the humour in his clues and the little poems in his Acrostics. Perhaps these could be reprinted (just the verses, not the puzzles) so that members could reread them, as well as those who did not attempt the puzzles. Audrey Austin
- Another Cryptic. WHY? When we lost the Orthodox some years ago, we were promised that it would not become another Cryptic. The Half and Halfs and Thematics seemed reasonable options and they gave encouragement to less expert solvers. This is especially important when so many Cryptics have become so difficult. Promises are meant to be kept. Irene Watts

|J|U|N|E| |2|0|0|8| |S|L|O|T| |3|
<h2 style="margin: 0;">Cryptic by Southern Cross</h2>




Across

- 1 Military unit reserves right of restraint (3-4)
- 5 A spy moved around hold-up in night attire (7)
- 9 "Twin Hound" – involved murder mystery (9)
- 10 Everything I have is steeped in aboriginal culture (5)
- 11 Irishman's deserting patriots causing a disturbance of the peace (4)
- 12 Dope located in most unusual tropical area (10)
- 14 Stick around, pugilist finally taking on one with muscles (6)
- 15 Cat's back with fur ruffled – ideal condition for many at Point Danger? (5,2)
- 16 Shaking a firm foundation in government? (7)
- 18 Ring, as per arranged, to get Norma and Tosca (6)
- 20 One could dispense with singular 18 glasses if sitting here (5,5)
- 21 Some headline? (4)
- 24 VIP meets the French in August (5)
- 25 In a month, change of date brought in something new (9)
- 26 Condemned – that's clear indeed! (7)
- 27 Durant's removed from frozen countryside (7)

Down

- 1 The cow must be put down (5)
- 2 Reliable information for which Olive is acknowledged? (4,3)
- 3 Hiding out after start of riot (4)
- 4 In no danger, trio moves around quietly when TV shows are not appraised (3-6,6)
- 5 How one could deal with a jogger's blunder (3,4,4,2,2)
- 6 Tennis player's exercise area, as reported by newspaper (3,7)
- 7 These complain about oarsmen (7)
- 8 Separate troublesome pupils? About time! (5,2)
- 13 Restart Aid program, just one step at a time (5-5)
- 16 Polish daughter is elegant (7)
- 17 Hit gear? (7)
- 19 This could be a plug for AAPT, or about start of delivery (7)
- 22 Reporter takes it up to editors finally – they come in twice a day (5)
- 23 Some, Steve noted, could be on the level (4)

Solution to Heard Rumours March 7-2008 Quiz No 4/2008. Adjudicator's and selected Members' Comments:

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

Thanks for all the kind comments and lovely cards – especially Audrey's with the picture of the "pretty, witty kitties". I knew there'd be some acceptable alternatives to my answers, but had no idea there'd be so many that I hadn't thought of. I was fairly liberal with my definition of 'animal' and with the variety of phrases, especially the multitudes for "THICK &" and "GRASSY". I've also accepted alternative pronunciations for both KNOLL and BREAM. Most of the lost points were for answers left blank, out of alphabetical sequence or not rhyming. I've learnt about a few things too, including 'cherry-bob', "Gentleman Jack" bourbon and a South American bird called a screamer.

—Jenny Wenham

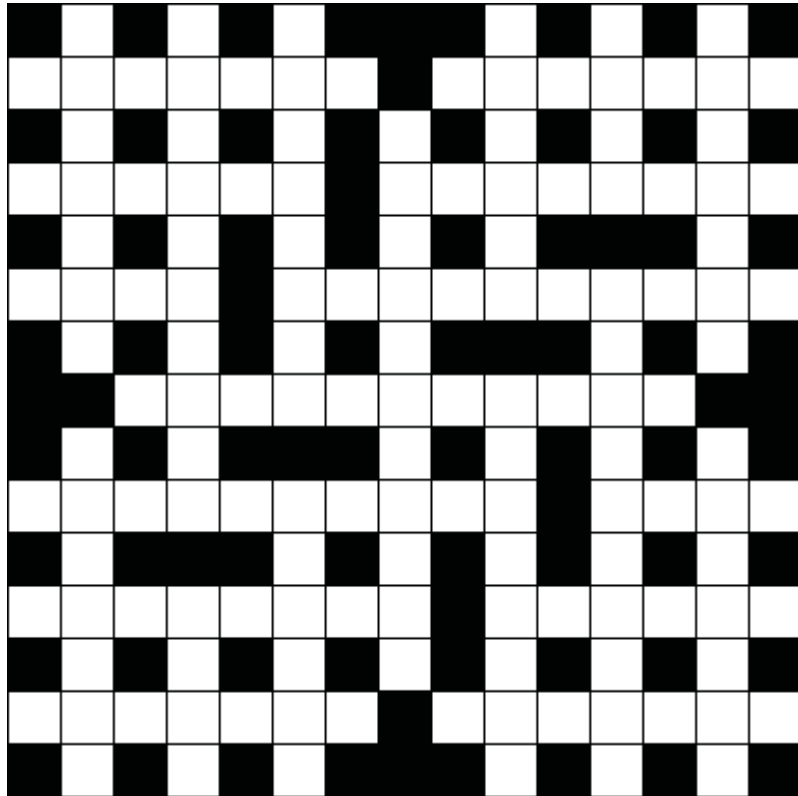
- Thank you for your "RHYME TIME" animal puzzle. Several of the items had alternative animal answer names such as in No. 14 Cat, Rat or Bat. I have only included one animal name for each item. Hope you are happy with the menagerie! I checked in the Penguin rhyming dictionary for item 18 & Lemur is given as a satisfactory rhyme for Steamer. At one stage for No. 8 I could only think of THICK AND Delicious (rhyming with) Fishes!!! Thought this was stretching the rhyme a little too far!
- Alan Walter
- Thanks for a fun quiz that required no 'Googling', just deep thought, hit and miss answers and occasional hits of brilliance!
- Bev Cockburn
- Thank you for another good quiz. I'm not sure of my answers to NAIL and FIRE but they were the best that I could produce.
- David Procter

J	U	N	E		
2	0	8			
S	L	O	T		4

AJ
by
Virgo

Prize:
Chambers
Dictionary of
World History
3rd edn.
[rrp \$79.95]


Solve the clues and place the solutions in the grid, jig-saw wise, where they fit.

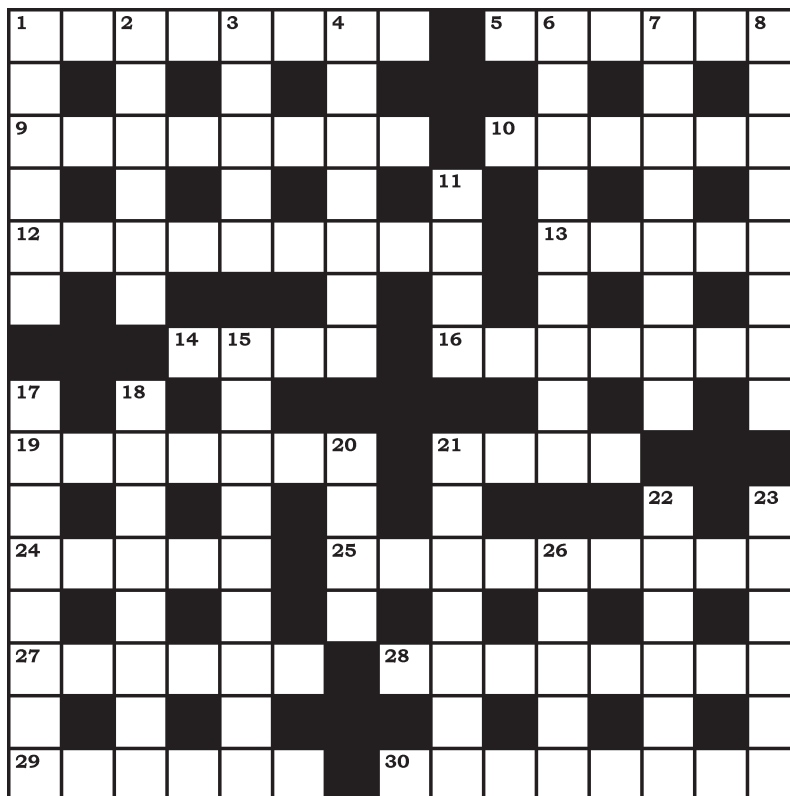


- A** A grander makeover adapted to suit (8)
- B** Down, in the main! (4)
- C** The company way, call for quiet in pure disgrace one that feeds inflation (4-6)
- D** Composer of 'The Wild Buds' — yes? (7)
- E** Filthy reins from East Wrexham reportedly made of plastic (5,5)
- F** A busy few years cut off road toll (7)
- G** A Saviour? He's always the last line of defence! (10)
- H** Landing site for one part of the body that surrounds another (7)
- I** Give line to knot, otherwise be persuasive (8)
- J** Get Jan; guru is hassling Krishna (10)
- K** Coin the phrase 'A Knockout Kiss' (6)
- L** A nail cut awkwardly off the head (7)
- M** May song bird (6)
- N** Disguise as even old birthmarks (6)
- O** Home of Clancy Wolf (8)
- P** Stews age in saucepans! (7)
- Q** Heard to be prompting in line (7)
- R** A revolutionary in the kitchen shaking his work tray (6,5)
- S** Frazer, say, to muff hair remover (6,5)
- T** A level binder (4)
- U** _____ lies the head that wears the crown (Henry IV, Pt 2) (6)
- V** At sea, the gay rover lost the right to be in the shuttle (7)
- W** Birds battle with troublesome rebels from the east (8)
- X** Mossop turned to steer; head copied (7)
- Y** The tent in which I got love from you, right? (4)
- Z** D. Frazer, mostly in backstroke, is a cup holder (4)

GENERAL COMMENTS:

- Hello Patrick – Thank you for the May issue, always on the dot! How sad that Kev Layton has passed on – there can never be another BEAST quite like him, with his witty clues and comic verse. My sincere sympathy goes out to his loved ones and all who knew and loved him. Best wishes to you and all at the ACC. Cheers. *Cate Foster*
- Thanks so much for the beautiful certificate (I'm getting quite a collection) and the prize for April slots 1-5. I wasn't expecting the cheque. I'm always excited to get the 5 dots, so the prize is an added bonus. What a great club this is! *Jenny Wenham*
- Thank you very much for the March windfall! I was delighted to see in the April edition that I had won March slots 1-5 and amazed to read in the May edition that I shared the prize for March slot 6. I look forward to *Crozworld* every month; it brings me great pleasure – many thanks to all involved with the hard work. *Jill Freeland*
- Although I am tardy in my expression of appreciation, I was very thrilled to receive a book prize recently. The arrival of the parcel was a delight to my 4 year old guest, who made a necklace out of the packing for a birthday gift. Waste not, want not. *Phyl Heath*
- Once again, another great month of crosswording *Roy Wilson*
- Thank you so much for the wonderful prize 'Book of Quotations' for the Compendium puzzle 'Tour of Oz' by Stroz. I had solved (and enjoyed) this puzzle so long ago I was surprised and delighted to receive the book in the mail.
- Thanks very much for the book prize for Shedagrams; I had fun doing this puzzle. *Brian Tickle*
- Sincere thanks for my Slot 2 prize. 'Twas most appreciated. *Corryn Anderson*
- I notice Slot1 is once again Cryptic. Has the Half and Half been discontinued? *Ted O'Brien*
- Missed the normal thematic Slot1 or Noel's Half and Half. Looks like we are now becoming the ACCC with all Cryptics and no standard puzzles. *Sandra May*
- *Alan Walter*

|J|U|N|E| |2|0|0|8| |S|L|O|T| |5|
Cryptic by gizmojones
Prizes: \$50  Win! 2006 edn



Across

- 1 News about left gaining ground said to cause great conflict (5,3)
- 5 Excuses given by absent party members take one in (6)
- 9 No mother can contain an unresolved urge (8)
- 10 Horse nearly gets award meant for cow? (6)
- 12 Letter a mistake, not right, and should be cut (9)
- 13 Scan doesn't show positive (3-2)
- 14 Hybrid fruit developed in university glibly cut in half (4)
- 16 Variety of skin disease English student caught (7)
- 19 See 3dn
- 21 Not in favour of inaugurating a national theatrical institute (4)
- 24 Teaching about return of the roebuck? (5)
- 25 Nicholas, writer for screen, lying around in base out of uniform (9)
- 27 They play a small part in producing supplements (6)
- 28 Journalist gets ready after Bond's robbed (6,2)
- 29 The infinite euphoria provided by a bird (6)
- 30 T.S.Eliot initially came back to file for divorce (8)

Down

- 1 Notice of Mass to be held around Australian Capital Territory (4,2)
- 2 Big truck gets hot after breaking down, that's for sure (6)
- 3 and 19 Bottle by bottle? (5,7)
- 4 Core of unsalted olive fragments found in tooth sockets (7)
- 6 Legendary knight suffering call of nature when far away (9)
- 7 Poet leaves in Autumn? (8)
- 8 Let go of Archer's deliveries (4,4)
- 11 Wall to remain in front of empty room (4)
- 15 Stewards get English paper towels at last! (9)
- 17 Indian opener gets notes written on box by keeper (3,5)
- 18 Roman magistrate's inquiry about a mineral inconclusive (8)
- 20 Heroine of novel makes a comeback in *Götterdämmerung* (4)
- 21 Mary's mother's friends cut power off in tempers (7)
- 22 Poet's boring and hollow (6)
- 23 Party leader locked in flat with key (6)
- 26 Early psychotherapist (or mathematician?) takes pound in exchange for diamonds (5)

GENERAL COMMENTS:

- Many thanks for the April Slot 5 prize.
- What a surprise when I came home after a week away – two prizes for doing something I enjoy! I'll put the cheque towards a *Macquarie Crossword Dictionary*. Thank you very much.
- This May *Crozworld* was a truly bumper edition to keep us enigmatised!
- A mixed bag this month – hope I did better than the last time Doug adjudicated.
- My first entry for a couple of months.
- This month's were a really good lot.
- The May puzzles kept me occupied for quite some time. I dislike it when I've finished a puzzle over breakfast and then have to twiddle for the rest of the day
- For the first time this year, I've submitted a full set.
- I have only enclosed Slot1 puzzle – as a new member am still 'finding my way'.
- I'd prefer an Orthodox for Slot 1.

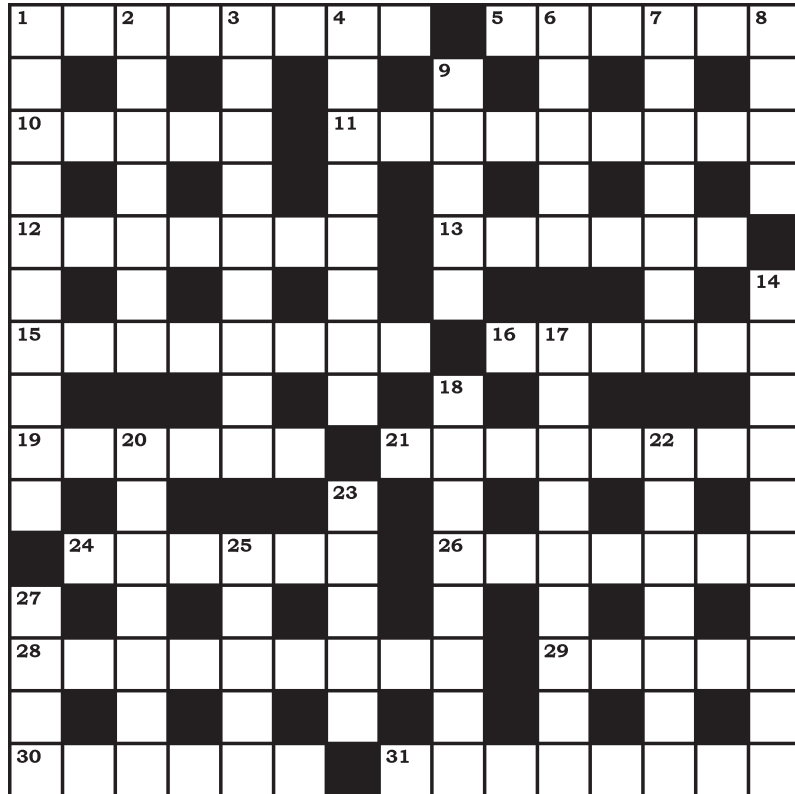
Geoff Campbell
 Graeme Cole
 Alan Walter
 Del Kennedy
 Alison Shield
 Max Roddick
 Ted O'Brien
 Veniece Lobsey
 Bronwyn Hull
 Barb Ibbott

J	U	N	E		
2	0	0	8		
S	L	O	T		6

On the Prowl by The Busybodies

Prize
\$50
x2

As well as the themed solutions, one other clue offers a key to the theme. Not all words are in *Chambers*.



Across

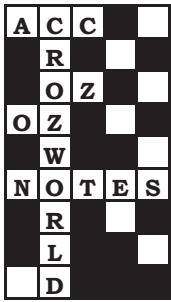
- 1 Theme (8)
- 5 Theme (6)
- 10 and 27 Theme (5,4)
- 11 0, Gary's out reassembling aircraft (9)
- 12 Theme (7)
- 13 Theme (6)
- 15 Confronts viewers (8)
- 16 Theme (6)
- 19 The French had an opening for an ambassador (6)
- 21 Family guidance is required due to pre-natal problem (8)
- 24 Theme (6)
- 26 Theme (7)
- 28 Relating to normal vision in hot tropic compound (9)
- 29 Jacket feature will obscure Brenda's top (5)
- 30 Steal the Spanish/US coin (6)
- 31 One being evaluated. Fools watch (8)

Down

- 1 Blondes can be "weapons of mass destruction" eg Jean Harlow! (10)
- 2 Overthrow first of all, Rugby Union is not a timid exercise (7)
- 3 The unfortunate eglantine was lacking in refinement (9)
- 4 Ellen Day tumbled heavily (8)
- 6 Having no religion, the nag turned after pa (5)
- 7 Court member of bar on board (7)
- 8 Two unknowns on street with tree planted walks (4)
- 9 Strikes big toe on worn horseshoe nails (5)
- 14 A French stroke can or can't be returned (10)
- 17 Popular letter accomplished the inexpressible (9)
- 18 The French surround the loft with trellises (8)
- 20 Knowing song backwards gains short sign of approval (7)
- 22 Leaves before trophies are handed out during refreshments (7)
- 23 Jack's communal fund (5)
- 25 Lyric poem by sailor concerning home (5)
- 27 See 10ac

**Post
Solution
to:**

Bev Cockburn
12 Norman St, Merrylands West NSW 2160
e-mail: bevco4@bigpond.com
Closing mail date: 11 July 2008.



CROSSMAS CRUCIVERBAL 2008

Our Annual Victorian Get-together this year will be **Christmas in July** and will be held at noon on Sunday 27 July at the Heritage Room, Bruce County Hotel, 445 Blackburn Road, Mt Waverley, which is conveniently situated adjacent to the South Eastern Freeway. We have organised an excellent lunch: tasty savouries on arrival, a choice of three delectable main courses and a selection of three desserts followed by coffee/tea. Cost for this grand "Crossmassy" lunch is \$60 per head. Drinks can be purchased from the bar. Bookings and enquiries to Patrick Street, ph (03) 9347 1216 or email: pstreet@bigpond.net.au by 20th July please. Cheques payable to "Patrick Street". Come along and join in the merriment!

We look forward to renewing acquaintances!
URGENT NOTE from Patrick: I have booked the Heritage Room for 30 persons. I have had to fork out a deposit of \$300 for this privilege! If we do not get a quorum we will have to cancel and find another venue at a more reasonable price. However, I have to give one month's notice of cancellation; otherwise I forfeit my \$300 (which I am most anxious not to do!). Accordingly, I would like a firm indication by 15 June 2008 if you are intending to attend. Please let me know soon: pstreet@bigpond.net.au

TWO MESSAGES FROM DOUG BUTLER:

(1) "I have received a dozen or so requests for copies of my pro tem Biographical Dictionary. Good, but I would love more. You don't have to be an AxWord customer (though they will get upgrades at the same time), just be a computer (inc. Mac) user and be the sort of person that looks up such details frequently. CDROMs will be mailed out in the next week or so."

(2) "I've just been breaking in a new laptop and getting my head around the new Word 2007. To the user it's quite a departure from previous incarnations, and quite wonderful once you get accustomed to its radically different layout. But a Word of Warning: its default file type (suffixed.docm) cannot be read by previous versions of Word. Users of the earlier versions can download a 'compatibility pack' but if you're passing on a document, it's best to use the program's 'Save as Earlier Version' option. I intend doing exactly that for many years to come. I believe the same applies to PowerPoint and Excel files if you're into that stuff."

Vale, Kev Layton

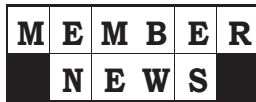
• I would like to add my condolences to Kev's wife Sylvia and to his family. Kev had a unique way with his puzzles and poetry, and I am sad that we will not have the pleasure of seeing more of them. Kev's humour will be sadly missed.
David Procter
 I was very saddened to hear of the death of Kev Layton. He was a great compiler.
Roy Taylor

A Thank You from Sylvia Layton and family

"I have received some lovely cards from the members of the ACC. It was wonderful to know that Kev was held in such high regard. Thanks, Sylvia Layton."

Mini quiz 5 by Brian Symons

Plurals are funny things with innumerable exceptions to the add an s rule eg bison/bisons, lacuna/lacunae axis/axes etc. But perhaps the strangest plural is this. Can you name a common 3 letter word that has no letter in common with one of its plurals?



New Members: We extend a warm welcome to **Sue Pinder** from Clayfield in Queensland and **Adele Woodward** from Carindale, Qld. Welcome to the Wonderful

World of *Crozworlding!*

Membership Renewal for 2008: Caroline Mackay-Sim.

Puzzle Adjustments: Paula Mercer lost a dot for April slot 4.

In Appreciation: Many thanks to **Maurice Cowan** for his generous donation to the ACC Prize Fund 2008.

Get well soon: Legendary member **Irene Watts** from the Apple Isle has not been 100% lately. Her daughter Barb Ibbott said that Irene has been in hospital with heart problems but is still keen to get her entries in. She's home now but still not the best and we are sure everyone would like to send her get well wishes. We always look forward to reading Irene's comments on puzzles and we all love her poems.

Solutions to Mini quiz 4 by Brian Symons

Anagrams are one of the most common of clue types. Some are very clever but too many can ruin a crossword. They are often enhanced by well camouflaged anagram indicators. Some of these appear to refer to people eg criminal, pervert, eccentric and at least six are actual professions. Can you name these?

Answers: COOK, DOCTOR, IRREGULAR, JOCKEY, TAILOR and ENGINEER. [The first four are listed as anagram indicators in *Chambers Crossword Dictionary*, the fifth is in the apocryphal ACC list and the sixth in neither, although all (and possibly others not identified here) are perfectly good indicators in my view. IW]

The Australian Oxford Dictionary

WORD OF THE MONTH

scurrilous *adj.* **1** (of a person or language) grossly or indecently abusive. **2** given to or expressed with low humour. **scurrility** *n.* (*pl. -ies*). **scurrilously** *adv.* **scurrilousness** *n.* [ORIGIN: French *scurrile* or Latin *scurrilus*, from *scurra* 'buffoon'.]

The Australian Oxford Dictionary, Second Edition, 2004.
 Edited by Dr Bruce Moore. \$110. ISBN 9780195517965

Quiz No 6/2008: THE A TO Z OF VILLAINS by The Eager Beaver

Find one villain (or anti-hero) for each letter of the alphabet, represented by the first letter of the solution. Send your entries to: Bev Cockburn, 12, Norman St, Merrylands West NSW 2160 or by e-mail: bevco4@bigpond.com Closing date: Friday 11 July 2008. Book prize.

The sources used are shown below in their own alphabetical order: Animal House (1945); Batman Returns (1992); Beowulf (c1100AD); Crime and Punishment (1866); Cube (1997); Faust (1801); Ghostbusters 2 (1989); Mad Max (1979); Mein Kampf (1984); Night of the Living Dead (1968); Oliver Twist (1838); Othello (c1603AD); Tales of Mother Goose (1697); Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (1987-); The Flight of Dragons, (1982); The Little Mermaid (1989); The Lord of the Flies (1954); The Lord of the Rings (1954-55); The Neverending Story II (1990); The Odyssey (c700BC); The Scarlet Letter (1805); The Texas Chain Saw Massacre (1974-); The Wizard of Oz (1939); Time Bandits (1981); Tora, Tora, Tora (1970); 2001, A Space Odyssey (1968)

A	.....	(5,6)
B	.....	(9)
C	.....	(7)
D	.....	(10)
E	.....	(4,5)
F	.....	(5)
G	.....	(7)
H	.....	(3)
I	.....	(4)
J	.....	(4)
K	.....	(5)
L	.....	(11)
M	.....	(14)
N	.....	(8)
O	.....	(7)
P	.....	(7)
Q	.....	(7)
R	.....	(11)
S	.....	(6)
T	.....	(9)
U	.....	(6)
V	.....	(4,3,10)
W	.....	(6,5,2,3,4)
X	.....	(6)
Y	.....	(8)
Z	.....	(6)

May 1-2008: Cryptic by Virgo (Audrey Austin)

- A well-crafted puzzle. *Peter C Dearie*
- CANDLE – a wicked clue – Good one, Audrey. *Betty Siegman*
- I loved 'The president entered' = PUTIN and 'A drug bust' – GUARD. But I really, really don't understand 26ac. *Brian Tickle*
- Some excellent clues – esp. ULURU & CANDLE (my COTM) *Brian Symons*
- A good start. I liked 24ac. Is a sugar plum a raisin? I can only find reference to it being a small boiled sweet. *Jenny Wenham*
- 23dn has me puzzled. *Graeme Cole*
- Liked Audrey's 9ac (simple) and 13ac (funny). *Ann Jermy*
- 1ac and 23ac both worthy of COTM. *Ted O'Brien*
- Good one, *Virgo!* *Carole Noble*
- *Virgo's* usual fun clues, a cheerful start to the month. *Max Roddick*

May 2-2008: Cryptic by Jesso (Noel Jessop)

- Thanks Noel for your thought provoking Cryptic. 9ac 'I'm gone in province' = NO+ME and 17dn ANNE+TT+E were neat. *Alan Walter*
- The bottom half of this one had me stumped for a while. There's a few guesses, in particular ANNETTE. Hope it's right. I like 1ac & 13ac for their surface, 9ac for it's trickiness. *Jenny Wenham*
- I guess the answer to 9ac is NOME, but why a province when Nome is a city in Alaska? *Yvonne McKindlay*
- Very enjoyable Cryptic. CISSIES & EN MASSE my favourites. *Brian Symons*
- Some cunning clues. I liked 9ac NOME, 24ac took the longest P-HOE-BE. I nearly put SISSIES for 13ac until I worked out the clue fully. I would have preferred Nazis to Secret Police in this clue, as the SS had several other roles. *Peter C Dearie*
- 10ac was a contender for COTM but 24ac – where does the 'O' fit in? *Ted O'Brien*
- Liked the GALLNUT clue best, *Jesso.* *Carole Noble*
- STIR-FRY STODGIER DEEP-FRIED! Please Noel, consider our cholesterol. *Max Roddick*
- 12dn concerns me. *Graeme Cole*

May 3-2008: Cryptic by Manveru (Michael Kennedy)

- WINDOW SHOPPER seems correct but I'm not sure about the 'HOPPER' part. *Graeme Cole*
- 1ac - 10ac WINDOW SHOPPER was a great clue. *Ted O'Brien*
- 'Die of puzzlement' (RUBIKS CUBE) gets my COTM. *Peter C Dearie*
- Brilliant! Gave my COTM to RUBIKS CUBE but it was a tossup between that and MORSE CODE. *Carole Noble*
- Some v. challenging clues thanks *Manveru.* Loved you 'Die of Puzzlement' . *Alan Walter*
- This was tricky but worth the effort to get RUBIKS CUBE and 'Dr Spooner's coarse mode' = MORSE CODE. *Brian Tickle*
- Some terrific clues in this one. I almost 'died of puzzlement' trying to work out 15/27. I also enjoyed 1/10ac and 23dn. In 9dn I desperately wanted to put ARISE (as an anagram of RAISE) but knew it was wrong so kept at it. *Jenny Wenham*
- A gridful of ingenious clues – but I've doubts about 18dn and 22dn. Even if they're right, I'm not sure why! *Max Roddick*
- Congrats *Manveru.* The whole puzzle was a sheer delight! *Brian Symons*
- Brilliant! I have a soft spot for literal clues and RUBIKS CUBE, HEARSE, UTOPIA provided a feast – *Manveru* the Chipolata! (don't ask me, I just pass on the messages – dB) *Raoul (William Ryan)*

May 4-2008: AJ by Difficult Women (Carole Noble and Joan Smith)

- 4ac ASCETICS – how does the Norse god fit in? *Graeme Cole*
- A most enjoyable AJ thanks *Difficult Women.* I had to confirm IODOPHOR in a scientific dictionary but you kindly gave it as an acronym. *Alan Walter*
- I hope IODOPHOR is right – it's not in any of my dictionaries. *Peter C Dearie*
- Well done, Joan; I threw some difficult words at you. *Carole Noble*
- I must try out JOJOBAS and QIGONG on the oldies here! *Ted O'Brien*
- Q wasn't followed by U – a rarity to keep us on our toes. *Max Roddick*

- *Difficult Women* dabble with some peculiar words, but plenty of fun and games, as usual. An enjoyable AJ. Thanks girls! Love you! *Irene Watts*
- *Difficult Women* have lived up to their name! But it was all fair. How nice to see a Q word without a U. *Jenny Wenham*
- One of the *Difficult Women* wasn't so difficult when I joined ACC back in 1991. Carole Noble kindly gave me some tips on getting started, and these have been my favourite puzzles ever since. I've even compiled a few. Thanks Carole. *Brian Tickle*

May 5-2008: Hexapentagonal by Brother Naga (Bob Hagan)

- The phrase (CROZWORD IN ITS NINETEENTH YEAR) was a help in completing this puzzle. *Peter C Dearie*
- Another gem, Bob! Loved 'Lot's wife'. *Shirl O'Brien*
- I found the right hand side of this one really tough, but seem to have it now. I enjoyed 13ac and the definition for LOT in 6dn. *Jenny Wenham*
- Great to see another Hexapentagonal, Bob. I didn't do so well on the last couple, but I think I made it through this time. *Brian Tickle*
- Great to see a Hexapentagonal again, Bob. A real challenge, but not sure about 8a – PAST? *Graeme Cole*
- This one beat me – just couldn't get it into a readable form. *Pat Garner*
- I love these *Naga* concoctions – such clever clueing of four letter words. *Brian Symons*
- A challenging gem to solve. Many thanks *Brother Naga.* *Alan Walter*
- Learnt a new meaning for TOPE – but what an odd place for it! *Max Roddick*
- I'm amazed at the number of four-letter words in our language. *Betty Siegman*
- I tried my own Hexapentagonal, and found they are much easier to construct than solve. *Bob Hagan*
- It's great to see *Brother Naga* back in the cloisters! A real challenge. I always enjoy your puzzles, *Brother Naga.* Nineteenth year! And they said we wouldn't last. We've come a long way from humble beginnings. Many thanks to the current and past committees, members, adjudicators and contributors. *Carole Noble*

A Mad May Crossword Meander round puzzles 1-4

by Irene Watts

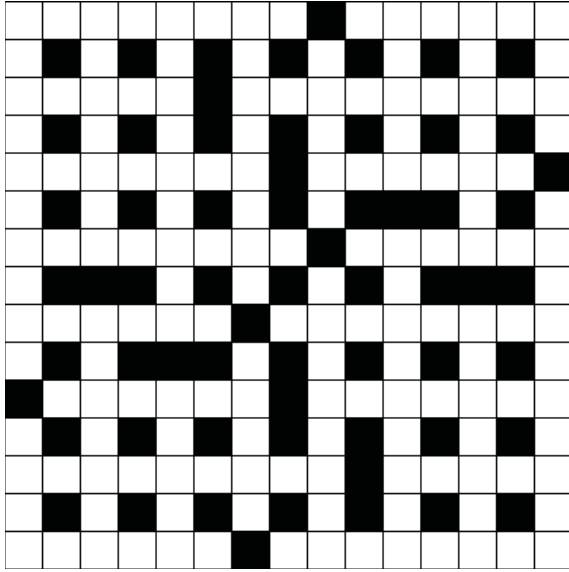
- Doing the crosswords – finding them hard. Scribble some verses – bit of a bard. Trying to concentrate. Turn off the telly. Can't seem to motivate; mind like a jelly
- Clues very cryptic, some words quite audacious. OPPIDAN, JOJOBAS, QIGONG (good gracious!) CLOVERLEAF, CORMORANTS, MISSIES (and bloop) PYGMIES and YANKEES and PHOBIAS, OOPS
- A STODGIER DINNER with STARCHES and STIRS, A FANCY DRESS BALL and those FOREIGN AFFAIRS Pull out an ESTIMATE, PUTIN a CODE A funny place NOME but it's someone's abode.
- ANNETTE and ELEANOR, PHOEBE and MORSE, A WRAITH and a MOUSE and a JOKER of course TAPDANCE and ARCHERY on the EQUATOR ROADHOUSE and UPROARS – RECUPERATE later
- PICKLED and BREATHALYSE, RAFFISH ROMANTIC These jolly cryptics are driving me frantic SCHEMING and EDDYING - awfully late, ENNUI, YAWNED now the TEMPOS SEDATE.
- EARSHOT – ASLANT with an ACHE in my HEAD I'm lighting my CANDLE and going to bed.



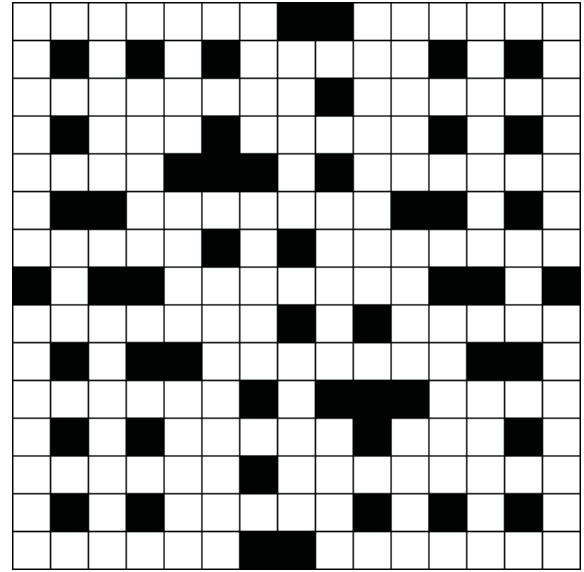
Send solution to: Bev Cockburn,
12 Norman St, Merrylands West NSW 2160.
Closing mail date: Friday 11 July 2008.
NAME:



|J|U|N|E| |6| |2|0|0|8|

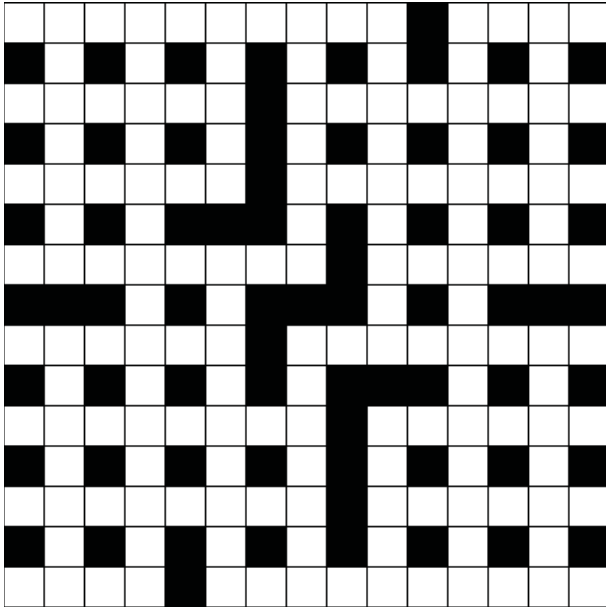


|J|U|N| |1| |2|0|0|8| NAME.....

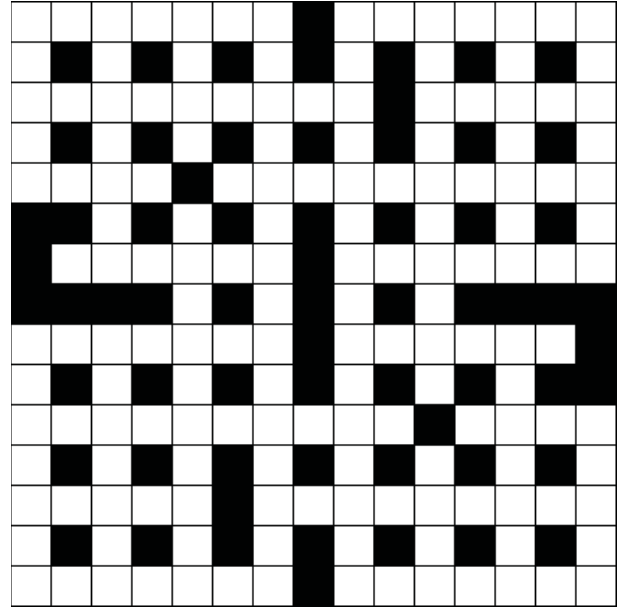


Clue of the Month

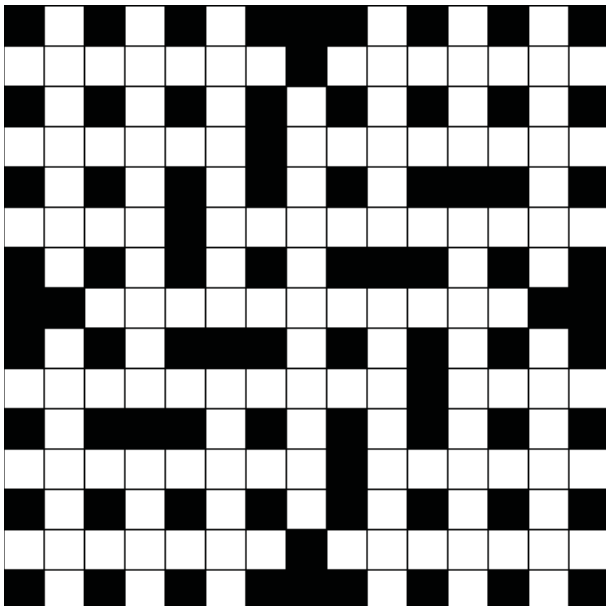
|J|U|N|E| |2| |2|0|0|8|



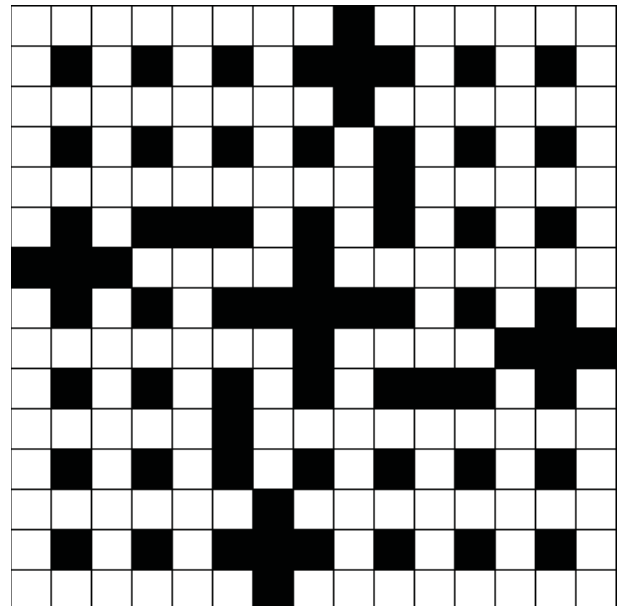
|J|U|N|E| |3| |2|0|0|8|



|J|U|N|E| |4| |2|0|0|8|



|J|U|N|E| |5| |2|0|0|8|



April 6-2008: Seeing Stars by Betelgeuse (Gillian Champion)

Entries: 46. Correct: 22. Success rate: 48%.

Prizewinners: Del Kennedy and Louisa Cooke. Congratulations!

Compiler's Notes: Thank you to all those who took part in this puzzle, and for all your letters, cards, emails and comments. Humans have been fascinated by the universe for thousands of years, trying to find answers to all their questions. This puzzle is an attempt to link modern and megalithic sites devoted to astronomy. Some of the observatories proved to be quite difficult to find, and one solver made the point that a list of references would have been useful. It would certainly have taken the grind out of all the research that was necessary (sorry about that!) but it will be kept in mind for the future. A lot of you will probably be familiar with sites concerning astronomy, ancient and modern, but for those of you who aren't, there is a list included below:

NASA has produced a list of ancient observatories so far found: (sunearthday.gsfc.nasa.gov/2005/images/ao_poster.pdf) Another list of old ones are at Observatory/Wikipedia.

A list of modern observatories can be found at 'Category of astronomical observatories/Wikipedia'

Astronomical data: As well as NASA photos (fotosearch.com), Hubble.org provides a weekly news letter as well as their gallery of amazing photographs from the Hubble Telescope.

News of astronomy in the Southern hemisphere can be obtained from eso.org

And on the archaeological front, 'stonepages.com' is a fascinating site which provides a free weekly newsletter containing items of archaeological interest.

The main stumbling blocks proved to be ALMA and KOKINO. ALMA (-A+degree -MA, of length -L- in). ALMA observatory is a cooperative effort between Europe, Japan, N America and the Republic of Chile in the Atacama desert. (eso.org) ALMA is short for Atacama Large Millimetre Array. The observatory was rather a hard one to find, being fairly new, and won't be fully operational until 2012. The most common errors here were ARMS and ACME. KOKINO is a megalithic observatory in Macedonia. (Kokino/Wikipedia) (Japanese emperor KOK--O (AD884-887), 'in office' being "-IN-") A number of people gave TORINO. There is an observatory at Turin, quite an old one, although not in the megalithic category (est.1759) However there was never an emperor Toro to my knowledge. True Thomas was variously known as Thomas Rhymer, Rymour, or Rymer, (as in the Child Ballads - English and Scottish ballads collected by one Francis James Child). RYMER (Runs around R-R, the yard -Y-, with end of term, -M- energy-E-) Most errors here were RIMER which doesn't fit in with the Y in 'yard'. Apparently there is also a Thomas Rymer telescope at Cambridge. BUMPING was given as BAMBERG (2) and BUMBELO. Dissolute fellow (BUM-) cut back (-PIN-) on midnight (-G) = Bumping, a form of boat racing. PYROLYSE, to change with heat, was given as PARALYSE twice, 'reactionary' being the anagram indicator for 'prole's' plus 'yy'. There were a few other odd errors like uPset (3) for UNSET, and several misspellings Abu Simbal, pyrollse, OgGam Stone etc.

Solvers' Comments:

• Many thanks for your star-gazing puzzle. Your stars and observatories give you much to reflect on and wonder about. *Alan Walter*

• You did well to theme the clues and answers as you have. Kokino gave me the most trouble and was the last to go in. My favourite clues would have to be ISLE and BUMPING. I did have a smile when I realised the significance of 'heady', although I reckon a '?' here would have been handy. *Michael Kennedy*

• I had to do quite a bit of research. Loved the clue for 'PHILOMEL'. Look forward to more. *Roy Wilson*

• Very interesting but difficult puzzle. New words for me are TELIC, PYROLYSE, ALMA and BUMPING. I've actually been to Abu Simbel and recognised Angkor Wat and Stonehenge as ancient observatories. Well done for fitting so many in one puzzle. *Bev Cockburn*

• Wicked clues, especially 25ac and 28ac. *Carole Noble*

• Thank you for the interesting puzzle. *Catherine Foster*

• I really look forward to your puzzles. Loved the clues for Thomas the Rymer and "Philomel with melody" (which took me a while to figure out.) Thanks for a good challenge. *Robyn Caine*

• This was quite a challenge, but I have managed to fill all the squares! Most of my answers I did manage to confirm but a couple are shots fired into outer space in the hope of a soft landing. I do hope you will publish explanations for some of your more obscure clues. Thank you, anyway, for giving us something to get our teeth into and keep them coming, please. *Margaret Davis*

• Enjoyed this one and it took a bit of research - thank goodness for Google etc. *Jim Fowler*

• Good one, Gillian! "low" held me up for a bit. I wanted to put in "omo". *Bill Bennett*

• Cleverly put together. Very difficult without the help of the Internet tho!!! *Ann Jerry*

• Thank you for providing a very interesting and very challenging puzzle. *Graeme Cole*

• Thank you for a challenging puzzle. There have been quite a few moments when I thought I wouldn't even be able to submit it - so many difficult clues. I have guessed a couple (1ac and 26dn) and a couple of others I am doubtful about (25ac and 19dn). I had not come across that spelling of 'etherial' before but anyway, lots of fun and hours of puzzling pleasure. *Jean Barbour*

• Thank you for a very testing puzzle. It has taken me ages to complete. *Ron O'Rourke*

• What an interesting concept, and very good puzzle and great clues. Having worked with CSIRO's Australian Telescope for 30 years, I knew most of the current observatories, but some of the ancient ones were new to me. We've certainly been curious about what is out there for a very long time, haven't we? *Betty Siegman*

• That was very challenging but lots of fun. 28ac completely did for me so I've had to hazard a guess which I don't like doing at all. *Trish McPherson*

• Nice puzzle, thanks Gillian! *David Grainger*

• You could not possibly believe the trouble I have had with your puzzle—but then again, I think you do know! Talk about seeing STARS!!! I only hope after all this angst that I am correct. Great puzzle, Gillian, even if I'm wrong. *Del Kennedy*

• Many thanks for your astronomical puzzle. My only worry is that puzzles like this are impossible for those members who don't have access to the Internet, and even more of those who do (myself) have trouble finding the answers. E.g the Japanese Emperor. (Possibly 25ac would have been easier had it read 'The Lord High Executioner'). (You are undoubtedly right.-B) 1ac hopefully is ALMA but I can't find it as an observatory. *Ted O'Brien*

• Despite having only the scantiest knowledge of astronomical observatories, I gave your puzzle a go, and was surprised at the number of answers I was able to put in. I had to consult a 30 year old reference book on astronomy that was on my bookshelf, which gave me La Silla and Kitt Peak, along with Lyrae. I don't use the Internet much, but my wife does, and she found ALMA and KOKINO. 28ac gave me a lot of trouble and I'm still uncertain as to whether RYMER is a word or not. I can only find True Thomas referred to as the RHYMER and *Chambers* gives RYMER as an archaic form. Your clue certainly suggests RYMER to me, so I am sticking with it. All in all, an enjoyable, though tough puzzle. *Peter Dearie*

• Thanks, Gillian. *Doreen Jones*

• Quite a few unusual places to research. I couldn't quite come to grips with 28ac - I settled on RYMER, but couldn't find the word in any dictionary of mine. *Bob Hagan*

• Thank you for a very good crossword with the exception that I have not been able to find an answer to 1ac to my satisfaction. I have put AMMT for the following reason that MMT Observatory can be found in the Wikipedia and a MM is a degree of length but I haven't found AMMT as an observatory. However the degree of length could also be CM, KM, etc but I also drew blanks with those. Neither could I find an observatory of two letters starting with A to go round the degree of length. Look forward to seeing the answer that has eluded me. *David Procter*

• Generally, I thought your clues were of a good standard and I liked the theme. *Drew Meek*

Results of Quiz No 4/2008 — Rhyme Time by Ann Ass (Jenny Wenham)

Scores: 20: W Allen, A Austin, B Bennett, D Butler, B Cockburn, R Ducker, C Foster, P Garner, B Glissan, S Howells, B Ibbott, D Jones, G Leeds, C McClelland, T McPherson, A Miles, C Noble, J Smith, M Steinberger, A Walter, I Watts, M Watzinger and N Wilson. **19:** M Kennedy, M Procter, M Roddick, B Siegman and B Symons. **18:** G Cole, V Howard and D Procter. **16:** J Barbour. 32 entries.

Prize winner: Joan Smith Congratulations!

Adjudicator's Comments:

Following are my intended solutions. I was going to list all the alternatives that I accepted, but there were so many that they would have taken half a page: 1. BRANDY ALEXANDER/PANDA 2. CHERRY BLOSSOM/POSSUM 3. PEAT BOG/DOG 4. MORALE BOOSTER/ROOSTER 5. HIGH BROW/COW 6. FAIRY CAKE/SNAKE 7. ELECTRIC CHAIR/BEAR 8. THICK & CHUNKY/MONKEY 9. NAIL ENAMEL/CAMEL 10. GENTLEMAN FARMER/LLAMA 11. AIR FORCE/HORSE 12. GRASSY KNOLL/QUOLL 13. SCHOOL LEAVER/BEAVER 14. BEER MAT/CAT 15. COFFIN NAIL/WHALE 16. POISON PEN/HEN 17. SHOES & SOCKS/FOX 18. PADDLE STEAMER/LEMUR 19. FIRE TRUCK/DUCK 20. COTTON WOOL/BULL.

For the Adjudicator's and selected Members' comments see p5: