



CrOZworld

|N|o.|2|7|8| |J|U|N|E| |2|0|1|3|



www.crosswordclub.org



Language, the most valuable single possession of the human race.
Charles F Hockett, 1958, *A Course in Modern Linguistics*, Ch 64 [cf 57:10]

|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|

Thanks to the generous donations from our members, we have some spectacular book prizes to give away for the second half of 2013. Just this month we are giving away another copy of the prestigious *Oxford Thesaurus of English*, third edition, 2009. This superb prize will be awarded for the ever-popular AJ which has been compiled by the brilliant 'crossword man' *Manveru*. In Slot 5 by *Betelgeuse* we have a copy of the outstanding *Oxford Dictionary of English* and there are other prizes to be won by some lucky winners. It's going to be a rewarding time for our members in the second half of 2013. Hope you are amongst the winners!

We sincerely thank all of our Adjudicators for their invaluable assistance during 2013. The skill and competence of the Adjudicators is a major reason why the ACC is so successful. We could not operate without their valued assistance.

This month we have another challenging set of puzzles and a Quiz for you expertly chosen by our skilful Puzzle Editor *Ian Williams*. Favourites include *zinzan*, *St Jude* and *Manveru*. We welcome two new compilers *Zythum* (Roger Douglas) in the Slot 2 Cryptic and *Zplig* (Dover Dubosarsky) in the Slot 6 Cryptic. *Betelgeuse* has compiled another superb puzzle in the Slot 5 titled *Diminished AJ* and *InGrid* has supplied us with another of her fascinating Quizzes titled *Collectively Speaking* (see p9).

Best of Luck with your solving this month!

And there are details on p9 about the forthcoming *Christmas in July Get-Together* in Melbourne. We have an easy xwd, a sparkling Quiz and some wonderful prizes to give away. We are hoping that all of the Victorian members will make the trip and make the day a memorable one indeed. Interstate members are more than welcome too! Happy Crozworlding!
—Patrick

Stop me if you've heard this one! Why would an intelligent person spend time solving a crossword and then put the "good grid" in the envelope containing blank spaces, or misspelt words? Or make an e-lodgement without using the spell-checking facilities inherent in AxWord? The cause of much angst over missed dots this month, methinks. Do check, and then check again!

Slot 1: A fairly low success rate for a Half 'n Half, many of which arose from entering "fiction" for FACTION (definition 2 in *Chambers* = play) in 1dn. The word play was FACT + I + ON. Surprisingly the fabric NINON took some prisoners in 48ac.

Slot 2: The most common error was "inhabit" for INHIBIT in 17dn (definition "Stop" and wordplay IN + H (BI) IT where the "clobber" was hit, not hat. A fair number of solvers inserted "kneel" for KNELL (KNEe + Left + Line) in 23dn, and the definition was "toll".

Slot 3: Arguably a more difficult puzzle than 1 and 2, but a higher success rate – perhaps because it didn't include a "killer" clue. As a homophone clue, STANDARDIZE or STANDARDISE was accepted in 4dn but interestingly no "ize" spellings were offered for FRATERNISATION or EPITOMISE, although one ingenious solver entered EPILOGISE for the latter.

Slot 4: Solvers' comments confirm that Gillian lived up to her reputation in her AJ, with a scintillating selection of unfamiliar words. This may have resulted in more care being taken to spell them correctly and check them with the result that the overall success rate for this difficult puzzle was no lower than the long-term average for AJs. ETAT caused some difficulties, but otherwise there were no systematic errors.

Slot 5: Apparently you love them or you hate them! A fairly low success rate for the Snail and only a handful of members mentioned *Kaeila's* skill in clueing the diagonals in a form of Nina. Not a few errors could have been avoided had solvers followed the guidance provided by LIVINGCREATURES when inserting their solutions. A number of mistakes seem to have arisen from filling in the words in reverse, particularly TORTOISE and TIGRESS. "siskin" for the required SALMON in 7 (S (A + L + M) ON) tripped up a few, as did "nannagai" in 11 which could not be justified in any references, the Australian fish NANNYGAI being referenced in *Chambers*.

COTM: A good response this month with all slots attracting votes. Slot 2 from our new compiler *Isla* had nearly half of the 50 votes cast with most going to his 24ac BACK SEAT DRIVERS. Congratulations *Isla*!
—Kay Williams

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

Puzzle No.	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Entries received	106	100	105	80	80	506
Correct entries	85	71	96	66	49	449
Success rate (%)	80	71	91	83	61	88.7
Prizewinners	J Wood D Parsons	J McGrath N Lee	C Noble A&D Callan	A Shield	A Martin	from 109 members

Prizewinner: May 2013 Slots 1-5: Ian Thompson. Congrats!

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

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

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

	page
Half & Half-ish by <i>zinzan</i>	3
Cryptic by <i>Zythum</i>	4
Cryptic by <i>St Jude</i>	5
AJ by <i>Manveru</i>	6
Diminished AJ by <i>Betelgeuse</i>	7
Cryptic by <i>Zplig</i>	8
Quiz No 6/2013	9
Results of Quiz 4/2013	9
Christmas in July details	9
New Member	9
Members' Comments	10
April Slot 6 results	12

May 1-2013

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

May 2-2013

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

May 3-2013

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

May 4-2013

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

May 5-2013

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

Apr 6-2013

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

MEMBERS RESULTS FOR Apr Slot 6 & May 2013 Slots 1-5

MEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6
ALLEN W
ANDERSON C
ARCHIBALD C
AUSTIN A
BARNES J
BARRETT A
BAYLIS J
BENNETT B
BLAKE M
BROTHERTON J
BRYANT R
CAINE R
CALLAN A&D
CARPENTER R
CARROLL L
CHAMPION G
COCKBURN B
COLE G
COLGAN L
COPLAND F
COULTON L
COWAN M
CROMER H
DAVIS M
DEARIE P
DINHAM V
DOBELE T
DORRELL R
DOUGLAS R
DUCKER R
DYER A
FOWLER J
FULLER G
GARNER P
GLISSAN B
GOODERICK R

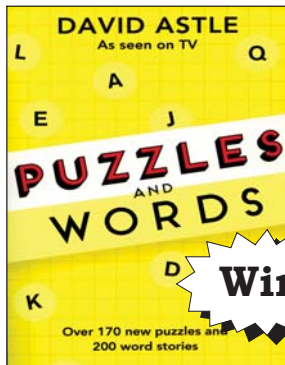
MEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6
GRAINGER D
GREENBERGER O
HAGAN B
HAMBLING C
HARPER K
HAZEL N
HOWARD L
HOWARD V
HOWELLS S
IBBOTT B
JAMES V
JERMY A
JONES D
KENNEDY M
LEE C
LEE N
LEEDS G
LEIGH J
LEMON G
LLOYD G
LORD P
McADOO G
McCLELLAND C
McGRATH J
McKENZIE I
McMANUS D
McPHERSON T
MACKAY-SIM C
MARTIN A
MARTIN John
MASON I
MAY S
MEEK D
MILES A
MOLINE R
NOBLE C

MEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6
O'BRIEN E
PARSONS D
PATTERSON A
PERROW H
PINDER S
POTTS M
PROCTER D
PROCTER M
PYC M
QUINN C
RANDALL J
RENDELL A
RODDICK M
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
TOFONI B
VILLIERS W
WALTER A
WENHAM J
WILCOX C
WIMBUSH R
WOOD J
WOODFORD J
YOUNG S
ZUCAL H

J	U	N	E		
2	0	1	3		
S	L	O	T		1

Half 'n Half-ish
by
zinzan

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													
		35	36			37			38		39		
40						41					42		
		43							44				
45						46					47		

The clues in italics are cryptic

Across

- 1 *Descendants put about quietly* (4)
- 4 Homophone of a synonym of 'entire' (4)
- 7 Health resorts (4)
- 10 *Put up with bishop leaving assistant* (4)
- 11 Resembling stars (6)
- 13 After tax (4)
- 14 *Colgan's a sight to be seen, better with this* (4)
- 15 Eliminate from the body (5)
- 16 Ululate (4)
- 18 *Cleric canoed appallingly* (6)
- 19 Yellowish brown colour (3)
- 21 Element 19 (9)
- 24 Laconically (5)
- 25 *Drug taken in company with actor Michael* (7)
- 27 Italian (1452-1519) (2,5)
- 30 Remove computer defects (5)
- 32 *Trousers modelled à la Klein and Moss* (9)
- 34 *Endlessly manic cuckoo* (3)
- 35 Need to drink (6)
- 38 Small body of land (4)
- 40 *Reportedly cookin' some meat* (5)
- 41 Scottish steam engine pioneer (4)
- 42 *Volcano turned up in Canterbury* (4)
- 43 Sound like a donkey (3-3)
- 44 Talk socially (4)
- 45 Calendar's components (4)
- 46 Sizeable cut (4)
- 47 *Fair outcome, we're told* (4)

Down

- 1 *NYC cop is confused about fainting* (8)
- 2 Pitiable (8)
- 3 Yugoslav leader, Josip Broz (4)
- 4 A painful place (4)
- 5 *Carriage travelling between England-Australia* (6)
- 6 Existence (4)
- 7 *Oscar follows a down-turn in starch* (4)
- 8 *Ample work found around the hospital department* (6)
- 9 *Smooth tops of shellfish are really small* (6)
- 12 Habitual criminals (11)
- 17 *Signal when I repaired the laundry area* (7-4)
- 20 He may be smart (4)
- 22 Bit between the jejunum and the caecum (5)
- 23 *Sit still finally after start of mournful poem* (5)
- 26 *Baker, maybe, has nothing against bridge players* (4)
- 28 Meat fillet (8)
- 29 *Silly Aleutians dismiss a way to keep warm!* (8)
- 30 Applied lightly (6)
- 31 Catty (6)
- 33 North American capital (6)
- 36 *Garden implements slice top off footwear* (4)
- 37 Valuable goods (4)
- 38 *Longing for piece of fruit, chopped* (4)
- 39 Page (4)

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

Slots 1-5: Andrew Miles, 62 Wilshire St, Dickson ACT 2602.

e-mail: smiles@grapevine.com.au

Closing mail date: Friday 28 June 2013.

e-lodgment: ianw@webone.com.au

Slot 6: Dover Dubosarsky, 68/1 Brown Street, Ashfield NSW 2131.

e-mail: doveeree@gmail.com

Closing mail date: Friday 12 July 2013.

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

J	U	N	E		
2	0	1	3		
S	L	O	T		2

Cryptic by Zythum



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

Across

- 1 Handed over victory, enemy leader caught in trap (5)
- 4 U.S. collectibles not available after a mix-up in Crimea (9)
- 9 Suicides shot up – a confused case for murder squad (10,5)
- 10 Flag girl (4)
- 11 Abnormal swelling – insides not tangled up (10)
- 13 Calmly taking part in eleven lynchings (6)
- 14 With enemies closing in an oath concentrates the mind (8)
- 17 After a rich dessert, toss back a short drink – something to hold the nut in place (5,3)
- 19 Bowled varied line, restricting runs. Capital! (6)
- 22 Instrument rises awkwardly for arrangers (10)
- 23 I hustle regularly when returning needle case (4)
- 25 Leader ready to take office: backed No 1 in people's choice (7,8)
- 26 Vulgar swirling tassel set (9)
- 27 Fasten sheet about woman (5)

- 2 Waspish climber hiding uncanny ability (7)
- 3 Target of hammering, Ian turned and left (4)
- 4 Sharp investigators infiltrated into returning agents (6)
- 5 Mounted activity without computer department formula (8)
- 6 Bound to work at home, endured mix-up about time (10)
- 7 Double air-conditioning starts to improve atmospheric stagnation in tropical plants (7)
- 8 Pale grey arsenic layer (5)
- 12 Oversupply points to unrestricted food choice for some allergy sufferers (6-4)
- 15 Awareness of oneself within time (9)
- 16 Girl's tangled loves break up (8)
- 18 Illuminating sources include information for heroic tales (7)
- 20 In charge in coffee network (7)
- 21 Doctors get sick in practices (6)
- 22 Anything old purchased unopened (5)
- 24 Damage back-end of luxurious vehicle (4)

Down


- 1 Purveyors of tittle-tattle, press is disorganised after confrontation on board (9)

Compiler Profile: Zythum (Roger Douglas)

Picture me, if you will, forty-odd years ago as a skinny, long-haired English computer geek. In between interminable games of Diplomacy I and my colleagues would knock off any crosswords that came our way – usually *The Times*, the *Daily Telegraph* or the *Guardian*. I wonder now how we managed to do any real work.

At weekends I would make small inroads into *Ximenes* in the *Observer*, which my brainier friends would then explain to me on Monday morning. Then someone lent me a copy of *Ximenes on the Art of the Crossword* and I was truly hooked, and have remained so ever since.

I moved to Sydney in 1981 with my wife and son and now have two lovely grandsons. I am retired and devote most of my spare time to community theatre. *ZYTHUM* could be a post-modern ironic pastiche of the typical antiquarian *nom-de-plume* or possibly just the last word in the dictionary.

J U N E 2 0 1 3 S L O T 3
<h2 style="margin: 0;">Cryptic</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">by</p> <h2 style="margin: 0;">St Jude</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						27
28						29								

Across

- 9 Espied rut produced ignominy (9)
- 10 Effrontery to cheat a prostitute (5)
- 11 Cycling outside the church — a once in a lifetime experience (7)
- 12 Let cute cook prepare the vegetable (7)
- 13 Crow and interject emotionally — Drop Dead! (6)
- 14 Slender old soldier returns you say? At large outside you say? (8)
- 17 To improve wine with gall is base (7)
- 19 Objection to part of an act — it's so dirty! (7)
- 20 Complaining faction mobs unfinished joint (8)
- 21 Take in and understand most of joke (6)
- 24 Milk product damaged after gentile returns (7)
- 26 Bind the agent before he can succeed (7)
- 28 One about to dispose of pungent end-product (5)
- 29 Confused and gentle otherwise (9)

Down

- 1 Likelihood of sordid, even sinful, beginning (4)
- 2 Crazy part of gypsy band goes round Switzerland (6)
- 3 Record Luxembourg is targeting for winning back (10)
- 4 Whisper of love of the ass (5)
- 5 Rebound when automatic current is active (9)
- 6 Next to a fish reportedly (4)
- 7 Spotted going around Lac Mouse (8)
- 8 Four men take letter to model examination (10)
- 13 Johnny Cash, for example, was a robber (10)
- 15 Start d-drinking and chatting (10)
- 16 New interior, re-equipped and repaired (9)
- 18 Old ambassadors the French identify to German soldiers initially (8)
- 22 Commission baleen fabrication (6)
- 23 Noted: we keep rubbish (5)
- 25 Wavy lingerie is out (4)
- 27 Damaged dyke held back current (4)

GENERAL COMMENTS:

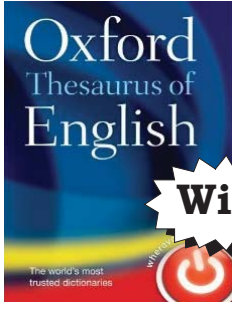
- It was pleasing to see two dots next to my name in the April results and then, the added surprise of learning that I had won the prize for Slot 4. However, the greatest surprise was receiving the prize at Lightning Ridge PO yesterday – yes, the *Oxford Thesaurus* had arrived promptly and well-packed. It will be a pleasure to hand on my very old edition of *Roget's Thesaurus* and replace it with the new one. THANK YOU.
Lynn Jarman
- Paul and I are currently in the US travelling Route 66 and I was delighted to download my copy of *CrOZworld* and see I had won the prize for Slots 1-5. I was delighted enough to get all slots correct and doubly delighted to be drawn as the month's winner. Thanks, ACC.
Trish McPherson
- Lots of obscure words again this month, especially Slots 4 and 5.
Rob Moline
- I look forward to *CrOZworld* every month. I like the little quirks, especially as seen in Slot 2 last month.
Sandra May
- When I read that a *Reverse Dictionary* was one of the April prizes I did not dare to hope that I would be so lucky: so a big thank you for awarding me such a splendid reward.
Margaret Davis
- What a challenge May was. My usual "pet" AJ was a stinker and I doubt I'll remember half the words I learned. But as usual the "goods" compensated for the "bads".
Dale McManus
- The puzzles this month not only exercised the brain but increased the vocabulary. Thank you.
Maureen Blake
- Thank you for the prize for the *Busybodies' March Bonus Quiz*. I am the proud owner of a delightful book *One-letter words* – very apt title for a crossword prize. My family is enjoying reading it aloud at our Sunday morning cuppa.
Eileen O'Brien
- Thank you for my prize and beautiful certificate for April Slot 3. I was thrilled! It was the first time I had actually sent in 5 crosswords: it is generally only two or three, but I was devastated to find I had committed the unforgivable sin in one of them by transferring one letter incorrectly ... I realised I had been thinking of a similar word. Lesson for me! Thanks again.
Heather Zucal

J	U	N	E		
2	0	1	3		
S	L	O	T		4

AJ
by
Manveru

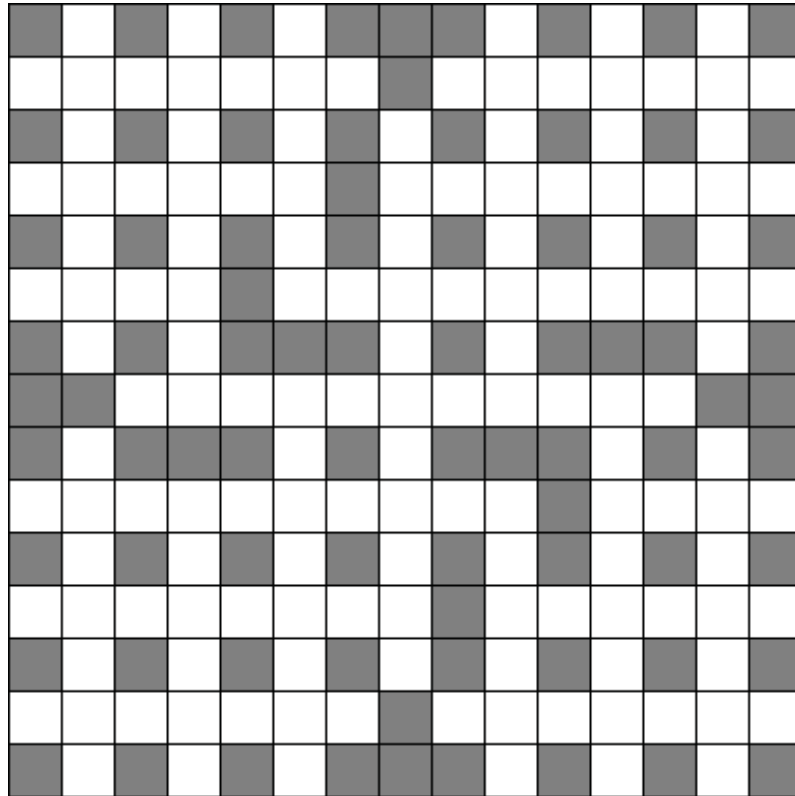
Prize

3rd ed: 2009 rrp \$99



Win!

The world's most trusted dictionaries



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

- A** Dayak Indian is partially blood-related (4)
- B** Live, dream and puzzle! (6)
- C** Wicked candle's tip and edge in a line (8)
- D** No progress can be made here with paralysed footballer (8)
- E** A wandering soldier trapped between Queen, King, and the borders of Romany (8)
- F** All are defective and going backwards – a bit like our government (7)
- G** Get iced cone mix with basic recipe? (7,4)
- H** Terrible cheat caught between husband and Troy with a weapon (7)
- I** Turn a blind eye to devastated region (6)
- J** Screening rejects AJ (i.e. full of rubbish mostly) (8)
- K** Board responsible for digital roll-out? (6)
- L** He might use H to burden sailor (10)
- M** Meal is limited of course, in moderation (7)
- N** I caught tuna at sea with a league of sailors (8)
- O** Love equipment with a friend – it's an art form (7)
- P** Tool docks around fifty (6)
- Q** 25 cents for favour? (7)
- R** Are pub licences inclusive of all people? (8)
- S** Word programme used at Hogwart's perhaps? (10)
- T** Syrup from blue gum, for instance, includes variety of lac (7)
- U** Harry is enduring, yet not welcome (11)
- V** Empty post from Vatican City is perplexing after it is dismissed twice (7)
- W** His partner's late after going out with weirdo (7)
- X** Fix masterpiece framing for *Noel* (4)
- Y** Cowardly unknown man is decapitated (6)
- Z** The final letter by Earl with cryptically rendered hint is the high point (6)

Explanations to May grids, where provided by compilers. Thanks to Joan, Rob and John.

Slot 1 Timid Terrier. Down: 1 fact + i + on, 2 barren (pun), 3 embar + k, 4 anagram (strandie), 5 Laure(n) + l, 6 Hidden, 7 ca +bar +et, 8 initials, 12 hidden (rev), 21 gen + t, 23 DD, 25 anagram, 27 o(lean)der, 28 cock + eyed, 29 initials, 30 DD, 32 surge + on, 35 mad + cap, 37 initials, 40 Hero + n.

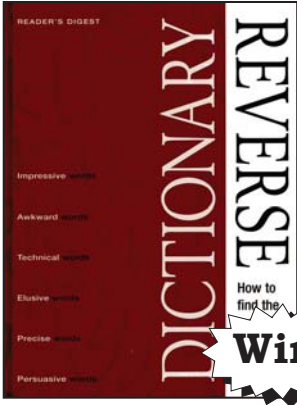
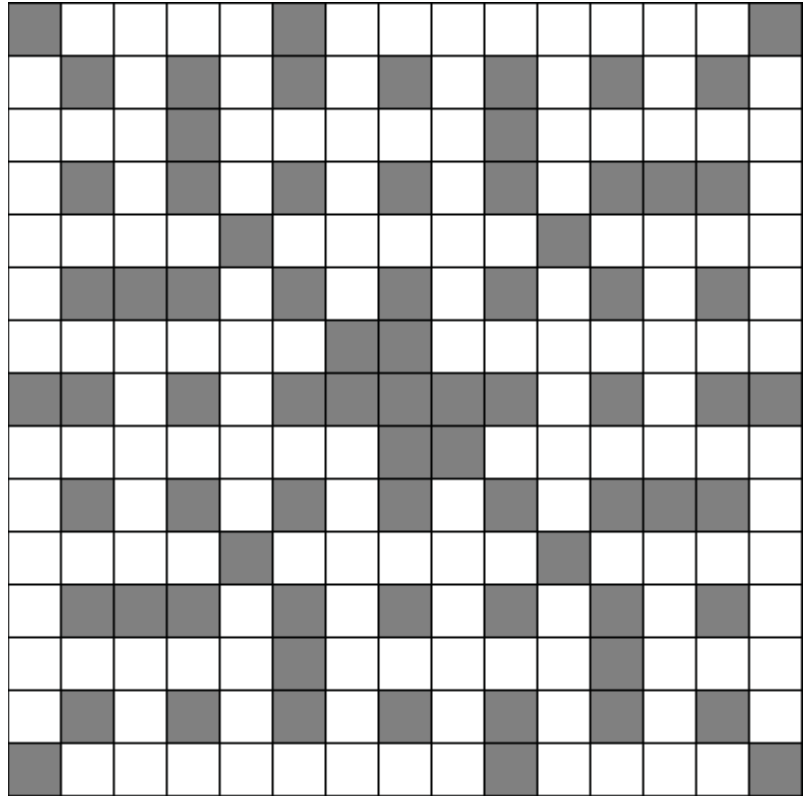
Slot 2 Isla. Across: 1 CHEESE + DOFF, 6 A F +WE>, 9 anag, 11 (SEEN + U)*, 12 C + AN (TONES) E, 13 SO + UGH + T, 15 SEES + AWED, 17 tIMBEr +LICE>, 18 GAME + BIT, 21 HALLO (WEE) N, 22 tASKED, 24 BACKS EAT DRIVERS, 25 DD (double def), 26 C (BEER)* ELL + UM. **Down:** 1 COD + EG> + RiverS, 2 Hidden, 3 S + TO NET+ HE CROWS[Def: My!], 4 DIRE+ CuT, 5 F L OUNDER, 7 anag + EB, 8 WE (EK E) ND, 10 FOOL + SPAR + (ASIDE)*, 14 (BULIMIC)* + A + L, 16 A (LIE) N + (TEA)*, 17 IN + H (BI) IT, 19 TIDY + SUM, 20 (DEN in EGO) <, 23 KNEe + L + L.

Slot 3 Pindar. Across: 1 Double definition (DD), 5 DD, 9 anag + Ys, 10 Hidden (HIDDEN WORD), 11 Double meaning, 12 DD, 14 anag, 17 DD, 21 anag, 23 Gag, 24 EB+O(O)K, 25 EP(I)TOM(IS)E, 26 anag, 27 NO+STRUM. **Down:** 1 DD, 2 DD, 3 DD, 4 homophone, 5 Gag, 6 VI+E+W+S, 7 RA+VIOLIn, 8 anag, 13 anag, 15 DD, 16 S(CUP+PER)S, 18 homophone, 19 anag -r, 20 pLoY sCrEw Up My, 22 rOCKER, 25 HW.

J	U	N	E		
2	0	1	3		
S	L	O	T		5

**Diminished AJ
by
Betelgeuse**

Prize:

Each clue leads to two words, one before and the other after removal of the specified letter. The two words are in no specific order within each clue. As an example, if the L clue was “Step to a location (4)” *location* gives PLACE: removing the specified L we find PACE, which reflects *step* and which would be entered in the grid. **It will be clear from this example that either solution may begin with any letter.** In clues marked (#) the longer solution contains more than one of the specified letters but only one has been removed. Solutions should be entered in the grid wherever they will fit.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>A The present bird? (4)
 A Too much to put on top (6)
 B Hat of old smuggler (5)
 C Ambitious bridge player’s actions may yield some protection (8)
 D # Stood, accustomed (6)
 D Display too much feeling to lower rank (5)
 E # Must come to a stop (4,2)
 E # NB suffering illness (3,4)
 F Trifling but profitable (5)
 F Assigns untilled lands (6)
 G Artist, one with some attraction (5)
 G Bare elbow (4)
 H Concern about thick nature (8)
 I Name of female Australasian bird (6)
 I Star table (5)
 J Shake big cat (5)
 K Brown vessel (3)
 L Showed lack of respect with eyes (7)
 M Reserved by error (2,5)
 M Protective garments with footwear (5)</p> | <p>N Spotted tack (6)
 N Instrument of scriptures (4)
 O Pest of a brother (4)
 P Model of old queen’s birthplace (6)
 Q Rake for outdoor U.S game (4)
 R Raise the spirits and connect (5)
 R Saurian god (5)
 S Made stooped ... (7)
 S ... about prospect of life (5)
 S Result of careless use of writing material container? (6)
 S Russian throne? (3)
 T Wines get expressions of approval (5)
 U Flower in profusion (4)
 V Bring up or leave out (4)
 W Division of everything (3)
 W Hang curtain (3)
 X Rebellion or war? (4)
 Y Prepared to study (4)
 Y Attractive vessel (4)
 Z Acting half asleep (5)</p> |
|--|--|

From *The Cynic's Dictionary* by Aubrey Dillon-Malone

Wedding:

- A funeral where you can smell your own flowers. *Eddie Cantor*
- The day of a man's life when he realises that he can't face another date with a legal secretary who wants to be a nightclub comedienne. *Henry Youngman*

Wedlock:

- A type of lock that is most easily undone nowadays. *Mike Barfield*

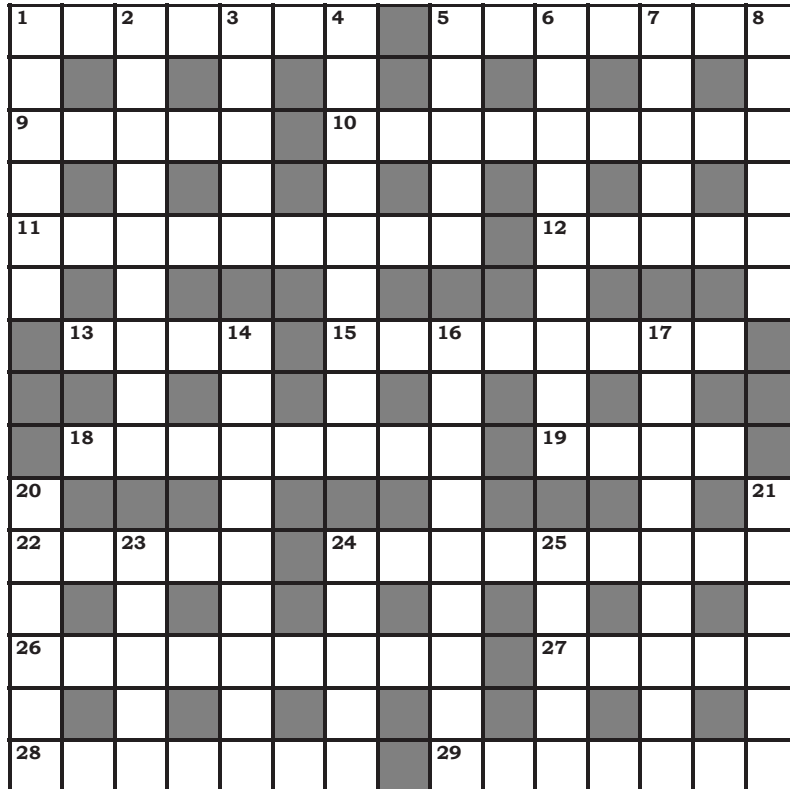
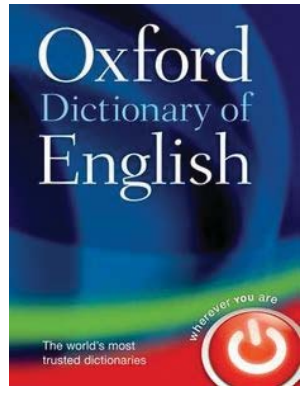
Whiskey:

- The most popular of the cold cures that don't work. *Leonard Rossiter*

J	U	N	E		
2	0	1	3		
S	L	O	T		6

Cryptic by Zplig

Prize:



Seven clues have something in common and are otherwise undefined.

Across

- 1 Inner part of jetty follows stream (7)
- 5 Contracts mark with odd slumps (5,2)
- 9 The old prepositions (5)
- 10 Prone to copy one university native, excluding the introduction (9)
- 11 New films, i.e. with good character, may be most insubstantial (9)
- 12 Trickery frames early drama (5)
- 13 Nearly choke on an alien selection of foods (4)
- 15 Scottish son and relative in conversation (8)
- 18 Entire Northern Territory adapted for the universal computer network (8)
- 19 *Allium Porrum*; a flat bottom vessel that became capsized (4)
- 22 Take delight in talk not involving the Queen! (5)
- 24 Feigned nuisance is heard to be bubbly (9)
- 26 Composing competition on the regular parts of Peanuts (9)
- 27 Italian tale of adventure (5)
- 28 Rubbing ceresin is rarely unadulterated (7)
- 29 Relish cooked unethically, author and all being withdrawn! (7)

Down

- 1 Using money to get rid of an enthusiast expressing agreement inwardly (3,3)
- 2 One location constructed for a union (9)
- 3 Points inverted in the Cubist's Aestheticism (5)
- 4 A fellow member's brain stem is being reconstructed (9)
- 5 Mad loud wits (5)
- 6 Functional part of a bicycle where a leg is re-positioned (4,5)
- 7 Silent all the same (5)
- 8 Determined in advance short press talk's beginning about ecstasy ... (6)
- 14 ... as a consequence of the official obiter extremes, and early evidence (9)
- 16 Releasing a Christian who lost some love about Creation (9)
- 17 Spiritual leader clears two males by expelling the leaders of Sydney University's Apostles (9)
- 20 Expels Eliot after English Jack revolutionised the modern era (6)
- 21 Unfinished passion and desire returned (6)
- 23 False enemy in Arab republic (5)
- 24 Bessemer converter, upended, provides French cooking product (5)
- 25 Odd bits of poetry of the French become lost (5)

COMPILER PROFILE:

Zplig (Dover Dubosarsky) has only been doing cryptics only for a few years (and compiling for a few months), but he makes up for his lack of experience with enthusiasm. Born and raised in Sydney he spent years observing his mother solving crosswords in the *SMH* since a tender age but only started solving cryptics properly when he began university. *Zplig* is currently in his third year of a BA in philosophy at Sydney and compiles cryptics for the student run newspaper *Honi Soit*. He has also created themed grids for various student publications, ranging from the Labor Club journal to the Philosophy Society journal (and is quite sure that no one has attempted to solve them). Looking for a new outlet for his efforts he is glad to have found a place with the Australian Crossword Club. The soubriquet *Zplig* arises from a typo in his middle name of Zelig, which he thought was appropriately cryptic and has adopted it.

Post
Solution
to:

Dover Dubosarsky
68/1 Brown Street, Ashfield NSW 2131.
e-mail: doveeree@gmail.com
Closing mail date: 12 July 2013.



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 between 12 noon and 4pm. The Dining Room does not usually open on Sundays, but we persuaded them to open specially for us if we can guarantee at least 30 persons. So we need your support for this function. We already have a few attending; we need many more. Help! Please. 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. Some wine – Red and White – will be provided by the ACC. And you can purchase all sorts of drinks from the bar at very reasonable prices. Pay on the day. Bookings and enquiries to Patrick Street, ph (03) 9347 1216 or email: pstreet@bigpond.net.au by 20th July please. There will be an exciting Crossword, a Quiz and plenty of prizes! Not to mention a lovely warming atmosphere. Come along and join in the merriment! We look forward to renewing acquaintances!

Results of the ACC's 23rd Anniversary Quiz by Bev Cockburn and Bill Bennett.

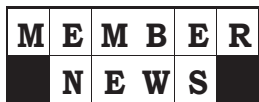
Entries received: 28. Prizewinner: Pat Garner. Congratulations!

Results: 23: Jim Fowler, Pat Garner, Susan Howells, Barb Ibbott, Ann Jermy, Doreen Jones, Julie Leigh, Andrew Miles, Carole Noble, Eileen O'Brien, Helen Perrow, Betty Siegman, Alan Walter and Cheryl Wilcox. **22.5:** Drew Meek and William Ryan. **22:** Warren Allen, Graeme Cole, Alan Dyer, Barbara Glissan, Alison Martin, Claire McClelland, Trish McPherson, Sonia Roulston, Joan Smith, Brian Symons and Jenny Wenham. **21:** Robyn Wimbush.

Answers: 1. Psi, 2. The Lord is my Shepherd, 3. Robert Hawke, 4. Vingt-trois, 5. Prime number, 6. Benjamin Harrison, 7. Zeta, 8. Born and died, 9. Vanadium, 10. Whiskey, 11. Five (one shilling, one sixpence, one threepence and two pennies), 12. Twenty-three skidoo, 13. Anzac Day, 14. Shane Warne, 15. Jim Carrey, 16. Five hundred and twenty-nine (apologies for the incorrect numbering), 17. Shirley Temple, 18. Angelo Roncalli, 19. Michael Joseph Savage, 20. John Nash, 21. Duotriophobia, 22. Julius Caesar, 23. East Maitland.

Setters' comments: Thank you for your entries and favourable comments. 23 wasn't an easy number about which to find interesting facts; 24 should be easier! The most prevalent error was "baggy green" for No.14. Unfortunately, it has no link with 23. Other errors included problems with No.18, the 23rd Pope's given name and No.11, the least number of pre-decimal coins needed for 23 pence. **Bill & Bev**

[Comments published on p12]



New Member: Judy Dix from Geelong West, Victoria (A Membership Gift from Audrey Ryan). Welcome to the Wonderful World of *Crozworliding*, Judy.

Quiz Results Adjustment:

Audrey Austin got 18 correct answers for the "It's Raining" March Bonus quiz.

Appeal April slot 3

An appeal was received from a member seeking a change to the adjudicator's decision not to accept PLIMSOLES as an alternative to the intended PLIMSOLLS in 6dn in April's slot 3 puzzle. After considering the member's submission very carefully the Executive Committee agreed that, although the alternative spellings were listed in *Chambers*, the adjudicator's decision should be upheld on the grounds that the interpretation of the clue leading to PLIMSOLES needed the word "skirts" to be used as an operator to obtain P and E from "poodle" as the edges of the word and also as the material from which to derive the S from "skirts originally" as the first letter. The use of one word in a clue to perform two functions is not in accordance with good practice in cryptic clue construction.

From The Cynic's Dictionary by Aubrey Dillon-Malone
Cynic:

- A sentimentalist afraid of himself. *Lambert Jeffries*
- A blackguard whose faulty vision sees things as they are, not as they ought to be. *Ambrose Bierce*
- Someone who found out that there wasn't any Santa Claus when he was ten, and is still upset about it. *James Gould Cozzens*

Cynicism:

- An unpleasant way of telling the truth. *Lillian Helman*
- The intellectual cripple's substitute for intelligence. *Russell Lynes*
- Intellectual dandyism. *George Meredith*

Quiz 6/2013. Collectively speaking by InGrid.

An easy one this time, which, as word lengths are intentionally not given, allows for some lateral thinking. A dot will be awarded for any response that is justifiable or sufficiently humorous. Provide the collective nouns for the following. There should be one starting with each letter of the alphabet excluding J and X.

Send your solution to Jean Barbour, PO Box 290, Wonthaggi Vic 3995.

e-mail: william.barbour@bigpond.com

Closing mail Date: 12 July 2013. Book prize.

- 1 Ants _____
- 2 Arrows _____
- 3 Bureaucrats _____
- 4 Chihuahuas _____
- 5 Clergy _____
- 6 Eggs _____
- 7 Gerbils _____
- 8 Gnus _____
- 9 Grandparents _____
- 10 Hawks _____
- 11 Jellyfish _____
- 12 Lizards _____
- 13 Mathematicians _____
- 14 Musicians _____
- 15 Nightingales _____
- 16 Pearls _____
- 17 Ptarmigans _____
- 18 Raccoons _____
- 19 Riches _____
- 20 Sparrows _____
- 21 Troops _____
- 22 Turtles _____
- 23 Vultures _____
- 24 Zeal _____

May 1-2013: Half 'n Half by Timid Terrier (Joan Smith)

- A good Half 'n Half to start the month. *Tony Dobele*
- Liked STRAINED, COCKEYED and MADCAP, but SURGEON seems to lack a definition [*the "fish" gives the surgeon - Adj.*] *Max Roddick*
- An enjoyable entry to the month. Nice misdirection with 32dn (SURGEON). I had originally thought a mistake was made (intending STURGEON)! *Alan Dyer*
- Good, fairly easy start to the month: thank you Savage Rottweiler!! *Col Archibald*
- Thank you, Joan, for a well-clued puzzle. *Peter Dearie*
- 6dn ETHEREAL - well-hidden and 12dn OBESELY neatly hidden in reverse. Many thanks, Joan for a pleasant introductory puzzle. *Alan Walter*

May 2-2013: Cryptic by Isla (Rob Moline)

- Brilliant! Sophisticated, succinctly contrived clueing, with no frustrating obscure words, dialects or archaisms. Worthy of special mention are CANTONESE, HALLOWEEN, BACKSEATDRIVERS, STONE THE CROWS and ON EDGE, but anyone who appreciates the complexity of compiling a good &lit clue **must** award COTM to the impressive 9ac DINGO-PROOF FENCE. Mind you, the answer STONE THE CROWS does pang *Crowsman!*
- I liked slot 2 very much - I hope we see more of Isla. I'd like to nominate his 21ac (HALLOWEEN) as C.O.T.M. I like the way he's made it almost an &Lit. *Roger Douglas*
- Welcome to a new - and challenging - compiler! I loved the clues for FUNNELWEB, WEEKEND and SEESAWED. 17dn posed a conundrum, whether the answer intended was inhabit or inhibit. I settled on INHIBIT as the definition, with AC/DC indicating the switch of vowel. *Nea Storey*
- Enjoyable challenge with nice clues. Liked 1 and 24ac and 14dn. *Joan Smith*
- Great to see a new setter - I appreciated some good humorous clues. *Tony Dobele*
- Welcome Isla! Lots of ingeniously written clues. Liked BACKS EAT DRIVERS (What a thought!) and TILL. *Max Roddick*
- Quite a few good clues. I got stuck on 6ac (A FEW) thinking it was "I SEW" originally ("we-s, I" returning). 3dn (STONE THE CROWS) was a good toughie. 17dn (INHIBIT) had me stuck thinking it was "inhabit" for a long time (in - habit, where "in" is fashionable and "habit" is monk's clobber). Took me a while to figure out that AC/DC pointed to "bi" rather than changing the "a" to an "i" and that the clobber is "hit". AC/DC as a pointer to "bi" is probably a bit rough as it relies on a knowledge of a sub-culture/slang. *Alan Dyer*
- Some really good clues here. Nearly put INHABIT for INHIBIT until I realised AC/DC is BI. *Roy Taylor*
- Not easy. In 7dn I don't like seeing "this" as a definition! *Col Archibald*
- Isla will be another asset to the ACC. Some excellent, fair clues including TILL, STONE THE CROWS and INHIBIT (my COTM but a toss-up between the three). ENSUE (11ac) has me puzzled. [see Explanations p6 - Adj] *Graeme Cole*
- Welcome Isla! Some great clues in this puzzle - I loved CHEESED OFF, DINGO-PROOF FENCE and BACK SEAT DRIVERS. I would not have described ernes as seabirds, despite being sea eagles. *Peter Dearie*
- The Club is so fortunate to have so many wonderful setters - and now another new one. Thanks, Isla, for a terrific puzzle. *Brian Symons*
- I liked GAMBIT, TILL and 3dn. My vote for COTM goes to the best of these, 3dn STONE THE CROWS. *Lesley Carroll*
- Liked 7dn as I don't think we've seen flying as an anagram indicator previously and the use of the definition within the clue is clever. *Richard Skinner*
- Thanks for a challenging puzzle, Isla. Please explain the wordplay for 23dn [See Explanations - Adj] *Alan Walter*

May 3-2013: Cryptic by Pindar (John Brotherton)

- As usual a great cryptic from Pindar. Favourite clues 4 and 22dn. *Joan Smith*
- Enjoyable - SCUPPERS gets my COTM. *Tony Dobele*
- My COTM goes to Isla for 3dn: Stone the crows. It took me a while to see "My" as detached from "son" and I was very pleased when I did! *Caroline Mackay-Sim*
- Again, not an easy puzzle, but happy to complete it correctly (I hope). *Col Archibald*
- Liked all of this puzzle but found OCKER defined as "local" a bit imprecise. *Peter Dearie*
- My COTM goes to Slot 3 Pindar, for 3dn, HIGH NOTES, because my Mother's Day Pressie this year was *The Sopranos* DVD collection. *Jan Wood*
- An enjoyable puzzle, thanks, Pindar. *Alan Walter*

May 4-2013 A-J by Betelgeuse (Gillian Champion)

- Not as tricky as Gillian's usual offerings, but the lack of any answers with 5,7,9,11 letters in the grid diversified the options for placement, thereby adding that extra hurdle. *Len Colgan*
- A high number of unfamiliar words, even for a Slot 4, and definitely on the difficult side. *Nea Storey*
- Some brilliant clues as usual from Betelgeuse. I do query some clue constructions though. *Tony Dobele*
- Beautiful surface reading of Slot 4 M beats the equally smooth Q, for

- COTM but only because Q is such an obscure word. *Rob Moline*
- Betelgeuse pleases, as always. Loved COVER UP, STINGRAYS, EGG ON, and DISHY. *Max Roddick*
- On the whole, not quite as hard as the usual Betelgeuse (a relief!) - but the B and K words took some finding. *Max Roddick*
- I always enjoy a good AJ and this one was no exception. Took me a while to get started. I originally thought "G" (GRANDEES) was for "GRANDADS" and we all know they are important people! My vote for COTM is Slot 4 "V" (VIVISEPULTURE). I thought the use of "quick" for live instead of rapid was very good. I also didn't pick up on the anagram ("disruptive love + u(turn)" without "do") but eventually solved the word after filling everything else around it. *Alan Dyer*
- I had a little difficulty with slot 4. I don't mind the occasional new/unusual word, but this particular slot 4 had nine words which I'd never come across before. *Dave Parsons*
- Slot 4 was well up to Gillian's highest standard - diabolical! *Mike Potts*
- Slot 4 was the gem this month - an enjoyable struggle with so many obscure words. VIVISEPULTURE took the cake! *Roy Taylor*
- More like a Slot 7 with quite a few obscure words. *Col Archibald*
- Slot 4 was a real toughie with so many unusual words! The unusual A,C,E,G,H,I,J,K,Q,R,S,V and X made up 50% of the answers! *Graeme Cole*
- I was on the verge of giving up on this terror, with Betelgeuse consigned to an early and rapid burial, before the penny dropped for the 13 letter V clue. However, her PREMARITAL is my COTM. *John Baylis*
- An enjoyable AJ with some words totally new to me. *Peter Dearie*
- Words failed me! I'll have to get one of those Metung dictionaries! *Maurice Cowan*
- Betelgeuse's usual very high standard. SIRIASIS gets my COTM - love SIR as "noisy night". However, two queries - can Y = "youth" and is "gees" horses? *Brian Symons*

[In response to Brian's queries, Y certainly equals "youth" in YMCA etc but by itself? - in an AJ as the Y clue, as it was clued, there wouldn't seem to be an issue - but elsewhere? The "gee" = horse was also mentioned in the discussion on March slot 2 in the April edition. The question of allowable abbreviations has been addressed in correspondence with the Crossword Editor and we may perhaps look forward to some discussion on this in an article in a future issue? - IW]

- COTM is the "V" clue. What a word to clue! *Richard Skinner*
- In the U clue the definition should be "without being scanned". Very difficult AJ. *Alan Walter*

May 5-2013 Snail by Kaeila (Anne Simons)

- A clever snail cross-word, with the theme of living creatures, and some more unusual ones included - like HINNY. Good clue for HOUND. *Nea Storey*
- Loved the clue for 11 and 21. *Joan Smith*
- I thought Slot 5 was ill-conceived, hardly qualifying as a crossword at all. Solving it was tedious, and it spoilt an otherwise excellent group of puzzles. *Roger Douglas*
- Poor Kay's eyes must be spinning after adjudicating this! A nice challenging snail which even has the theme in the diagonals - well done! *Tony Dobele*
- Very hard, with no crossing letters and some especially obscure animals. Started OK, but needed aids for about half of this. Learnt a lot of new words. *Rob Moline*
- It's no mean feat to achieve 100% 'animal life' theme with the diagonals - even the title belongs! Congratulations Kaeila! *Max Roddick*
- The animal theme is very difficult. Not only are there some obscure animals, but the lack of cross references makes it hard to single out some solutions. But difficult (and fair) is good! And I learnt that a hernesshaw is an old name for heron and that knowing the difference between a hawk and a hernesshaw is not the same as knowing the difference between a hawk and a handsaw! *Alan Dyer*
- I am not a fan of the snails - I think they should be Slot 6 - but this one was very cleverly done with LIVING CREATURES criss-crossing the puzzle. *Bev Cockburn*
- An innovative puzzle, but I do think that their compilers should have to adjudicate them. I felt sorry for the adjudicator's eyes this month. [Thanks, Col - Optox does the trick - K]. *Col Archibald*
- I admire Kaeila's skill in creating the Snail puzzle, even if it did drive me crazy at times! *Rosemary Dorrell*
- A few more unusual words! *Graeme Cole*
- This slot took me a while to solve (at snail's pace). 32 is DUNFISH, which is New England smoked cod and is not a "living creature" as such and should in any case be hyphenated. No 30 SONGTHRUSH was the last to be solved. I consulted seven reference books, including A dictionary of English and folk names of British birds compiled in 1913 by a chap named Swann (!), which lists nearly 5,000 variants of bird names (including the dirty allen, the dishwasher and the high-hoe!) but couldn't find SONGTHRUSH as one ten-letter word. It's either two words or hyphenated. [Quite right, Peter. Together with DUNFISH, an oversight by the compiler and crossword editor! Adj] *Peter Dearie*
- Learned lots of new animals in slot 5. *Richard Skinner*
- Two lovely hidden diagonals identifying LIVING CREATURES. *Alan Walter*

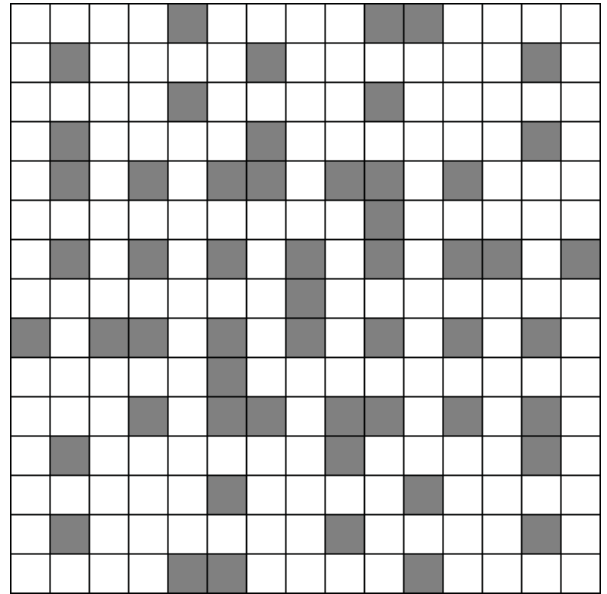
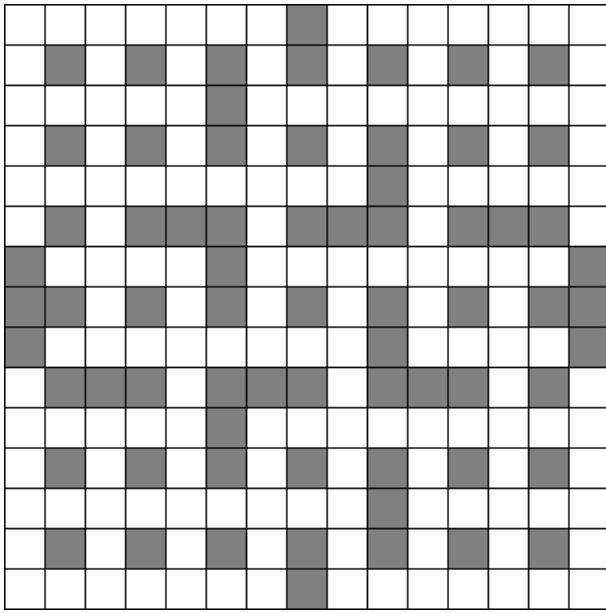
|J|U|N|E| |2|0|1|3|

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

|J|U|N|E| |6| |2|0|1|3|

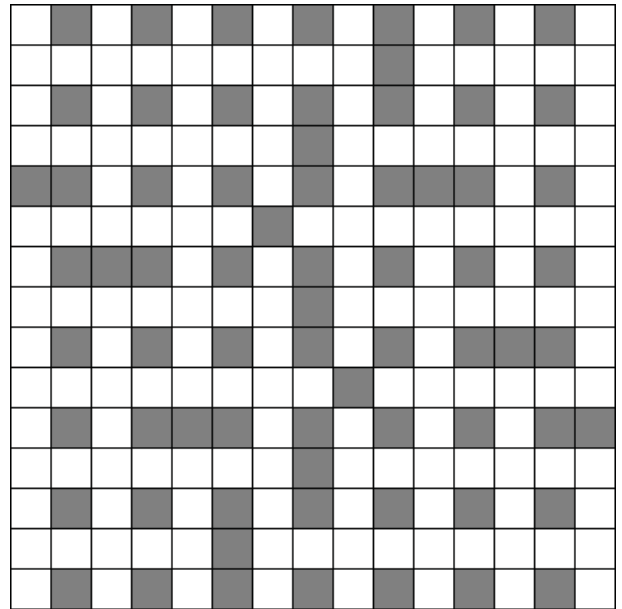
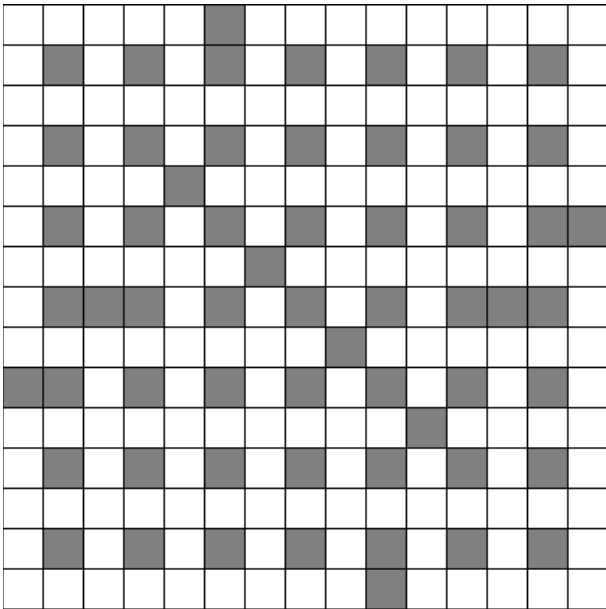
|J|U|N| |1| |2|0|1|3| NAME.....

Send solution to: Dover Dubosarsky
68/1 Brown Street, Ashfield NSW 2131.
Closing mail date: 12 July 2013.
NAME:



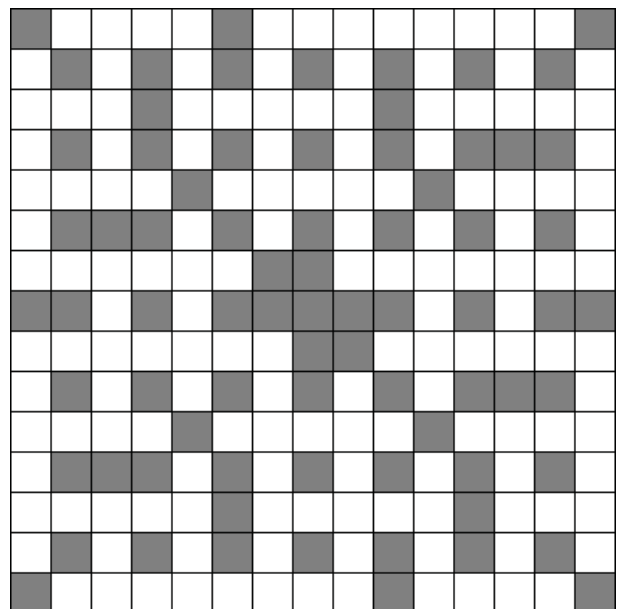
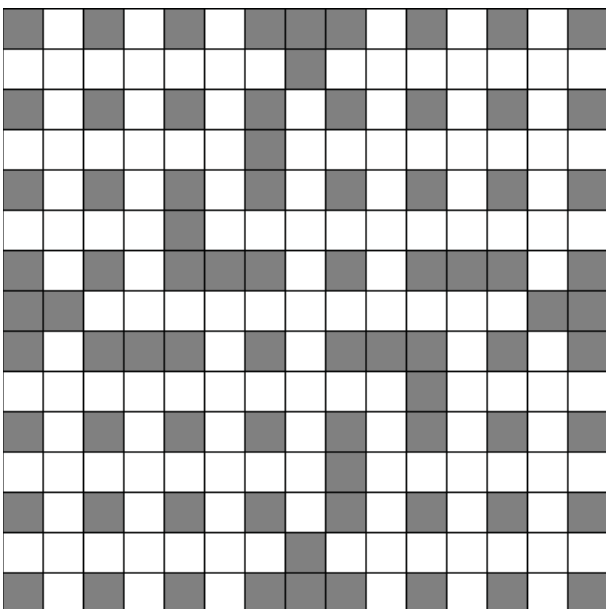
|J|U|N|E| |2| |2|0|1|3|

|J|U|N|E| |3| |2|0|1|3|



|J|U|N|E| |4| |2|0|1|3|

|J|U|N|E| |5| |2|0|1|3|



Clue of the Month

April 6-2012: Minor Error by zinzan (Andrew Patterson)

59 entries, 40 correct. Success rate 84.7%.

Winner: Helen Perrow. Congratulations!

Setter's comments: The famous septet (and how many septets are there to choose from?) was the Seven Dwarves. The extra bit of solving was more entertainment than a hard solution. Most solvers were on the right track – at least, the one I had intended. Doc made an error by using IN TURN instead of INTERN. A fair few suggested DETAILED implied 'dock', that being docked would be 'doc'. A couple suggested PSYCHE as some variation on PHYSIC etc. Other hints included SNOW WHITE embedded in the NW corner (a few found it) and the title MINOR ERRER, when swapped to MINER ERROR, suggests a miner's error. The dwarves were miners (one found that). The main problem was OOSPORES (which Snow White ran through) where a few solvers slipped with ONSPORES. —zinzan (Andrew Patterson)

• I found it a very interesting challenge with some imaginative clues. I know Slot 6 does not qualify for COTM otherwise I would've supported DETAILED. *John Baylis*

• A most challenging puzzle – it consumed many an hour. I found 4ac and 27ac particularly enjoyable to solve.

Maureen Blake

• Thanks – this one was a real challenge. 'Unstressed 199' and 'Philosophy 101' were really imaginative clues and it's amazing how much meaning can be packed into such concise statements.

Ron Carpenter

• An excellent Slot 6 with the necessary degree of difficulty and the clever twist at the end. I particularly liked DETAILED and ATONIC.

Bev Cockburn

• A smorgasbord of clever and quirky clues, with 4ac, 12ac, 21ac, 3dn worthy of special mention. The "seven dwarfs" theme became clear early as the most likely "septet" culprits.

Len Colgan

• Good puzzle.

Maurice Cowan

• Thank you for your puzzle. As always, I found it challenging but enjoyable.

Margaret Davis

• This was the hardest and most interesting of this month's offerings, with the bonus of a clever internal puzzle.

Roger Douglas

• I had to laugh at 4ac (DETAILED). I also thought 16ac (SINE) and 21ac (INSTALL) were particularly clever!

Alan Dyer

• I loved the disguised famous septet – great fun.

Jean Evans

• Thanks for an interesting and (hate the word but it is apt) challenging puzzle. Enjoyed it very much.

Jim Fowler

• Alas, I was unable to complete your slot. Unfortunately it was out of my league. I enjoyed the two 'numbers' clues, 29ac & 25dn. TENET gets my vote for COTM.

Ray Gooderick

• I was very pleased to get this one out – it was diabolical. The disguise is a synonym matched to a name – Doc (IN TURN) made a slight error.

David Grainger

• Some very unusual definitions! I loved 4ac.

Bob Hagan

• I happened to be sneezy myself at the time that I was working on this, singing "Heigh-ho, heigh-ho, it's off to solve I go" as I went off to work, mining to extract the hidden septet, so ALLERGIC was a very appropriate.

Susan Howells

• Thank you for an excellent puzzle.

Doreen Jones

• Very clever concept coupled with some innovative, challenging wordplay. Thanks for the grey matter work-out.

Ian McKenzie

• I gave TENET my COTM because it deserved it – even if it was in Slot 6!
Andrew Miles

• This crossword reminded me of that old chestnut – When a woman was asked if she woke up grumpy in the mornings replied, "No, I usually let him sleep in". The IN TURN clue was nothing short of brilliant. Very well disguised and took me ages to spot.
Carole Noble

• Clever anagrams aplenty, EVENSONG perhaps the best of them; DETAILED and ANOTHER for fun, DRESSAGE best of all, and RAPT the hardest to get. Jolly good fare, thank you zinzan!
Max Roddick

• Thanks for the fun on this one. I really enjoyed it.

Sonia Roulston

• I thought the clues for 29ac and 25dn were particularly clever.

Nea Storey

• Thanks for a wonderful puzzle.

Brian Symons

• Really very clever puzzle. Many clues required a lot of lateral thinking. Very deceptive use of 'Spooners' in 2dn – an anagram after N for O!

Roy Taylor

• What a dazzlingly clever puzzle. Every clue was quite a saga to solve. Took ages to discover Snow White hidden in the top left corner. The hardest clue to solve was CANADIAN.

Was it HAWAIIAN? but this did not fit until I realized the wordplay gave CANADIAN canoe, clearly listed in *Chambers*.

For 21ac, maybe you wanted IN, SHELL as Thumbelina lived in a walnut shell but you wanted INS,TALL as she was 2

IN(che)S TALL. 25dn, TENET, TEN forward and backward = 1(0)1. Must have taken you quite an effort to devise this entertaining puzzle.

Alan Walter

• No idea what Slot 6 is all about so thought I'd send you a photo of a fish taken in the rock pool in front of our home. [*My favourite comment of the month. The fish is a red morwong apparently. Z*].

Robyn Wimbush

• Thanks for another enjoyable puzzle. I always get lots of laughs from them. Favourite clues were 25dn TENET & 29ac ATONIC.

Jan Wood

Some of the Solvers' Comments from the 23rd Anniversary Quiz No 4/2013:

• When completing your quizzes, I always find some interesting things that I didn't previously know. This time they included 23 skidoo and duotriophobia! *Susan Howells*

• What a clever quiz, although I did have to Google a few answers.

Barb Ibbott

• Good quiz that needed a fair bit of reference searching – as well as counting up to 23 in non-numbered lists. It is sometimes pretty hard to calculate things like PM's.

Jim Fowler

• Thank you for this quiz. It was a good challenge to have to work out the clue and then find the answer.

Pat Garner

• It is quite a significant number, 23, isn't it? I learnt a few things from this quiz.

Andrew Miles

• Although Shakespeare definitely died on 23rd April there is no definite confirmation that he was born on the 23rd April. He died at the age of 52.

Alan Walter

• Thanks to you and your co-conspirators for a very enjoyable and head-scratching quiz.

Eileen O'Brien