



|N|o.|2|8|7| |M|A|R|C|H| |2|0|1|4|



www.crosswordclub.org



Words are the fortresses of thought.
William Hamilton, quoted by Samuel Butler (1835-1902)
in a lecture on 'Thought and Language' (1890).

|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|

The ACC Executive Committee is more than delighted to announce that the ACC membership for 2013 was 240. This is a very pleasing number of members. The renewal rate and the level of donations to the 2014 ACC Prize Pool have been very satisfying and encouraging and we feel that this year will be another successful one for the ACC. We hope that the members and solvers will thoroughly enjoy the puzzles and quizzes kindly set for them by keen and dedicated compilers not to mention we have some excellent prizes to give away.

Given the impressive renewal rate of subscriptions, it is worth mentioning the huge workload of our tireless Secretary/Treasurer **Bev Cockburn** who has had to carry out the many admin tasks of banking etc but also the paperwork necessary to keep the membership records up-to-date. Not to mention her inspiring puzzles and quizzes! And the work done by our Puzzle Editor **Ian Williams** in the process of checking and selecting the puzzles and quizzes each month deserves to be quietly applauded and his skilful e-lodgment adjudication every month. There is a lot of work done by the members of the Executive Committee behind the scenes to keep our successful Club thriving. And where would we be without the loyal assistance of our brilliant Adjudicators? They are simply THE BEST!!!

Our brilliant puzzleman **Ian Williams** has selected an outstanding range of puzzles and a quiz to keep you fully occupied during March. Ian has selected a Half 'n Half by *Buzzer* and challenging cryptics by *Zythum* and *Isla*. We are pleased to publish *Crowsman* with the ever-popular *AJ* and in Slot 5, we welcome back one of our favourites – *Bogeyman* – with another one of his fine puzzles. In Slot 6, *Flowerman* tests all solvers with another of his admirable cryptics and in Slot 7, we have *Betelgeuse* with an engrossing cryptic. We have a Quiz for your delectation by *InGrid* and Michael Kennedy is again organising the Clue Writing Competition which is featured on pp15-16. It looks like another busy month for ACC solvers. Happy Crozworlding!
—Patrick

Hello to “My Crossword Family”. Still too many transcription errors: B_G, _N_I, R_S, FFFRONTERY, VICEGEGENTS, UNCO RROW & OVESSEE. Blank spaces just should not happen. If the down words are put in the grid first it lessens the chance of transcription errors.

Slot 1: There were 3 variations for SPARE including shave (x3), scape, shake. Beside affrontery (2x) all other errors stood alone.

Slot 2: For BLUES there were 8 x blued and a bluey. For ADVISABLE there were admirable (x6) and adaptable. Deck (x3), neck, reak and beak (x2), for BECK and apiaries (x4) for AVIARIES.

Slot 3: Mortice (x2) for MORaine, aromatherapist (x2) for CHEMOTHERAPIST and distill/illwiller (x2) for DISTICH/ILLWISHER. Options for SCAMPER were scarper & sharper.

Slot 4: In *Chambers*, a viceregent is defined as: properly, a substitute for a regent, often used mistakenly for VICEGERENT. “VICEGERENTS should catch a few” wrote Bob and it did indeed. 59 members opted for viceregent. Too, too tricky *zinzan*. All other errors were individual ones except raceway (x2) for RAREGAS and jemmied (x2) for JEMMIES.

Slot 5: Many members decided to give this one a miss. Despite the H at 165 there were just a few errors in this slot. Both H/C were accepted. Unco brow turned up 3 times. Plenty of comment re this slot.

COTM: 30 words were nominated by 47 members with HOUNDS streaking ahead with 8 votes. Well done *Virgo*.

Thankyou for all the greetings with your entries – they lighten the load. Happy Crosswording for the remainder of 2014.

—Veniece

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

Puzzle No.	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Entries received	99	100	98	87	69	453
Correct entries	79	64	85	22	62	312
Success rate (%)	79.8	64.0	86.7	25.3	89.8	69.0
Prizewinners	Margaret Steinberger	Roy Low	Wendy Villiers	Odette Greenberger	Doug Butler	from 101 members

Prizewinner: February 2014 Slots 1-5: Brian Symons, Congratulations!

|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 'n Half by <i>Buzzer</i>	3
Cryptic by <i>Zythum</i>	4
Cryptic by <i>Isla</i>	5
AJ by <i>Crowsman</i>	6
On your marks...Go! by <i>Bogeyman</i>	7
Cryptic by <i>Flowerman</i>	8
Vale <i>Bill Bennett</i>	9
Macquarie Word of the Year	9
Members' Comments	10
Results January Slot 6	12
Cryptic by <i>Betelgeuse</i>	13
Quiz No 3 by <i>InGrid</i>	14
Results January Slot 7	15

Feb 1-2014

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

Feb 2-2014

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

Feb 3-2014

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

Feb 4-2014

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

Feb 5-2014

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

Jan 6-2014

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

MEMBERS RESULTS FOR Slots 1-5 FEB 2014 & JAN Slots 6 & 7

MEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
ALLEN W
ANDERSON C
ARCHIBALD C
AUSTIN A
AXELSEN U
BARBOUR J
BARNES J
BARRETT A
BAYLIS J
BILKEY C
BLAKE M
BUTLER D
CAINE R
CARPENTER R
CARROLL L
CHAMPION G
CHRISTIANSEN R
COATES D
COCKBURN B
COLE G
COLGAN L
COLLINS M
COPLAND F
COWAN M
CROMER H
DAVIS M
DEARIE P
DE GRYS A
DENNIS M
DOBELE T
DORRELL R
DOUGLAS R
DUCKER R
DYER A
EVANS Jean

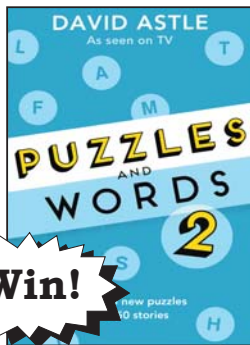
MEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
FOWLER J
GARNER P
GLISSAN B
GOODERICK R
GRAINGER D
GREENBERGER O
HAGAN B
HAMBLING C
HARPER K
HEMSLEY D
HEYES N
HOWARD V
HOWELLS S
JERMY A
JONES D
KASIVAJJULA B
KENNEDY L
KENNEDY M
LEE C
LEE N
LEEDS G
LEIGH J
LEMON G
LOBSEY V
LORD P
LOW R
McADOO G
McCLELLAND C
McKENZIE I
McMANUS D
McPHERSON T
MACKAY-SIM C
MARTIN A
MARTIN F
MASON I
MEEK D
MERCER P

MEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
MILES A
MOLINE R
NOBLE C
O'BRIEN Eileen
PARSONS D
PATTERSON A
PEARCE J
PERROW H
PINDER S
POTTS M
PROCTER D
PROCTER M
PYC M
QUINN C
RODDICK M
ROULSTON S
RYAN W
SHIELD A
SIEGMAN B
SIMONS A
SKINNER R
SMITH J
STEINBERGER M
STOREY N
SYMONS B
TAYLOR R
THOMPSON I
TICKLE B
TOFONI B
VILLIERS W
WALTER A
WILCOX C
WIMBUSH R
WOODFORD J
YOUNG S

M	A	R	C	H	
2	0	1	4		
S	L	O	T		1

**Half 'n Half
by
Buzzer**

Prize:



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		

Across

- 1 Pert and disrespectful (5)
- 3 Prefix for a knight (3)
- 5 Pi's second successor (5)
- 8 Place for a beast (4)
- 9 Parrot for example (4)
- 10 Pertaining to a pivot (5)
- 12 Pig out to excess (7)
- 13 Perform by voice musically (4)
- 16 Part of a bridge support structure (1-4)
- 18 Person living next door (9)
- 20 Patrons of a business (9)
- 21 Pointlessly wasted time (5)
- 22 Puerto Rico for one (4)
- 24 Pharmacy worker (7)
- 28 Poorly qualified (5)
- 29 Pass over (4)
- 30 Persuasive in speech (4)
- 31 Perhaps Thai (5)
- 32 Possessive of an object (3)
- 33 Potassium nitrate (5)

Down

- 1 Small false act helps securing one promotion (5,5)
- 2 Good man without family and without money (5)
- 3 Notice put around popular Parisian river (5)
- 4 Take passport say for free (3)
- 5 Mark isn't a revolutionary (5)
- 6 Hardness of pebbles (4)
- 7 Reportedly beers bring troubles (4)
- 11 Customs inspector? (6)
- 13 Constituents of Bathurst I learnt, got an upright member (5)
- 14 Be out, mobile in suburb of Darwin (4)
- 15 Outstanding debt I clear off (10)
- 17 Great show with no beginning or end (4)
- 18 Name that's extremely cute for a girl in the family (5)
- 19 Around here sheltering provided for young cow (6)
- 23 Protest or appeal during a function (3-2)
- 24 Counters for French fries (5)
- 25 Cove at home given the nod (5)
- 26 Upcoming keen singer (4)
- 27 Habit is consuming artist from South (4)
- 29 Broad sash, too big to hold (3)

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

Slots 1-5: Col Archibald, 38 Holloway Drive, Jiliby, NSW 2259.

e-mail: carchiba6@bigpond.com

Closing mail date: Friday 28 March 2014.

e-lodgment: ianw@webone.com.au

Slot 6: Ian Thompson, 1904 Malvern Road, Malvern East Vic 3145.

email: irt_botanist@hotmail.com

Closing mail date: Friday 11 April 2014.

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

M	A	R	C	H	
2	0	1	4		
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						28								
29										30				

Across


- 1 Damaged bust, I'm tender! (6)
- 4 Surprise! Heavy weight is buried in remains of conflagration (8)
- 10 Broken down, yet loving extended life-span (9)
- 11 Not so bright aide left Queen (5)
- 12 Holiday shirt rent (4)
- 13 Tackle problem – bad start followed by deluge (10)
- 15 Prompt start of emergency after space walk: person removed from danger (7)
- 16 Directions to public gallery in London property (6)
- 19 Maximum cash outlet costs unrestricted (2,4)
- 21 Profane love – Ita entangled (7)
- 23 Teapot Unit prepared for hospital visitor... (10)
- 25 ...occupant of broken-down casualty department (4)
- 27 Salon's opening in Parisian waterfront, seemingly (5)
- 28 Dismissed before English storm, wandering furthest from the centre (9)
- 29 One-time party member gets title back in book inscription (2-6)
- 30 Use English master stratagem (6)

Down

- 1 Severed puppy heads last appearing in gory movie genre? (8)
- 2 Epicurean Bishop operating; long live beginnings of new theology! (3,6)
- 3 Chopped-up, headless and chilled (4)
- 5 After start of Summer cattle are around year-long as far as the eye can see (7)
- 6 Options I tossed around after operation resulted in negative view (10)
- 7 I go first to lavatory in icy accommodation (5)
- 8 Male runs around places he cannot enter (6)
- 9 Penetrate a platform over the church (6)
- 14 Isolated and unfashionable, working mail-order book (3,2,1,4)
- 17 Sequence of auto ads too low-key for rapid growth? (9)
- 18 Erect sly construction under cover (8)
- 20 Journey to centre of idolism in North Africa (7)
- 21 Bathroom unit opposed to a tiny alteration (6)
- 22 Place of worship discovered in Los Alamos quest (6)
- 24 Fish, uncooked, left after evening meal, I hear (5)
- 26 Something to beat dead-end spirit (4)

GENERAL COMMENTS:

- Thanks for the new club pen. I tried it out on the latest batch of crosswords and regret to have to inform you that it's no better at solving puzzles than the old one was! Many thanks to the club, anyway; it's a nice keepsake. Merv Collins
- Was delighted with my *Oxford Dictionary of Quotations* for the December Slot 6 prize, especially as *Flowerman* usually defeats me! Cheryl Wilcox
- Thank you for the club pen, which I will put to good use for the next *Crozworld* deadline! Caroline Mackay-Sim
- I'm delighted with my prize for January Slot 2! Every month it's a pleasure to open *Crozworld*, but this adds an extra sparkle. Thank you, ACC!! Max Roddick
- Thank you to CrOZworld for the quiz prize that I received last month. As I read *The Game of Words* by WR Espy I am learning all the time. Julie Leigh
- A big thanks for our "5 right" cheque for last month. A very welcome surprise but it's the certificate that really cheers. Nice to look back on them occasionally. Good selection this month and a couple of clues we just can't fathom so we are unlikely to repeat the success of January. Richard Skinner
- Overall, quite a few new words, and new meanings of old words I thought I knew. Rob Moline
- Thank you for finding my extra dot for Slot 4 without prompting... I just assumed I'd done another transfer boo boo! Loved all the puzzles, but had to concede I had too much help with 5 to honestly submit it... I "went off" Scotland for a while. Dale McManus
- Many thanks for the prize I won recently – a nice surprise. Peter Dearie

M A R C H 2 0 1 4 S L O T 3
<h2 style="margin: 0;">Cryptic</h2> <p style="margin: 5px 0 0 0;">by</p> <h2 style="margin: 0;">Isla</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					

Across

- 1 Great power's dull without income when retiring (8)
- 5 Rows involving numbers force party into backing Britain and America (6)
- 9 Seethe internally seeing society decay (8)
- 10 Exercise, quaffing wine – too old for that! (4,2)
- 12 As part of speech I make fast declaration (13)
- 14 Jumbo left empty after gate evacuated (5)
- 15 Outstanding subject, appropriate time (3 6)
- 17 Perhaps offers evens, confusingly? (5 4)
- 19 Moving right back in a way shocking and confronting (5)
- 21 Subpoena possibly could tangle me in action (5 8)
- 24 A celebration wherein, ultimately, the celebrated attendee doesn't (6)
- 25 Repudiated, pig ate outside (8)
- 26 To widen, and no longer care (6)
- 27 Taxman looking in return penned in crosses sadistically (8)

Down

- 1 Sloppy romanticism, husky urging (4)
- 2 Fish that likes to school? (7)
- 3 Racehorses not good under wide Australian policemen (9)
- 4 Fictional hound's carrying type of bomb playfully, initially everyone dodged a lot (3 6 3)
- 6 Guru finally meets wise man in convention (5)
- 7 Unfashionable clothes last longer (7)
- 8 Adrift, tuned out inhaling anaesthetic (10)
- 11 Superman, essentially a hunk wearing Y-fronts on the outside, appears during emergencies (12)
- 13 Whip in brief tizzy, member turning up behind schedule (10)
- 16 Region of oxygen complete? Bit missing at the top (5 4)
- 18 Itinerant old lady fills tank (7)
- 20 Complaint as drunk ate nuts (7)
- 22 Extended use of 'bunk'? Bunkum's favoured (3-2)
- 23 Stink in America over upset staff (4)

LEXPHELLISM

"Lexophile" is a word used to describe those who have a love for words, such as "you can tune a piano, but you can't tuna fish", or "to write with a broken pencil is pointless." A competition to see who can come up with the best lexphillies is held every year in an undisclosed location. Here are some of the entries:

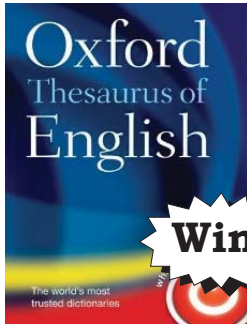
- When fish are in schools, they sometimes take debate.
- A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.
- When the smog lifts in Los Angeles, U.C.L.A.
- The batteries were given out free of charge.
- A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.
- A will is a dead giveaway.
- With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.
- A boiled egg is hard to beat.

- When you've seen one shopping Center you've seen a mall.
- Police were called to a day care Center where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.
- Did you hear about the fellow whose whole left side was cut off? He's all right now.
- A bicycle can't stand alone; it is two tired.
- When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds.
- The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine is now fully recovered.
- He had a photographic memory which was never developed.
- When she saw her first strands of grey hair she thought she'd dye.
- Acupuncture is a jab well done. That's the point of it.
- Those who get too big for their pants, will be exposed in the end.
- All of the toilets in the New York Police Station were recently stolen. Investigating police officers have nothing to go on.

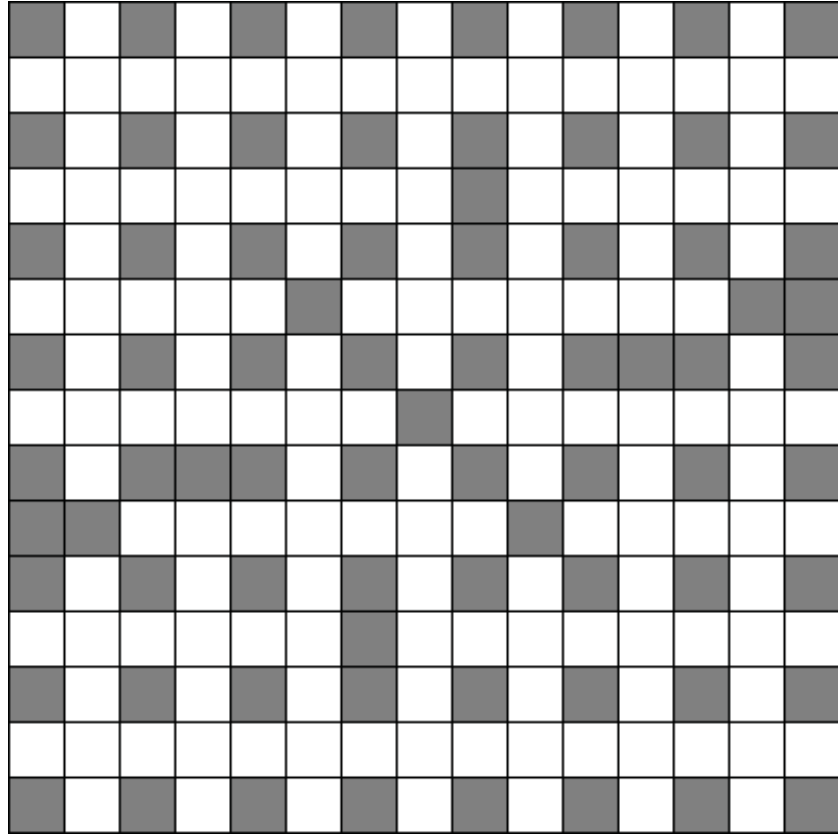
M	A	R	C	H	
2	0	1	4		
S	L	O	T		4

AJ by Crowsman

Book Prize:



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



Clues:

- A** Leaves while confining crew aboard (8)
- B** Cast returned inland initially through republic (7)
- C** Moulding spread over hot coastal road (8)
- D** Overturned assault sits uncomfortably with those maintaining records (8)
- E** Bush Sr., perhaps? (5)
- F** Thinks about popular dolls (9)
- G** Dope reversed around a patrol (5)
- H** Prime times bring colour back into grasses (7)
- I** I entered one symbolic spot – fool! (5)
- J** English King's carried inside for noisy celebrations (9)
- K** Bird heading west circled a pen (5)
- L** With half-hearted indifference I visit, but haven't brought a flower around (15)
- M** Fail one over an assignment (7)
- N** Oddball worker is nodding (6)
- O** Colour of old spread (6)
- P** Looking to the future with a projection about one unvoiced tune returning (15)
- Q** Troubled nation turned around towards different countryman (6)
- R** Bird – one getting a locust (7)
- S** Cosmetics creating alarm around family (8)
- T** Sign copy! (5)
- U** Not flabbergasted with album's opener appearing in single (6)
- V** Change holiday trip, but right one for cold (9)
- W** Sway forward in carriage (5)
- X** After axes chop, sharpen instrument (9)
- Y** Currency is holding back state's capital (7)
- Z** Leader of Zambia introduces drive to get mineral (7)

Explanations to February Grids, where provided by compilers. Thanks to Jean, Audrey, Andrew and Maurice.

Slot 1 InGrid. Across: 1 dd, 5 PU(IRE>)LE, 9 (S)PARE, 10 WATER + FALL, 11 anag 13 Heads, 15 FL + EXILE, 16 OFF + BEAT, 18 anag, 20 IN + ROADS, 22 dd, 23 PERT + IN + EN + CE, 25 POST + NATAL, 27 ENSU(r)E, 28 RELATE (anag) + I, 29 WAY + LAYS, **Down:** 1 anag, 2 UN + AWARE, 3 THE_TRI(vi)AL + c, 4 WAD>, 5 PATH + anag (SOIL GOT), 6 hEAR Nothing, 7 IMAG(IN)E, 8 EaChLeAdT, 12 TREND + SETTER, 14 EF + FRONT + (v)ERY, 17 dd, 19 OVER + SEE, 21 A (MEN)* SIA, 22 APES > + I, 24 meANTime, 26 dd.

Slot 2 Virgo. Across: 3 GB> containing U, 8 GER + BIL(L), 9 AV + I + ARIES, 10 MOUNT* containing MEN, 11 DD, 13 WOM + EN, 15 anag, 18 RO (O) STER, 20 anag (IN ER OUT), 21 AD + VIS + ABLE, 24 DD, 28 anag, 30 DD, 32 BITTER + NS, 33 DD, 34 HW. 1 KEN + O, 2 OB + SUET*, 3 cryptic definition - football State of Origin, 4 G (e) A NTRY, 5 anag (CHIP UC), 6 homoph true pout, 7 DD, 10 WOMen>, 12 HW, 14 O + VOID, 15 anag, 16 MA I ZE, 17 HW, 19 SPIN + NET + S, 21 HW, 22 ABS + U + RD, 23 LA (VI) SH, 25 EATER + Y, 26 DD, 27 ref to petrol, 29 OvOId, 31 anag.

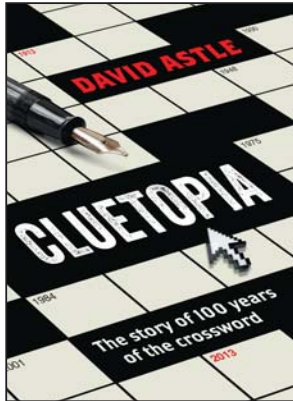
Slot 4 Zinzan. A fAMIne, BIOTto + OX, CO (R + R + U) P + T, ,D (TARDIS)* + C + T, EM(B)ITTER, F + AC + (SCARED)*, G (GEAR)* + SEP + AINT, H (HAD,A,NICE)* + S, I [Amin,Botox,Corrupt] = IDI + (BOTOX)*, J + E + (mimes)*, KI (DNA) PS, L homoph (Leigh + tied), M (TATUM)< + E, N cryptic def, O ddef, P P L + UM + MET + ED, QUITE, R + are(g)a,s. SLUm + ICED, TA + BOOED, ULT + I + MOrE, VICE (GravE,RENT) S, W + (DENTURES)*, X 100 = 10 + 0 ie X + NONE rev, YES + T + E + R, Z SU(O + LA)EZ <.

Slot 5 Penobscot. A TRUDGE + ON, B (two) HOOTS, C anag, D TO WIT + TO WOO, E Anag (U + C + GREEN), F NOW + NOW, G E I GG, H I SLAY, I S + TENCH, J Anag(LET + MUM), K DD, L EF + FUSION, M anag (CORNisHmAN), N O + BAN, O Anag (ALL HENS CHA CHA), P Homoph done + oon, Q Anag (NorTHWARD), R ACCIDENT with O for A, S Triple definition, T pun, U E (C CENT) RIC, V Anag (OK YES FILES), W Anag ISCLUE, X Anag BACHELOR, Y Cryptic def, Z See V.

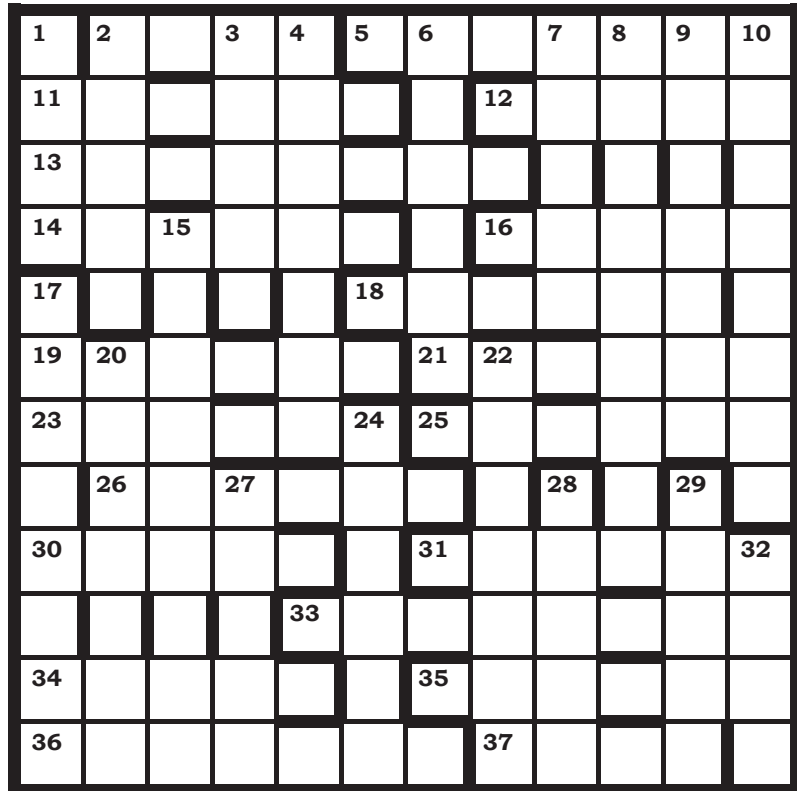
M	A	R	C	H	
2	0	1	4		
S	L	O	T		5

**On your
Marks ... Go!**
by
Bogeyman

Prize:



Autographed by DA



Eight solutions are consistent with a theme and their clues contain no definition.

Across

- 2 Point to container holding shilling (4)
- 5 Former European state – peseta country? (7)
- 11 Old golf club reported as ... (6)
- 12 ...grossly dull, after changing hands (5)
- 13 People taking in atomic nitrogen become monkeys (8)
- 14 Ma left main road detour (6)
- 16 Old game in aged Latin film genre (5)
- 18 See art regressing to vermiform plates (6)
- 19 Plot to exchange grand for heroin (6)
- 21 Boys may be those doing the rounds! (6)
- 23 Fish swears violently (6)
- 25 Iridium in small quantities chased by the French (6)
- 26 Bird has short answer for the giants (6)
- 30 Falsify a passport, for example (5)
- 31 Type of script written in the Arabic style in pencil at Isfahan (6)
- 33 Rank-smelling condition found in west of Sydney or its outskirts (8)
- 34 Stick pin in enemy's extremities – resulting in mournful sound (5)
- 35 Lake on board! (6)
- 36 Condition after overnight flight, when photographed inexpertly? (3-4)
- 37 Burn the so-called prophet! (4)

Down

- 1 Nymph's honoured companion found in house, topless (4)
- 2 Superman's human identity about to get the bird... (5)
- 3 ...bird found on a cushion (5)
- 4 Rubs clean the shade covering motorway section (7)
- 6 Go on irritating with offensively scented half vegetable (6)
- 7 Turn half slalom by our territory (5)
- 8 Racist Ali, frantically biting (9)
- 9 Son of Abraham says "Call me ..." at the opening of a classical book! (7)
- 10 One judged fool with three letters after his name (8)
- 15 Mutated grain – caught in the act – vindicated (9)
- 17 One who opposes the bench, supported by the Queen (8)
- 20 Thing of art is coloured lithograph, etched initially (7)
- 22 Simple songs having Bristol City's rhyme? (7)
- 24 Translate Dec 1 novel (6)
- 27 Can Georgia suffuse? (5)
- 28 Rotter on key personnel (5)
- 29 Woodwind player – Scotsman, perhaps (5)
- 32 Grave-sounding sac containing diseased matter (4)

Some WORDS from *The Columbia Dictionary of Quotations* by Robert Andrews

- Give the people a new word and they think they have a new fact.
- The words of the world want to make sentences.
- You can stroke people with words.
- Words are not as satisfactory as we should like them to be, but, like our neighbours, we have got to live with them and must make the best and not the worst of them.
- Words are wise men's counters; they do but reckon by them: but they are the money of fools.
- A wise person hear's one word and understands two.
- A new word is like a fresh seed sewn on the ground of the discussion.
- One forgets words as one forgets names. One's vocabulary needs constant fertilizing or it will die.

M	A	R	C	H	
2	0	1	4		
S	L	O	T		6

Cryptic
by
Flowerman



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

One plural form of a solution does not appear in the normal references.

Across

- 8 American state backflips without a second's pause (6)
- 9 Position horn before making way around coastal cliff (8)
- 11 Papers I'm bagging over peculiar expression (5)
- 12 Raw entertainment in nude play! (9)
- 13 Monopoly reformed resort short of capital income with little effort (5,3,3,4)
- 15 Test time (7)
- 16 Helping transfers (7)
- 18 Retired champion implied son go after pair making forecast (15)
- 21 One can make heaps tipping score when player fails to conceal trump play (4,5)
- 22 Chaotic situation when American detained fanatic copying Arabic text (5)
- 23 Towel fabric wrapping Grampa's shrub (8)
- 24 Picture a four-legged friend in literature and on-screen (6)

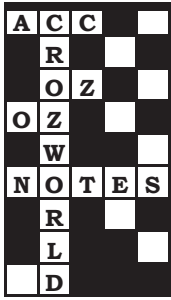
- 4 Abuse, within limits, provides means for correcting attitude problems (7,6)
- 5 Riled at indirect demands made by praetors in Roman times (10)
- 6 Take steps to quote source of "Wherefore art thou Romeo?" (3,3)
- 7 Without a care he's emptied pruned pine leaves inside (8)
- 10 Warned of phony greetings, got up to receive a rebel leader (3,2,3,5)
- 14 They're not crazy about a further addition, perhaps? (3,7)
- 15 Dip's up with it in, say, tastiness (8)
- 17 Irritant unfortunately placed in sauce bottles never ever extracted (8)
- 19 Rhythmical sound bite from chap mooning about (6)
- 20 Timeless kind of tone of a communications network (6)
- 22 Won over fifty quid, ending therefore on top (4)

Down

- 1 That the deity is always male regularly reflects religious doctrine (6)
- 2 One to put down as a gremlin in the works (8)
- 3 Stalk a group of people deserting summit (4)

**Post
Solution
to:**

Ian Thompson,
1904 Malvern Road, Malvern East Vic 3145.
email: irt_botanist@hotmail.com
Closing mail date: Friday 11 April 2014.



VALE BILL BENNETT

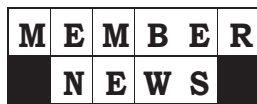
We were saddened to hear of the death of **Bill Bennett** on 30 January 2014. Bill joined the ACC in January 1996 and was a brilliant solver, frequently having a perfect score every month. His wife **Jan** advised us "that Bill passed away after a most unpleasant illness – cancer of the oesophagus. He was diagnosed with the condition about 7 weeks ago. Sadly, despite radiation treatment, although he seemed to improve, he took ill last week and was hospitalised. However, the cancer had really taken hold and he did not recover. He loved the crossword club and involved everyone here in the newsletters and crosswords in one way and another and was always proud when he received any recognition. I'm sure he would like me to say how much he appreciated being a member." Our Secretary **Bev Cockburn** said: "I was particularly saddened on hearing of Bill's passing because only the day before I had received a letter from him with some suggestions for our annual Birthday Quiz. The Crossword Club had a high priority in Bill's mind right up to the last and that is the ultimate compliment to the club and what it meant to him. I spoke to him a few days before and we discussed the quiz and I'll cherish

those moments. He was a stalwart of the club and we will greatly miss his input and devotion manifested over many years." **John Allen** said: "As I know how passionate he was about his crosswords I am sure there are many members of your club who were familiar with him in that capacity. Despite rapid physical deterioration in past weeks, Bill was alert until the end and I am sure he would attribute that to the constant, stimulating mental exercise that crosswords provided. There were few clues whose answers eluded him and now he is working on the greatest puzzle of all." We send our sincere condolences to Jan and loving family.

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS FOR 2014: Butler D, Fuller G, Howard L, Kasivajjula B, Mackay-Sim C, Ramsay I, Thynne G. **DONATIONS TO THE ACC PRIZE FUND 2014 ARE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED FROM:** Doug Butler, Gabriel Fuller, Lesly Howard, Bhavan Kasivajjula and Caroline Mackay-Sim.

THE MACQUARIE DICTIONARY'S WORD OF THE YEAR 2013:

infovore – noun a person who craves information, especially one who takes advantage of their ready access to it on digital devices. The Committee thought that the coinage infovore was a response to the perception that we now had access to information all the time. The smart phone made it possible to find out immediately what we wanted to know. For some people knowing that whatever questions life threw at us the answer was a click or two away was a liberating experience. Indeed they were in danger of becoming addicted to this rush of instant information. This was a word that reflected a significant change in how we conducted our lives. It was also a neat coinage.



New Members: **Terry Conroy** from Goulburn, NSW (A Membership Gift from Bob Hagan) and **Owen Reid** from Dunlop, NSW. Welcome to the wonderful world of *Crozworlding!*

Dots Adjustment: Gabrielle Leeds gained a dot for January 2014 Slot 5.

TROPHY WINNERS for 2013:
Slots 1-6/2013: **Andrew Patterson. Congratulations!**
2013 Quizzes: **Andrew Miles. Congratulations!**

Our sincere thanks to **Brian Symons** for his skilful management of the Trophy awards.

Macquarie Dictionary's Category Awards for 2013



- Agriculture = dining boom
- Arts = fanfic
- Business = showrooming
- Colloquial = facepalm
- Communications = churnalism
- Eating and Drinking = coffee cupping
- Environment = firescape
- Fashion = onesie
- General Interest = watch and act
- Health = enabler
- Internet = Streisand effect
- Politics = marriage equality
- Social Interest = generation debt
- Sport = barefoot running
- Technology = dumb phone.

Since the *Macquarie Dictionary* was first published in 1981, its reputation as Australia's national dictionary has gone from strength to strength. It is now nationally and internationally regarded as the standard reference on Australian English. A comprehensive and up-to-date account of our variety of English, it not only includes all those words and senses peculiar to Australian English, but also those common to the whole English-speaking world.

Macquarie Dictionary's Word of the Year 2013

Honourable mention to:

firescape verb (t) (firescaped, firescaping) to landscape (an area) with the possibility of bushfire in mind, as by growing fire-resistant plants, creating firebreaks with gravel, concrete, etc., eliminating flammable wood or plastic items. [FIRE + (LAND)SCAPE]

Each summer now we are constantly aware of a background of major bushfires. In response to this there is a continuing flow of new words related to bushfires and how we deal with them. Firescaping is a form of landscaping that reduces the hazard of fire.

cli-fi noun 1. a genre of speculative fiction based on the premise that climate change will give rise to fundamental changes in the way human beings live. –adjective 2. of or relating to cli-fi. [CLI(MATE) + FI(CTION) modelled on SCI-FI]. cli-fi, a neat coinage, and one that is prompted by environmental change. The committee thought that it was fair to say that in all the discussions generated by this topic, no one had predicted a new genre of sci-fi as an outcome.

The People's Choice Award for 2013 goes to:

onesie noun 1. a loose-fitting one-piece suit, usually of a stretch fabric, gathered at the wrists and ankles and loose at the crotch. 2. a one-piece stretch garment for an infant, with or without legs and sleeves, sometimes enclosing the feet. [one + -s- + -ie]

The *Macquarie Dictionary* Word of the Year Committee comprises:

- Dr Michael Spence, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sydney
- Professor Stephen Garton, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, University of Sydney
- Anne Bell, Director of University Libraries, University of Sydney
- Catriona Menzies-Pike, Arts Editor, *The Conversation*
- Susan Butler, Publisher of the *Macquarie Dictionary*.

February 1-2014: Half 'n Half by InGrid (Jean Barbour)

- Suitable degree of difficulty for Slot 1, although the ratio of straight to cryptic clues was hardly Half 'n Half! [A number of members commented on the lack of one of the halves – the title was the crossword editor's error: Ed] *Nea Storey*
- A good opening workout: not exactly a Half 'n Half. *Kath Harper*
- An enjoyable puzzle. *Jim Fowler*
- Nice challenge! NE corner my last in. *Tony Dobe*
- "Half 'n' Half" traditionally has implied Half Orthodox and Half Cryptic clues. Why has this puzzle been thus classified when every clue is cryptic? Have we now become the ACCC = Australian Cryptic Crossword Club? *Alan Walter*
- Half and Half? The only orthodox clue I could find was 17dn "Tasteless". *Col Archibald*
- Not exactly ½ / ½. Enjoyed WATERFALL & LOW. PATHOLOGIST was tricky, seeming to indicate RADIOLOGIST. *Brian Symons*
- Had difficulty deciding which half was which. Loved waylays tho. *Dale McManus*
- A nice Half 'n' Half with several good clues. *Margaret Davis*
- I promptly entered RADIOLOGIST for 5dn, which gave me no end of trouble with the top right-hand corner! WAYLAYS took a lot of time. *Anne Simons*
- I could only see the cryptic half? *Rob Moline*
- I found a strange word meaning "tear-jerking". Hope it's right for 15ac! *Max Roddick*

February 2-2014: Cryptic by Virgo (Audrey Austin)

- Another enjoyable puzzle from Virgo. *Nea Storey*
- My selection for COTM is Slot 2 – 28ac – HOUNDS. This is not by any means the most difficult clue to solve, but I enjoyed the wit and brevity of it. Well done, Audrey! *Catherine Hambling*
- 3dn: What is the connection between marooned and blues? [Maroon and blue is a reference to the colours of the strips in the NSW/Qld state of origin RFL competition: Ed]. In 27dn does O.J. hint at the colour of Orange Juice in petrol? [OJ is short for orange juice and the Americans call juice (petrol), ie "gas": Ed] *Tony de Gry*
- My CotM goes to Virgo's CROOKS (11ac) – a cleverly devised double definition. *Michael Kennedy*
- Very clever clue for HOUNDS. Not keen on using EATER in a clue for EATERY – too close! *Len Colgan*
- Loved the images suggested by some of the clues – Rock Hudson surrounded by spotty dogs, greasy overalls among the furs and finery at the opera, dodgy sangers in Wales... *Kath Harper*
- Good puzzle, some nice clues – liked HOUNDS and HICCUP. *Tony Dobe*
- Couldn't get 11ac or 7dn. 3dn (BLUES) required some specialised [football] knowledge to get – perhaps those in WA and Tasmania would have found it more difficult. I guessed 26dn (EGG), egg/mine? [Chambers has bow = BECK, CROOK = staff and EGG = mine: Adj] *Alan Dyer*
- 9ac: AV stands for Authorised Version of the Bible, which is a particular form of the Bible. Answer AV+I+ARIES = enclosures. 3dn "they're still down" implies a plural, BLUES which implies being 'down'. 6dn: TROO+POUT. Thanks Virgo. *Alan Walter*
- A breath of fresh air, not too easy but do-able. *Col Archibald*
- An excellent cryptic. *Brian Symons*
- I gave HOUNDS COTM. MONUMENT close. *Roy Taylor*
- Hiccup was on my COTM list. *Dale McManus*
- I thought the 32ac clue was misleading. It was not the grudge that was two ways but the birds. *Margaret Davis*
- Some good clues – 11, 12 & 28ac, 5 & 6dn. *Anne Simons*
- CROOKS and HOUNDS were excellent. *Rob Moline*
- APIARIES is a beauty – my choice for COTM! *Max Roddick*

February 3-2014: Cryptic by Jesso (Noel Jessop)

- My first thought was ascending scale – then ascending grade – finally found ascending order. *Nea Storey*
- 27ac (MARTINI). Great way to hide an anagram indicator. *Richard Skinner*
- 12ac: Do not understand "table marking" [Table marking is the D found on snooker and billiards tables – it's in Chambers: Ed] 15ac: It took me a long time to realise that chi was not the only Greek character in the clue. Eta was the one referred to. Liked "wolf" for ladies man (20ac) and two meanings of "about" in 22ac. *Tony de Gry*
- I always learn something new with a Jesso puzzle – a novel word (distich), an unknown painter (Morisot) – and there's even a foretaste of slot 6 in 14ac. *Kath Harper*
- 12ac: EASE+D where 'smooth' = EASE & D is a billiard table marking. 22ac: ON+RU+SH+ING where 'about'=ON, regretting =RU+ING & silence + SH. Thanks to Noel for an enjoyable challenging cryptic. *Alan Walter*
- As usual when you solve a Jesso clue you can be sure that the definition and indicators fit the answer. *Col Archibald*

- A lot of really good clues here. RETROGRADE STEP close to COTM. *Roy Taylor*
- Distich was another on my list. *Dale McManus*
- Always one unfamiliar word in Jesso's puzzles. "Distich" this time. *Margaret Davis*
- Challenging but fair – at first, thought 9dn was 'ascending scale'. *Anne Simons*
- Loved the topical Winter Olympics reference to Turin 2006. Not so keen on WIS, AIN & ORDER=PASS, Chambers notwithstanding. Had to guess then Google the table's D, hadn't thought of snooker. *Rob Moline*
- Liked HEADSET and INSIGHT. MORISOT was a new name to me but Jesso's well-constructed clue pointed the way to it. *Max Roddick*

February 4-2014: AJ by zinzan (Andrew Patterson)

- My vote for COTM: C, narrowly beating F. Andrew had lots of other good clues, which could be clearly parsed. However, I am looking forward to his explanations for A, X and Z. *Drew Meek*
- Sensational! The clue for IDIOT BOX is remarkable, warranting clue of the year! Involving all of the three A,B,C answers makes me wonder whether the whole purpose of this puzzle was to enable that masterful I clue. And the use of "discovered" in A – really, zinzan! *Len Colgan*
- Slot 4 was a little more difficult we felt than normal but we got there and enjoyed the journey. *Richard Skinner*
- Xenon and rare gas seem to be reasonable solutions, but the subsidiary clues to X "100, reactive" I find unexplainable [100 can be written as 10 + 0, ie X + NONE (reactive = reversed). Ed] as with "golf course" in R [R = ARE(G)A, S. ie Zone = area, restricting (enclosing) G (NATO Alphabet symbol is Golf) + S (course): Ed], and "Volunteers" in T [volunteers are Territorial Army, hence TA + BOOED: Ed] *Tony de Gry*
- I found this to be a solid A-J but some puzzling solutions (or, of course, my errors). Don't get the reference to Amin and apocalyptic horsemen. Don't see a direct correlation of ABC to Idiot Box – not all Lefties/greenies are Idiots. Xenon is a rare gas but r = restricted? zone = Areas?, G = Golf course? Please explain [Please see above and Explanations on p6: Ed] *Jim Fowler*
- An enjoyable AJ this month, with several clues challenging for COTM, including AMIN, CORRUPT, ZEALOUS. I think XENON is correct but I can't figure out why. *Ian Thompson*
- Lots of clever clueing here – typical zinzan! *Kath Harper*
- The X and B clues were cunning. *Lynn Jarman*
- 'The roar of the greasepaint, the smell of the crowd'. Great to see a return to a 'normal' AJ grid. Some tricky clues: only zinzan could have 'reactive' mean 'going backward'. *Tony Dobe*
- A: presumably one of the 4 horses of the Apocalypse is F+AMIN+E from which we extract the "dictator" AMIN. I: Presumably TV+IDIOT BOX. How does ABC seem to rudely equate to IDIOT BOX? Could the wordplay for N: NOAHS ARK be explained please? R: R+ARE+G+A+S. If R = restricted, zone = ARE&A, how does G+S = golf course? (G=Golf? S=Sweets?) V: VICE+GE+RENT+S appears to correctly fit the clue. VICE+RE+GE+NT+S does not properly fit this clue's wording. X: XENON is element but it is NOT reactive. 100=TON when 'reactive' = NOT? Please explain wordplay (as XENON atomic number = 54. *Alan Walter*
- Fairly difficult for an "AJ". Liked the I clue. *Col Archibald*
- An ultrahard AJ. VICEREGENT is tricky (VICEREGENT doesn't fit). KIDNAPS got my COTM. *Brian Symons*
- NOAH'S ARK very nice. V needed care (and a dictionary) to not write VICEREGENTS. Unsure of R? *Rob Moline*
- Loved a clue and answer for R & X! But so many fine clues – had trouble deciding on my COTM...ended up "heads or tails" between corrupt and wetnursed... *Dale McManus*
- I enjoyed this. I hope I am correct with BOTOX. *Margaret Davis*
- Another great AJ. R was last & am unconvinced it's right! I took an age to wake up to 'noahs ark'!! *Anne Simons*
- O that blessed AJ! They used to be easy – well, easier than this one. Had to take a punt at the NE corner. Was I right? *Max Roddick*

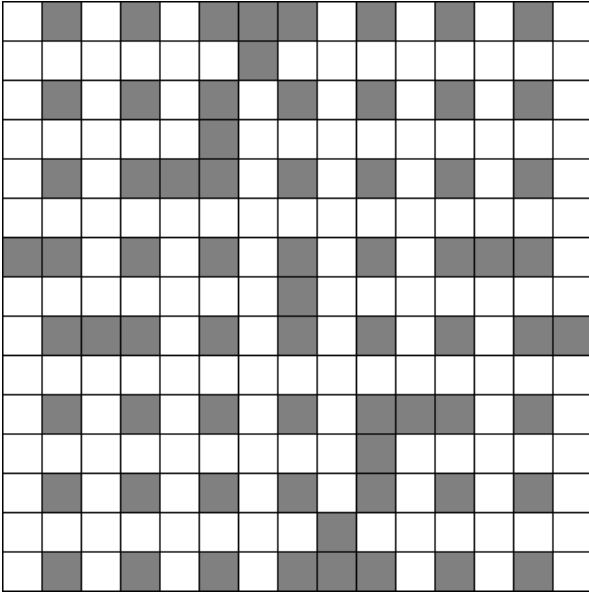
February 5-2014: Double Acrostic by Penobscot (Maurice Cowan)

- [Several solvers identified minor errors in the grid, for which we apologise, but they didn't appear to affect the accuracy of the solutions. Either H or C was accepted in the third occurrence of "Ecclefechan": Puzzle Ed]
- Penobscot promised, (Compiler Profile, CrOZworld August 2007) that his pseudonym stands for "guaranteed no Spens., no Obs. and no Scot..". A worthy aim, fallen by the wayside on this occasion, to our benefit. *Doug Butler*
- I remember learning "Road to the Isles" in one of the musical education programmes that the ABC used to run back in my primary school days! *Nea Storey*
- This was a magnificent challenge and a lovely theme. It took me several hours and a lot of map searching, but I always felt I was making progress. If I wasn't able to obtain letters from deducing words in the grid and from the instructions in the first letters of solutions, I may

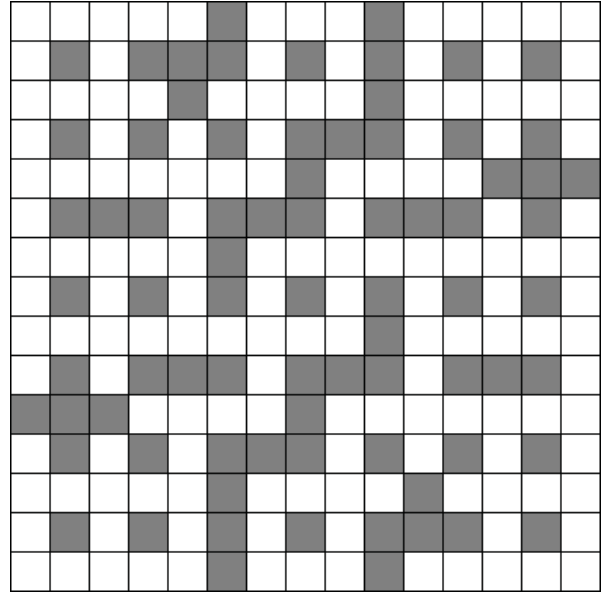
Send solution to: Ian Thompson,
1904 Malvern Road, Malvern East Vic 3145.
Closing mail date: Friday 11 April 2014.
NAME:



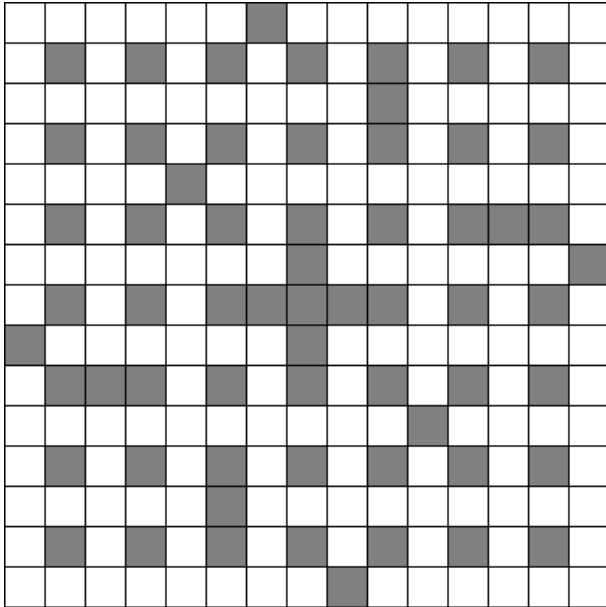
|M|A|R|C|H| |6| |2|0|1|4|



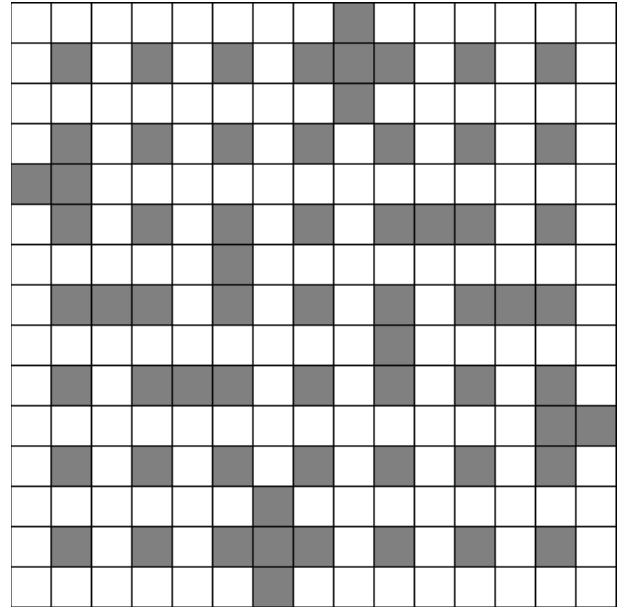
|M|A|R| |1| |2|0|1|4| NAME.....



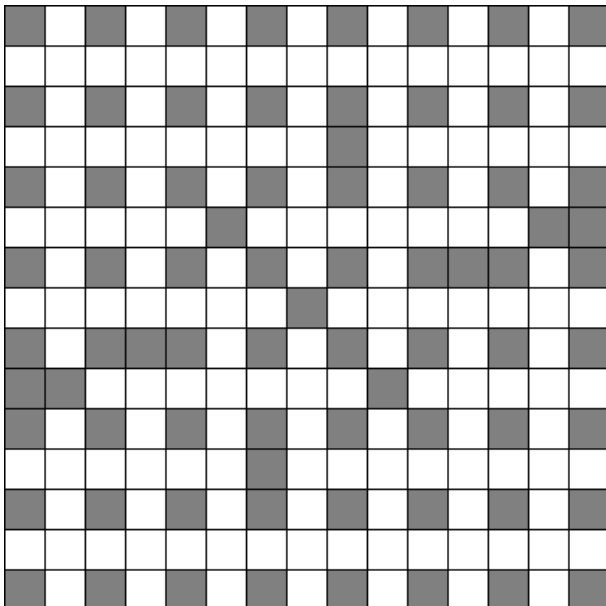
|M|A|R|C|H| |2| |2|0|1|4|



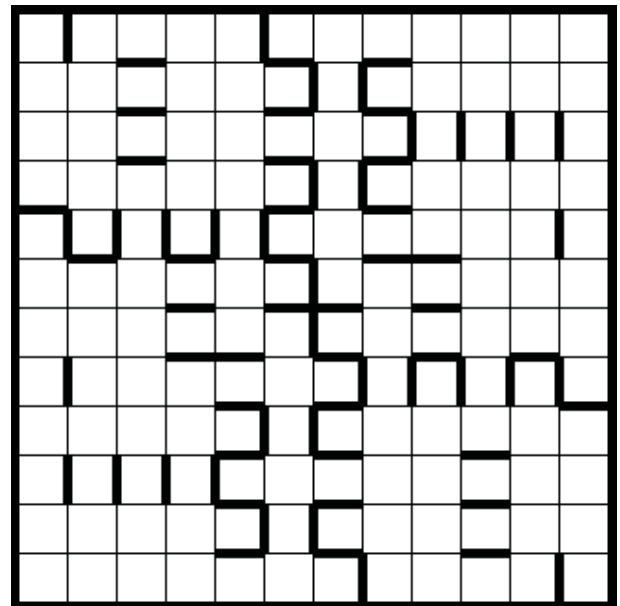
|M|A|R|C|H| |3| |2|0|1|4|



|M|A|R|C|H| |4| |2|0|1|4|



|M|A|R|C|H| |5| |2|0|1|4|



Clue of the Month

I may have been struggling to solve all the clues. *Ian Thompson*

• I was able to guess Ecclefechan in the citation grid before having confirmation from the clues. My father's mother's family were from there and I've visited. *Drew Meek*

• The Tune is *The Road to the Isles*. I would have been lost without some wee online help with this one. *Michael Kennedy*

• This one had us reaching for the references on a number of occasions but that only added to the challenge and the fun. *Richard Skinner*

• What fun! Now I want to go back to Scotland just so I can visit Ecclefechan and try some of its famous tart. *Kath Harper*

• Oh dear. My worst puzzle nightmare. An acrostic full of Scottish words and tiny Scottish places creating an unverifiable paragraph in a grid with occasional cross-referencing errors containing two spellings of the central location. If I didn't have a beer at stake, I would've skipped it. When are we banning Scottish/Spenserian/Ye Olde Worlde words? Sorry, however I appreciate the effort in compiling. *Andrew Patterson*

• In the grid I take unco brow to mean unusually fine in Scottish. [Both are in Chambers: Ed] *Tony de Gry*

• Thanks for the introduction to number 5. It's the first time I've attempted one and Scottish Isles are now definitely on my bucket list! *Lynn Jarman*

• What an absolute joy this was. The clever use of the clues using lochs mentioned in *The Road to the Isles* and the hint of the beautiful "Eriskay Love Lilt" had those sweet "unheard melodies" coursing through my brain. Just as well they were unheard, because I can't sing a note in tune. I also had to look up our old UK road map to find out where Ecclefechan was. Thanks for wonderful memories, *Penobscot!* *Robyn Caine*

• I truly admire *Penobscot's* puzzle-making acumen but after his latest couple I have to question his verse-making skills – sorry:) As always, great fun to solve. *Tony Dobe*

• Slot 5 may have been the hardest yet – or perhaps the least I've ever completed – are my cerebral cogs starting to grind down or was this the same for others? *Stephen Young*

• As much as I have enjoyed traipsing around the Scottish highlands, I just plain ran out of time to finish Slot 5. There are some really wonderful place names in the vicinity of "X"! *Alan Dyer*

• A deliberately time-consuming puzzle to solve as no word division bars are included in the answer grid. Far too many very unusual Scottish words like ECCLEFECHAN (3 times) with an incorrect H at square 165, UNCO BRAW in the grid & ACHNASHHELLACH, DUNTOON, THRAWN & ERISKAY in the clue answer grid. For D, 'an owl's hoot' is given in *Chambers* as the normally accepted TU-WHIT TU-WHOO definitely not spelt as TO WIT TO WOO in D's answer. It was pleasant to recall LOCHABER, LOCH RANNOCH & LOCH TUMMEL from *The Road to the Isles*. Have just realised the sense of the phrase, 'by Mike X-ray to Victor Zulu'. It implies the phonetic alphabet, by (answer to) clues: M, X to V, Z ie (Loch) Tummel is by (Loch) Rannoch & Lochaber to the Isle of Skye. The W clue does not need a misleading question mark as 'It's clue U giving' is an anagram not a question. Not a fair puzzle. *Alan Walter*

• This puzzle was a prime candidate for a slot 12 or above! Very few of the answers were to be found in the Club's standard references, *Chambers*, *Macquarie*, and *Collins* dictionaries and no reference was made to this fact. [It is not conventional to make such reference in relation to geographic or biographical entries – all other words are in *Chambers*, even "thrawn": Adj] Also the alternative spelling Echlefechan and Ecclefechan was off-putting even though the H was in place, the former is very hard to locate even with Google. Cleverly devised but a pain to solve! All hail to Achnashellach! *Col Archibald*

• If I have this right then one of the given letters is wrong or is it an intentional pun? *Brian Symons*

• WOW! I nearly gave up early, but glad I didn't. I learnt a bit about Scotland Highlands geography! A pity about 165 H which I presume is misprint. *Roy Taylor*

• I am sure they all exist, but not for me! Who would believe all hens cha cha in/is a village in Scotland! *Dale McManus*

• It is a long time since we had one of these. Can any long-term member remember who the compiler was who wrote doggerel like this for his Double Acrostics? (I think that was 'The Beast' – Kev Layton: VL)

Margaret Davis

• This one took the longest! The grid appeared to be full of gibberish until I discovered that Scottish town. *Anne Simons*

• What a hoot! An unco brow puzzle. *Ulla Axelsen*

• I really liked the STENCH of this. Otherwise not a fan of themes, obscure places, or obscure foreign (e.g. French/German/Scottish) words – this puzzle won the trifecta. H or C at 165? *Rob Moline*

• I cannot understand the H at 165. Also H answer ISLAY has the Y at 148 which should be at 48. Also the preamble says that punctuation after 10 and 43 should be inserted, however, I think that there should also be an apostrophe after N at 107. *Doreen Jones*

• What the ecclefechan was *Penobscot* thinking when he devised the slot 5? My 1965 edition of the *Shell Guide to Scotland* proved useful in solving this fiendish puzzle. *Peter Dearie*

• What a jolly marching song! That O clue, ACHNASHHELLACH! – sounds like someone forgot the varnish! *Max Roddick*

January 6-2014: Cryptic by Crowsman (Len Colgan)

Entries 70. Correct 60. Success rate 85.7%.

Prizewinner: Paula Mercer. Congratulations!

Adjudicator's Comments: Note that 20 14 is TWENTY FOURTEEN, representing the new year, and the words are in positions 20 and 14 respectively. The 2014 event venues are Brazil (Soccer World Cup), Glasgow (Commonwealth Games), Sochi (Winter Olympics). For 10ac, the definition "encourages" gives COAXES, while "car exhaust gas" is CO (carbon monoxide), and "cuts" is "axes". Neither CRAZES nor CEASES satisfies all components. Sorry! In 7dn, though linked by the clue, the answer is INCLEMENT, not INCREMENT. In 23dn, the medium of 20 14 is arithmetically 17 (SEVENTEEN), minus SEEN, giving EVENT. In 21ac, the definition is merely the first word "offensive" as a noun.

—Crowsman (Len Colgan)

Explanations: Across: 1 (s + usage + P) all rev; 5 bra + zil(lions); 8 clear + con + science; 9 anag; 10 CO + axes; 11 Fat(w)ah; 14 see above; 15 (h + sad + pals) all rev; 18 to + date; 20 see above; 21 bar rage; 24 in hospital + 1 + ties; 25 homophone of tenor; 26 tor(ment).

Down: 1 pa(L)in; 2 gas + glow, but with L moved; 3 so + chi; 4 send off; 5 back Court; 6 a + bey + ant; 7 increment, but swap L for R; 12 a + l(low)ance; 13 anag; 16 double def (twenty-one & lighter); 17 habit + at; 19 far(rev) inside anag of "teed"; 22 ouble def; 23 (s)event(een) (17 is medium of 20 & 14).

Solvers' Comments:

• Excellent misdirection and use of 20 14 in a variety of ways – none better than EVENT for me. ALLOWANCE was quite nice too. Thanks Len, I look forward to your next offering. *Bhawan Kasivajjula*

• The 20 14 device was a stroke of genius. Was "medium" correct usage (median)? No favourite – all excellent clues. *William Ryan*

• What a mind bender. Took me two days and can only hope that I have them all correct. A very clever topical theme. *Col Archibald*

• I liked the 20 14 theme, mainly because once we had discovered what it was, it helped with the solution. *Julie Leigh*

• This is a very impressive use of a theme, with clever use of the clue numbers. My favourite clues include GLASGOW (very clever clue linked to the theme), INCLEMENT (wonderful surface leading to the AHA! moment), and the clean surfaces for COAXES and ALLOWANCE. *Chris Bilkey*

• Thanks for your very testing puzzle. My favourites were TWENTY and FOURTEEN, CLEAR CON+SCIENCE, IN HOSPITAL+I+TIES, P+EGASU+S, CO+AXES & INCLEMENT. *Alan Walter*

• Another excellent puzzle. I look forward to more of your efforts in the year ahead – always challenging, but fair. *Roger Douglas*

• Happy Twenty Fourteen (so much better than the wordy non-traditional "two thousand and fourteen"). *Roy Taylor*

• Thank you for this very clever puzzle. It took a good while for the 20 14 clues to sink in, but when I got them I understood just what a clever puzzle it was. *Carole Noble*

• Very enjoyable. I like interlacing clues– adds to the thrill of the chase. *Ulla Axelsen*

• Great.... again. What's more to say? *Andrew Patterson*

• I admire your creativity with your puzzles, every one something different. This has a 2014 theme with the Commonwealth Games, Winter Olympics and FIFA World Cup events happening around the world. Particularly liked 23dn EVENT with its maths/stats flavour. Well done. *Tony Dobe*

• I particularly liked your clues for PONTOON and CLEAR CONSCIENCE. *Nea Storey*

• Thanks for your stimulating puzzle. A clever idea matching solutions to clue numbers. Being a sports follower, the word venue had me thinking along the lines of sports events before I figured out the 20 14 23. The word play that took me the longest to figure out was for EVENT. I didn't register medium as average for some time. All the clues were completely fair as usual. *Ian Thompson*

• Such a clever and timely puzzle. I loved the clues for BRAZIL and GLASGOW. And how brief and succinct was the clue for INHOSPITALITIES. *Bev Cockburn*

• You certainly have a great imagination and plenty of ideas for a different sort of crossword. *Graeme Cole*

• Thanks for another delightful puzzle. Your respect for surface sense is self-evident. It's hard to choose a favourite but FATWAH and TENNER are up there. *Michael Kennedy*

• It was a challenge, but once New Year came, TWENTY and FOURTEEN took on a clearer meaning and made solving SOCHI and GLASGOW much easier. "A weapon receiving poor maintenance" took a bit of figuring out also. It is all very clever. *Norma Heyes*

• Thanks, as ever, for a most enjoyable puzzle. Lots of clues that I liked, not least of which are 20,14 and associated clues. 23dn was very clever. *Jim Fowler*

• First Class puzzle, nice use of 2014 events. My pick INHOSPITALITIES. *Roy Low*

• As usual I enjoyed your excellent puzzle and admired your integration of current events into the clues and solutions. My favourite clue was 23dn EVENT – very neat, with a lovely distraction in the word play "not seen happening". *Susan Howells*

• A galaxy of well thought out clues. GLASGOW, SOCHI and BRAZIL lighting up the theme, with TORMENT, INCLEMENT and others brightening the background. What a skyful! *Max Roddick*

Quiz No 3/2014



by **InGrid**

Quiz 3/2014. SYLLACRYPTIC by *InGrid*.

Using the given syllables below, build answers to the following clues. The first (1-29) followed by the last (1-29) letters of the answers read downwards will spell out a quote. The number after the clue indicates the number of **syllables** required for the answer.

Send your solution to Jean Barbour, PO Box 290, Wonthaggi Vic 3995
e-mail: jeanb1405@gmail.com

Closing date: 11 April 2014. Book Prize.

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 A right step to the insurer strikes a chord (4) | 14 Final Greek love game lost (3) | 28 Unaffected by a turnaround with this man (3) |
| 2 Director sounds like labourer chasing short reptile (4) | 15 Classic art laid into wildly (4) | 29 Pest we lead into wickedness (2) |
| 3 The most buried stake? (3) | 16 Urge left nonsense (2) | |
| 4 Wreck dish containing mole stew (3) | 17 Provoke a territory struggle (4) | |
| 5 At last an occasion to turn a friend (5) | 18 Spy league tack perhaps (2) | |
| 6 Appetiser against old love (4) | 19 Irish police compel Scottish parent (2) | |
| 7 Fight over backward artist's fee (2) | 20 Smiley face maybe feeling cold inside (4) | |
| 8 Lots of victims, each lost before the vault (3) | 21 Bread for lost trio (2) | |
| 9 Permit cane crushed for payment (3) | 22 Hurt gone and finished (3) | |
| 10 Ligation spoilt pasta (4) | 23 Perfect end (3) | |
| 11 Symbol of one fool (2) | 24 Trace sound like crime cultivator (3) | |
| 12 Hot snitch holds mass (3) | 25 Popular queen with odd tribal stillness (3) | |
| 13 Drug officer holds bed for independent, producing sleep (3) | 26 Not the first blokes to lead the transfer (3) | |
| | 27 Shadow from a dumb radical (2) | |

Given syllables

A A AL AL AN AN ANCE AR BAND
BRA CON CON COND COT DA DE DI DRI
E E ED END ER EST GA GAR GAT GI
HEC I I IC IFF IN IN ING ISE LI LISH
LOW LY MATE ME MENT MO MO NAR
NAT NAV NI NOSE O O O OFF ON OR
PAS PEG RAL RO SCIN SE SWEL TAG
TAG TAR TER TER TI TI TI TI TIA TILL
TION TO TOMB TRA TU U UL UM VEL
VEN VIL WEE

Quiz 1/2014 Letter Enclosed by *Virgo* (Audrey Austin).

Solutions: 1. Alfred Molina 2. Arturo de Cordova 3. David Copperfield 4. David Coulthard 5. Dicky Bird 6. Eddie Irvine 7. Emily Bronte 8. Eric Close 9. Freddie Flintoff 10. Garry Shandling 11. Gillian Armstrong 12. Lauren Bacall 13. Lauren Bacall 14. Martin Balsam 15. Molly Meldrum 16. Neville Chamberlain 17. Nikki Newman 18. Norman Gunston 19. Ray Lawler 20. Renee Geyer 21. Roseanne Barr 22. Sarah Miles 23. Sid James 24. Steve Jobs 25. Theodore Roosevelt 26. Tom Skerritt.

Results: Winner: **Bev Cockburn**. Congratulations!

Correct: 26: Ulla Axelsen, Bev Cockburn, Jim Fowler, Barbara Glissan, Ray Gooderick, Kath Harper, Susan Howells, Barb Ibbott, Ann Jermy, Gabrielle Leeds, Julie Leigh, Andrew Miles, Eileen O'Brien, Helen Perrow, Brian Symons and Cheryl Wilcox; **25:** Peter Dearie, Doreen Jones, Carol Noble and Alan Walter; **24:** Sonia Roulston.

Adjudicator's comments: A gremlin caused 12 & 13 to have the same answer and the clue for 8 to be Grey Skies instead of Dark Skies but these were well handled by all entrants. The spelling of Dicky (Dickie?) Bird (5) and the status of Eddie Irvine (6) gave rise to comments but not incorrect answers. A couple of misspelt Nicky for Nikki Newman (17) resulted in lost points as did Robyn Archer for Renee Geyer (20). I think I'll have to attempt to solve these quizzes instead of just proofreading them before they go to print. Thanks again for the kind words and encouragement from the members.
—**Warren Allen**

Solvers' comments:

- Thanks for adjudicating Audrey's quiz. When I came to 12 & 13 I did a double take. Surely they can't both be Lauren Bacall, I thought. All the best for 2014. *Carole Noble*
- #5 I think it is usually spelt "Dickie." #6 I am not sure he owned an F1 team, although he did drive for Eddie Jordan, who was Irish (but from the Republic, not Northern Ireland) and who owned Eddie Jordan Racing. #8 "Dark Skies". *Andrew Miles*
- Thank goodness for the internet. I could only have answered 12 without its help. I've never heard of 7 of them. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Thanks, Audrey, for another of your well-researched quizzes. *Bev Cockburn*
- Thanks for taking on the adjudication of this *Virgo* quiz. I hope it hasn't been too arduous, especially with people like me suddenly realising that the solution completed weeks ago hadn't actually been sent yet. There are still a couple I'm uncertain about - in

particular the repetition of Lauren Bacall as the answer to 12 and 13. No one else seemed to fit. I've also assumed that the film referred to in 8 was supposed to be *Dark Skies* rather than *Grey Skies*.

Kath Harper
• I am a bit worried as I have 2 answers the same (12 & 13) which may be my lack of research!!! Also the answer to No 6 - I can only find Eddie Irvine but no record of him actually being a team owner (What the heck, *Wikipedia* doesn't know everything !!!)
Ann Jermy

• This quiz was more difficult than it first appeared. I know next to nothing about racing car drivers and struggled to solve those questions, but hopefully I have achieved the impossible. I am not sure if it was intended to have 12 and 13 with the same answers but Lauren Bacall seems to be correct for both. Incidentally, I remember Molly (Ian) Meldrum from primary school as his younger sister Prue was a little friend of mine. I don't know what happened to her as I lost touch. Thanks for taking on the job of marking the entries.
Barb Ibbott

• Happy New Year and thanks for the adjudication. As usual, an enjoyable exercise. A couple of concerns #6 - Eddie Irvine seems to fit alphabetically and he was an F1 driver. But a team owner? My sources won't give me that - Go karts or somesuch but not F1. Do I misread the clue or have I got the wrong chap? #8 Eric Close would appear to have been in *Dark Skies* not Grey. #12 and 13. Both seem to have to be Lauren Bacall. Perhaps she was schizzo? Or, again, I have dropped one. #15 Molly Meldrum took a bit of getting.
Jim Fowler

• Thank you for this. Have a query re Nos 12 & 13. Could only find Lauren Bacall to fit the given length of each name, 6,6 in both cases! So in she went! Trick question or misprint?
Eileen O'Brien

• This was clever and fun. A mixture of the 'known' and those which needed tracking down.
Gabrielle Leeds

• My solutions for Quiz 1/2014. Was pleased to finish with 26 answers. Although internet research was what was required it was not always straightforward, but did enjoy the challenge. Nicknames made some answers a little tricky and as for 12 and 13??
Cheryl Wilcox

• I was hoping to find an answer to every clue, but number 9 has me beat! Inspiration struck while writing this!
Peter Dearie

• #5 I can only find DICKIE BIRD spelt this way but, as it has the wrong number of letters, I have used the "DICKY" form in my answer. #12 and 13: However much I searched, I could not find anyone else in the cast of either of these two films who would be suitable here, so Lauren Bacall appears twice!
Susan Howells

January 7-2014:

Garden Variety by *Buzzer* (Bhavan Kasivajjula)

Entries: 46. Correct: 27. Success rate: 58.69%.

Winner: Gabrielle Leeds. Hearty congratulations!

Explanations:

Across: 1 (A PICASSO MONET)*; 8 BAL(-d) + M; 9 PANS<- + DRAG + ON; 10 ALDRIN (T); 11 OP(ERA)TIC; 12 (BUCKETS O C)*; 14 F + L + A + G; 15 P + (m-)JINK; 16 (SEE SMART)* + N; 20 ~BLEW BELL; 21 CO(S)ME + A; 23 AMA + RAN + THUS; 24 .A.L.O.E.; 25 (MRS SOCRATES)* around H.

Down: 1 CHAP + LET; 2 MI + MER; 3 A + SIREN* + C; 4 (OTHER HALF BEST ME)*; 5 (can-)OODLES; 6 .ANAG. + ..ALL. + ..IS.; 7 E + V + O + KING; 13 (R ENFORCER)*; 15 (COMPILE(-r))*; 17 Double def; 18 A(MEN<-)ONE; 19 T + .E.N + .N.I.S; 22 SHAKO (T).

Adjudicator's comments:

The problem with thematic puzzles is that they look a lot easier from the setter's side than the solver's. Especially since setters start with the answer and then frame the clue, it is often easy to forget how hard it can be the other way round. Add the complication of no definitions and the puzzle becomes harder and might even put some solvers off it altogether. So it is not surprising that the wrong answers were all mostly part of the undefined set. The most common one was 8ac. Many had PALM instead of BALM (There were a couple of BARMs too). I hope my clues were clear and not the source of ambiguity because of which these errors occurred. Hopefully my next puzzle will have better success. —*Buzzer* (Bhavan Kasivajjula)

Solvers' comments:

- The sudden discovery of the text box on the left about 12 of the clues made the solution much easier.

Ulla Axelsen

- Here is a setter that understands the importance of good surfaces! Terrific job! Nothing gives the game away as easily as a clunky surface. Yours are uniformly excellent, and the solver has to figure out the clue type on his/her own, which is as it should be. My favourite clues: 10ac: (ALDRIN) Simple construction, but made elegant and challenging by the excellent surface. 15ac: (PINK) Again, the surface makes it. 3dn: (ARSENIC) Besides the good surface, the clue uses the word/symbol As beautifully. All in all a great puzzle, although I have to say the botany was way beyond my unassisted reach!

Chris Bilkey

- What an enjoyable crossword this was. Lots of old favourites in the flora line, plus well clued new ones such as 'anagallis'.

Robyn Caine

- Really enjoyed your crossword and the clever & fair clueing. Some of the twelve clues were particularly difficult to find. ANAGALLIS was a very ingenious clue WHEN I eventually solved it. Actually I borrowed a library book (1800 different flowers) to assist me!

Graeme Cole

- Exceptional puzzle! Best was ANEMONE, closely followed by SNAPDRAGON, ALDRIN and ARSENIC. Keep them coming *Buzzer*!

Len Colgan

- I thought your 10ac was brilliant.

David Grainger

- My favourite clues were ALDRIN (nice misdirection) and OPERATIC (for its superb surface reading). ARSENIC and TENNIS weren't bad either.

Michael Kennedy

- COMPASSIONATE, ALDRIN & ARSENIC were all great clues!

Andrew Miles

- ALDRIN is a great hidden, the capital B deceptively

hidden – and almost your pseudonym. ALOE well-spotted, liked As = arsenic and the almost &lit India's sport = cricket. Great surfaces all the way through, very enjoyable, except... I hate plants in crosswords!

Rob Moline

- My favourite clue was Aldrin! Great puzzle.

Raoul

- Favourite clue was 19dn: very misleading!

Betty Siegmund

- Being a botanist, I had a bit of an advantage over most other solvers I think. I initially thought the theme was going to be Christmassy after I got CHRISTMAS ROSE and STAR OF BETHLEHEM. My favourite clues were 19dn TENNIS and 9ac SNAPDRAGON.

Ian Thompson

- What a mind-numbing slot 7 puzzle! Much liked your clues for SNAPDRAGON, BLUEBELL & ANEMONE. Your answer ANAGALLIS was very neatly hidden & not easy to determine.

Alan Walter

Solution to January 2014 Slot 7

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

Clue Writing Competition continued from p16

We used an unreliable used car for a vigorous campaign *½**
This is an anagram of *used car* as indicated by *unreliable*. It's accurately parsed and has a fun surface sense. The *we used an...* may seem superfluous, but in fact when it's read literally, it makes complete sense.

You sound scared silly by this campaign ***

This is an anagram of *scared* and the letter *u* (sounds like you), with *silly* being the indicator. The indirect *u* is unusual, but not that different to anagrams using indirect words for letters (Heart for H, Left for L etc.).

Scoring System:

	Poor	Satisfactory	Excellent
Definition	0	1	2
Secondaries	0	1	2
Fairness	0	1	2
Surface Reading	0	1	2
x-factor	0	1	2

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

Clue Writing Competition No 2/2014:

Write a clue for the word **BILLOW** (6).
Note: only one clue per person. Send your clue and explanation to the adjudicator Michael Kennedy, 27 Hennessy Lane, Figtree NSW 2525 or by email to: *manveru@bigpond.com*
Closing mail date: Friday 11 April 2014. Cash prize.

Results of the Clue Writing Competition: No 1/2014.

Write a clue for CRUSADE (7)

Adjudicated by Michael Kennedy

Definition of CRUSADE from *Chambers* (12th edition)

n any one of many medieval military expeditions under the banner of the cross to recover the Holy Land from the Muslims; any daring or romantic undertaking; concerted action to further a cause. **vi** to go on a crusade [Fr *croisade*, from Provençal *crozada*, from *croz*, from *L crux* a cross]

If you are losing sleep at night wondering how I conjure up a word, it's a strict combination of chance and caffeine levels. *Crusade* came from a book I just happened to be reading on the very subject (by Thomas Asbridge, if you're interested) but it did seem to offer a profusion of clueing options. I wasn't disappointed. The homophone was particularly popular but it's possible I won't be after my party-pooing pedantry. In total there were 21 crusaders with the victor being **Ulla Axelsen**, who I was also tempted to give an extra star just for having a fantastic name.

Middle East campaign sees United States in bed with deposed Left (7)

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

A concerted campaign to somehow curse DA! *½**

Those of you familiar with Friday's cryptic crossword by the singular DA would be well aware of his polarising puzzles. This clue uses an anagram of *curse DA* as indicated by *somehow*. Obviously this clue is tailored for a relatively small audience, but it does work really well.

A cursed tumultuous campaign to regain holy land *½**

It was surprising that this particular anagram *a cursed* wasn't used more often. With a fitting, albeit obvious definition, the compiler has chosen an apt indicator to provide an accurate description of The Crusades in general. The two consecutive adjectives should be separated by a comma. Perhaps it would have been preferable to place a different anagram indicator (e.g. preparing, arranging etc.) at the front of the clue.

Campaign against evil State in primitive housing ***

Put SA (South Australia) inside *crude* (primitive), and there you have it. It's nicely parsed and I particularly like the use of *housing* to indicate containment. The surface sense is slightly strained as it sounds like the campaign is literally going on inside primitive housing, rather than a campaign against it.

Campaign to have used car wrecked! ***

This (used car) was a popular anagram, here indicated fittingly by the word *wrecked*. The surface reading makes sense, even if a campaign to have a single car *wrecked* seems a little over the top.

Campaign to reform used Car Law **

This is very similar to the above clue with another anagram of used car. The surface reading is excellent, but unfortunately this is at the expense of the superfluous word *law*.

Compass suggested, perhaps, for campaign ***

This is the first of several homophones for *crew's aid*. Others may disagree, but *crews aid* (and its variants) is not a *perfect* homophone, as *crusade* is pronounced as *croo sad*. I also don't think *suggested* is adequate as a homophone indicator, as it's *suggested* only after you hear it.

Concerted movement will result when I am excluded from leisurely movement about promotion **½

This is a finely parsed clue with I being removed from *cruise* (leisurely movement) around AD. The surface sense, however, is lacking substance. While there's a notion of being upset about not getting a promotion, the *leisurely movement* doesn't seem to fit well.

Drive used car around ***

The *used car* gets another run, but this time with the clever addition of *drive*, which can also mean 'an organised campaign'. Besides lacking a bit of flair, there's nothing wrong with this clue.

European wine class and aristocratic libertine of French is lost cause **½

This tough charade clue combines CRU (French wine class) and DE SADE (aristocratic libertine) minus DE (of French is lost). I do admire the way the compiler has kept the French theme running through the clue, and also the well-disguised definition. However, I'm not convinced by the surface reading. For one, you would want to say *of France*, not *of French*. I'm also left wondering how a lost cause results from a class of wine and a debauchee – I would have thought the contrary.

Hostile mission accomplished with drunken sailors assistance **

This is another homophone clue of *crews aid*. While someone who is drunk is more likely to actually pronounce *crusade* in this manner, again there is no specific homophone indicator.

Jack Reacher's star helper heard:- "Onward Christian Soldiers, marching as to war..." **

This clue requires a combination of movie trivia, a good ear, and some history knowledge. *Jack Reacher* is a character played by Tom Cruise in the movie of the same name. Together with his helper we have that non-perfect homophone of *cruise aide*. In any case it would read as *cruise's aide*. I like the definition, even if it's a touch lengthy. It's taken from the 19th century hymn *Onward Christian Soldiers*, and I'm fairly certain didn't feature in *Jack Reacher*.

Middle East campaign sees United States in bed with deposed Left ****

This is US inside CRADLE (bed) without the L *deposed left*. The definition, while specific, harks back to the origin of the crusades. The exceptional parsing melded with the logical surface sense, makes this clue the standout this month.

Mission arose in rough surroundings of South Australia **

The parsing aims to make an anagram of *arose* around SA. While I can follow the compiler's intention, the indications need revising, as the anagram indicator is not the correct tense. Something like *Mission arose roughly around South Australia* would be more accurate.

Mission cook cared about us *½**

This is an anagram of *cared about us*. A very simple clue with a cleverly disguised definition. The surface reading also makes sense, although it does lack a little pizzazz.

Movement of used car **

An anagram of *used car* as indicated by *movement*. The perceptive amongst you will have immediately noticed that *movement* is doing double duty, as it also serves as the definition. For pedantic grid-huggers like me, this is a no-no, unless of course it's integrated into an &lit style clue. Alas, there's nothing to suggest a crusade in the surface reading.

Richard's campaign echoes Tom's travel assistant ***

This is a reference to Richard the Lionheart, who was involved with the Third Crusade. It's also another homophone of *cruise aide*, and is indicated by *echoes*. This is quite clever (deliberate or not), as it implies a sound that reminds one of something else, thereby getting around the fact that it's not a perfect homophone. However, *Tom's* would suggest *Cruise's*, not *Cruise*. There's also the argument about whether it's okay to use people still alive but there's no hard and fast rule for this even if *The Times* don't allow it.

Some dressed as urchins, returning from war *½**

This is an accurately parsed reverse-containment clue. This was not just the only containment clue, but one in reverse. I also like the imagery of some crusaders (particularly the non-knights) returning from a campaign worse for wear.

Sounds like ship's company has help for the battle ***

This is another *crews aid* homophone. While I'm still riding the non-perfect homophone bandwagon, I do like *ship's company* for *crew* as it circumvents the 'S' addition on some of the other homophone clues. The surface reading is impeccable.

State engulfed in filth on excessive start to campaign ***

South Australia (SA) gets another guernsey inside *crud* (excessive) on E. if the E could have been more accurately indicated (e.g. *with start of electoral...*), this clue would have contended for the top prize.

[continued on p15]