

October 2026 Slot 1 by NanaKat

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Across

- 1 Beat rhythmically (4)
- 4 Queensland rugby union team (4)
- 7 Small Turkish coin (4)
- 10 South American country (4)
- 11 Beginnings, informally (6)
- 12 Father, in baby talk (4)
- 13 Landlocked African republic (4)
- 14 Scrutinise (4)
- 15 Above (4)
- 17 Burning the midnight oil (2,4)
- 19 Period of three months (9)
- 22 Ciphers (5)
- 24 Offered in a hairy handshake! (4,3)
- 26 Disinters (7)
- 29 A lively party, quaintly (5)
- 31 Oysters and abalone (9)
- 33 Not switched off (4,2)
- 36 Kept cold (4)
- 38 Chattel; upright (4)
- 39 Wail (4)
- 40 Grandmother, informally (4)
- 41 Oenologist's milieu (6)
- 42 Area of restricted entry (2-2)
- 43 Remainder (4)
- 44 Sold with any/all faults (2,2)
- 45 Mast (4)

Down

- 1 Diminished passage captured by instrument (8)
- 2 Refreshing to feel optimistic over courting (8)
- 3 A thousand consume flesh (4)
- 4 Best to ignore model revealing backside! (4)
- 5 Thin cover mounted on vehicle (6)
- 6 Fixes up cut (4)
- 7 Upright job (4)
- 8 Get-up for wild dances (6)
- 9 Irritates speakers when time is cut (6)
- 16 Strong bowling session at opening of pitch cover (9)
- 18 Problem drinker has juice with ice, mostly (9)
- 20 Large settlements draw Poles (5)
- 21 About the night before; it's official (5)
- 23 First lady again missing from '21' (3)
- 25 '*American Biscuit*' endlessly produces rock (3)
- 27 Spies' secret delivery place, post fall (4,4)
- 28 A glass of beer? Rather be around church! (8)
- 29 Snag old car (6)
- 30 Suspension device initially lacking permits (6)
- 32 Shy one upset sweethearts (6)
- 34 Adjust for rising tide (4)
- 35 Lady's finger found in park office counter (4)
- 36 Popular partners at Bridge Hotels (4)
- 37 For example, good origin of species! (4)