



No 436 SEPTEMBER 2026



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"Words are, of course, the most powerful drug used by mankind." Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936)

LAST MONTH'S RESULTS

Puzzle No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Compiler	Leprechaun	REW	NanaKat	Valkyrie	Crowsman	Robespierre	Crowsman
Entries received	86	92	82	88	73	72	75
Correct entries	65	89	44	64	62	56	56
Percentage	75.6	96.7	53.7	72.7	84.9	77.8	74.7
Prizewinners	Anne Young	Cheryl Wilcox	Ro Ducker	Wendy Cornish	Stephen Matthews	Brian Symons	Coryn Anderson

Slots 1 to 5 all correct 25 members:

Winner: Karl Audrins

Winner of Quiz: Mark Woolston

Winner of July Clue Writing Competition: Jenny Wenham

Congratulations to all our winners!

FROM THE ADJUDICATOR

A very interesting line-up of puzzles this month, each Slot offering its own challenges. Completion rates ranged from quite low to almost 100%. Typographical errors accounted for a number of lost dots, a reminder to use the ACCOLADE spell-checker! As a first-time adjudicator, I encourage other members to take a turn at adjudication. It's not a difficult task, and you will receive all the support that you need - as well as getting a behind-the-scenes peek at how everything works!

SLOT 1 This tricky warm-up proved to be more of a struggle than solvers anticipated. Some felt that a number of the non-cryptic clues could have been more specific, particularly when cross-referenced. Both DECORATE or RENOVATE led to the required DROPSHEET, but variations to the latter accounted for a number of lost dots. Although CONNEMARA is a *region* in County Galway rather than a county in its own right, no dots were lost on this clue. A number of enjoyable solves, according to feedback, and a challenging start to the month.

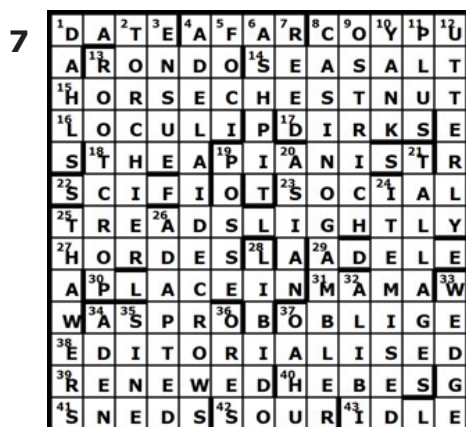
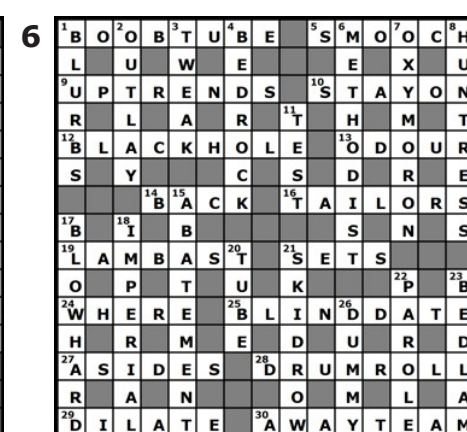
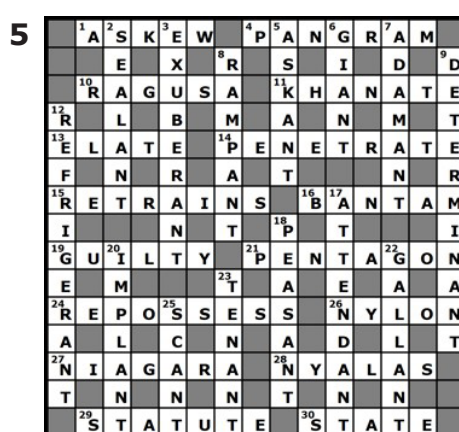
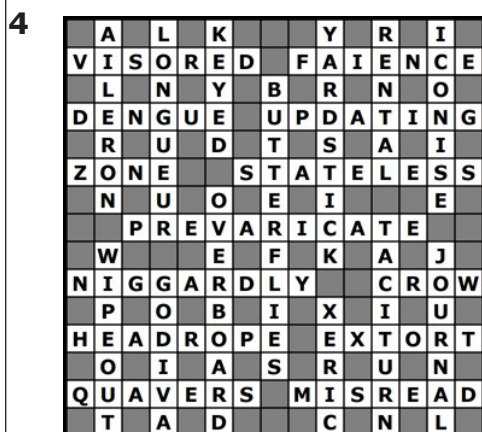
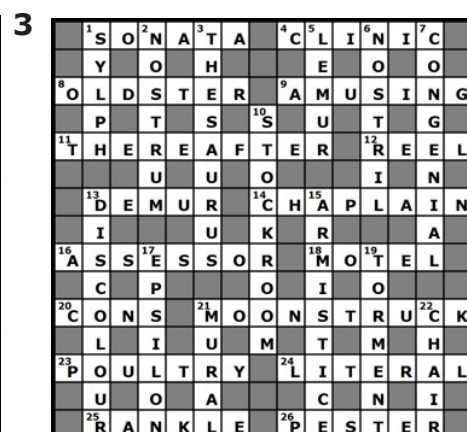
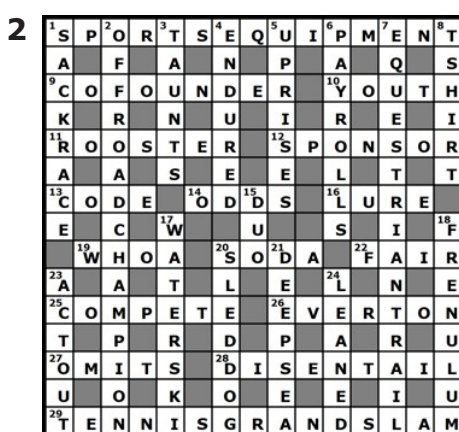
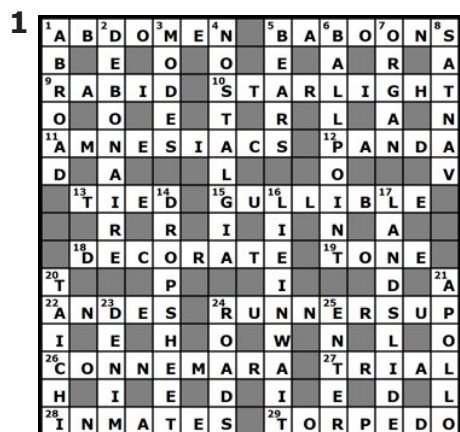
SLOT 2 After the work-out provided by Slot 1, solvers had little trouble successfully completing Slot 2. This collaborative puzzle had an outstanding success rate of 97%. The sporting theme was noted - waterskiing, sack races, tennis, horse-riding, off-road driving/cycling - even a SLED DOG appeared in the grid, ready for the Iditarod! This trio of compilers made teamwork pay off this month.

SLOT 3 Accounting for the low success rate of just over 50%, sixteen solvers were stumped by 23a and entered BOILERS rather than POULTRY. The clue, *Dictator's worthless chooks!* obviously presented problems for many. Perhaps the use of 'dictator's' as an indicator for the rather approximate homophone of the implied "paltry" was the culprit, or the four unchecked letters? Alternatively, perhaps the definition needed to be more specific: 'chooks and turkeys'? CONS was incorrectly identified as TOTS in a number of instances. In spite of these stumbling blocks, it was judged an enjoyable puzzle.

Continued on Page 13

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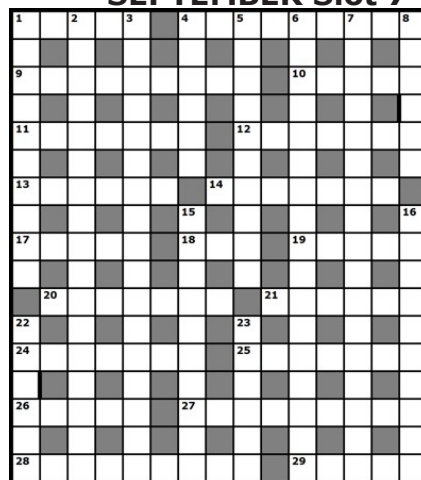
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SEPTEMBER Slot 7



Name

GRIDATORIAL

Another month – where does the time go? Is Christmas on the horizon again?

To herald the coming of Spring we have a selection of puzzles that we know you will enjoy. A half and half bequeathed to us by Nigrum Cattus leads the way followed by Lexi Conner with one of his solvable slot 2 creations. A blast from the past in the form of one of Jesso's masterpieces will be found in slot 3. The ever-popular AJ this month is provided by the maestro, Manveru, which will test your jigsaw skills as well as your solving ability. They are always easier if you make the right choice of the position of the 11-letter clues! KA will test your lateral thinking in a number of the clues in his slot 5 and, in slot 6, T-boy demonstrates his skills at dreaming up the intricate clues needed for his trademark 15-letter words. Two of our experienced setters come together to exercise your grey matter as Anon in slot 7. Fraz presents a challenge this month with 6- and 7-words in a new series of his symmetrical word squares. Ideal to solve while your coffee is hot! KA appears yet again with a rather different quiz to round off the month's enjoyment.

Thanks this month to Ken Davis and Tony Dobe, who answered our recent call for back-up puzzle editors. We still have room for more if you wish to play one of the more significant roles in the Club. We're also running a little short of quizzes, so would welcome any contributions to maintain our high standard of cerebral enjoyment. Thanks also to all the other members who have contributed to this issue. Happy puzzling through September.

Ian



MEMBERS' RESULTS FOR AUGUST 2026 SLOTS 1 to 7



MEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	MEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	MEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Abbott P.								Grainger D.								Parsons D.							
Allen W.								Graves C.								Patterson A.							
Anderson C.								Hagan R.								Peach S.							
Audrins K.								Harper K.								Pinder S.							
Axelsson U.								Hearn R.								Randall J.							
Barbour J.								Hocking A.								Rosendorff D.							
Barnes J.								Horadam K.								Roulston S.							
Batum C.								Howat S.								Ryan W.							
Bennett D.								Jarman L.								Sanson G.							
Bettles K.								Jarman R.								Shield A.							
Blake M.								Jones G.								Siegman B.							
Carroll L.								Kennedy L.								Simons A.							
Cockburn M.								Kennedy M.								Simpson F.							
Colgan L.								Lankshear J.								Skinner R.							
Cooté P.								Lee C.								Smith J.							
Cornish W.								Leigh J.								Steinberger M.							
Cromer H.								Madden J.								Storti A.							
Crowe J.								Martin A.								Symons B.							
Dasgupta K.								Martin F.								Tarnow-Mordi R.							
Davis K.								Matthews S.								Taylor R.							
Dobele T.								McClelland C.								Taylor S.							
Ducker R.								McKenzie I.								Thomas C.							
Dyer A.								McKenzie R.								Thompson I.							
Evans J.								McLean J.								Wilcox C.							
Fitzgerald M.								McLeay T.								Williams K.							
Flinkenberg C.								McLelland C.								Wimbush R.							
Forward K.								Meek D.								Wood J.							
Fowler J.								Miles A.								Woolston M.							
Francis K.								Millard A.								Yeatman R.							
Gamble K.								Milton R.								Young A.							
Garner P.								Moline R.															
Goodman S.								Morris B.															

A	C	C		
	R			
	O	Z		
O	Z			
	W			
N	O	T	E	S
	R			
	L			
D				

Explanations for August Slots 1 to 7 Note: cd = cryptic definition; dd = double definition; rev or < = reversal; homophones are noted as "homoph" and words from which they are derived may be shown in quotes; anagrams as anag. if straightforward, or (NNNN)*. "Heads" or "Tails" are first or last letters of part of a clue; letters forming solutions are normally written as capitals and removals as lower case; hw or hidden = hidden word. Explanations provided by individual compilers may vary from this format.

Slot 1 Leprechaun. Across: 5 Heads of "B+A+B+O+O+N+ S", 9 Insertion "RA+B+ID", 12 Cryptic, 13 dd, 19 hw "DUET+TO NE+CESSARILY", 22 anag "DANES", 26 CON+(anag* "NEMA")+RA, 27 Subtraction "TRI+B+AL", 28 IN+MATES, 29 anag "PET DOOR". **Down:** 1 A+BROAD, 3 IM+MODES+TY, 4 anag "SAINT OLGA", 23 Reversal "MINED", 24 Homoph "RHODES", 25 ENT+ER.

Slot 2 REW. Across: 1 SPORTS EQUIPMENT , 9 CO(n)FOUNDER, 10 YOU+TH(ought),

11 ROOST+EldeR, 12 hidden, 13 C[(DO)<]E, 14 cd, 16 (RULE)* [type of tackle = lure n. = fishing equipment], 19 acrostic, 20 hidden, 22 dd, 25 COM(PET)E, 26 (EVER+TON) [Def - Everton F.C. nickname 'The Toffees'], 27 vOMITS, 28 (I+TIE+LANDS)*, 29 cd. **Down:** 1 'to get rid of' = SACK+RACE, 2 OFF+ROAD+CHAMPION, 3 T+AUNT'S, 4 &lit (UNDER+ED)*, 5 UP+RISES, 6 P(A+YR)OLLS, 7 E+QUEST+(RAIN)* [TRAIL=dog], 8 (HIS+T(a)RT)*, 15 [(I)OUD]<, 17 WATER + (oIKS)<, 18 (FUN+LUMUR)*, 20 (DODGES+L)*, 21 DEEP diSEase, 23 A+C+TOUT, 24 LEARNED.

Slot 3 NanaKat. Across: 1 HIDDEN, 4 CL(IN<)ICK, 8 (STERoiD + L)*, 9 DD, 11 ANAG (THREAT FREE)*, 12 (LEER)<, 13 (RUM+ED)<, 14 CH+A+PLAIN, 16 ASSESS+OR, 18 MOT+EL, 20 DELETION, 21 MOONS+TRUCK, 23 HOMOPHONE (PALTRY/POULTRY), 24 LITTORAL homophone LITERAL, 25 R + ANKLE, 26 ANAG. **Down:** 1 SYL + PH, 2 NO + STRUM, 3 T(HES)AURUS, 5 (RUM + EL)<, 6 NOSTRum+IL, 7 CONGENI(t)AL, 10 STOCK + ROOM, 13 DIS + (HOMOPH HUGH/HUE) COLOUR, 15 ANAGRAM, 17 HIDDEN, 19 TOR(MEN)T, 21 (LA + RUM)<, 22 C+HAIR.

Slot 4 Valkyrie. A Reverse hidden, **B** B+UTTER+FLIES, **C** Double, **D** DEN+G+U+E, **E** EX+TORT, **F** F(AI)ENCE, **G** GO+DIVA, **H** RED HOPE <> HEADROPE, **I** I+CONciSE, **J** JO+URN+A+L, **K** K+EYED, **L** LIQUEUR - change IQ to O+N+G, **M** MISs + homophone of REED, **N** (DRAG + GIN)< + LuminarY, **O** IOVERBoy + A+R+D, **P** (PRIVATE CARE)*, **Q** Q+U+AVERS, **R** RE(NT)AL, **S** S+TATE+LES+S, **T** (UNARTISTIC - IS)*, **U** U+P+D+(GIANT)*, **V** VI(S+OR)ED, **W** WI+ P(E)OUT, **X** REX< +I+C, **Y** YARD+STICK, **Z** Z+rOuNdEd.

Slot 5 Crowsman. Across: 1 ASK + WE<, 4 PANG + RAM, 10 (A + SUGAR)<, 11 K(HAN)ATE, 13 ((lov)E + TALE)<, 14 PRATE around (E + NET), 15 RE(s)TRAINS, 16 BAN + MAT<, 19 cd, 21 (PEN + ON) around TAG, 24 POSSES in RES(t), 26 N + ONLY*, 27 (A + R + AGAIN)<, 28 N(ast)Y + ALAS, 29 STATU(The)E, 30 dd. **Down:** 2 SEAL, 3 EX + UBER, 5 ASK, 6 GI, 7 ADAM, 8 RAMP, 9 DEN around (TERM I), 12 REF(RIG)ER, 17 AT + TEND, 18 PEAS, 20 IMPL(y), 22 GALL, 23 TEN, 25 S(pecifi)C.

Slot 6 Robespierre. Across: 1 BOOB, TUBE, 5 MOO, C(leavage) inside SH, 9 RT inside UP, ENDS, 10 S(eparatis)T, AY, NO rev., 12 BLACK, HOLE, 13 (DUO)* inside OR, 16 AIL inside TORS, 19 LAMB, AS, T(hyme), 21,14 SETS rev. hidden, 24 WHEE <> (examine)R, 25 [IN BED, TAD L(iaison)]*, 27 AS, IDES, 28 DROLL <> RUM, 29 (DETAIL)*, 30 AWAY, TEAM. **Down:** 1 BLUR, BS, 2 cd, 3 W(ing) inside (TAKE)*, 4 BED, ROCK, 6 METHS, T <> ODI, 7 O(lympics), XY, MOON <> R(ace), 8 [RUSHES, (i)NT(o)]*, 11,20 BUTTS rev. inside TEE, 15 AB, ATE MEN, (i)T, 17 BLOW HARD, 18 IMP, (th)E, LAIR rev., 21 SKI, (WORD)*, 22 PAR, OLE, 23 BEAM <> (turne)D, L, 26 dd.

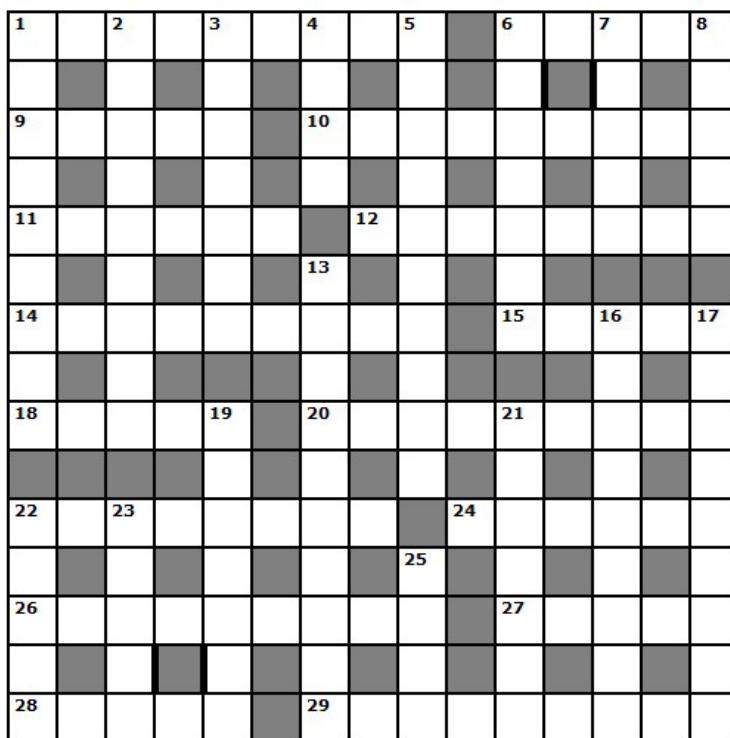
Slot 7 Crowsman. Across: 1 dd, 4 (s)AFAR(i), 8 COY + UP<, 13 R + ON + DO, 14 homoph of 'see' + SALT, 15 CHESTNUT HORSE, order swapped, 16 L + OCULI, 17 D(ruggie) + IRKS, 18 THE + A(ssam), @lit clue, 19 P(SINAI<)T, 22 homoph of 'psi phi', 23 SO(CIA)L, 25 TREAD(SLIGHT)LY, 27 RHODES with R moved back two places, 29 ADEL(aid)E, 30 P(LACE)IN, 31 M(an)AMA, 34 AS + PRO, 37 (Bert + LOGIE)*, 38 TIDE< + OR + DAILIES*, 39 RENE + WED, 40 (t)HE BES(t), 41 (S + DENS)<, 42 SOUR(ce), 43 dd. **Down:** 1 DAHL(ia)S, 2 TORCH(I)ER, 3 ENSU(r)E, 4 LAID in (A + DEE + CROWS), 5 OF< + C + I, 6 A + S(H)PIT, 7 DEER<, 8 CASIN(O)G + AMBLER, 9 ÖSTERREICH, deleting 'ere', 10 dd, 11 PLUS(h), 12 UTTER + L(ad)Y, 13 PROCTOR* around O, 19 PO(S)SE, 20 A + SI(A)N, 21 TALL + AGES, 24 IT + DEMISE*, 25 WREATHS*, 26 AD(TAPE*)D, 28 L(IBID)O, 32 A + LIBI(do), 33 W + EDGE, 34 A + DEN, 35 SIN + E, 36 dd, 37 (t)O A HU(t).

Slot 1

Half & Half
by
Nigrum Cattus



Across clues are normal 'quick' crossword style. Down Clues are cryptic.



Across

- 1 Not a pressed man! (9)
- 6 Messenger (5)
- 9 Conduct (5)
- 10 Honesty (9)
- 11 Glory (6)
- 12 Advocacy (8)
- 14 Pleasant (9)
- 15 Cavities (5)
- 18 Boredom (5)
- 20 Circle (9)
- 22 Evaluate again (8)
- 24 Mental disposition (6)
- 26 Religious leader (5,4)
- 27 Consumed (5)
- 28 Manner (5)
- 29 Memorial (9)

Down

- 1 Have focus changing grant (9)
- 2 Look girl, smile! there's lots to sing about in this (9)
- 3 Rudely run true to form (7)
- 4 Stop! Caught out with no trouble (4)
- 5 Note new article on view about cocaine re-emergence (10)
- 6 Tumour anatomised craftily? It's missing! (7)
- 7 Advances profits (5)
- 8 Setback after Liberal got essentially faithful (5)
- 13 Started job making articles of artistic value (6,4)
- 16 Stormy, far too wet for couple ordering drinks? (3,3,3)
- 17 Ran causes illegally with conviction the outcome (9)
- 19 Displaying anger about false spin? Just take a deep breath! (7)
- 21 Dreamers adopting old cats (7)
- 22 Commencing regular injections decreases epileptic seizure cycles (5)
- 23 Debase everybody? Indeed! (5)
- 25 Settled for calcium lime alternately (4)

**SEND
SOLUTIONS
TO:**

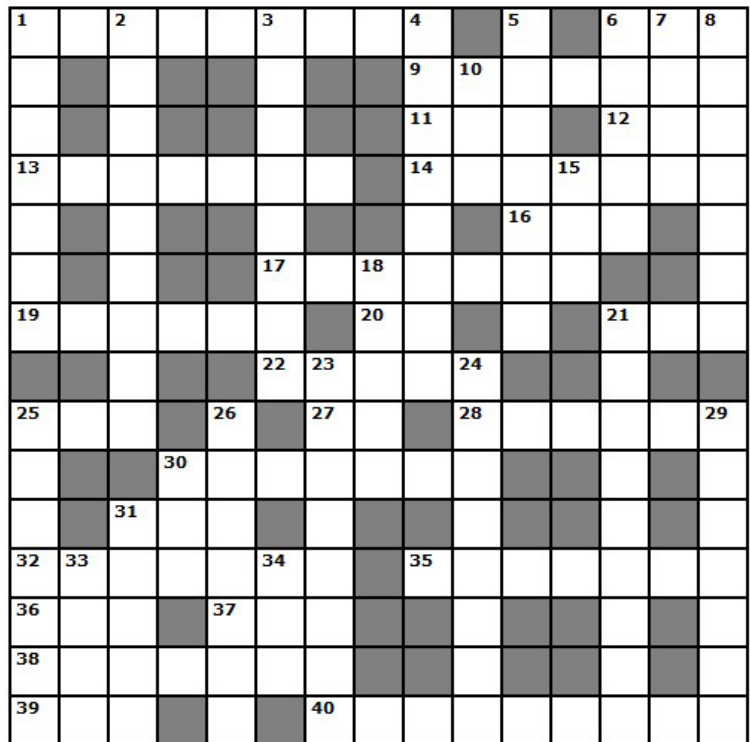
For online submission and adjudication, click on the **ACCOLADE** button on the www.crosswordclub.org home page.
All slots 1 to 7 should be submitted using **ACCOLADE** or posted to
Andrew Patterson 372 Great North Rd, Abbotsford NSW 2046

**BLANK
GRIDS
PAGE 17**

**Closing mail date for all puzzles is September 25, 2026.
ACCOLADE entries close at 00.01**

Slot 2

Cryptic
by
Lexi Conner



Across

- 1 Curvy well-formed nude adult (9)
- 6 Gin mix from Saigon is a cracker! (3)
- 9 Let everyone with a ring marry (7)
- 11 Regret hearing a marsupial cut down (3)
- 12 Interior designer provided shelter for Kimberley runner (3)
- 13 Bush grew here displaying morning flower (7)
- 14 Frighten noisy bird seen in Hong Kong area (7)
- 16 *Lasseater's Last Ride's* author's first draw off a popular entertainment (3)
- 17 Report of a business relationship (7)
- 19 Begrudges when envisages being without sink (6)
- 20 How short was this Vietnamese statesman? (2)
- 21 Vehicle in westbound advance (3)
- 22 Reckless news media need not identify Hindu teacher (5)
- 25 Friend describes receding circuit (3)
- 27 Omit it from mantra (2)
- 28 Iraqi perhaps pursues a little science to identify beetle (6)
- 30 Unorthodox homeopaths shun the cleansing liquid (7)
- 31 Eggs delivered in line as discussed (3)
- 32 Disturbed woman filled unloaded shotgun pointed at wintry figure (7)
- 35 Bet on record accumulation (7)
- 36 Crocodilian can be put off target (3)
- 37 Maori tribe decapitated New Zealander (3)
- 38 Glamorous launch for young ladies' spectacles (7)
- 39 "Born around the early part of night", the poet wrote (1'2)
- 40 Plan to reverse car (9)

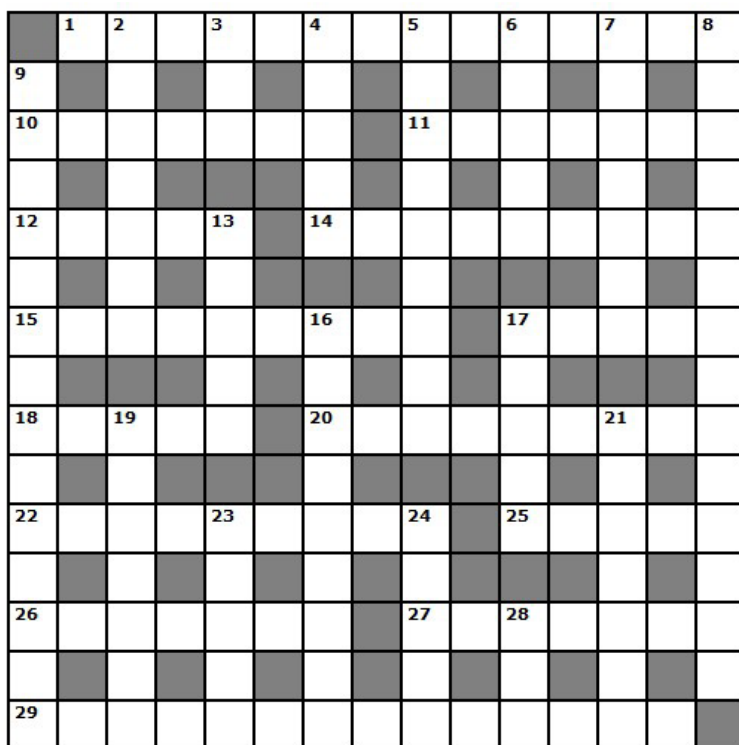
Down

- 1 Britain anticipates deluge with entry of Europeans to the country (7)
- 2 Challenge lived up to create an adventurer (9)
- 3 Are old type budding sculptors learning together? (3,5)
- 4 Mark door spilling into development facility (8)
- 5 Blushing, Glenfield disposed of rifle before being in debt (7)
- 6 Court in outside session due to blackout (5)
- 7 Alternately, makes room for aircraft (4)
- 8 Free safe and sound with no fauna could produce unusual character (7)
- 10 Playing card missing when looking for a game (3)
- 15 The whole parcel (3)
- 18 Bite the winner (5)
- 21 Balance or collapse in Olympic Games site (9)
- 23 Effeminate desire to embrace sultanate (8)
- 24 Obstetricians contrived to avoid tents with equal atmospheric pressure (8)
- 25 Move on to mature channel (7)
- 26 Revolutionary film discovered by scientist (7)
- 29 City requires lender to receive German approval (7)
- 30 Grunter showed he'd gone to disseminate (3)
- 31 Candle for the blind? (5)
- 33 Penniless writer disembarked ship exiting the river (4)
- 34 Wonder how rock sounds (3)

GENERAL FEEDBACK FOR AUGUST

- Thank you for my Slot 6 prize last month! *Robert Hagan*
- Thank you for my Slot 5 prize which is greatly appreciated. *Laurence Kennedy*
- Can I submit a COTM when I haven't solved the puzzle? [Yes, it can be submitted with **any** completed puzzle - Ed] *Jan Wood*
- I was disappointed to have to use a magnifier to read Members' Results for July. *Lynn Jarman*

Slot 3

Cryptic
by
Jesso

Across

- 1** A musician's agreement with black birds in hell (7,7)
10 Oh, you, say, left malicious version for Muslim (7)
11 Conservative, a philosopher, with a girl ... (7)
12 ... and another girl has returned carrying annual return (5)
14 Muse tried out for Greek sculptor (9)
15 Left current unit with prohibited pigment (9)
17 Selects faulty scull (5)
18 Composer puts the last letter in catalogue (5)
20 Old revolutionary element to stir up, lacking employment (9)
22 Cassette in wagon on crest (9)
25 Stock sound timber (5)
26 King unbends, declining massage! (7)
27 Doctor takes forty winks in French island in the rain (7)
29 Inspect nails as the stuff of dreams (7,2,5)

Down

- 2** Barrel contains two lots of slangy information (7)
3 Eccentric runner in England (3)
4 Cared about hurried ... (5)
5 ... front-runner - form horse on the outside (9)
6 Notice male it let in (5)
7 State repeated about women's spite (3,4)
8 Türkiye's answer is to increase duty at source if made with semiconductors (14)
9 German engineer charged for a kind of locomotive (6-8)
13 Had not finished ... part bent! (5)
16 Emphasises, admitting the same misfortunes (9)
17 Secure cold wine (5)
19 Son to plagiarise opponents' copyists (7)
21 Fly low around river in first-class part of Italy (7)
23 Reason oddly university lecturer is a man (5)
24 Donne, strangely erect (3,2)
28 A redcap mischief-maker (3)

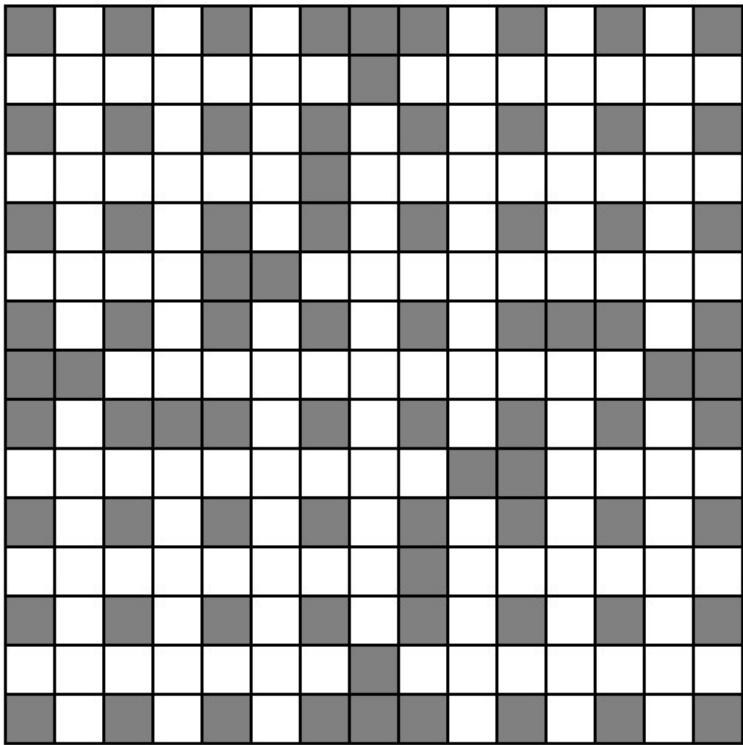
Slot 4

AJ
by
Manveru



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

- A** Crimea is playing to secure time for cessation of hostilities (9)
- B** A town crier from The Gong? (7)
- C** Crabbed note found at end of diary (9)
- D** Study to measure density is pulled to pieces (9)
- E** Train timetable, finally with a particular day of the month embracing 'quick' at regular stations (7)
- F** Devils consuming roo, initially it had Joey in it? (7)
- G** \$1000? Rubbish for a bridge contract (5,4)
- H** A temporary problem incorporating 'intelligence' - ultimately it's state of the art (2-4)
- I** Tenderising mince with these? (11)
- J** Touchstone is an example of jasper, principally used by lab worker excluding temperature from the start (6)
- K** King ultimately maintains identity with sons who will never come of age (7)
- L** Two elements contributing to existence? (4)
- M** Primate at Rome mass prepared to welcome Saint (8)
- N** Took out insurance but missing receipt - what a pain! (8)
- O** It's used to decorate new room left unfurnished at the opening (6)
- P** Protect lady under attack from dragon? (11)
- Q** Not quite organised, but whichever way you divvy it up this is what you get? (8)
- R** Store has heat centrally located for reuse (6)



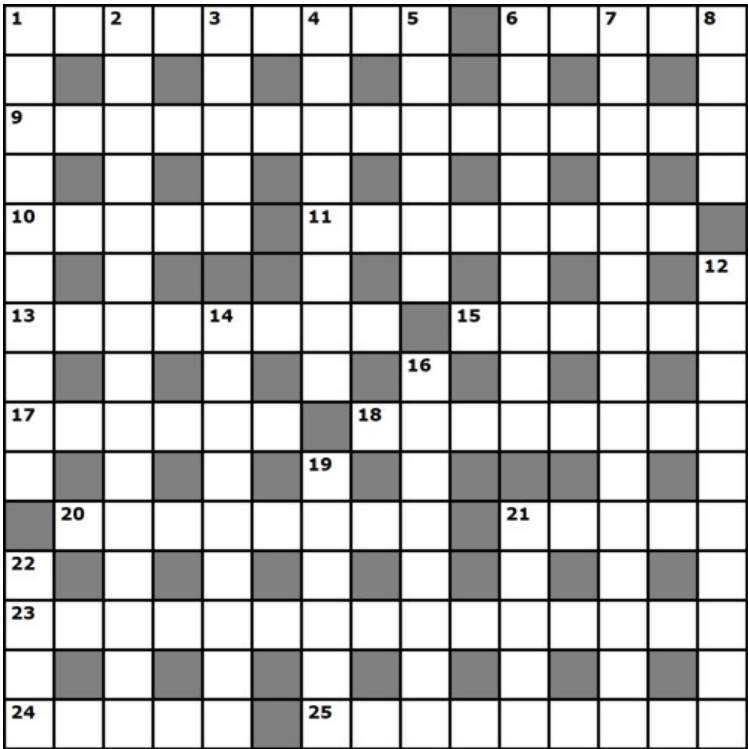
- S** Bull found with new single calf, originally from a dugong (7)
- T** Cast taking week off *Bachelor* for *Heartbeat* (5)
- U** Issues may arise from some of these 'absolute' rights (5)
- V** Origin of virus found on enamel contaminated with a layer of dead cells (7)
- W** A fungal growth with old dilapidated door needing treatment initially (4,3)
- X** Ten films, originally with Blanchett say, have a noteworthy quality (1-6)
- Y** It's a season the French incorporated into you 'every now and again' newfangled diet (8)
- Z** The final letter in English is published online (4)

Slot 5

Cryptic
by
KA



Ten clues should be taken literally,
and with a little cruciverbal licence.



Across

- 1 RAPS (9)
- 6 Old Greek hero without ailment is sore (5)
- 9 I (3,2,1,9)
- 10 HY (5)
- 11 Playboy has time with famous spy in toilet (8)
- 13 WOLF (8)
- 15 Croon to the French bachelor (6)
- 17 Food for silly person (6)
- 18 Appellation of Swiss banker taken in by scam (8)
- 20 CU (3,5)
- 21 Special accommodation for the unruly child (5)
- 23 ETIUQ (5,3,7)
- 24 Relatives take drug away from regular hangouts (5)
- 25 Brigadier arranged high-level link (3,6)

Down

- 1 SHELF (5,5)
- 2 RENEG (5,10)
- 3 Sweets for Welshman (5)
- 4 A pinhole incorrectly shows the planet's position in solar orbit (8)
- 5 I judge martial art (6)
- 6 Excitement of International Master in American country (9)
- 7 HER GAIN (7,8)
- 8 Short description of raising mushrooms (4)
- 12 P BIT (5,5)
- 14 Serfs held revolutionary Russian medical assistants (9)
- 16 Car with radiotelephone for Vlad, perhaps (8)
- 19 Ridicule Ukraine in religious Book (6)
- 21 Cut severe loss of energy (5)
- 22 The colour of water (4)

Slot 6

Cryptic
by
T-boy



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

Across

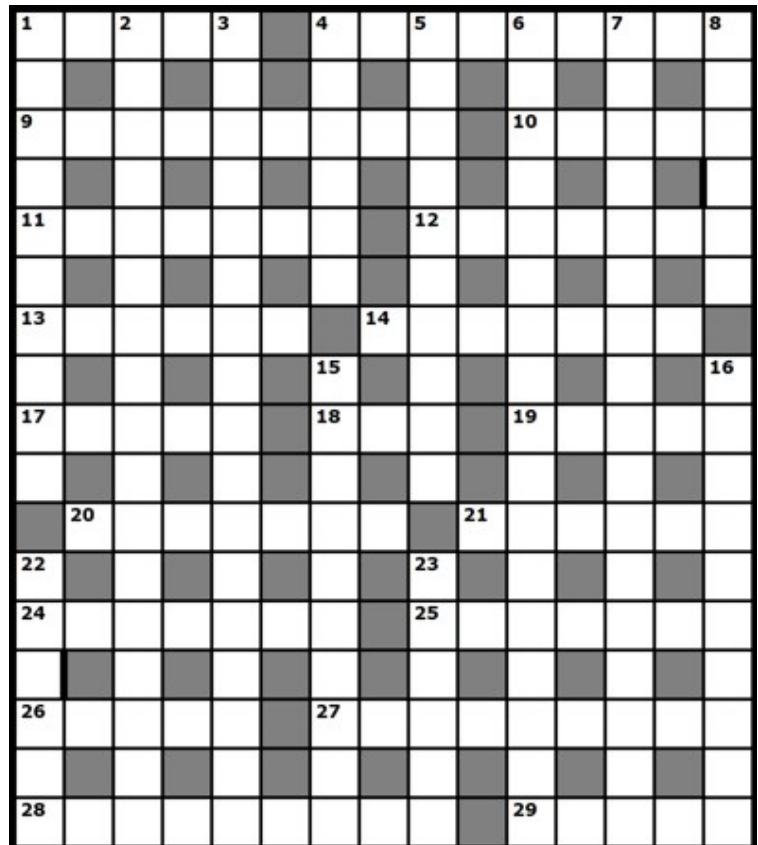
- 1 Like a bachelor revealing women, four in nude disarray (7)
- 5 Jack, the knave, returned carrying sexually transmitted infection becoming severe (7)
- 9 Equalize a fortune - broken up for global equilibrium (7,2,6)
- 10 That woman takes repaired coolers into upper accommodation of damaged vessel (15)
- 11 Blows to the side of the head reportedly one cause of deafness (6)
- 12 Trick covering lips special shades of red (8)
- 14 Supposing that returning seniors are those gathering cherries (8)
- 15 Jamaican tallow has a taste of cheese (6)
- 18 Fairy admitted to facing crisis, unfortunately too altruistic (4-11)
- 19 University wise men, natural acolytes at heart, without originality (15)
- 20 Migrating sea bird possibly Japanese (7)
- 21 In preference to chatter modern miss gives happy endings (7)

Down

- 1 Initially Robert Mugabe generated resentment (7)
- 2 Bronco left with cramps outside SA highway town (4,5,6)
- 3 What Jack got from frisky Verna-Lee on seaside cavorting (8,7)
- 4 Formal dispensary mixture eliminating pain (6)
- 5 Polluters devastating one of the fourteens (8)
- 6 Turning evil circus brats into cruciverbalists! (15)
- 7 Turn those wrists! Swinging for reliability (15)
- 8 Constrains company with confidential matter endlessly turning up (7)
- 13 Hard right ousts left in national voting (8)
- 14 Foot is certain to crack (7)
- 16 Sundries set up batsman's opening very well (3,4)
- 17 Gypsy fool gets a refusal (6)

Slot 7

Cryptic
by
Anon



Across

- 1 British government agency acquiring space communication equipment (5)
- 4 Routinely spread debts before case of liability (9)
- 9 Criminals' demise welcomed by submissions (9)
- 10 Goes at regular intervals (5)
- 11 Protractedly seeks food (7)
- 12 Show off flower in PNG port city (7)
- 13 Intrinsic feature of epode on stage at performance venues (6)
- 14 Average fleece brought about lack of interest (7)
- 17 Relieved heads of environmental agencies seeing encouraging data (5)
- 18 Undertake cake decoration - with extreme prejudice? (3)
- 19 King's daughter, for example, ran outside (5)
- 20 One initially not too impolite to enter uninvited (7)
- 21 Crustacean in inlet returning, that is, after heading to beach (6)
- 24 Mrs not involved in complicated sperm count. Could be mine? (4-3)
- 25 Old-fashioned hunch has agents making a comeback (7)
- 26 Around and about with old chocolate producer (5)
- 27 Was again at it, having changed covering (9)
- 28 Dreadful occurrences said, disturbingly, to be associated with endless stress shock (9)
- 29 Exotic costumes are essence of garb worn by sibling (5)

Down

- 1 Womaniser climbing up welcomed by daydreamer Daisy (10)
- 2 Suspended decisions misjudged, addressed during pleas (8,9)
- 3 CEOs getting old steer in estates (8,9)
- 4 Divine belief is held by this group (6)
- 5 Yellowish in appearance having, outside, passed out (10)
- 6 Undesirables include camp American prostitute for location programmes (7,10)
- 7 Small character, surprisingly big for part of church's narrow passage (6,2,9)
- 8 Without substance, Yale symposium education created obedient followers (6)
- 15 Temporary dwelling in France has meeting held by Peter (4-1-5)
- 16 Makes peace during hour of prayer in island group after independence extinguished (10)
- 22 Encouraged to grow for about eleven days initially (6)
- 23 Perhaps those launched by charitable citadel inhabitants? (6)

The blank grid for this puzzle is on page 2



Quiz 2026-9 Three Of a Kind by KA (Karl Audrins) . All answers have something in common, and are in alphabetical order. Send your answers by email to Karl Audrins karlishane@optusnet.com.au or post to 10 Elizabeth Parade, Charlestown NSW 2290.
Closing mail date 26 September 2026.

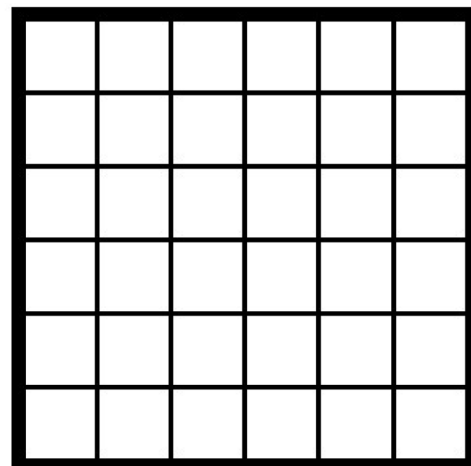
- 1 A type of lizard (5)
- 2 Small semicircular moulding (8)
- 3 Tropical American tree (6)
- 4 Choral work (7)
- 5 A medical poultice (9)
- 6 A convincing deceiver (9)
- 7 Information repository (8)
- 8 Lodgings for travellers (9)
- 9 A trimming or flounce (7)
- 10 Large poisonous ophidian (9)
- 11 Hit or miss (9)
- 12 American insectivorous bird (7)
- 13 Holy Muslim building (5)
- 14 Hindu meditation aid (7)
- 15 Sweet fortified wine (7)
- 16 African livestock disease (6)
- 17 Tropical fruit (6)
- 18 An Indian vessel (7)
- 19 Spectral or ghostly (10)
- 20 Sound of drums (8)
- 21 Durable fragrant timber (8)
- 22 A stately dance (8)
- 23 Flat grassland (8)
- 24 Good-for-nothing rascal (8)
- 25 A stiff muslin material (8)
- 26 Small Spanish wagon (7)
- 27 Pharmaceutical gum (10)
- 28 Valkyrie's hall of fame (8)
- 29 Coarse woollen cloth (7)
- 30 Turkish sword (7)

FRAZ WORD SQUARE 6 - September 1

Identical words read across and down in this square.

Clues are not listed in order.

- Faculties taking part in chosen sessions
- Where to see light that is replaced by nothing in science
- So in on boiling vegetables
- In a vocal performance, monotonously recites Monopoly card
- Donkey carries tailless black bird to the other side
- Share a note penned by director Howard

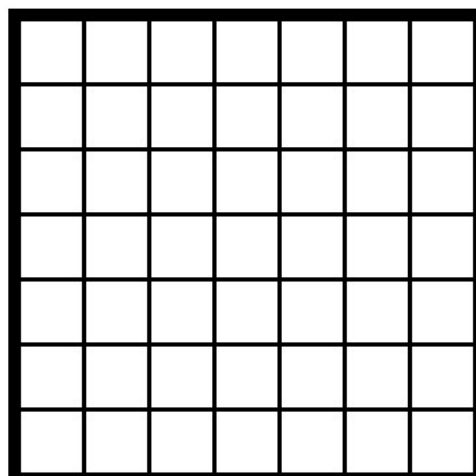


FRAZ WORD SQUARE 7 - September 2

Identical words read across and down in this square.

Clues are not listed in order.

- Sartre's tattered collars
- Innards returned are crime scene investigation victory
- Gather army cop is consumed by wound not wrapped up?
- Grand piano is among Ireland's vast holdings
- Recent arrival working on crime
- Return to office dance, etc. after changing
- Run south with park vacationer



Answers to Fraz Squares on page 12

Quiz 2026-8 Just simply nothing but! by Nigrum Cattus - adjudicated by Julie Crowe.

Entries 31

Results: Correct: 30. P Abbott, W Allen, U Axelsen, L Jarman, R Jarman, C Lee, J Leigh, R McKenzie, A Martin, F Martin, D Meek, A Millard, A Patterson, D Rosendorff, A Shield, B Siegman, R Skinner, R Taylor, M Vnuk, R Wimbush, M Woolston; **29.** C Flinkenberg, K Forward, K Francis, K Harpe, A Miles, W Ryan; **28.** C McClelland; **26.** R Milton; **25.** D Bennett, P Garner

Answers 1 Anne Boleyn, **2** Balcony, **3** Constabulary, **4** Cyclone, **5** Dragonfly, **6** Enid Blyton, **7** Felony, **8** Genealogy, **9** Halcyon, **10** Ignobly, **11** Joseph Lyons, **12** Knobbly, **13** Londonderry, **14** Melancholy, **15** Monopoly, **16** Nylon, **17** Ornately, **18** Panoply, **19** Polygon, **20** Questionably, **21** Roundelay, **22** Sinology, **23** Tyrolean, **24** Unholy, **25** Voluntary, **26** Womanly, **27** Xylophone, **28** Yodelling, **29** Ypsilon, **30** Zonally

Adjudicator's Observations

Most solvers picked up on the ONLY theme, and did not seem to have too many problems. #14 seemed to give the most grief, though the presence of the exclamation mark gave a hint as to the direction of the clue. I knocked back some 'questionable' responses to #20, which didn't meet the criteria. Some 'ungodl' members lost a dot at #24.

Solvers' Feedback

- #29 had me stuck for ages. I hadn't come across the alternative spelling for upsilon, and learnt that 'u' is lowercase 'y' in the Greek alphabet. *Drew Meek*
- The only way I could do #14 was to treat it as cryptic. Robyn McKenzie
- Merci bien for a most enjoyable quiz. *Patricia Abbott*
- #14 had me stumped for a while. *Warren Allen*
- It was fun, not too hard, but challenging enough. *Christina Lee*
- If ONLY I'd seen it earlier. #14 was a trickster but the exclamation mark alerted one. Most enjoyable. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Toughest one was #14. *Richard Skinner*
- #14 had me most puzzled. *Julie Leigh*
- I believe ONLY certain answers were required *Betty Siegman*
- Took me ages to work out the commonality, then spent lots of time working on #14. Took 2 days for the penny to drop! *Ann Millard*
- Reminds me of Roy Orbison's 'Only the Lonely'. *Roy Taylor*
- It was ONLY when I ONLY needed one more answer that I twigged. If ONLY I had read the title more carefully. *Michael Vnuk*
- Not only a challenge, but also good fun. Ulla Axelsen
- Great fun. Loved the 'M' clue. *Will Ryan*
- I hope Nigrum Cattus knew that it would be such fun. *Alison Martin*

The Clue Clinic

Courtesy of Derek Harrison's recent Crossword Centre newsletter I came across an interesting site that will be of interest to many of our members, both setters and solvers. The content is described below:

The Clue Clinic is a site for cryptic crossword lovers – novices, veterans or those somewhere in between. We aim to help beginners to understand the 'language' of cryptics, to assist more experienced solvers to improve their solving skills, and to encourage solvers who would

FRAZ WORD SQUARE 6- September 1

S	E	S	N	E	S
E	C	N	O	C	S
S	N	O	I	N	O
N	O	I	T	V	R
E	C	N	V	H	C
S	S	O	R	C	A

FRAZ WORD SQUARE 7- September 2

S	T	S	E	R	R	A
T	C	E	L	E	E	R
S	E	R	I	P	M	E
E	L	I	P	M	O	C
R	E	P	M	A	C	S
R	E	M	O	C	N	I
A	R	E	C	S	I	V

like to move towards clue writing and setting. Whether you're a solver plagued by a puzzling participle or a setter seeking surgical precision, you've come to the right place.

For regular solvers:

Read our case notes on *The Observer's* Azed and Gemelo puzzles (linked from the [Home](#) page) Browse our [Clinical Data](#) to decipher abbreviations and indicators used in cryptics Ask questions or share thoughts through comments, or use our Forum (see [Discussions](#) below)

For setters:

Scrub up for a session in the [Setting Room](#) for comprehensive guidance on clue-writing Ask questions or express views about clue-writing on the [Ask the Doctor](#) page (see [Discussions](#) below) Browse our [Clinical Data](#) to find abbreviations and indicators to fine-tune your treatments Visit the morgue where cases of possible [Foul Play](#) are kept in cold storage You may access the site here [<https://clueclinic.com/>]

A VISUAL VERSE

A little wee bird sits on a bough
Holds in his beak a small piece of dough;
Says to himself "This dough is too rough
It's hurting my throat, it's making me cough.
It's so very sad, as much as I want
To swallow this dough, I just simply can't."
Betty Siegman

FROM THE ADJUDICATOR

continued from Page 1

SLOT 4 Solvers found this AJ accessible and enjoyable, without being too tricky although HEADROPE and ICONISE accounted for a number of errors and contributed to the atypically low success rate. A number spotted the very apt Nina - VALKYRIE - which ran across the top of the grid. This may have assisted in the correct placement of some answers for those who found it early. This puzzle was well received and a number of clues received praise.

SLOT 5 Crowsman's creepy crawly cryptic delighted many solvers - in spite of the presence of picnic pests! Finding those pesky ANTs was, for many, the key to mistake-free completion. As usual, Crowsman's skill at clue-writing resulted in a very high success rate of 90%, and four clues earned nominations for COTM.

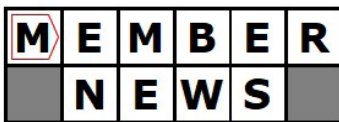
SLOT 6 Solvers agreed that Robespierre's ingenuity provided an enjoyable and satisfying challenge. Many cited favourite clues, nominating five different entries for COTM. An impressive success rate in the 80s is indicative of a fair and well-crafted puzzle. The birthday BLOWHARD at 17d provided a lovely 'aha' moment!

SLOT 7 This puzzle presented a challenge for many solvers, as is to be expected at Crowsman's Corner! Unusual words (SNEDS, TALLAGES) added interest to the grid, and the mention of a certain AFL team did not go unnoticed! The loss of dots centred around only a couple of answers. ASHPIT was variously entered as ASHBIN and ASHTIN. Although both alternatives can fit the grid, neither fit the clue's wordplay. The famous singer ADELE was renamed ADELA, and THAWERS somehow became THOWERS in a couple of instances - those typos again? An interesting departure from Crowsman's usual type of puzzle, this barred grid earned a success rate of over 80% and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who made comments.

COTM Quite a spread of nominations for Clue of the Month in the August edition. Nearly forty nominations in six of the seven slots. Close, but no cigar, to Crowsman for BANTAM and GUILTY in slot 5. However, ABATEMENT [*Sailor engaged in cannibalism. It finally provided relief*] in Slot 6 was the stand-out winner this month with honourable mentions to SMOOCH and OXYMORON, with 5 other clues from slot 6 attracting votes.

Congratulations to **Ian McKenzie (Robespierre)**.

Well done to the nominees and to all our compilers. Thanks to all who voted for their favourites.



New Member - A hearty welcome to Rory Tarnow-Mordi from South Australia. We know that you will enjoy your membership and our challenges and look forward to your contributions.

New compilers welcome! We welcome puzzles from new compilers. The easiest way to start is with a slot 1 Half and Half puzzle, which only involves devising cryptic clues for half of the solutions. If you're hesitant, some of our more experienced compilers will be delighted to pair with you and provide advice and support. We also have some interesting grids available if you are hesitant about creating your own. Email Ian for more detail and some helpful information.

New adjudicators and editors will be welcomed with open arms - see the Gridatorial.

Donations to the Prize Fund - Our sincere thanks to those members who have donated their prizes back to the prize fund, including Christina Lee, Shelia Taylor and Ron Jarmon. While we are confident that we will remain in a healthy financial position given a continuation of the present level of prizes and subscriptions, such donations help to stave off reductions in prizes or increases in subscriptions in these unfortunately inflationary times.

Following an appeal based on the availability of both forms of the jocular nonsense word EDUMACATE and EDUCAMATE in July's slot 5 in many internet dictionaries, it has been decided to restore the lost dots of Crowe J., Goodman S., Martin A., Martin F., McKenzie I., Roulston S., Skinner R. and Thompson I.



 Find us on Facebook

Join our Facebook group and discuss anything to do with words and puzzles. (No discussion of current prize puzzles please.)

Search for [Australian Crossword Club](#) or click the [hyperlink](#)

August 1: Leprechaun (Larry Kennedy)

- Too many vague non-cryptic clues, especially the 18ac, 14dn pairing. Several possible combinations from which I chose DECORATE (why not RENOVATE?) and DROPSHEET even though the latter is not in Chambers. But who knows? *Len Colgan*
- A nice way to begin the month, with 26ac and 23dn being the most enjoyable solves. *Michael Fitzgerald*
- 26ac: The Leprechaun seems to have elevated a region to a county, CONNEMARA is part of Galway County. *Drew Meek*
- 18ac was a bit obscure but otherwise a good warm-up. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Quite a tricky Slot 1. Thank you Larry. It was a good start to the month. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Debonaire should have no final E or two Ns according to Chambers. *Roy Taylor*
- I thought the clue for runners-up was very clever! *Robyn McKenzie*
- Lovely work, Connemara was hard, if it's right! wasn't sure about the definition, is it a county? *Chris Thomas*
- Took a while to get PANDA but eventually the penny dropped. Nice one. *Mal Cockburn*
- I see the panda is one of five mascots for 2008 Olympic games - is this the explanation? *Alan Dyer*
- A pleasant start for August, thanks Leprechaun. I liked TORPEDO. *Kathy Horadam*
- Pleasant start to the puzzles loved the DENIM clue. *Joan Smith*
- The answers gave the puzzle a modern feel. *Lynn Jarman*

August 2: REW (Rod Umean, Elloit Pyle, Wilf Pickles II)

- Welcome loved LEANED. *Brian Symons*
- Some very creative, unusual definitions. Good fun. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Some nice clues, thanks. *Scott Goodman*
- The answer to FRENULUM was on the tip of my tongue! *Toby McLeay*
- This one put a bit of strain on the grey matter. *Roy Taylor*
- Nice work, REW, LURE was neat. *Chris Thomas*
- SPONSOR is a clever bit of misdirection. SACK RACE is evil. And ACT OUT is a bit of twisted logic. Great puzzle, gentlemen. *Mal Cockburn*
- Quite a lot of sporting activity packed into this grid. *Kath Harper*
- I think I had a sporting chance on this one! *Alan Dyer*
- A great puzzle with some excellent clues. *Laurence Kennedy*
- I couldn't decode CODE. T-SHIRT and LEANED are neat. *Kathy Horadam*
- Another enjoyable slot from REW. Thanks. *Hilary Cromer*
- Good set of clues. A lot of letter 'O's so I hope the finger didn't accidentally hit the nearby zero. *Lynn Jarman*
- **REW writes:** "REW greatly appreciates the feedback from other members. All feedback helps us to balance and fine tune our future efforts. It is also valuable to hear if some of the clues are too obscure or difficult because, we want members to enjoy the puzzles."

August 3: NanaKat: (Kathryn Forward)

- I admired the CONGENIAL clue. *Len Colgan*
- Some great clues and I especially liked 23ac POULTRY as had BOILERS for a while. *Ann Millard*
- Tried to make this way more difficult than it was. I have a bit of a problem with DISCOLOUR as I thought that homophones should apply to part of the definition. A good challenge. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Liked clues for ICONS, CHAIR and CONGENIAL. *Toby McLeay*
- I liked CONS and DISCOLOUR. Thank you Kathryn. *Robyn Wimbush*
- I liked the clues for CONS and CHAIR. *Robyn McKenzie*
- Some very neat clues, thanks NanaKat. *Scott Goodman*
- Tried to insert BOILERS for 23ac but no matter how I tried it wouldn't work. Eventually found a much better answer in POULTRY - COTM. *Mal Cockburn*
- Quite a few references to 'looking' in the clues. Not confident about 24ac (TIDEBAR??) which kind of fits the wordplay. *Alan Dyer*
- Another very enjoyable puzzle from NanaKat. *Laurence Kennedy*
- Harder than I expected with some lovely clues: CLINIC, NOSTRUM and CHAIR especially. Not so keen on the homophone for POULTRY! *Kathy Horadam*
- Great puzzle. Lots of clever clues. *Krittibas Dasgupta*
- What an amazing knowledge of words NanaKat has. Bradford is not a lot of help so my brain is pushed. Thank you. *Lynn Jarman*
- **NanaKat writes:** "Thanks once again to everyone who provided feedback. I'm pleased that a number of clues found favour and that you stuck with me beyond the problematic POULTRY and ICONS! 'I need not mean what I say, but I must say what I mean' is going to be my favourite quotation from Ximenes from now on!"

August 4: Valkyrie (Ulla Axelsen)

- Nina - Valkyrie (across the top). *Allan Storti*
- VALKYRIE is a Nina! Another great AJ from Ulla. Thank you. *Ann Millard*
- Love solving these. Some great clueing! Thanks. *Stephen Matthews*
- Enjoyable without being too hard. *Roy Taylor*
- Journal and Longueur were great clues. A most enjoyable Slot 4. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Some very good clues in this puzzle. Liked PREVARICATE. Struggled with DENGUE. *Mal Cockburn*
- Clever, with Valkyrie spelt out across the top. *Julie Crowe*
- Always fun, thanks Valkyrie, even though I'm still not sure of ICONISE. [*in Chambers - Adj*] *Kathy Horadam*
- Some great clues, and some new words for me, thanks. *Scott Goodman*
- The usual level of difficulty I've come to expect from this compiler. Thanks for the interesting AJ. *Lynn Jarman*
- **Valkyrie writes:** "Thanks for all the positive feedback. I really enjoy compiling AJs and I now feel like sitting down and compiling another one."

Continued on Page 15

MEMBERS' FEEDBACK

Continued from Page 14

August 5: Crowsman (Len Colgan)

- The 2 five-letter words gave the ANT away. Didn't expect all the ANTS to be at the end. Great fun. *Ulla Axelsen*
- A very clever idea which greatly facilitated solving once one got the common element. *David Bennett*
- Some great clues but I especially liked 4ac PANGRAM and BANTAM which will get my COTM. *Ann Millard*
- Prior to discovery of the ubiquitous ants I was floundering. Clever tricky puzzle. PANGRAM took lots of thought. I guessed stuff would be gear, but was ram. *Roy Taylor*
- So many tricks from the savant! *Toby McLeay*
- I especially liked GUILTY. *Robyn McKenzie*
- The ANT endings helped a lot! *Allan Storti*
- Some excellent clues in this puzzle, greatly enjoyed. *Rob Milton*
- A brilliant antidepressant Len, not malignant or even unpleasant but elegant and triumphant. *Robyn Wimbush*
- This was quite a picnic, judging by the number of ANTS. Guilty was my COTM. *Betty Siegman*
- Cottoned onto the theme pretty quickly. Lots of Ts and As. PANGRAM made me struggle a bit. Nice work, Crowsman. *Mal Cockburn*
- This had nearly as many ants as my pantry! *Kath Harper*
- The 'ANT' was a big help. Favourite clue SEAL. *Joan Smith*
- Favourite clue was 12 down. Sounded like something I'd do! *Jan Wood*
- Loved the definition for BANTAM [Compact layer]! *Mark Woolston*
- **Crowsman writes:** "The only repeated errors were submitting UPSET and PEASANT instead of ASKEW and SEALANT. Once the 'part of pod' suggested 'peas' instead of 'seal', it prevented ASK + WE<. Betty's humour made me chuckle. Ulla's feedback is most useful."

August 6: Robespierre (Ian McKenzie)

- Top left corner took a while. An enjoyable challenge. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Favourites were ABATEMENT and BLOW HARD. *Len Colgan*
- Always satisfying finishing one of his puzzles. I voted OXYMORON COTM. BLIND DATE and several others were contenders. *Roy Taylor*
- I liked ABATEMENT but gave COTM to SETS BACK. *Toby McLeay*
- Methodist was a great clue. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Great clues! *Tony Dobe*
- Stared at this one for quite a while before any answers popped out. Eventually found my way in and slowly picked away until finished. Liked SMOOCH, OUTLAY and ABATEMENT. Challenging as always, thanks Robespierre. *Mal Cockburn*
- Lots of enjoyment with this puzzle. I particularly liked BLURBS, OUTLAY, ABATEMENT and TAILORS. *Julie Crowe*
- Not sure about 8dn HUNTRESS. Haven't heard the term BOOB TUBE for a long time! *Alan Dyer*
- I thought DILATE had a very clever clue. *Robyn McKenzie*

- Enjoyable and funny at times. Not totally sure about the word plays for LAMBAST and HUNTRESS, but they fitted! *Rick Yeatman*
- Robespierre being as tricky and entertaining as usual. *Kath Harper*
- Great puzzle, liked clues SMOOCH, OXYMORON, SKID ROW and ABATEMENT. *Joan Smith*
- Some great clues, especially TWEAK and ABATEMENT, *Anne Simons*
- Loved this puzzle. Simple answers beautifully disguised. *Jean Barbour*
- Some great clues - especially liked SMOOCH, TAILORS, AWAY TEAM and OXYMORON. *Scott Goodman*

August 7: Crowsman (Len Colgan)

- That was a lot of fun. Go Brisbane Lions! *Ulla Axelsen*
- Great fun. I think that I have a fair vocabulary but new words pop up every month. Had never come across SNEDS and TALLAGES before. Well done to all our setters!! *Ann Millard*
- Good to see Sydney Swans mentioned. Wait!....it was the other lesser team! *Roy Taylor*
- Took a while to get going on this one. *Toby McLeay*
- Most enjoyable. *Ian Thompson*
- No room for a Nina with this set-up. I liked OAHU and didn't know TORCHERS or TALLAGES. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Len very cleverly managed to get the Crows in there. *Betty Siegman*
- A dense puzzle, chock a block full of fun clues. I'm rather partial to this style of barred grid. SNEDS required some cross checking as it isn't in the on-line Chambers. Most enjoyable, Crowsman. *Mal Cockburn*
- Loved the CROWS and TREAD LIGHTLY. And I love the word SNEDS. That's a new one to me. *Julie Crowe*
- Thank you, Crowsman, for your two enjoyable puzzles. Nice to see Adelaide Crows get a mention. *Laurence Kennedy*
- Enjoyable puzzle with great clues especially like ADELAIDE CROWS, CASINO, GAMBLER and POSSE. *Joan Smith*
- **Crowsman writes:** "This barred grid puzzle waited more than a decade to earn publication because one answer SNEDS is most un-Crowsman-like. Thankfully, nobody got it wrong. The low number of bars in the grid and the consequent very high proportion of checked letters reduced the likelihood of errors. This is exemplified by ASH PIT being the dominant culprit with the P,T being unchecked, thereby producing repeated ASH BIN and ASH TIN submissions. The parsing is A + S(H)PIT, where SPIT is 'rod for roasting'."

JULY CLUE-WRITING COMPETITION

July Clue-writing Competition Adjudicated by Len Colgan BOREDOM (7)

Definition from Dictionary.com: **BOREDOM****Noun** the state of being bored; the feeling of being wearied by dullness, tedious repetition, etc.**Synonyms:** ennui, tedium, weariness, doldrums, dullness**Antonyms:** amusement, diversion, excitement

Various parsing options arise, including the inclusion BO(RED)OM, an inclusion in a reversal REDO in MOB<, an entire reversal (MODE + ROB)<, in addition to the titillating anagram BEDROOM*. An example of a clue using the entire reversal is:

Statistically, the most common fleece reflected lack of interest

referring to a wool sale, where 'statistically, the most common = mode', 'fleece = rob', 'reflected' is a reversal indicator, and 'lack of interest' is the definition.

The winner was **Way to roll back monotony** submitted by Jenny Wenham. Congratulations!The entries are listed in alphabetical order and the definitions, where appropriate, are *italicised*.**Bedroom shenanigans prevent this** ****

The first of the BEDROOM anagrams. I do like the indirect method for the definition, while 'shenanigans' is a clever anagram indicator. Great surface!

Embarrassed when in the middle of economic surge you get malaise ***

The first BO(RED)OM inclusion where 'embarrassed = RED', 'economic surge = BOOM' and 'malaise' is the definition. The surface could use a comma or two, and I wonder if it could be shortened to avoid 'when' and 'you'. Nice clue.

Expansion is blocked by Socialist apathy ***1/2

Another BO(RED)OM, but this time 'expansion = BOOM', 'Socialist = RED', and 'apathy' is the definition. Precise and concise, with realistic surface.

Fatigue in turbo. Red omnibus scrapped ***

This is a hidden word with 'fatigue' as the definition. The word 'in' is sufficient to indicate a part, but 'scrapped' is added mainly for the surface and reinforcement of a part. Can either be avoided?

Lack of interest in bedroom gymnastics! ***1/2

Another BEDROOM anagram conveying the opposite image to the former one, with 'gymnastics' a fair anagram indicator. Worthy anagram. Clearly different people involved!

Leaders of brigade officers repeatedly emphasise: 'Discipline overcomes moody apathy' ***1/2

Seven initial letters spell BOREDOM, with 'apathy' as the definition. The surface is cleverly managed, resulting in a fine clue. My only minor reservation is that solvers will enter the answer with little delay.

Mostly avant-garde old boy rejecting humdrum ***1/2

An entire reversal but using the parsing (MODERN + OB)< instead. Here, 'mostly avant-garde = MODERN', 'old boy = OB', 'rejecting' is the reversal indicator with 'humdrum' as a suitable definition. The surface is very believable.

Way to roll back monotony ****

This amazingly succinct clue uses the same entire reversal parsing (MODE + ROB)< as my own clue in the introduction, but with other ideas. Here, 'way = mode', 'roll = rob' (common slang term), with 'back' as the reversal indicator and 'monotony' as the definition. The surface is inspired, using 'roll back = reduce', a different interpretation to the individual words. I wondered whether 'to' is interfering, but decided it was OK in this context.

Clue-Writing Competition Scoring System

	Poor	Proper	Perfect
Definition	0	1	2
Secondaries	0	1	2
Fairness	0	1	2
Surface	0	1	2
x-factor	0	1	2
Total score	Star Rating		
1 or 2	*		
3 or 4	**		
5 - 7	***		
8 - 9	****		
10	*****		



SEPTEMBER CLUE-WRITING COMPETITION

All members are invited to submit a clue for **CATACOMB (8)**; Please submit your clue (one per member, please), together with the explanation, to Drew Meek by email to **drewski1@hotmail.com** or post it to 6 Levien Street Scullin 2614 ACT. **Closing mail date 9 October 2026.**



Slot 2

1		2			3			4		5		6	7	8
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13								14			15			
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38														
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Clue of the Month

Slot 4

Slot 6

[illegible]