



No 420 April 2025



www.crosswordclub.org



I live on good soup, not on fine language. Molière, 1672,
Les Femmes savantes (trans.) II, vii.

GRIDATORIAL

A veritable feast awaits you this month. A half and half puzzle by InGrid sets the scene, followed by the ever-popular Lexi Conner in Slot 2. The Mythtics set a challenge in Slot 3 while Crowsman has provided an AJ without the assistance provided by the solution of anagrams for the fourteen-letter clues that give a good start to solving the puzzle. We hope that you will enjoy the different format for this puzzle. A long-lost puzzle from Betelgeuse occupies Slot 5 - perhaps a little more straightforward than her usual offerings. A clueing *tour de force* by Valkyrie will be found in her themed Slot 6 and Crowsman's Corner in Slot 7 will be sure to please in its rather unusual grid.

Once again, thanks to all those members who have contributed to this edition, in particular Alan Dyer, whose thoughtful critique appears opposite, Fraser Simpson for the new batch of his intriguing word squares and to Jenny our Secretary/Treasurer, who has been carrying out her duties with the "assistance" of a brand new hip joint.

We hope that you will enjoy the month's solving and are able to relax over the Easter holidays. **Ian**

FROM THE ADJUDICATOR

Once again, I have the pleasure of sitting in the adjudicator's chair. The usual non-spell-checked errors and 'I can't quite get this, here is a guess' answers have appeared, but also some interesting variations. This makes my adjudicator's report a little longer than normal.

Alan Dyer

Slot 1: A number of one-offs. The elephant in the room was EXANTHEMA, which had a large number of EXANTHEMAS instead - my search found this in some reputable sources (not the usual club sources) and I decided this was a legitimate variant. An EXANTHENA also appeared - while this is a real word it relates to tree dieback, not the definition in the clue. A repeated clue does not mean a repeated answer, so entering EXTRACT twice (instead of EXTRACT and EXCERPT) created two other wrong answers - TWERP (for CREEP) which did not fit the clue, and SPYMASTER for SKYWRITER. While I can see Agent 86 going up in smoke, this is not the norm for spymasters!

Slot 2: I saw 6 attempts at CHORES instead of CHOREA, but the routine was singular and the dance reference was the definition. BANK RATE was a spoonerism (clearly indicated) so BOND RATE and BASE RATE could not be accepted. BALL OF LIGHTNING fits the grid, but it is normally 'ball lightning' (no 'of') and 'rush' referred to BOLT. One solver managed to find two wrong answers that fit the wordplay, fit neatly into the grid and almost (almost!) found an alternate solution - PASSEL fit 19dn for 'group' which might almost be an alliance like CARTEL and INSIGNIA could be printed but is not a type of print like INTAGLIO.

Slot 3: A few common errors in this slot. I could not accept KNICKS (4 times) for SNICKS, the correct spelling would have been 'nicks' (no 'K'). NINETEEN is just short of a score, not the NINETIES (4 times) - perhaps the inclusion of '19' (misdirection to a linked clue) was a little too obvious! AMENUENSIS (for AMANUENSIS 5 times) appears occasionally in a web search but not in any authoritative source and does not fit the word play. APOSTROPHY (3 times) is not commonly found in the usual references, although I did find a single authoritative reference to this archaic spelling in the Webster's Dictionary 1828 - this will be accepted as an answer (only because the Bible can refer to an archaic document). The final one I will mention for this slot is 1dn CRIMINAL, which was replaced by CRITICAL a couple of times - I think Ulla put it best and you can see her comment in this edition.

continued on page 2

LEADING FIGURES

Puzzle No.	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Entries received	84	82	65	65	66	370
Correct entries	80	68	53	53	44	299
Success rate (%)	92	83	82	82	67	81
Prizewinners	Pat Garner	Jill Lankshear	Richard Skinner	Sonia Roulston	Scott Goodman	from 86 members

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Prizewinner: February Slots 1-5 correct: Robyn Wimbush. Congratulations!

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March Slot 1

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

March Slot 2

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

March Slot 3

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

March Slot 4

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

March Slot 5

1	A	S	2	L	E	3	E	P	4	D	5	R	Y	6	S	7	H	8	O	9	D
10	E	R	O	A	S	E	T	T	E	11	W	A	R	12	G	R	O				
13	I	O		A	E		M		N	E	A	L									
14	A	U	G	U	R	15	A	B	D	O	M	I	N	A	L						
16	I	T		N		Z					L										
17	I	T	E	R	A	T	E	S	18	W	I	D	O	W							
19	T	H	E	R	E	S	A	20	E	M	P	A	T	H	Y						
21	S	N		N		M			R	U											
22	W	R	A	T	H	23	P	R	O	T	E	S									
24	S	A																			
25	T	A	P	D	A	N	C	E	R	26	T	I	A	R							
27	E	T		L		R			I	O	M	P	O								
28	E	R	U	D	I	T	E	29	S	H	A	M	P	O							
30	D	R		A	W				S	E											
31	D	E	N	S	E	S	T	32	S	T	E	R	N	S							

March Slot 6

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

MEMBERS' RESULTS FOR MARCH 2025 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.	•	•	•		•	•	•	Peach S.	•	•	•	•			
Allen W.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Graves C.	•							Pinder S.	•	•	•	•			
Audrins K.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Hagan R.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Randall J.	•						
Axelsen U.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Harper K.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Rosendoff D.	•	•	•	•			
Barbour J.				•	•	•	•	Hearn R.	•		•	•	•	•	•	Roulston S.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Barnes J.	•	•	•	•		•	•	Hocking A.	•							Ryan W.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Bennett D.	•							Horadam K.	•	•	•	•				Shield A.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Bettles K.	•	•	•		•	•	•	Howat S.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Siegmán B.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Blake M.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Jarman L.	•	•	•	•				Simons A.	•	•			•	•	•
Carroll L.	•	•	•				•	Jarman R.	•	•	•	•				Simpson F.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Cockburn B.	•	•	•			•		Jones G.	•	•			•	•	•	Skinner R.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Cockburn M.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Kennedy L.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Smith J.	•	•	•		•	•	•
Colgan L.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Kennedy M.	•		•					Storey N.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Coote P.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Lankshear J.	•	•			•			Storti A.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Comish W.		•	•	•		•		Leigh J.	•		•	•	•	•	•	Symons B.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Coulton L.	•	•						Mackay-Sim C.	•	•	•	•				Taylor R.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Cromer H.	•	•			•			Madden J.	•	•			•	•	•	Taylor S.	•	•	•	•			
Crowe J.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Martin A.	•		•	•				Thompson I.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Davis K.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	McClelland C.	•	•			•			Veress M.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Dobe T.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	McKenzie I.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Void T.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Dowse B.	•	•						McKenzie R.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Watt K.	•						
Ducker R.				•	•		•	McLeay T.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Wenham J.	•	•					
Dyer A.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Meek A.	•		•	•	•	•	•	Wilcox C.	•	•					•
Evans J.	•	•					•	Miles A.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Williams K.	•		•	•			
Flinkenberg C.	•	•	•			•	•	Millard A.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Wimbush R.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Forward K.	•					•		Milton R.	•	•						Wood J.	•	•					
Gamble K.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Moline R.	•				•	•	•	Young A.	•						
Gamer P.	•		•	•		•		Parsons D.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•								
Goodman S.	•		•	•	•	•	•	Patterson A.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•								

From the Adjudicator: continued from page 1

Slot 4: Usual errors in this slot. OH SO tripped a few solvers up – OH HO and OH NO, which did not fit the definition of 'extremely'. In my pre-adjudication solving, I also took a while to work out if it was VIBRATES or VIBRATOS, but the 'ATE' fits the word play.

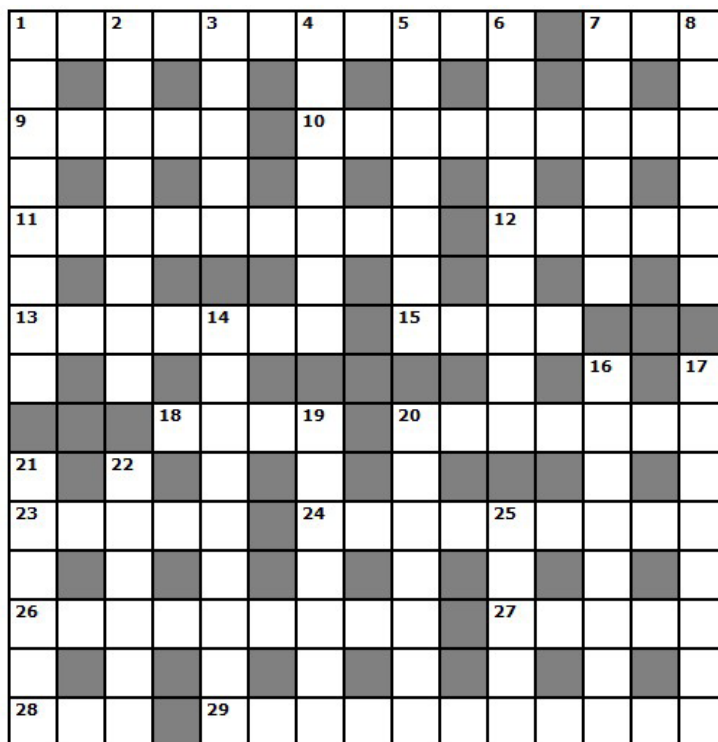
Slot 5: There were three elephants in this room, but Slot 5s are never easy. TEMAZEPAM (5 times) fit the word play, not TEMAZEPAN (team = side). The surface reading of 29dn leads to ALIAS, not the other way round (ARIAS 8 times) – I did try and re-read it to see if I could achieve this solution, but I had to contort too much. AUGER (tool or mollusc, 5 times) could not be accepted for AUGUR.

C

Slot 1

**Half and Half
by
InGrid**

**Prize
\$50**



Across

- 1 Identify (11)
- 7 Expert (3)
- 9 Concur (5)
- 10 Candidate (9)
- 11 Shame (9)
- 12 Margin (5)
- 13 Disregard (7)
- 15 Try (4)
- 18 Certificate (4)
- 20 Explosive device (7)
- 23 Introduction (5)
- 24 Cruelties (9)
- 26 Watchful (9)
- 27 Respite (5)
- 28 Urge (3)
- 29 Lacking biological organization (11)

Down

- 1 Extinction argument in final waiting area (5,3)
- 2 Second horn of jade (8)
- 3 Stride almost embracing perfection (5)
- 4 Raged at changing way of arranging (7)
- 5 Inspire compulsory servitude (7)
- 6 Welcomes mood of icefall (9)
- 7 Slow music played on audiogram not rum (6)
- 8 Measure bird for unknown existence (6)
- 14 South side has metal appliance (5,4)
- 16 Customary outfit oddly usable (8)
- 17 Answer me about apparel (8)
- 19 Set down off public transport after I ranted madly (7)
- 20 Yet to rage over concealed execution device (7)
- 21 Weird duck all right when contained by agent (6)
- 22 Nobleman lost territory to evil relative (6)
- 25 Native held in a tall building (5)

For online entry, submission and adjudication of all slots via ACCOLADE click on the ACCOLADE button on www.crosswordclub.org home page.

Slots 1 to 5: Joan Smith: email to joniesmi@yahoo.com.au or mail to 4 Morley Avenue, Rosebery NSW 2018

Slot 6: Ulla Axelsen: email to ullaaxelsen@hotmail.com or mail to 6 Maud Street Donnybrook Qld 4510

Slot 7: Len Colgan: email to Len.Colgan@unisa.edu.au or mail to 1 Ailsa Avenue, Warradale, SA 5046

**SEND
SOLUTIONS
TO:**

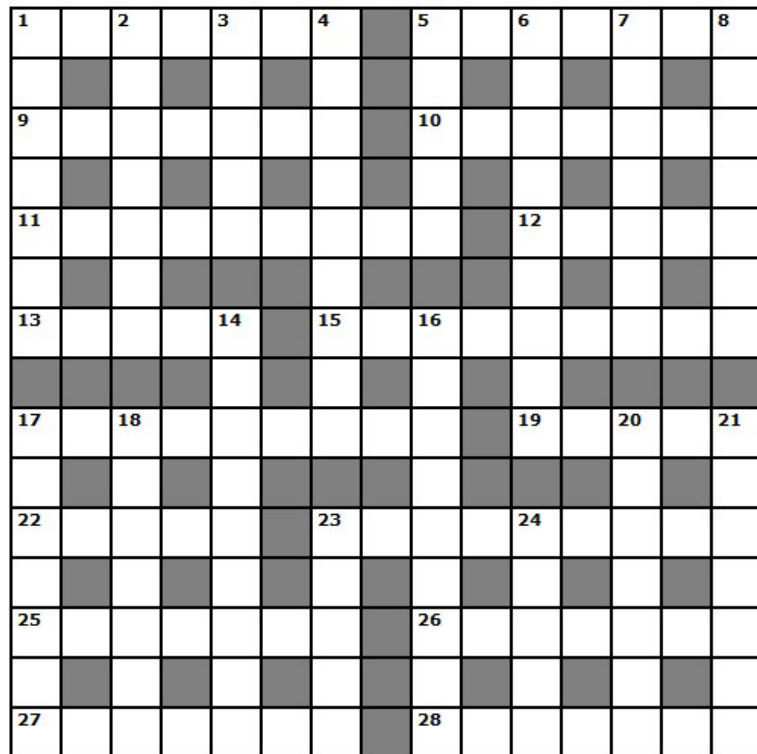
**BLANK
GRIDS
PAGE 16**

Closing mail date for all puzzles is 25 April 2025. ACCOLADE entries close at 00.01

Slot 2

Cryptic
by
Lexi Conner

**Prize
\$50**



Across

- 1 Lopsided as in Prunella's heart (7)
- 5 Offers presents (7)
- 9 Commission let down with Diana's departure (7)
- 10 Exceed the time limit so summarise (3,4)
- 11 Cut off enclosed areas of shore facilities (9)
- 12 Republic created by revolutionary capture of imperial borders (5)
- 13 Records talk about abandoning us (5)
- 15 Knobby character displayed by trees in terrible slum (9)
- 17 Presented report on low level of exchange (9)
- 19 Conflict intervenes in publicity for grant (5)
- 22 Former UN boss gives core lectures to some Africans (5)
- 23 Unusual tips recur in the Bible (9)
- 25 Admire hero clipping miser's wings (7)
- 26 Cancer is one of these subjects besetting resistance (7)
- 27 Worker takes on champion shearer producing firearm (7)
- 28 Cushions frequently placed in empty spaces (7)

Down

- 1 Helpless aunt, rejecting outsiders, gets assistant to doctor (7)
- 2 Anticipates omitting editor's last revised excerpts (7)
- 3 Join university with vacancies in faculty (5)
- 4 Recover after having less alcohol, actually (9)
- 5 Explores the web from the sides without great service (5)
- 6 Porcelain found on beach in wreck (4,5)
- 7 Bill could be in active or passive mode (7)
- 8 Shields guards (7)
- 14 Reveal in season what's coming up (9)
- 16 Ways to contain speed for those in the middle of the road (9)
- 17 Spread the word where to drink at inner establishments (7)
- 18 Managed to continue to earlier Asian capital! (7)
- 20 Insulting a coach I have contracted (7)
- 21 Makes commercial-free speech on clothes (7)
- 23 Nobel prizewinner avoiding a German. What a mug! (5)
- 24 First impression from political leader reaching the top (5)

General Feedback for March

Thanks for my Slot 5 prize. Always a pleasant surprise to win something. *Ulla Axelsen*

I'd like to thank the ACC for my prize for last month's Slot 2 entry. It is very much appreciated. *Mal Cockburn*

Slot 3

30 Leads for Remembrance by The Mythtics



		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

- 7 Experts are weird: leaving Spain and taking in South Africa followed by Sweden (7)
- 8 Brilliant discovery - at the stockade! (6)
- 11 Dictionary man taking mother to IT expert (9)
- 12 Fish by a lake. Perfect! (5)
- 13 Come on! Run round back street with Oscar (4,2)
- 14 Place to find a frog dancing sporadically - without Oscar (4,3)
- 17 Do it again! Take free arrangement quietly (7)
- 19 *Runaway Lovers* by rock band leading soprano (7)
- 21 Reflecting surfaces in space station involving operational research in Royal Society (7)
- 23 "Why" omitted from strange Hemingway mystery (6)
- 27 Transport work in sea (5)
- 28 A trendy mother covered in French cheese by kitchen equipment (4-5)
- 29 Deprived man from political grouping taking Greek character to church (6)
- 30 Endless game for person beating the bounds? (7)

Down

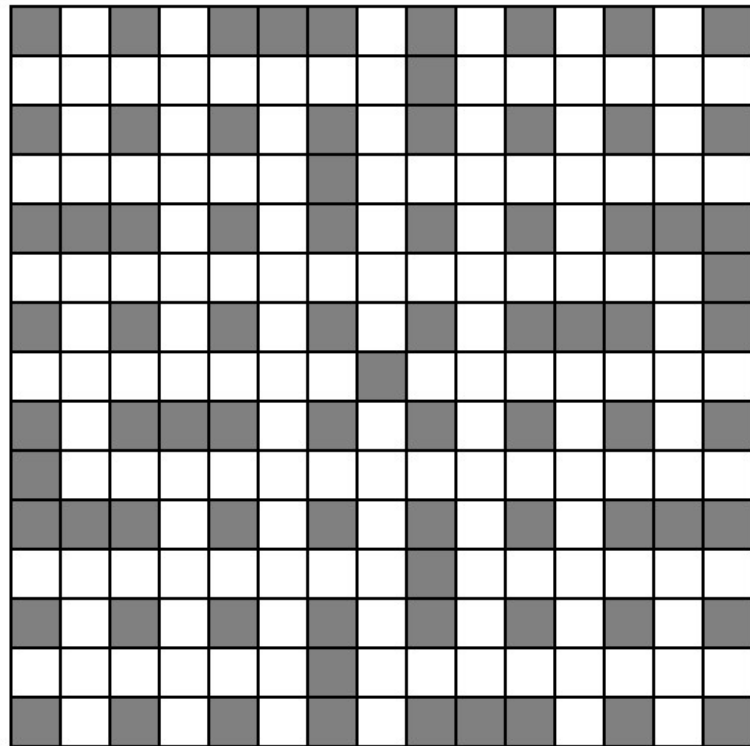
- 1 Bird pecked a tasty treat (6)
- 2 Expression of scepticism echoed over university preceding drug lecture (8)
- 3 With some speed, IT skilfully adapts (5)
- 4 Dog loses tail in yard uprising (6)
- 5 Bank restricts newspaper's power to influence (8)
- 6 Lawyer perhaps dismissing legal predator (5)
- 9 Steamy, stormy Westerly with no end to see (7)
- 10 Short film used to advertise American caravan (7)
- 15 in which we are briefly including hot times (7)
- 16 Regions leading environmentalism? Tasmania and Victoria perhaps (7)
- 18 Cheeky, loud insolence initially peeved worker (8)
- 20 Confusing note - mint lubricant? (8)
- 22 Edit Communist movement (6)
- 24 Midnight Oil vocalist sung *Room at the Top* (6)
- 25 Mixed beer containing medium hot coke? (5)
- 26 Hybrid giant, beaten up after admitting love for Australia (5)

Slot 4

Another "no
anagram" AJ
by
Crowsman



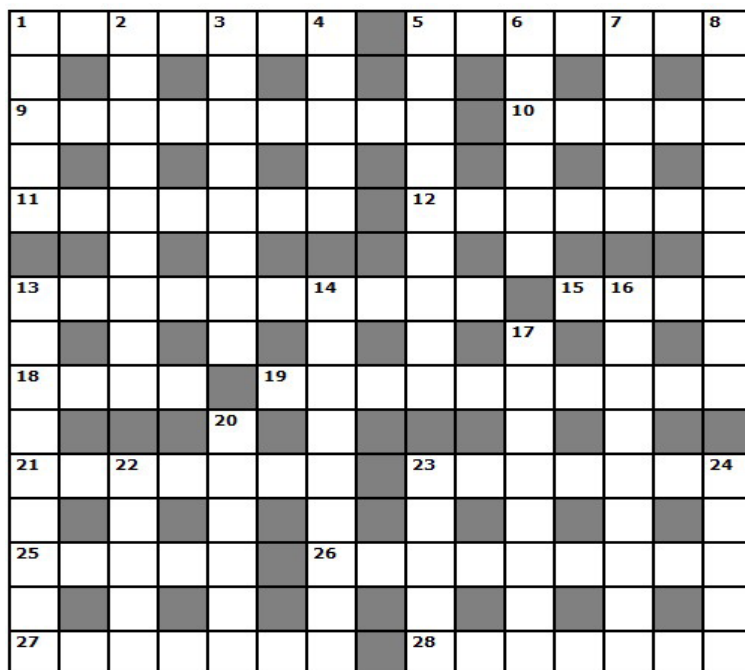
Solutions begin with the given letter. Place them in the grid jigsaw-wise, where they fit.



- A** Truant is posted into a work group (8)
- B** Keep taking drink around for observer (8)
- C** Space traveller to regret result? (4,4)
- D** Being scared of ringing sound surrounding study (8)
- E** Finish what young and ageing both do (6)
- F** Female ruling after first pretending (8)
- G** Leader of guerrilla unit is dead (4)
- H** Howl rising "Excessively hot!" (4)
- I** Problem involving repeat ignorance (14)
- J** Black contrast for hydroplane (7)
- K** Born amongst wolves lifted joint protection (7)
- L** Hang around some water in the US, gathering nothing (6)
- M** Owl brood around well (6)
- N** Putin's conclusion - still "No!" (4)
- O** Elective surgery cutting time (6)
- P** He, for one, makes fast notifications (14)
- Q** Figures to use one for a subset of Down answers in this puzzle (14)
- R** Rower in crew fastens, securing for stormy west winds (7,7)

- S** Whereabouts announced for spectacle (5)
- T** Desert nomads are housed by Yanks (7)
- U** Appropriate race leader enters ahead, after we object. (5)
- V** Streak humour (4)
- W** Formal success in our group match (5-3)
- X** Extra times overturned a condition of the eye (6)
- Y** Length of court time (7)
- Z** Benazir Bhutto's predecessor collected local flower (6)

Slot 5

Cryptic
by
BetelgeusePrize
\$50

Across

- 1 Engaged to study shellfish (7)
- 5 Shoot man (Basil perhaps?) (7)
- 9 Strain with initial communication (9)
- 10 River boat returns with rust (5)
- 11 -Copper green when left in a cell (7)
- 12 Leave transport to outwardly shy barman! (7)
- 13 Amazing novel about duck reduced hatred (2,4,4)
- 15 One that brings to maturity beer when left out? (4)
- 18 Team heads to sun in delightful Eastbourne (4)
- 19 Usher of the Late (mad) Show (10)
- 21 Pardoned on behalf of Government once. Be well and happy! (7)
- 23 Classically used to hide certain parts of dress extension (7)
- 25 Brought ruin on peacekeepers' Democratic current director (5)
- 26 With crop management outrivalling elimination of rot (9)
- 27 Soon tears out of the lively General Store (7)
- 28 Formerly sluggishly indifferent, help with gym training (7)

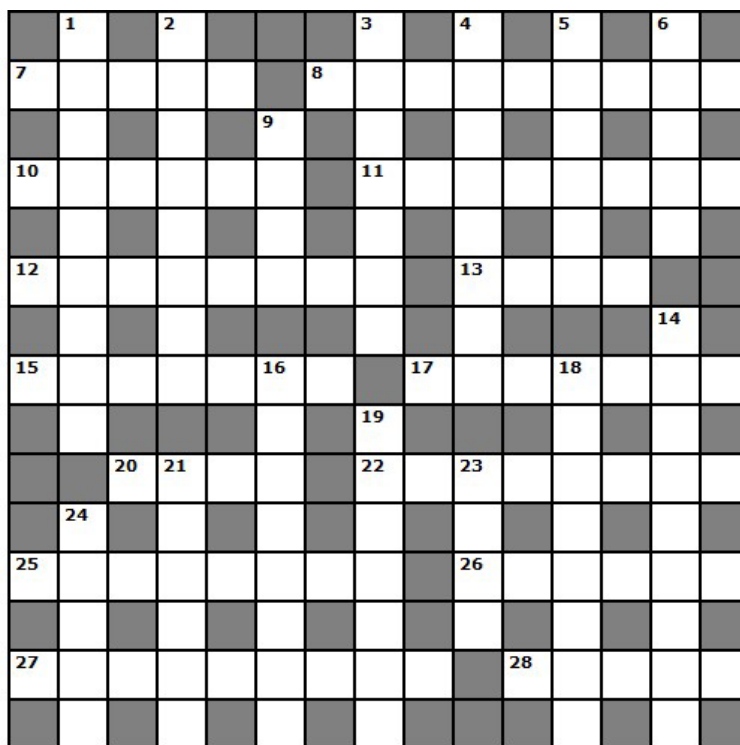
Down

- 1 Albino French novice occupying judges bench (5)
- 2 Scratched small, bad-tempered person then ran out (9)
- 3 Intimidating, broken ice cover (8)
- 4 Develop inert chemical (5)
- 5 A rap disc I played - heavenly! (9)
- 6 Awkward, your old boss inwardly lacks love (6)
- 7 Outlets not small for jugs (5)
- 8 Ambush returning party following screw-up (9)
- 13 Type of wind has no bearing on virus, note (4-5)
- 14 Getting smaller fish around European city (9)
- 16 Fool to damage corner of the sail. (9)
- 17 Frightful pong during intermission takes concerted effort (4,4)
- 20 Bird's ancestor - same duck (6)
- 22 Description of high pressure arising in game after bishop is removed (5)
- 23 Obscure beat - old, loud and on the rise (3,2)
- 24 Line left in eccentric wheel edge. (5)

Slot 6

To the Bush Poets by Valkyrie

Prize
\$50



Across

- 7 Initial *High Explosive* notices for administrators (5)
- 8 At start of Easter *A Change of Menu* price list (9)
- 10 Howard, possibly, left the ends of *Those Names* to give a false impression (6)
- 11 Tears *Sez You*, conceal sin for eager people (8)
- 12 Haphazardly considerate, *Lost* and obscure (8)
- 13 Express relief, end is *Out of Sight* (4)
- 15 Ornamental Australian state (7)
- 17 Subdues off notes to accommodate psalms (5,2)
- 20 Strangely Laotians *Not on It*. How sad! (4)
- 22 Easy listening music comes from Lawson's drover at the end of mad race (3,5)
- 25 Bygone vocal *From the Bush* (8)
- 26 *Truth* truly in possession of 'it' (6)
- 27 After losing *Heart of Australia*, fat cat errs changing objects (9)
- 28 Utter evil *Outside* ring (5)

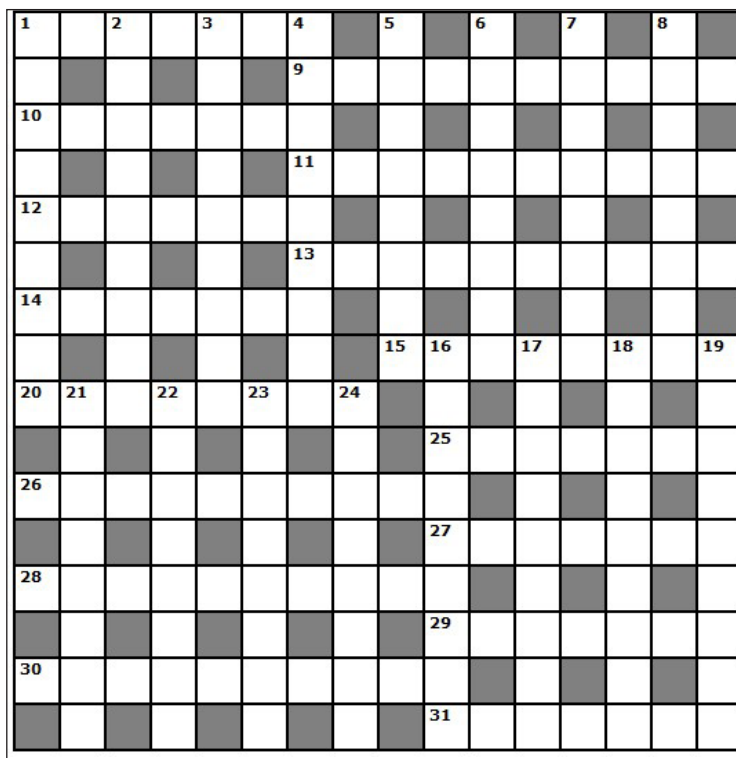
Down

- 1 U-turns *Right in Front of the Army* during riotous celebrations (9)
- 2 Admirer of *The Matrimonial Stakes'* vow in the future (8)
- 3 Remove from pile unopened junk housing *Rejected* cats (7)
- 4 The glitterati contrariwise question the *Shearing Shed* occupants for example (5,3)
- 5 Pressing forward seething, being abandoned by *The First Surveyor* (6)
- 6 *Prelude* to spasm (5)
- 9 Pronounced stare at *The King* (4)
- 14 Rock festival would vocalise *With the Cattle* (9)
- 16 Chaos resulting from hell *Over the Range* (8)
- 18 *The Last Trump* set down by husband with no head space for games (8)
- 19 *Fed Up* with recent collapse (7)
- 21 Clancy's acquisition from the French centre of Brittany and the Queen (6)
- 23 Confirm leadership spillage, go *Waltzing Matilda* (4)
- 24 Small child I found *In the Stable* (5)

Slot 7

Cryptic
by
CrowsmanPrize
\$50

Crowsman's Corner



Across

- 1 Daily fade away in hairdo (3,4)
- 9 Suggested holding spiteful woman involved in crime (10)
- 10 Further live teams! (7)
- 11 Cookie identification mark flower seen upon turning over (6,4)
- 12 Time is lost by badly accented voice inflection (7)
- 13 Clip files of old charts (3,7)
- 14 Memory loss makes affected men incontinent, it is said (7)
- 15 On edge? Work more! (8)
- 20 Reforms she redressed, cutting assaults (8)
- 25 Person working on the land is left out of welcome (7)
- 26 Less hairy fly in rubbish (10)
- 27 A floor level includes the Spanish artist's studio (7)
- 28 Cloisters with pillars: before reversing car! (10)
- 29 Chill is around since moving (7)
- 30 Requests go skew-whiff for gargoyles (10)
- 31 Tried, for example, dividing fresh seed (7)

Down

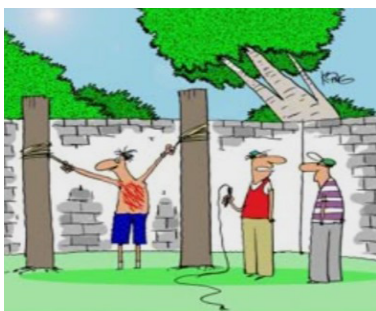
- 1 Indication of adolescence has one admitted to hotel seating (5,4)
- 2 Live-in doctors' team in tears (9)
- 3 Republic welcoming singles from another (9)
- 4 Sin is interrupting King's Birthday Honour experience (9)
- 5 Haphazardly daub small serving dish (8)
- 6 Mechanical hoist causing blow upon girl (8)
- 7 Bulrush is Manx deficiency (3'1-4)
- 8 Puts off including graduate in forum panel (8)
- 16 Stress upsetting Crowsman is interrupting stage of advancement (9)
- 17 Attempts to hold old Shakespearean plays (9)
- 18 Ivy leaves scattered in a suspicious way (9)
- 19 Fully satisfied about flower being sent up (9)
- 21 Locks up my family's entrances (8)
- 22 7 in ghastly dens (8)
- 23 Spy head consigned agent northwards for impudence (8)
- 24 Beer imbibed with something of exceptional quality (8)

The blank grid for this puzzle is on page 11



Quiz 2025-4 A quiz on US! by **Nigrum Cattus (Ray Gooderick)** All solutions have something in common and are in alphabetical order. Send your answers by email to Julie Crowe jmcbonjour@gmail.com or by mail to (PO Box 124, North Bendigo Vic, 3550 Closing mail date 25 April 2025

- 1 short grace note (12)
- 2 hawk (9)
- 3 growing (10)
- 4 berry (5)
- 5 degree (13)
- 6 crystal (8)
- 7 drunkard (8)
- 8 foot (8)
- 9 PC 3340 (7,5)
- 10 poet (9)
- 11 of meat dishes (10)
- 12 hors d'oeuvres (9)
- 13 sugar (12)
- 14 mathematical series (9)
- 15 lax (7)
- 16 bread (8)
- 17 rock formation (9)
- 18 of rebellious Jews in 2C BCE (10)
- 19 Strait (7)
- 20 posh way of speaking (6.6)
- 21 opera (9)
- 22 negotiated truce (5,6)
- 23 carnivore (7)
- 24 short jerky movement (7)
- 25 small pouch (7)
- 26 with disconnected notes (8)
- 27 plant containing carcinogens (7)
- 28 not on (12)
- 29 inoculation (11)
- 30 West Indian evergreen (5)



"He forgot to fix his divots, he plays too slow and he left a beer can on the course. He knew this was a tough country club when he joined."

Results of Quiz 3/2025, Heartfelt words by **Crowsman**.

Entries: 25

Winner: Julie Crowe . Congratulations!

30: P Abbott, W Allen, U Axelsen, M Blake, J Crowe, K FrancisP Garner, K Harper, R Jarman, J Leigh, R McKenzie, A Miles, A Millard, A Patterson, D Rosendorff, W Ryan, B Siegman, R Skinner, A Storti, R Taylor, M Veress, R Wimbush **29:** L Jarman **27:** A Simons **26:** D Meek

Answers: 1 ac(quent)ed, 2 al(arming)ly, 3 Ar(chimed)es, 4 bar(rack)ing, 5 ca(member)ts, 6 can(cell)ing, 7 ca(retake)rs, 8 car(jack)ers, 9 com(fort)ing, 10 dem(oral)ise, 11 di(scours)es, 12 fat(home)ter, 13 gam(boll)ing, 14 har(vest)ing, 15 imp(over)ish, 16 me(tatars)al, 17 Mo(hammed)an, 18 mon(arch)ies, 19 out(shin)ing, 20 por(tent)ous, 21 Que(beck)ers, 22 re(levant)ly, 23 res(pond)ent, 24 re(strict)ed, 25 sat(iris)ing, 26 sp(latter)ed, 27 str(etch)ing, 28 sur(char)ges, 29 unc(rump)les, 30 vi(caress)es

Setter's Comments: Undoubtedly a demanding quiz. I accepted ACCUSTOMED for #1, PORTENDING for #20, RESTRAINED for #24 and UNCRINKLES for #29. It is surprising I was unable to find a suitable answer beginning with T. I predicted #30 VICARESSES would be the trickiest to find and, boy, wasn't that confirmed by members' comments!

Other Solvers' Comments:

- That was challenging but great fun. In all the references I looked at under NUN, not one mentioned VICARESSES. It is in Chambers though. Isn't it ironical that Mohammedan has HAM in it? *Ulla Axelsen*
- Wow. Your comment about some of the solutions making good 'containment' clues! Soon great food for thought. The last three in (22, 25, 30) took as long as the other twenty-seven! *William Ryan*
- That was a brilliant quiz albeit a bit of a marathon! Hope I've cracked them all! *Patricia Abbott*
- Thanks for another great quiz. Some answers took some searching but I like to have a challenge. *Ann Millard*
- Fun quiz but 1, 2, 29 and 30 took some finding. *Andrew Patterson*
- Many thanks for a super interesting quiz. Vicaresses took some finding. *Julie Crowe*
- Another cleverly constructed quiz. Bravo! I love finding new words and meanings. Didn't know the negative sense of BARRACK. *Drew Meek*
- Question number 30 had us going for quite a while. We kept looking at Zelatrices to see if there was some way to get a 4 and 6 letter word. Thank you for another original quiz. *Julie Leigh*
- Thanks for a brain tickling quiz. *Betty Siegman*
This was a nice quiz to work on and it used another of your amazing ways of looking at words. *Robyn McKenzie*
- Keep them coming please. *Richard Skinner*
- Convolution indeed (and word). It has kept me busy for weeks so I consider that a plus. *Robyn Wimbush*
- While I floundered around for the first couple of days, the penny finally dropped and I enjoyed the challenge. It was amazing how many everyday words you managed to locate which fitted the brief. *Pat Garner*
- Thanks for an enjoyable hunt, though I am not sure whether my answers will all correspond with those sought. *Andrew Miles*
- This quiz sounded deceptively straightforward, but I really struggled to finish it in time. Fingers crossed! *Kath Harper*
- Thanks for another challenging quiz - the last couple of clues proved difficult, however hopefully I've managed to track down the correct answers. *Ron Jarman*
- Thanks for the quiz, enjoyed it immensely. Who would have thought that there were such things as vicaresses, it was the one that had me stumped for a while. *Ken Francis*

March 6-2025 Cryptic by St Jude (Drew Meek)
Entries received 67. Correct 58. Success rate 87%.
Prizewinner: Alison Shield. Congratulations!

Compiler's observations

There was a good number of entries and few errors. This puzzle's theme was indicated in 7a : CALQUES. These are words or phrases borrowed from another language as literal word for word translations. All other across clues of 7 or more letters were examples of calques that the English language has borrowed from Chinese (25a), Dutch (13a, 34a), French (18a, 21a, 36a), German (8a, 37a) and Spanish (1a) languages. A couple of solvers went for EARMARK instead of EARMARK (from the German Ohrwurm) for an annoying tune that you can't get out of your head. 37a was Stormtroopers (from German Sturmtruppen) but one solver tried Shoretroopers which I now know as a Starwars fighting group but as far as I know not a borrowed phrase from Sith or other language from the franchise.

Explanations – Across: 1 anag, 7 hidden, 8 EAR+WORM, 10 dd, 11 hidden, 13 PINE+APPLE, 17 rev>verSUS, 18 anag, 21 anag, 24 P+U+N, 25 BRA+IN+WAS+H, 29 AB+YES, 32 mANY, 34 ICE+BERG, 36 NE(W)W+AVE, 37 STORM+TROOP+ERS. **Down:** 1 M(EAT)Y, 2 MAQUIs, 3 PEEN<, 4 FOE+HN, 5 heads, 6 cHORAle, 9 deLAYed, 10 dd, 11 speakeASY, 12 dd, 14 wAFT, 15 PAN+OP+LY, 16 dd, 19 dd, 20 ON+we>US, 22 fAWN, 23 ROSaY, 26 RAC+ES, 27 WARD, 28 ANGSTrom, 30 td, 31 shEAVES, 33 VET+O, 35 rEmArRy.

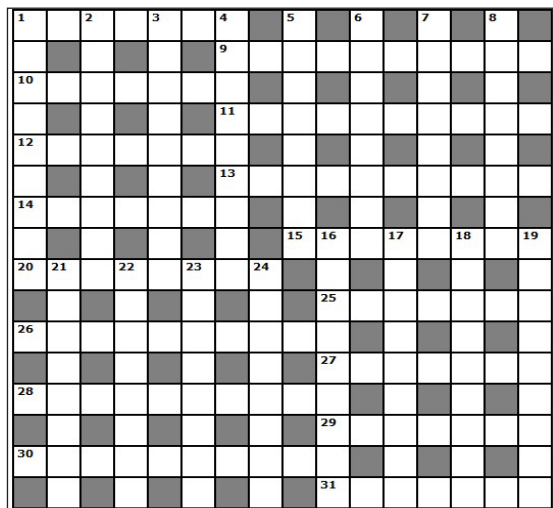
Solvers' Feedback

- Favourite CALQUES for giving me the link of calques. Struggled with quite a few bits of parsing. so I'm not sure I'll get the dot for this one. *The Void*
- If it wasn't for clue 7 I doubt I would have found the common connection. It's amazing where some English words come from. Great fun. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Is there a sci-fi movie theme there? *Roy Taylor*
- It's surprising just how many English words are in fact compounds of two others *Con Flinkenber*
- Not keen on weird. obsolete. archaic words. *Len Colgan*
- Clever concept. I enjoyed this puzzle immensely. *Mal Cockburn*
- Interesting theme *Ian Thompson*
- EARMARK was an interesting word. I had never heard its reference to a song in your head and I was unaware of the dragon/worm connection! *Bev Cockburn*
- Now I know what a loan translation is. The things you learn... *Richard Skinner*
- Who knew what a calque was. let alone that all these words were literal translations from another language? Fascinating. *Kath Harper*



Blank grid for April slot 7

Name:.....

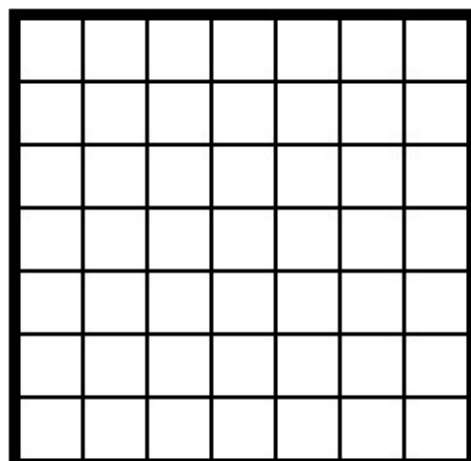


FRAZ WORD SQUARE April 1

(Solution on p 16)

Identical words read across and down in this square. Clues are not listed in order.

- Sounds like adjusted tournament pairings went back
- Bitter cold? Cold around most of Texas capital
- Irrational and despicable, with the old sinister stare (2 wds.)
- Morse code character "C" he'd abandoned
- Timid creature eats fish cracker?
- Dodgy bank backing before I have contracts
- Tiny bone found in moss I cleaned

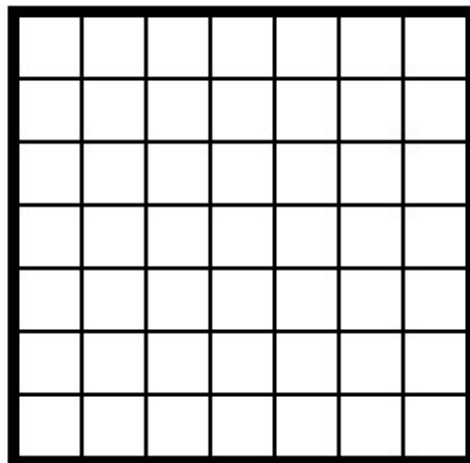


FRAZ WORD SQUARE April 2

(Solution on p 16)

Identical words read across and down in this square. Clues are not listed in order.

- Sir, she's scattered people expressing disapproval
- Flooded with grey particles in a triumph (2 wds.)
- Some painters exchange among themselves (2 wds.)
- King with earache between the terminals at one Pakistani city
- Singer/actress clutches weapon -- smooth operator
- Sling mud at snake tongue in Ireland
- Zipped by funny Spartan (2 wds.)



March 7-2025 Cryptic by The Void

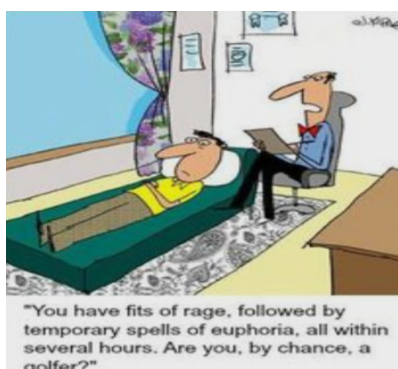
Entries received 64: Correct 53: Success rate 83%.
Prizewinner: Andrew Miles. Congratulations!

Compiler's observations I've checked your comments, and pleased to see you made a good game of things. No complete list of pieces in the grid, to avoid some "freebie" answers, but instead we have players, pieces, and moves/positions. For anyone unfamiliar, CASTL(E/ing) is a move, not a piece, as are PIN[NED]s and FORKS. Glad to see folks getting to grips with the grandmasters. Well played, all, we must have a rematch sometime...

Explanations – Across: 1 FED< + I + ANT, 5 CAST + LE, 8 DD, 9 SEVENCRAGS*, 10 MS around (ON[e] + ARCH), 11 THINK< round G, 12 FIB< + oFF, 14 cAIM wInD + S + HIPS, 17 MONTE + ZUMA, 18 DD, 19 heads, 22 LEAK* + machine, 24 LIFEMAINLY*, 25 FOR + K, 26 (RAG + LOP)<, 27 TEN< + BALL. **Down:** 1 ABOLIS[h] in DIM, 2 FR. + AYE<, 3 ASS + (CIA in (O + TechIE)), 4 GRANTFORTUNISIA*, 5 chiC + HECK, 6 IFGERISIN*, 7 LU{n>R}CH, 13 FINING round A.N.C., 15 (MEN + TATE) in ST, 16 RULEDCONS*, 20 hidden<, 21 RYE in DR, 23 OFF into (H + A).

Solvers' Feedback

- Made it a bit easier knowing a little about chess. Liked MONTEZUMA. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Good one Voidy! *Roy Taylor*
- Even MONARCHS feeds into the Chess theme if you count them as King and Queen. Well done. *Mal Cockburn*
- Some interesting and fun clues. I particularly liked CHECK and MONTEZUMA. *Julie Crowe*
- Some chess terms here. I learnt what Montezuma's Revenge is! *Tony Dobe*
- Really wrestled with this - not at all sure of a tick! *Nea Storey*
- Quite a few pieces; as well as a couple of champion players. Thanks to The Void. *Betty Siegman*
- A minor chess theme. Not a game I excel at. *Richard Skinner*
- Challenging puzzle? Check! *Kathryn Forward*
- Very enjoyable; with a fun theme. *Fraser Simpson*
- Even MONARCHS feeds into the Chess theme if you count them as King and Queen. Well done. *Mal Cockburn*
- I laughed when I finally worked out MONTEZUMA. Also loved the many chess references. *Kath Harper*
- I am not confident about 8ac (MATE? Maaaaaate!) because I can't fully decipher the clue. MATE is a friend and also fits the puzzle's theme [*Chambers has the Paraguayan tea as mate or maté - Ed*]. *Alan Dyer*
- HOFFA, POLGAR and ALEKHINE were interesting clues. *Jean Evans*



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

February Slot 7 solution

Solution WORD SQUARE 5 March

D	E	D	E	C	E	R
E	Y	E	L	I	A	E
D	H	E	C	T	I	D
E	L	C	I	S	S	O
C	I	T	S	U	V	C
E	V	E	S	A	V	E
R	E	D	O	C	E	D

Solution WORD SQUARE 7 March

E	S	R	S	E	T	N	I
S	R	S	E	S	S	I	H
R	E	M	R	A	H	C	
E	S	E	R	S	P	A	S
T	S	A	P	A	N	V	R
N	I	H	S	A	V	A	
I	H	A	C	A	R	K	

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

Explanations for clues in March slots 1 to 5: 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 Crowsman. Across: 1 XI, 4 (E + SEVEN + EG)<, 9 ALP< + CEMENT, 11 dd, 12 ON + TAP, 13 TEAK + (s)ETTLE, 14 RATE* + SURER, 16 homoph of 'seen', 17 (E + TILE)<, 19 IT(IN)ERATE, 22 (ACTION AT A)*, 23 C + PEER<, 25 T(IN)EA, 26 cd, 27 S + WEE + TEST, 28 dd.

Slot 2 T-boy. Across: 1 PO in TEAT, 5 Spooner "rank bait", 9 OVER + F + ILL, 10 CHORE + A, 11 N + EUROA + NATO + MY, 13 hidden, 14 L + AMP + POST, 17 anag, 18 A + BAR<, 20 MER + CHANT + NAVY, 23 hidden, 24 IN + TAG + OIL<, 25 WAUGH in LING, 26 ASTLe in L...Y. **Down:** 2 EN + VictorY, 3 RAIN* in PETAL, 4 T + RIP UP, 5 BOLT + OF + H in (TINGLING)*, 6 NICK + NAME, 7 OS in ROT, 8 THE + RMOS + TAT, 12 RESIDE* in DATA, 15 (HENRYS + GAP)*, 16 RIGA + NOT< + I, 19 CART + EL, 21 CrawlING, 22 heads.

Slot 3 Manveru. Across: 1 CH +vVOICE, 4 PLA(CE)NT+A, 10 I+N+CLU(D)E, 11 M+(ITUNES)*, 12 ICE+D, 13 (ASIAN+MENUS)*, 15 AsSeTsReAdY, 16 HIDDEN>, 20 T+ANGLE+D, 21 DD, 24 cd re bible's, 26 Homoph "whale", 28 TWEED in BEN, 29 A+TT+EMPTY, 30 cd/dd, 31 E+ROD+E+D. **Down:** 1 cd/dd, 2 Anag, 3 CuLtUrE, 5 (OLD+ENEMA)*, 6 CON + NIE in VENT, 7 DD, 8 heads, 9 HIDDEN, 14 (GUEST+IN+H+A+T)*, 17 EX(CLAIM)ED, 18 DEN+OUNCE, 19 IS+O+LATE+D, 22 cd re C as capital, 23 PH1+A+L, 25 Hidden, 27 culpRITS<.

Slot 4 Flowerman. A A(w)ARD + FLOW<, **B** ((th(E) (pilot)S (fir)M) in BEAR, **C** homoph "Chubb", **D** CU in DEMAN(d), **E** PI in SLEEP* + Y, **F** F + US + TOPS<, **G** hw, **H** HOUNDS*, **I** (ISOTONI(c)* + L(uminesce), **J** J + USED* around AS, **K** GOY< in KEN, **L** LIVE + (t)RIED, **M** M + L in (UK UK), **N** (NO + (m)EMBER(s)) around V, **O** O + H(ideou)S + O, **P** (PUSHY with H <> S(ollicitors)) + WILL + OW, **Q** hw, **R** R(o)ME(o) around ACE, **S** SQUA(sh) + L + ID EST, **T** (DORM WHAT)* around RE, **U** UP + homoph "raw", **V** (BR + ATE) in VIS(it), **W** homoph "whip" + PENS, **X** PIX< + H + O + ID, **Y** (LIFE NW YOKEL)*, **Z** Z + URI + CH.

Slot 5 NanaKat. Across: 1 AS(LEE)P, 4 DRY + SH + OD<, 10 RO(SET)TE, 11 hidden, 12 homoph 'prophet', 13 (Bali nomad)*, 14 hidden<, 16 WI(n)DOW, 20 THERE + AS<, 22 E + M(PATH)Y, 23 WRA(i)TH, 24 P(ROT)ESTS, 28 TAP + DANCER, 30 TIA + RA, 31 _E_R_U+DIET*, 32 SHAM + POO, 33 DEN(aSsEtS)T, 34 S + TERNS. **Down:** 1 (It's a serial)*, 2 LA(SAG)NE, 3 EST(h)ER, 5 (war and)*, 6 (MEL + AS)<, 7 ORGAN + LOFT, 8 TE(MAZE + P)AM, 9 dd, 15 AGE + NT, 17 PUTIN with PUT<>IN, 18 (ERROR + IS) in TT, 19 EYE + SHADOWS, 21 NEAR* + P(ic)TURE, 25 S + CAMPER, 26 dd, 27 S + CREWS, 29 ARIAS, with R<>L, 30 dd.

You may have heard this before...

- I'm addicted to brake fluid, but it's OK because I can stop at any time.
- What did the pedantic owl say? Whom whom.
- A polar bear walks into a bar and says to the bartender "I'll have a rum and coke." The bartender asks, "What's with the big pause?" The bear shrugs. "I was born with them."
- What do you call an alligator in a vest? An investigator.
- Did you know deer can jump higher than the average house? It's because of their strong hind legs and the fact that the average house can't jump.
- What did one eye say to the other? Just between you and me, something smells.
- What do you say to a llama that loves picnicking? Alpaca lunch.
- A photon checks into a hotel. The front desk asks if it has any luggage. It replies "no, I'm traveling light"
- I can't stand Russian dolls. They're so full of themselves.
- Did you hear about the glass blower who accidentally inhaled? He got stomach pane.
- What do you call a snail that isn't moving? An escarstay.

M	E	M	B	E	R
	N	E	W	S	

Lost Dots: Alan Dyer and Kath Harper scored full marks in February's *When in Rome* Quiz

Donations to the ACC Prize Fund: Many thanks for their generous donations to the Prize Fund this month to Ron Carpenter, Andrew Miles and Ken Watts.

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 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 assistance. Email Ian for more detail and some helpful information.

Grids to clue: For those who feel more comfortable clueing an existing grid, Crowsman has devised a number of novel grids for members that will be interesting to clue. Contact Ian for details.

Quizzes: We are still relying on the "old faithfuls" for our quizzes and would like to give them a rest. If you enjoy solving our quizzes we are sure that you will find as much pleasure in devising new ones. Help and advice will be at hand to ease the process. Contact Ian for more details.

Find us on 

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 above hyperlink.

March 1: Crowsman (Len Colgan)

- A gentle start to the March suite of slots! *Patricia Abbott*
- An excellent start to the month. *Julie Leigh*
- Exemplary! *Fraser Simpson*
- Favourite SKYWRITER, but I quite liked the pair of sneaky uses of "in". Probably a few too many EX-words, I started to think at one point. Ah, right, fair enough, I later realised. :-) *The Void*
- An excellent example by an expert exponent of the art. *Jenny Wenham*
- A downright tribute to Elon Musk. *Roy Taylor*
- Clever compiling. Good fun. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Another great puzzle from Crowsman with great clues my favourite was ELEVEN, though it did take a while for the penny to drop. The (EX) starts for the down clues were a big help. thank you Len. *Joan Smith*
- Crowsman's excellent adventure! – Raoul. *William Ryan*
- Excellent. *Robyn Wimbush*
- A fun puzzle once the down theme was EX-posed. *Mal Cockburn*
- I liked ELEVEN and SKYWRITER. And all those exes! Every down clue starting with ex. Very clever. *Julie Crowe*
- What an extremely excellent experience! Thanks, Crowsman. *Kathy Horadam*
- Initially I didn't spot that all down clues begin with E. But my favourite was 1ac, ELEVEN. The answer was obvious, but took a while to see why! *Nea Storey*
- Excellent puzzle, Len. Thank you! *Bev Cockburn*
- Dare I say I thought this was an excellent Slot 1. Thanks Len. *Betty Siegman*
- Only when I was filling in the grid did I see that all the down clues started with EX. An enjoyable slot 1. *Hilary Cromer*
- Exceeded expectations with excess of Ex's. *Richard Skinner*
- A great start to the March issue! *Kathryn Forward*
- A fun puzzle once the down theme was EX-posed. *Mal Cockburn*
- Expected expert exposition of the X-factor. *Toby McLeay*
- Excellent way to begin the month's solving. *Kath Harper*
- Once the 'former' pattern emerged, answers to the Down clues fell into place. Every clue deserves COTM. Brilliant. *Lynn Jarman*
- Excellent warm-up exercise - just right. *Ron Jarman*
- What fun to have all the down clues starting with ex!! *Jean Evans*

March 2: T-boy (Toby McLeay)

- Favourite YIELDING and the local icon. Only spotted Toby and T-Boy lurking there right at the end. Or should I say edge? *The Void*
- And a NINA - thanks, T-BOY or is it TOBY? *Ann Millard*
- Didn't notice the Nina until puzzle completed. *Allan Storti*
- Excellent puzzle. I was very slow to realize the meaning of the reference to Reverend Spooner in NEUROANATOMY definitely COTM. *Roy Taylor*
- An enjoyable solve. Found a T-boy on the right and a Toby on the left. *Ulla Axelsen*
- TEAPOT is a great clue, but sounds painful. *Mal*

Cockburn

- Some great clues here, lovely and precise, whilst still being quite intricate. I did like BANK RATE and TIP UP. And a great Nina - Toby McLeay TBoy. Very clever. *Julie Crowe*
- Clever Nina. Gotta promote yourself! *Greg Jones*
- TEAPOT and BANK RATE had me stumped for ages. OVERFILL and LASTLY were great clues. *Kathy Horadam*
- 14ac Speaker = AMP? Not sure about 26ac and 8dn. *Tony Dobe*
- Some great clues. Loved clues for TRIP UP and LASTLY. *Bev Cockburn*
- I see that Toby "signs" his crosswords. *Richard Skinner*
- Most enjoyable! *Kathryn Forward*
- Loved it T-boy. *Chris Thomas*
- An easy slot to become bogged down by too many choices of letters none of which seems to fit the clue. *Lynn Jarman*
- Loved the clue for teapot. *Jean Evans*

March 3: Manveru (Michael Kennedy)

- Favourite CLUE. Quite fun puzzle. *The Void*
- I found this tricky. Some easy clues and then others that I still am not sure about. *Ann Millard*
- Many excellent clues. A couple I'm not entirely sure of. PLACENTA a real COTM contender. *Roy Taylor*
- Took ages to get top left corner. Still not sure if it's CRIMINAL (sinner) or CRITICAL (prone to faulting), but went for the former as it probably covers both. *Ulla Axelsen*
- 7dn was one of the last answers I managed to get! *Con Flinkenberg*
- I admire the way that Manveru conceals the definitions within the clever wordplay. It really makes it a challenge to unravel this puzzle. PLACENTA gets my COTM. *Mal Cockburn*
- Hard but enjoyable puzzle, favourite clues CONVENIENT and PHIAL. *Joan Smith*
- Not sure of CARBON and NINETEEN as they seemed too simple. I liked CHOICE, PHIAL and STIR. *Kathy Horadam*
- Clever clues with 'grand' referring to a piano. I learn something every month! *Maureen Blake*
- Very enjoyable puzzle. CHOICE took some research. *Bev Cockburn*
- Couldn't decide between CRIMINAL and CRITICAL for 1dn. Both seem to fit. *Hilary Cromer*
- So, a new class of clue? Hidden in plain sight? *Richard Skinner*
- I really liked 27dn, STIR. *Fraser Simpson*
- When I saw the compiler's name, I immediately thought the slot would be a big challenge. It was, however, 23d and 30a ??? *Lynn Jarman*
- Some clever clues. Liked PHIAL. *Jean Evans*

March 4: Flowerman (Ian Thompson)

- Hard to choose COTM between AARDWOLF and SQUALIDEST. I took too long to see "run over = FLOW" and "that's = ID EST". Duh! *Len Colgan*
- That was tough! Not confident of a couple. *Patricia Abbott*
- Several words I haven't come across before, and DECUMAN & WIPPENS need a special mention, I think. *Ann Millard*
- Nothing easy about that one. *Roy Taylor*

continued on page 15

Feedback on February slot 4 & 5 continued from page 14

- A few unusual words to make this a good challenge. *Ulla Axelsen*
- A particularly hard AJ to get started with some tricky words to find. Got there in the end. *Mal Cockburn*
- Favourites HUDSON & JUDASES. A tough workout. *The Void*
- OH SO and KYOGEN were my last ones in. Bit naughty to have KEN = KENTUCKY I thought [*in Chambers – Ed*]. *Tony Dobe*
- Some really great clues here, particularly NOVEMBER and DECUMAN. *Bev Cockburn*
- DECUMAN and KYOGEN now added to my vocabulary. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Several unusual words in here. Hope I'm right. *Betty Siegman*
- I didn't enjoy this AJ much, the level of difficulty was unusually high. Clueing for P S V X still eludes me. *Kathy Horadam*
- Lots of new words to remember. *Toby McLeay*
- The curse of the 7-letter words and answers that spell-check queried. *Lynn Jarman*
- Challenging but fair - fortunately; when you're hunting unknown words. *Kath Harper*

March 5: NanaKat (Kathryn Forward)

- This puzzle represented an enjoyable collaboration with Crowsman. He guided me towards producing a far better puzzle than I thought I could create and taught me so much along the way. Thank you, Len. *Kathryn Forward*
- Favourite: TOAST. I did note the unusual grid size, and briefly wondered why before I started. With about three clues to go, I remembered to wonder again. Nicely done. *The Void*
- Some interesting clues around NORTH, SOUTH, EAST & WEST WARD! *Ann Millard*
- A fun solve. Certainly helped to get directions. Liked the definition of TEMAZEPAM but not sure of the word play. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Excellent challenging puzzle. 8dn clever clue. INSIDE = IN TEAM. *Roy Taylor*
- Hard to choose between your two girls but I went for THERESA as the clue of the month *Con Flinkenberg*
- Very clever EASTWARD, WESTWARD, SOUTHWARD and NORTHWARD! I only ever spot them after I have completed the crossword! *Julie Leigh*
- Finding the theme helped fill in the blanks. Great puzzle. *Mal Cockburn*
- Clever idea. I hadn't noticed the puzzle was 17 x 15 until I saw the directions. *Ian Thompson*
- EASTWARD, SOUTHWARD, NORTHWARD, WESTWARD hidden in the grid. Plus NORTHERN, SOUTHERN, WESTERN, SOUTHERN in the clues. *Tony Dobe*
- My favourite clues were DOLLY and INPUT. *Nea Storey*
- I hope I'm right on TEMAZEPAM. Puzzling over it kept me awake half the night. *Betty Siegman*
- Wonderfully hidden directions! Very clever! *Bev Cockburn*
- A couple being backwards threw me at first, but I finally tracked all four directions down. Well-hidden Nina Nana. *Richard Skinner*

- Once I got the T in EASTWARD I woke up to Temazepam. *Toby McLeay*
- Lovely puzzle, thanks NanaKat! I did need the directions to complete it. I don't think brand names are allowable, though. [*Well-known ones are frequently used in many puzzles and Chambers has many as entries – Ed*] I liked AERIALISTS and DENSEST. *Kathy Horadam*
- I only noticed the Nina right at the end. Fun! *Fraser Simpson*
- An excellent puzzle, with very clever Ninas. *Laurence Kennedy*
- Liked the clue for ENRAPTURE and TAP DANCER. *Ron Jarman*
- How clever to include all the compass directions; all going in the right directions. *Kath Harper*

You may have heard this before...as well...

- Did you hear about the new corduroy pillowcases? They're really making headlines.
- If you see an Apple store get robbed, does that make you an iWitness?
- Why couldn't the pony sing in the choir? He was a little horse.
- Did you hear about the woman who loved making archery supplies? Every day she went to work, she quivered with joy!
- The past, the present and the future all walked into a bar. It was tense.
- "Business has been great," the spotted cat said, "but alas, cheetahs never prosper."
- Rumours of a food shortage at this year's Spoonerism conference turned out to be a complete lack of pies.
- Don't ever believe an atom, they make up everything.
- I'm glad I know sign language, it's pretty handy.
- Why did the scarecrow get an award? He was outstanding in his field.
- Be kind to dentists. They have fillings too, you know.
- All the toilets in the CID headquarters have been stolen. The police apparently have nothing to go on.
- I did a theatrical performance about puns. It was really just a play on words.
- Why did the can crusher quit her job? It was soda-pressing.
- What do you call a broken can opener? A can't opener.
- Why do people love Switzerland? Well, the flag is a big plus. Unlike Canada's, which I could take or leaf.
- Becoming vegetarian was a huge missed steak.
- I was was going to tell a joke about a dead parrot, but it was way too macawbre.
- How do trees feel in the Spring? Releaved.
- Did you hear about the sale on paddles? It was quite an oar-deal.
- If a wizard uses magic to hold up a camera and take a picture of himself, is that a Spellfie?
- Did you hear that the Devil is going bald? Yeah, there's gonna be hell toupee.
- What language do bridges speak? Span-ish.
- What do you call a dog magician? A Labracadabrador Retriever.
- How many ears does Captain Kirk have? Three, the right, the left, and the final front ear.
- What do you call a lawyer who can cook? A sue chef

MARCH SLOT 2[illegible]

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MARCH SLOT 4[illegible]

MARCH SLOT 6

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[illegible]

Clue of the Month

Submit solution by ACCOLADE or for mail entries see page 3 for adjudicator and closing mail date

Name