



# CrOZworld

No 432 April 2026



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"Honeyed words like bees, Gilded and sticky, with a little sting". EH Wylie [1885 -1928], *Pretty Words*

## LAST MONTH'S RESULTS

Puzzle No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Compiler	NanaKat	Ninian	Buzzer	Manveru	Anon	Robespierre	Zinzan
Entries received	77	74	63	66	70	57	44
Correct Entries	70	63	46	56	63	48	35
Success (%)	90	85	73	85	90	84	79
Prize-winners	Ron Jarman	Judy Randall	Jan Wood	Fraser Simpson	Betty Siegman	Mark Woolston	Ulla Axelsen



Slots 1 to 5 all correct: Ian Thompson  
 Winner of Quiz 2062-3: Michael Kennedy  
 Congratulations to all our winners!



## FROM THE ADJUDICATOR

This month is the first in which we are trying a slightly enlarged adjudication scope, which includes Slots 6 & 7, as well as the usual Slots 1 to 5.

**Slot 1** - NanaKat's Half 'n' Half was a gentle warm up for the month with a well-checked grid. STOCKPOT was a popular clue. I wonder how many people entered SAFE in 1ac (instead of FAST) as their first entry, and then had to think again when the down solutions didn't fit? MAGGIE was accepted for the intended MAGPIE in 11ac, and SCAM was accepted for the intended SHAM in 42ac ("false front"). The only clues with multiple lost dots were the intersecting errors of FORETELL for the intended FOR+SWEAR ("reject it") in 1dn, and LATTICE for the intended RATLINE ("rigging") in 24ac.

**Slot 2** - Buzzer made a welcome return in Slot 2 after what seems like a very long time. BREATHE ONE'S LAST was a cracking &lit. SECOND HAND in 5dn also had some lovely misdirection in "old timer". The trickiest one was 7ac for which a number of solvers entered PRESENT for the hidden, intended PRETEXT ("show").

**Slot 3** - There were lots of opportunities to go awry in Ninian's challenging cryptic. They included YEE and YUE for the intended YO(UR)E in 19dn: as noted in the feedback, the correct solution could be found in Macquarie. In 6dn, the intended solution was the hard-to-parse ladies LYN+CHER ("one who hangs"), but LUNCHER was also accepted as satisfying a cryptic definition-type clue, with the thought of ladies who lunch and the contemporary application of "hang" meaning to associate. ASP+HALTERS ("they lay on the road") was appreciated by solvers. Clues based on, or including, a homophone attracted mixed views, as they tend to do. Separately, I wasn't entirely convinced that BAR is synonymous with RAY in 25dn, but nobody tripped up on it.

**Slot 4** - Some cunning wordplay from Manveru in the AJ (like "electric vehicle" clueing E-VAN). CRYSTAL BALL was a tricky cryptic definition. Overall, it was a well-solved puzzle, despite including some most unusual words, such as TMESIS, YENNING EVANESCE, RETICULE and HECATOMBS, each of which caught one solver. Some solvers remarked on Manveru's trademark top-line Nina and the associated mini chess theme.

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President / Editor	Ian Williams	12 Lindrum Crescent Holt ACT 2615	ph 0417 493 431	<a href="mailto:president@crosswordclub.org">president@crosswordclub.org</a>
Secretary	Jenny Wenham	48 Shakespeare Street Comet Qld 4702	ph 0407 643 277	<a href="mailto:secretary@crosswordclub.org">secretary@crosswordclub.org</a>

March

Slot 1

1	F	A	S	T	4	P	A	S	6	S	7	S	T	9	P
2	O	T	A	R	O	11	M	A	G	P	I	E	O		
3	R	I	O	T	13	S	E	A	T	14	D	E	E	R	
4	S	15	C	A	16	P	E	17	R	E	G	R	E	T	O
5	W	K	E	R	T	20	E	T	21	E	E	E	U		
6	19	E	X	P	E	R	T	20	I	S	E	22	C	O	R
7	A	O	T	B	C	O									
8	24	A	T	L	I	N	E	26	L	U	N	E	27	T	T
9	I	N	A		A	C	I	T							
10	29	C	R	A	V	E	31	M	A	T	R	I	A	R	C
11	A	N	N	E	L	E									
12	38	T	A	I	L	30	V	A	L	E	40	L	O	V	E
13	L	C	O	S	S	E	T	42	S	H	A	M	A		
14	43	E	L	S	E	44	N	E	A	T	45	T	E	A	L

Slot 2

1	O	2	C	3	C	4	W	5	S						
6	H	A	V	E	A	G	O	7	P	R	E	T	E	X	T
8	A	A	N	M	E	B	C	H							
9	R	A	L	L	Y	17	F	I	R	E	S	T	O	N	E
10	D	H	O	O	R	K	I	N	B						
11	11	T	H	I	N	N	E	R	13	S	T	U	D	I	O
12	O	D		T	14	I	E	H	T						
13	15	B	R	E	A	T	H	E	O	N	E	S	L	A	S
14	E	A	E	R	N	N	N	O							
15	17	L	P	L	A	T	E	18	K	I	N	G	D	O	M
16	I	I	R	20	A	E	U	L							
17	21	E	A	S	Y	A	S	P	I	E	22	T	U	T	S
18	V	T	P	S	P	T	R	N							
19	24	E	V	I	L	O	N	E	25	E	L	E	G	I	S
20		C	D				R								

Slot 3

1	S	O	R	T	3	A	S	P	H	A	L	T	7	E	R	S
2	I	O			10	P	O	Y	T	P						
3	9	N	O	N	Z	10	E	R	O	11	C	O	N	C	E	A
4	C	D	A	R	O	K	C	R	A							
5	12	I	N	E	R	R	A	N	T	13	H	A	N	D	Y	
6	T	A	L	B	14	A	E	A	S							
7	15	Y	O	17	U	R	S	S	I	N	C	E	R	E	L	Y
8	R	O														
9	20	B	A	C	C	A	L	A	U	R	E	A	T	E	S	
10	26	S	C	O	S	22	S	U	R	E	M	U	S	P		
11	E	L	A	T	E	28	S	T	R	E	A	M	E	R		
12	D	R	X	29	P	O	N	E	A							
13	30	A	S	I	N	I	N	E	31	M	O	D	E	S	T	Y
14	T	N	S	N	E											
15	32	E	X	A	C	T	I	T	U	D	E	33	M	E	N	D

Slot 4

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

Slot 5

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

Slot 6

1	D	I	P	S	T	4	I	C	K	5	E	M	I	7	G	8	R
9	I	L	I	O													
10	A	D	U	L	T	E	R	Y	10	H	E	A	R	S	E		
11	P	M	A	S	11	L	M	C									
12	E	M	P	E	N	N	A	G	E	13	S	H	I	R	T		
14	R	S															
15																	
16																	
17	17	18	A	L	I	R	16	F	A	R	R	A	G	O	L	N	
19	R	E	D	F	L	A	20	W	I	M	P						
21	O	D	I	O	H												
22	S	T	I	N	G	25	L	O	I	N	C	L	O	T	H		
23	T	T	A	D	P	O	R	O									
24	A	R	I	S	T	O	28	S	P	I	N	S	T	E	R		
25	T	V	O														
26	E	X	E	D	R	A	30	S	T	R	A	T	E	G	Y		

Slot 7

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

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April 7 Name

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8										
9																	
11																	
13																	
17	18																
22																	
26																	
28																	

From the Adjudicator: continued from page 1

**Slot 5** - This became a much easier puzzle once the placeholder "anagi" exited stage right and the length indicator for 13ac settled on (5,5) - GREEN ONIONS. Solvers enjoyed this offering from the Anon team, including some great container clues like LIPIZZANER, RIFLE SHOTS and PLACE CARD. AN ISSUE was accepted (just) for the intended A+T ISSUE in 28ac, providing a believable double definition in place of the intended charade clue. A couple of EOLITES for the intended Stone-Age implements EOLITHS (<SHOE around LIT) but other errors appeared typos.

**Slot 6** - A tricky and clever puzzle from Robespierre. Favourites included ÉMIGRÉ, WHIPPET, ERECTION, HEARSE and LOINCLOTH. The favourite of all was DIAPER in 1dn ("what the continent won't need" - <REPAID). The main cause of lost dots seemed to be a misspelling of EMPANNAGE for the intended EMPENNAGE. Otherwise, a well-solved puzzle despite Robespierre's trickery.

**Slot 7** - Zinzan's imaginative and carefully constructed cryptic had an acrostic instruction that directed solvers to change the initial letter of 10 solutions to find the names of 10 US Presidents. That was after solving a pretty tricky puzzle. If that wasn't enough, it also had one of those hard 4 letter clues in 27dn - LO(P)+A+F(USE) - "act unhelpfully". I did wonder for a long time whether the clue for 13ac (TWENTY TO) also clued TWENTY 20 (i.e., passed it - the eye test - with 20/20). The solvers who worked the whole thing out only to overlook changing TIERCE to PIERCE and WAFT to TAFT will be understandably disappointed. It's a tribute to the skill of our solvers that these were the only presidential errors following a complex solving and interpretation task.

**COTM** - Forty nominations were received for clue of the month from all slots. It's interesting to see what appeals most to solvers and this month's votes ranged from a simple but tricky charade, through an atrocious pun to a very neat &lit clue. A close run contest with a dead heat between Ninian's HANDY [Close borders of Hungary] and Robespierre's DIAPER [What the continent won't need recompensed in return]. Congratulations to Scott Goodman and Ian McKenzie.

Thanks to all our compilers for challenging us with their wit and ingenuity. I wish members the best of luck for the rest of the year's solving.-

Andrew Miles

MEMBERS' RESULTS FOR March 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.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Goodman S.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Milton R.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Allen W.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Grainger D.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Moline R.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Audrins K.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Graves C.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Morris B.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Axelsen U.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Hagan R.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Parsons D.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Barbour J.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Harper K.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Patterson A.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Barnes J.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Hearn R.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Pinder S.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Batum C.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Hocking A.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Randall J.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Bennett D.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Horadam K.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Rosendorff D.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Bettles K.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Howat S.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Roulston S.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Blake M.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Jarman L.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Ryan W.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Blundell C.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Jarman R.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Shield A.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Carroll L.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Jones G.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Siegman B.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Cockburn M.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Kasivijula B.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Simons A.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Colgan L.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Kennedy L.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Simpson F.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Coote P.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Kennedy M.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Skinner R.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Cromer H.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Lankshear J.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Smith J.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Crowe J.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Leigh J.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Storti A.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Dasgupta K.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Lim S.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Symons B.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Davis K.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Madden J.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Taylor R.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Dobele T.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Martin A.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Taylor S.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Ducker R.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Martin F.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Thomas C.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Dyer A.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	McKenzie I.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Thompson I.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Fitzgerald M.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	McKenzie R.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Wilcox C.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Forward K.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	McLeay T.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Williams K.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Francis K.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Meek D.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Wimbush R.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Gamble K.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Miles A.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Wood J.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Gamer P.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Millard A.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Woolston M.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

**Explanations for clues in March slots 1 to 5:** Note: cd = cryptic definition; dd = double definition; rev or < = reversal; homophones shown 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 NanaKat. Down:** 1 FOR + SWEAR, 2 STOCK + POT, 3 TA-TA, 4 PO + SE, 5 S + MARTS, 6 DD, 7 DD/CD, 8 hidden, 9 anag, 16 PER< + T(IN)ENT, 18 anag, 20 I + BEAM, 21 hidden<, 23 TIP<, 25 DD, 27 anag, 28 hidden, 29 DD/CD, 30 ANn + TICS, 32 A+E+RATE, 34 A+LO+E, 35 hidden, 36 LE + ST, 37 S + LAT.

**Slot 2 Buzzer. Across:** 6 H + AGO outside (A + VersE), 7 Hidden, 9 oRALLY, 10 F+IRE+S +TONE, 11 THIN(N<>k) ER with N(-itrogen) for K, 13 (OUTSIDE)\*, 15 (HEARTBEATNOLESS)\* &lit, 17 L+ P in LATE, 18 G in KIND+OM, 21 (ESSAY)\* outside (A + P) + IE, 22 TrUsTySaId, 24 LIVE< + bOuNdEr, 25 (EG + I) in ELSE. **Down:** 1 V in (O+A)+L, 2 C+ANY+ON, 3 (FROM+COT)\* + RE<, 4 WE+B+homoph "sights", 5 CD&DD, 6 (VOLTAIRE HED BE)\*, 7 PER + (worKday), 8 CD referring to = symbol, 12 DEAL in I+I + STICK, 14 INNER outside KEEP, 16 Hidden, 19 N+UTTER, 20 (E+SPA)<, 23 heads.

**Slot 3 Ninian. Across:** 1 S+OR+T, 3 cd/ASP +HALTERS, 9 aNON + ZERO, 11 C (ONCE) AL, 12 INER(RAN)T, 13 H+AND+Y, 15 (hom[U+R+YY]+NICE+LESSOR)\*, 20 (CAUSE A CAR TABLE)\*, 27 gELATE, 28 ST(R)EAMER, 30 AS I NINE (As one nine), 31 MODE + STY, 32 EX(AC+TIT)UDE, 33 MEN + D. **Down:** 1 homoph "CINCInnaTI", 2 (AROUND + E)\*, 4 SPOON + BILLS, 5 dd, 6 LYN + CHER, 7 ET(ERNe)AL, 8 S(PLAY)S, 10 (SLAtER)\*, 14 ACCUS(TOM)ED, 16 <BRO, 17 (OstRiCh)\*, 18 hidden, 19 YourE minus homoph "you are" [=UR], 21 A+Cat+(RAIN)\*, 22 (EXOTICS)\*, 23 EM+EN+D, 24 hidden, 25 SP(RAY)ED, 26 SE + DATE, 29 PEN+iTs.

**Slot 4 Manveru. A** (MARINA+IS+O)\*, **B** (O+B(L)EsSiNg+IN)\*, **C** CD, **D** (M+ORAL+IS) in DEED, **E** E/VAN/ESC/E, **F** A/TIDY/FACT\*, **G** (GARDEN+L)\*, **H** O in (MACBETH\*+S, **I** dd/cd, **J** J/A/NIT/OR, **K** chec(K)mate, **L** LI+K+E+W+I+SE, **M** HIDDEN, **N** NEWS+MENU, **O** b(OILERS), **P** P+LUCK+DE>, **Q** CD, **R** RETICKLE, **S** hidden<, **T** TIMES+S)\*, **U** UP+WARD, **V** SEAL\* in VINE, **W** (H+T+A+RAW)<, **X** X+(pAsSiOn)<, **Y** SPENDINGMONEY\*(-mopeds), **Z** Z/O/RO(A)STER.

**Slot 5 Anon. Across:** 1 RI(FLESH)OTS, 10 SHOE< around LIT, 11 ME< around VANGELIS, 12 I+MM+sENSE, 13 REGION\* around NONE<, 14 A(UNTIE)S, 15 LI(PIZZA)NER, 16 (SPOKESPERSON-keeps)\*, 20 SNEEZY\* around (gru)M(py), 25 UN(SHACK)LED, 26 IS< in TENON, 27 BRO(KENDO)WN, 28 A + TISSUE, 29 ALPHA+BET+I...+C..., 31 dd+dd [see Chambers for dish2]. **Down:** 2 IN+VERSION, 3 LONG + EVIT(a<>Y), 4 S(HEM)OZZLE, 5 O+PINIONS, 6 (SA+MINERS)\*, 7 FLAMING + O, 8 (INSTRUMENTALISTS -stmartin)\*, 9 hidden, 17 PLA(CE)CARD, 18 NAKED+NESS, 19 OVER+W+RITE, 20 dd, 21 (bulldo)ZIN(g) + CITES, 22 MA+IN+S...A...+IL, 23 Spooner "bun seems", 24 E(x) + DEP(P)OTS<.

**Slot 6 Robespierre. Across:** 1 D<> (L)IPSTICK, 5 (REGIME)\* &lit, 9 (LUTE)\* inside AD, RY, 10 HEARS+homE, 12 PENN inside E, MAGE, 14,13 Spooner "share hurt", 16 RAG in (FOR, A)\*, 19 Spooner "fled rag", 21 hidden, 24 (G, NITS)<, 25 CLOT in (L, O, IN, H), 27 ARISTOTLE - (almost+alL+thE), 28 NS inside (PRIEST)\*, 29 EXE, DRA(B), 30 (T..+E..+G..) in STRAY. **Down:** 1 REPAID<, 2 P in PLUMS, 3 bIT in TAN, 4 Surreptitious in COR, AIR, 6 L in MAESTRO, Motor, 7 G<>T in TERMINAL, 8 R<>(L) in ELECTION, 15 (A LOG TAIL)\*, R, 17 (A in T+T) in PROSE, 18 DIT in (A, DIVE), 20,11 (DEAL)\* in GOLF, 21 WHIP, PET, 22 (IT inside EROS)<, 23 T, HORNY, 26 (GENOCIDAL - LIED)\*.

**Slot 7 Zinzan. Across:** 8 homoph "yoke", 9 at,air <, 10 I do, L, 11 i(LI-yd<)s, 12 key,g-----,rips, 13 cd, 15 a,V(Eng)E, 17 (tad,l---,is)\*, 19 sau/nas<>nas/sau, 22 i-n,f-e,s-t, 24 ante,lope, 26 (sledge,ie)\*, 28 rat,-i-o-s, 30 heads, 31 v, EN,u-e-, 32 ---rus h---. **Down:** 1 drow- <, 2 (sen-,silky)\*, 3 -c-r- u-s-t -y, 4 homoph "tax"+on-, 5 (pacy)\*, arab<, 6 tie,r(c)e, 7 heads, 14 wide,N, 16 g(rum)p, 18 autos,ave, 20 sal(u.t.)ary, 21 car ding, 23 weights -w, 25 t,(art) ER, 27 lo(p),a,f(usage), 29 (j)oust.

**Slot 1**

**Mystery Letter by Crowsman**



All of the Across answers contain a mystery letter exactly once, and are not defined. Each Across clue defines another word which, when the mystery letter is added, provides the answer. For example, suppose the mystery letter is M (which it is not!). Then 'Fishing (7+1)' would give MANGLING, 'Invent (6+1)' would give CREMATE. Down clues are normal.

1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8
9						10								
11								12						
13		14							15					
								16						17
	18			19			20			21				
22						23								
24								25				26		
27										28				
29							30							

**Across**

- 1 Good enough to be sold (8+1)
- 6 Invasion (4+1)
- 9 Took a dip (4+1)
- 10 Blankets (8+1)
- 11 Speaks (6+1)
- 12 Tying up (6+1)
- 13 Moneylenders (7+1)
- 15 Drags heavily (4+1)
- 18 Defacement (4+1)
- 20 Ground (7+1)
- 24 Timber (6+1)
- 25 Second or more recent (6+1)
- 27 Removal (8+1)
- 28 Mode of transport (4+1)
- 29 Mends clothing (4+1)
- 30 Most poorly (8+1)

**Down**

- 1 King of Corinth, his spy unsettled us (8)
- 2 Definite blackmail! (5)
- 3 Insincere involvement in 'speed' pills on the rise (3-4)
- 4 They scan right inside refuelling providers (8)
- 5 Old and mostly hollow excuse (6)
- 6 Italian artist raised standard with Jacob's wife turning up (7)
- 7 Naughty youngster going around dropping eggs (7,2)
- 8 Undertake wise amount of medicine (6)
- 14 Remove wrinkles from buttock in relative (9)
- 16 Press 1, re-establishing answer (8)
- 17 Enter converted cannabis storehouse (8)
- 19 They remove mistakes from series of tennis matches (7)
- 21 Responded to rush outside law (7)
- 22 Digs emphatically if in these (6)
- 23 Supports getting hold of inside intelligence (6)
- 26 Angry rant, but without one deal (5)

**SEND SOLUTIONS TO:**

For online submission and adjudication, click on the ACCOLADE button on the [www.crosswordclub.org](http://www.crosswordclub.org) home page. All slots 1 to 7 should be submitted using ACCOLADE or posted to Ian Thompson at 12 Olive Street, Malvern East Vic 3145

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Closing mail date is 24 April 2026. ACCOLADE and email entries close at 00.01

# Slot 2

## 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				22		23		
24				25				26		27				28
29										30				

**Across**

- 9 Drama when Oliver and Petracca initially are knocked back (5)
- 10 "She done it slyly" (2,3,4)
- 11 Believers hold up, engaged in empty thoughts (7)
- 12 Terrorists, heartless mob, captured by SA farmers (7)
- 13 Saints protecting sickly birds (5)
- 15 Price of unfinished meal (3)
- 16 Remove final bit of scar from stretch mark (5)
- 17 Both sides engaged in dynamic natural Aussie sport (10,5)
- 20 Tear strip off cooked meat (5)
- 21 To be indebted for a letter read out (3)
- 22 Twenty-one: splitting pair rule (5)
- 24 Dead Aussies found at Victoria Quay? (7)
- 26 Pedler turned up with set of things for sale (7)
- 29 Mister Tex injured fanatic (9)
- 30 Brags about brawls (5)

**Down**

- 1 Measure kick (4)
- 2 Races around in bare negligee (6)
- 3 Free ticket from step son (4)
- 4 Cowboy exhibitions cleared of half dead jumpers (4)
- 5 Inglorious deadlock trapping British pen friend (10)

- 6 Giants for example abound we are told (4)
- 7 When telegraph pole topples over Spooner gets security system (8)
- 8 Time to toughen up (6)
- 13 Drink is at heart of disease (3)
- 14 Member resisting pressure to show off (5)
- 15 Club buddies all the rage (10)
- 16 Abandon chance game ending up on top (5)
- 18 Contraction arising during alarming shortage (8)
- 19 Gentleman raised in Brisbane (3)
- 20 Which ever way you look at it 13A's colour is more intense (6)
- 23 Bowl over holding crook bat (6)
- 25 Container carried up and down by beer makers (4)
- 26 Chaps dropping first to last (4)
- 27 Mega champion represents club (4)
- 28 Way to start a game, or lose it? (4)

**General feedback for March**

- Is it just me; or are the puzzles getting harder? Altogether a thoroughly enjoyable bunch; though I'm dubious about getting any dots, Jan Wood

# Slot 3

**Cryptic  
by  
Jesso**



	1	2		3		4		5		6		7	
8													
9						10						11	12
13								14					
15					16			17					
				18									
19		20									21	22	
										23			
24						25		26					
27	28									29			
	30												

**Across**

- 1 Barbara Coonan developed a country town (13)
- 9 Boy accepted after a long victory (5)
- 10 Reckon to telephone about copper and goddess of mischief (9)
- 13 Tear off without skill for dressing (7)
- 14 Peter out if float is ruined (4,3)
- 15 Thought I had each shortened (4)
- 16 A proverbial mess follows noise-maker! (4,6)
- 19 Swimmer takes isolated hill at right angle (10)
- 21 Instrument starts out blowing open entrance (4)
- 24 A mass of chilling material to finish off woman at the end of June (7)
- 26 Sweet, docile male is abnormal (7)
- 27 Man at Flanders battlefield returned books at the conjuror's command (3,6)
- 29 Dash around the middle of Devon. That's mischievous (5)
- 30 Fashionable man landed and let out a nursery rhyme character (7,6)

**Down**

- 2 Opposing aspect in verbose exchange (7)
- 3 Nuclear front accepted James's assassins (6)

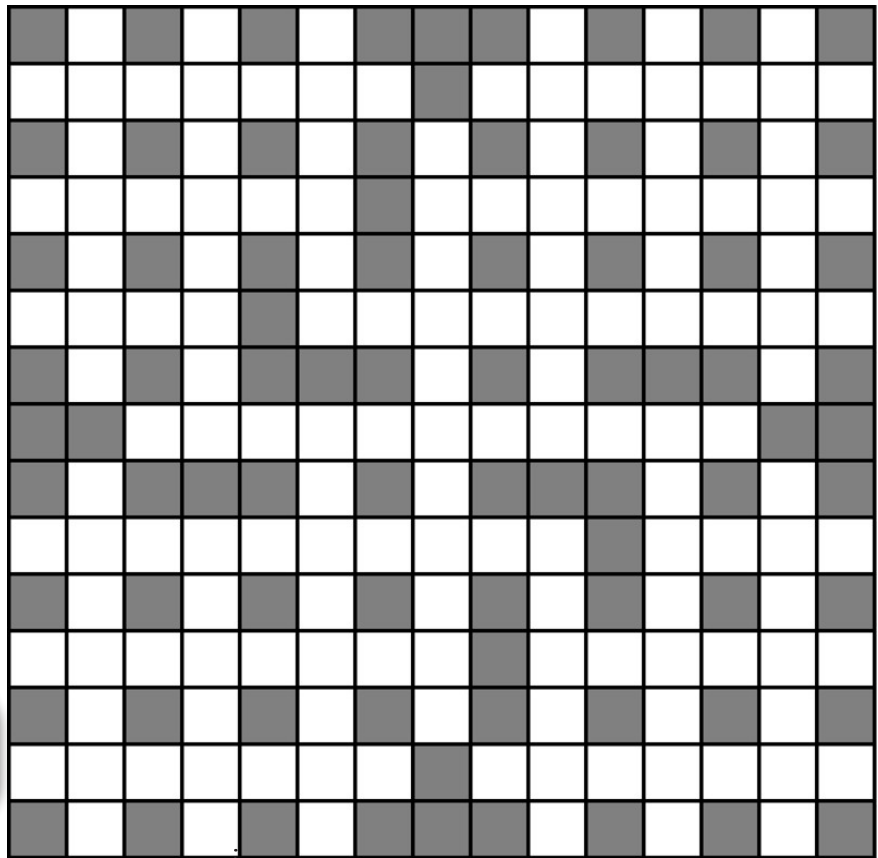
- 4 Gave ground to support media boss not working (6,3)
- 5 Tenure letter contains new rental agreement (5)
- 6 Black gold, hot in one key tropical plant (8)
- 7 Man to make leather up (3)
- 8 A pal bitching about Christian's opponent (7,5)
- 11 Tree to be on car wreck (5)
- 12 Exuberant letter, passionate about Scottish diploma (12)
- 17 Ways to get identical information for a culinary ingredient (6,3)
- 18 Report old city in command of the earth (8)
- 20 Little mount by the city (5)
- 22 Lie up about five under bed and throw into confusion (7)
- 23 Even if prince ran out for one (6)
- 25 Follow directions to prosecute (5)
- 28 All the rest travelling in streetcar (3)

# Slot 4

AJ  
by  
KA



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



- A** Strange, cute, organic dressing (11)
- B** Express displeasure to list some algebra, perhaps (7)
- C** Short work on information about this part of the animal kingdom (8)
- D** Become less wild, end differently (7)
- E** The Spanish piles change shape (7)
- F** Sedan rebuilt for our do (4-4)
- G** Surrender to soldier on vessel (4,2)
- H** Viscount Nelson, for example, was included in English orations (7)
- I** It's a publican's job to look around amid harvest (10)
- J** Confining judge when ill (7)
- K** Holy books of some Asians rejecting English (6)
- L** Cut leading teaching medical publication (6)
- M** Loud demolition in ruin made of blocks (7)
- N** Drug managed returning officer with spasm (8)
- O** Generally, son has protective clothing (8)
- P** Can pilot change such a relationship? (8)
- Q** Heavenly body of queen with a short garment (6)
- R** Speaker's part in list (4)
- S** Even my castle rim is rebuilt (11)
- T** Modify a minor tube for instrument (10)
- U** Liquifies strange haw nuts (7)
- V** Perhaps Amati put recycled oil into French drink (6)
- W** Most cunning humourist includes porkies (7)
- X** Eastern city for believer (4)
- Y** A doctor returns with son to be in University fundraising event (4,4)
- Z** Three states back antacid medicine (6)

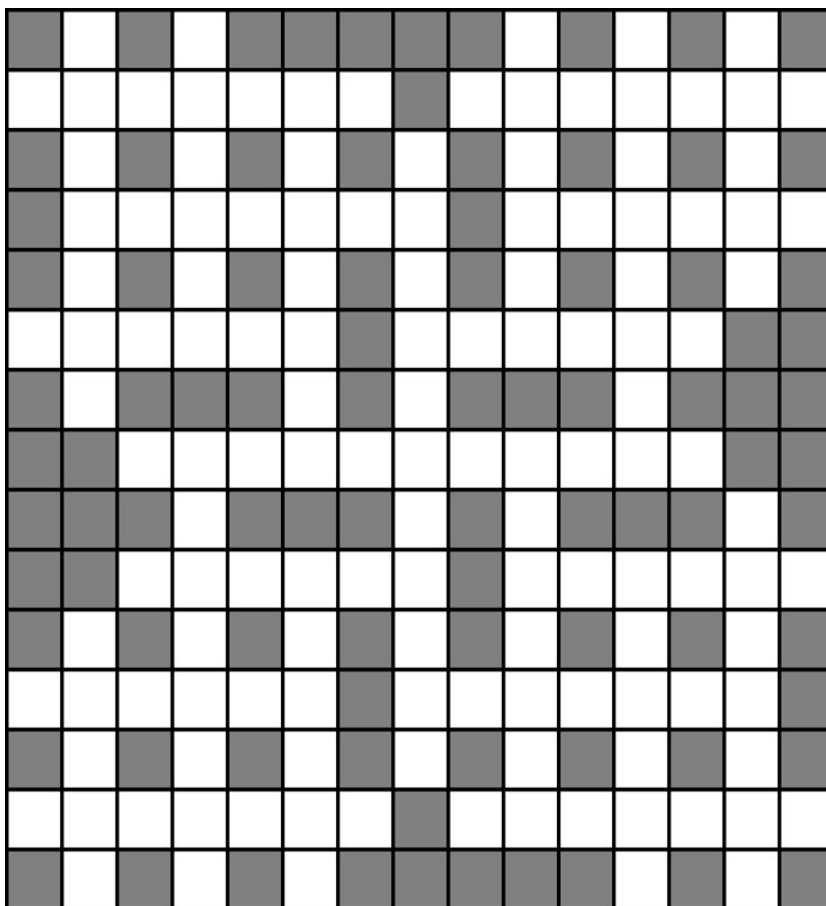


# Slot 6

**AJ**  
by  
**P-brane**



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



- A** It's how chemical molecules stick to surfaces inside flatheads or barramundi (6)
- B** Harbourside suburb annoys marine creatures (7,4)
- C** Caught ray angling and taking B (and/or some G, K, L, M, S or Y) (11)
- D** Make simple silent fellow drink whiskey (4,4)
- E** Resulted from close burying heads of small unfortunate eels (6)
- F** Spooner's lair consumed and provided for himself (6)
- G** Inland crustacean's unfinished oxygen extractor fails without ventilating first (7)
- H** Like a light brown atmospheric obscuration to a lead-free friend (7)
- I** "I do": it's problematic for prawnheads and pea-brains (6)
- J** In parting, short young wallaby meeting resistance from timber worker (6)
- K** Look at unopened publication about aquatic invertebrates (7)
- L** Bolters chaotic run on ten limbs? (7)
- M** Once Senior Nurse replaces tuna head with snapper tail to snare sandgroper's bushtucker (6)
- N** Moguls ban returned former students (6)
- O** Workplace where Emperor Penguins might go for a feed of krill? (6)
- P** "Prawnhead surgery" you said, "left a front runner favoured" (7)
- Q** Celestial objects resembling incomplete unopened pubs (7)
- R** Do I ring a mobile or try calling on the CB? (8)

- S** Unidentified cephalopod with blanket (not wide) for a B! (7)
- T** Heard drink spoilt start of a golf round (3,3)
- U** Immoral, tailless Dugong absurdly takes headless trout lure (7)
- V** Unproven omission conceals one danger of a stingray's barb (5)
- W** "Whiskey on rocks" initially prepared then rejected by setter clueing "Ready for writing-off" (4-3)
- X** Seafood has unknown topping applied after head removed with surgical scrapers (7)
- Y** "Why?" said a regular bobby. "It lives in water courses and waterholes" (5)
- Z** Leading zealot painting us as a harsh critic of Homer's poetry (6)





**Quiz 2026-3 by St Jude (Drew Meek).**

**Results: Correct: 26 W. Allen ; U. Axelsen; K. Harper; M. Kennedy; A. Millard; A. Patterson; D. Rosendorff ; W. Ryan; F. Simpson; M. Vnuk; R. Wimbush 25 S. Goodman; J. Leigh; R. McKenzie ;24 J. Crowe; 23 B. Siegman; 21 P. Garner**

**Prizewinner M. Kennedy Congratulations!**

**Answers:** 1 adware 2 breathalyzer 3 cosplay 4 dramedy 5 electrocution 6 frenemy 7 glamping 8 hangry 9 infomercial 10 jazzercise 11 kytoon 12 listicle 13 motel 14 netiquette 15 Obamacare 16 portmanteau 17 quango 18 romcom 19 spam 20 tigon 21 urinalysis 22 velcro 23 wholphin 24 xerography 25 yinglish 26 zonkey

**Adjudicator’s Observations**

The theme of the quiz was portmanteau words which are “made by telescoping or blending two other words” [Macq.]

The word was coined by Lewis Carroll in *Through the Looking-Glass* (1871). As Humpty Dumpty told Alice when explaining the Jabberwocky poem to her: “Well, ‘slithy’ means ‘lithe and slimy.’ ‘Lithe’ is the same as ‘active.’ You see it’s like a portmanteau—there are two meanings packed up into one word.”

A clue for the theme was the image of the portmanteau at top of page and the P solution pointed to the theme, with the clue including the definition of “container” in addition to the secinds. For the other letters of the alphabet only the secinds for portmanteau words were given. There were fewer submission for this quiz than usual so perhaps the theme was not as evident as I’d hoped or perhaps even with the theme identified the definitionless clues remained tricky. Some clue explanation may be helpful, focussing on those that gave problems to some solvers. Someone both your friend and enemy could be FR+EN+EM+Y; When cranky due to lack of food, one could be HANG+RaIIY. One solver had “jabberwock” for J, which though incorrect was coincidental, given the origin of the theme word! JAZZ is nonsense, ER is the old queen, not trans is CIS and earl E. I could only find limited Q portmanteaux. QUANT+GO. Some solvers wondered if this is a portmanteau or just an acronym. Is it Qu for quasi and A for autonomous or QUA for the entire word quasi-autonomous? I did find it listed under both categories. Yinglish is a mixture of Yiddish and English. Female [principal heard > principle] [YIN] by head girl [G] to have about fifty [L-ISH]. Many hybrid animals have portmanteau names and T, W and Z are examples. GIT>+ON; WHOLE+sPHINx; ZONa+KEY

**Solvers’ Feedback**

- Learnt that VELCRO is a French portmanteau and that COSPLAY is an English version of a Japanese portmanteau. Parsing of QUANGO only fell out when I learnt that QUANT can mean PUNT.
- From a quick search, I think that, apart from PORTMANTEAU, ELECTROCUTION is the oldest word in the list, from the late 19th century. *Michael Vnuk*
- It was a tough one with no definitions but at least the picture put me straight onto the theme before starting. I thought QUANGO more an acronym than a portmanteau. *Andrew Patterson*
- Thanks for an interesting quiz. So many portmanteau words entering the language, and not all in Chambers. *Betty Siegman*
- Great stuff! Had to AI a few of them! And, another couple I can’t quite parse - But, I’ll call for the stewards if you mark any incorrect! *William Ryan*
- This took some effort and despite having half the “portmanteau words”, it took a long time for the penny to drop. JAZZERCISE, hopefully correct, the hardest to find. *Ann Millard*
- Thank you. You are the quizzard. Here are my 26 portmanteaux. *Michael Kennedy*
- What an excellent idea for a quiz. *Julie Leigh*
- That was a real challenge. A great mixture of old and new portmanteaus, with Q one of the last in as I thought it was an acronym until AI informed me it could be both. *Ulla Axelsen*
- A rather tricky theme to find despite the portmanteau taking pride of place in your challenging quiz! The J word took ages. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Herewith my effort, a bit like the curate’s egg! However I have 26 answers, of which I hope most are correct. It was a battle in parts. Thank you for keeping our ageing brains operating. *Pat Garner*
- Thanks for a very challenging puzzle - many new words for me. *Scott Goodman*
- I think I have worked out the correct answers for your most interesting quiz. I am amazed that you had 1 word for each letter of the alphabet. #17 was last solved as I was on a wrong track *Warren Allen*
- I’m submitting this at the very last minute because it took me all month to complete. Very clever - and 21 was quite prescient! *Kath. Harper*
- Thank you for this interesting quiz. The illustration gave me confidence that i was onto the common thread! *Robyn McKenzie*
- This was really fun, and I learned a few new words, like kytoon. The picture of the portmanteau case was a nice touch! *Fraser Simpson*

Sol'n FRAZ WORD SQUARE Apr 1

T	S	A	E	Y
S	W	O	N	K
A	O	C	O	C
E	N	O	Z	O
Y	K	C	O	R

Sol'n FRAZ WORD SQUARE Apr 2

T	R	E	X	E
R	E	G	I	T
E	G	A	M	I
X	I	M	E	R
E	T	I	R	W

## GRIDATORIAL

We hope you like the new-look CrOZworld. If not, please tell us and make suggestions for improvement of the format, content and the range of puzzles that we present for your enjoyment, or on any other matters that relate to the Club. We thank our adjudicators for agreeing to take on the extra work of reviewing all seven monthly puzzles to enable us to make the current changes. While on the subject of adjudicators, many of them have been carrying out that essential task for many years. If you would like to make a contribution to the Club, we'd love to expand our adjudicator panel. Now that ACCOLADE does most of the hard work, and we have a very small number of postal entries, the adjudicator's main task is the final report, instead of the earlier slog of checking manually several hundred grids and calculating the results of the month's endeavours to Patrick's satisfaction. Plenty of advice is available if you need it, so do let Ian know if you wish to join our merry band. Even with our present numbers no one is required to adjudicate more than once a year and we would hope to make that longer.

One of the essential tasks associated with production of CrOZworld is collating and editing your feedback. If you delay your feedback until the last moment it may not be possible to publish all of your valuable input and the editorial task is made more difficult. So if you have an important point to make about a particular puzzle or clue, please try to make it in good time so that we can deal with it as part of the normal process, saving a lot of time and effort.

An interesting bunch of puzzles is presented for you this month. We have never seen a slot 1 of the like of Crowsman's intriguing puzzle. We trust that you will enjoy solving the mystery, as well as the clues. T-boy has provided us with a timely puzzle with a theme that will require little unravelling and one of Jesso's classics occupies slot 3. KA has compiled a slot 4 AJ which is rather more conventional than some of his more recent creations. CT presents us with a number of challenges in his slot 5 puzzle – look out for his intriguing cryptic definitions. Aficionados of the AJ will be delighted by P-brane's slot 6, combining the AJ with a theme containing his trademark vocabulary. Crowsman's corner contains yet another surprise in a puzzle that he has entitled Anagram Heaven: do please read the rubric and have your copy of Chambers handy for reference. Fraz's Word Squares make their now-traditional appearance and the whole is rounded off by one of InGrid's thought-provoking quizzes.

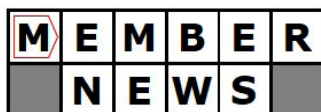
Our thanks to all who have contributed to this edition of CrOZworld, whether as compilers, quiz setters, adjudicators or contributors, and especially to Andrew Miles for his excellent summary of the month's results in very trying circumstances.

We trust that you will enjoy this month's offerings. Happy puzzling!

Ian

An Englishman, a Scotsman, an Irishman, a Welshman, a Russian, a Latvian, a Turk, an Aussie, two Kiwis, a German, an American, a Cypriot, an Egyptian, a Mexican, a Brazilian, a Cambodian, a Spaniard, a Pole, a Lithuanian, a Romanian, a Dane, an Israeli, a Bulgarian, a Serb, a Greek, a Norwegian, an Ethiopian, a Nigerian, a Kenyan and a Chilean walk into a nightclub.

The bouncer steps in front of the group. "Sorry, I can't let you in without a Thai."



**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.

**New adjudicators 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. While we are confident that at present prize values and subscriptions we will remain in a healthy financial position, such donations help to stave off reductions in prizes or increases in subscriptions in these unfortunately inflationary times.

### March Clue-writing competition

Please note that the March Competition is still open. You are invited to write a clue for BEWILDERMENT (12). Send your entries to irt\_botanist@hotmail.com or post to 12 Olive Street, Malvern East Vic 3145

**Closing mail date: Friday 10 April 2026 .**

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: NanaKat (Kathryn Forward)**

- That was fun !! *Craig Blundell*
- Some nice down clues here, esp. STOCKPOT, PERTINENT, and (my highlight) I-BEAM. *Michael Fitzgerald*
- Thanks NanaKat, a great Slot 1. *Betty Siegman*
- Good all-round Slot 1 for starters. Ta NanaKat. *Mal Cockburn*
- A good warm-up with a few tricky clues. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Favourite clue ETHEREAL. *Toby McLeay*
- Fortunately the grid helped the solutions of those four-letter words. Welcome the return of the Half 'n Half. *Lynn Jarman*
- Love this type of Half 'n Half. Very enjoyable to start the month, favourite clue STOCKPOT. *Joan Smith*
- CASTLE and SATE were fun! *Kathy Horadam*
- A SHAM and a SCAM could be a false front. SPAM; on the other hand is just false meat SLAMmed on the plate! *Alan Dyer*

**NanaKat** writes: *I'm happy that the puzzle seemed to hit the right note for Slot 1. Thanks for taking the time to provide feedback - it's so valuable. I thoroughly enjoyed compiling the puzzle: so much so that there's another in the works!*

**March 2: Buzzer (Bhavan Kasivajjula)**

- I liked SECOND HAND! 23dn TRIO sent me down a couple of different rabbit holes. *Ann Millard*
- Overdue return, Bhavan. Several superb clues, such as HAVE A GO, SECOND HAND and IDEALISTIC, but COTM must go to BREATHE ONE'S LAST for a masterful & lit clue. *Len Colgan*
- Thoroughly enjoyed this. Too many good clues to single out (although I wasn't sure about the anagrind in BREATHE ONE'S LAST). Not entirely confident that I understood the wordplay in THE BOTTOM LINE, but if it's what I think it is, it's quite clever! *Michael Fitzgerald*
- Welcome back Buzzer. That was challenging but enjoyable. *Ulla Axelsen*
- A bit iffy on some of the answers - fingers crossed. Tks Buzzer. *Mal Cockburn*
- Still wondering how the clue pertains to my answer, for example CANYON, NUTTER, & BREATHE ONE'S LAST. *Lynn Jarman*
- Great clues for the long anagrams. I particularly liked SECOND HAND too. *Kathy Horadam*

**Buzzer** writes: *Thank you to all those who have taken time to solve my puzzle and provide feedback. Glad you enjoyed some of the clues.*

**March 3: Ninian (Scott Goodman)**

- A few challenges here! Wanted 19dn as EWE and couldn't find Y?E for 19dn in any references other than AI. Interesting that the spellcheck on ACCOLADE was happy with YIE, but not ACARINA. *Ann Millard*
- Several excellent clues, especially those using inclusions such as INERRANT and ACCUSTOMED. However, I was not keen on YOURS SINCERELY, SIN CITY and YOE, each

- of which coincidentally involves homophone(s). I know you could devise a superior clue using the parsing SINC(er)ITY, for example. *Len Colgan*
- Tks Scott, enjoyable - could not parse LYNCHER...if it's right! *Chris Thomas*
- Have changed my mind about 19dn. YOE? Not in any of the standard references but found it in Wiktionary with regard to sheep. Fingers crossed. *Ann Millard*
- 19dn!! YOE is an obscure variant of ewe. YOURS SINCERELY is a COTM contender, you are too wise= URY. *Roy Taylor*
- What a challenge. Took ages to work out word play of LYNCHER. Some very clever clues. *Ulla Axelsen*
- That was a challenging but very enjoyable crossword. Wonderful clues, congrats Ninian! *Tony Dobebe*
- Quite difficult Scott. I spent ages on YOE(?) and can't find it anywhere. Perhaps it's wrong! INERRANT was clever. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Not sure about SORT. Liked HANDY (COTM) and LYNCHER. Fun puzzle, Ninian. *Mal Cockburn*
- Tough puzzle, with some very good and very tricky clues. *Ian Thompson*
- I struggled with a few of these clues. SORT; SEDATE and ELATE were the reason my puzzles are so late in this month. That; plus I'm enjoying holidays in Tasmania ! I did like HANDY and ASPHALTERS. *Julie Crowe*
- Couldn't solve 19dn; so guessed. Rest of the clues are well constructed and challenging. *Krittibas Dasgupta*
- A couple of maybes but I did like HANDY *Toby Mcleay*

**Ninian** writes: *Many thanks for all your kind comments, it is much appreciated. It seems that Yoe (which appears in the Macquarie Dictionary as an alternative spelling of Yeo) was a sticking point for some. In hindsight, I should perhaps have indicated the obscurity of the word in the definition. In my defence, I thought the word play was relatively easy(!).*

*Many thanks also for the suggestions as to how some clues could have been improved - I am grateful, and it is all part of the learning process for me.*

**March 4: Manveru (Michael Kennedy)**

- Some cunning wordplay. TMESIS was new to me. Is the wordplay for the I clue accurate? "need hint perhaps" suggests an anagram of IN THE END, rather than cluing the required IN THE AIR. *Ian McKenzie*
- Bishop, King, Queen. *Allan Storti*
- And BISHOP as a NINA? *Ann Millard*
- Clue for crystal ball was difficult, making it hard to get started. In fact, not much of it was easy! *Roy Taylor*
- Bishop joins his king and queen. A good mixture of easy and hard. *Ulla Axelsen*
- I spotted Bishop as well as the other chess references. *Julie Leigh*
- Challenging. I had never heard TMESIS, HECATOMBS, YENNING, or RETICLE. Without the help of knowing the starting letter, I probably would have struggled to complete this one. *Krittibas Dasgupta*
- Tmesis? Really? One learns something every day. Good one Michael. *Robyn Wimbush*

continued on page 15

- I don't get the W and Y clues. Do I detect a chess theme? Tks, Manveru. *Mal Cockburn*
- Challenging AJ; liked the clue for CRYSTAL BALL. *Joan Smith*
- Another gem from the AJ King! Nice job; Michael. *Laurence Kennedy*
- I know I got a few wrong but enjoyed many clues especially XOSA, TMESIS and ZOROASTER. *Toby McLeay*
- I found this one very hard! *Anne Simons*
- Some very unusual words this time - or perhaps I have it horribly wrong!! I did like QUEEN though Hilary Cromer.

**Manveru** writes: *Thank you to all the solvers, both dotted and dotless, for having a crack at the AJ. It was made extra tricky with my silly I-clue error, but this didn't stop most of you finding the 'bishop' Nina. Glad to have introduced the fan-super-tastic 'tmesis' for some.*

### March 5: Anon (Len Colgan & Ian Williams)

*Feedback received prior to the corrections have been omitted.*

- So many COTMs in this puzzle! *Sue Pinder*
- Some great clues. Thanks to the team!! *Ann Millard*
- Anon provided a good workout. *Roy Taylor*
- That was tough. I hate to admit it, but I worked out most of the words first, then worked out the word play. That was the hard part. *Ulla Axelsen*
- EOLITHS and SUNBEAMS I liked. Why haven't I heard of Count Marrowsky? *Robyn Wimbush*
- Thanks for a good set of cryptic clues once the errors were corrected. *Lynn Jarman*
- Great puzzle! I had to keep leaving it to ferment for a day or so before returning to try and get inside the minds of two clever compilers at once! A real challenge and a real pleasure to solve! *Kathryn Forward*
- A most enjoyable puzzle with a generous grid. Well done; Anon. *Mal Cockburn*
- Enjoyable puzzle: favourite clues were RIFLE SHOTS; BROKEN-DOWN and ZINCITES. *Joan Smith*

**Anon** writes: *Our apologies for the initial errors in the clues but, thanks to email, they were not terminal - clearly more attention to detail is necessary when compiler and editor roles coincide. A pleasurable collaboration - we're pleased that our clues found favour.*

### March 6: Robespierre (Ian McKenzie)

- I assume that this puzzle was given slot 6 because 6 in Latin is sex. *David Bennett*
- Many clever but tricky clues. Favourites EMPENNAGE, GOLD LEAF and WHIPPET. *Len Colgan*
- Loved WHIPPET. *Ian Thompson*
- As usual, very good challenging clues. HAIR SHIRT and ERECTION were clever, and I voted DIAPER COTM. *Roy Taylor*
- Lovely puzzle. Didn't have a clue what EMPENNAGE meant until I googled it. *Krittibas Dasgupta*
- Some very tricky definitions made this a real challenge. Finally got there. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Favourite clue DIAPER. *Toby McLeay*
- Smiles for EMIGRE, HEARSE, LOINCLOTH &

WHIPPET. A tough puzzle, and educational as always. Merci, Monsieur Robespierre. *Mal Cockburn*

- Found this rather tricky with plenty of new words for me. *Jan Wood*
- I very much enjoyed this puzzle. HEARSE nearly got my COTM; but then along came WHIPPET, which I thought very clever. *Julie Crowe*

### March 7: Zinzan (Andrew Patterson)

- Imaginative puzzle concept. Perhaps inspired by GRUMP & CRUSTY, a few quibbles on clue construction. 24ac ELANDS should be singular 28a "sin" is; of course; a recognised abbreviation for "sine" but its plural is not so used to my knowledge. 2dn SKYLINES: The inclusion of "from Paris and others" doesn't seem germane to the definition & just adds confusion. *Ian McKenzie*
- When one POTUS isn't enough, ZZ gives us 10! *Michael Kennedy*
- The CAPYBARA and NASSAU clues are great. *Len Colgan*
- This was hard enough as an ordinary crossword. So relieved to eventually work out the instruction! Thank you. *Ann Millard*
- A real tour de force. Bravo! *Fraser Simpson*
- This was a long journey, a difficult puzzle plus the presidential trickery. The instructions seemed to indicate to do it twice, but once was enough! *Roy Taylor*
- One of the toughest puzzles I have attempted. I probably didn't get one of the ten names. [*congratulations - all present and correct - Adj*] *Krittibas Dasgupta*
- Tough but fair - an outstanding puzzle. So clever, Zinzan! *Kathryn Forward*
- A great puzzle, many thanks Zinzan. And yes, I had to fill it in twice. *Betty Siegman*
- I appreciate the work that must have gone into compiling this, well done Zinzan! *Tony Dobe*
- That was next level! many thanks. *Scott Goodman*
- After all that I am worried about 27 down!?! *Julie Leigh*
- Simply brilliant!! *Kathryn Forward*
- Going along very nicely without using the internet, then I hit the last of those @\$&! 4-letter words. Dealing with that one nearly completely made me forget the extra instructions. *Ulla Axelsen*
- I managed to decipher the instructions but a few of the answers are a leap of faith. Not confident of a dot, but fun trying. Impressive work, Zinzan. *Mal Cockburn*
- Fingers crossed that there are 10 presidents in my crossword. Very tricky and great fun. Thank you Z. *Robyn Wimbush*
- What a fiendish puzzle! Tricky enough to find the directive to change 10 initials for US presidents. Many thanks for the mental workout. *Julie Crowe*
- What a toughie - and that was before getting to the extra instruction! *Alison Shield*
- I particularly liked YOLK and TWENTY TO; and the presidential twist at the end. *Ken Francis*
- Amazing construction. Liked TWENTY TO (until it was corrupted). *Toby Mcleay*
- What a clever setter you are! I found this puzzle most challenging without the manipulation to complete it. *Frank Martin*
- Diabolically clever! *Kath Harper*

