



No 400 August 2023



www.crosswordclub.org



"A Dictionary is an historical monument, the history of a nation." Richard C. Trench, 1857, *On Some Deficiencies in our English Dictionaries*

GRIDATORIAL

Be sure to read the ground-breaking announcement regarding our 2024 subscriptions on page 9.

We know that you will enjoy this 400th monthly treat of puzzles, quiz and other challenges. A welcome return of Leprechaun with one of his stylish half and halves in slot 1 and a different approach in a barred grid from Fraz in slot 2.

A slightly easier than usual slot 3 has been contributed by Valkyrie, who also provides a slightly harder quiz which will not require frequent excursions to Google.

The AJ master, Manveru, is responsible for what is often described as the most popular puzzle of the month in a traditional AJ. A compiling triumph features in slot 5 by Crowsman and Eclogue presents another demonstration of compiling expertise in the second jigsaw of the month, entitled Just (a) Jigsaw. This month's collection is neatly rounded off by another different type of puzzle in Crowsman's Corner.

Thanks, as usual to our hard-working team of compilers, adjudicators (especially Ian Thompson, for his incisive commentary opposite) and workers who present your monthly brain-stretching diet.

We wish you satisfying and successful solving.

Ian

FROM THE ADJUDICATOR

Judging by members' feedback the five puzzles this month were fairly even in terms of overall difficulty. However, two clues, one from slot 1 and the other from slot 5, caused a considerable number of missed dots.

Slot 1: A relatively difficult slot 1 from Valkyrie, due partly to the fact that most initial letters could not be obtained from crossing answers. Five solvers commented on the cleverness of having A as the only vowel in the across answers, and one saw it early enough to help them with their solving. The only clue that had numerous errors was 9d INCA, where ANNA was given on 15 occasions. INC is an abbreviation for 'inclusive' (given in both Chambers and Macquarie dictionaries) and A is for Australian.

Slot 2: A well-received inaugural puzzle by Toby McLeay. The clues for TWELVE, ESKIMOS and MANDATES were praised by multiple solvers. CAPPUCCINO was misspelled by five solvers despite the fact that the required letters were shown in the anagram fodder (CUP COCA NIP).

Slot 3: Commenters gave the thumbs up for this puzzle by Jesso. There was no clue in particular that gave trouble. Incorrect answers were given in nine clues, all either single or double occurrences.

Slot 4: Not too many errors in this puzzle by KA. Most errors were for the uncommon words FORDO and ENOKI. Both NOVICIATE and NOVITIATE were accepted. The Chambers dictionary indicates that an obsolete spelling of VITIATE (corrupt) is VICIATE and this saved some solvers.

Slot 5: This offering by P-brane had a philosophical theme, and comments suggest that it was an enjoyable, not too difficult test. However, a massive 31 solvers came unstuck by choosing ATTESTER rather than ATTESTOR. Presumably they did not identify that OR was

continued on page 2

LEADING FIGURES

Puzzle No.	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Entries received	85	87	86	73	58	407
Correct entries	64	74	73	58	40	309
Success rate (%)	75	85	85	80	53	87
Prizewinners	Pat Garner	Len Colgan	Barbara Glissan	Patricia Abbott	Karlis Audrins	from 91 members

Prizewinner: July Slots 1-5 correct: Frank Martin. Congratulations!

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July 2023 Slot 1

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

July 2023 Slot 4

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

July 2023 Slot 2

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

July 2023 Slot 5

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

July 2023 Slot 3

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

July 2023 Slot 6

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

MEMBERS' RESULTS FOR August 2023 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.		•	•	•				Garner P.	•		•	•	•	•		Milton R.		•					
Allen W.		•	•	•		•		Glissan B.	•	•	•	•	•	•		Moline R.	•	•	•	•			•
Anderson C.	•	•	•	•	•			Grainger D.	•	•	•	•	•	•		Parsons D.	•	•	•				•
Audrins K.	•	•	•	•	•	•		Groves J.		•						Patterson A.	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Axelsen U.	•	•	•	•	•	•		Hagan R.		•	•					Peach S.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Barbour J.	•	•	•		•	•		Harper K.	•	•	•	•	•	•		Pinder S.	•						•
Barnes J.			•	•	•	•		Hearn R.		•	•		•	•		Procter D.	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Batum C.	•	•	•	•	•	•		Heyes N.		•						Procter M.	•		•	•			•
Bennett D.			•					Horadam K.	•	•	•					Pyc M.			•				
Blake M.	•	•	•	•		•	•	Howat S.	•	•	•	•	•	•		Randall J.	•		•				
Callan K.		•						Jarman L.	•	•	•	•	•			Rosendorff D.	•	•	•	•			•
Carroll L.						•	•	Jarman R.	•	•	•	•	•	•		Roulston S.		•	•	•	•		•
Cockburn B.		•	•	•		•		Jones G.		•	•	•	•	•	•	Ryan W.		•	•	•	•	•	•
Cockburn M.		•	•	•		•		Kennedy L.	•	•	•	•	•	•		Shipway S.	•		•				
Colgan L.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Kennedy M.	•							Siegmán B.		•	•	•			•
Coote P.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Lankshear J.			•	•	•	•		Simons A.	•		•	•			
Cornish W.	•	•	•	•	•	•		Leigh J.	•	•	•	•	•			Simpson F.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Coulton L.		•		•				Lloyd G.	•	•	•					Skinner R.		•	•	•	•	•	•
Cromer H.	•	•	•	•	•	•		Mackay-Sim C.	•	•	•	•	•	•		Storey N.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Crowe J.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Madden J.	•		•	•	•	•		Symons B.	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Davis K.	•	•	•	•	•			Martin A.	•	•	•	•	•	•		Taylor R.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Dobeale T.	•	•	•	•	•	•		Martin F.	•	•	•	•	•	•		Taylor S.	•	•	•				
Dowse B.	•	•	•					Mason I.	•							Thompson I.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Ducker R.	•	•	•	•	•	•		McClelland C.		•		•	•	•		Tickle B.	•	•	•		•		
Dyer A.	•	•	•	•				McKenzie I.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Veress M.	•	•	•	•	•		•
Evans J.	•	•	•	•	•	•		McKenzie R.	•	•	•	•	•	•		Wenham J.		•	•				
Ferguson J.	•	•	•	•	•			McLeay T.		•			•			Wilcox C.		•	•				
Flinkenberg C.				•				Meek A.	•	•		•		•		Williams K.	•	•			•		
Fowler J.	•	•	•	•	•	•		Miles A.	•	•	•	•	•	•		Wimbush R.	•	•	•		•		
Gamble K.	•	•	•			•	•	Millard A.	•	•	•	•	•	•		Young A.	•	•	•				

From the Adjudicator - continued from page 1

not a link word; instead, it was needed in the wordplay to add to AT TEST (locate examinee). There were single occurrences of errors in five other clues.

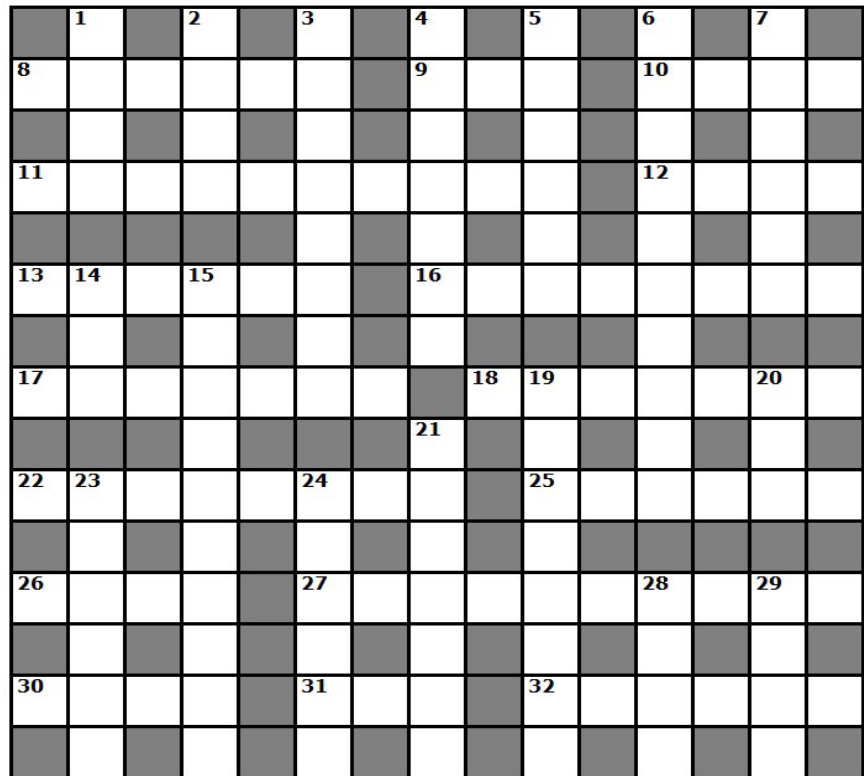
COTM: Slot 2 was the standout puzzle for favoured clues this month, with six different clues gaining votes, including an appropriate twelve votes for the winner, the unusual and clever TWELVE. Congratulations to T-boy. Slots 3 and 5 each had three clues gaining votes, with VICENARY (slot 3) and THOREAU (slot 5) both gaining a couple of votes.

Ian Thompson

Slot 1

**Half and
Half
by
Leprechaun**

**Prize
\$50**



Across

- 8 Uproar (6)
- 9 Age (3)
- 10 Not right (4)
- 11 Diocese (10)
- 12 Smirk (4)
- 13 Separate (6)
- 16 Solar rays (8)
- 17 Corruption (7)
- 18 Large bird (7)
- 22 Chilli pepper plant (8)
- 25 Mission (6)
- 26 Region (4)
- 27 23.59 (4-6)
- 30 Ozzie pm (4)
- 31 Champion (3)
- 32 Din (6)

Down

- 1 Little soft cry (4)
- 2 Extra bonus (4)
- 3 The Moors reorganised were more mellow (8)
- 4 Presale resolved decline (7)
- 5 Outlaw in fact once climbing tree (6)
- 6 Union Jack supporter, perhaps (10)
- 7 Certify heads of agreement for finalising industrial relations mandate (6)
- 14 Sense organ where cockney reports his location (3)
- 15 Syrian leader protected by paramedic initially received envoy (10)
- 19 Cooking utensils for ships? (8)
- 20 Account regularly conceals fraud (3)
- 21 Nice looking demolition expert? (7)
- 23 Atmosphere encircles gold in polar lights (6)
- 24 Salesperson heard in basement (6)
- 28 French city included in scenic excursion (4)
- 29 Those people captured by the mob (4)

**SEND
SOLUTIONS
TO:**

For online entry, submission and adjudication of all slots via ACCOLADE click on the ACCOLADE button on www.crosswordclub.org home page.
By mail for Slots 1 to 5: David Grainger 3/19 Lucerne Avenue, Mornington VIC 3931 or (preferably) by email to djgrainger@gmail.com
By mail for Slot 6: Kay Williams 12 Lindrum Crescent Holt ACT 2615 or (preferably) by email to ianw@webone.com
By mail for Slot 7: Len Colgan 1 Ailsa Avenue Warradale SA 5046 or (preferably) by email to Len.Colgan@unisa.edu.au
Closing mail date for all puzzles is 25 August 2023.

**BLANK
GRIDS
PAGE 11**

Slot 2

This and
That
by
Fraz

 Prize
\$50

If you can complete these common phrases, you should be able to finish the puzzle!

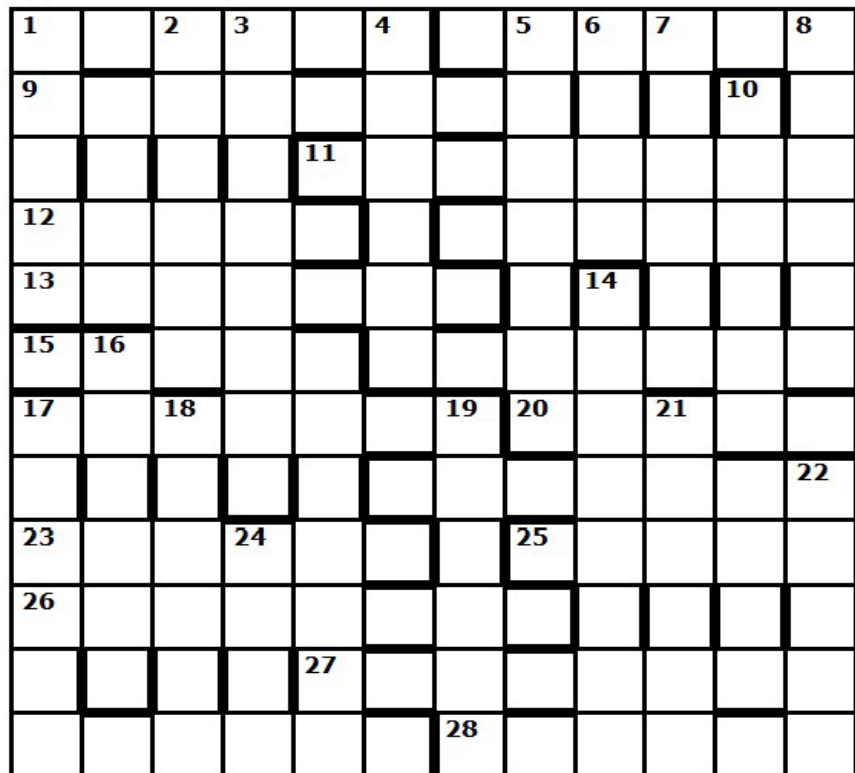
BR ___ & BU ___
DU ___ & CO ___
PA ___ & PA ___
SU ___ & DE ___
WA ___ & SE ___

Across

- 9** Plain or extremely dowdy clothing Indian princess returned (8)
11 Corpsman disentangled climbing gear (8)
12 Lament stage located in middle of vineyard (5)
13 Got back to adder's objective in marsh grass (7)
15 Awful-smelling female with liquid diet (5)
20 Dancer's boss resting in pleasant apartment (5)
23 Be quiet and check comedian's routine (6)
25 Topic involved embroidery loop (5)
26 Commercial imbalance called "cunning" in recession (5,3)
27 Rent soars at a Florida city (8)
28 Small boy reversed tan car from before (6)

Down

- 1** Lawn tool we found inside front half of morgue (5)
2 Most offbeat raised hairstyle of the French model (6)
3 Place for a waiter transporting heater containing one pasta dish (8)



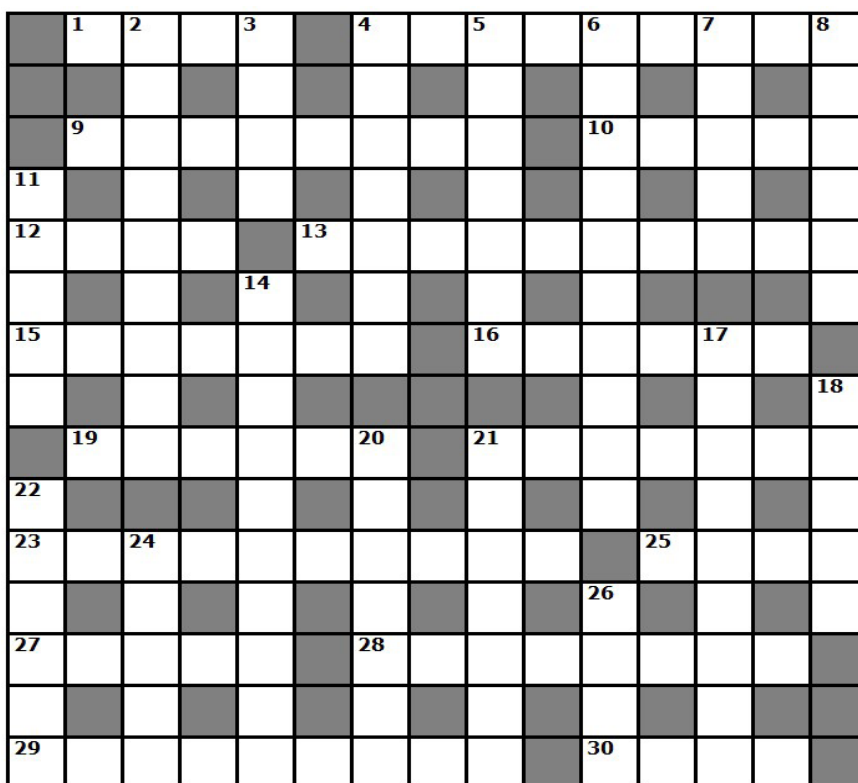
- 4** Ladies' room opened for large part of Manhattan (6)
5 Dutch master collects my back-ordered new songbooks (7)
6 One legislator's mischievous kids (4)
7 Beethoven's third voyage at its end before Cairo, weirdly (6)
8 Wild dudes keeping front of table wiped clean (6)
10 Still clutching small newspaper supplement (6)
14 A king fattens insects on foremost of treats like the best piecrusts (8)
16 Outwit prompt retreats, ending in battle after 60 min (6)
17 Playing E flat's joyous (6)
18 Preserve eye tissue, moving lowest part up a bit (6)
19 A crooked character stuck in tough sand trap, e.g. (6)
21 Couple from Naples almost selected cheesy snack (6)
22 Ultimately worse, compared to actor Hawke (5)
24 Amin finally saying, "Got it" (1,3)

General Feedback for July

- Thank you once again for this most welcome challenge each month. *Norma Heyes*
- Many thanks for my slot 5 prize from last month. *David Parsons*
- I'd like to thank the compilers who have taken me on a journey from "one small step" (July/Aug 2019 CrOZworld No 351) to the dizzy heights of collecting 2 prizes last month. I'm over the moon! A big thank you to all at ACC. *Ron Jarman*
- Thank you for my travelling money! A lovely surprise. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Got a few. *Toby McLeay*
- Thanks to all compilers!! *Wendy Cornish*

Slot 3

Cryptic
by
Valkyrie



Across

- 1 Spy ignores old tail (4)
 4 11 shaped canine micro fur! (9)
 9 Call up about past number from 8 to 29, perhaps (8)
 10 Dukes ultimately dress in suits (5)
 12 Rough cut diamond (4)
 13 Special Book of Ecclesiastes includes thanks for great wonders (10)
 15 State initially dammed headland depression (7)
 16 Brutus, with leader leaving, returns to Eastern line of union (6)
 19 Port starts to decrease enzymes in bones (6)
 21 Irascibility associated with a medical condition (7)
 23 Oddly heartsick with love for vegetables (10)
 25 Limited mention of the ear (4)
 27 Cruise ship held by Portugal in error (5)
 28 Assailants in Virginia repelled revolutionary sons (8)
 29 Sample slice damaged glands (9)
 30 Mistress Spooner's cleaner (4)

Down

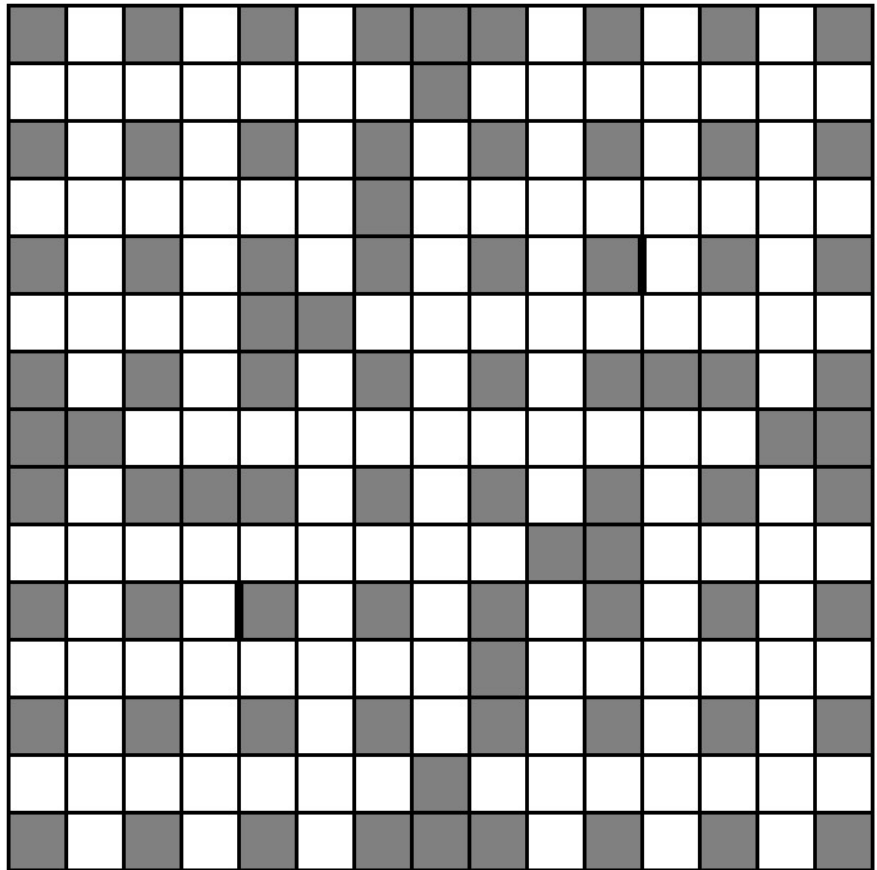
- 2 Agreed to choose hard cash in exchange for half of debt by daughter (9)
 3 Short Roman garment worn over the top of small bathing costume (4)
 4 Is able to copy Sheraton's first sofas (7)
 5 Opens University of Natural Sciences, including Yale perhaps (7)
 6 Trendy part of transgression (10)
 7 Bird operation held in old pound (5)
 8 Abuse retreats reportedly include centres of Reiki Massage (6)
 11 Angry mongrel (5)
 14 Queen's companion grows chile mix (5,5)
 17 Tenant hosting English journalist, put on record a second time (2-7)
 18 Keep an eye on resurrection of marble church (5)
 20 Like? Love? Lay about, disinclined to mix (7)
 21 Divides pages after chapter heading (7)
 22 Everything held in spineless folder (6)
 24 Time goals for nurses (5)
 26 Superstar status results from endless dope supporting ego (4)

Slot 4

AJ
by
Manveru

Prize
\$50

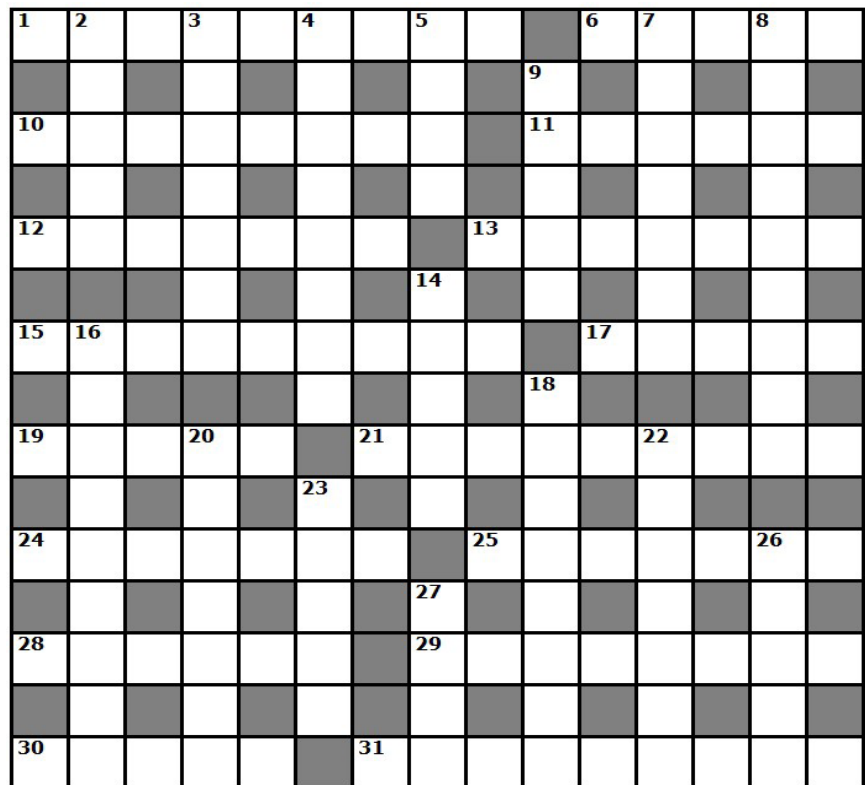
Solutions begin with the
given letter. Place them in
the grid jigsaw-wise,
where they fit.



- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>A Agrees to bury gold on mount after climbing ranges? (11)</p> <p>B Pundit, avoiding extremists subordinate to Myanmar and here? (7)</p> <p>C Carry out traumatised daughter to sheltered area (9)</p> <p>D Hairy dog needing a nurse for treatment (9)</p> <p>E Asian banquet with no starter and seconds of terrine (7)</p> <p>F Advocate for women making comeback in all-male college association (8)</p> <p>G Government starts to regulate energy economy, despite year of money-grubbing (6)</p> <p>H Pumped water at the bottom with plug fixed above (5)</p> <p>I Scotsman adopting borderless town to become a statesman (5)</p> <p>J Cabinet accepting coins for notes? (7)</p> <p>K Marrowsky's clue - 'Sleep with one protecting the joint' (7)</p> <p>L Rules devised to hold one quart of potent potables (8)</p> | <p>M Ordinary menu, mostly rewritten in a significant way (11)</p> <p>N Agreeing, like a dashboard doll? (7)</p> <p>O Old God - one Norse? (4)</p> <p>P Thrust forward with a length of jump rope - ludicrous! (6)</p> <p>Q Can queen love duke? (4)</p> <p>R To infer unintended meanings can get an editor sacked (4,4)</p> <p>S Fragments of gemstones crushed to extract opal initially (8)</p> <p>T Plain hard nuts with a centre to go back for? (6)</p> <p>U Without resistance peacekeepers proposed, surprisingly, to ignore rule (9)</p> <p>V Changing tack with vice-president losing power to cartel (7)</p> <p>W Say goodbye to disappearing white horse? (4,3)</p> <p>X Axolotl's second organ modified and transplanted into juvenile salamander! (9)</p> <p>Y Surrenders unknown number of battle locations after force departs (6)</p> <p>Z Travelling Nazarite taking time out for one from the old country (7)</p> |
|---|---|

Slot 5

Cryptic
by
Crowsman

 Prize
\$50


Across

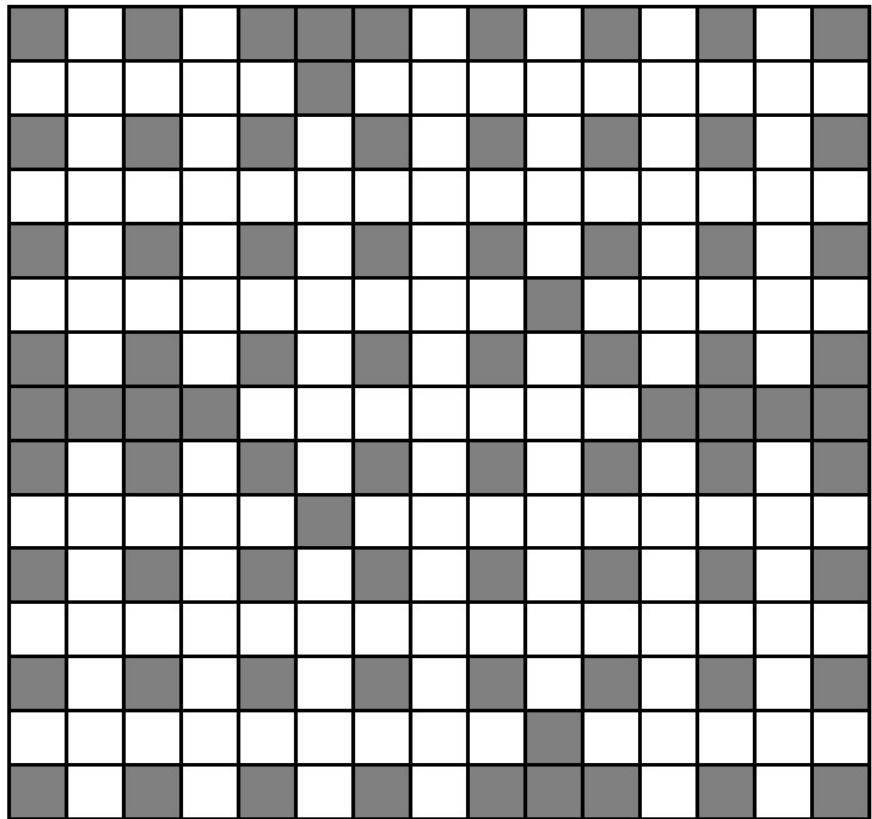
- 1 Unreal second reserve is about right! (9)
 6 Brewing in part of a yard (5)
 10 Turnips, for example, go bad around old cut (4,4)
 11 Less precise deadbeat pockets nothing (6)
 12 Pulls out with rising cheers (7)
 13 Bad-mannered to barrack with Celtic losing lead (7)
 15 Branches taken from fires (9)
 17 Sacks backflipped seat (5)
 19 Reel around, making circles (5)
 21 Male abandons 26 breaking out with one of the choppers (9)
 24 School removed bother (7)
 25 Race about to finally end dissection of animals (7)
 28 Tied up low rose (6)
 29 Exceeds in running two circles for one in costumes (8)
 30 Second wayward drive wobbled (5)
 31 Is finally child resistant, designed to prevent one going on slides (9)

Down

- 2 Unsatisfactory time brought up division (5)
 3 Provides new instruments to give small robber comeuppance (7)
 4 Chair, without backing, excludes yes-man (3,5)
 5 Uh-oh! Left out of 19! (4)
 7 Hoof infection makes Australian Mr Chad run (4,3)
 8 Maidens sometimes voice disapproval, but go too far! (9)
 9 A clown turned unfriendly (5)
 14 Plug secures old sink (5)
 16 Caparison of hot colt moved (9)
 18 Restarted derby, perhaps, amidst animals turning up (8)
 20 Resettled 2 loves Australian native (7)
 22 Open air exit? (7)
 23 Drivers' instruments (5)
 26 Movement against bad behaviour made contact with pool centre (2,3)
 27 Gull bird (4)

Slot 6**Just (a)
Jigsaw
by
Eclogue****Prize
\$50**

Clues are presented in alphabetical order of their solutions and should be inserted where they will fit. Definitions are to the entered solution, but a particular letter is omitted from the wordplay in every clue, wherever it occurs.



Airbus disconcerted large birds (7)

Little monkey cut short charge around hospital (7)

Historic gold coins one company transports by road (9)

Australian Army surrounding fashionable adherent of eastern religion (5)

Flimsy light plane arena sent for repair (8,7)

Old Oriental natives splashing in neap seas (9)

SA snakes in trees tucking in before food addles primarily (9)

Poet's always on rural meadow railing (7)

God of the Hebrews - he elevated cells, it's said (7)

Base old characters rising, showing some guts! (7)

Source of fortified wine, before in literature, is above variable (5)

Inspiration of church in El Salvador and America (5)

In France young, not old, following European Union (5)

Sheep was first to be adorned with gold, say (7)

Spanish Nobel Laureate I note on upcoming eastern philosophy (7)

Given to witticisms concerning lamps (7)

A large drink is nothing strange (5)

Tappers working on cactus exterior (5,10)

Upper-class more distant and more scandalous (7)

Charms for all to see as above (5)

Eagerly grasps rigging up mast (5,2)

In Paris a female slip entering in reserve for fruit of American trees (9)

Former legal intervention in congress where romantic sir's up outré ... (3,6,6)

... shook and lusted outrageously (7)

Submit solution via ACCOLADE button on www.crosswordclub.org home page or see page 3 for adjudicator and closing mail date

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

Explanations for July 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 Valkyrie. Down: 1 OilY + FACTORY, 2 (AEROBATICS - SO)*, 3 B + ASSIST, 4 HARD + VESTS, 5 CAN(N)ON, 6 Hidden, 9 INC + A, 14 IM+PROMPT+U, 16 (TART)* + ACT + S, 18 R(EVER)ENT, 19 CAR(TON)S, 21 A(WAR)DS, 23 RASH +P, 24 FAT+A+L.

Slot 2 T-boy. Across: 8 ST + RIPPER [ref Jack the R], 9 OD + (SOUR)*, 10 homoph "Rob's", 11 (ANNUAL + PEST)*, 12 Hidden, 14 CRUD(IT)E + S, 15 (INCISE + M)*, 17 PHONE + ME, 20 MAN + DATES, 22 XI + I, 23 (CUP + COCA + NIP)*, 24 EMotionAL<, 25 B + MOTTO<, 26 (faT + INTO + MEN)*. **Down:** 1 ATRO + PINE, 2 SNIB<, 3 SP + O + USE, 4 (CREEP UP)*, 5 (OE + SHRUBS)*, 6 CON + SCIENCE, 7 oFFRoAdNiChE, 13 cd, 16 CAT + A + COMB, 18 MOVE + deMENTia, 19 (SMOKE IS)*, 21 (NO LAVA)<, 22 T + HORNY, 24 LA + MP.

Slot 3 Jesso. Across: 1 JET + SETTER, 6 POP + UP, 9 D + RAFT, 10 MO + COB< + RACY, 11 SACRAMENT + O, 12 hidden, 14 (GOT + THE)*, 15 BA + CLEANS*, 16 O in CL, 17 VICE + NARY, 18 CALL + US, 20 UT in N + S, 21 SC + ARE+ CROWS, 24 A + MARY + L + L + IS, 25 anag, 26 rEJECT, 27 anag. **Down:** 1 JU + SAD<, 2 THAT + CH + E + raDio + COTTAGE, 3 EX + TRACT + IN + G, 4 TEP + ER, 5 REAL round BUTT, 6 UC in PK, 7 dds, 8 PSYCHO + S + IS, 13 MA + RAS + CHIN + O, 14 GIVEN + N + AM + E, 15 O in BY, 16 CRACK + LED, 19 anag, 22 anag, 23 anag.

Slot 4 KA. A AIR + POCKET, **B** ba(t)ch, **C** co+o+mb, **D** d(hot)i, **E** e[earl]+ikon<, **F** ford+o(oxygen), **G** genera+lists, **H** h(ewe)r, **I** ice+d, **J** Jabber+(cow<)+ky, **K** (s)ki +w + i, **L** (peril)* around (read), **M** I in (demo)*+ious, **N** cd, **O** (r)oa(d)+sis, **P** prop+(heiress)*, **Q** quit(e), **R** (rides)* + (nieces)*, **S** (ace+ou) in sets, **T** teak+ettle, **U** (j)unco (Chamb), **V** v(o)ile, **W** widow+hood (Merry widow), **X** x+none<, **Y** yards+tick, **Z** (z + (sate)<.

Slot 5 P-brane. Across: 9 (EPITOMES)* + LOGICAL, 10 homoph "thaw" + AU, 12 cd, 13 (IST + O) in ART + LE, 14 CR(o>A)FT, 15 (RAT<) in REDS, 18 UNITE + R[omantic]S, 21 heads<, 23 (A CIDER BAR)*, 25 GALILE(e>O), 26 first letters &Lit., 29 (SEXIST LIES TAINT)*. **Down:** 1 dd, 2 hidden, 3 AT TEST + OR, 4 A + MOUNT, 5 F + LAMB + EAU, 6 AGAR + IconiC, 7 ACT + IV + pArTiEs, 8 hidden, 11 homop "hoard", 15 REP + (GUN)* + ED, 16 (HALL) in TO + ID, 17 SUB + POE + NA, 19 IN + I + T(rainees) + (SAIL)*, 20 dd, 22 OB + LATE, 24 homoph "relayed", 27 (tHiS pOiNt)<, 28 cd, first letters, &Lit..

Subscriptions for 2024

Due largely to Patrick's subsidisation of the club over a long period, to the generosity of donors to the prize fund and to Jenny's careful husbandry the Club is in a sound financial position and we have considerable reserves. The Executive Committee has considered how best to utilise those reserves to benefit as many members as possible and has decided to offer free membership for the whole of 2024. We envisage that we will be able to maintain all prizes and awards at the normal level.

We are also offering free membership to friends and relations of existing members for the rest of this year and for 2024. Please use the website Membership page [here](#) to register your friend or relative and to notify any changes in your address or email.

As I have recently moved into a retirement village in the middle of a golf course (my unit looks over the 3rd green) I appreciated the golfing jokes at the end of June CrOZworld. I thought members might like this little story:

A couple of weeks ago my sister Anne came to visit me. We were walking down the road outside my unit, when a golf ball came right over the roof and hit her on the head. Fortunately she was not seriously hurt but It gives a new meaning to OCCUPATIONAL HAZARD! *Nea Storey*

M	E	M	B	E	R
	N	E	W	S	

Find us on 

Donations to the ACC Prize Fund: Many thanks to our generous members who donated their prizes to the Prize Fund this month.

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. Do let Ian know if you are interested.

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

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

July 1: Valkyrie (Ulla Axelsen)

- I've submitted KAFTAN but CAFTAN is also an accepted spelling - hope I'm right! [*Either spelling is correct - Adj*] *Patricia Abbott*
- Noticing that all of the Across answers so far had A as their only vowel made guessing AARDVARK a little quicker! *Fraser Simpson*
- With a borderless grid in Slot 1, there had to be something going on! *Len Colgan*
- Nicely done. More difficult than average, but nothing too difficult. *Ian Thompson*
- Lots of clues to like in this puzzle. My favourites were those for OLFACTORY, HARVESTS, REVERENT and AWARDS. *Brian Tickle*
- Nice Slot 1 with no obscure words! *Nea Storey*
- Just noticed when filling this crossword out, that the across answers only have the vowel A, wish I had noticed that earlier! *Marian Procter*
- Lovely! All those Across As. I liked HARVESTS and IMPROMPTU. *Kathy Horadam*
- It was only when I was entering the answers that I realised how clever you were to use A as the only vowel in all your across clues! *Robyn McKenzie*
- Half and half are always interesting puzzles. Enjoyed HARVESTS and RASP. *Jean Evans*
- This puzzle deserves an A+. *Kathleen Harper*
- Once again slot 1 was the hardest, not the the easiest puzzle, as it is supposed to be. *Hilary Cromer*
- Difficult. *Lynn Jarman*

July 2: T-boy (Toby McLeay)

- A Goldilocks crossword - not too easy, not too hard, just right (for me). *Ken Callan*
- A very enjoyable debut puzzle and hopefully the first of many to come. My favourite clues were those for TWELVE and CRUDITES which took a bit of head-scratching to parse. *Brian Tickle*
- An enjoyable puzzle, with quirky associations in the clues. *James Groves*
- Welcome to the world of compiling. Enjoyed your puzzle, especially liked 22ac, TWELVE. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Enjoyable puzzle with a lot of amusing clues including TWELVE, PHONEME and ESKIMOS. *Roy Taylor*
- Good one T-Boy, enjoyable. *Sally Shipway*
- Thoroughly enjoyed your puzzle T-boy. You were sneaky enough for me. *Glenda Lloyd*
- I liked OINTMENT. Spent a lot of time trying to make a sea connection. *Con Flinkenbergh*
- Welcome, Toby! An enjoyable solve with an appropriate smattering of medical terms. I particularly liked TWELVE. *Andrew Miles*
- Nice to see a new compiler. I enjoyed this puzzle - precise and a little cheeky in places. I particularly liked TWELVE and gave it my COTM. *Julie Crowe*
- Enjoyable crossword from a new compiler. *Nea Storey*
- Great clues for ODOURS and TWELVE, but I had a choice of solutions for 26ac so hope I'm right. *Kathy Horadam*
- Thank you T-Boy for an excellent first puzzle. *Laurence Kennedy*
- Some great clues. I liked 2dn SNIB and 4d PREPUCE. 22ac, TWELVE had me for a while until I saw the Roman numerals. Great puzzle from T-boy and look forward to more from him. *Mal Cockburn*
- Liked the clues for ESKIMOS and MANDATES. *Ron Jarman*
- Some great clues. Loved MANDATES, MENISCI and

PREPUCE clues for three. However TWELVE is my favourite. *Jean Evans*

- Congratulations to new setter Toby for such an enjoyable puzzle. Some slots over the last couple of years have sometimes felt like doing an exam rather than an enjoyable challenge. Loved the clue for TWELVE. *Hilary Cromer*
- Sneaky and arcane? Slot 2 was interesting and answers were familiar words. Please keep it that way. *Lynn Jarman*
- Excellent debut! *Bev Cockburn*

July 3: Jesso (Noel Jessop)

- It's been so long since I tackled one of Noel's puzzles, it took a while to get onto his wavelength. My favourite clues were those for JET-SETTER and BALANCES. *Brian Tickle*
- Always enjoy a Jesso puzzle. *Ulla Axelsen*
- A peek at how cryptics used to be. Who knew DUNROSSIL? *Andrew Patterson*
- Always a lovely surprise to see one of Dad's puzzles. *Claire Batum*
- Always a toughie, but enjoyable. *Sally Shipway*
- I always love it when a Jesso pops up! *Nea Storey*
- Some new words for me: MOBOCRACY, VICENARY and RYOT, thanks Jesso. GHETTO was neat. *Kathy Horadam*
- A few new words to add to my vocabulary such as MOBOCRACY & VICENARY. *Mal Cockburn*
- Great puzzle. VICENARY is an interesting addition to my vocabulary. *Jean Evans*
- Couldn't figure out 21A. *Toby McLeay*

July 4: KA (Karl Audrins)

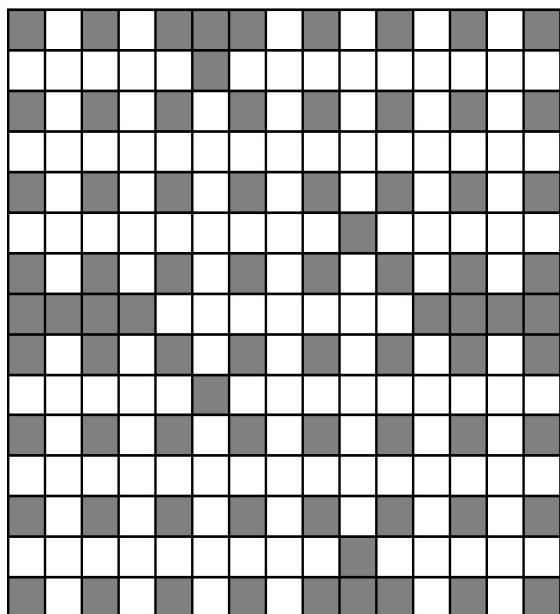
- Some nice clues but also some abbreviations that could be made less vague such as "leader = CO", "no doctor = OMB", "policeman = DI", "peer = E", "gas = O", "time = HR", "money = D". Should it be "WI = islands (plural)"? *Len Colgan*
- This was more difficult (I'm sure by design) because so many of the words were either 5 or 9 letters long. Thanks Karl! *Julie Leigh*
- Always a difficult grid to get started with, but very satisfying when it all starts to fall into place. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Some lovely new words to add to my vocabulary. *Jenny Madden*
- Tricky! I initially put DHOTI where ENOKI was supposed to be. *Fraser Simpson*
- SETACEOUS not an easy clue. *Roy Taylor*
- I always love doing this puzzle. This grid was tricky but fun. *Sally Shipway*
- Is it just me, or does the clue for X result in ENONX? *Andrew Miles*
- Delightful to see JABBERWOCKY in a crossword! COOMB and FORDO were new to me. *Nea Storey*
- Ingenious and fun as always, thanks, KA. *Kathy Horadam*
- Some head scratching with unusual words but got there in the end. Great puzzle. *Mal Cockburn*
- Maybe the grid made this more difficult than usual?? I liked ICED!! *Ann Millard*
- My favourite puzzle and no wonder with wonderful words like SETACEOUS, ZETAS, FORDO and COOMB to name just a few. *Jean Evans*
- FORDO had an unexpected meaning! Thanks KA. *Bev Cockburn*

Continued on page 16

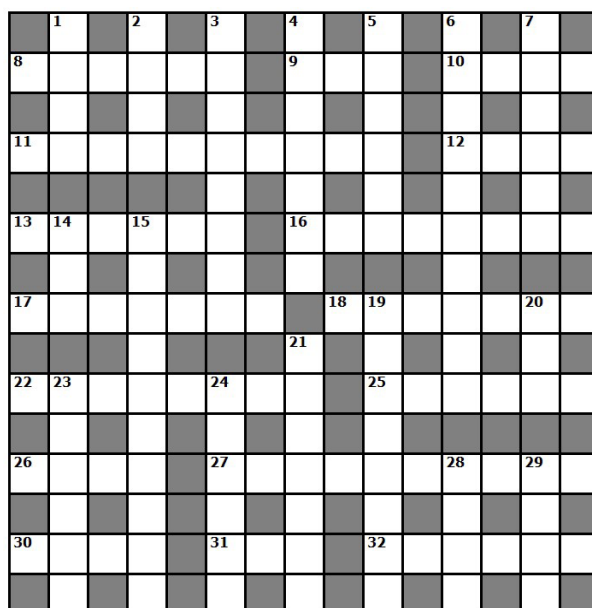
Submit solution by ACCOLADE or for mail entries see page 3 for adjudicator and closing mail date

Name

AUGUST SLOT 6 2023

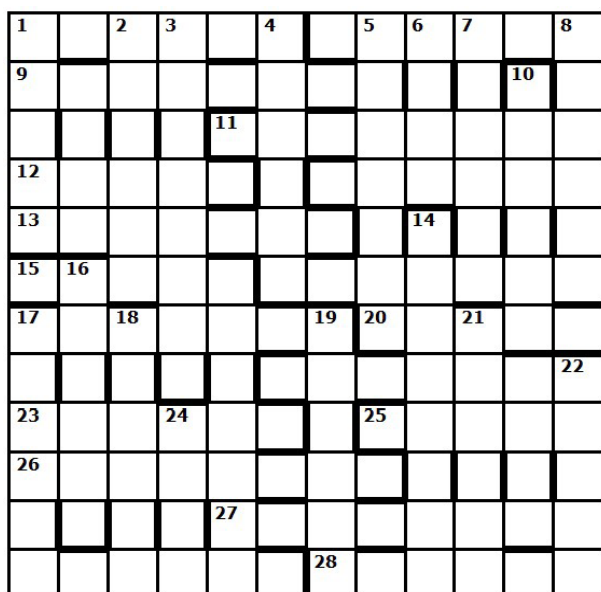


AUGUST SLOT 1 2023 Name.....

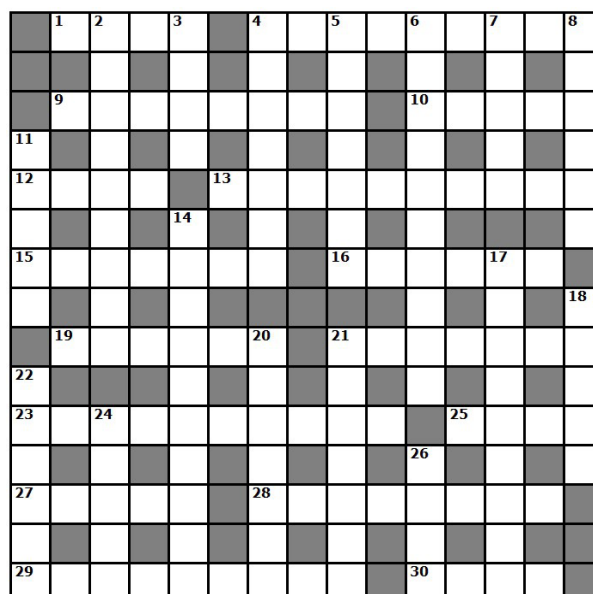


Clue of the Month

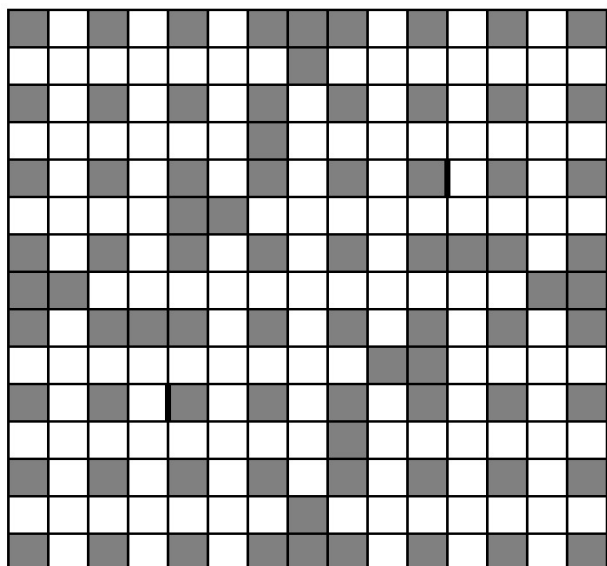
AUGUST SLOT 2 2023



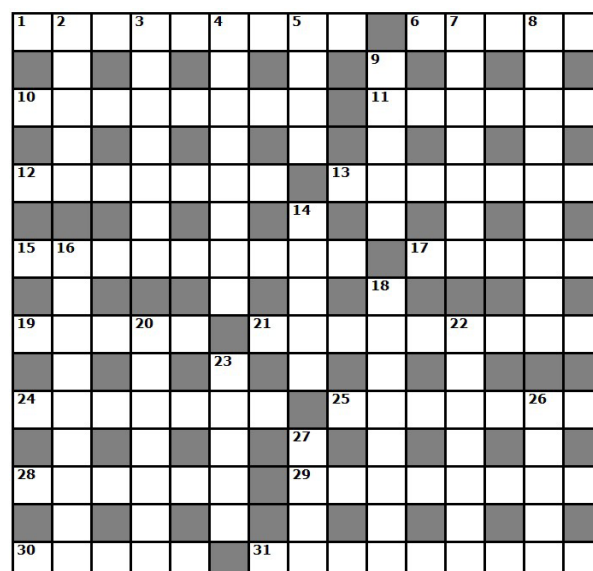
AUGUST SLOT 3 2023



AUGUST SLOT 4 2023



AUGUST SLOT 5 2023





Quiz 2023-8 Race to Acre, take Care! by Ulla Axelsen.

The following answers all contain 4 common letters.

These letters are not necessarily in the same order or next to each other and may appear more than once. Send your answers to Ulla Axelsen by email to ullaaxelsen@hotmail.com or by mail to 6 Maud Street Donnybrook Qld 4510. Closing mail date Friday 25 August 2023

- 1 Auxiliary (9)
- 2 Group together (7)
- 3 Profession (6)
- 4 Savoury dish (9)
- 5 Make known (7)
- 6 Make things worse (10)
- 7 Crack (8)
- 8 Formal complaint (9)
- 9 Cyclone (9)
- 10 Discrimination (11)
- 11 Petrol container (8)
- 12 Pots and pans (11)
- 13 Tearful (10)
- 14 Butcher (8)
- 15 Obligatory (9)
- 16 Stretch forth (8)
- 17 Idiom (8)
- 18 Training (8)
- 19 Charlatanism (8)
- 20 Sport (10)
- 21 Disorderly performance (8)
- 22 Crop (8)
- 23 Vague (7)
- 24 Discrepancy (8)
- 25 One-liner (9)
- 26 Vegemite (5,7)

The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence

'The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence' expresses the idea that other people's situations always seem better than one's own. The proverb carries an implied warning that, in reality, the grass is equally green on one's own side and that you should be satisfied with what you have.

Origin

'The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence' or, as it is often shortened 'the grass is always greener..' is an early 20th century proverbial saying. However, there are variants of it, which express exactly the same sentiment, from the late 19th century.

The earliest example of the proverb in the 'other side of the fence' form that is now

Report on Quiz 2023-7 The Human Body by Child's Play (Brian Symons)

Results: 26 P Abbott, W Allen, U Axelsen, B Cockburn, H Cromer, J Crowe, J Fowler, P Garner, B Glissan, D Grainger, R Jarman, J Leigh, C McClelland, R McKenzie, D Meek, A Miles, A Millard, A Paterson, D Procter, M Procter, D Rosendorff, W Ryan, F Simpson, R Taylor M Veress, C Wilcox, R Wimbush; 25 F Martin, S Pinder. A Simons, N Storey; 24 L Jarman, B Siegman. **Winner** David Grainger - congratulations!

Answers: 1 bairn/brain, 2 inch/chin, 3 bowel/elbow, 4 café/face, 5 fete/feet, 6 fringe/finger, 7 ringo/groin, 8 mug/gum, 9 earth/heart, 10 keen/knee, 11 gel/leg, 12 slip/lips, 13 viler/liver, 14 moral/molar, 15 bistro/orbits, 16 pane/nape, 17 spine/penis, 18 retain/retina, 19 clears/sclera, 20 sink/skin, 21 pelmet/temple, 22 tsetse/testes, 23 elation/toenail, 24 suture/uterus, 25 vine/vein, 26 writs/wrist

Compiler's Observations

Many thanks to all entrants. This quiz was meant to be a lighthearted, not too hard, Google-useless bit of fun. I hope it succeeded. There were very few mistakes and one acceptable alternative *ares/ears for inch/chin* which satisfied definition. word length and alphabetical order.

Solvers' Comments

- Thanks for very good quiz that took a lot more effort than many. Good fun. I usually manage to include a typo in my submissions for your quizzes. I would not be surprised to find a score of less than 26. But you never know. *Jim Fowler*
- An interesting quiz. The variety we get is fantastic! *A Millard*
- Thought this was going to be easy, How wrong I was Great fun. *U Axelsen*
- Hi Brian, you could have been a body anagram. *R McKenzie*
- Thoroughly enjoyed this quiz. *F Martin*
- Thanks for the anagrammatic mind bender. *R Taylor*
- This was fun after attempting this month's grids. *P Garner*
- Knew penis/spine would be in this .Surprised it took so long to spot it. *W Ryan*
- Haven't completed a quiz for years so thanks for one my peabrain could accomplish. *G Lloyd*

almost always used is from the US newspaper *The Kansas Farmer*, February 1917:

Some people are never satisfied anywhere. The grass always looks a little greener on the other side of the fence.

The notion of 'greener grass' being a metaphor for new experience had been in use for some time before this proverb was coined, as in this example from *The New York Times*, June 1853:

"It bewitched your correspondent with a desire to see greener grass and set foot on fresher fields."

Earlier variants exists, both in the UK and the USA, which are effectively the same phrase, as in this example from the Pennsylvania newspaper *The Public Press*, August 1897:

"The [Klondyke gold] mines are wonderful, but probably not so wonderful as represented. Grass is always greener, you know, further away."

The fact that the above example is a metaphorical usage, that is, one in which the subject is minefields rather than grass, suggests that the expression was already in widespread use by 1897 and may be much earlier in origin.

Thanks to A Phrase a Week (www.phrases.org.uk/meanings) for permission to reprint this article.

July 6-2023 Mythtic by The Mythtics (Ulla Axelsen and Ian Williams) (See page 2 for solutions)

Entries received 62; Correct 54; Success rate 87%.

Prizewinner: Jeremy Barnes. Congratulations!

Compiler's observations

A satisfyingly high success rate for a fairly challenging puzzle. Correction of a few typos and use of the spell check would have restored the dots lost for submitting GNOMEN in 7-down (our gnome was lacking E and taking ON).

Explanations – Across: 8 T+I+RANA, **9** EP + FAUN in IA, **10** A+POST+LES, **11** heads, **12** (pAN) in CARD, **13** (MALINGERERS - ARE)*, **15** PECK+IS+H, **17** cd [eye of Horus], **20** BE(HE)ADED, **22** B + LARES, **23** (CA+I+DOZ)<, **25** ICE + GI + ANT, **26** Hidden, **27** RA + N + GER. **Down: 1** (N + DIPLOMACIES - ODIN)*, **2** (MARS)* + HACK+L+E, **3** BALL+AD, **4** hidden, **5** (YEW round R)< all round ITCH, **6** BAA + L, **7** GNOME + ON, **14** LIBRA + R + IANS, **16** (CRESSIDA)*, **18** O + LEANDER, **19** A+D+MIRED, **21** (REPO + LE)<, **22** B + LEAR + Y, **24** Homoph "idle".

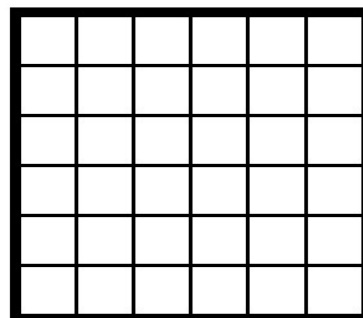
Solvers' Feedback

- I saw 13 GREMLINS in this puzzle. *Ian Thompson*
- Took a while to understand clues for CANARD and TIRANA. *Roy Taylor*
- The Mythtics are always challenging! *Nea Storey*
- Clever to incorporate the mythical theme across all the clues. I cannot work out how 20A works. hopefully an explanation will be provided [see above – Adj]. For 1D; adding an 'N' into the letters of an anagram only to remove it seemed complicated but it provided a means to use Odin. *Mal Cockburn*
- Some really challenging clues and I had to look up some history. Enjoyable nevertheless! *Ann Millard*
Thankyou for an interesting puzzle. TIRANA, EPIFAUNA, GNOMON and ICE GIANT cause me a few headaches!! *Jean Evans*
Some clever clue here. Trickiest were TIRANA and CANARD; the latter getting my COTM! *Bev Cockburn*

FRAZ WORD SQUARE 6-Aug (Solution on p 14)

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

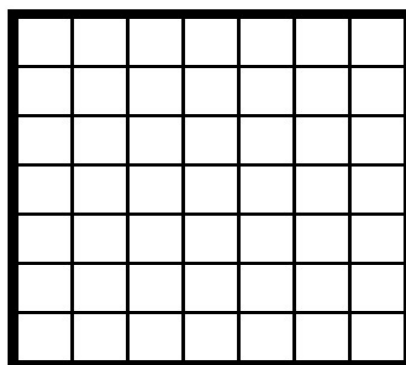
Bands bust rhymes in streets
Loses fish aboard steamship
Feudal tenant recalled fool in W.C.
Girls not opening spectacles
Like true minced ham, it can take your breath away
Some pampered French physicist



FRAZ WORD SQUARE 7-Aug (Solution on p 14)

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

Computer records in cupboard at a settlement (2 wds.)
Erased rent in homeowner's document
Finish penning cold poem, hard to read
Individual clothing just for men acting in the play
Infant had a meal after light gas
Playing "La Tosca" by the seashore
Stand before following boarding area to the west



July 7-2023 A Stylised One by Flowerman (Ian Thompson)

Entries received 52, Correct 15, Success rate 28.8%.

Prizewinner: Ian McKenzie. Congratulations!

Compiler's observations

Thanks, members for your kind comments. Well, I didn't expect 48-across OZ (representing AUSTRALIA) would cause so much grief. Extra kudos, therefore, to the successful solvers. OF, ON and OR were given in equal numbers suggesting that it was unclear what was required; however, curiously, just one unsuccessful solver commented on being nervous about their entry for 48-across. The seven elements were, from top to bottom, seven-pointed star, wreath, roo, shield, emu, oz, and golden wattle (roo and oz being the two colloquialisms). The title referred to the fact that the placement of the elements in the puzzle best matched (because of the positioning of the wattle) a stylised version of the coat of arms.



Explanations - (Extra letters in Across clues are indicated thus []) **Across:** 12 ([C]OBALT + CA)*, 14 MOOR + (m)A(n)G(r)[O](v)E(s), 16 (RO[M]AN + C)*, 18 (s)TOR[M](s) + US, 19 hw< [O], 20 HO[N](e)ST, 21 [W]C + (cons)ULTS, 22 ASS[E](s) around K, 28 [A]T in BYE, 31 TE[L]LER* around RIB, 34 [T]AN + (r)OA(n), 36 [H]E(r)MIT, 39 (LEARN [C]ODE)*, 40 (M + AI)< + B[O], 42 ABS + OR + [A]B, 44 [T]HEFT, 46 (ASK + [O]NE)*, 50 Initials: O, O, M, [F], P, H, 51 [A]CE + LL + O, 52 [R]OUSE, 53 ([M]ONE(y) IS)*, 56 ([S]IN + S) in LEEDS, 57 H + LOVES*. **Down:** 1 A + (LAMA around BA), 3 KOBE< around O, 4 NOSE*, 5 hidden, 7 (s)AMOSA(s)*, 8 (TO N)< + CH, 9 TOOT around (ROUBLES + H), 10 (d)EARLY, 11 (S(h)ELVES)*, 13 (CALLS BY L STAR)*, 15 dd, 23 ANNE'S<, 25 hidden<, 26 (m)ERIN(o), 27 L in TIER, 29 (THE around I) + F, 32 RENO with D for N, 37 (REST THE)*, 38 F(und) + IS + CAL(m), 41 (MELON SUGAR)* = SENORA GLUM, 42 hidden<, 43 Triple def., 45 EMI + L(ucrative)E, 47 DO(p)E, 49 YEA(r) + H(our), 50 (pr)ONTO.

Solution to June Slot 7

1	A	2	S	3	E	4	V	5	E	6	N	7	P	8	O	9	I	10	N	11	T	12	E	13	D	14	V
12	L	A	B	C	O	A	T	M	O	O	R	A	G	E													
16	A	C	O	R	N	17	S	T	A	R	18	T	O	R	19	U	S										
19	B	U	O	Y	S	20	H	O	S	T	21	C	U	L	22	T	S										
22	A	23	S	K	S	24	W	R	E	A	25	T	H	26	B	27	Y	28	T	E							
	M	E	30	R	31	T	E	R	R	I	B	L	32	E	33	H	L										
34	A	N	O	A	35	S	H	I	E	L	D	36	E	M	I	37	T										
38	F	N	39	O	L	E	A	N	D	E	R	S	40	U	E												
40	I	A	M	B	A	B	41	S	O	R	B	42	H	E	43	F	T										
46	S	K	E	A	N	47	O	Z	48	Y	49	O	O	M	P	H											
51	C	E	L	L	O	O	52	U	S	E	53	N	O	I	S	E											
	A	54	G	O	L	D	E	N	55	W	A	T	T	L	E	R											
56	L	I	N	S	E	E	D	S	57	H	O	V	E	L	S												

Solution WORD SQUARE 6-43

S	E	S	S	V	L
E	R	E	P	E	A
S	K	E	S	H	S
S	A	P	S	T	S
A	M	H	A	S	T
A	S	S	A	L	

Solution WORD SQUARE 7-18

D	E	L	E	T	E	D
E	R	E	G	E	T	E
T	S	E	A	T	D	A
E	G	E	A	T	S	N
L	A	L	S	A	O	C
E	A	T	E	N	O	N
D	E	D	O	C	E	N

continued on page 16



Slot 7

Cryptic
by
CrowsmanPrize
\$50

The unclued central row identifies the theme. Each other Across clue lacks a definition, but the answers match the theme. Down clues are normal. Collins will be helpful.

Crowsman's Corner

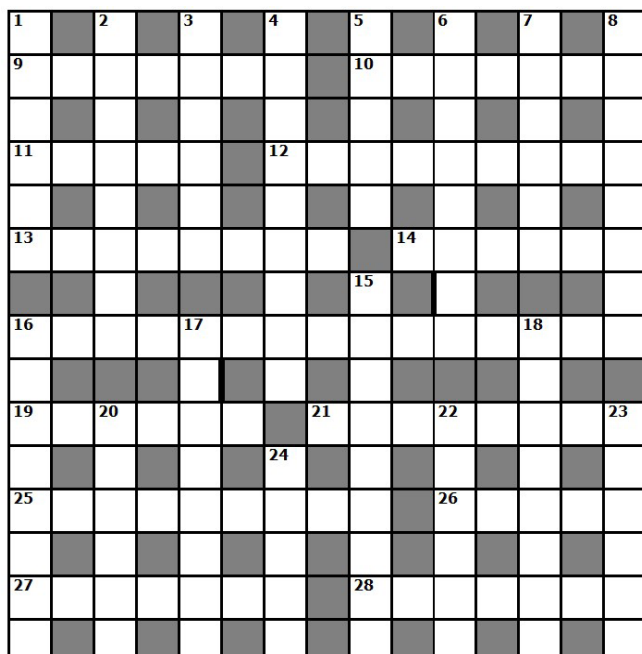
Across

- 9 Hen housed inside (7)
 10 Maureen perhaps reflected about father (7)
 11 Old Herb! (5)
 12 One in five followed along anyhow (9)
 13 Overheard demure princess (8)
 14 Go back to this land when divorced from reality (6)
 16 *See rubric* (6,9)
 19 Hoon leader puncturing at high speed (6)
 21 Toxic exhaust gas confronts 60% of English city (8)
 25 Candidate trailing Crowsman (9)
 26 Article hidden in bed (5)
 27 Playwright born in France (7)
 28 Wild-cat tucking into food (7)

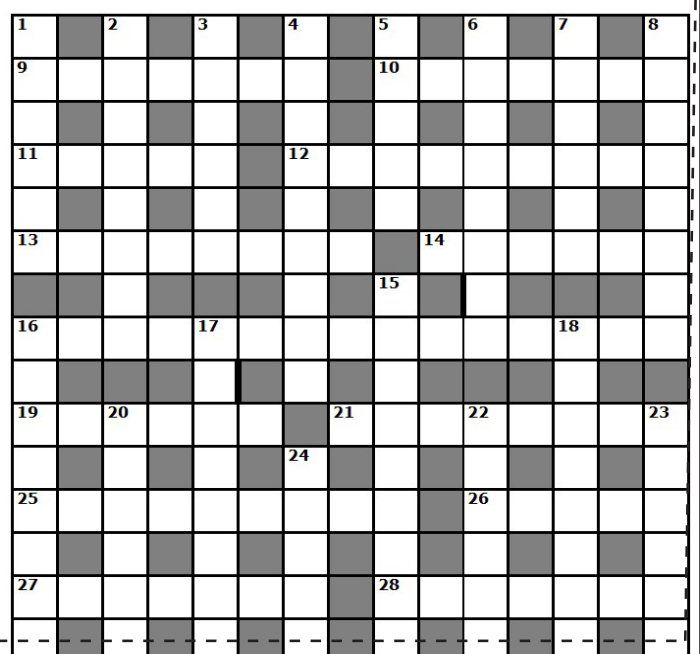
Down

- 1 Resounding selection, with tail-end becoming opener (6)
 2 Brave has absorbent cotton covering joint tissue (8)
 3 Stick together with that fellow entering centre (6)

- 4 Foreigner in a mess following British downpour (9)
 5 Freight vehicle shot (5)
 6 Fish for Grandmother Waterhouse, perhaps (8)
 7 Old Dubrovnik scrap with America (6)
 8 European peoples' chief accommodates ill-treated Nina (8)
 15 Claret previously held, in Burgundy, the bouquet (9)
 16 Almost a hit by the young lady (4,4)
 17 Forceful macho types concealed by screen (8)
 18 Bang on a container holding copper (8)
 20 Rescind fencing a temporary plant (6)
 22 Branch order carries some weight (6)
 23 In Barcelona, the violin players come to joints (6)
 24 Appropriate times coming after old queen (5)



Slot 7: NAME:



Submit solution via ACCOLADE button on www.crosswordclub.org home page or for mail entries see page 3 for adjudicator and closing mail date.

Members Feedback - continued from page 10**July 5: P-brane (Roger Hearn)**

- The use of 'setter' in 6dn was a nice misdirection and I liked the letter-swap clues for CRAFT and GALILEO. *Brian Tickle*
- A very eclectic mix of philosophies/philosophers. Most enjoyable. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Very philosophical. *Jenny Madden*
- An enjoyable solve, with some tricky items. *Fraser Simpson*
- No mention of the theme. Lot of old geezers here. Where is Pythagorus? *Roy Taylor*
- I haven't ever been in such exalted company. *Richard Skinner*
- Very philosophic! *Nea Storey*
- Lots of thinkers across. CRAFT and LEIBNIZ are my favourite clues. *Kathy Horadam*
- Caught onto the unannounced theme fairly quickly. 16dn, THALLOID, took a while to unpick and ARISTOTLE starts with an unnecessary 'A' but overall the puzzle was enjoyable. *Mal Cockburn*
- Some very long words to pick up on! *Robyn McKenzie*
- I enjoyed the philosophical theme and some interesting clues. *Jean Evans*
- Enjoyable. *Lynn Jarman*
- An interesting theme which led to some extra research. Thank you! MONADNOCK was a new word for me. *Bev Cockburn*

A Compiler's Observations

I always look forward to reading the feedback from members after one of my crosswords is published and I thank the members who take the time to provide that feedback. It's great to have reaffirmation when the comments are favourable and also helpful when a comment leads to improving my compiling. I admit that in my June 3 puzzle I was a bit cheeky putting in a clue that had five definitions of the solution word. As we all know, cryptic clues usually have two different parts pointing to the solution and at least one of those is a definition. I am aware of one publisher which used to have a stated policy that clues should have no more than two such parts. I have dabbled occasionally with three-part clues and my try-on in the June pangram was to see if a five-part clue would get past ACC's editorial process. I was delighted when it did. However the feedback from members produced a mixed result with comments ranging from 'very clever' to 'not keen' and 'not sure'. I would be very interested in learning whether there is any consensus on whether more than two parts is considered acceptable or perhaps unfair to solvers.

Lexi Connor (Ron Shapiro)

Feedback on July Slot 7 by Flowerman - continued from page 14**Solvers' Feedback**

- Highly innovative puzzle that must have taken much effort. *Ian McKenzie*
- I cannot believe how long it took to solve 47Dn, the LOI. Tricky! I gave it COTM. *Len Colgan*
- Thank you for a most ingenious and enjoyable puzzle, Flowerman. Despite having only two letters and being (almost) totally clueless, 48A gave me the strongest aha moment this month and gets my vote for COTM. *Keith Gamble*

- Really enjoyed the concept but it seemed only five elements were indicated. *Andrew Patterson*
- Wow, what a challenge. Seven pointed star, wreath of golden wattle, shield, roo and emu - 5 elements of the coat of arms. Glad I could spell check at end. Very enjoyable. *Ulla Axelsen*
- I had to look up the image in order to finish. It took me longer than I'd like to admit to figure out that O_ was OZ! *Fraser Simpson*
- I was entertained and educated by this cleverly constructed puzzle. *Roy Taylor*
- Very, very challenging!!! *Judy Ferguson*
- Commonwealth Coat of Arms - this was incredibly clever. *Julie Leigh*
- Amazing. Commonwealth coat of arms. Seven pointed star wreath shield roo emu on golden wattle *Brian Symons*
- A very entertaining challenge. Thanks Flowerman for the effort that must have gone into this. *Tony Dobe*
- Commonwealth Coat of Arms *Karlis Audrins*
- A wreath of golden wattle, a seven-pointed star, a kangaroo, an emu, Oz I was expecting Australian Coat of Arms, but the answer was Commonwealth. Excellent Slot 7. *Nea Storey*
- This was tough. I needed a collaborator's help to finish. *Con Flinkenberg*
- Tough one. Clever theme as it wasn't immediately apparent. *Richard Skinner*
- The mysterious set of seven remained hidden until near the end and required solving of most of the across clues. I'm not sure about 47D - I put in DOE but not sure about the wordplay. A very cleverly constructed puzzle. Bravo! *Mal Cockburn*
- An ingenious and very challenging puzzle. *Laurence Kennedy*
- Thanks Ian - an enjoyable challenge. I got the "Commonwealth" bit OK, but spent quite a while looking for the "C*BT OF ARTS". Eventually, it dawned! I was tempted to put HOLDEN for GOLDEN - but the FX48-215 never made it into the coat of arms. *Andrew Miles*
- An amazing puzzle. I love these mind-benders. The Commonwealth Coat of Arms provided a great theme, but I have absolutely no idea how you can put together something as complex as this. Many thanks. *Julie Crowe*
- Brilliant grid, well done. *Sam Howat*
- Wow, what an interesting challenge. Took me a while to get started. Certainly a stylish puzzle!! And a complicated way to arrive at the theme of the commonwealth coat of arms. Great fun even though it was rather a headache originally!! *Jean Evans*
- Challenging, as Slot 7 should be. Thank you, Flowerman! *Ann Millard*
- Extremely difficult puzzle which took me till the deadline to complete! Some answers were found through the already placed letters eg TILER and IAMB. I'm very unsure of 47dn and 48ac. *Bev Cockburn*
- A well laid out puzzle, needed to guess the letters to work out the theme, then the unclued answers became clear. *Alan Dyer*