



No 412 August 2024



www.crosswordclub.org



First learn the meaning of what you say, and then speak. *Epictetus, 2nd century, Discourses* (trans. TW Higginson), III, 23

GRIDATORIAL

Last month we tried out a slightly different format for the AJ puzzle, which found favour with some of our members but was disliked by others. Thank you to those members who expressed an opinion on our efforts to meet your needs. Without repeating all the comments it seems that the balance of opinion is that adequate space for jottings is appreciated on all grid pages. With this in mind we have tried a compromise solution for the AJ, which we hope will make the majority of members happy.

Thinking about the formatting of the magazine has raised other issues in members' minds and made us aware that some features haven't changed since much earlier days. For instance, while there was a clear use for the page of blank grids when puzzles were completed by hand and mailed to the adjudicator, there are now only two or three members who use mail entries. Is there still value in including a page of grids, or has it passed its use-by-date? We don't know what members may use the grids for, or whether it is just an additional consumer of ink and paper when you print the magazine? Do let us have your views, via an ACCOLADE "General comment", so that we can meet your wishes.

A goodly selection this month for your solving pleasure. We know that you will enjoy the challenge.

Ian

FROM THE ADJUDICATOR

I don't know about you, but this winter seems to be long and freezing! The temperatures have been stuck in single figures here in the national capital. Prime conditions for curling up in front of a fire with a glass of red and a good crossword!

Slot 1: It is a rare occasion that ESTRAL is the entry point for any puzzle, but it was for my solving of the theme words. The 12 unclued lights each contained the letters AELRST, doubtless chosen by *Bogeyman* for their high anagrammability. I expect many solvers had all the clued clues solved before entering any of the theme words. RELAST was accepted for the intended RESALT at 5 ac. In 17-across, CLASP and CLAMP were both acceptable.

Slot 2: The trickiness of *T-boy* in 9dn's AVIATE did not go unnoticed, where "away" = A+VIA. This was a particularly well-solved puzzle. RESERVOIR and SHARP were good clues.

Slot 3: *Lexi Conner's* puzzle was challenging enough to elicit several one-off solving errors. Favoured clues were CRIMEA, WISE, STEW and REALITIES. WE'RE [All of us are showered without shoes on] was a cheeky, clever clue. Unlike Slot 1, CHAMPS and CLASPS were not interchangeable for the intended "parties" (CAMPS) around "central Highlands" (L).

Slot 4: *InGrid's* grid was a challenging one for solvers but, whatever challenges it presented, they were well overcome by solvers. The main problem was the hidden reversal XEROXES. (... doesn't a solving mistake always seem to feel worse when the answer was sitting on the page staring at you the whole time?).

Slot 5: Finally, *Nigrum Cattus'* baize-infuse homage to Pot Black didn't seem to 'break' anyone...on the contrary, plenty of 147s scored here. The clues for POCKET, RIDOTTO and SEPPUKU were all remarked upon.

On the whole, it was a really well-solved month, with no diabolical clues or thematic errors.

continued on page 2

LEADING FIGURES

Puzzle No.	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Entries received	72	87	81	76	72	394
Correct entries	54	83	64	65	57	309
Success rate (%)	75	95	79	86	79	78
Prizewinners	Hilary Cromer	Margaret Dennis	Keith Gamble	Stephen Peach	Patricia Abbott	from 89 members

Prizewinner: July Slots 1-5 correct: Bev Cockburn . Congratulations!

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July 2024 Slot 1

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

July 2024 Slot 2

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

July 2024 Slot 3

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

July 2024 Slot 4

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

July 2024 Slot 5

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

July 2024 Slot 6

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

MEMBERS' RESULTS FOR JULY 2024 Slots 1 to 7																												
MEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	MEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	MEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7					
Abbott P.		•		•	•	•		Grainger D.	•	•	•	•	•		•	Randall J.		•	•									
Allen W.	•	•		•	•			Hagan R.	•	•	•	•		•		Rosendorff D.	•	•	•	•		•	•					
Anderson C.		•	•	•	•			Harper K.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Roulston S.	•	•	•		•	•	•					
Audrins K.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Hearn R.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Ryan W.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•					
Axelsen U.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Howat S.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Shapiro R.			•									
Barbour J.	•	•	•	•				Jones G.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Shield A.	•	•	•	•								
Barnes J.		•	•	•	•			Kennedy L.		•	•	•		•	•	Shipway S.		•		•								
Batum C.		•	•	•	•			Lankshear J.		•	•	•	•			Siegman B.	•	•		•		•						
Bettles K.	•	•	•	•				Leigh J.	•	•			•	•	•	Simons A.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•					
Blake M.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Mackay-Sim C.	•	•	•	•				Simpson F.	•	•		•	•	•	•	•				
Carroll L.	•	•		•	•	•	•	Madden J.	•	•	•	•	•		•	Skinner R.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•				
Cockburn B.	•	•	•	•	•	•		Martin A.	•	•						Smith J.	•	•	•		•	•						
Cockburn M.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Matthews S.		•	•					Storey N.		•	•	•	•	•	•	•				
Cole G.		•		•				McClelland C.	•	•	•	•	•			Storti A.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•				
Colgan L.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	McKenzie I.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Symons B.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•					
Coote P.		•	•		•	•	•	McKenzie R.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Taylor R.	•	•		•	•	•	•	•				
Cornish W.		•						McLeay T.		•		•				Taylor S.	•		•	•								
Cromer H.	•	•		•	•			McPherson T.		•						Thomas C.		•										
Crowe J.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Meek A.		•				•	•	Thompson I.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•				
Davis K.	•		•	•	•	•		Miles A.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Tickle B.	•	•	•		•							
Dennis M.		•						Millard A.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Veress M.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•				
Dobele T.	•	•	•		•	•	•	Milton R.		•		•				Void	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•				
Dowse B.			•					Moline R.		•	•	•	•	•	•	Wenham J.		•										
Ducker R.		•	•	•	•	•	•	Parsons D.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Wilcox C.		•		•								
Ferguson J.		•	•					Patterson A.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Williams K.	•	•	•	•								
Gamble K.		•	•			•		Peach S.		•	•	•	•	•	•	Wimbush R.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•				
Garner P.	•	•	•					Pikler M.		•	•	•	•	•		Wood J.		•	•	•	•							
Gleeson C.	•	•	•	•	•			Pinder S.		•			•			Woolston M.		•	•	•	•			•				
Glissan B.		•			•			Procter D.	•	•		•	•	•	•	Young A.		•	•	•								

From the Adjudicator - continued from page 1

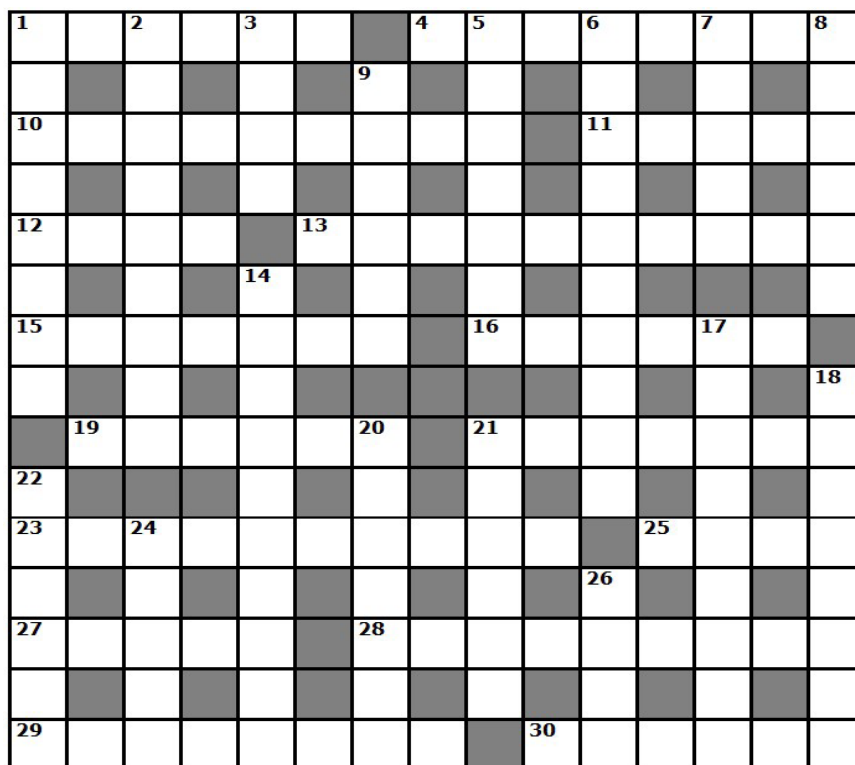
COTM: . A goodly number of nominations this month, with many from Robespierre's slot 6, giving us the COTM for ATHENS "Capital way to formulate arsenic?" [A then S]. Honourable mentions to ROAR (also from slot 6 and JESUIT from Zinzan's slot 7. Congratulations!

Andrew Miles

Slot 1

**Half and
Half
by
Valkyrie**

**Prize
\$50**



Across

- 1 Hoop on the old receding outer wall (6)
 4 Medications used to humour quiet Latin experts hiding smell (8)
 10 Fruit file cover, say (9)
 11 Tough small bird (5)
 12 Thunderbolt is split by top of lightning rod (4)
 13 Mischievous crude rot or a command by judiciary? (5,5)
 15 Inmates bury new head of security (7)
 16 Table group of doctors for drug material (6)
 19 Required credit with average initial deductions (6)
 21 Pin fish (7)
 23 Spooner's dough sweets for magpie (10)
 25 Escort agency ejected football back (4)
 27 Give tip to two of owners (5)
 28 A corner by the fire involving one log in kindling to begin with (9)
 29 Poisonous plant starts to mutate and necrotise male bird (8)
 30 Catonian 7 loses name to reprobate extremists (6)

Down

- 1 Uncivilized (8)
 2 Non-conductor (9)
 3 Declines (4)
 5 On top of each other (7)
 6 Developed for special needs (6-4)
 7 Money (5)
 8 Various (6)
 9 Smartens (6)
 14 Family feud (7,3)
 17 Cargo handler (9)
 18 Release catch (8)
 20 Crane (7)
 21 Dazed (6)
 22 Laugh or cry? (6)
 24 Peripheral (3-2)
 26 Internet form of Chinese whispers (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.

Slots 1 to 5: Ian Thompson email to irt_botanist@hotmail.com or mail to 12 Olive Street, Malvern East Vic 3145

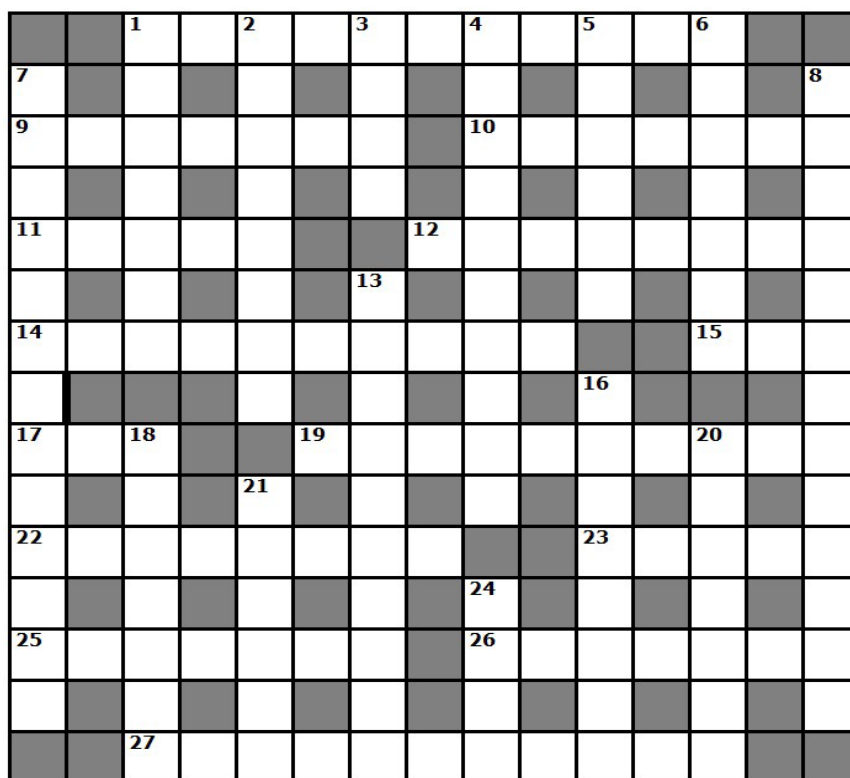
Slot 6: Michael Kennedy: email to manveru@bigpond.com or mail to 27 Hennessy Lane, Figtree NSW 2525

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

Closing mail date for all puzzles is 30 August 2024.

**BLANK
GRIDS
PAGE 16**

Slot 2

Cryptic
by
CTPrize
\$50

Across

- 1 Exponential expression from correction of math I run (within reason) (11)
- 9 Courier loses head in New York abbey (7)
- 10 Something on the side with 6: bachelor, son and Mum rejecting it! (7)
- 11 Bit more than a handful when alien arrives at the end of the month (5)
- 12 18 for an Aussie, leg before? They start a loud appeal, getting endorsement (5,3)
- 14 It's mutual, and this means one's over it (10)
- 15 Heard of cool pub (3)
- 17 Wander like the fly, perhaps (3)
- 19 Cutting tool from century old church is at the heart of perdition (4,6)
- 22 Mentioning a way to find a lass on Tinder? Not the desired result! (8)
- 23 Final link hidden completely (2,3)
- 25 Digital crime solved after introduction by Greek character (7)
- 26 From a cold climate, like the tops of St Kitts and Nevis (7)
- 27 Ever easy getting drunk after fresh resolutions at this time (3,5,3)

Down

- 1 Nuts in a cult! (7)
- 2 Animal has feed, tucking into fruit (5,3)
- 3 Wishes to get top off and tan with these (4)
- 4 Rocky LA sandbelt forms plateaus (10)
- 5 Comeback from Trump, "Ah, simply bad luck!" (6)
- 6 Tea on tap turned up with India's food (7)
- 7 Cheers changing game in lively encounter (13)
- 8 For the bigger picture news lead, Elgin lost his marbles (4-5,4)
- 13 Chopper's way to use again (but not ecstasy) (10)
- 16 The idiot regularly gets into sake and Japanese delicacy (8)
- 18 Jaunty stud: fellow's trashy? (7)
- 20 Couple from hut on banks of Loire (7)
- 21 Essence of dispute after stuff-up (6)
- 24 Light goblin, burning its rear (4)

General Feedback for July

- Thank you for my prize last month. *Robyn McKenzie*
- Many thanks for my quiz prize last month. I laughed aloud at the X answer. *Kath Harper*
- Thanks to all who took the time to give me feedback on my debut puzzle. The positive comments con-firmed my long-standing belief that cryptic compilers and solvers are the kindest of souls!
Kathryn Forward
- Love the new format of puzzle 4. Just what I want to do the AJ! *Cheryl Wilcox*

Slot 3

Cryptic
by
Katydid



12 solutions have a
common theme and are
not otherwise defined.

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 Fine (4)
- 3 Broke which bank? (5,5)
- 10 Salient destroyed (7)
- 11 Cockney's lie for food (4,3)
- 12 Cooked, cooked (7)
- 13 9s? (6)
- 15 Banish from old French island (5)
- 16 Hi, I get the worry about a round birthday (9)
- 18 Popular child follows Moby poet? (9)
- 21 We all face equal responsibility, initially (5)
- 23 Undead dad, alas, returns! (6)
- 25 We blame mischievous young female? (3,4)
- 27 Angry koala loses article in first gum tree (7)
- 28 Ascot kiss, close up (7)
- 29 Iris florentinas freshened, or Sir forages (5,5)
- 30, 26 Killed 5-nil, twice (4,4)

Down

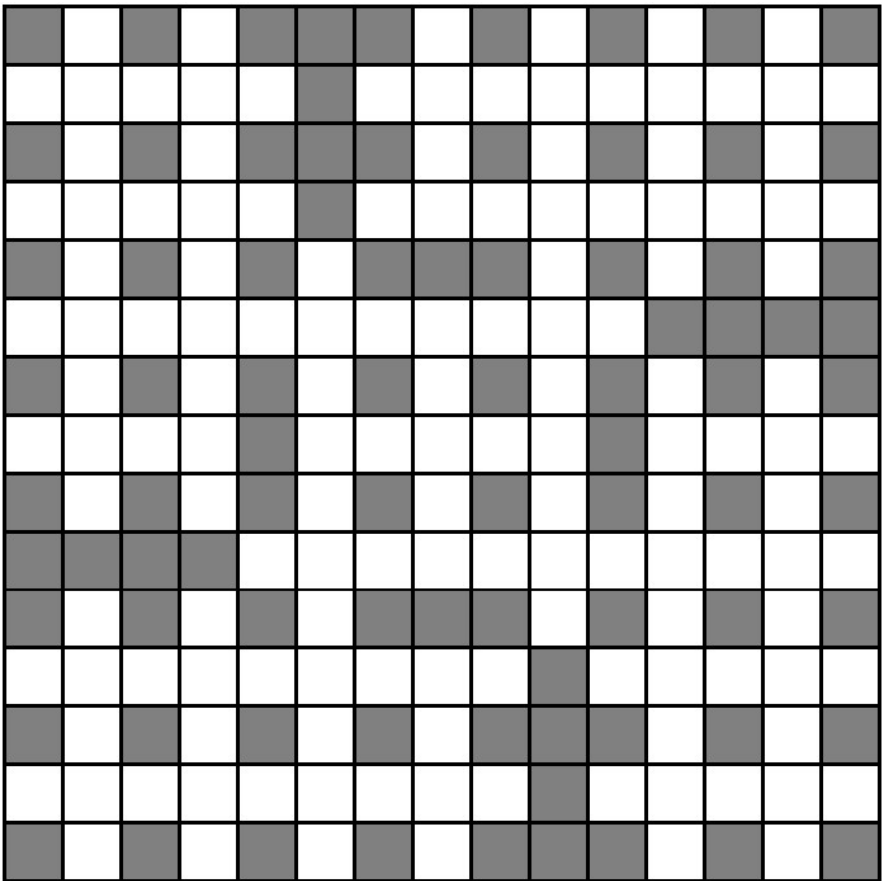
- 1 Spooner wastes necessities for epistaxes (10)
- 2 VIPs start to investigate after company deficit (7)
- 4 Toss; never toss: clarity (9)
- 5 Kinds of hits keys (5)
- 6 Squashed fly in Garibaldi 12? (7)
- 7 Full up, as agent lease initially expires (7)
- 8 Nothing about nothing (4)
- 9 Work out image format rising above middle of your eye (6)
- 14 Spooner delivered storage unit (10)
- 17 Redhead (9)
- 19 Firework (7)
- 20 Decipher *CIA list*? (7)
- 21 Old girl gains right to spanner (6)
- 22 French worker in charge is panicky (7)
- 24 Along around English (5)
- 26 See 30

Slot 4

AJ
by
KA



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



- A** Reminder for adjutant on Middle East material (4-7)
- B** Horrid person will gamble on painter being decapitated by leading executioner (4,5)
- C** Consider, change sides, then have fun (9)
- D** Scion holds recipe for designer (9)
- E** Improve education to include soldiers (5)
- F** Girl in France has high temperature (5)
- G** Plot of land in Sydney suburb (5)
- H** Everything is in the empty houses' rooms (5)
- I** Press returned seaweed (4)
- J** Short leather strap for girl (4)
- K** Drink from tree (4)
- L** Hazlitt ignored his first three exams on coastal land regions (9)
- M** Common woman on two types of drug is the creditor (9)
- N** Essentials for SES involved with north-east cities (11)
- O** City has good instrument (5)
- P** Support two men with organs, I'm told (9)
- Q** Whip insignificant, pretentious person abandoning son (5)

- R** A sailor climbs tree (4)
- S** Regulate data in dress assembly (11)
- T** Put it on to consider broken gin container? (8,3)
- U** Consult Rabbi to include extremist (5)
- V** Conceit of one in vehicle attaining high honour (9)
- W** Ironically, leaders of walkout regret you left yesterday (5)
- X** On the way up is dry, unknown sherry (5)
- Y** Singers are sorely led astray (9)
- Z** Grain conceals brown animal (5)

Slot 5

Cryptic
by
Timid
Terrier

Prize
\$50

	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						

- Across
- 7

Old rich Society models (8)
- 8

Animals in Israel and Sudan (6)
- 9

Letter mailed for strange sail requirements (10)
- 10

Females returning from sewer (4)
- 11

In law, hinders European backing locations (6)
- 12

For example; No date for costumes outlets (8)
- 13

Follows European national and prosecutes (6)
- 15

Damaged trees are initially saved with compounds (6)
- 18

Heads of Eden Church have electric lights of next statues on new levels (8)
- 20

Observes rest centre tarts (6)
- 22

Contains Herr Springer's slip-ups (4)
- 23

Gets rid of bizarre dacites after time (10)
- 24

Alien hydrogen backing insidious compounds (6)
- 25

Honourably retired he doesn't start to reward university son (8)

Down

1

Continues leaves around the Sabbath (6)

2

Sovereigns' butterflies (8)

3

Picks English motley tiles (6)

4

Diversions at West centre headlands (7)

5

Support fish containing arsenic (6)

6

Inferior cutting surface first to blunt (8)

8

Protects Eastern nurses curiously (7)

13

Passages coming from right inside bars (8)

14

Absconders start off easy stride to Royal Society (7)

16

Temp has island in stress (8)

17

Lands of Greek goddess captured by leaders of Ephesus, Sparta, Troy and Syracuse. (7)

19

19th letter mentions experiments (6)

20

Former miles not metres for outcasts (6)

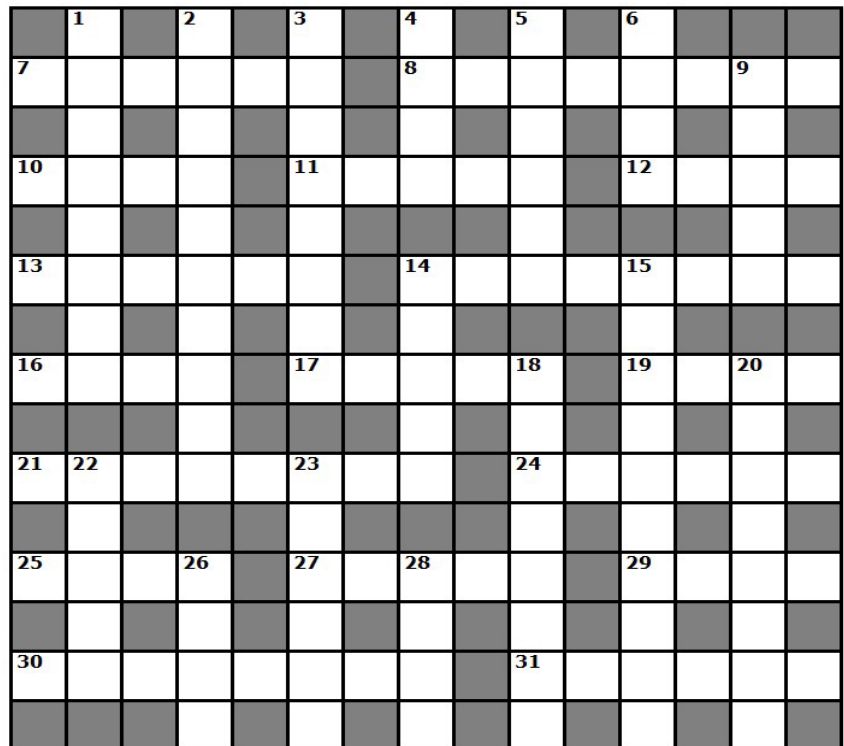
21

English Royal Engineers on vehicle to hell (6)

Slot 6

**Cryptic
by
Manveru**

**Prize
\$50**



Across

- 7 A university is involved in transcendental meditation for mental condition (6)
 8 Ordering right gear - lens (no seconds), and another piece of photographic equipment (8)
 10 Flower that could be either white or blue? (4)
 11 It's a type of book, we hear! (5)
 12 Garment from southeast asia region - India originally (4)
 13 *Ben & Jerry's* name dropping initial handle (6)
 14 Loose path damaged - don't use acceleration with these! (8)
 16 A law to ban clubs immediately (4)
 17 A stupid person from the US is a little baby, initially starting with D (5)
 19 Triumph following end of cricket match (4)
 21 Controversial science using electron energy transformed to absorb carbon (8)
 24 Cinema releasing new adaptation of *The Jewel Thief* (3,3)
 25 7th of the month? (4)
 27 Spotted Holden Caprice travelling north with passengers? (5)
 29 XXXX, just one beer doing the rounds in bar (4)
 30 It's hard work to smile with love falsely (8)
 31 *Pleasure and Pain* by Divinyls, originally with Miss Amphlett's lead perhaps? (6)

Down

- 1 Member of squad joining one on fortification (8)
 2 A passing allusion strangely declines with age mostly (4-6)
 3 Sprite, ventilated, is spoilt (8)
 4 Conflict with force is justified on reflection (4)
 5 Using maximum effort to extract fluorine from radioactive by-product (3-3)
 6 Digital assistant reflecting part of the eye (4)
 9 Stronghold up the mountain making strange noises (5)
 14 Edgar and Eliot! (5)
 15 Hot dancers getting about - it's bound to happen (2,3,5)
 18 Port with a drinking-song (8)
 20 Batting - a fine stroke without hesitation (2,1,5)
 22 Cure - dogberry steeped in plant rust (5)
 23 Employed to play banjo following Icehouse's opening (2,1,3)
 26 Confess to William perhaps (4)
 28 Online editor with a slot deficiency? (4)

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

Crowsman's Corner

Slot 7

Cryptic



**Prize
\$50**



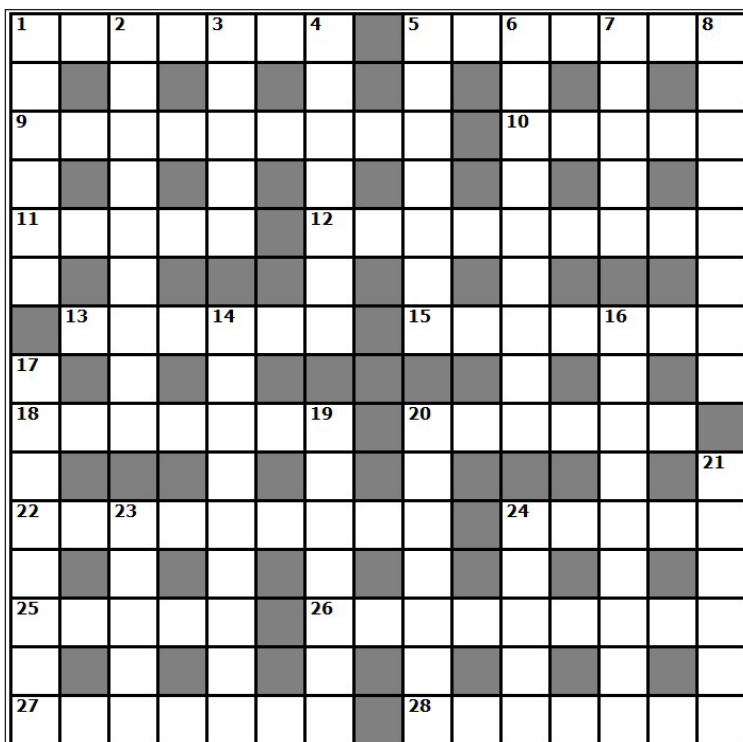
Lots of this
and that but no
anagrams.

Across

- 1 One at bullfight told to choose an entrance (7)
 5 Supports plucky players missing the start (7)
 9 Serviceman came around with fruit (9)
 10 German's approval following port wine from Spain (5)
 11 Reportedly runs this city (5)
 12 US outdoor parties have meat in pastries (9)
 13 That woman's behind - and the rest! Impressive person! (6)
 15 Relieved to get rid of hot load of fuel (7)
 18 Kayaker who gets feet wet? (7)
 20 Promise while clear (6)
 22 Seriously considers cuts in defence (5,4)
 24 Group of four policemen perhaps reorder, first to last (5)
 25 Beat about (5)
 26 Hand luggage carried in addition to trash (9)
 27 English peer/pharmacist without ID turned back (7)
 28 Checked place during performance (7)

Down

- 1 Spotted brat splitting layer (6)
 2 Named, admitting previously being arrogant (9)



- 3 Pulls turf up (5)
 4 The second occasion without pressure, twice criticise US coach (7)
 5 Temporarily suspended vote against reversal in aid (7)
 6 In desert, Saudi dances (9)
 7 Startle shag (5)
 8 Syntactically analyse in secret? Hardly anywhere! (8)
 14 Keeps under wraps fencing problems in Scottish braes (9)
 16 Scores outside African country convention (9)
 17 Cryptically reinspects spirits (8)
 19 Up-and-down stimulant (7)
 20 Wearing protective cover given within a day (7)
 21 Get up close underneath when cold (6)
 23 Kid ditching dead duck (5)
 24 Bird shrink? (5)

The blank grid for this puzzle is on page 11

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



Quiz 8-2024 by Crowsman All answers have something in common and are in Chambers. Answers are in alphabetical order, with at least one answer starting with each letter. Send your solutions to Len Colgan, (preferably) by email to len.colgan@unisa.edu.au or mail to 1 Ailsa Avenue, Warradale, SA 5046. **Closing mail date is 30 August 2024**

- 1 Able to use both hands equally well (12)
- 2 Female manager (13)
- 3 Vegetable (11)
- 4 The cardiovascular set-up (11,6)
- 5 Put off (10)
- 6 Fatigue (10)
- 7 Pet (9)
- 8 Trail-blazing (14)
- 9 Drug producing delusional sensations and psychological distortions (12)
- 10 Not fit to be eaten (12)
- 11 Prison (9)
- 12 Horn-like (10)
- 13 Indolent frequenter of social events (6,6)
- 14 Underfed (12)
- 15 Appealingly luscious (13)
- 16 Wicked (9)
- 17 Art of maintaining superiority during rivalry (3-9)
- 18 Chaos (11)
- 19 Geranium relative (11)
- 20 Punctuation key (8,4)
- 21 Apparatus to induce breathing after asphyxiation (12)
- 22 Broadcast description of a game in progress (7,10)
- 23 Introspection (4-9)
- 24 Severe verbal reprimand (6-7)
- 25 Easy (13)
- 26 Infuriating (9)
- 27 Handicapped casualties of war (7,7)
- 28 Pairs of conjoined twins connected at the lower sternum (12)
- 29 Girlfriends (5,6)
- 30 Lizards whose tails are ringed with spiny scales (9)

Quiz 7-2024 Substitution by KA (Karl Audrins)
Entries: 30 Winner: Nea Storey. Congratulations!

Results: 26. Abbott P. Allen W. Axelsen U. Barbour J. Blake M. Cromer H. Crowe J. Forward K. Grainger D. Harper K. McKenzie R. McClelland C. Meek D. Miles A. Millard A. Procter D. Rosendorff D. Ryan W. Skinner R. Storey N. Symonds B. Taylor R. Veress M. Wilcox C. Wimbush R. 25. Garner P. Glissan B. Leigh J. Siegman B. 23. Williams, K.

Answers. 1. villain/villain 2. nought/nougat 3. indolent/insolent 4. follow/fellow 5. taipan/Taiwan 6. yawl/yaws 7. liberate/literate 8. chatter/charter 9. quark/quack 10. unloved/unmoved 11. elect/erect 12. worst/wurst 13. assess/assets 14. zine/zing 15. banner/banker 16. hurdle/huddle 17. detect/defect 18. xanthin/xanthan 19. gender/gander 20. rebound/resound 21. jangle/jingle 22. ovation/oration 23. kernel/kennel 24. pheasant/pleasant 25. monitions/munitions, 26. salmon/saloon

Adjudicator's comments.

Thank you to all participants, and congratulations to the winner. Judging from the comments, the Quiz appears to have been well received by participating members, who did not seem to have too much trouble working it out. And that is as it should be - an enjoyable divertissement. So, without much further ado, thank you all once again, toodle-pip and cheerio.

Members' comments.

- I enjoyed your latest quiz, not too easy, not too hard. As Goldilocks would say, "Just right!". I like the way you put your clues together. Got a good laugh out of 'the most horrible sausage'. I enjoyed the quiz as it didn't take hours of internet/ dictionary trawling. *Ulla Axelsen*
- I enjoyed your quiz - doable but with quite a few challenges. *Jean Barbour*
- Had a lot of fun completing this puzzle. Thank you. *Maureen Blake*
- Thank you for an interesting quiz. *Hilary Cromer*
- I really enjoyed this puzzle - clues were very succinct, and such a great idea. *Julie Crowe*
- I had such fun completing this quiz. I think that my favourite is the 'pleasant pheasant', which I'll probably continue to see it in my dreams. Thanks for a clever quiz. *Kathryn Forward*
- Thank you for your entertaining quiz. *David Grainger*
- This quiz sounded easy, but covering every letter was unexpectedly tricky. *Kath Harper*
- Thank you for an interesting quiz. I like to share the quiz with my daughter who doesn't do cryptics - so we had some fun together. *Robyn McKenzie*
- Thank you for a very fun, but challenging quiz. *Claire McClelland*
- Thanks for your enjoyable quiz. *Drew Meek*
- Really enjoyed this quiz. Thanks. *Ann Millard*
- Another great concept. And, very clever to non-alphabetise. Nice. *William Ryan*
- That was a really great quiz, I enjoyed it. *Betty Siegman*
- A pleasant way to while away some time. *Richard Skinner*
- Clever idea for a quiz. Many thanks. Nea Storey
- What you can do with the English language. Thanks. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Took a lot of time and thought but I was determined and pleased to finish. Keep the quizzes coming! Cheers. *Cheryl Wilcox*

July 6-2024 Cryptic by Robespierre
Entries received 55 Correct 48 Success rate 87%.
Prizewinner: Ian Thompson. Congratulations!

Compiler’s observations

A pleasingly high success rate for a puzzle that was judged by one member as “one of the hardest”. No major errors, apart from the inevitable typos. A couple submitted DORK for KOOK [KO + OK] but overall, well-solved by our members.

Explanations – Across: 1 CO+CO, NO rev., 5 (G..Y L..T H..E A..R)*, 9 (AMAZING, game)*, 10 PARTNEr rev., 11 DI, AGNOSTIC, 12 never, OAR, 13 (RUB)*, LESS rev., Storm, 16 (STALE)* <> X, 17 As = A THEN S, 19 RAP, SHEET, 21 KO, OK, 22 (PRIVATE JOKE)*, 25 GO <> TALE rev., 26 I G(NO)RANT, 27 hidden rev., 28 PE(EWE)kelpiE. **Down:** 2 OK, A, PI (pious), 3 O RANG, 4 Spoonerism (soy, numb), 5 (LEAR)*, SET rev., 6 rAsCaI in TREE, 7 (THAT FARMER)*, 8 (ARGUE)* <> ANTE, 14 [(CIGARETTE HOLDER) - (A LIGHT)]*, 15 SPEAK, EASY, 18 S, POSE <> UP, 19 (JOE)* <> RICE, 20 PINS RAP rev., 23 sweet, ERSE, 24 aVENUE .

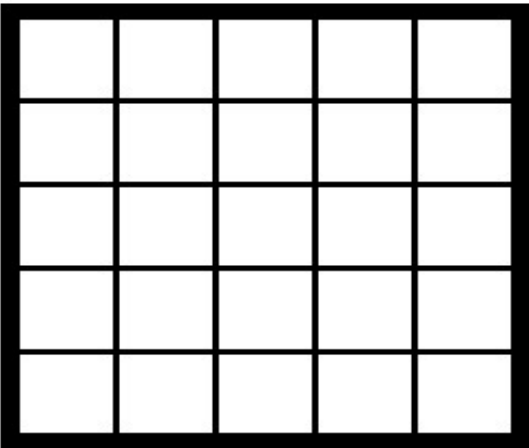
Solvers’ Feedback

- Liked ENTRAP, ATHENS and OKAPI. Not keen on NOISOME. Appreciated no unusual words. *Len Colgan*
- TREACLE; BRUSSELS and ATHENS all very good. *The Void*
- Some challenging clues. Liked the Spoonerism. Great fun. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Difficult clues. I thought KOOK and BRUSSELS were clever. Didn’t understand ENTRAP or NOISOME. *Roy Taylor*
- Enjoyable puzzle; but I don’t see how excessively in 27ac indicates a hidden answer. *Ian Thompson*
- I always enjoy your clues; thank you. SPEAKEASY was great. *Robyn Mckenzie*
- A clever clue for BRUSSELS. “Union base” took a while. *Keith Bettles*
- This slot (along with Slot 7) seemed to be one of the hardest the magazine has presented for a while as I spent many days grinding slowly through the challenging clues. Another ‘reverse’ puzzle where an answer seems to fit and then the rest of the time is spent trying to understand the wordplay. 6d took me ages to realise that tea was a tree. I’m amazed I finished it at all but it was worth the effort. A toss up between ATENS & IGNORANT for COTM. *Mal Cockburn*
- Challenging puzzle. Loved COCOON. *Joan Smith*
- Some wonderful clues, too many to single out except my COTM. *Beverley Cockburn*

FRAZ WORD SQUARE 5-August 1 (Solution on p 16)

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

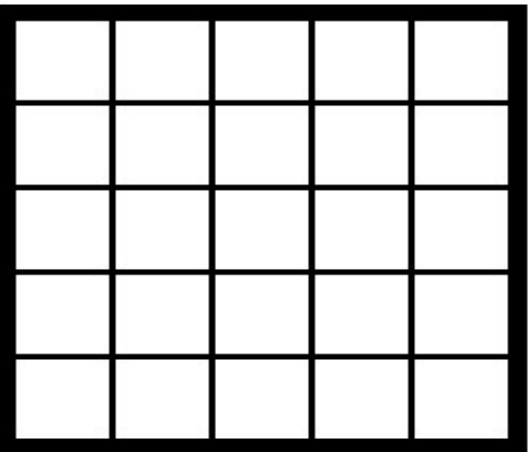
- Tomorrow’s leader split apart movement
- Left in Parisian railroad station, scowl
- The woman’s showing bird in a marsh
- Bulb not having much weight
- Doctor riled lazy person



FRAZ WORD SQUARE 5-August 2 (Solution on p 16)

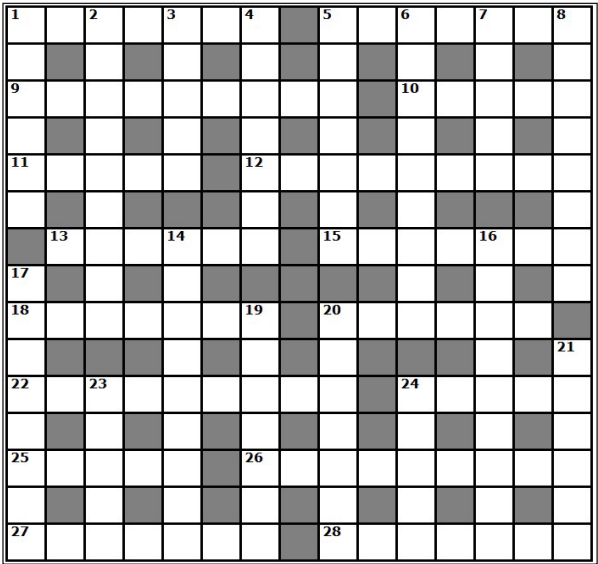
Identical words read across and down in this square. Clues are not listed in order.

- A Colorado ski resort benefit
- Cat pool
- Choir member outside rear of shack enjoys the sun
- Dispatches winter vehicles, we hear
- Susan tactfully includes bearer of gifts



Blank grid for August slot 7

Name:.....



July 7-2024 Cryptic by Zinzan

Entries received 51 Correct 41 Success rate 80%.

Prizewinner: Len Colgan. Congratulations!

Compiler's observations

Undoubtedly, I did not hold back in this one. I added some more obscure answers, used some alternative definitions and wrote clues that I knew would confound more than usual. I probably won't go there again too soon! Beyond all that, those that soldiered on were mostly correct. SALVERS needed the 'I' switched to 'a' in 'silvers' (seconds, as in medals).

Explanations – Across: 1 fines-,S,E, 5 je sui(--t)s, 9 (tie,to,film)*, 10 r,ate,L, 11 inits, 12 (rifle,ammo)*, 13 -y fit cer- <, 15 tarts<,-u,-s, 17 -arma-< <>pho, 19 be,(no sin)<, 21 pecu-(N)iar-y, 23 (photo)genic, 25 inits, 26 an,(located)*, 27 (is,heavy)*, 28 (safe)*<>t---,on. **Down:** 1 f--e,l,spa,r, 2 inits &lit, 3 mis-<,pati(c)o, 4 ENT,ropy, 5 j---,iffies-, 6 -s(ore)l-, 7 i-,n-,tim(at)es, 8 s(a/i)lvers, 14 cap(u-chin)s, 16 (a,gender)*,-e-s-, 17 a,MP,lif-,y, 18 -al-,a,BA,MA, 19 Bay,leaf, 20 can<,-e-l,-l-e-, 22 IBM,in<, 24 (i)n(i)tro.

Solvers' Feedback

- JESUITS is an excellent clue. Also particularly liked ORIFLAMME, FAST ONE & SIMPATICO. *Ian Mckenzie*
- INTIMATES: the wordplay doesn't seem to achieve the reversal of AT & IN before containment by TIMES. BAY LEAF: clue doesn't work properly for me. 15Ac, 8Dn clues both included "in seconds". Neither implied what I expected' even though both answers started and finished in S. *Len Colgan*
- What an outstanding puzzle. Very difficult' but perfectly and fairly clued. Several 'kick-self' and 'Eureka' moments. Zinzan at the top of his game. Love your work! *William Ryan*
- Favourites AMPHORA, ALABAMA & BENISON. *The Void*
- Working out how some of the clues worked took ages. What a challenge! *Ulla Axelsen*
- Didn't understand 8dn. Put SALVERS. Lot of others took a lot of thought. *Roy Taylor*
- Tricky! Don't understand 8d. *Ann Millard*
- I was stuck on this one for ages and had to make several revisits before starting to make inroads in the SW. Overall, clever clues that are well constructed. Excellent &lit clue at 2d, once the definition of the larva of a mayfly rather than the Greek water nymph is considered (my COTM vote). 12a: I interpret "loaded" as indicating a container word but only AMM is inside RIFL-E whereas the O is to its left. *Andrew Meek*
- A bit of a struggle but we got there. Probably. *Richard Skinner*
- Not completely sure about some of my answers. It was a challenging puzzle. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Lots of super clever clues here. I thoroughly enjoyed this one. *Julie Crowe*
- I especially liked the clues for Jesuits and finesse *Robyn Mckenzie*
- This slot (along with Slot 6) raised the bar for puzzle difficulty. Every clue is a masterclass in word play; that only revealed itself after much long thinking and speculation. I think I spent the good part of a week on this grid alone. A fantastic crossword! Best clue out of many great clues was 24d NITRO. *Mal Cockburn*

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

July Slot 7 solution**Solution WORD SQUARE 5-Aug 1**

D	N	E	R	T
N	O	R	E	H
E	R	A	L	G
R	E	L	I	D
T	H	G	I	L

Solution WORD SQUARE 5-Aug 2

S	Y	A	L	S
Y	T	T	I	K
A	T	N	A	S
L	I	A	V	A
S	K	S	A	B

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

Explanations for clues in 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 Bogeyman. Down: 2 TOLe[8A]<, 4 hidden, 5 homoph "reeds", 6 R in ERS, 9 E + MIR, 10 dd, 17 CO + CO + A, 19 homoph "tree" with lisp, 21 STOA + T, 22 dd, 23 FA + Q, 24 cd ref to 4-stroke Otto cycle, 25 E (R<>X) OTICA, 27 Play on homoph of guinea "fowl", 28 (MEN CLOUT A)*, 34 PUP + IL, 35 dd/cd, 36 (MARLOWE - ma)*, 37 DO + VE, 41 homph "eek".

Slot 2 T-boy. Across: 1 BRUSSELS SPROUT, 10 V+I+S+T+A, 11 (FIERCE SEA)*, 12 A + PROP + OS, 13 HOMO + NY + M, 14 OK in EVE, 16 homoph "bow" + IT< + FULL, 19 RUBBER in SHY, 20 hw, 22 OR + PHANTomS, 25 MME in STAR, 27 POLL + UTI + ON, 28 BA + SIC, 29 (GREAT + ARCTIC + PET)*. **Down:** 2 RIVERROSE*, 3 dd, 4 EX + CU + SABLE, 5 MAS in SH, 6 homoph "new mattock", 7 OR + ION, 8 hw, 9 A + VIA + ToupeE, 15 EM + BRA + SURE, 17 ABYSS + INIA (Amazon River dolphins genus!), 18 (MICK + FOULS)*, 19 TP in SHOUT, 21 (H + N + RICE)*, 23 hw<, 24 (PuMpKInS)*, 26 AM + BIT.

Slot 3 Lexi Conner. Across: 4 DIS-TRESS, 8 PR (IV) ATE, 10 REAL + I + TIES, 11 tRACED, 12 (armistice - its)*, 13 homoph whys, 14 ottoman ERA<, 16 STEWart, 17 A (RISE) N, 19 COCK + cuttLEfish, 21 shoWEREd - shod, 25 alaNA IVErson, 26 gAUNT, 27 (serenades - are)*, 29 SHE + Battle, 30 P (HEN + OMEN) A, 31 PRICed + MATE, 32 ELON + GATE. **Down:** 1 SPAR + TAN, 2 WINCH + ED, 3 SAND + CASTLE, 4 DE (RAIL) ED, 5 SLATE + should, 6 homoph reign, 7 DD, 9 (rents a)*, 15 FRIENDS + HIP, 18 homoph seize + CAPE, 19 C (L) AMPS, 20 (lego can)*, 22 deCLARE BILLboard<, 23 BE + RATED, 24 (can see)* + DD, 28 MOuRn.

Slot 4 InGrid, A illicIT SON Gains, **B** bearing+rein(forced), **C** anag, **D** da+anag game, **E** en+roll+ee, **F** fill+et, **G** anag singlet, **H** hum+d(eartment)+rum, **I** in+action, **J** aj reversed+zz+es, **K** kit+ten, **L** laud+a+n(ursi ng)+u(nit)+m(anager), **M** mu+reLISHed, **N** anag, **O** out+g+row, **P** sounds like pallets, **Q** anag technique - the, **R** sounds like receded, **S** screen+p+lays, **T** anag thirteenth - their, **U** dm, **V** v(an)illa, **W** may+waker, **X** deSEX+OR+EXterminate rev, **Y** y(o)u+let+ide, **Z** z+mEAL Others.

Slot 5 Nigrum Cattus. Across: 1 DD, 4 CD, 9 RU+B, 10 (C...R) in BUS<, 11 DD, 12 ELF* round UK, 13 1st letters, 14 fOUR, 15 SKIT+E+D, 16 OR(B)ISON, 19 EEL in RUNS*, 22 PR(A)ISE, 25 HeArD, 26 IN+PUT, 27 K(Y)OTO, 28 OUT+DO, 29 homophone, 30 K+K+K, 31 (FLAT OUT A)*, 32 HIDDEN. **Down:** 1 F in BERET, 2 IN B(A)ULK, 3 ENS + HEAT + HE, 4 (MYRIAD+P)*, 5 TAB+ASCot, 6 Homoph "laps", 7 DD, 8 ARTISAN*, 17 DD, 18 C(US+HI)ON, 20 RID + OTTO, 21 (PUKES+UP)*, 22 (INEPT+AT)*, 23 (NOOSE + K)* + R, 24 POCK + ET, 26 IN/O/FF.

International affairs

Our indefatigable Secretary/Treasurer Jenny represented us in an international podcast earlier this month. The "Off-Grid, the not-really-about crosswords podcast" is co-hosted by The General, Dave and The Void, all professional compilers from the UK, who say that they never know which topics are coming up in the next episode until a selected British crossword tells them, whereupon they chat about the puzzle and some of its clues with an invited guest. As the guest at the URL below, Jenny was able to give a plug to the ACC and spread a little knowledge of the Australian way of life, including our love for lethal sea creatures and other deadly creepy crawlies. Easy listening and good fun if you have a few minutes to spare. The Void has since joined the Club and has a puzzle scheduled for September in Slot 7, when we will be able to learn a little more about him. He suggests that members may enjoy episodes 41, 31 or 19 from their archive. The podcast and archive can be found [here](#)

M	E	M	B	E	R
	N	E	W	S	

Donations to the ACC Prize Fund: Many thanks to our members, who have generously made donations to the Prize Fund this month, directly or by declining a prize.

Find us on 

July Clue-writing Competition: A reminder that the July competition is open until early August, in which you are invited to write a clue for the word CYBERSPACE (10) complete with explanation. Note: only one clue per person. Send your clue and explanation to the adjudicator Michael Kennedy by email to manveru@bigpond.com or mail to 27 Hennessy Lane, Figtree NSW 2525 **Closing mail date: Friday 9 August 2024** Prize \$50.

New compilers welcome! We welcome puzzles from new compilers. The easiest way to start is with a slot 1 Half and Half puzzle, which only involves cryptic clues for half of the solutions. If you're hesitant, some of our more experienced compilers will be delighted to pair with you and provide advice and assistance. Email Ian for more detail and some helpful information.

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

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.

July 1: Bogeyman (Ian Williams)

- Particularly liked HOSE. *Ian McKenzie*
- 5ac, Chambers has no anagram of ALTERS that fits the intersecting lights. I've opted for RESALT (in Wiktionary). Another option is RELAST since RELASTER is in Merriam-Webster. Neither of these words is in OED. 2dn Don't understand how "short thgie" clues LOT [(eight) < where 8 was TOLE - as all were checked I thought it would be fun - B]. *Len Colgan*
- I thought I had no chance of working out the connection for the un-clued answers. It's amazing what alters your perception. *Jenny Wenham*
- Some obscure words together with the missing clues made this a very challenging slot 1. Good fun though. Had a sudden light bulb moment with LOT. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Favourite COCOA. *The Void*
- I loved all the anagrams and the clue for TWEE. *Brian Tickle*
- A good challenge. I thought it was unfair until I realized the rubrics were anagrams. *Roy Taylor*
- 17ac could be either CLASP or CLAMP. *Allan Storti*
- CLASP or CLAMP for 17ac? *Ann Millard*
- Are anagrams cheaper by the dozen? Surely not! *Kath Harper*
- Had a problem finding fish 15ac? IDE fitting with 6dn ERRS Is it a typo or am I missing something as usual? [Intended to be the plural of the id, mistaken for the fish! Tut tut! - B] *Toby McLeay*
- An interesting idea for a puzzle. I think there are two correct possibilities for 17ac. *Ian Thompson*
- A deep end start for Slot 1! Lots of answers too and very enjoyable. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Far too hard for a Slot 1; especially with several unfamiliar words un-clued. *Nea Storey*
- Well done Bogeyman. Clever cluing. *Richard Skinner*
- If the rubric is multiple anagrams of "alters" I have never heard of most of them. Also 'caketops', if correct; is dubious. This was a particularly hard slot 1. *David Bennett*
- Amazing there are so many anagrams for these letters and clever of you to fit them all into the grid. *Hilary Cromer*
- Clever. I worried long and hard over 5ac, as I couldn't find RESALT or RELAST in Chambers, however could not come up with an alternative. 2dn was fiendish, but I loved 35dn, HOSE. *Julie Crowe*
- Who would have thought that there were so many anagrams of 1 across! *Cheryl Wilcox*
- Not often that I find number 1 the hardest puzzle to complete! *Robyn McKenzie*
- Nice start to the month Liked clues COCOA and TWEE. *Joan Smith*

July 2: T-boy (Toby McLeay)

- Tricky clue; that AVIATE at 9dn! *Fraser Simpson*
- I enjoyed the lift-and-separate of 'Fly-/a/way' in 9d. *The Void*
- I loved the clues for ORPHANS; RESERVOIR and PNEUMATIC. *Brian Tickle*
- A good warm up after the challenge of slot 1. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Another fun puzzle from T-boy - great work! *Kathryn Forward*
- Hoping I got this one right! *Toby McLeay*

- Thanks T-boy; great puzzle *Chris Thomas*

July 3: Lexi Conner (Ron Shapiro)

- Without shoes on for un-SHOD was cheeky; but I liked it. *The Void*
- An enjoyable puzzle. *Ulla Axelsen*
- I really enjoyed the clues for CRIMEA; WISE and STEW. *Brian Tickle*
- Some great clues, some of which were quite easy. However, a few were absolutely cruel and took some effort & I am still not too confident about a couple. *Ann Millard*
- Nice clueing, thank you Ron. *Chris Thomas*
- Tough slot 3. *Richard Skinner*
- Great clues. I loved DISTRESS. *Robyn McKenzie*

Jul 4: Ingrid (Jean Barbour)

- Always a difficult grid if you haven't worked out either of the 11 letter words straight away. New meaning of 'vanilla' for me. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Quite hard to sort out the grid but some good. Unlock made me laugh! *Robyn McKenzie*
- Mostly easy to solve, difficult to place. *Roy Taylor*
- SCREENPLAYS was really smooth. *The Void*
- A challenging grid but a great way to pass the time on those wet days. I really liked the clues for AGNOSTIC and UNLOCK. *Brian Tickle*
- Boy that was a toughie! But once I got started with the grid, it all seemed to fall into place. Thank you InGrid. *Sally Shipway*
- Challenging grid for an AJ, but nice fair clues. *Nea Storey*

July 5: Nigrum Cattus (Ray Gooderick)

- Novel theme without putting the solver behind the eight-ball. *Ian McKenzie*
- I really liked the theme and the clues for RIDOTTO and SEPPUKU. *Brian Tickle*
- Fabulous theme. At least a dozen linked words. Loved his work. *William Ryan*
- A bit tricky, but all gettable, and the theme helped. Favourite: POCKET. *The Void*
- A bit tricky for a person with little knowledge of snooker. A good challenge though. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Some of these clever clues nearly had me snookered. I liked ORBISON. *Roy Taylor*
- I like a challenge and this proved to be one! Lots of words to a theme which helped a little. *Ann Millard*
- I used to enjoy watching Pot Black on TV. *Nea Storey*
- Not quite snookered; but close! *Kath Harper*
- Ballsy theme. *Richard Skinner*
- Enjoyed my trip down memory lane. Thanks NC. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Learnt a bit about snooker! *Maureen Blake*
- I had TOKYO instead of KYOTO to start with which slowed the solving of the SE corner. A few new words for me in this slot. *Hilary Cromer*
- Having enjoyed many a game of pool, I found this puzzle much fun. I did not know 'in baulk', and loved 26dn, 'in off'. Many thanks. *Julie Crowe*
- Took me a while to change TOKYO to KYOTO. *Toby McLeay*
- An enjoyable theme. *Robyn McKenzie*

Name

[illegible]

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Clue of the Month

[illegible][illegible]

A 15x15 grid with a complex black and white pattern. The pattern consists of various shapes and features, including a large black cross-like structure in the center, several smaller black shapes, and a large white area in the top right corner. The grid is composed of 15 rows and 15 columns of squares.

[illegible]