



No 424 August 2025



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Language never deceives, if only we know how to question it aright. Richard Chenevix Trench, *On the History in Words*, 1851.

GRIDATORIAL

Once again, "Thank you" to all who have participated in providing the content and other inputs to this issue, especially Jill Lankshear, whose excellent analytical adjudication appears opposite.

Valkyrie's skills are effectively demonstrated in her polished Half and Half puzzle, while members' enjoyment of 15-letter solutions is effectively catered for in his richly-anagrammed slot 2. A barred puzzle from KA occupies slot 3 and, as we expect of him, solvers will need to have their Chambers close to hand. Manveru's well-honed talents are on display in this month's AJ and Crowsman presents an interesting theme as the centrepiece of his slot 5 offering. Robespierre's incisive clueing is guaranteed to provide the anticipated challenge of slot 6 and Crowsman extends the bounds of compilation with his exceptionally elegant epic in his slot 7 Corner. Valkyrie neatly bookends her contributions to this month with one of her well-constructed quizzes. We are sure that you will enjoy the solving feast that awaits you.

Many congratulations to Philip Coote on his achievement in the World Cryptic Championship. An excellent achievement in the company of the world's best. You can read his account on page 13.

Congratulations, too, to our solvers. This month records the second example of a near-correct quiz and a totally correct slot 7 puzzle in successive months, rarely seen before. Well done all - and keep using the spell check!.

Happy puzzling

Ian

FROM THE ADJUDICATOR

How lucky we are to have such a talented group of compilers producing offerings month after month. Again, this was a wonderful mix of puzzles enjoyed by all.

SLOT 1: There were only a few errors for this enjoyable puzzle, most of them typos. A few had KARMAS for KOREAN [the end of life in KORAN]. Both TORMENTOR and TORMENTER were accepted as valid synonyms of "bully".

SLOT 2: A great debut from new compiler Ninian. Solvers were impressed and the greatest number of nominations for COTM came from this slot: more on that later. This slot also had the largest number of mistakes for one clue - 15 occurrences of SCAMMED for SHAMMED, an anagram clue, requiring careful selection of the fodder.

SLOT 3: This slot unusually had the same answer for 2 clues, ORE. A few solvers questioned some of the answers but there were very few mistakes, 3 occurrences of WATERCRAFT for WATERFRONT were responsible for lost dots.

SLOT 4: As ever, a tricky puzzle from Betelgeuse but solvers rose to the challenge. OWLY caused problems for some (L)OWLY, other mistakes occurred only once. Solvers were pleased to learn some new words including SCHNORKEL, a variant of snorkel.

SLOT 5: This was a difficult puzzle with quite a few mistakes. CT did an amazing job with all down clues ending in ISM. MIME, a cryptic definition, caused the most problems with MOMO, MEME and MOMA all being entered with fingers crossed.

COTM: There were 22 different nominations for COTM, at least 2 from each slot, a testament to the quality and variety of puzzles this month. 11 solvers nominated clues from new compiler Ninian, with 6 different clues chosen. LINEN and STETSON were nominated 3 times each but the outright winner was NONET. Congratulations Ninian!

Jill Lankshear

LEADING FIGURES

Puzzle No.	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Entries received	83	86	84	76	68	397
Correct entries	75	66	74	59	48	322
Success rate (%)	90.4	76.7	88.1	77.6	70.6	81.1
Prizewinners	Sally Shipway	Jim Fowler	Margaret Steinberger	Mary Dodd	Corryn Anderson	from 89 members

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t Prizewinner: July Slots 1-5 correct: Ann Millard. Congratulations!

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July Slot 1

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

July Slot 2

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

July Slot 3

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

July Slot 4

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

July Slot 5

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

July Slot 6

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

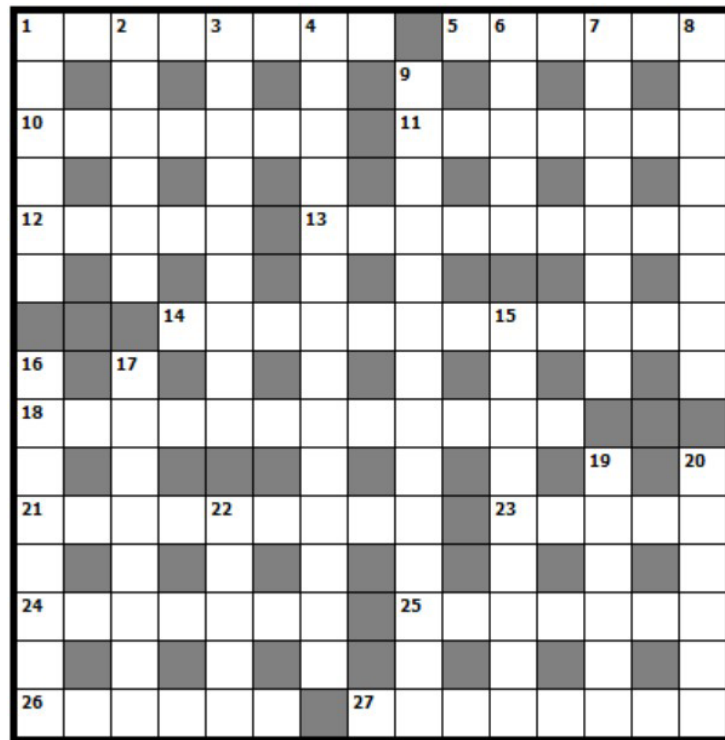
MEMBERS' RESULTS FOR JULY 2025 Slots 1 to 7

MEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	MEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	MEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Abbott P.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Goodman S.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Parsons D.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Allen W.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Grainger D.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Patterson A.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Anderson C.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Graves C.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Pinder S.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Audrins K.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Hagan R.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Randall J.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Axelsen U.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Harper K.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Rosendorff D.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Barbour J.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Hearn R.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Roulston S.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Barnes J.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Hocking A.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Ryan W.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Batum C.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Horadam K.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Shapiro R.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Bennett D.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Howat S.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Shield A.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Blake M.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Jarman L.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Shipway S.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Carroll L.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Jarman R.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Siegmán B.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Cockburn M.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Jones G.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Simons A.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Colgan L.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Kennedy L.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Simpson F.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Coote P.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Kennedy M.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Skinner R.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Cornish W.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Lankshear J.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Smith J.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Cromer H.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Lee C.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Steinberger M.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Crowe J.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Leigh J.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Storey N.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Dasgupta K.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Lim S.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Storti A.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Davis K.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Madden J.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Symons B.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Dobele T.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Martin A.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Taylor R.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Dodd M.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Matthews S.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Thomas C.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Ducker R.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	McClelland C.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Thompson I.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Dyer A.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	McKenzie I.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Veress M.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Flinkenberg C.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	McKenzie R.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Void T.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Forward K.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	McLeay T.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Wilcox C.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Fowler J.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Meek D.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Williams K.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Francis K.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Miles A.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Wimbush R.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Gamble K.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Millard A.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Woolston M.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Garner P.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Milton R.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•								
Gleeson C.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Moline R.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•								

Slot 1

**Half and Half
by
Valkyrie**

**Prize
\$50**



Across

- 1 Most uncommon mark, it's French (8)
 5 Excellent, almost lush material (6)
 10 A new, saner Liberal magazine (7)
 11 Able-bodied males cover the beginnings of developing oversized guts (7)
 12 Fate said to be less turbulent (5)
 13 Two Europeans caught in staff training? (9)
 14 Report a new substantive bond (12)
 18 Un-Australian curator voiced reform for a place of division (7,5)
 21 Copper, perhaps, a maestro (9)
 23 A bit of a jealous, embittered parasite (5)
 24 Brother Gardner, for example, put on bluster (7)
 25 Finish off old Earl with adulterated drug (7)
 26 Side deal not odd? Not odd! (6)
 27 Rules to incorporate model in representative works (8)

Down

- 1 Ostentatiously smart (6)
 2 Ridiculous (6)
 3 Vessel (9)
 4 Looking after number 1. (4-10)
 6 Served (5)
 7 String around the finger (8)
 8 Alters into something else (8)
 9 To have unexpected good fortune (4,2,4,4)
 15 Signing up (9)
 16 Can be trained (8)
 17 Cooking dishes (8)
 19 Imposing (6)
 20 Confused, noisy conflicts (6)
 22 Custom (5)

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

Slots 1 to 5: Andrew Miles: email to smiles@asmiles.au

or post to 62 Wilshire Street, Dickson ACT 2602

Slot 6: Ian McKenzie: email to ianmalcolmmckenzie@outlook.com

or post to 47 Ronald Avenue Greenwich NSW 2065

Slot 7: Kay Williams: email to ianw@webone.com.au

or post to 12 Lindrum Crescent Holt ACT 2615

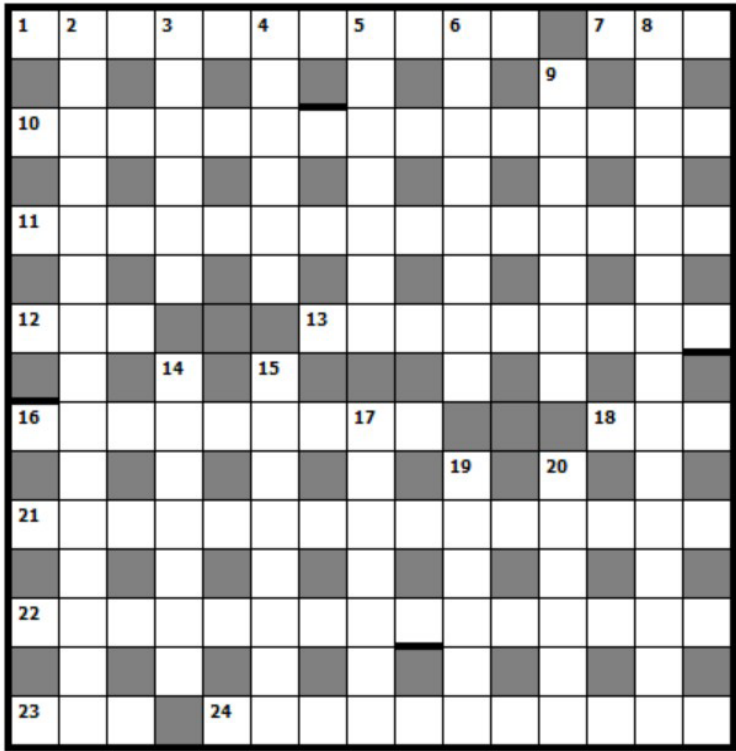
**SEND
SOLUTIONS
TO:**

**BLANK
GRIDS
PAGE 17**

Closing mail date for all puzzles is 29 August 2025. ACCOLADE entries close at 00.01

Slot 2

Cryptic
by
Nigrum
Cattus



Across

- 1 Frequent sources of rampant lies pulled into line! (11)
- 7 Little Empress is naughty girl (3)
- 10 Dogs slurp it; terrible mess! (3,4,8)
- 11 Popular Bruckner arose - disturbed cover arranger (9,6)
- 12 Chop union body back (3)
- 13 Sticky things found on sandshoe I kicked (9)
- 16 Former women's unit taking plucked herons to the French fliers (9)
- 18 At present is returning to Asian capital (3)
- 21 Extraordinary skills demonstrated by organisation of antisocial spies (15)
- 22 Crazy, weirdo royalists pledged support (5,10)
- 23 Terry's hidden sin (3)
- 24 Place to debate every second week's item: Zionism Theory (11)

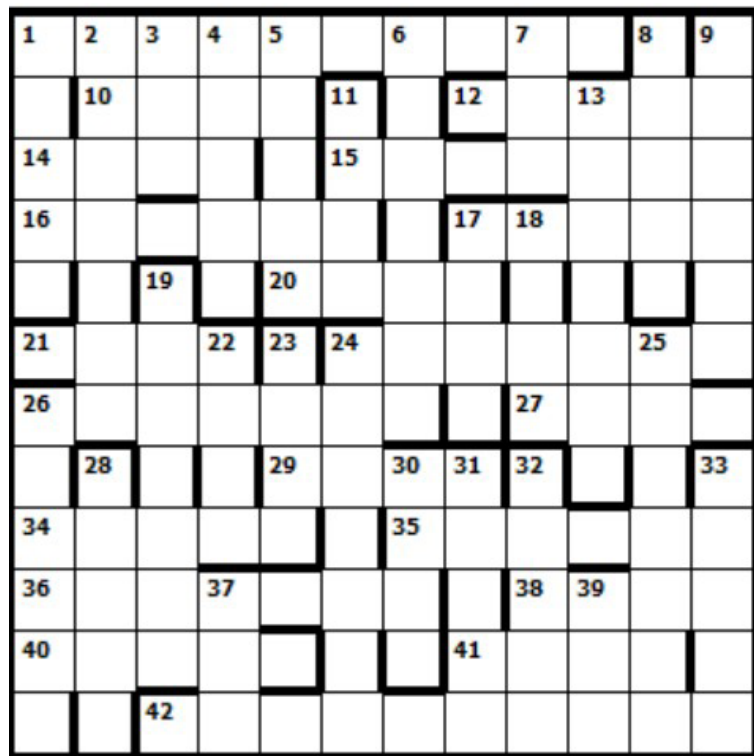
Down

- 2 China: "Is our newspaper a conglomeration?" ... (5,10)
- 3 Work party in the United Kingdom (6)
- 4 Footy is against the grain but it's buoyant (6)
- 5 Attracted by boundary that features note at this time (7)
- 6 Gutless tough mugged and pounded (8)
- 8 Monet, itinerant, a revolutionary Royal? (5,10)
- 9 Concerning splitting; it's atomic, but not as explosive (7)
- 14 Business interest (7)
- 15 Dad takes mate to rubberneck at spiritual leader's manor (5,3)
- 17 Perhaps a shortfall of one in three? (7)
- 19 Spread butter around - and faster (6)
- 20 Stalks Serb, if upset (6)

General Feedback for July

- Thanks to those who voted for COTM last month - I am delighted to be given the gong in a close-fought battle! *Kathryn Forward*
- Many thanks for my Slot 3 prize - greatly appreciated. *Laurence Kennedy*
- Another enjoyable collection of puzzles - unfair of me to single any of them out! *Alan Dyer*
- Thank you for my Slots 1 to 5 prize last month. It was so nice and boosted my flagging confidence. *Jean Barbour*
- Slots 5 and 6 defeated me! *Anne Simons*

Slot 3

Cryptic
by
KAPrize
\$50

Across

- 1 University graduate divorcing soldier for a Spaniard (10)
 10 Cover for the female on the left (4)
 12 Surgeons associated with the opera, perhaps (5)
 14 God backed by the Queen is unusual (4)
 15 Sailor initiating emergency message from dried-out lake bed (7)
 16 Stick public notice to this spot (6)
 17 A bird to pursue, we hear (5)
 20 Music group engulfed by rampant rioters (4)
 21 Religious leader asserting he's a male (4)
 24 Small drink concocted from the finest recipe (7)
 26 Top cover for judiciary? (7)
 27 This tart was eaten by the chief landowner (4)
 29 Horseplay in tattered clothing (4)
 34 The people of a disunited Italy? (5)
 35 This cactus needs a deoxygenated alcohol mixture (6)
 36 Disconcerts with top grade parties (7)
 38 Noise made by transport officer coming and going? (4)
 40 A bird which is self-assured (5)
 41 Audibly restrain on the roadside (4)
 42 A frogman consumed ice-cream in the aeroplane (4,6)

Down

- 1 Weight of a wagon holding an American? (5)

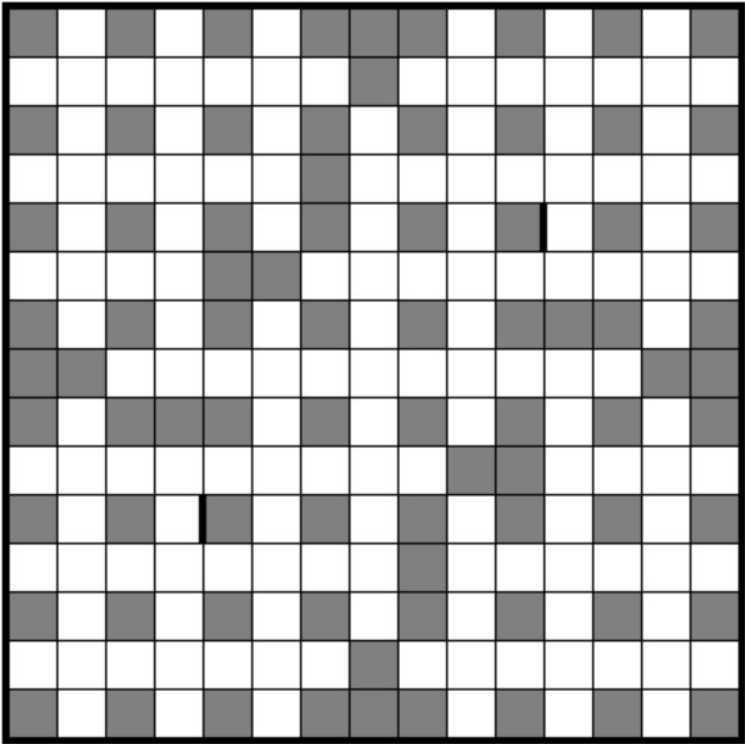
- 2 Expert has drunk mead in the scholarly environment (7)
 3 Logical circuit correlative to neither (3)
 4 Contact confused, wet, alien (5)
 5 Warn of a counterfeit taler (5)
 6 Studying in an English town (7)
 7 Skill shown in ecarte (3)
 8 Sting in a small bazaar (5)
 9 Yearn to be included amongst the skimshankers (6)
 11 One who employs shifty ruse (4)
 13 A follower of a cruciverbalist carrying postal order (7)
 17 Contaminate with dirt (4)
 18 Beheaded body causes a dispute (4)
 19 Kind of arrest brought on by reconstituted, acrid calcium? (7)
 22 Walter loses some money, but finds a glove (4)
 23 A western railway goes all wrong (4)
 24 National sees aim differently (7)
 25 Peer with a decoration has this anatomical feature (7)
 26 Regal residence for a friend and top gun (6)
 28 Betting on ducks is forbidden (5)
 30 Certificate given to leaders of the Grand Canyon Scientific Expedition (1,1,1,1)
 31 This cap comes from the Changsha kolkhoz (5)
 32 A symbol venerated in vandalised motte (5)
 33 In a score tally countback at a future date (5)
 37 Winter runner, perhaps (3)
 39 Alumnus holds right part of coronation regalia (3)

Slot 4

AJ
by
Manveru



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



- A** Beer infused with oxygen! Rave about this healing juice (4,4)

B Gift contains a book suitable for someone a few cards short of a deck (6)

C Noisy! Do vehicles fitted with old type of bolt rattle at the rear? (7)

D Study absorption of carbon in the past with 10-point outline (7)

E Martian absorbing measure of light, ascending to be over the moon? (5)

F More fell from slippery ice with ref ending on rear (7)

G A type of fashion acquired by Henry the first (4)

H Me caught in honey-trap? Out of order! (11)

I I deliver one cornea, primarily of the eye diaphragm (6)

J Love cult almost consumed by pot. That's funny! (7)

K It sounds like clean energy? Wrong! It's a paper product! (7)

L One looks into trunk following circuit with a modified 'special' Cooper (11)

M Sickliness from money and gold - it comes between tender and rapacity, ultimately (9)

N Audio novel *Nero* reimagined - it's pulsating! (7)

O Slime coming from the creature after decapitation (4)

P Directions on p6 show digital display (4,4)
- Q** Queen with new version of Bible originally revised by sophist (8)

R Faithful one, timeless and time-worn (5)

S When facing westwards eyrie is the most balanced (6)

T Making banks change rate, accepting rule on compliance in government (9)

U Beat irregularly, lacking fluid it's said (7)

V It's an illegal act to treat Tasmanian Devil, with the exclusion of tinea (9)

W Reverend Spooner sobs! Slap with gag! (9)

X Famous missionary taking the cross to declare inclusion of India initially (6)

Y They give way when senior citizen in Yaris misses a right (8)

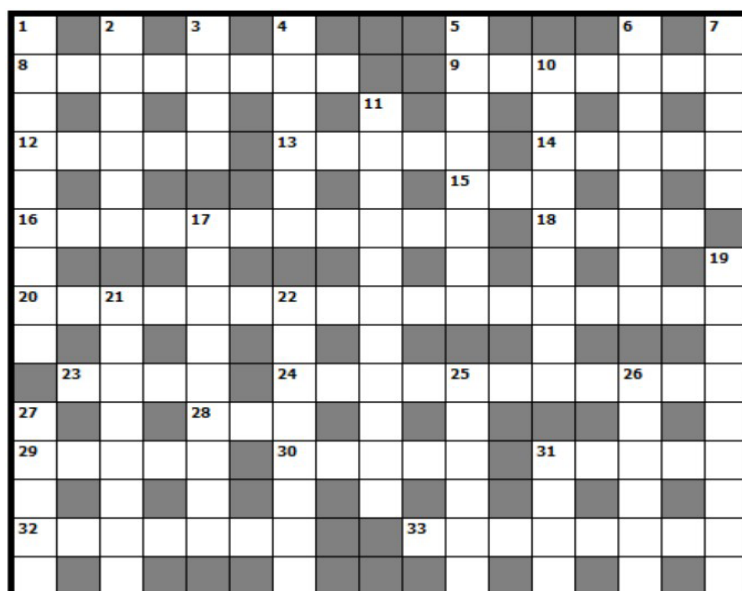
Z Intense green jade originally replaced with fragment of zircon (7)

Slot 5

Wonderful!
by
Crowsman

**Prize
\$50**

Several answers are unclued but they completely fulfil an entire theme.



Across

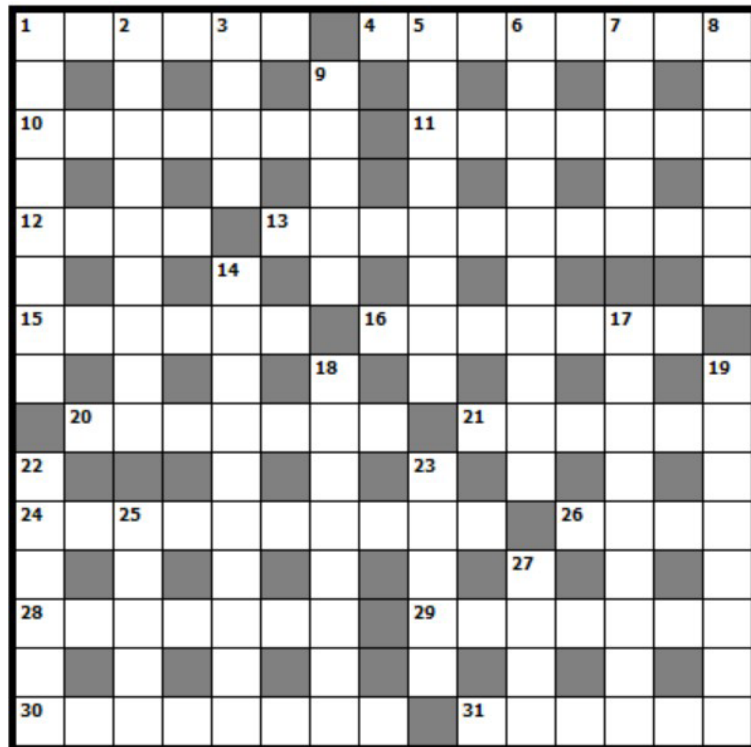
- 8 Bury French king back to front, inside (8)
- 9 See 19 Down
- 12 Humour having extremely lively speed (5)
- 13 Tests perhaps while confining that female (5)
- 14 Pub for dieters? (5)
- 15 Twelve and one minus eleven worked out (3)
- 16 See rubric (5,6)
- 18 Control returning tropical skin disease (4)
- 20 See rubric (6,3,8)
- 23 It follows delta waves coming back (4)
- 24 Old flyer is getting sources of information for inflammation of the middle ear (6,5)
- 28 Band quits when play ends? (3)
- 29 Virgin heading west has tyre at the front blow up (5)
- 30 Dropped off final letter behind reception (5)
- 31 Is back with ground-breaking strength (5)
- 32 What's left, settle around mid-January (7)
- 33 See rubric (3,5)

Down

- 1 Immerse old master into delicate international relations (9)
- 2 He has this number 2 (6)
- 3 Bow to chief (4)
- 4 African from such a different country! (6)
- 5 Wet suit at sea, wearing extra (8)
- 6 Deny record mail distribution (8)
- 7 Possibly a hole in one bird (5)
- 10 See rubric (9)
- 11 See rubric (7,4)
- 17 Definitely not a leopard out of sight! (9)
- 19,9 See rubric (5,4,2,5)
- 21 Alternative boundaries of race track (8)
- 22 Having advantages and disadvantages, jammed around ring after end of bout (3-5)
- 25 Relief is held up by local countryman (6)
- 26 Hot in run-down small craft (6)
- 27 See rubric (5)
- 31 Identical Herod's stepdaughter is disheartened (4)

Slot 6

Cryptic
by
Robespierre

 Prize
\$50


Across

- 1 Expose girl coming out to meet sex symbol who needs no introduction (6)
 4,29 Hoard repulsive items - topless-sex magazines - for fictional online transport? (8,7)
 10 Endlessly noisy party after a dip perhaps (7)
 11 This critter is ultimately fated to leap when developed! (7)
 12,9 Pine toilets - they're warm in winter (4,5)
 13 Nipper learnt to cycle with bike (5-5)
 15 Titan with an appetite for children and animated cartoons? - no thanks! (6)
 16 Time to go off drinking whisky? Nonsense! (7)
 20 She encounters endless prejudice when finally revealed as gay! (7)
 21 Goblin king enters by tolling place (6)
 24 Skinflint's choice of fish? (10)
 26 Do to-and-fro movement? No don't! (4)
 28 Reduce role of secretary in poor shape (7)
 29 See 4
 30 Disrespect third man found with agency worker in bed! (8)
 31 Discharges deceased's debts you apparently promoted (6)

Down

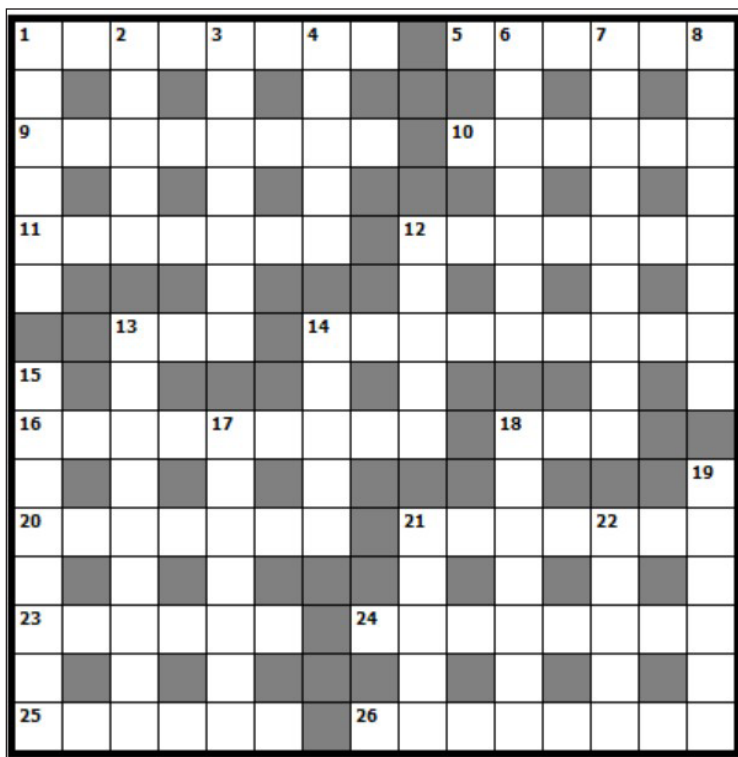
- 1 Spooner induced medico into intractable situation (8)
 2 Cook reportedly understands one who sucks up (5-4)
 3 Animal rescuer without expression of satisfaction? (4)
 5 Wolf's effusions? (8)
 6 Extra person that's finally seated in a plane like this? (4-6)
 7 Aussie bouncers! Opener in trepidation bats here? (5)
 8 Model disheartened over artist's range (6)
 9 See 12 Across
 14 Bird spoils presentation that's made to last! (5,5)
 17 What dismissed batsman did that's out of the ordinary? (4-5)
 18 Acrobatic feat has defender hit the roof! (8)
 19 Run-down horse is backed by sibling (8)
 22 Cutting from papers I found in a volume (6)
 23 Spread bit of raspberry jam around (5)
 25 Is one about to get red stain? (5)
 27 Top copy gets wrong mark (4)

Slot 7

**Apart from the
Perimeter, ...
by
Crowsman**

**Prize
\$50**

Crowsman's Corner



Across

- 1 They interpret English during Devon river catches (8)
- 5 Admire midnight rider (6)
- 9 Swap old coins (8)
- 10 Battle recruit (6)
- 11 Engineers leave the empty lift (7)
- 12 The current recession? (3-4)
- 13 Look both ways! (3)
- 14 Some get a remuneration backing Count (9)
- 16 Shift 23457, typically replacing this? (9)
- 18 Self-reflective Suffolk female (3)
- 20 Moving one book back, even lacking outside cover (7)
- 21 Ultra-impressive genes uncovered relating to both sexes (7)
- 23 One fleeing homeland before catching plane (6)
- 24 Nick sound, from side-on (8)
- 25 Work out twelve and one, less two (6)
- 26 Swiss citizens backing European cardinal, for example (8)

Down

- 1 Boot's opening provided by small key, it is said (6)
- 2 Music ends for host (5)
- 3 Issue is knocked back after turning over title (7)
- 4 Bird-dog discarding its lead (5)

- 6 In Paris, raised good plea endlessly to give a subject a title! (7)
- 7 Wipe out years, say, with time lost (9)
- 8 Man with no good traps Ben, Belle's mean ex-fiancé (8)
- 12 Issue with English duo holding up top dog (5)
- 13 Volatile shows live, but with start moved up! (9)
- 14 Israelites included the best! (5)
- 15 Painter 8 hides solvent for paint (8)
- 17 Eastern regime harmed 23's female companion (7)
- 18 Centre of storm, charged with electricity, brought up harmful glare (4,3)
- 19 Welsh degenerate turns up, having lost time (6)
- 21 Runs out of last supply (5)
- 22 23, possibly, turned fifty-nine during middle of week (5)

The blank grid for this puzzle is on page 11



Quiz 8-2025 by Valkyrie The following answers all have something in common and are in alphabetical order. Send your answers to Ulla Axelsen email ullaaxelsen@hotmail.com or post to 6 Maud Street Donnybrook Qld 4510. Closing mail date 27 August 2025.

- 1 Perfume base (9)
- 2 Basin in church (10)
- 3 Ostracize (9)
- 4 Detailed plan (9)
- 5 Push-over (5, 4)
- 6 Poison (7)
- 7 Twit (10)
- 8 Eire (7,4)
- 9 In a servile manner (9)
- 10 Lively dance (8)
- 11 Bear Invader (10)
- 12 Inexperienced person (9)
- 13 Dog (9)
- 14 Magpie (7)
- 15 Wearying cynicism (9)
- 16 Discard (8)
- 17 Shark meat sold as food (9)
- 18 5 line jingle (8)
- 19 Abandoned (8)
- 20 Irish Protestant (9)
- 21 Detective (9)
- 22 Nosedive (7)
- 23 Unneeded (9)
- 24 Bird (7)
- 25 Wisdom (8)
- 26 Luncheon food (8)
- 27 Horseplay (10)
- 28 Entice (9)
- 29 Beat comprehensively (9)
- 30 Bunting (12)

Quiz 7/25 First Change by K.A.

No, of Entries: 27 Winner: Anne Simons. Congratulations!

Results:

30 Allen W, Axelsen U, Barbour J, Blake M, Crowe J, Fowler J, Francis K, Garner P, Harper K, Jarman R, Leigh J, McClelland C, Mckenzie R, Meek D, Miles A, Millard A, Patterson A, Rosendorff D, Ryan W, Siegman B, Simons A, Simpson F, Taylor R, Wilcox C, Wimbush R. **29** Abbot P **28** Cromer H

Answers:

1 Owning/Awning 2 Casement/Basement 3 Whopper/Chopper 4 Pressing/Dressing 5 Warnings/Earnings 6 Gland/Eland 7 Sitter/fitter 8 Clamour/Glamour 9 Punting/Hunting 10 Enter/Inter 11 Molly/Jolly 12 Fudge/Judge 13 Snag/Knag 14 Femur/Lemur 15 Hidden/Midden 16 Tithing/Nithing 17 Women/Nomen 18 Grange/Orange 19 Niece/Piece 20 Buick/Quick 21 Babble/Rabble 22 Lateen/Sateen 23 Wallow/Tallow 24 Grope/Trope 25 Empire/Umpire 26 Base/Vase 27 Vizard/Wizard 28 Oyster/Xyster 29 Marrow/Yarrow 30 Gander/Zander

Compiler's Observations:

Thank you all for your entries, and well done everybody for a 100% result. Obviously, no one had any problems, even with some acceptable variations for Nos 11 & 21. Congratulations to the winner.

Solvers' Comments:

- I enjoyed your quiz. Most pairs I could get on my own, but a few required some research. *Fraser Simpson*
- Thanks for an interesting quiz. No 16 had me scouring 100 pages of Chambers until I found it. *Betty Siegman*
- Loved Buick! Will never not see that word in the same light. Good fun – ended up being tougher than at first glance. *William Ryan*
- Another fun quiz. Thank you. *Ann Millard* A clever quiz that was very enjoyable. *Drew Meek*
- I enjoyed this one, thank you. The hardest ones were where the pronunciation differed between the answers i.e. base/vase etc. *Julie Leigh*
- Many thanks for compiling this little gem. *Pat Garner*
- Thank you. The huge motorcycle had me puzzled, but I think I have it now. Very clever, and some new words for me. *Julie Crowe*
- Enjoyed your challenge. Good fun. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Thanks for the great quiz. *Warren Allen*
- Thanks for an entertaining quiz with the usual surprises *Robyn Wimbush*
- Another very enjoyable quiz, the first change twist added to the difficulty *Ken Francis*
- It was great fun, despite using many hours of my life *Robyn Mckenzie*
- Thank you for an enjoyable and quite challenging quiz. It proved a most pleasant way to spend a winter's day. *Jean Barbour*

You may have heard these before...

- Somebody just broke into my apartment and stole every lamp, flashlight, and lightbulb. I'm so delighted.
- A Horse walks into a bar. The bartender says, "Hey, you're in here a lot, are you an alcoholic?" The horse ponders for a minute then responds "I don't think I am." And poof, he disappears. - This is where philosophy students start to snicker, as they're familiar with Descartes' famous postulate, "I think, therefore I am." But telling you that first would be putting Descartes before the horse.
- I was gonna tell a joke about Sodium, but then I thought, "Na".
- I almost just walked across a freshly re-coated blacktop driveway. Alas, my pathfinding appears to be Phaltry.
- Did you hear about the dog who swallowed scrabble tiles? His next trip out to the yard spelled "disaster".
- Singing quietly has never been my forte.
- Did you hear about the farm that produced camel milk? They shut down because of the chaos caused by camels running away and attacking people who tried to milk them, combined with legal disputes and a nasty divorce among the owners. Turned out to be a real drama-dairy!

July 6 2025 Low Points by Flowerman (Ian Thompson)Entries received **47**, Correct **41**, Success rate **87%**.Prizewinner: **Claire Batum. Congratulations!****Compiler's observations**

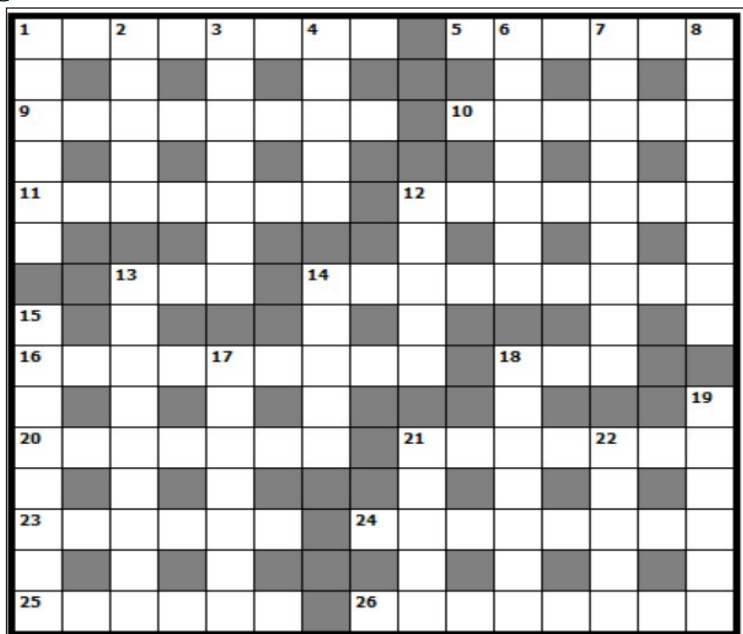
Thanks, solvers for your positive comments; they are much appreciated. I was pleased that the theme was, for most, not too hard to identify. No clues caused major problems; however, STANGS instead of STINGS did cost some solvers their dots. Poles can be called stangs, but a trap set up by police is not a stang. There was only one comment regarding the title, Low Points. As pointed out, it is wordplay for MOONS (MOO + N + S).

Explanations – Across: **8** LIN(dal) around UP, **10** (A(rts) TRIED)* Extra: "martial", **11** (T(w)ENTY I)*, **12** ST around PINE, **13** H in (O OED), **14** dd, **16** (T in ROUEN) with S <> N(ine)), **17** S(ong) + AINT, **18** riALTO - (a)RI(a) Extra: "Jovial", **20** (ON SATIRE)*, **21** TOP + O + LOGICAL, **24** EarlS around (SLIP ON)*, **27** S(c)HOO(I), **29** OK in HUM(our) Extra: "Uranian", **31** REVER(e) + B, **32** (s) HAMA(n)<, **33** DATE* around X, **34** O + C(itizen)S around TET, **36** DANGER with G(ang) <> N, **37** CORTI(s)O(ne)*, **38** RED in CO.
Down: **1** OP + TOUT, **2** NOT* + H + EGO, **3** ((nast)Y (scratche) S SET)*, **4** (EL + RIG)< around D, **5** NAP + A(rmy) + S(tylish), **6** hw, **7** (HER EXECUTION)* - HEROIC*, **9** U + N + BOLT, **12** STING + catches, **15** (ARC) in N S, **19** (Murder + qUIz + PO)<, **20** (trenc)H in SLOTS Extra: "Neptunian", **22** EX in (IN ACT), **23** L(a)D(y) around ORDE(r), **25** hw, **26** NOTATION - (A + T), **28** HR around EDGE, **30** MATTER - R (Writing is one of the 3 Rs), **31** DA< in RIO, **35** TOM(my) Extra: "Saturnine".

Solvers' Feedback

- Very nice. A few unknowns, and struggled to parse a few others - ENTITY? OPIUM, STYES? Not sure they're correct. Loved BLIND as an anagram indicator. The outer planetary adjectives stood out, but it took a bit to get LOW POINTS = MOO + N + S. Fortunately knew the first 4, plus IO, so it had to be, but needed to look up the rest. Typically superb Flowerman puzzle. *Rob Moline*
- Brilliantly constructed puzzle. Must have taken major effort to achieve the completed grid. Instructions clear and contained just the right amount of info. One tiny query: assuming ENTITY for 11a, the anagram fodder seems to be one letter out [TWENTY-ONE - WON => ENTETY] [Sorry, the wordplay was, sneakily, (TwENTY + I)* - Ed] *Ian McKenzie*

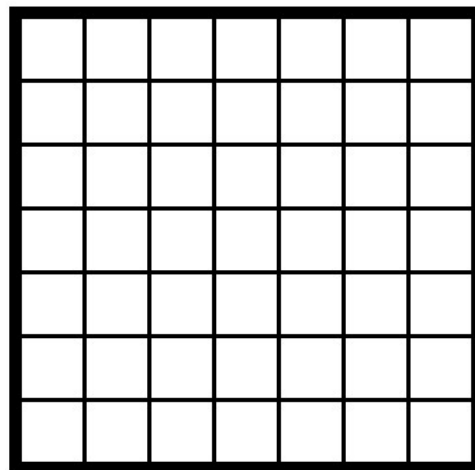
continued on page 15

**FRAZ WORD SQUARE JAUGUST 1**

(Solution on p 12)

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

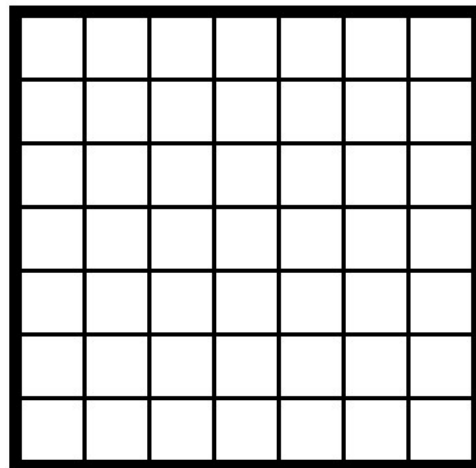
- Extremely bright public makes a case for lake island
- Gallery reorganised in a majestic way
- Hasty renewal includes ingredient used in making plastic
- Keeps adding change of epsilon (2 wds.)
- Oval body part opens differently
- Terrible czar that is beginning to rule with less sanity
- They grasp for mushrooms

**FRAZ WORD SQUARE August 2**

(Solution on p 12)

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

- Body in Jerusalem hidden by darkness, etc.
- Correspondents nap on vacation amid sounds of thunder (2 wds.)
- Go yachting in ocean, turning fake handles
- Long river following that French island (2 wds.)
- Rank tech not initiated by Musk
- School trip, in part, taken by singer Natalie
- Spooner's pet donkey means to fly in the future?



July 7 2025 Cryptic by Anon (Len Colgan and Ian Williams)

**Entries received, 67 Correct 67, Success rate 100%.
Prizewinner Drew Meek. Congratulations!**

Compiler's observations

Developing the clues for Len's grid was, as always, a pleasurable, cooperative task. We are pleased that solvers found our puzzle enjoyable and delighted that all were able to solve it without errors, despite some intentionally tricky clues. The two main aims of a crossword compiler satisfied!

Explanations – Across: 1 ADULT + HOOD, 9 cd, 10 OCCU(PIE)RS, 11 SONG< in (A + TIC), 12 S(QUAD)CARS, 13 TRI(DIN<)AD, 14 cd, 15 REMaINDER, 20 STET + SONS + cd on 10 gallons [US], 25 USED around (N + EXPO), 26 CA(MELEER), 27 (MET + ONE) around HAD, 28 Spooner "hang shy", 29 SUR(CHAR)GE, 30 ASPIR(AT)E, 31 SP + LAS + HERS. **Down:** 1 CO in AUST + I+C+S, 2 UNC(RUMP)LE, 3 hidden<, 4 OP(ERA)TION, 5 SID< + ASTER, 6 SCUM around (AND + I), 7 RE(ASS)IGN, 8 TIMES* + ATE, 16 ELECTOR + LA<, 17 (SPEECH + AIM)*, 18 DI(SCOURS)E, 19 R + homoph "oedemas", 21 TE(ACHE)ST, 22 TREE + NAIL, 23 RHEA in DOVE*, 24 anag.

Solvers' Feedback

- CAMELEER gave me the most trouble! ADULTHOOD made m3 chuckle so it gets my COTM vote. Another challenging puzzle from the elusive Anon! *Kathryn Forward*
- Interesting clues. *Roy Taylor*
- Some great clues. Particularly liked DISCOURSE. Thanks; Anon. *Ann Millard*
- Lots of fun clues! *Fraser Simpson*
- Favourites TRINIDAD and TEA CHEST. Can't quite twig the def for IMPEACHES [*Chambers defines its use by Shakespeare as variant from the contemporary definition – A*]; or parse the action painters [*sp sine prole + LAS etc – an activity clearly enjoyed by action painters – A*]; so my dot may be in peril [AOK _ A]. *The Void*
- Tricky loved REDEEMERS *Brian Symons*
- Liked ADULTHOOD; IMPRECISE and SPLASHERS. Couldn't parse SHANGHAI. All the clues were either 8 letters or 9 letters long; which I thought interesting; however it did bring an element of sameness to the grid. *Krittibas Dasgupta*
- Very enjoyable although bottom left caused a few problems. Had no idea that old Oxford Dean was Spooner until an in-depth investigation. *Ulla Axelsen*
- What an amazing busy puzzle. And 4 central words entirely checked. Lovely. ! Well done *Julie Crowe*
- What a lot of great clues! *Robyn Mckenzie*
- STETSONS gets my COTM - brilliant! *Mal Cockburn*
- Not sure of 28a SHANGHAI (don't know any old Oxford Deans ['twas the Reverend Spooner, referred to in various ways by compilers for variety – Ed]) and 31a SPLASHERS (perhaps-pa?) *Alan Dyer*
- Unsure of 31 across *Anne Simons*
- Superb clues! OVERHEAD; CAMELEER; OPERATION and TEA CHEST were my favourites. *Ron Jarman*

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

June Slot 7 solution

Solution WORD SQUARE August 1

E	N	E	R	A	I	S
N	O	S	E	L	I	P
E	S	P	I	L	L	E
R	E	I	Z	A	R	C
Y	L	L	A	G	E	R
T	I	L	R	E	O	V
S	P	E	C	O	R	F

Solution WORD SQUARE August 2

T	E	S	S	E	N	K
E	G	E	L	L	O	C
S	E	S	A	I	L	V
S	T	A	P	N	E	P
E	L	I	N	E	H	T
N	O	L	E	H	C	E
K	C	A	P	E	T	J

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 KA (Karl Audrins). Down: 2 a(l)di+eu, 3 targe(t), 4 pe(li)can, 5 des(s)erts, 6 (c)ock in lout, 7 imp+ (reflect=eat)*, 8 (a,cotreies)*, 14 (very) in chine*, 15 transform(er), 18 op+u+lent, 19 anag, 20 bee+ft+ea, 23 he's*+a+f(ranc), 24 t(ie)in.

Slot 2 P-brane. Across: 1 JULY + EP, 4 BILL + A BONG, 8 (MOISTENED)*, 10 C {LE} AR, 11 cd, 12 AN {TEN} NA, 13 (SLEEK T[ormentro]R)*, 15 HOST + AGE, 18 hw, 19 (f<>T)OILING, 21 RE + ISSUE, 24 RO {SELL} A[d], 26 E + (LEARNT)*, 27 (I + G + NOW)<, 28 Spooneri "lead hands",

29 dd, 30 DEMO(n<>S). **Down:** 1 JUMB(o) + (y)UCK, 2 dd, 3 (TO RIP UP OR)*, 4 BUSH + TELEGRAPH, 5 hw, 6 (I[ndi]A A ONCE)*, 7 B in GARAGE, 9 cd, 14 EG + O, 16 SoN + IV + fELLED, 17 [L] UNG[E]<, 19 homoph "through" + UP, 20 (A SINNER)*, 22 cdd, 23 (vIoLeNcE) + S + T[yke]S<, 25 IT in LAY.

Slot 3 NanaKat. Across: 9 BASTE in ALAR, 10 OS + AKA, 11 FLAT TEN, 12 L in CEMENT, 13 DD, 14 DD, 16 aanag, 20 heads, 21 TRES + PASSE + R, 25 hidden<, 26 AMA + TRUE*, 27 Y in ERIE, 28 cd. **Down:** 1 wiTS cd, 2 anag, 3 MAS + homoph "turkey", 4 hidden<, 5 DRY + CLEAN, 6 homoph "leaky" + anag, 7 RAVE + NOUS, 8 NT in MALE, 15 anag, 17 DD, 18 anag, 19 homoph "sir" + PRISE, 20 DD, 22 DD, 23 homoph "sea + red", 24 EASE + L.

Slot 4 Valkyrie. A A+L+LIED, **B** D<> B in DILATE + RALLY, **C** CON+ CEAL (homophone of SEAL), **D** (DEN<+I) in DUN, **E** Hidden, **F** FAR+THINGS, **G** GAR(D+E)NER+S, **H** (HAND RAILS - LS)*, **I** IN + PERT< + confidence, **J** J + nOBLESSE, **K** (LIKE ARMLETS - MEAT)*, **L** LeAn TwItChErS, **M** ME+IN, **N** NUM+I+NOUS, **O** Replace O for A in ACCIDENT, **P** PE(R+SON)AL, **Q** QUOTE + ID + IAN, **R** RAN + CID, **S** (EMINENT AGES)*, **T** TU+SS+L+E, **U** CUR(GEN)T, **V** V+ARIE(TIE)S, **W** W(I)RINGS, **X** X-RAY(from NATO alphabet) +S, **Y** Double, **Z** haZY+RUM< + GreY.

Slot 5 Crowsman. Ninas are in unchecked spaces Belgium. Senegal, India, Niger, Tunisia, Austria. **Across:** 1 S + SPARTA<, 5 FRAY around WEE<, 10 LAMB(a)DA, 11 RING + RO(A)D, 12 PHIL AND ER, 13 USA + EG<, 15 (A + SIN) in BIG, 18 RED + ARMY, 20 IF< + END, 21 EX + PI(r)ATING, 25 TIMOR + O + US, 26 DOES* around ON, 27 P(LAST)ER, 28 GST aeound MANY*. **Down:** 2 A + BASH, 3 hidden, 4 (INN + ALP)< + (you)NG, 7 (A + IS + A + RUE)<, 8 AL in MAGMA<, 9 dd, 14 SIRE< in DORY, 16 I + LA(I)TIN<, 17 OU in SINUS, 19 EXIT around S(helter), 22 IE in TIN, 23 (a)NANAS, 24,6 NOSE + RING.

World Cryptic Crossword Championship

I was recently somewhat randomly selected to represent Australia at the **inaugural World Cryptic Crossword Championship**, on the basis of my performances in the annual online Indian Crossword League (IXL), and was very happy to accept a generous offer of a paid trip to London to participate. The competition began with a preliminary stage: two full (very challenging!) cryptic crosswords to be solved in just 60 minutes, with rankings based on both accuracy and speed. The top six competitors then advanced to an on-stage "game-show" final, facing two "cold" grids—clues delivered live, with no letters showing—as we raced to solve under time pressure.

In the end, I finished fourth, behind three English solvers—most notably Mark Goodliffe, who claimed the title. Goodliffe is legendary in cryptic circles, with a record-breaking **13-time Times Crossword Championship** winner and co-founder of the popular Cracking the Cryptic YouTube channel. Competing alongside him and witnessing his ice-cool solving under pressure was both humbling and inspiring. The organisers shared their vision of building a global structure for cryptic crossword competitions, with each participating country holding its own speed-solving events to identify top solvers for future international championships. Until we have a national Australian event, I can highly recommend the annual IXL (crypticsingh.com), which should kick off again in September.

Philip Coote

An additional perspective on the Championship by Simon Anthony, Mark Goodliffe's colleague on *Cracking the Cryptic* will be found [here](#)

M	E	M	B	E	R
	N	E	W	S	

Welcome: A hearty welcome to our new members, Krittibas Dasgupta from the Land of the Long White Cloud and to Sandy Lim from our far West. We look forward to your contributions.

Donations to the Prize Fund: Many thanks for their generous donations to Jean Barbour, Wendy Cornish, Krittibas Dasgupta, Michael Kennedy and Sandy Lim. Much appreciated by all members!

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.

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

July Clue-writing Competition: The July competition is still open for you to write a clue for the word **PARADOXICAL (11)** complete with explanation. One only per member, please. Send your creations to Drew Meek email to drewski@hotmail.com **Entries will close on Friday 15 August 2025.**

Find us on 

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

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

July 1: T-boy (Toby McLeay)

- Another enjoyable start to the month's solving. *Kathryn Forward*
- Tormentor can end "er" [either gets a dot - Adj] *Brian Symons*
- Favourite RUNNER. *The Void*
- Really enjoyed this puzzle. EPIGLOTIS was a real head-scratcher! *Sandy Lim*
- Enjoyable, thank you. *Sally Shipway*
- Very satisfying after I had identified Lady Gaga, so I hope my answers are all correct. Thank you, T Boy - what a mind. I could put in quite a few COTM answers here but since I'm restricted to one... *Helen Banks*
- Enjoyable, straightforward warm-up to this month's puzzles. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Thanks for a pleasant start; many of the quicks needed the cryptics solved; as usual. *Kathy Horadam*

July 2: Ninian (Scott Goodman)

- Good puzzle, nicely clued. *Ian Thompson*
- Welcome, Ninian, and congrats on your debut puzzle! Lots of clever clues made for an enjoyable solve. Hope to see you on these pages again soon. *Kathryn Forward*
- Favourites MINCEMEAT NONET TOSS-UP. *The Void*
- Enjoyable puzzle with some nice clues. I am a little dubious about LARKSPUR as I suspect there is some indirect anagram action going on. [Recognised abbreviations are acceptable as anagram fodder - Ed] *Krittibas Dasgupta*
- Really enjoyed the wordplay and misdirection in some of these clues. *Sandy Lim*
- Welcome! Look forward to solving more of your puzzles. *Ulla Axelsen*
- I was impressed by the clue for linen! *Robyn McKenzie*
- I liked NEST EGG; NONET and ANNUL; a welcome start; thanks Ninian! *Kathy Horadam*
- Thanks T-Boy for starting the month off. *Robyn Wimbush*

July 3: Lexi Conner (Ron Shapiro)

- SSENCE feels like the same definition twice. [Chambers gives the etymologies as "extrahere (draw) and cor (heart) - Ed] Favourites SWALLOW & ANCESTRY. *The Void*
- Many clever clues. Particularly liked AVOCADO. I am not sure about ACCESSORY and SWALLOW and is IMMUNES a real word? [Chambers gives it as a noun for one not affected - Ed]. I don't think the definition works in WATERFRONT. [See Macquarie definition 4 - Ed] *Krittibas Dasgupta*
- I had several ticks for some of these and nominated one for COTM. But what is 'salts' doing in 13ac? *Tony Dobe*
- Unusual to see one word used twice (unless I've made a mistake). Five hidden clues were a bonus. Good fun. *Ulla Axelsen*
- I liked WATCHTOWER and OCEAN but the clues for WATERFRONT and HOBNAIL defeated me so hope I guessed correctly. *Kathy HoI* didn't think of IMMUNES as a noun. *Lynn Jarman*
- I can't quite reconcile WATERCRAFT with stevedoring, although it does fit the wordplay. *Alan Dyer*

July 4: Betelgeuse (Gillian Champion)

- Some tricky clues so it turned out to be more challenging than usual. Great! I liked PAPERBARK! *Ann Millard*

- As usual, excellently tricky clues by Betelgeuse. Voted BUREAUX COTM. Liked TIELESS. *Roy Taylor*
- Tricky! This was a tough grid to get started on. I had to make a few guesses at placement, some of which eventually worked out. *Fraser Simpson*
- Knew it would be a challenge as soon as I saw the name Betelgeuse. CUPID as a jam tart was new to me. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Favourites HOMOGENOUS, DISENCHANTED. *The Void*
- Loved OWLY - so simple. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Very nice puzzle. I was pleased to learn of schnorkel. *Ian Thompson*
- I could not get to first base with the S clue. I will be interested to see the answer. *Jeremy Barnes*
- The M clue works for me. *Mal Cockburn*
- I really enjoy this type of puzzle and often learn new words; thank you. *Ken Francis*
- Many unusual words for me here. I liked NEPOTIC. *Kathy Horadam*
- Slot 4 always increases my vocabulary - WENNISH; ZYME and that CUPID is a tart! *Alan Dyer*

July 5: CT (Chris Thomas)

- Thanks to Len for the ingenious grid. It was enjoyable to find a matching way of clueing it. *Chris Thomas*
- Spent so long solving this that I contracted astigmatism! *Kathryn Forward*
- Favourite FORMER. Not sure of 29ac but MEME seems a reasonable fit... *The Void*
- This seemed too hard until the down isms were discovered. Many excellent clues, but is 1ac an indirect anagram? [Cycling the letters in their correct order rather than an anagram - Ed] *Roy Taylor*
- Some challenging clues and it took me ages to see the common factor. *Ann Millard*
- This was fun to solve. However, it might have been a bit more interesting if the common factor in down clues wasn't at the bottom end of all solution words. Loved 24dn and 9ac. 27ac, 13ac and 18dn, new words for me. *Krittibas Dasgupta*
- Do I detect a touch of Lenism here? *Toby McLeay*
- Lots of 'isms' made this very interesting. *Julie Crowe*
- Cruciverbalism - isn't it fun. *Ulla Axelsen*
- I barely found a word for the first couple of weeks. Then I had one final try and it was so much fun once the penny dropped! Thanks Chris. *Pat Garner*
- I was hoping MAMA was an art movement to continue the theme on the bottom line but no. *Robyn Wimbush*
- That was very enjoyable. *Patricia Abbott*
- It was clever to write this with all the same 3 letters at the end. *Robyn McKenzie*
- Agonized over 26ac and settled on MOMA as an ART museum and a Hungarian political MOVEMENT. Fingers crossed. *Mal Cockburn*
- A couple of educated guesses here: AUTOMATA and RIBALD. I Sorta Managed, Introduced Some Malapropisms? *Alan Dyer*
- Nearly as many ISMs as a dictionary of philosophy! *Kath Harper*

Feedback on July slot 6 Flowerman continued from page 11

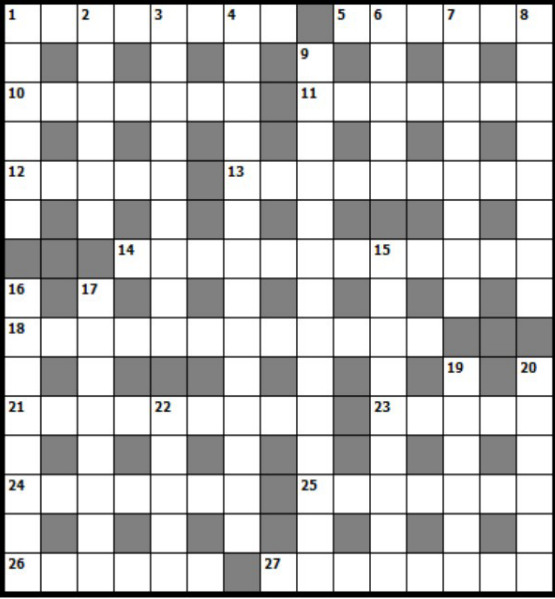
- Fabulous effort for a fabulous result. *Andrew Patterson*
- I rate LUPIN clue as very clever, but ROUTES a bit overdone with ROU(T)ES available. The five intruders were not hard to identify, pointing to the theme. I had to look up DEIMOS. *Len Colgan*
- Lots of difficult clues, but working out the surrounding moons helped. *Roy Taylor*
- The moons orbiting the grid was fitting. *Michael Kennedy*
- Favourite EPSILONS. A nice challenge. *The Void*
- That has to be the crossword of the year! Thank you. *Julie Leigh*
- What a puzzle, and I can't imagine the complexities in putting it together. Thank you, Flowerman. Thinking the "theme" was TOPOLOGICAL misled me and realising it was not thematic, eventually found MOONS! Wow! A fun challenge and satisfying when it came together. *Ann Millard*
- An absolutely fantastic puzzle, on so many levels. And orbited by nine moons! I think Alan Turing would have loved it. *Betty Siegman*
- Clever construction & I enjoyed the theme *Drew Meek*
- Congratulations on a well-designed puzzle. Working out all the moons was right up my street! Couldn't see a connection between KIS and JUPITER though. [Our apologies - the entry of "kis" into the clue was a typo in some versions of the puzzle. "Jovial" in 18-across was the extra word relating to Jupiter - Ed]. *Tony Dobe*
- Out of this world! *Toby Mcleay*
- What an amazing workout this was. Quite daunting to start with, but then gradually fell in place. I was pleased to confirm my suspicion with the theme - moons. The 5 superfluous but relevant words, were jovial, saturnine, neptunian, uranian and martial. And of course, the 9 moons listed around the perimeter. An amazing puzzle. Many thanks. *Julie Crowe*
- This was a lovely puzzle to solve. All the clues are fair, well-constructed and challenging. The theme became clear after solving 10AC, but it was great fun regardless to enter the names of the moons around the perimeter. The theme MOONS is placed diagonally of course in the centre of the grid, which makes it a bit tricky to find at first. Clues I particularly liked are 2DN, 22DN and 17AC. *Krittibas Dasgupta*
- That took as long to solve as the first 5 combined. Found the 5 extra words which gave me a clue to border words. The theme word was no help at all. A great challenge. *Ulla Axelsen*
- That wasn't easy! TOPOLOGICAL held me up for a long time with sneaky moons just sitting there. Thanks Ian. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Wow! How hard was this? I had no idea where I was going with the perimeter until, after many days, I saw the light of the moon. I just hope all my solutions are correct. *Warren Allen*
- Good one Ian, but OCTROI! *Richard Skinner*
- Kept going round in circles, some of my answers were a bit rocky! Occasionally saw the light, depending on the time. *Alan Dyer*
- This kept me on my toes! *Robyn McKenzie*
- How clever to not only have all these moons orbiting the grid; but also include the term in the centre and further pointers in some clues - and have a bonus hint in the title. *Kath Harper*
- I loved this crossword. It was very challenging; but well worth the effort. Thanks Flowerman. *Sonia Roulston*

You may have heard these before..., as well...

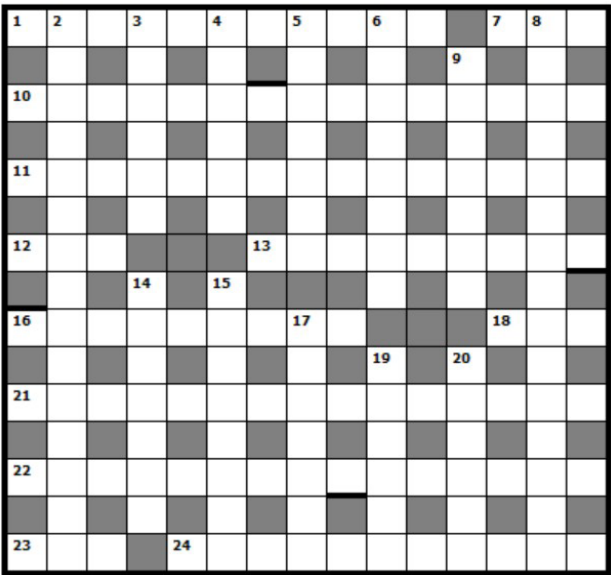
- Did you hear about the Chess Grand-master who, after he lost a match, destroyed the table with a massive hammer and called lightning bolts down to destroy his opponent's car? He was banned from future competitions for being such a Thor loser.
- Did you hear that Magnesium formed an oxide layer? OMg!
- Although I do sometimes make terrible puns, I think if you were to look at all the puns I make, the good would outweigh the bad, and it'd average out OK. Put differently, although I may make terrible jokes, I mean well.
- I just found a penny in my dryer's lint trap, and I can't figure out where it came from. But that's ok, I love it when the world just makes cents.
- I stayed on a ranch last weekend, but couldn't really sleep well. Every time I'd drift off, a female horse would whinny and wake me. It was a night mare.
- Did you hear about all the hidden meanings in the Lion King? Yeah, it's full of Simbalism.
- Why did the young horse practice galloping in private? He didn't want to make a foal of himself.
- Did you hear about the modern sushi restaurant which was taking heat from traditionalists for serving battered, fried tropical eels? "O tempura! O moray!"
- When I was young, I wanted to be a dolphin, but as I got older, my sense of porpoise faded away.
- Did you hear that Rudolph and Dasher got sponsored by a coffee company this year? It actually makes sense, because they're Santa's Star Bucks.
- I bought some shoes from a drug dealer the other day. I don't know what he laced them with, but I've been tripping all day.
- Did you hear about the over-booked introverts camping trip? A lot of people left because it was two in tents.
- Did you hear about the Army commander who planted 1500 saplings near the North Korean border? Yeah, he felt the key to security in the region was more infant-tree on the ground.
- Did you hear about the guy who ate six cans of alphabet soup? He had the biggest vowel movement ever.
- If you're considering working in a prison library, you'll need to consider both the prose and the cons.
- What'd the pirate say on his 80th birthday? Aye matey!

That's all folks!

AUGUST Slot 1 Name.....

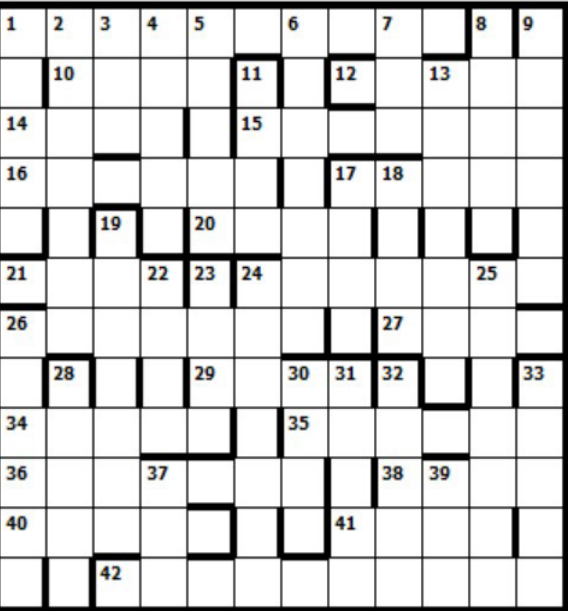


AUGUST SLOT 2

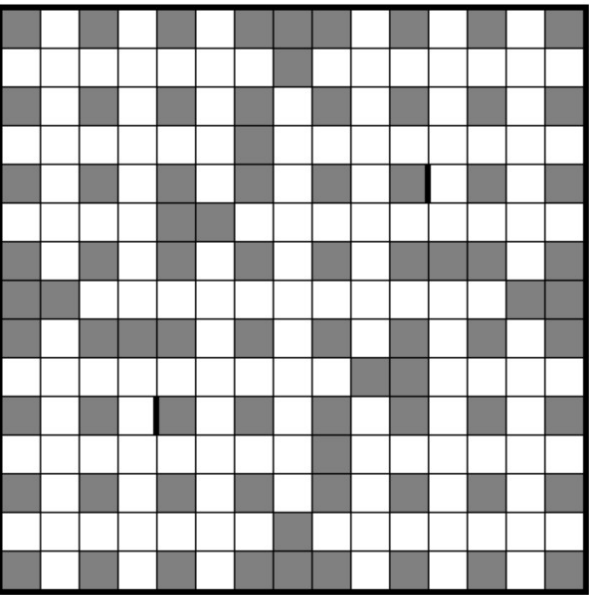


Clue of the Month

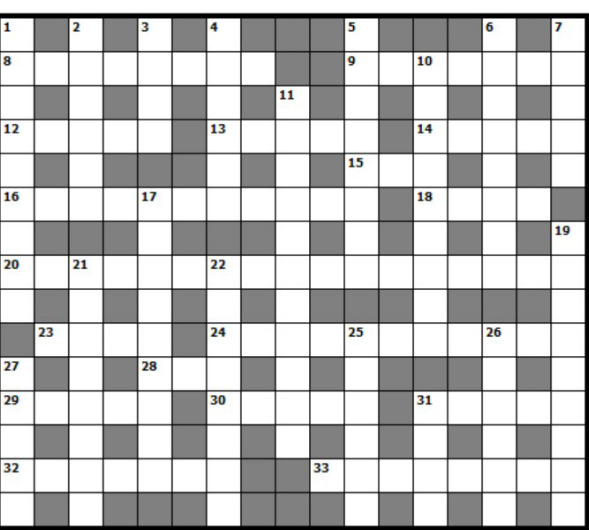
AUGUST SLOT 3



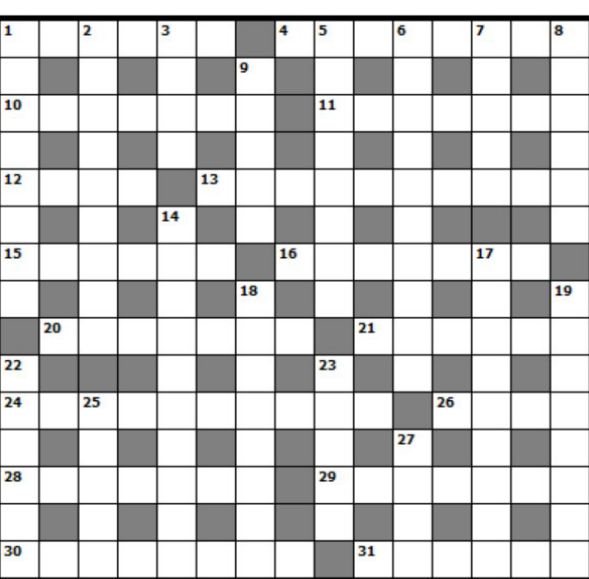
AUGUST SLOT 4



AUGUST SLOT 5



AUGUST SLOT 6



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