



No 435 AUGUST 2026



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"How often misused words generate misleading thoughts."
Herbert Spencer (1820-1903)

LAST MONTH'S RESULTS

Puzzle No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Compiler	Valkyrie	T-boy	Ninian	Meridian	P-brane	Betelgeuse	Bogeyman
Entries received	82	82	74	83	79	59	61
Correct entries	73	76	53	69	43	51	42
Success rate (%)	89	92.7	71.6	83.1	54.4	86.4	68.9
Prizewinners	Alan Dyer	Christina Lee	Claire McClelland	Shelia Taylor	Larry Kennedy	Bob Hagan	Drew Meek



Slots 1 to 5 all correct 27 members:
Winner: Rob Milton
Winner of Quiz: Ron Jarman
Congratulations to all our winners!



FROM THE ADJUDICATOR

Slot 1

The high success rate befitted Valkyrie's well received Slot 1. Numerary's construction confused some with cycle = era questioned. Chambers supports this synonym.

Slot 2

T-boy's Slot 2 puzzle was very well received, though noted as slightly tough given its "numerary" infancy. The very high success rate evidences the cleverness of the cluing. The clear highlight was cluing the tribute to LEN COLGAN at 19a, with TWO-TIME, TRAWL, and GALLIVANT also earning praise. The wordplay for "Lisle" (Yarn/spinning) proved a bit of a stretch for some solvers, along with Li = Golfer. Additionally, the description of Caen as a Channel port in "Caesarean" was questioned, though it stands as accurate as an inland Channel port – albeit being accessible via a canal.

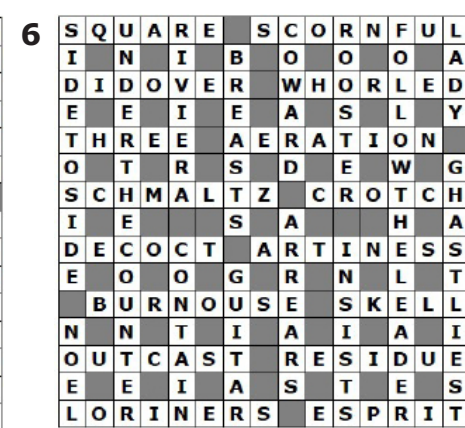
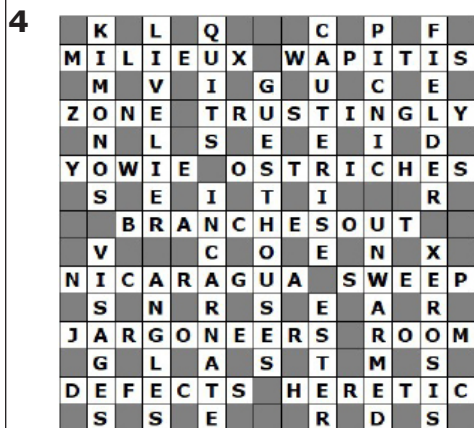
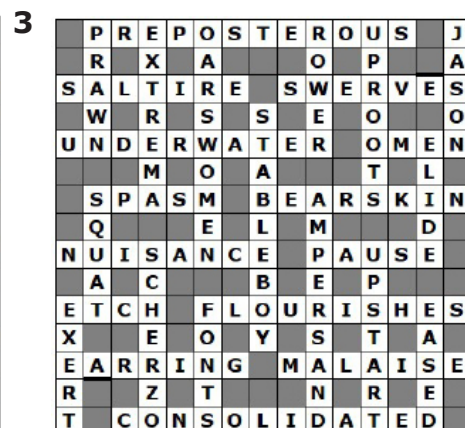
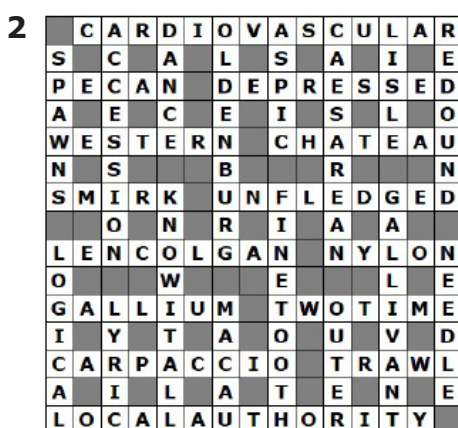
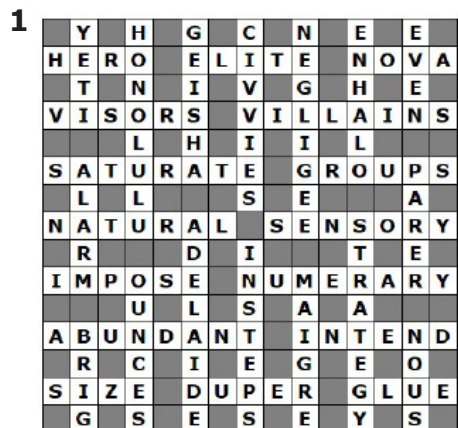
Slot 3

Ninian's tricky but enjoyable puzzle achieved a 74% completion rate. Saltire earned much praise but also caused a loss of dots (6 solvers went for Martyrs) and Fonts was also praised but also tripped some solvers up (with FONTS missed as FUNDS or FINDS). Oarswomen also proved tricky with 4 occurrences entered as the singular Oarswoman, though the clue "users of blades" points to the plural.

Continued on Page 16

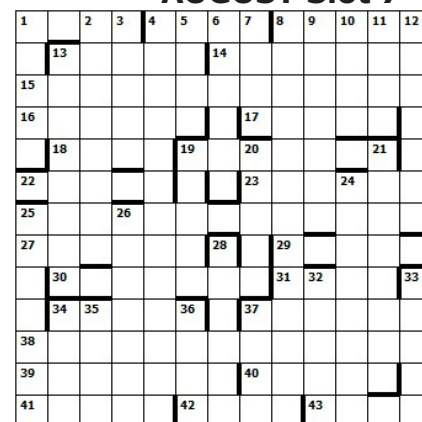
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AUGUST Slot 7



Name



Chilean Flamingos looking for clues.



MEMBERS' RESULTS FOR JULY 2026 SLOTS 1 to 7



MEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	MEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	MEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Abbott P.	*	*				*		Granger D.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Harris B.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Allen W.	*	*		*	*	*		Granger E.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Peacock D.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Anderson C.	*	*	*	*	*	*		Heaton R.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Peacock A.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Audinos K.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Holzer K.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Proch R.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Avonson U.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Heaton R.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Pruitt S.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Barbour J.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Hodgson A.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Rosenblatt C.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Barnes J.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Horadam K.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Roulet S.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Barnum C.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Howat S.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Ryan W.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Bennett D.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Jarman R.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Shield A.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Bettles K.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Jones G.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Sampson B.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Blake M.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Kennedy L.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Sampson A.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Carroll L.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Kennedy M.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Sampson F.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Lockburn M.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Lankshar J.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Sanner R.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Colgan L.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Lee C.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Smith J.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Coote P.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Lough J.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Storti A.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Conrich W.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Madigan J.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Suttons R.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Cromer H.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Martin A.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Taylor R.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Crowe J.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Martin F.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Taylor S.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Danquha K.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Matthews G.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Thomas C.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Davis R.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	McCalland C.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Thompson L.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Dyer A.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	McKenzie J.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Umk M.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Evans J.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	McKenzie R.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Wentham J.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Fitzgerald M.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	McLary T.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Wilcox K.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Forwood E.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Mack D.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Williams N.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Francis K.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Mack R.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Winkush S.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Gamble K.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Milford A.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Woolston M.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Gomer P.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Milton R.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*								
Goodman S.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Moline R.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*								

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

Explanations for July Slots 1 to 5 Note: cd = cryptic definition; dd = double definition; rev or < = reversal; homophones are noted as "homoph" and words from which they are derived may be shown in quotes; anagrams as anag. if straightforward, or (NNNN)*. "Heads" or "Tails" are first or last letters of part of a clue; letters forming solutions are normally written as capitals and removals as lower case; hw or hidden = hidden word. Explanations provided by individual compilers may vary from this format.

Slot 1 Valkyrie. [All across solutions are also words beginning with "SUPER"]. **Across:** 8 H(ER) O, 9 E(LIT)E, 10 N+OVAL - L, 11 VIS(it)ORS, 12 VILLA+IN+S, 13 TAS< + U + RATE, 15 Hidden, 17 (TRIANGULAR - RIG)*, 19 (Y+SNORES)*, 22 I+M+POSE, 24 NUM+ERA+Remarkably, 26 A+BUN+DAN+T, 28 IN+TEND, 30 Hidden, 31 UP in RED<, 32 ARIAn.

Slot 2 T-boy. **Across:** 1 CAR + VOID< + CAUSAL* + R, 10 hw, 11 PRESS in DEED, 12 ESTER in WagoN, 13 CHAT + bEAU, 14 RIMS< + K, 16 GELD* in UNFED, 19 C in NONLEGAL*, 20 hw, 22 GALL + I + UM, 25 dd (double-cross), 27 CARP + A + CC + IO, 28 RAW in T(hankfu)L, 29 AUTHOR in LOCALITY. **Down:** 2 ACC + sSSION, 3 dd, 4 OLDEN + GRUB<, 5 ASP + I + C, 6 AREAS* in CAEN, 7 LI + ELS<, 8 ED in ROUND, 9 S + PAWNS, 15 WONK< + I + TALL, 17 (ONTO THIEF)*, 18 VILLA< in G + ANT, 19 GI in LOCAL, 21 NEE + D + Life, 23 CYRIL*, 24 MAC + AU, 26 ROUTE + R..

Slot 3 Ninian. **Across:** 1 PRE+POST+ (ROUSE)*, 7 (LAST)*+R in IE, 8 S + W+ RV in E, E, S, 10 UND+ER+W+A+sTERn, 11 O+MEN, 13 <MAPS around S, 14 BEARS+KIN, 16 (AS I)< in NUANCE, 18 Homoph "paws", 20 hidden, 21 LOUR in FISHES, 23 E(A)RRING, 24 (AMELIAS)*, 25 (SOLONIC)* + DATED. **Down:** 1 P(R) AWN, 2 EX+(MATE + Rumour)*, 3 cd, 4 R + OWER, 5 (POROUS +T)*, 6 5 month initials J to Nov, 9 STABLE + BOY, 12 E(LID)E, 13 triple def, 15 [& = shift +7 on keyboard], 17 menSCH + (ZERO)*, 19 UP +START, 20 EXPERT, 21 cd - all fonts, 22 crEASED.

Slot 4 Meridian. **A** dd, **B** B(RANCHES)OUT, **C** CA(UTERI)SE, **D** dd, **E** STEER*, **F** F + I + ELDER, **G** GUES(THOU)SES, **H** HER + CITE<, **I** IN(CAR)NATE, **J** J(ARGON)EERS, **K** KIM(ONO)S, **L** LIVE(LIE)R, **M** MI(LIEU)X, **N** NICe+ pARAGUAY, **O** OST + RICHES, **P** homoph 'pick nick', **Q** dd, **R** MOOR<, **S** S(W)EEP, **T** TRU(STING)LY, **U** UNW(ARM)ED, **V** VI(SAG)ES, **W** (SIT + I + PAW)<, **X** (SORE in SIX)<, **Y** kelly + OW + IE, **Z** Z + ONE.

Slot 5 P-brane. **Across:** 1 homoph "base"+ SPEAKER, 7 H(a<I)S, 9 A + LIE + N[ew], 10 (AGREE)*> round PACK, 12 cd, 15 (A LOSERS)*, 17 (p<>Y)OKING, 19 SIT<, 21 The in GLUE + I, 24 O + T + TO + MAN, 28 cdd, 30 EDU{MA}CATE, 33 TO[t] in FUN, 34 palindrome, 35 cd. **Down:** 1 dd, 2 P in SINNER, 3 SUN + BAKE, 4 {E} AR[e], 5 dd, 6 RE + CRANK, 7 HEAT + HEN, 8 H in SEAR + S, 11 rev hw, 13 graveS in OUTING, 14 (SLY FOOL)*, 16 bLuEgUm, 18 cd, 20 INST + IN + CT, 22 hw, 23 cd, 25 RIFT in The House Senators, 26 (TEAM OR S)*, 27 OFF + END, 29 YEaSt, 31 heads, 32 hELIX.

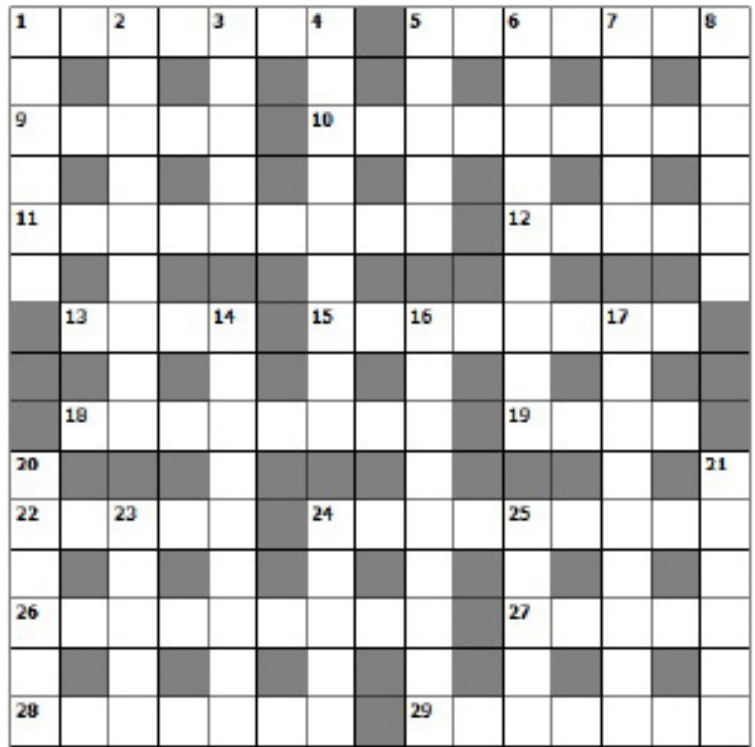
Slot 6 Betelgeuse. **Across:** 1 S(Q)U(A)RE, 4 S(herry) + CORN + FUL(L), 10 dd, 11 WHOR(L)ED, 12 H(eld) in TREE, 13 A + (ARE INTO)*, 15 SCH + M + (w)ALTZ, 16 (CC + HOT + R)*, 18 DECO + CT, 20 (he)ARTINESS, 23 BURN + OUSE, 24 S + KELL, 26 OUT + CAST, 27 R + SIDE* + (U + E), 28 (OR L REINS)*, 29 PRIEST*. **Down:** 1 SIDE(TO)SIDE, 2 THUNDER* + E + COUNTER, 3 RIV(I)ER + A, 5 CO(WAR)D, 6 RO(O)STER, 7 (FOLD + ER) around (LOW + THE + LEA), 8 LA(D)Y, 9 B(R)EASTS, 14 HAG* + (IS LETTS)*, 17 cd, 19 (INTO CAN)*, 21 IST inside (IN SS), 22 RATI(n)G< around U, 25 N(ot) + LEO<.

Slot 7 Bogeyman. **Across:** 8 S+URE, 9 A+MISS, 10 dd, 11 anag, 12 hidden, 13 ANS+ELM, 16 TiRADE+OFF, 19 homoph "rustle", 21 MB in LUST* +E, 23 TIR+ASSES, 24 POP+PE+R, 26 (SENGALESE -ease)*, 29 homoph "delayed" in AE, 32 hidden, 33 OK<+ALA, 34 AS in CH. **Down:** 1 dd, 2 hidden, 3 RAN+D, 4 cd MIG rate, 5 heads, 6 ICE+CREAM, 7 central, 14 GUN in NI, 15 dd, 17 ACT+UP, 18 FA+LSE, 20 dd, 22 AS+SAGA+I, 25 homoph "board" => plank, 27 sort of cd, 28 IS<+K+H[eroin], 30 ELAND, 31 DU+ST.

Slot 1

Half & Half
by
Leprechaun

Cryptic clues are in italics. All other clues are normal 'quick' crossword style.



Across

- 1 Stomach (7)
 5 *Leaders of Bishops' Assembly bless ordinations of newly selected primates* (7)
 9 *Wild attack interrupted by battalion's vanguard* (5)
 10 This facilitates night vision (9)
 11 Forgetful people (9)
 12 *Possibly one of five found in China* (5)
 13 *United drew* (4)
 15 Easily led (8)
 18 Paint maybe (8)
 19 *Duetto necessarily includes tenor* (4)
 22 *Danes disoriented in mountain range* (5)
 24 Collectors of silver and bronze perhaps? (7-2)
 26 *Criminal leaders of rogue army conceal name change in Irish county* (9)
 27 *Adversity after family loss of leading breadwinner* (5)
 28 *Prisoners are fashionable friends* (7)
 29 *Pet door demolished by missile* (7)

Down

- 1 *A New York woman overseas* (6)
 2 Dashing (9)
 3 *Immodesty incorporates fashions* (5)
 4 *Saint Olga upset by remembrance* (9)
 5 Yogi and Paddington, perhaps (5)
 6 Writing implement (9)
 7 Musical instrument (5)
 8 Guide for motorists (6)
 14 An advisable accessory before starting to 18? (9)
 16 Prepare to ambush (3,2,4)
 17 Earth movement (9)
 20 'Meditation in motion' (3,3)
 21 Lunar program (6)
 23 *Dug up cotton material* (5)
 24 *Greek island broadcast parades?* (5)
 25 *Go into hospital department with hesitation* (5)

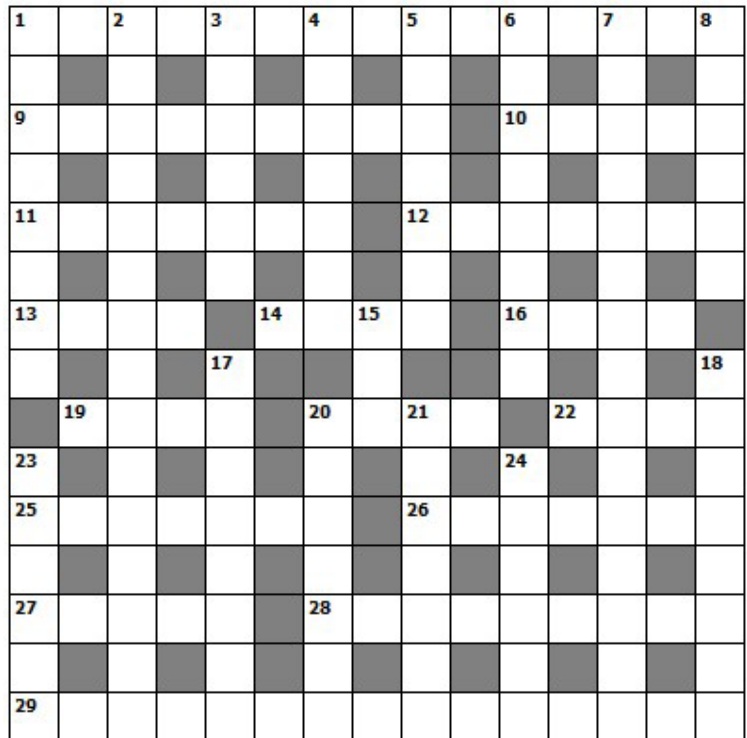
**SEND
SOLUTIONS
TO:**

For online submission and adjudication, click on the **ACCOLADE** button on the www.crosswordclub.org home page.
 All slots 1 to 7 should be submitted using **ACCOLADE** or posted to
Kathryn Forward Unit 14 85-89 The Parade North Haven NSW 2443

**BLANK
GRIDS
PAGE 17**

Closing mail date for all puzzles is August 28, 2026. ACCOLADE entries close at 00.01

Slot 2

Cryptic
by
REW

Across

- 1 Wears gear and fills kit-bag (6,9)
- 9 Start-up partner is one making things less clear, without an initial notification (2-7)
- 10 Minor persons you thought are expected to be dropped (5)
- 11 Chanticleer perch attached to hollow elder (7)
- 12 Camouflaged wasp on sore back? (7)
- 13 Perform pirouettes in Henry's Church. (It is etiquette?) (4)
- 14 Track enthusiasts prefer them long (4)
- 16 Rule breaking type of tackle (4)
- 19 Why his old Arabian originally was told to stop (4)
- 20 Pop is also dad's focus (4)
- 22 Just like a blonde (4)
- 25 Try to win, but dog interrupts approach (7)
- 26 Always mass producing the Toffees (7)
- 27 Vomits, striking the head with bars (5)
- 28 Perversely, I tie lands to free an estate (9)
- 29 Quartet of major successes in courts (6,5,4)

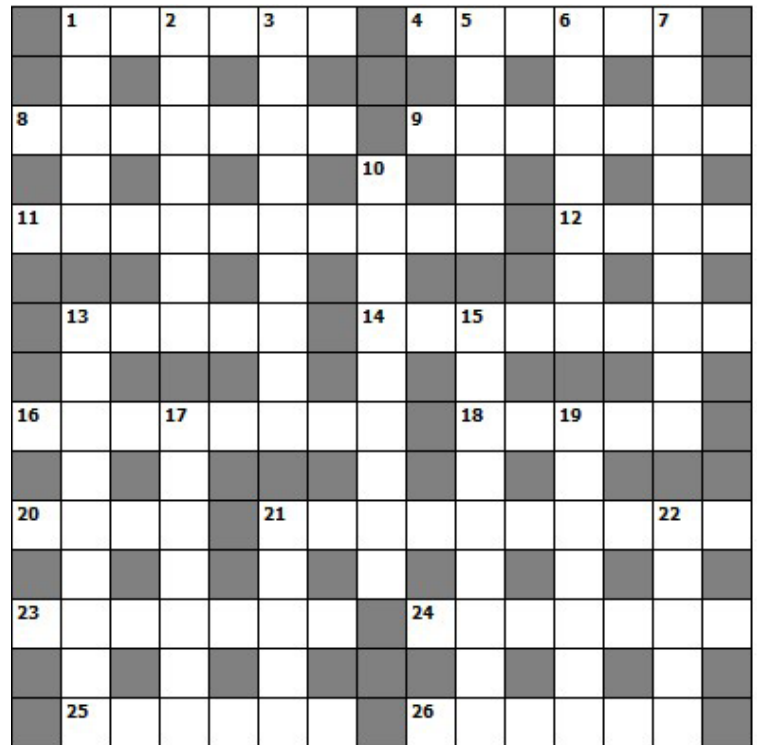
Down

- 1 Kids competition to get rid of people (4,4)
- 2 Rotten Street Promoter, is winner after a rocky ride (3-4,8)
- 3 Start to tickle relatives' ribs (6)
- 4 Suffered under Ed? (7)
- 5 Stands atop hills (7)
- 6 A year stuck in elections contributing to company's outgoings (8)
- 7 End of rescue with search dog, following awful rain, uncovers rider's course (10,5)
- 8 Wrestles his tart - without a top! (1-5)
- 15 Almost sent back loud couple (3)
- 17 Wet, bareheaded, backward oiks get pulled offshore (5,3)
- 18 Fun with lemur spoiled. (It prevents tongues wagging too much) (8)
- 20 Polar workhorse recklessly dodges left (4,3)
- 21 Profound disease centre where submarines lurk (4,3)
- 23 Pretend to be a vitamin salesman (3,3)
- 24 Inclined to be wise right away (6)

General feedback for July

- Winning the Slot 7 prize was great compensation for losing a dot on Slot 6. Thank you! *Kath Harper*
- Thanks all for last month's prize. *Sonia Roulston*
- I like the new setup. Good job everyone. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Many thanks for my June prize. *Alison Shield*

Slot 3

Cryptic
by
Nanakat

Across

- 1 Composition captivates Jolson at audition (6)
- 4 Sound of mouse briefly around in patient facility (6)
- 8 Steroid I scrapped left in trash of geriatric (7)
- 9 A reflection is diverting (7)
- 11 Following that may be threat-free (10)
- 12 Ogle around dance (4)
- 13 Show reluctance for strong drink newspaperman knocked back (5)
- 14 Church has a simple minister (8)
- 16 Surveyor to check out operating room (8)
- 18 Lodge witty comment by the Spanish (5)
- 20 Author drops off pictures of Saints for kids (4)
- 21 Bares bottom in front of ute? Dreamy! (10)
- 23 Dictator's worthless chooks (7)
- 24 Coastal fringe reportedly dry (7)
- 25 Restricted joint to fester (6)
- 26 Streep performing with badger! (6)

Down

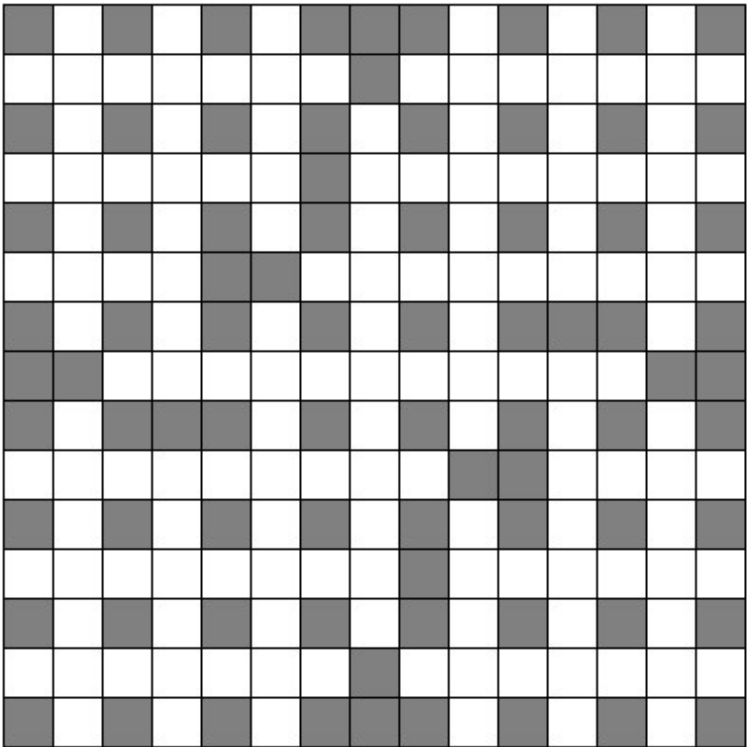
- 1 Sylvia half-cut by relative acidity of spirit (5)
- 2 Never pick formula (7)
- 3 He's in Turkish ranges, a place to seek meaning (9)
- 5 Odd Spanish article brought up for Primate (5)
- 6 Without hesitation, 2-down introduces the Italian opening (7)
- 7 Pleasant to be present at birth once model leaves (9)
- 10 Share space in depot (9)
- 13 To alter tone, senior police verbal Hugh (9)
- 15 Absurdly, cities arm for truce (9)
- 17 Fifth in Greek list of creeps I long to see incarcerated (7)
- 19 Workers admitted to civil wrong creating anguish (7)
- 21 Looking up, note strange plasterwork (5)
- 22 Seat for premiere of 'Cats' and another hit musical (5)

Slot 4

AJ
by
Valkyrie



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



- A** Architectural feature in Elsinore liable to be reviewed (7)

B Insects! Billion goddam insects! (11)

C One of the first Americans to boast (4)

D Fever study by German United Acupuncture’s Foundation (6)

E Wrongfully obtain money from old injury (6)

F Barrier surrounds best pottery (7)

G Long haired horsewoman - temperamental, demanding woman after journey (6)

H Spooner’s revolutionary dream - a lead for the top part! (8)

I Venerate setter, succinct but not cold (7)

J Beloved container for ashes, a large log (7)

K Knight watched in a state of readiness (5)

L A moment of boredom, Benedictine perhaps, abandons intelligence for introductions to online networking games (8)

M Get the wrong idea when abrupt young lady picks up vibrator (7)

N Miserable, dreary experience with drink, reviewed by disheartened luminary (9)

O Unrestrained lover-boy initially acted raunchily, then finally jumped off the ship (9)

P Quibble about private care (11)

Q Qatar University confirms tremors (7)

R Territory included in existing lease (6)

S Without pomp, small gallery takes on the French section (9)
- T** Strangely unartistic, is withdrawn, disinclined to speak (8)

U Union power director disguised giant revamping (8)

V Fought about spectacles at the end, or wearing a face mask (7)

W Women’s Institute sulk over drug failure (7)

X Retrograde king starts to invade communities like the Tanami Desert for example (5)

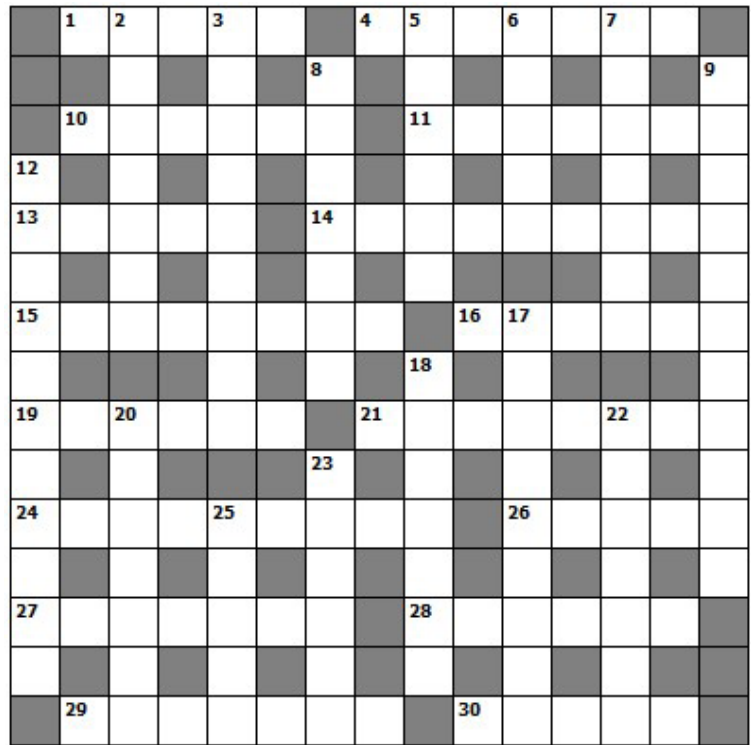
Y Standard garden jam (9)

Z Axis with alternate rounded section (4)

Slot 5

Cryptic
by
Crowsman

All Down answers have a common property. Each Down clue contains a definition of the answer, but the wordplay (secondary indicator) omits the common property which must be added to match the answer. Across clues are normal.



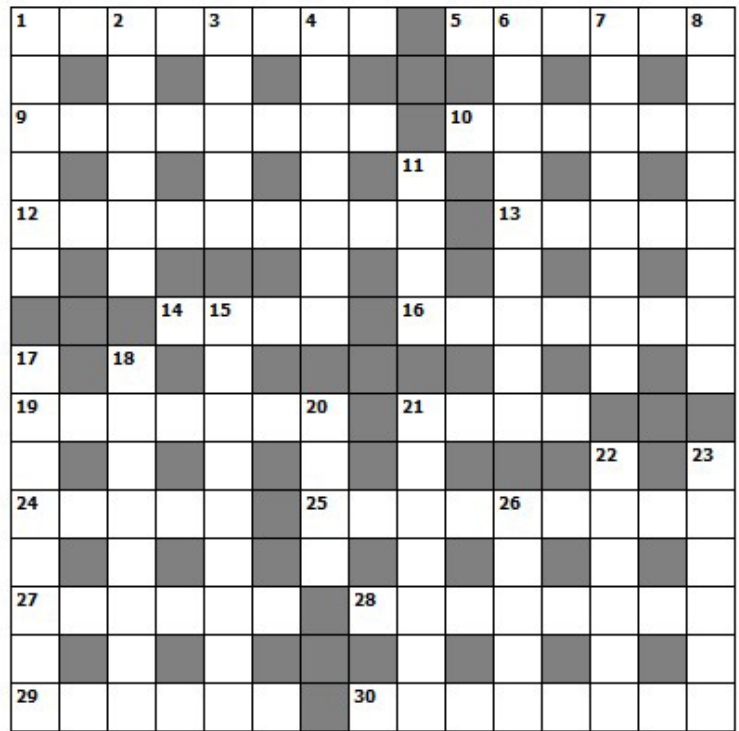
Across

- 1 Out-of-line question my group rejected (5)
- 4 Stitch stuff - it's characterful! (7)
- 10 A sweetheart coming back from old Dubrovnik (6)
- 11 Princess welcomes Chinese in Central Asian realm (7)
- 13 Overjoy, reversing conclusion of love story (5)
- 14 Bore with superfluous talk about European final (9)
- 15 Ties abandoned by small schools again (8)
- 16 Compact layer outlaw has covering back (6)
- 19 It is pronounced with conviction (6)
- 21 Writer working around identification of figure (8)
- 24 Take back western groups during most of intermission (9)
- 26 Tailor only after new fabric (5)
- 27 Falls, knocking back a run a second time (7)
- 28 Antelopes having nasty ends, sadly (6)
- 29 Figure overshadowing the opening act (7)
- 30 Utter panic! (5)

Down

- 2 It closes part of pod (7)
- 3 Former transport bringing sparkling (9)
- 5 Quizzically question (6)
- 6 Tremendous soldier (5)
- 7 Firm's founder? (7)
- 8 Excessive slope (7)
- 9 Around start of academic year, study matrix calculation (11)
- 12 Cook packing direct from freezer (11)
- 17 Guide towards incline (9)
- 18 Country person's pulse (7)
- 20 Mean short sow (7)
- 22 Brass knight (7)
- 23 One signing a contract with a letter 'X' (6)
- 25 Limited specific sides (5)

Slot 6

Cryptic
by
Robespierre

Across

- 1 Revealing top TV following slip (4,4)
 5 Neck exposed low, cleavage opening. Button it all round! (6)
 9 Encouraging signs: right back blocking winning goals (8)
 10 Discontented separatist "Yes" vote overturning refusal to remain (4,2)
 12 Chess player with predicament: former star that permits no escape (5,4)
 13 Duo misbehaving among soldiers creates stink (5)
 14 See 21
 16 Professional needlers are indisposed to occupy high positions! (7)
 19 Roast meat when thyme topping added (7)
 21,14 Partial means-test cryptically causes delay (4,4)
 24 Exclamation of exuberance about examiner's final question (5)
 25 Risky romantic encounter in bed - tad anxious to have first liaison! (5,4)
 27 Whispered remarks when accompanying date in ancient Rome (6)
 28 Comic to retain odd prelude to important announcement (4,4)
 29 Prepare pupils for examination with unusual detail (6)
 30 Dockers in Melbourne, for instance, offside? (4,4)

Down

- 1 Plugs obscure nonsense (6)
 2 Cost to produce more eggs? (6)
 3 Adjust left wing during take-off (5)
 4 Plot surprise provides solid foundation (7)
 6 Protestant spirits finally buoyant after taking in cricket match (9)
 7 Olympics head coordinates satellite coverage of race start - it sends mixed signals (8)
 8 Lady killer rushes into endless turmoil (8)
 11,20 Stocks up in support for scientific vessel (4,4)
 15 Sailor engaged in cannibalism. It finally provided relief! (9)
 17 Loudmouth birthday celebrant may be exhorted to do this (8)
 18 Domineering little devil, finally in the den, coming up (8)
 20 See 11
 21 Run-down neighbourhood to go downhill perhaps with bad word? (4,3)
 22 Conditionally let out standard exclamation of applause (6)
 23 Ray, having turned back, left mayhem (6)
 26 Sucker for babies' feigned movement (5)

Slot 7

Cryptic
by
Crowsman

Across

- 1 Fruit age (4)
 4 Unlimited expedition to a distant place (4)
 8 Rodent turned up after shrinking (5)
 13 Piece of music is right with respect to party (5)
 14 Recognise outspoken sailor getting main product (3,4)
 15 Tom Mix's *Tony* had order switched to bitter seed (5,8)
 16 Left round windows in small compartments (6)
 17 Druggie initially with needles for weapons (5)
 18 The foremost thing in Assam? (4)
 19 Player gets point astride rearing mount (7)
 22 Two Greek characters heard imaginatively futuristic presentation (3-2)
 23 Covert operatives interrupt sun dance (6)
 25 Aussie bicycle broken by little creeps (6,7)
 27 Mobs made African statesman move right back twice (6)
 29 Megastar singer took help from home of 4 Down. (5)
 30 Insert clip securing tie (5,2)
 31 Oil rich nation's capital excluded an infant's mother (4)
 34 Proprietary medication provided when fronting specialist (5)
 37 Bert's first Logie mistake from pressure (6)
 38 Introduced bias into reporting, backing current or alternative dailies (13)
 39 Refreshed Frenchman got hitched (7)
 40 Pruned the best flowers (5)
 41 Cuts small holes around (5)
 42 Bitter church abandoning cause (4)
 43 Sluggish, but are ready to run (4)

CROWSMAN'S CORNER

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							31	32			33
	34	35			36		37					
38												
39							40					
41						42				43		

Down

- 1 Hindi purées from tuberous plants, except for India's borders (5)
 2 Arsonist carries one lamp (8)
 3 Guarantee misses right result (5)
 4 Team placed in a Scottish river murder (8,5)
 5 Points of concentration of rising numbers in Rome (4)
 6 A rod for roasting covers hot space under fireplace (3,3)
 7 Raised a buck, perhaps, for grass (4)
 8 Nothing in cover on stroller is better (6,7)
 9 Bird unable to fly before disjointedly leaving Austria (7)
 10 American tug (4)
 11 Bottomless deluxe asset (4)
 12 Thoroughly articulate lady becoming disheartened (7)
 13 Proctor went off harbouring love for beets, perhaps (4,4)
 19 Model clasps small band (5)
 20 A crime involving a continental (5)
 21 Taxes for high seasons (8)
 24 Turbulent demise after it listed (8)
 25 They melt wreaths by accident (7)
 26 Converted kinky tape in total (7)
 28 Look around in the same place for lust (6)
 32 Excuse a previous answer, ignoring affair (5)
 33 Club's wide frontier (5)
 34 Retreat behind a port (4)
 35 Wrong natural base function (4)
 36 Norwegian money for bauxite and galena (4)
 37 Times escaping to a hut in Pacific island (4)

The blank grid for this puzzle is on page 2



Quiz 2026-8 Just simply nothing but!
by **Nigrum Cattus (Ray Gooderick)**.
All solutions have something in common
and are in alphabetical order. Send
your answers by email to **Julie Crowe**
jmcbonjour@gmail.com or by mail to
PO Box 126, North Bendigo Vic, 3550

Closing mail date 28 August 2026

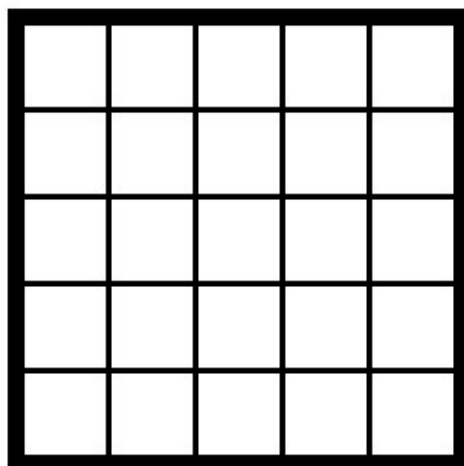
- 1 Queen (4,6)
- 2 Railed platform (7)
- 3 Police force (12)
- 4 Atmospheric system (7)
- 5 Insect (9)
- 6 Children's author (4,6)
- 7 Crime (6)
- 8 One's pedigree (9)
- 9 Kingfisher (7)
- 10 Dishonourably (7)
- 11 Australian PM (6,5)
- 12 knotted (7)
- 13 Irish city (11)
- 14 Down syndrome! (10)
- 15 Game (8)
- 16 Synthetic polyamide (5)
- 17 Decoratively (8)
- 18 Full armour (7)
- 19 Many sided figure (7)
- 20 In a doubtful manner (12)
- 21 Song (9)
- 22 Chinese study (8)
- 23 Relating to Austrian province (8)
- 24 Very wicked (6)
- 25 Without obligation (9)
- 26 Feminine (7)
- 27 Instrument (9)
- 28 Singing falsetto (9)
- 29 Greek letter (7)
- 30 Regionally (7)

FRAZ WORD SQUARE 5 - August 1

Identical words read across and down in this square.

Clues are not listed in order.

- For example, recalled about road measures
- Indeedy returns cradling very soft young dog
- Make one's case pretty at the front with metal
- More refined cat's murmuring, catching tail of mouse
- Something dangling under vehicle usually left alone, initially

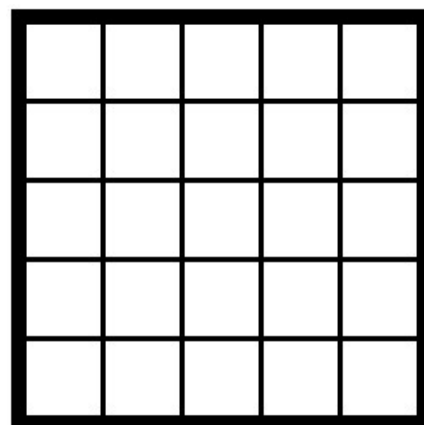


FRAZ WORD SQUARE 5 - August 2

Identical words read across and down in this square.

Clues are not listed in order.

- Rugged road covered with fodder
- Meaning: man in a choir
- Love each first-class musical production
- Cannot change having V-shaped cut
- Blackbird ultimately mesmerized audience



Answers to Fraz Squares on page 12

Quiz 2026-7 Take Note by **Michael Vnuk**.
Entries: 35. Maximum score: 20.
Prizewinner: Ron Jarman. Congratulations!

Results: 20 W Allen, U Axelsen, D Bennett, M Blake, H Cromer, J Crowe, M Evans, K Francis, P Garner, K Harper, M Jarman, R Jarman, M Kennedy, C McClelland, A Millard, R Milton, A Patterson, S Pinder, D Rosendorff, W Ryan, B Siegman, R Skinner, A Storti, B Symons, R Taylor, C Wilcox, R Wimbush, **19** K Forward, B Hagan, J Leigh, R McKenzie, S Shipway, J Wenham, **17** D Meek, **16** P Abbott.

Answers: 1 MIRE, 2 RE (or SO), 3 SO, 4 SOFA, 5 FARE, 6 DO, 7 RETIRE, 8 DODO, 9 LA, 10 TI, 11 TIRE, 12 SO-SO, 13 REDO, 14 SOFALA, 15 FA, 16 TITI, 17 LAREDO, 18 FASO, 19 SOLA, 20 MISO

Setter's observations

For '2 About [1]', besides RE, I accepted SO from one entry, as 'so' can mean 'about' in the expression 'or so'. Errors included some typos or missing letters. Several answers did not adhere to the instruction of using only the seven notes with the defined spellings. Now, if I had broadened the quiz's scope to cover variant spellings (eg DOH, ME, FAH, TE), I could have included more words, such as SOMETIME, RELATE, MERE, FAME (the answer to a clue I saw recently built from two notes) or LATIFAH (Queen Latifah is a US rapper).

Solvers' feedback

- Good fun! Only had to Google Laredo! Loved Sofala – spent many great times there. *William Ryan*
- Thanks for this quiz. As soon as it mentioned *The Sound of Music* I knew I was going to enjoy it. *Jenny Wenham*
- Thanks for an interesting quiz. A good effort considering the severe limitations imposed! *Allan Storti*
- A very stress-free quiz! Some are hard work, this was nice and cruisy. Thanks for the set-up. *Andrew Patterson*
- Here are my answers to your noteworthy quiz. *Michael Kennedy*
- Thanks for the notable quiz. *Ken Francis*
- I had to search for a few answers, but was relieved that no actual musical knowledge was required. *Kath Harper*
- I enjoyed the quiz, singing the songs as I filled in the answers. *Sally Shipway*
- I enjoyed this quiz. I found myself singing the notes whilst trying to work out the answers! *Julie Crowe*
- Enjoyed your quiz and the thought that went into it...thanks for a lovely distraction! So, cheers from mi! *Kathryn Forward*
- Another creative and enjoyable quiz. *Patricia Abbott*
- It's interesting how many words can be assembled using just those notes. *Betty Siegman*
- I don't think I've ever come across a quiz with so many 2-letter words. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Thanks for this bit of fun. Relaxing after surviving the trauma of the crosswords! *Pat Garner*
- Thanks for a fun quiz. *Brian Symons*
- If I hadn't been watching as I typed I would have ended up with 'retirement' for 7. *Julie Leigh*
- Thanks for a 'fun' puzzle, not quite as hard as some. *Claire McClelland*

FRAZ WORD SQUARE 5-August 1 Solution

S	D	R	A	Y
D	A	E	L	P
R	E	R	U	P
A	L	U	V	U
Y	P	P	U	P

FRAZ WORD SQUARE 5- August2 Solution

Y	D	R	A	H
D	W	O	R	C
R	O	N	E	T
A	R	E	P	O
H	C	T	O	N

- Not too difficult but we had not heard of Sofala in NSW before. *Richard Skinner*
- Thank you for an interesting quiz. Such a great variety of challenges. *Ann Millard*
- Thank you for this interesting quiz. *Maureen Blake*
- It was a bit of fun. *Hilary Cromer*
- Thanks for your quiz. *Drew Meek*
- Interesting and good fun, Thank you. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Thanks for another great quiz. *Ron Jarman*
- Thank you for the quiz. It was an interesting way of looking at *The Sound of Music*. I just went through my old vinyl records and see I have the show with the original cast. I wonder who would be interested in it? *Robyn McKenzie*

GRIDATORIAL

The new arrangements for publication of CrOZworld are working well, thanks to Rebel's efforts, and members (with a couple of exceptions who sent an email on Friday saying "Where is it?") are accustoming themselves to rather later delivery of the magazine than hitherto. While we still have back-up for the production of CrOZworld it would be good to have more strings to our bow to guard against the unthinkable, so if any member has skills in Adobe InDesign or other sophisticated pdf editing programs we'd love to hear from you. We have also had responses to our request for standby editors but have room on board for more if you would like to exercise your compiling skills by reviewing others' efforts.

Our grateful thanks to Michael Kennedy for his work in editing this month's puzzles. As usual they offer an enjoyable month's solving. Leprechaun makes a welcome return in slot 1 with one of his stylish half and half puzzles and REW presents their second puzzle in slot 2. NanaKat displays her not inconsiderable cluing abilities in slot 3 while Valkyrie is sure to please with her masterfully-compiled AJ. Crowsman shows his talents in the ingenious slot 5 and Robespierre exhibits his devilish cunning in a slot 6 that will require solvers to exercise all their lateral thinking capabilities. Crowsman breaks new ground (for him) with a barred grid in Crowsman's Corner. The whole is rounded off neatly by an archive puzzle from the late lamented Nigrum Cattus. Thanks to Julie Crowe for taking on the task of adjudicating it and to Chris Thomas in his first adjudication of slots 1 to 7. Our thanks to all not mentioned specifically above who have contributed to this month's CrOZworld. It is a team effort and we couldn't do it without the never-failing input of our members.

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

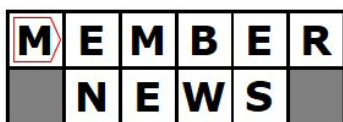
Ian

Just for fun

- Why did the owner of a gentlemanly goose move to North Korea? He heard it was a great place for his propaganda.
- My friend David just had his ID stolen. We just call him Dav now.
- Did you hear about the machine that electronically castrates bulls? Yeah, these days, nobody buys a farm without power steering.
- Fiction always talks about the drama and mystery surrounding a departed relative's will. But most of the time, it's a dead giveaway.
- What do you call it when a cat wins first place at a dog show? A cat-has-trophy!
- Did you hear about the man who left his fortune to the San Andreas nature preserve? He was generous to a fault.
- I need to stop hanging around with pessimistic horses. Neigh-sayers never add anything to the conversation.
- Did you hear about the oil spill relief workers who cleaned 15 dolphins with a single box of borax? Turns out that, just like it says on the box, it's a great multi-porpoise cleanser.
- Two amphibians were croaking at each other outside my window. It was Toadally ribbeting!
- "Doctor, help! I'm shrinking!" "Take this and you'll be back to normal in a few weeks. Until then, you'll just have to be a little patient."
- Did you hear about the casino restaurant that feeds its cows cannabis? Yeah, some gamblers prefer high steaks!

July Clue-writing Competition

A reminder that the July clue-writing competition is still open. All members are invited to submit a clue for **BOREDOM (7)**; Please submit your clue (one per member, please), together with the explanation, to Len Colgan by email to Len.Colgan@bigpond.com or post it to 1 Ailsa Avenue, Warradale, SA 5046. Closing mail date 14 August 2026.



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 devising 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. We also have some interesting grids available if you are hesitant about creating your own. Email Ian for more detail and some helpful information.

New adjudicators and editors will be welcomed with open arms - see the Gridatorial.

Donations to the Prize Fund - Our sincere thanks to those members who have donated their prizes back to the prize fund. While we are confident that at present prize values and subscriptions we will remain in a healthy financial position, such donations help to stave off reductions in prizes or increases in subscriptions in these unfortunately inflationary times.



Find us on
Facebook

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

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

July 1: Valkyrie (Ulla Axelsen)

- 24ac NUMERARY I don't understand how the wordplay generates NUMERA [see p3 – Ed]. *Ian McKenzie*
- What a SUPER effort to have that as a prefix for all the Across clues. *Kath Harper*
- Nice breezy start to the month - but couldn't parse 24ac. Of the cryptics, most enjoyed 11ac and 12ac. *Michael Fitzgerald*
- Super clues! *Maureen Blake*
- Great puzzle, tku Valkyrie. *Christopher Thomas*

July 2: T-Boy (Toby McLeay)

- LISLE: I don't fully understand the wordplay. "Measure of distance" = L? Golfer = LYLE with "spinning" as homophone indicator would appear to suffice. [*the Chinese "li" is the distance and Els the golfer, reversed by "spinning" – interestingly (Haetong) Li is also a current Chinese professional golfer – Ed*] CAESAREAN: Robespierre notes that CAEN is an inland port on the river Orne so query the description as a "Channel" port. *Ian McKenzie*
- The last clue to slot in was 19ac. Sorry Len - we all know you are a Doctor of Letters. *Ann Millard*
- An enjoyable puzzle - though I'm sure Len C has never been guilty of misrepresentation of any kind! Misdirection, perhaps... *Kath Harper*
- Not an easy slot 2. It was good to see Crowsman get a mention in 19ac. *Roy Taylor*
- Very good - 5dn, 6dn and 7dn probably the standouts. *Michael Fitzgerald*
- Really liked LEN COLGAN (clever), but settled on XX, TWO-TIME, for my COTM. *Betty Siegman*
- A good warm-up. Thanks. *Ulla Axelsen*
- That Len! He pops up everywhere doesn't he. Not only is he a setter but now he's a solution too! *Richard Skinner*
- Nice tribute at 19ac! *Kathryn Forward*
- Some very clever clues. *Cheryl Wilcox*
- I liked TWO-TIME (s?), TRAWL and GALLIVANT. *Kathy Horadam*
- Lovely clues. I particularly liked 19ac. And who knew a wonk was a studious person! *Julie Crowe*
- I liked LISLE and TWO-TIME. Good to see Len getting a mention. *Robyn Wimbush*
- I loved the clues for Len Colgan, cardiovascular, two time and Caesarean. *Robyn McKenzie*
- New word for me: REDOUND. LEN COLGAN needed some inside knowledge not easily available to others outside the club. *Alan Dyer*
- **T-boy writes:** I wonder how many saw XX as two-time. I think that would be two-times. My intention was that XX = double cross. Two-time being a synonym for that and cheat. Almost a triple definition? My own favourite was LISLE so I'm glad someone else agrees, even though one solver mistook the golfer for a much earlier player, given that Lyle is a synonym for the solution. Agree Caen not actually on the Channel. Might have been fairer as ... Channel ferry port ...

July 3: Ninian (Scott Goodman)

- FONTS: thanks for the education on font types. *Ian McKenzie*
- I dislike three consecutive unchecked letters, and there are better answers to fit 21dn. *Len Colgan*
- SALTIRE was a word I didn't know and took a long time to find. I liked 11ac OMEN. *Ann Millard*

- Favourite clues PAUSE, EARRING, JASON, EASED. *Toby McLeay*
- Many very clever clues here, but especially enjoyed 18ac, 6dn, 17dn and 22dn. *Michael Fitzgerald*
- Very clever tough puzzle. Scherzo using OMEN as no men in MENSCH is smart. FONTS took a bit of figuring. *Roy Taylor*
- Tricky and enjoyable puzzle. Found 6dn and 20dn interesting, with two consecutive unchecked squares. I haven't come across this before. *Krittibas Dasgupta*
- Really enjoyed this one, SQUAT was great, tku Ninian. *Christopher Thomas*
- I really enjoyed a number of the clues in this puzzle. Thank you, Ninian. *Sonia Roulston*
- An enjoyable solve. Had trouble validating UPSTART until I realised WOULD BE could be a noun. *Ulla Axelsen*
- SALTIRE is a new one for me! *Kathryn Forward*
- Not sure about the clueing of MARTYRS, but I really liked OMEN, PRAWN and JASON. Was there a homophone indicator for PAUSE? [*"on release from trap" (ie mouth) – Ed*] *Kathy Horadam*
- SALTIRE and PAUSE were great clues. *Robyn Wimbush*
- I liked 18ac clever homophone indicator, and 6dn is a classic! Well done, Ninian. *Mal Cockburn*
- It took me ages to get fonts! *Robyn McKenzie*
- Some terrific clues; really liked preposterous, swerves and ampersand. *Ken Francis*
- Took a while for JASON to click. Gave 17dn (SCHERZO) COTM, in part due to its use of 11ac (OMEN - another excellent clue) for clueing. *Alan Dyer*

July 4: Meridian (Kathryn Forward and Len Colgan)

- A great slot 4 with many clever clues. *David Bennett*
- AJ is always a favourite and this did not disappoint. Some great clues and I liked BRANCHES OUT and UNARMED - not tricky but they show the joys of cryptics. *Ann Millard*
- Excellent and entertaining. *Roy Taylor*
- Loved it, tku Meridian. *Christopher Thomas*
- Prime meridian! *Kath Harper*
- Thanks for an enjoyable solve. *Ulla Axelsen*
- I thought the clues for N and T were great, but shouldn't it be Pensiones for G? *Kathy Horadam*
- A good combination obviously. Thank you both. Loved BRANCHES OUT and MILIEUX. *Robyn Wimbush*
- I am not sure about I. *Warren Allen*
- The G clue is very clever. A fun puzzle all around. Well done, Meridian. *Mal Cockburn*
- I thought the clue for GUESTHOUSES was very clever! *Robyn McKenzie*
- As someone who works in the Government ecosystem, I cannot let JARGONEERS go without mentioning it. There; I have mentioned it! *Alan Dyer*
- **Meridian writes:** Thanks to everyone who submitted feedback. Taking the time to comment can only help us improve! The two answers causing most errors were MILIEUX and XEROSIS clued as a containment MI(LIEU)X and a reversed containment SI(SORE)X< respectively. I (Len) am a bit disappointed at the errors for MILIEUX as I judge Kathryn's clue to be outstanding.

Continued on Page 15

MEMBERS' FEEDBACK Continued from Page 14

We both suspect that the second Meridian AJ puzzle which you have received is marginally better.

July 5: P-Brane (Roger Hearn)

- Edumacate is a new word for me, assuming it's correct! *Patricia Abbott*
- Liked BLACK BOX, THIN AIR and many others. *Toby Mcleay*
- Loved THIN AIR. I had never heard of EDUMACATE before! *Krittibas Dasgupta*
- Loved many clues, including GLUTEI which I voted COTM. If 30ac is EDUMACATE I don't think much of the word. *Roy Taylor*
- Eleven tricky 3-letter words! EDUMACATE was completely new to me (if correct). I liked RABBITS FOOT, how true. *Betty Siegman*
- Oh, so many little stumbling blocks with this one. *Ulla Axelsen*
- I hadn't heard of a kangaroo feather. What a lovely term! *Kath Harper*
- I understand that Educamate (30ac) is a humorous misspelling of Educate. No indication of such in the clue? *Richard Skinner*
- Decided to start with the 3-letter clues here, and all of them were very enjoyable. Conversely my LOI was 30ac, for which - after a long struggle - I had to settle on a humorous, nonstandard word-form (although I gather it's been around for a while!). *Michael Fitzgerald*
- 'EDUMACATE'? I think I must have this wrong! *Kathryn Forward*
- Thank you P-Brane. *Sally Shipway*
- Lots of tricky clues to unravel. Loved the Digger's humour in 12ac. *Mal Cockburn*
- Thanks P-Brane, I enjoyed OARLESS and BLACK BOX, but if it's correct, I don't feel EDUMACATE was fair. *Kathy Horadam*
- I did not find 30ac (EDUMACATE) in my usual sources. [Try your complimentary copy of Macquarie - Ed] I consider myself edumacated! *Alan Dyer*
- **P-brane writes:** an observation on "Edumacate",: a long standing Australian expression that disappeared during the 1980's. In its various forms it was used by organisations' NCOs and the rank and file workers to lampoon and mock young graduate recruits (being fast tracked into management) who were a bit full of themselves because they had a degree or diploma. Would be considered bullying and harassment in today's workplaces.

July 6: Betelgeuse (Gillian Champion)

- Tough but enjoyable puzzle. I wasn't aware of Noel Coward's quote, but have to agree with his summation of much that passes for modern art. *Krittibas Dasgupta*
- Noel, it's a uterus, not a guitar. Plenty of words to impress with at the next dinner party! *Toby McLeay*
- By Jove, a square lady with three breasts and a guitar up her crotch! By Noel Coward. Tricky clues. *Roy Taylor*
- Noel Coward. *Julie Leigh*
- What a great crossword! Noel Coward's "Nude with violin" has a lot to answer for. *Rob Milton*
- A square lady with three breasts and a guitar up her crotch. *Brian Symons*

- 'A square lady with three breasts and a guitar up her crotch' - Noel Coward. *Michael Kennedy*
- I've just found it, NOEL COWARD, of course, typical. *Betty Siegman*
- Great fun. My favourite for this month. Thank-you Betelgeuse wherever you are, and thank-you Noel Coward. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Amazing Betelgeuse, to manage to fit Noel Coward plus the relevant parts of his comment (and of the lady in question) into a single puzzle. *Kath Harper*
- Took a bit of puzzling out this one. Typical of Betelgeuse, may she RIP. I must say too that I agree with both the title and Noel Coward. *Richard Skinner*
- Several words previously unknown to me. NOEL COWARD produced the quote. *Ian Thompson*
- "A square lady with three breasts and a guitar up her crotch" - a typical Noel Coward quote. But how on earth did Gillian manage to put this together! *Julie Crowe*
- A few new-to-me words here. I had trouble with 24ac, using an obscure word to create another obscure word. Otherwise, a fun, clever puzzle. Managed to avoid the internet for the quote! *David Parsons*
- Intrigued by the strange reposed cello, I did a bit of googling and discovered everything I needed to solve this clever puzzle. *Mal Cockburn*
- A weird picture described rather unflatteringly by Noel Coward. *Laurence Kennedy*
- Sorry I can't work out or locate Noel Coward's words of wisdom. *Pat Garner*
- What a hoot! No doubt about Noel Coward's 'Nude With Violin' play. He was a Master. *Robyn Wimbush*
- A square lady with three breasts and a guitar up her crotch was not quite what was said by Noel COWARD. Some challenges & some obscure words! *Ann Millard*
- So nearly went with SWELL instead of SKELL for 24ac - fits the definition but not the wordplay. When part way through the puzzle I tried to look for the quote by NOEL COWARD - and realised that the search engine results were not exactly safe for work! *Alan Dyer*

July 7: Bogeyman (Ian Williams) *The Nina has been omitted from some contributions*

- There had to be a reason for no answers on the perimeter. "Cogito, ergo sum". Plus some mates in the grid. *Len Colgan*
- Lots of nice clues. I had a biographical journey with this one. *Toby McLeay*
- Wow! Lot of clever people here. The last clue I got was TIRASSES, because I was not familiar with TIR. *Roy Taylor*
- Philosophy theme. Nina by Descartes. *Allan Storti*
- Very challenging with many philosophers including Rene Descartes and his famous quote *Ulla Axelsen*
- The compiler is surely 'a suspiciously intellectual fellow'! [I wish - B] *Kath Harper*
- Picking the theme made this "easier" than it might otherwise have been although easy it was not. *Richard Skinner*
- A very enjoyable puzzle. *Ian Thompson*
- A perfect Slot 7 - tough but fair! *Kathryn Forward*
- A really challenging puzzle I found. Satisfaction in finding answers I hope are right! *Robyn McKenzie*
- Very clever clues. I liked MIGRATE, among many others - and a Nina to boot.. *Julie Crowe*

Continued on Page 16

MEMBERS' FEEDBACK Continued from Page 15

- Great Nina! *Scott Goodman*
- Can't quite parse ADELAIDE (my home city) but I'm happy with my answer. Thanks for the puzzle, Bogeyman. *Mal Cockburn*
- A very enjoyable puzzle with a neat Nina: *Laurence Kennedy*
- What a lot of learned people. Just as Noel did, Rene made his mark. Thank you Bogeyman. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Definitely a puzzle for the thinkers (DESADE, RUSSELL, RAND, ENGELS, POPPER, PLANCK, FICINO, ANSELM). Even an appearance by Descartes. *Alan Dyer*
- **Bogeyman writes:** *I'm pleased that the puzzle created some enjoyment and thank the contributors for their kind words. I didn't want to advertise the Nina but the identification of philosophical specialities [the Thesaurus had a good workout] for the somewhat difficult individuals within the grid seemed to do the trick and I'm glad that not too many of them resulted in errors.*

From the Adjudicator continued from Page 1**Slot 4**

This month's AJ collaboration was highly entertaining and widely praised, achieving a strong 83% success rate. Solvers particularly loved Branches Out, Unwarmed, Milieux. The clue for Guesthouses (G) split opinions; while some found it clever, there was a question around the spelling with Pensiones mentioned as a preference. "Pensions" is acceptable, however.

Slot 5

An enjoyable solve was the consensus for P-Brane's creation, though it featured some stumbling blocks. Solvers highly praised Glutei (voted COTM by one solver). Thin Air and Kangaroo Feather also earned praise. The low success rate of 55% was more than partly attributable due to Edumacate, which caused some pushback and accounted for 12 lost dots (11 entering "Educamate"). Solvers felt this non-standard, humorous misspelling was unfair without an exclamation mark or a hint in the clue. Edumacate is, however, in Macquarie. Bass Speaker (Base Speaker) and Blackbox (Blackboy) also proved to be traps, causing 6 errors each.

Slot 6

This clever concoction from Betelgeuse's was highly celebrated, with an impressive 87% success rate. Solvers called it a "hoot" and a masterpiece, marvelling at how Noel Coward and his *Nude with Violin* quote ("A square lady with three breasts and a guitar up her crotch") was woven into the grid. It was a challenge for many, befitting slot 6. The main culprit for lost dots was Skell (5 misses).

Slot 7

"Tough but fair" was the takeaway for Slot 7 (68% success rate), praised as a great finale. Solvers highly enjoyed the philosophy theme and the neat perimeter Nina ("I think therefore I am" / Descartes). Seasoned professionals "smelt a rat" early on when they noticed no words were clued on the outside edge of the grid, which helped them unravel the tricky theme. The obscure word Tirasses was the dot collector, accounting for 7 total errors across various spelling attempts (Airasses, Vinasses, Mimasses, Bioessay, Sinapses). Popper also caused 4 errors (Pepper, Papea).

COTM

Ninian wins the COTM with 4 nominations for the beautifully clued JASON—"Old Greek skipper in lead for five months (5)"—which cleverly defines the mythological captain by using the leading letters of five consecutive calendar months: July, August, September, October, and November. Slot 3 also received two votes for three other clues (OMEN, PAUSE, and PREPOSTEROUS). It was a reasonably close run thing, with seven other clues from slots 1, 2, 5, and 7 receiving two votes each. Congratulations to Ninianall compilers.

Chris Thomas

Slot 6

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