



No 428 December 2025



www.crosswordclub.org



One can't be angry when one looks at a penguin. from a letter written by John Ruskin in 1860 following a visit to the London Zoo.

GRIDATORIAL

More sad news to report, with the death of long-time member and compiler Nea Storey. Her obituary can be found on page 13.

As always at this time of the year it's most pleasing to see so many early renewals. We try to keep you interested and to meet your requirements, so please don't hesitate to let us know if we can do things differently and provide even more satisfaction.

A somewhat different slot 1 puzzle has been compiled by Nigrum Cattus, which will be easier to complete and submit than last month's Snail. As another change from the normal fare slot 2 might be Crowsman's first ever puzzle in that location. P-brane presents us with a puzzle with his trademark Australian flavour and we have another polished offering from Manveru, our AJ king. T-boy in slot 5 presents a veritable cornucopia of the 15-letter words that are always appreciated. KA has devised a ticklish barred puzzle in slot 6 and Crowsman's Corner demonstrated that even if he ain't been everywhere, he knows about it. The enjoyable 5-minute word puzzles from Fraz feature once more and Valkyrie's intriguing quiz provides a very satisfactory conclusion to what we hope will prove a satisfying bunch.

Please don't forget the early closing date for this month's puzzles to enable us to bring you the January offerings in time for the Festive Season.

We wish you enjoyable and satisfying puzzling.

Ian

FROM THE ADJUDICATOR

November in Melbourne is always filled with excitement - The Cup, local politics, my annual turn adjudicating. I hope you enjoyed this month's puzzles. And in the lead up to December may I wish everyone in the ACC family the compliments of the season.

Slot 1: an "interesting" layout. There are comments from the editor and the setters elsewhere about the layout and the difficulty in submitting it in ACCOLADE - one well respected solver sent me the solution in hardcopy, saying he'd given up trying to do it electronically ! A number of members had problems with the grass clue; "Porcupine grass" is listed in Chambers and Macquarie as a type of spinifex but "crocodile", "centipede", kangaroo" and "racehorse" varieties of grass were not able to be verified. I had one instance though of "Wanderrie" which I was happy to pass. Interestingly, the most common repeated error was in the incorrect spelling of RHINOCEROS. Several had problems with a TADPOLE as a "wannabe natterjack toad".

Slot 2: Very well received by solvers, comments along the lines of "good, straight-forward", "as always from Lexi - well-clued, interesting, challenging". Nothing stood out in the error list with typos being the major culprits.

Slot 3: Again, well received. It's often said that solving crosswords is good for the brain and that might be so, but I do know that they're good for improving vocabulary. Some newbies for some of us in this puzzle - HIRUNDINE and ECHOLALIA (with a nod to current politics). Now to find the opportunity to use them in everyday situations.

Slot 4: I thought I'd stumbled on something new when one of my manual entries had every answer correct but in quite different places from the setter's template, but have now had it explained to me that this is possible when the Across and Down grid layouts are identical. Kudos to my entrant (who, as a new member, was submitting for the first time !) and a learning experience for me. Most problems happened with INVENTS (INDENTS) and the anagrammatic XEROXES (XEROXED).

continued on page 2

LEADING FIGURES

Puzzle No.	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Entries received	65	78	78	72	72	365
Correct Entries	28	65	67	55	68	283
Success rate(%)	43.1	83.3	85.9	76.4	94.4	77.5
Prizewinners	Roy Taylor	Cheryl Gleeson	Jean Barbour	Toby McLeay	Alison Hocking	from 85 Members

Prizewinner: November Slots 1-5 correct: Kath Harper. Congratulations!

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CONTENTS

	page
And nary.. by Nigrum Cattus	3
"&" by Crowsman	4
Cryptic by P-brane	5
AJ by Manveru	6
Cryptic by T-boy	7
Cryptic by KA	8
Cryptic by Crowsman	9
Quiz 12-2025 by Valkyrie	10
Results Quiz 11-2025	10
Results November slot 6	11
Fraz Word Squares	11
Results November slot 7	12
Member News	13
Explanations November 1-5	13
Members' Feedback	14
Blank Grids	16
Invitation to Renew	17

Slot 1

**And nary a drop...
by
Nigrum
Cattus**



Undefined solutions are identified by their locations. Cryptic clues are shown in italics.

1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8
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31											32			

Across

- 1 Asia/Australia (5)
- 4 South America (9)
- 9 Savings (4,3)
- 10 *Turner's taking introductory roles in soaps* (7)
- 11 Fish (3)
- 12 Asia/Australia (7)
- 13 Europe (6)
- 15 Fowl (6)
- 16 *Briar ran wild in country town* (8)
- 19 Like a net (8)
- 21 Yacht basin (6)
- 24 Asia/North America (6)
- 26 *Lady from Siam about to strike in chambers* (7)
- 28 Follows undefined solutions (3)
- 29 *The Spanish female to take pleasure in a delicate appearance* (7)
- 30 Capital (7)
- 31 Europe (9)
- 32 Europe (5)

Down

- 1 *Tina swallowed ecstasy - rash!* (5)
- 2 *Author on ship with sailor abroad to play around* (4,5)
- 3 Male deer (7)
- 4 Europe/Asia (6)
- 5 *Bird at short field position* (4)
- 6 *Brunette, perhaps, exemplifying injustice* (3,4)
- 7 *That's Latin, that is!* (2,3)
- 8 Asia (4,5)
- 14 *Hoarse sound of dog's bark* (3)
- 15 North/South America (9)
- 17 Army officer (9)
- 18 *Ship lost prow but still functioned as a lifeboat!* (3)
- 20 Enthusiasts' periodical (7)
- 22 Asia/Africa (7)
- 23 *Anti-cholesterol drug is useless stuff in the case of gluttony, say!* (6)
- 25 Direct to (5)
- 27 Europe (5)
- 28 Heavy truck (4)

SEND SOLUTIONS TO:

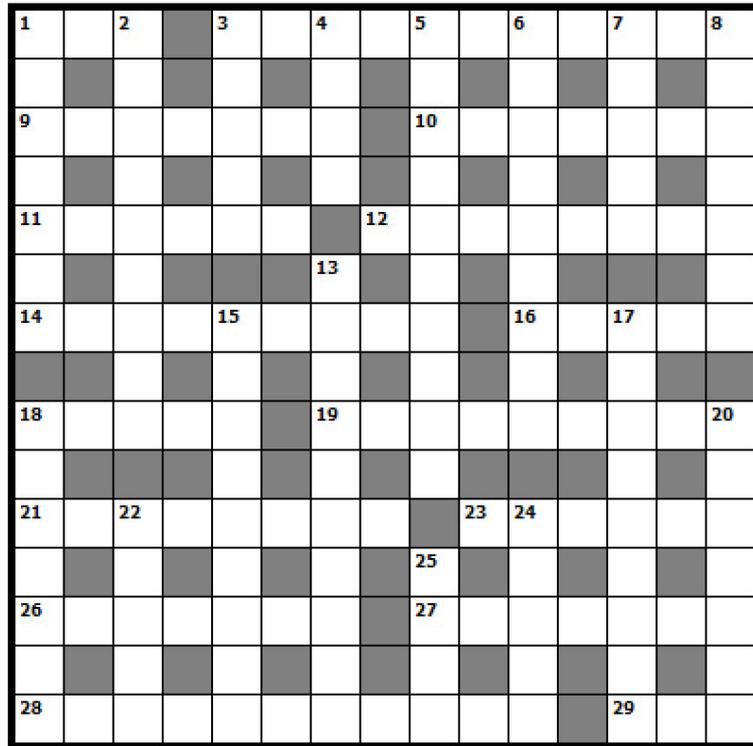
For online entry, submission and adjudication of all slots via ACCOLADE click on the ACCOLADE button on www.crosswordclub.org home page.
 Slots 1 to 5: Tony Dobele via ACCOLADE or post to 10 Sharpe Street, Norman Gardens Qld 4701
 Slot 6: Karl Audrins via ACCOLADE or post to 10 Elizabeth Parade, Charlestown NSW 2290
 Slot 7: Len Colgan via ACCOLADE or post to 1 Ailsa Avenue, Warradale, SA 5046

BLANK GRIDS PAGE 16

Closing mail date is 19 December 2025. ACCOLADE and email entries close at 00.01

Slot 3

**Cryptic
by
P-brane**



Across

- 1 State Government school student to skip class (3)
- 3 When "Driza Bone" strikes "Country Road" may become this stock refuge (4,7)
- 9 Press knowledgeable one scratching head to define a technological period (4,3)
- 10 Wandering, like Scandinavian people, when heartless militia will replace Russia's leader (7)
- 11 Birdbrains behaving stupidly as introductions to group attracts laughter and head shaking (6)
- 12 West coast city local, single, returning following Gabriel perhaps (8)
- 14 Australian draught in long glass, returned to mount (4,5)
- 16 Fail very loudly following bad lurgy (5)
- 18 Virtuous person appropriating a German beer mug (5)
- 19 Spooner's mountainous tome a dinky-di campfire accessory (5,4)
- 21 Not the brightest to use twins stupidly (8)
- 23 Define extents for looking at the small and far (6)
- 26 Stashed cobalt in warehouse for metal merchandise (7)
- 27 Crime reporter a cryptic crossword addict? (7)

- 28 Disastrously dire naivety was proof of significance (11)
- 29 Kid back for lentils (3)

Down

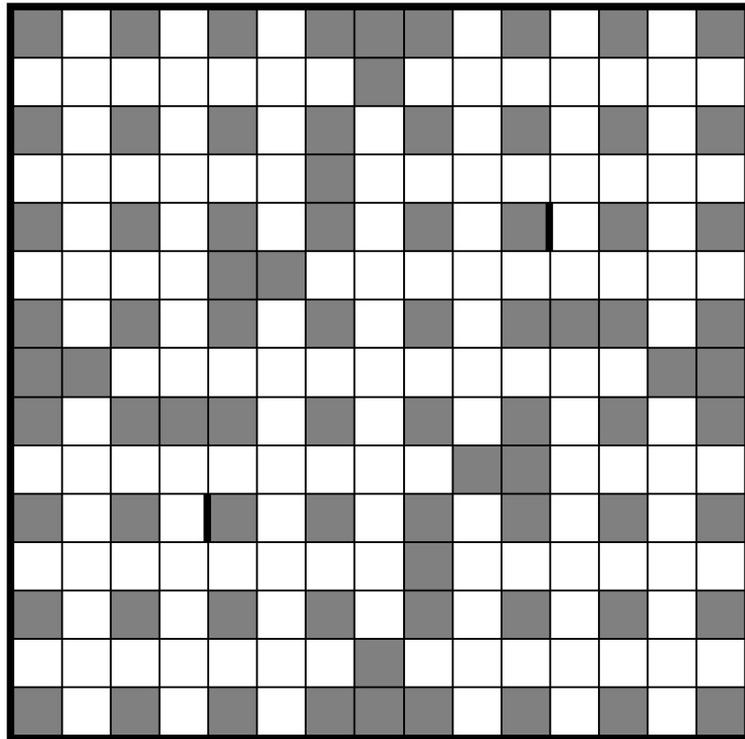
- 1 Complained when the injured besiege hospital (7)
- 2 Take a break, persist, quit (2,2,5)
- 3 Drain outspoken parasite that may drain you (5)
- 4 Said bouquet to receive rejections (4)
- 5 Yearn to ruffle feathers with a pungent leaf (4,6)
- 6 Maiden to flee an aquatic animal (9)
- 7 Chilled stubby not caught by Senior Citizen (5)
- 8 Boot high to start (4-3)
- 13 Sun, beer, etc. when swimming, produce redness (10)
- 15 Worker to recover from gentleman's agreement (9)
- 17 Upon revision, presented unchallenged (9)
- 18 Sink fuel container (7)
- 20 Airborne killer's darkest relationships concealed (7)
- 22 Chat about having had success in battle with American soldier (5)
- 24 Arrogant farmer (5)
- 25 Delirium tremens: Alcoholics Anonymous processing the facts and figures (4)

Slot 4

AJ
by
Manveru



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



- A** Perhaps Hades plant Odysseus located originally! (8)
- B** Poison mistakenly left out inside refuse container (7)
- C** Pestilence running amok, killing prince, but leaving a monk (9)
- D** Right-handed turn detours around crossing? (8)
- E** Lost heading with navigational instrument, but still afloat? (6)
- F** Matches furniture (8)
- G** Good definition at the beginning - enter right one here? (4)
- H** Vespa requiring hydrogen or nitrogen energy transmission to start (6)
- I** Millions lost with US investment, primarily due to a deceptive view of reality (11)
- J** Weapon comprising a hook positioned on fortification offering no resistance (7)
- K** A strong king overthrown and succeeded by a weedy type (9)
- L** Did slope appear so? (8)
- M** Cruise perhaps, leads in Mission Impossible's sequel with no new lines sadly (7)
- N** In no way does Spooner cut a denial (5,2)
- O** Medical procedure to inject iodine with new alternative (6)
- P** Altering pad in motion! (11)
- Q** Piece capturing rook leads to exciting sudden stalemate, demonstrating an unusual condition (9)

- R** It's fruity and rude! (9)
- S** Team member is a weapon! (7)
- T** Project - What to do with J? (5)
- U** Extreme political opinion from the upper-class left and right rejected by Australia (5)
- V** Japan to depart after Russia's leader gets involved (7)
- W** The cloud meeting stormy rain after weak energy build-up initially (7)
- X** Eve, for instance, starts with a kiss, rejects Adam's boundaries and sins originally (4)
- Y** Papyri mulched with bit of elm has more bark (7)
- Z** Book from the bible - your breath of fresh air (6)

Slot 5

**Cryptic
by
T-boy**



1		2		3			4	5		6		7		8
						9								
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21										22				

Across

- 1 Onset of flu amongst layabouts who are in p rison? (6)
- 4 Kind of blade for meat cut (8)
- 10 Support retaining command car for senior politician (7,8)
- 11 Base dance complements weekend power games (8,7)
- 12 Provides termination to cries of pain? (6)
- 13 Freeholder honest with nothing returned (8)
- 16 Hunt rode off at zero degrees (3,5)
- 17 Medical benefit brought back for headband (6)
- 19 Joseph Smith's congregation to share in bucks (15)
- 20 Stigma after Grant returns with serious accent (11,4)
- 21 Without hesitation manager hosts party providing drug excess (8)
- 22 Films of virgins unusually shy around males (6)

Down

- 1 Bizarre what farmer did at the end of the day (4-5)
- 2 Always a head on Japanese booze - it's said irritably! (3,8,4)
- 3 Wore uncool braid, dreadfully iridescent (7-8)
- 5 Shower George Eliot with angelic s alutation! (4,4)
- 6 Rapt to enter club with friend by chance (15)
- 7 Tiller involved in exotic case-studied fungal tree condition (5,3,7)
- 8 Sinner or Tsitsipas smuggling rackets (5)
- 9 Approach old Northumbrian settler (5)
- 14 Dodgy means bringing in benefit for homonymous pair (9)
- 15 Titan acquiring new titanium for Plato's island (8)
- 18 A long letter (5)
- 19 Paranoid artist holding up message (5)

Slot 6

**Cryptic
by
KA**



1	2		3	4	5	6		7		8	9
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	18		19		20		21	22	23		
24			25		26						
27						28		29		30	
31											
32				33							
		34									
35				36							

For each of the unclued entries, delete one letter and anagram the remainder. The resulting nine words are of a kind, and the deleted letters can be arranged to spell out the relevant category. Unchecked letters in the unclued entries can be found in the otherwise totally irrelevant MUSCLE FANCIERS.

Across

- 1 Embarrassing mistake by renegade female wearing cloak (8)
- 7 Variegated bird died (4)
- 10 See rubric (10)
- 12 See rubric (8)
- 13 Bet poet will lose daughter (4)
- 15 Plain fish takes a small nip (6)
- 16 See rubric (6)
- 17 In Cairo, nervously embrace laundry employee (6)
- 19 Name very important date (4)
- 22 Match truck (4)
- 24 Personal papers contain universal protection (4)
- 26 Return to feed Ms Blyton (4)
- 27 Wild red cat put in box (6)
- 28 Private secretary held spread-out materials (6)
- 31 See rubric (6)
- 32 Almost arrested Indian Queen (4)
- 33 Using ship's accommodation for delivery, by the sound of it (8)
- 34 Revolutionary series bars underwear (10)
- 35 Looks both ways (4)
- 36 More dependable guide circumvents approved driving instructor (8)

Down

- 2 Navigation aid for a lawyer in luxury vehicle (5)
- 3 In review, critic cuts part for well-known actor (5)
- 4 Weaker judge keeps perjurer coming up (7)
- 5 Nervous informants - Yankees at heart (5)
- 6 Asian confused Ian a lot (7)
- 7 See rubric (6)
- 8 Some of the text remains radical (7)
- 9 Most disconsolate listener is among the most laconic (9)
- 11 Express disapproval to newspaper boss about fellow having a goatee, perhaps (6)
- 14 See rubric (9)
- 18 See rubric (7)
- 20 Most flushed English clergyman is surrounded by others (7)
- 21 Armed citizens organise a limit around island (7)
- 23 Anger about team rejecting medicine (6)
- 25 Champions accept International flights (6)
- 28 See rubric (5)
- 29 See rubric (5)
- 30 Gift recipient is finished with drug (5)

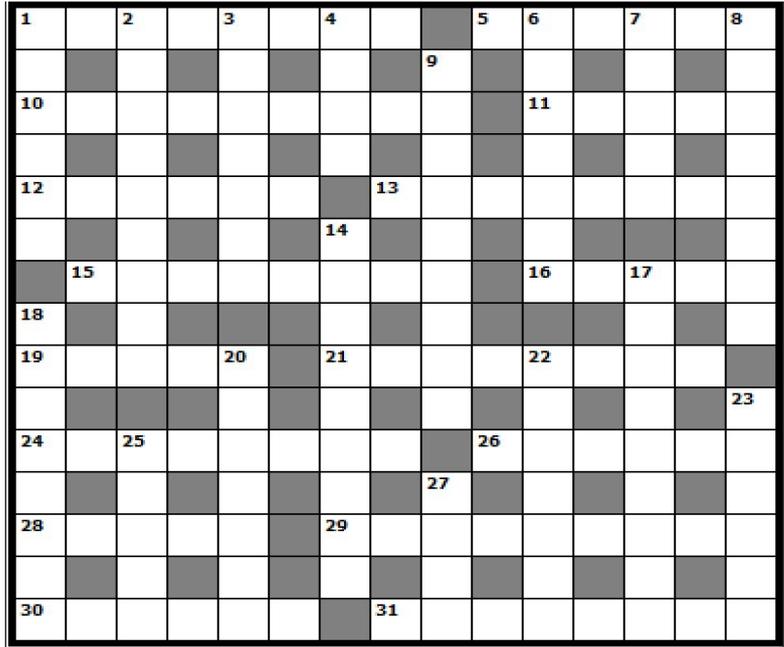
CROWSMAN'S CORNER

Slot 7

Cryptic



\$50 PRIZE



Across

- 1 African, therefore 5? (8)
- 5 African chap boxing heavyweight champion (6)
- 10 5 collects supportive votes for countryman (9)
- 11 Some unceremonious language (5)
- 12 Pastures livestock while protecting marrow (6)
- 13 More nasty bagging if one is a defamatory person (8)
- 15 8 accepts English for a nearby countryman (8)
- 16 See 1 Down (5)
- 19 Divine food turned over in part of French Indochina (5)
- 21 Saudis ban a returning Bogeyman-Flowerman-Robespierre trio (8)
- 24 Fellows interrupting heretic countryman (8)
- 26 Brought back fine inside information for old territory near 20 (6)
- 28 Country batting has support around (5)
- 29 Countryman from another nation upset 22 (9)
- 30 Country definitely not admitting resistance (6)
- 31 Chain a number in cages (8)

Down

- 1 Native from 16 makes, finally, a complaint (6)
- 2 5 embraces short opera singer countryman (9)
- 3 Clothing for baby, still breaking behind! (7)
- 4 Some appraisals elevated many countries (4)
- 6 11 countrymen here when involving complicated issue (7)
- 7 Countryman has drunk daiquiri, without driving under the influence (5)
- 8 African ant exterminated in Argentinian redevelopment (8)
- 9 28 turned in an American statesman (9)
- 14 Mode of transport involved in raising gold profit for this country (9)
- 17 Countryman has Myanmar native shot over screw-up (9)
- 18 5 holds a West African (8)
- 20 Coming from Vermont, an American state (7)
- 22 I entered quickly, grabbing a countryman (7)
- 23 Former F1 driver caught up in French resort (6)
- 25 Intermediate layer of humus is recent, but not new (5)
- 27 Rising Ireland lake (4)

The blank grid for this puzzle is on page 11



Quiz 12-2025 by Valkyrie
All for one and one for all!

All answers have a commonality 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 19 December 2025.

- 1 Reparatons (9)
- 2 Nonsense (7)
- 3 Clowning (10)
- 4 A South Asian grass (10)
- 5 Insincere (9)
- 6 Free from blame (9)
- 7 Mathematical Index (8)
- 8 Bird trainer (8)
- 9 Albatross (10)
- 10 Frankness (7)
- 11 An Australian neighbour (9)
- 12 Rejected (10)
- 13 Chief element (8)
- 14 Solitary (8)
- 15 Pinocchio for example (10)
- 16 A rich person (9)
- 17 Something which does not exist (9)
- 18 Competitor (8)
- 19 Innovator (7)
- 20 Sceptic (10)
- 21 Handbook of tables (8)
- 22 Cryptic crossword device (10)
- 23 Post-it notes and markers for example (10)
- 24 A brass instrument (8)
- 25 Wrinkled (8)
- 26 Took a holiday in America (10)
- 27 Dismal looking (9)
- 28 Musical instrument (9)
- 29 National Park in Wyoming (11)
- 30 Frothy custard (10)

The November Clue-writing Competition is still open. You are invited to write a clue for the word **STROLLING (9)** complete with explanation. One only per member, please. Send your creations to Len. Colgan@unisa.edu.au 1 Ailsa Avenue, Warradale, SA 5046
Entries close Friday 12 December 2025

QUIZ 11/25 Two Letters by K.A. (Karl Audrins)
No. of Entries:16; Correct 12
Winner: Warrren Allen. Congratulations! Calendar winner Julie Crowe.

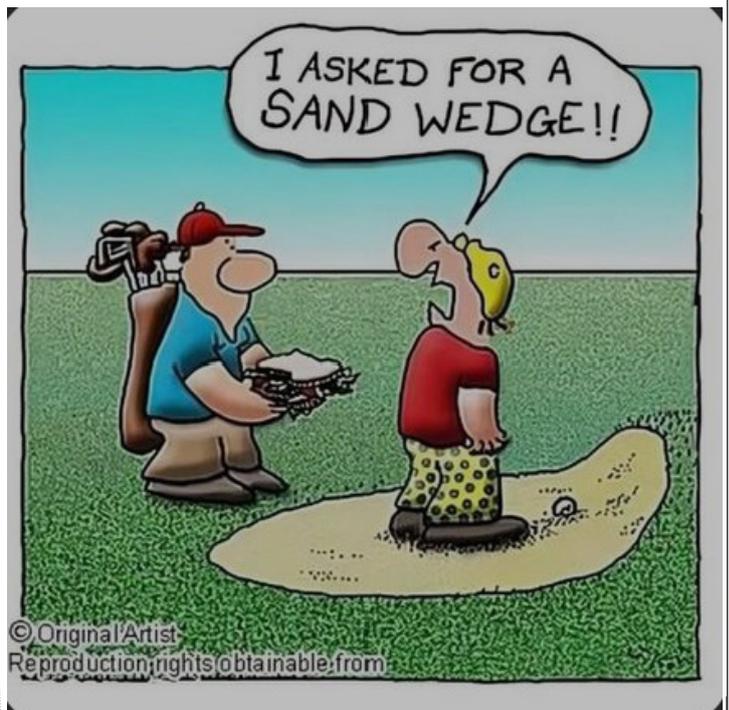
Results: 26. Allen W.Axelsen U. Crowe J. Francis K. Harper K. Leigh J. McClelland C. Millard A. Patterson. Rosendorff D. Siegman B. Skinner R. Taylor R. Wimbush R. **25.** Hagan B. McKemzie R.Meek D, Ryan W.

Answers: 1. al(i)e(n)s 2. (i)(n)board 3. cran(n)(i)es 4. def(i)a(n)ce 5. equ(i)(n)ity 6. fa(n)ta(i)l 7. (i)(n) grate 8. hero(i)(n) 9. imag(i)(n)es 10. (i)(n)junction 11. kroo(n)(i) 12. legat(i)o(n) 13. me(n)(i)al 14. nin(n)(i)es 15. (i)(n)oculate 16. pla(i)(n)t 17. (i)(n)quest 18. rout(i)(n)es 19.scale(n)(i) 20. ta(i)(n)ts 21. ur(i)(n) als 22. vers(i)o(n) 23. wa(n)(i)ng 24. xyloid(i)(n) 25. yog(i)(n)I 26. zebr(i)(n)as

Adjudicator's observations: No logorrhoea – thankfully there were few viable alternative answers. So thank you to all who submitted entries, and congratulations to the winner. Happy Festive Season to all.

Members' Feedback

- A fun solve, not too easy and not too hard. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Very clever, using all 26 letters of the alphabet. *Julie Crowe*
- Thanks for another great quiz. A couple of tricky ones. *Ken Francis*
- I'm not entirely sure I have this right. Anyway, here goes. *Kath Harper*
- Here is my attempt at your unusual quiz. Thank you for the challenge. *Julie Leigh*
- Good fun quiz. *Bob Hagan*
- Thanks for a fun but also challenging puzzle. *Claire McClelland*
- Amazing variety in the quizzes. This was fun. Thank you. *Ann Millard*
- Good fun. Last in K,X,Z. *William Ryan*
- In is out. *Betty Siegman*
- A surprisingly tough quiz. There was a fair bit of Googling. *Richard Skinner*
- I enjoyed doing your 'in' quiz, and thank you for the opportunity to pit my wits again. *Robyn Wimbush*



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November-6 2025 Cryptic by Robespierre (Ian McKenzie)

Entries received: 56 Correct: 47. Success rate: 84%.

Prizewinner: **Greg Jones. Congratulations! Calendar Winner Ulla Axelsen.**

Compiler's observations

The low number of entries suggests quite a few members found this a tough solve [though there was only one COLD CASE!]. All errors, however, were one-offs - apart from 2 submissions of DATA SITE [cf. DATA SETS, which is the only option shown in OneLook when you know all the intersecting letters]

Explanations - Across: 1,11 RUB, BE(R)ST AMP, 4 CD = case of COLD, 10 SOUND + IT in BE, 12 RE + EVE, 13 (IS SENT) in (RED)*, 14 (POTS TIP)<, 16 sEXPot, 19 CRAM<, 21 hidden, 24 B, LACKS POT, 25 homoph "chi rho", 26 G inside SURE, 27 CL(E)AN(S) + KIN, 28 (SAT in STEAD)<, 29 O in LUNGE. Down: 1 (C+RIP) in REST, 2 RUN into (ie inside) BETTE, 3 mEN + DUE, 5 OVERS + EE, 6 (DRIES)* round TEMP, 7 APT in ADS, 8 EXERT round P, 9 dd, 15 TH + ANKLES + So, 17 NETS< round RICK, 18 SCRO(o<>UN)GE, 20 C + (CA in TYPO*), 21 E + SEEM round brexiT, 22 ABED round (U+S) , 23 (tTRACTORs)*. ref. Bugs Bunny, 25 CON + DO

Solvers' Feedback

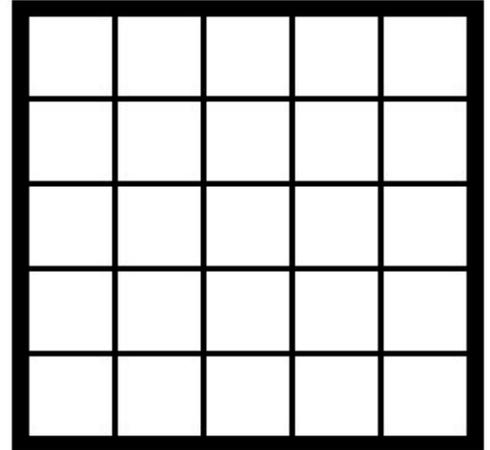
- Favourites BRUNETTE. REEVE. BLACKSPOT. Assuming I have 19 right. I'm not keen on "served up" as a reversal in an Across clue. [Yes, but it's nevertheless an obvious reversal indicator & the only one I could find that gives nice surface. Adj.] And re 21... Never! :-/ *The Void*
- Excellent puzzle with intriguingly misleading clues. eg CAIRO = CHI RHO. Voted COLD CASE COTM. *Roy Taylor*
- I really liked BRUNETTE and COLD CASE *Scott Goodman*
- Several impressive but tricky clues. Favourites DATASETS, OVERSEE. *Len Colgan*
- Very clever especially CAIRO SCROUNGE and MARC *Brian Symons*
- Some very clever misdirections. Very challenging but enjoyable all the same. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Really appreciated some of the clues here. esp REEVE, DISSENT, THANKLESS, STRICKEN and BLACK SPOT. *Michael Fitzgerald*
- A tough one indeed and required perseverance and patience to nibble away at the answers. I liked BLACK SPOT 24A (my COTM) and LOUNGE. *Mal Cockburn*
- So many clever clues. *Ken Francis*
- Lots of devious clues! Enjoyable puzzle. *Krittibas Dasgupta*

FRAZ WORD SQUARE November 1

(Solution on p 12)

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

- Bit of punishment behind separate sentences
- Done for \$1000 a place
- Lawrence of Arabia flying the choppers
- Love yawning
- University arranged pet's surprising victory

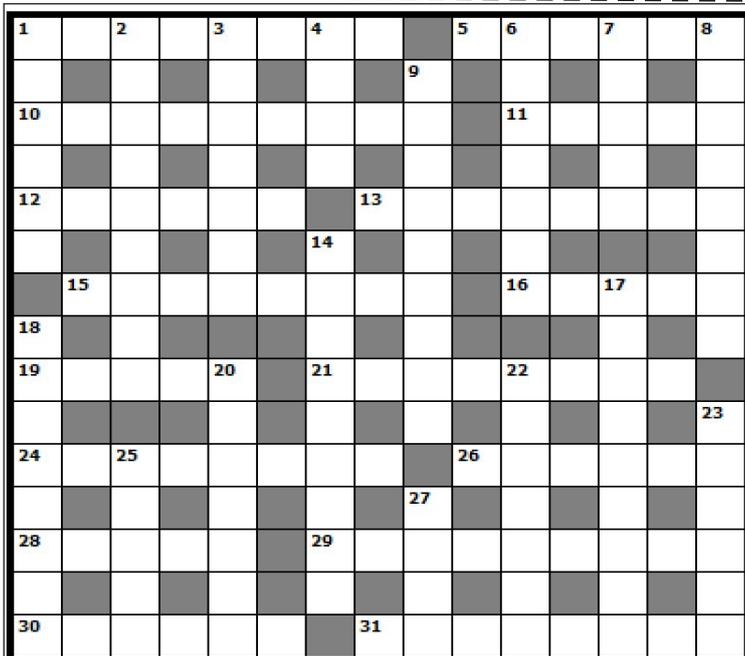
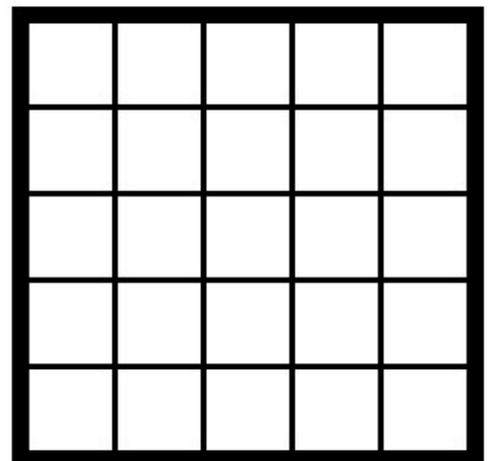


FRAZ WORD SQUARE November 2

(Solution on p 12)

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

- Stop running booth
- Thug dry by end of race
- What's this hot spot, love?
- A great party put to shame
- Speaker's spoken of the ears



November 7-2025 Cryptic by Manveru (Michael Kennedy)

Entries received 53; Correct; 41; Success rate 77%

Prizewinner: Ken Francis. Congratulations! Calendar winner Karl Audrins.

Compiler's observations

Well done to everyone who launched themselves into this tricky grid. As some of you correctly noted, the Odyssey was never the name of a space shuttle, and while no one erred here, the clue should have been defined. The most common error was 'noses about for 'pokes about', but only the latter fit the required anagram. There were a couple of 'resat' for 'resit answers', and a smattering of other single errors, but otherwise, solvers navigated the system successfully.

Explanations - Across: 9 D/IS/COVER/Y, **10** UN(P)IN, **11,20** CLUES/THE/PAST*, **12** M(ANOEUVRED)*, **13** E(CLAN*)VE, **15** OPENSUP* - OR, **17** SALVAGE/A/FEW*, **21** Hidden, **22** DI(P)T(Y)CH, **23** INN(O/C/E/N)CE, **25** Hidden, **27** UP<E/N/D, **28** C/INDETAIL*. **Down: 1** DO/SAY/YES* (minus A), **2** O/S/S/A, **3** A/BOOK/UPSET*, **4** CD, **5** DRY/ES/NO/M, **6** TUB/A, **7** UP/HOLST/E/R/Y, **8** E/N/CRYPT, **14** CHA(LLE>)NGE/R, **16** EX/A/S/PIRATED*(-ID)/E, **18** Island vanished?, **19** OP(T(IM)UM), **22** DIE/TE/R, **24** Hidden, **26** in(SECT).

Solvers' Feedback

From ACCOLADE, supplemented by the compiler if mailed comments

- Revised solution herewith: while UNPEN fitted the definition better to my eye. UNPIN is generated directly by the wordplay. *Ian Mckenzie*
- Favourite RESIT. *The Void*
- Odyssey is the odd one out. being a module rather than a shuttle. *Roy Taylor*
- DIETER is very clever - COTM *Scott Goodman*
- When I saw ENDEAVOUR I was thinking MORSE. but ATLANTIS put me on the right track. Loved the anagram for LAW OF AVERAGES. *Betty Siegman*
- Wonderful especially DIETER and DELETE *Brian Symons*
- That was a real challenger. but with a bit of ENTERPRISE I finally got there (I hope). *Ulla Axelsen*
- Space Shuttles abound. Thanks! *Ann Millard*
- Some of these became easy once the theme was spotted. but I liked 7. 13. 23. both 22s and 26. Last to go in was 4. *Michael Fitzgerald*
- It still took me a while to see the theme. even though quite clearly stated in the clues! Space shuttles. Discovery. Odyssey. Endeavour. Challenger and Atlantis. *Julie Crowe*
- Cottoned onto the space shuttle theme fairly quickly and made my list of potential answers to find a home. I particularly liked 22D FASTER. *Mal Cockburn*
- Cottoned onto the space shuttle theme fairly quickly and made my list of potential answers to find a home. I particularly liked FASTER. *Mal Cockburn*
- Space shuttles galore! *Kath Harper*
- Found 5 space shuttles. *Maureen Blake*
- Tough one. filled in with a wing and a prayer. Slot 7 for a reason! Liked DELETE and DIETER *Toby Mcleay*
- Interesting with some difficult clues. *Robyn Wimbush*
- A true challenger! *Robyn Mckenzie,*

Feedback on November Slot 4 - continued from page 14

- That was tricky. Answers could be in several places. *Tony Dobe*
- I note that there is a second solution that fits all of the correct answers into the grid. I changed my submission from that second solution to the one favoured by the answer template. *Ken Francis*
- A great AJ as usual, whichever way you put the words. *Hilary Cromer*
- Enjoyed KNOT and SEEDY. *Ron Jarman*
- A mix of great clues such as KNOT, MATINEES and puzzling clues such as DESTROY and OCKER. *Lynn Jarman*

November 5: The Void

- PALADINS clue was more suggestive of palatine. I liked ATHENS clue. *Roy Taylor*
- I spotted ARTEMIS and APOLLO, did I miss any other Greek references? *Julie Leigh*
- I appreciated 9ac and 18dn. Took a while to find Mabel, despite obvious answer. *Len Colgan*

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

Solution November Slot 7

Solution FRAZ WORD SQUARE Dec 1

H	T	E	E	T
T	E	S	P	U
E	S	R	A	P
E	P	A	G	A
T	U	P	A	K

O	L	L	E	H
L	L	A	T	S
L	A	R	A	A
E	T	U	R	B
H	S	A	B	A

Feedback - continued on page 13

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

Explanations for clues in October 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.

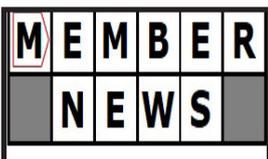
Slot 1 KB, 2 anag, 4 anag, 8 USE in MODE + gEaR, 14 LEO + PARD, 16 ORANGE + bUTANE, 17 NATTER + JACK, 18 KINK + A+J+O+U, 20 RAN< + WHALE, 21 cd, 22 WE(L<>R)SH*, 24 GOAT, 25 RIGHT + WHALE, 26 Homoph "you", 28 Cd (E land), 30 YAP + OK, 34 Cd Ref Kipling, 35 TAR<.
Slot 2 Lexi Conner. Across: 1 JUMPS + TARTS, 6 keads, 9 B(ART)ENDER, 10 WaHINE, 11 HONOR + ARIA, 12 nordIC EDifices, 14 adumBRATED, 15 investigatoR AT IOc, 17 (PHYCISIST-(IS+IT))* , 19 anag, 21 AC(R)ID, 23 diABETes, 25 AS + PERSI(a<>O)N, 27 RE + LAX, 28 (A GUAM TALE)*, 29 MEET<, 30 (BEEN FORCED)*. Down: 1 JOBS + HARING, 2 MARINA + TED, 3 (REASSERTED - art)*, 4 AND + IRONS, 5 roboT ARM Activated, 7 crumbs + LICE, 8 homoph "dear", 10 heads, 13 GOLDEN + CALF, 16 TERM + TINEA*, 18 COM + PLAIN, 20 EXALT*, 21 AIR + HEAD, 22 (IN A FOG)*, 24 BELIEF, 26 (WROTE IN - one)*.
Slot 3 Jesso. Across: 10 EM + PI + RICH, 11 ACT in LOSE, 12 anag, 14 SO + UPS + POON, 15 anag, 17 CAT + ER, 18 EL + FIN, 20 HI + RUN + DINE, 22 OVER + RULES, 25 YOU THInk, 26 anag, 27 KI in LANE + R, 29 HAMMER + T +(SONG)*. Down: 2 RE + P + L + IC + A, 3 ORA*, 4 dd, 5 ILL + HUM + O + UR, 7 dd, 8 GREY + NURSES + HARK, 9 dd/cd, 13 anag, 16 (PALEOLITHIC - TIP)*, 17 CAN + DairY, 19 (IF< + MODE<) round F, 21 homoph "in your ring", 23 REC + CE, 24 S + A + LAD, 28 anag.
Slot 4 Valkyrie. A (AXES)*+QUALITY, B (WEIRD BLEED)* &lit, C sChOoL+LAB+ORATE, D DECOY with C<>STR, E bEaT sUbDuEd, F F+I+Z+Z, G G(LADI)*ATOR, H HIS+TORY, I D<>V in INVENTS, J (NAMES+JADE)*, K dd, L hidden<, M MAT+IN+E+E, N Spooner "tunas", O dOCKER, P cd/dd, Q dd, R (T+I+C+U) in RELATE, S Homoph "CD", T (LIAR+T)<+BLAZE+R, U coUNTy + RAVE + L, V VIC(RIOT)*E + S, W WINDS+TOR+M, X X + (OX DEER)*, Y YA(C)K, Z Z+ITS.
Slot 5 The Void. Across: 1 SCREE+N, 5 P.S. round sALADIN, 9 homoph "Man U's crypt", 10 PLUMp, 11 ROGUEERECTING*, 12 homoph. "tree, tees", 14 EARLY by N. & cd re COME(t) nearly, 16 SAT* around HEN, 18 ASTI in PLCS, 20 GLADAEROPLANE*, 23 mEeTsNeAr, 24 I'M + MO + [a]BILITY, 27 HELL+E[picurea]N+I+C, 28 hidden. Down: 2 DD, 3 CLUE*+(I.E. about DAT), 4 H in NICE, 5 heads, 6 IHAILAUNT*, 7 DE-POT, 8 REALNUT*, 13 ITSRONNIE*, 15 AU+TOP+I+LOT, 17 EARTH* in ThE, 18 POLE + MIC, 19 manCHESTER, 21 G+RAIL, 22 MABEL "tucks in" the M & L ref "Mack and Mabel" musical.

Vale Nea Storey

It was with profound sadness that we learned of the death of our long time enthusiastic member Nea Storey. As Fortuna 48 (a look back to her ABC Argonaut Club days) she compiled many devious quizzes and crosswords. Latterly, with her sister Anne Simons as Both Sides (a reference to their maiden name), she specialised in alphanumeric jigsaws, which gained much favour with our members. She will be greatly missed and the Club sends our deepest condolences to her family.

Feedback on November Slot 5 - continued from page 12

- A good challenge. Had no idea who the Red Devil or Mack were. Thirteen apostrophes in one puzzle must be a record :) *Ulla Axelsen*
- I'm afraid that I don't know what a 'sun & moon' crossword is, and that I may have missed something as a result. But a nice mix of clues. *Michael Fitzgerald*
- I had to look very closely to see the Heavenly Twins. *Kath Harper*
- I'm not sure about NEARLY but I'm limited in answers. Hopefully I'm right and the explanation will be provided. Do I detect ARTEMIS as a nina? *Mal Cockburn*
- Can someone please explain NEARLY to me? ["Come" in the mock title is NEARLY "comet" - Adj] *Richard Skinner*
- The two gods duly noted. *Toby McLeay*
- Fun puzzle! *Krittibas Dasgupta*
- Ye gods! There's ARTEMIS and APOLLO. *David Parsons*



Donations to the Prize Fund Many thanks for their generous donations to the Prize fund to Warren Allen, Jeremy Barnes, Keith Bettles, Len Colgan, Fay Copland, Wendy Cornish, Cheryl Gleeson, Robert Hagen, Julie Leigh, Andrew Miles, Ann Millard, Barbara Morris, Sonia Roulston, Brian Symons, Roy Taylor, Mark Woolston. Many thanks: the donations are much appreciated.

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.

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.

November 1: KB (Ken Behrens)

- We apologise for the unintended difficulty of some of the clues - it was really meant to be fun so are pleased with the appreciation shown below, and that a goodly proportion solved it correctly. In particular the entry of solutions into the grid upwards and backwards was not easy in this type of puzzle. *KB*
- Quite difficult for a Slot 1? Nice to have something different, nevertheless. *Ann Millard*
- Slot 1 was fun, but took as long as the next 3 slots. And entering in Accolade!! *Roy Taylor*
- Not at all sure about 24, I found TAHR, THAR and TEHR, settled for TAHR with fingers crossed [All accepted KB] . Loved 28, ELAND, my COTM. *Betty Siegman*
- I needed to put a letter in the last box in order to be able to send this so decided to make it an s although the clue didn't have this number of letters. Not easy to type in, but fun to do. *Robyn McKenzie*
- Originally only got 2 answers, then the penny dropped and all went a bit more smoothly. An interesting but challenging slot 1. *Ulla Axelsen*
- All Creatures Great and Small - including a couple of previously unknown species. *Kath Harper*
- I didn't know PORCUPINE GRASSs or DINGO = cheat. Are Canberrans always this tricky? *Tony Dobebe*
- The hardest part was submitting it! So clever and interesting ... *Robyn Wimbush*
- This took nearly as long to fill in as to solve ... but fun nevertheless. *Maureen Blake*
- A very challenging but interesting puzzle. *Laurence Kennedy*
- UNICORN! *Richard Skinner*
- Some quite challenging - couldn't work out the PORCUPINE until last. *Michael Fitzgerald*
- That was a tricky starter! Some interesting words in there. I assume either THAR or TAHR would be acceptable. *Julie Crowe*
- Without a spellchecker, I'm back to manually checking my answers and this is a puzzle that needs careful checking. Hopefully, I've done it right. *Mal Cockburn*
- Liked ELAND. *Toby McLeay*
- A nice change in puzzle type, I hope that I got it all correct and will earn a 'well done Ken'. *Ken Francis*
- Fun learning new animals but not much fun transposing answers to Accolade at snail pace. *Lynn Jarman*

November 2: Lexi Conner (Ron Shapiro)

- Favourites TARMAC, FANGIO. *The Void*
- I liked WHINE, MARINATED. *Len Colgan*
- Good, straight-forward clues, most enjoyable. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Liked the clue for SLICE. *Joan Smith*
- No clue on COMPLAIN, great anagram for CORNED BEEF. *Chris Thomas*
- GOLDEN CALF gave me a laugh. Resplendent pun! *Sandy Lim*
- Particularly enjoyed ABET and ASPERSION, I think the term for alcohol server is fairly universal (i.e. the BARTENDER clue would have been fair without 'NY'). *Michael Fitzgerald*
- I can't parse MARINATED but there's aren't any

options for the answer. Cross fingers and I'm very interested in the wordplay. Solid puzzle all round. *Mal Cockburn*

- As always from Lexi - well-clued, interesting and challenging. *Lynn Jarman*

November 3: Jesso (Noel Jessop)

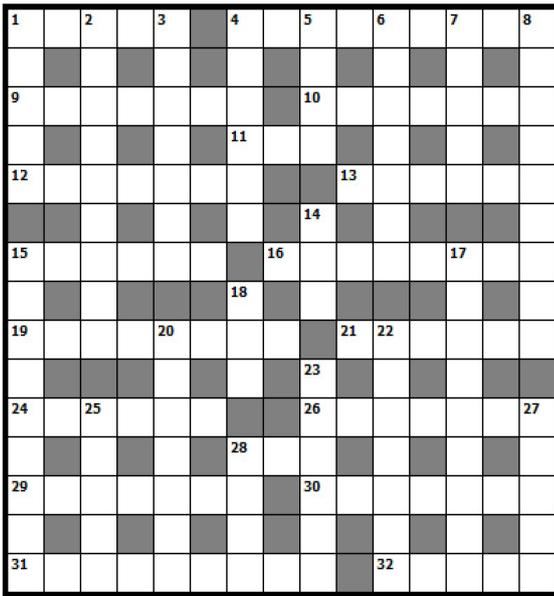
- Favourite HIRUNDINE. *The Void*
- Some interesting words. Thank you. *Ann Millard*
- A good challenge. Love the word ECHOLALIA, so applicable to so many politicians. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Enjoyable to solve - and educational too. I learned about inductance, lakes and swallows. *Kath Harper*
- Enjoyable, clued very fairly. Is 'hum' in 5dn oo much of an Anglicism for an Australian puzzle (though would be familiar to solvers). *Michael Fitzgerald*
- I enjoyed solving this one. Honest clues. *Mal Cockburn*
- Enjoyable grid. A few unfamiliar words but easily gettable from the wordplay. *Krittibas Dasgupta*
- New word for me at 20ac HIRUNDINE. *Kathryn Forward*
- Liked GREY NURSE SHARK and ARMOUR-PIERCING. *Toby McLeay*
- A couple of words that I have not come across before. Particularly liked ECHOLALIA, a good description of a lot of the political decisions being made worldwide. *Ken Francis*
- Did anyone else notice that 4D appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald cryptic on 22 October? *Warren Allen*
- Those longer answers are such a help with the shorter answers. An interestin mix of clues. *Lynn Jarman*

November 4: Valkyrie (Ulla Axelsen)

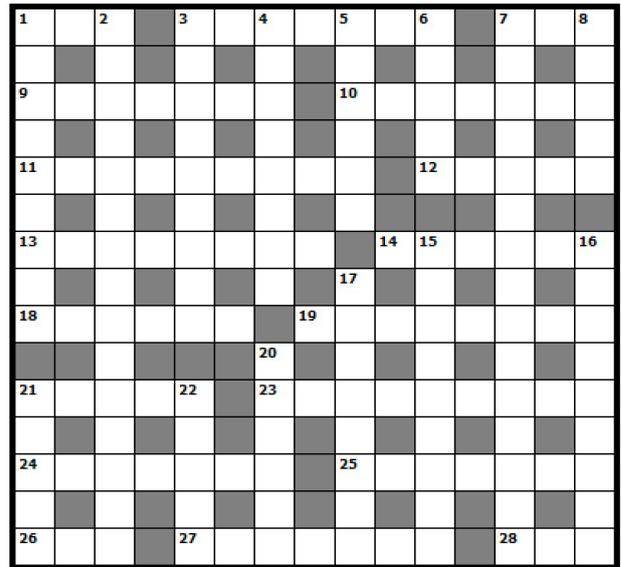
- Messiest solving printout ever! Loved it. *William Ryan*
- SEEDI? I had not heard of this modern device to store old music and game CDs. *Roy Taylor*
- Have I done something wrong in the placement as they haven't appeared in alphabetical order? *Julie Leigh*
- Frustratingly, I wasted time finding there were at least two options for placing every answer. Then I noticed the Across and Down grid layouts were identical. We should try to avoid this in an AJ, or pre-warn. *Len Colgan*
- Is it a fluke or absolute genius that there are 2 solutions for this, the other being with COLLABORATE being vertical rather than horizontal? Wonderful. Thanks, Ulla. *Ann Millard*
- A great AJ as usual. *Hilary Cromer*
- I really liked PALINDROME and NEUTERS. *Scott Goodman*
- My first encounter with this format but eventually worked out a strategy, last to go in was the jacket. *Michael Fitzgerald*
- The usual satisfying AJ by Ulla. Thank you. *Robyn Wimbush*
- I didn't have too many issues solving this puzzle. The SEEDY clue had merit. *Mal Cockburn*
- Since the grid is symmetrical along its main diagonal, this puzzle can be flipped along that diagonal and still fit the grid. After entering my solution into Accolade, I realized that the letter assignments (and word spacing) suggested I had to do it the other way instead. *Fraser Simpson*

continued on page 12

December Slot 1 Name.....

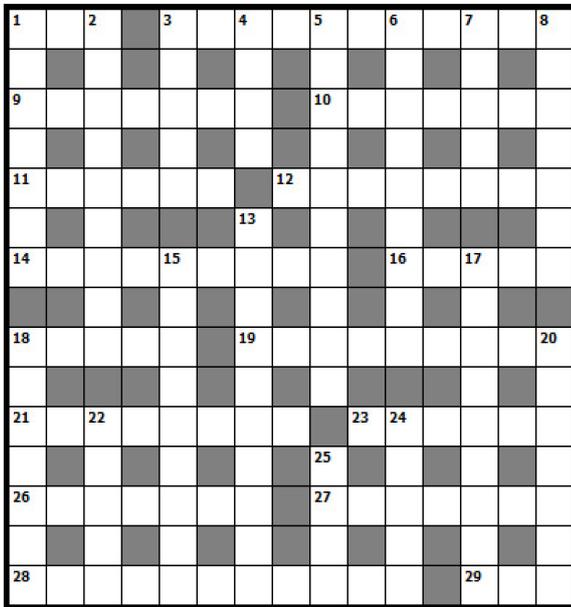


December SLOT 2

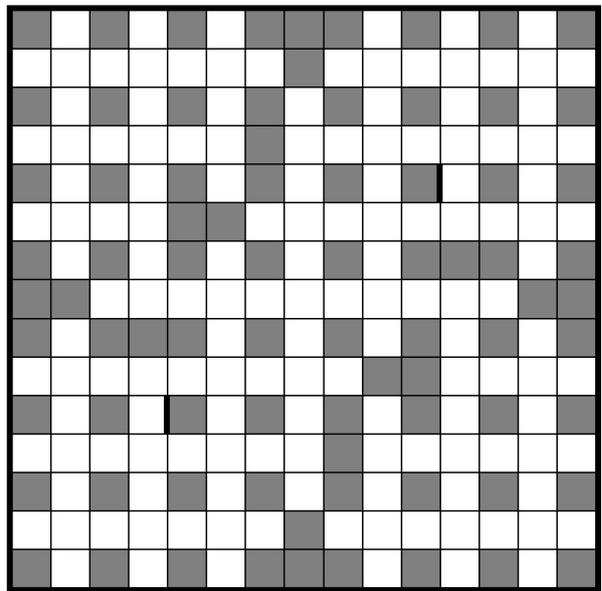


Clue of the Month

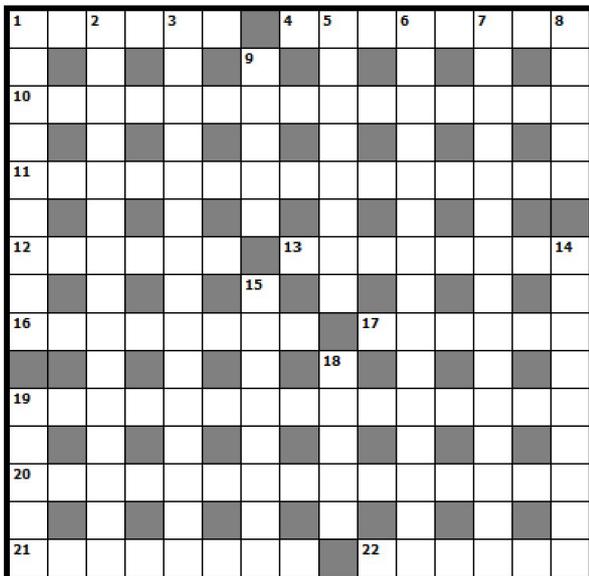
December SLOT 3



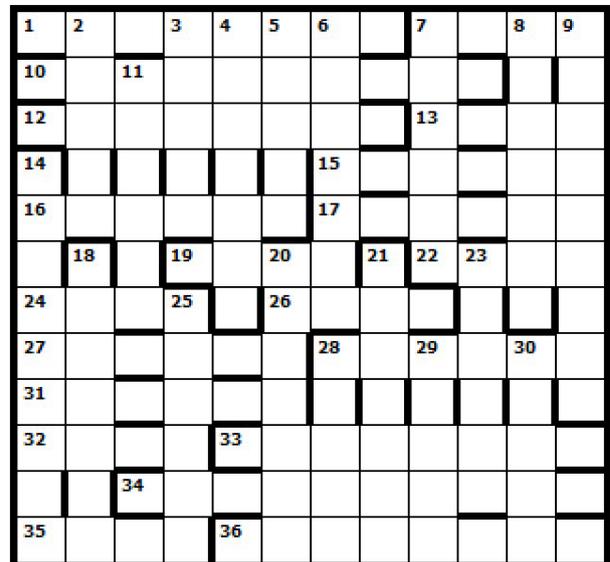
December SLOT 4



December SLOT 5



December SLOT 6



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

THE AUSTRALIAN CROSSWORD



THE AUSTRALIAN CROSSWORD CLUB Subscription renewal for 2026

To: The Secretary/Treasurer, ACC, 48 Shakespeare Street, Comet Qld 4702

- Subscription to ACC for 2026 @ \$35 each (email only*) \$35
Please note that we are no longer seeking donations to the prize fund. However, any additional contribution you may wish to make will be gratefully received and acknowledged and will assist in defraying expenses and deferring any increase in subscriptions

TOTAL \$

Herewith my cheque/money order (payable to ACC) for \$.

Name

Address Phone:

E-mail address: _____

**Note that special arrangements can be made for existing members who are unable to print copies: Please contact the Secretary/Treasurer.*



Information for Members renewing for 2026

- It's time to ask you again for subscriptions for 2026. We're pleased that we are able to keep the subscription down to the familiar \$35 for the year. The following information will help you to renew your membership

The ACC website

- The website design enables you to renew online and provide information for our records. We regret that you will need to make your payment separately - direct transfer to our bank account is our preferred option, please.

Mail

- If you use the form above, please include your address, email and contact details so that we can keep our records up-to-date.

Gift memberships

- You may make a gift of membership to any person at the normal price of \$35, perhaps to give the perfect Christmas present that will be remembered and treasured for the rest of the year!

Donations to the ACC Prize Fund

- The Executive Committee has set membership costs and prizes at a level that should ensure that we remain solvent throughout 2026 without the need to seek donations. However, if you do wish to donate to the Club your generosity will be much appreciated and acknowledged.

Payment options:

- By direct transfer to our bank account or by cheque or money order payable to the ACC.
- Please send cheques/money orders to Jenny Wenham, 48 Shakespeare Street, Comet Qld 4702 with the form above. With many banks phasing out cheques, a money order may be the best option. If you are having difficulty paying by any of the available methods, please contact the Secretary at jenny@wenham.net.au to arrange payment by an alternative method.
- If making a direct transfer, please ensure the "notes" field on your transfer includes your name. Also, if you are paying more than just membership, please add a simple code to indicate how we should allocate the money. For example, a renewal plus a \$50 donation, may read "J. Citizen + \$50D" or a renewal plus gift "J Citizen and gift J Smith \$70".
- Amount payable to: ANZ Bank; BSB: 013259
- A/c name: The Australian Crossword Club A/c No: 490917945
- We regret that renewal online via PayPal is no longer available.
- Overseas members who do not have an Australian bank account should please contact the Secretary at jenny@wenham.net.au to arrange payment by an alternative method.

Here's looking forward to a great new year of CrOZworld!

The Executive Committee