



No 406 February 2024



www.crosswordclub.org



The meanings of words are NOT in the words; they are in US. SI Hayakawa, 1939, *Language in Thought and Action*. Ch 18.

GRIDATORIAL

Welcome to our long-standing and to our new members. The extent of feedback on the January puzzles is tribute to the amount of work put in by our voluntary compilers to provide us with our monthly challenges and enjoyment, and the pleasure experienced. A special "thank you" also to those who contribute in their own ways to the successful production of our monthly magazine. Just like a duck paddling, there's a lot going on under the surface!

We're pleased this month to bring you a half and half by KA that we hope will ease experienced and new solvers into the following puzzles and quiz. Penobscot presents a plethora of his inimitable cryptic definitions in slot 2. Australiana features strongly in P-brane's slot 3 puzzle, but we can assure you that all have found their way into Macquarie. A classic AJ from Crowsman contains some rarely-encountered words to give spice to the challenge of providing interesting solutions and clues to the J, X, Y, Z and other words. Hot and Cold have taken one of Crowsman's speciality puzzles and, we hope, have provided a fitting challenge in the clues in slot 5.

A themed puzzle from Nigrum Cattus occupies slot 6 and we are pleased to feature one of Crowsman's oldies and goodies in his corner at slot 7. The ever-reliable Valkyrie has devised a fun quiz, which may (or possibly may not) provide relief from the head-scratching caused by some recent tricky quizzes.

Happy solving to you all

Ian

FROM THE ADJUDICATOR

What a great way to welcome 2024 with the usual set of excellent puzzles plus bonus crosswords and quiz. At this time of year I was going to talk about relaxing in the Queensland sunshine but flooding rain and bushfires seem to be affecting us all. Please take care and have a safe new year. Now for the dots . . .

Slot 1: A do-able half and half intro to the month from Valkyrie. I learnt that VIE = BID here. Very few errors to mention.

Slot 2: Great to welcome a new setter. CT may need to work on his 'starters' though. Most worked out that the anagram fodder in 3dn led to an incorrect spelling but CHAUVANISTIC was accepted. Most dots were lost by OVERTHROWING (8) and UPPERLIMIT (6). Several had trouble in spelling MISOGYNIST.

Slot 3: I usually find St Jude's puzzles a challenge and this was no exception. Some perhaps with purer sensibilities didn't see 'bare-breasted tramp' = 'topless harlot', so losing 9 dots alas. Others were mainly one-offs.

Slot 4: A more traditional AJ grid with a Nina to boot by Manveru. I didn't think the V clue was a problem with 'Elect' the def and 'ban' having its vowels transposed, but either VOTE or VETO was accepted. Few errors otherwise.

Slot 5: Crowsman has given us a timely greeting in the 'dropped letters'. Poor GLADYS suffered here with GLADES (10) sort of meeting the subsidiary word requirement (GLADY) but not providing the dropped S needed for Christmas. Other valiant attempts were UNFOILED (for UNCOILED) and WEIGHT (for HEIGHT).

COTM: Despite the unfortunate mistake our new setter can take heart in the fact that slot 2 received almost half of the total votes for COTM. I haven't seen such a spread of votes before with the top scorers receiving 2 votes each. The winners were Slot 2: BASKET CASE, COINCIDENTAL, RENT, TOTE, Slot 4: PREFIX. Congrats to all setters. **Tony Dobebe**

LEADING FIGURES

Puzzle No.	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Entries received	78	79	77	77	57	368
Correct entries	68	55	57	71	43	294
Success rate (%)	87	70	74	92	75	80
Prizewinners	Stephen Matthews	Jenny Wenham	Cheryl Wilcox	Rob Milton	Larry Kennedy	from 86 members

Prizewinner: November Slots 1-5 correct: Claire Batum. Congratulations!

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January 2024 Slot 1

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

January 2024 Slot 2

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

January 2024 Slot 3

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

January 2024 Slot 4

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

January 2024 Slot 5

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

January 2024 Slot 6

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

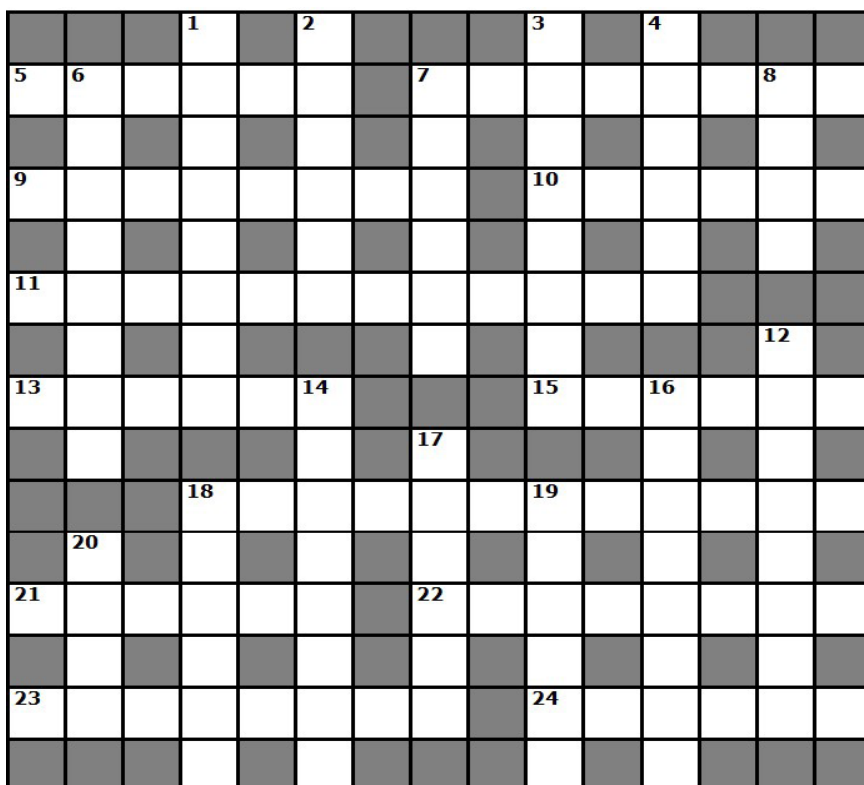
MEMBERS' RESULTS FOR January 2024 Slots 1 to 7

MEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	MEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	MEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Abbott P.	•	•				•		Grainger D.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Milton R.				•			
Allen W.	•	•		•	•			Hagan R.	•			•		•		Moline R.	•		•	•	•	•	•
Anderson C.	•	•	•	•	•			Harper K.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Parsons D.		•	•	•	•	•	•
Audrins K.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Hearn R.	•	•		•				Patterson A.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Axelsen U.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Heyes N.				•				Pikler M.	•	•		•	•	•	
Barbour J.	•		•	•	•		•	Holmick P.	•	•						Pinder S.	•			•			
Barnes J.	•	•	•					Howat S.	•	•	•	•		•	•	Procter D.		•	•	•		•	•
Batum C.	•	•	•	•	•	•		Jarman L.	•		•	•				Rosendorff D.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Bettles K.	•	•	•		•	•		Jarman R.	•	•	•	•				Roulston S.	•	•	•	•	•		
Blake M.	•	•	•	•	•	•		Jones G.	•		•	•	•	•	•	Ryan W.	•	•	•	•			
Callan K.				•				Kennedy L.	•		•	•	•	•		Shield A.	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Carroll L.	•	•	•	•	•		•	Kennedy M.			•					Siegman B.	•		•	•			
Cockburn B.	•	•	•		•	•	•	Lankshear J.				•	•			Simons A.	•			•	•		•
Cockburn M.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Lee C.	•			•		•	•	Simpson F.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Cole G.			•	•				Leigh J.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Skinner R.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Colgan L.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Lloyd G.	•	•						Storey N.	•	•	•	•			•
Coote P.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Mackay-Sim C.	•	•		•				Symons B.	•	•	•	•	•		
Coulton L.	•		•	•				Madden J.		•	•	•				Taylor R.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Cromer H.	•		•	•				Martin A.	•	•	•	•				Thomas C.		•					
Crowe J.	•		•	•	•	•	•	Mason I.	•							Thompson I.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Davis K.	•	•	•	•		•	•	Matthews S.	•	•	•	•				Veress M.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Dobele T.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	McClelland C.		•	•	•		•		Wenham J.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Ducker R.	•		•	•	•	•	•	McKenzie I.		•	•	•	•	•	•	Wilcox C.	•		•	•			
Eaton L.				•				McKenzie R.	•	•	•	•	•	•		Williams K.	•	•					
Evans J.		•	•	•		•		McLeay T.	•							Wimbush R.	•	•		•	•	•	
Ferguson J.				•		•		Meek A.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Wood J.	•				•	•	
Garner P.	•			•				Miles A.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Woolston M.	•	•	•	•			
Glissan B.	•		•					Millard A.	•	•		•	•	•	•								

Slot 1

Half and
Half
by
KA

Prize
\$50



Across

- 5 Electrical unit (6)
7 Snacks (8)
9 Learning (8)
10 Seed plant (6)
11 Hot Australian wind (12)
13 Value (6)
15 Capture (6)
18 Insulator (6,6)
21 Recover (6)
22 Hourglass? (3-5)
23 Florid (8)
24 Regular (6)

Down

- 1 Debar crazy, revolutionary American transvestite (8)
2 Contradict feminine doctrine (6)
3 Adjust ropes holding ex-dictator in the penal settlement (8)
4 Secure sub after hiding returned violator (6)
6 Driver finds old hill in fog (8)
7 Feel sorry for river bird (6)
8 Book man with energy (4)
12 Record woman holding me and Australian insect (8)
14 Doctor with vase almost full is unhappy (8)
16 The dog at the track is mine (8)
17 Anonymous American woman is overseas (6)
18 Unchanging noise (6)
19 Concealing a bad defeat (6)
20 List for people at University (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: Joan Smith joniesmi@yahoo.com.au

or mail to 4 Morley Avenue, Rosebery NSW 2018

Slot 6: Kay Williams - email ianw@webone.com.au

or mail to 12 Lindrum Crescent Holt ACT 2615

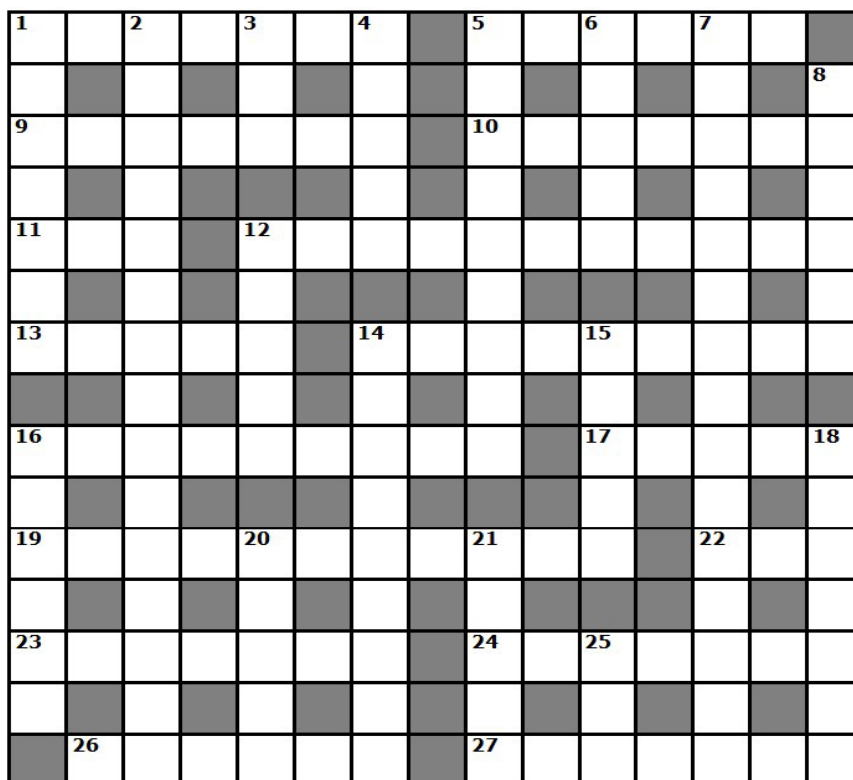
Slot 7: Len Colgan - email to Len.Colgan@unisa.edu.au

or mail to 1 Ailsa Avenue, Warradale, SA 5046

Closing mail date for all puzzles is 23 February 2023.

BLANK
GRIDS
PAGE 12

Slot 2

Cryptic
by
PenobscotPrize
\$50

Across

- 1 Hippy gets a bit of a kick? (7)
- 5 Back to these to start from scratch (6)
- 9 Indulges audience with rare zoological specimens (7)
- 10 Army officer sounds a bit of a nut (7)
- 11 Just like this part of classical language (3)
- 12 Rousing speeches in Washington you can set your watch by (11)
- 13 Point to a fungal infection (5)
- 14 Dodgy PM has orgy on muscular apparatus (9)
- 16,17 Aid to countryman who's not too well? (9)
- 17 see 16 (5)
- 19 Baffle speaker given to 12 (5,6)
- 22 Revolutionary among the marchers (3)
- 23 Servants taking back note to composer (7)
- 24 Drenches one doctor regrets (7)
- 26 Close and close times two (6)
- 27 You rumoured to be best dressed! (5,2)

Down

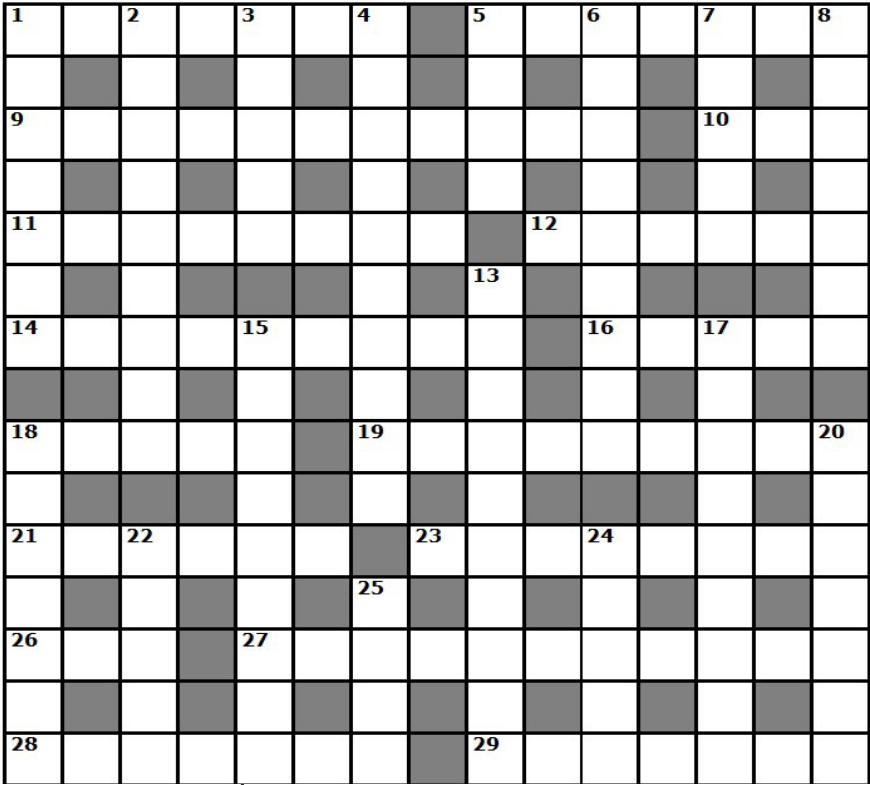
- 1 Sediment is found back in the base (7)
- 2 Having negative outcome doesn't matter! (2,2,11)
- 3 Leo struggles for Iberian approval (3)
- 4 Sense to try before you buy (5)
- 5 Second drivers in the boonies (9)
- 6 Old Attic lawyer almost says goodbye (5)
- 7 Disregard for legal proceedings. Racketeers don't think much of playing field (8,2,5)
- 8 Trumpet's explosive sounds (6)
- 12 Chop from novice wearing belt (5)
- 14 Colonial lady of note. On the money, that is (4,5)
- 15 Expert in limo is fast driver! (5)
- 16 Seedy open order! (6)
- 18 Mother Brown's celebration? (5-2)
- 20 Safe for a saintly fellow (5)
- 21 Like Taffy with taking ways (5)
- 25 Place where learned friends can work and relax (3)

General Feedback for January

- Thank you very much for my Slot 5 prize last month. *Alison Shield*
- We are so fortunate to have this Crossword Club with quality setters; and those who are working behind the scenes. Thank you; all!! Happy New Year for 2024! *Ann Millard*
- Looking forward to another puzzling year with all you wonderful people. Happy 2024 to everyone. *Robyn Wimbush*
- New year + new puzzles (and new compiler) = a whole new batch of enjoyment. Thank you to all who contribute so much. *Kath Harper*
- I would like to thank the Club for my prize in December's entries. It certainly encourages me to continue submitting my entries and I look forward to a fun 2024. *Mal Cockburn*
- A great start to the New Year. *Laurence Kennedy*
- Thank you for another year of looking forward to these puzzles. I am finding them harder as i get older but still enjoy trying. *Norma Heyes*
- This month ARIES cropped up twice as parts of solutions. *Peter Holmick*
- Thank you to everyone who contributed during 2023 and to those who contributed cerebral distractions for January. *Lynn Jarman*

Slot 3

Cryptic
by
P-brane



Across

- 1 Big rooster on grid giving impressive exhibition leads to specy skid (7)
- 5 Spooner has all the trappings except a large breadbasket (4,3)
- 9 Caste member like one with an on-line doctor's appointment? (11)
- 10 Charge drone after last bomb dispatched by force (3)
- 11 Emboss with the German mark (3-5)
- 12 Just sufficient malting grain left to exchange with Europe (6)
- 14 Heard Australian bounder engages in sex with co-habitants (9)
- 16 Herd communicated lost capital to be indebted (5)
- 18 Hoicks with clumsy left fist (5)
- 19 Done with road trip in cruising gear (9)
- 21 Simple look over island lake (6)
- 23 I design, he plots line on a map perhaps (8)
- 26 Rage after country loses territory (3)
- 27 Willy-willy male stared at your uncle (8,3)
- 28 Deep regret about telegraphic encryption (7)
- 29 Compositor's output a kind of collection (7)

Down

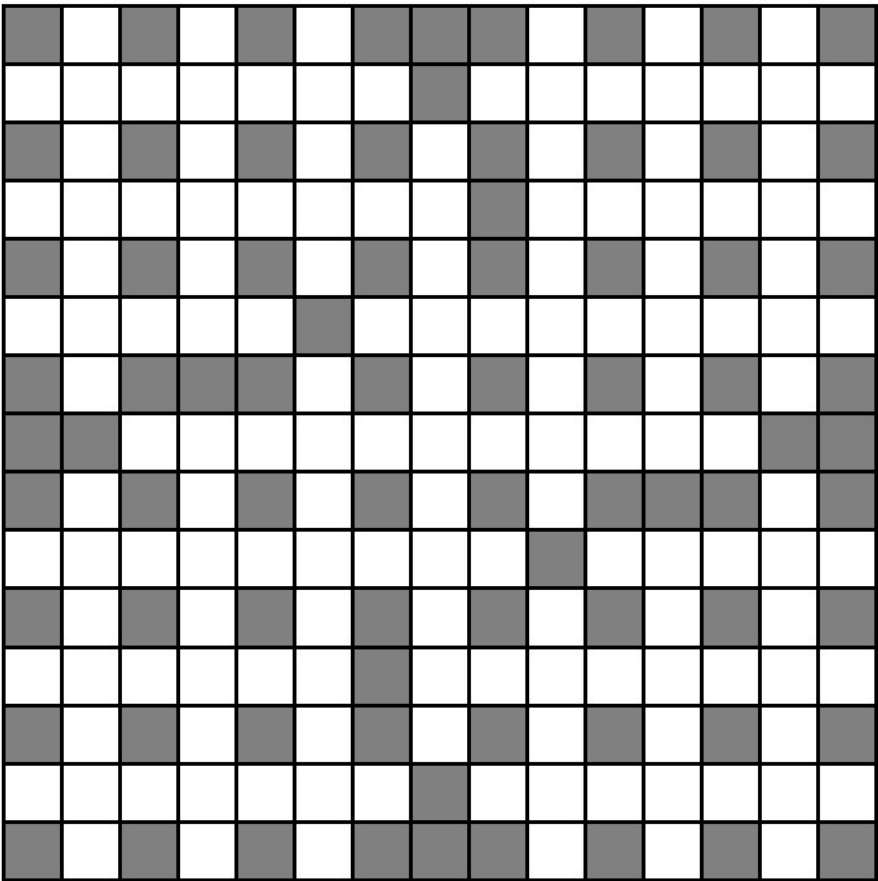
- 1 Rock university into being more confident (7)
- 2 Impromptu word perhaps to those waiting at an abattoir? (2,3,4)
- 3 Drawn good relative (5)
- 4 The digging up of exotic human mutation lacking carbon (10)
- 5 Cove concealing Bishop's pet project (4)
- 6 Looker cried out loud when being stared at (9)
- 7 Fishing equipment said to be used erroneously (5)
- 8 Phuket resident late, reportedly, to have fabric stain fixed (3-4)
- 13 Judgement to give approval incorporating reorganised mess (10)
- 15 Bathurst machine perhaps with power over short sprint up-hill (6,3)
- 17 Nile's sacred bin chicken? (5,4)
- 18 Centre it following raising fragment higher (7)
- 20 Former routine I substitute for a show (7)
- 22 Whip the best (5)
- 24 Before ousting present leaders, get ready for cutting job (3-2)
- 25 Shellac neatly to hide spots (4)

Slot 4

AJ
by
Crowsman



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



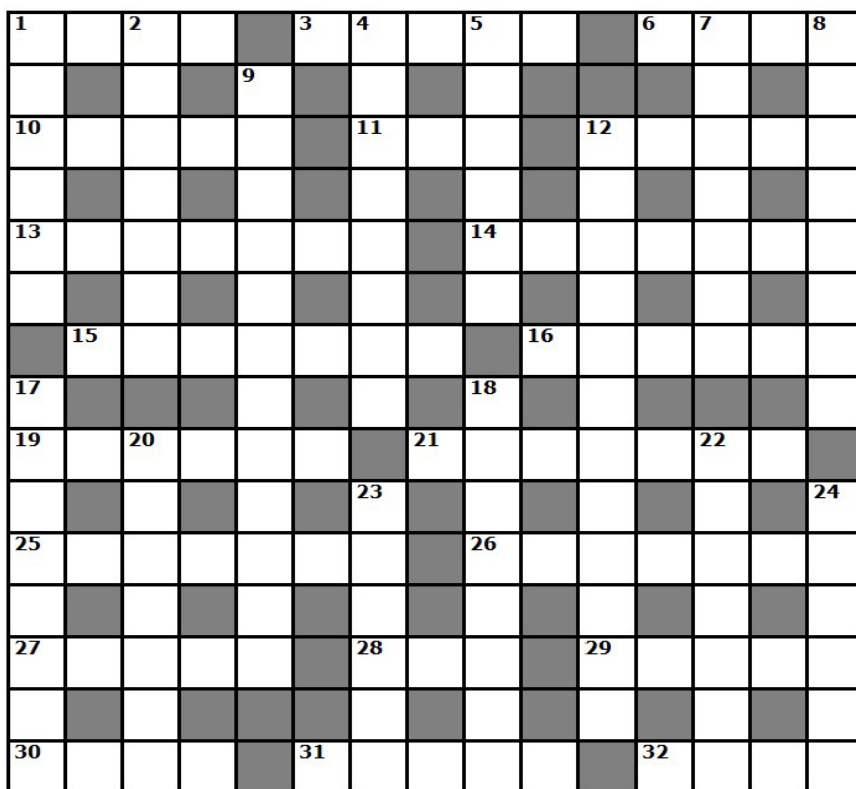
- A** A beam on a ship (6)
- B** Made flowers appear in garden (7)
- C** Panama port and canal enabling passage of food (5)
- D** Refused back in, breaking agreement (6)
- E** Self-gratifying experiences had during peak turnover (3-5)
- F** Photographer's lights raise expressions of disgust amongst tarts (9)
- G** Oliver Twist, for one, is playing endlessly (5)
- H** Still remain suspended, including our group (7)
- I** Country is elevating old king (6)
- J** I answer citizen, perhaps, revealing stage in project (7)
- K** Martial art floor is hosting final (5)
- L** One with pride welcomes back Mexican food place (8)
- M** Person moving along the road, wet, carrying rubbish up (8)

- N** "Lolita" - Vladimir Nabokov's rejection gathered speed (7)
- O** Overturned crazy one opening (11)
- P** Extravagant stimulus I miss in Georgia, perhaps (8)
- Q** Grime affected inside of 4WD stuck in mud (9)
- R** Return from flat in Parisian street (7)
- S** Combs scrubs (6)
- T** Most passionate, but wrong about jaunts (9)
- U** One holding fair lacking grounds? (11)
- V** Log out from lovingly playing record collection (5)
- W** Oregon Trail driver missing in conflict (7)
- X** Interspecific transplant cross, regressively badly affected by time (9)
- Y** Longed to take up study after some months (7)
- Z** Web withdrawn from suspect Zimbabwean neighbour (7)

Slot 5

Cryptic
by
Hot & ColdPrize
\$50

The grid and solutions for
this puzzle were devised by
Crowsman, whom we thank.



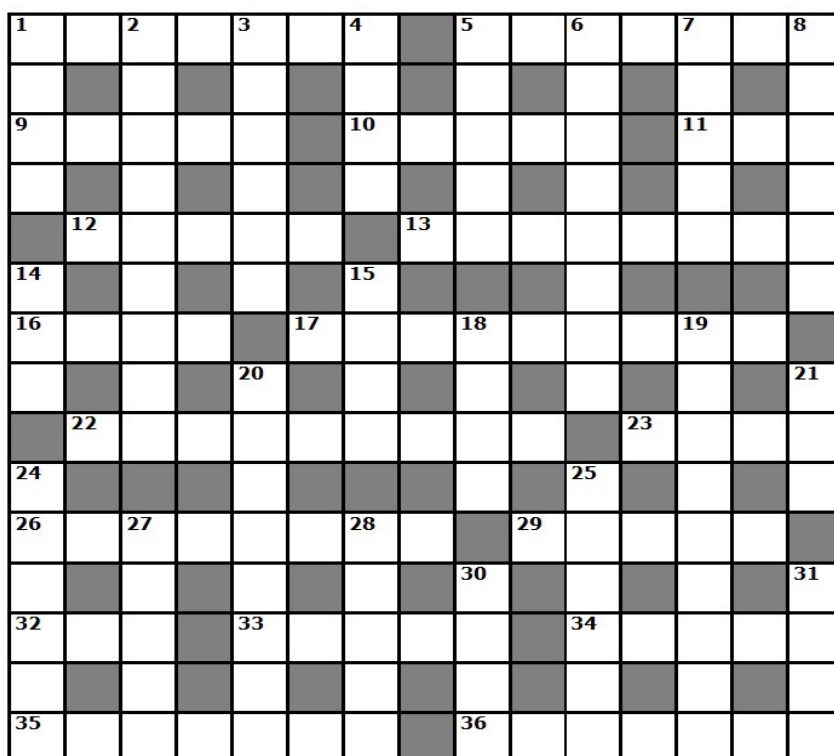
Across

- 1 Carry to the Maori (4)
- 3 Pomp and Circumstance (5)
- 6 A bird having sex (2,2)
- 10 Key in nothing, for the time being (5)
- 11 I come from a land down under, now I'm a believer (3)
- 12 Contribution to joint retrospective composition (5)
- 13 Hit the devil in Georgia (7)
- 14 Cheap spirit gives you some backbone? (7)
- 15 Gates I'd manufactured for rented field (7)
- 16 Mother's on fruit tree (6)
- 19 Praises former decoys we hear in the Everglades (6)
- 21 Let down when American agent returns behind schedule (7)
- 25 Old reproduction in colour exhibiting initial signs of young painter's ethos (7)
- 26 Payback for pirate's town lacking a little zest (7)
- 27 Announcer gives credit to one former sovereign (5)
- 28 Admit to have ... (3)
- 29 ...permitted broadcast in a normal voice (5)
- 30 Spots in the embrace of Mickey Estrada (4)
- 31 Flower festival losing direction (5)
- 32 Second-hand American limited edition (4)

Down

- 1 One bowled over by phenacetin formulation getting rid of ache (6)
- 2 Securing device for Spooner's imprisoned sheep (4,3)
- 4 Offered gentle education (8)
- 5 *The Cane Toad Times* holds back terminology used in contract, perhaps (6)
- 7 Neuters unnatural occupations (7)
- 8 Detailed competition in temporary accommodation for family unit (8)
- 9 Court maybe on court (6,6)
- 12 Swat lethal gnat on cowboy's crowning glory (3-6,3)
- 17 Perfect score for legend surrounding first of chorales for organ (8)
- 18 Small value of net return for writer on the Church (8)
- 20 Country under pressure, Malta for instance, rumoured to be stretched (7)
- 22 Small group of academics make connections (7)
- 23 Legally exact values of decimal alternatives (6)
- 24 Kept an eye on 50s tearaway concealing object (6)

Slot 6

Cryptic
by
Nigrum
CattusPrize
\$50

Across

- 1 One of five - intrinsically inept, uneducated (7)
 5 Astrological influences occur when air is absent from Palestrina medley (7)
 9 Sedan crashed into one of five (5)
 10 Use once in your speech (5)
 11 Collaborationist's essentially a traitor (3)
 12 Focus of 27,24 returning after victory in Europe creates one of five (5)
 13 Energy coming back in tie with United! (8)
 16 Shoots at party in The States (4)
 17 Idiot swallowed incorrectly dispensed dose - got wind up (9)
 22 Is on about crude oil held at detachment (9)
 23 Even embarrass one of five (4)
 26 I see to my cultivated park area (8)
 29 One of five, before entering the Civil Service (5)
 32 Seed appeared at commencement of tennis in London
 33 Heath, from the States, leaving in the morning departs from America (5)
 34 Sucrose fraction regurgitated by one of five (5)
 35 Copper hugged by gay one of five (7)
 36 Just one half with cooked tripe for one of five (7)

Down

- 1 Curious! Got mouth into big apple (4)

- 2 Hamper with eggs kept in reserve for old guns (9)
 3 They say you managed us for one of five (6)
 4 Father rose for one of five (4)
 5 Soft lute, for the most part, leads orchestra leader to one of five (5)
 6 They make cuts and sack directors (3-5)
 7 Land one of five (5)
 8 When uprising began, revolution followed for one of five (6)
 14,18 Focus of 27,24 to see dark patch (3,4)
 15 Excess left in stomach (4)
 18 See 14
 19 Tease a claw out of wild animal (6-3)
 20 Trick by boyfriend with a flaming torch (8)
 21 Indication of imperial pressure from foreign character (3)
 24 See 27
 25 Make good record ordinary at university (6)
 27,24 My stars! Lose struggle to describe location of five (5,6)
 28 Twisted counterpart unknown (5)
 30 Ah! Retired radio presenter made trip to Mecca (4)
 31 Specialist adjudicator was a star turn (4)

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

Slot 7

Cryptic
by
CrowsmanPrize
\$50

Crowsman's Corner

Across

- 1 Frank sent back jerk showing close-knit favouritism (7)
 5 Damages houses near Muslim shrines (9)
 10 Sleet becomes BHP's concern (5,12)
 11 Eye specialist avoids street with round windows (5)
 12 Trembling on account of prison (5)

- 13 Goes in front of sheets covering roofs (5)
 14 Crooks' record held back by those speaking (9)
 15 A dead deputy provides warning (6)
 18 Gardener's pulse restricted regular money previously (6)
 20 Band admits serious turning around from hidden radar (5,4)
 24 Poles abandon food index (5)
 25 Cold leg, from shin up (5)
 26 Unrealistic brand of mineral water is knocked back (5)
 27 Generates at-risk youths (8,9)
 28 Classes hold group recordings (9)
 29 Wrongly enter dim vacated place (7)

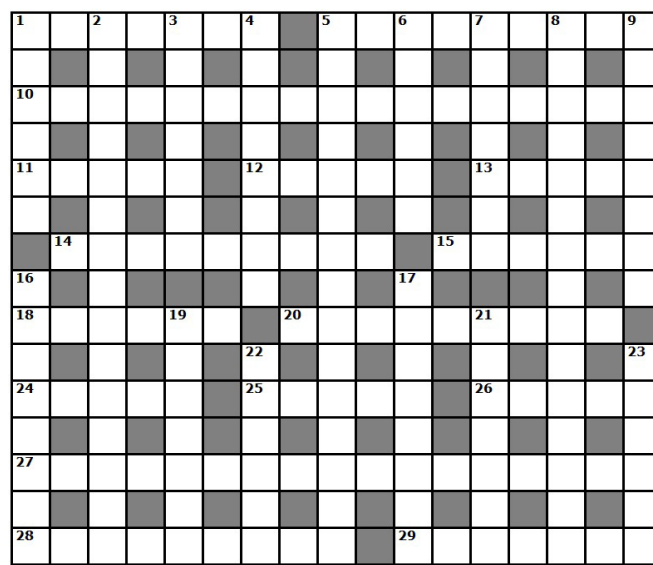
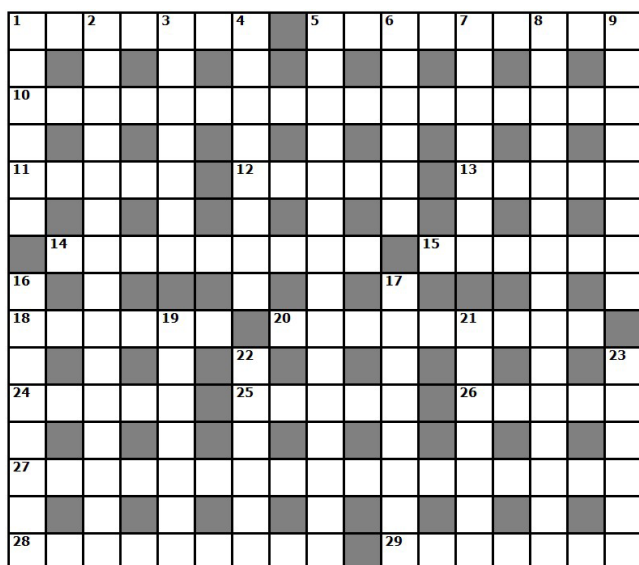
Down

- 1 Boy turns up by whatever means; but not this person (2-4)
 2 Premises within and beyond, for example, restrict drink (15)
 3 Italian capital engaged in not so short summer (7)

- 4 They reduce temperatures for smart members of colony (8)
 5 Failure to catch fit thieves (15)
 6 Impatiently eager, right before a call (6)
 7 Bent dollar was at the front (7)
 8 Tertiary wise men inherently without flair (15)
 9 Evil relative held inside (8)
 16 Generation involved in visual musical, but overly dramatic (8)
 17 Wild bear breaks line for fish (3,5)
 19 Time and money concern (7)
 21 Something gripping captivates an islander population (7)
 22 Add it twice to resume making CV (6)
 23 Someone requiring a letter? (6)



Slot 7: NAME:



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

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

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

Slot 1 Valkyrie. Down: 1 Spooner "repose", 2 PLATTER - L, 3 Homoph "air", 4 sASHa + wORE, 5 VI(BRAT)ED, 6 WORDS + WORTH, 7 PE(RSI)STS, 10 ALL+UR+ED, 14 (IN MAN STEEL)*, 16 TA(L+I)SMAN, 17 (REMAINS)*, 18 SPEND in SUS, 22 Hidden, 23 (RED+RUM)<, 24 P(ANT)RY, 27 rUn SpEeDs.

Slot 2 CT. Across: 1 W + RETCH + ES + LaY, 6 IF< + L + M, 9 cd, 10 sOaPsUdS, 12 OVER + (GO ON THIS)*, 15 PAR + SNIP, 16 dd, 17 SIN + USES, 19 QUIVER + S, 20 MILL + I + (NO RAISE)*, 23 dd, 24 BASK + ETC + SEA*, 25 homoph "seed", 26 dd x 2. **Down:** 1 PEW< + T, 2 heads, 3 (CIVIC HAUNTS A)*, 4 dd x 2, 5 hidden, 7 (SPIED MINOR)*, 8 anag, 11 COIN + CI + DENTAL, 13 A + POSE + AT + I + C, 14 TRANS + L + DATE*, 18 (N+L+A) in SUMP, 19 QUIt + wiCKeT + IE, 21 LA< in PM.

Slot 3 St Jude. Across: 1 anag, 4 C+hARLOT, 9 UR+BANE, 10 ba>AB+SOLVE+D, 12 anag, 13 AM(NEST)Y, 14 ATT+EMP+TortS, 16 ST+ROLL, 19 EXP+END, 20 ST(R)EAK+ED, 22 BOA(S)TED, 23 T+ROUBLE, 25 (RES[RR] IST)*, 26 abdomENLACEerations, 27 RE(SIS)T, 28 OVER + CAST. **Down:** 1 A+DUMB+RATE, 2 NAB+OB, 3 anag, 5 anag, 6 (EVIL)*+STOCK, 7 cd, 8 OBE+AH, 11 dd, 15 TOP+I+ARIES, 17 LODGE + MEN+T, 18 gangSTATSar, 21 ADO+RE, 22 BASE+R, 24 B+W+A+N+A.

Slot 4 Manveru. A ORGANISM/E/P*, B BECONCISEIS+, C C(m)ASCARA, D DEADLINE*(minus I), E CENTAURS*, F F(LOR(d)ENCE, G G(CRIMEA*)S, H MATE HAIL - spoonerism, I I.C.O.N, J J(CHA(T)IN*, K KE(ST+R)EL, L Hidden, M MO/ROLENIGHT*, N Play on 'not Aries', O S/BLOKES/I*, P P/RE/F/IX, Q Play on V - five, R RA(VA)GE, S S(URE) TY, T TR(r)OLLE(R)Y, U UNI(N)FORMED, V VOTE from veto, W WEEK/DAY, X U/DAN/A/X - turned up, Y Y/NAMES*, Z ZING(I)ER.

Slot 5 Crowsman. The explanations show the letter to be dropped from the answer and the subsidiary word thereby formed. The dropped letters spell **MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR**. Across: 7 M, HERITAGE, 9 E, HATS, 11 R, ISSUES, 12 R, ALLURE, 13 Y, SHIFT, 14 C, UNOILED, 16 H, EIGHT, 18 R, ENSUE, 21 I, HELLCAT, 23 S, GLADY, 26 T, HEREBY, 27 M, SEATER, 28 A, RYAN, 29 S, NORTHERN. Down: 1 A, CHINS, 2 N, BIDET, 3 D, WAS, 4 A, REMINDER, 5 H, SALLOWS, 6 A, STRIDE, 8 P, RESITE, 10 P, ARIL, 15 Y, STEADING, 17 N, GUINEAS, 19 E, REDDER, 20 W, HITMAN, 22 Y, LEER, 24 E, LOATH, 25 A, SAMOS, 27 R, SPY.

M	E	M	B	E	R
	N	E	W	S	

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

Find us on 

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.

Crowsman has devised some interesting grids that he will be happy to donate to any compilers who would relish the challenge of devising clues to them (see this month's slot 5 for an example). Do let Ian know if you are interested.

Subscriptions for 2024. Just a reminder that your membership of the Club is free for the whole of 2024 and you can enrol friends and family for the same bargain price! There is no need for members to do anything - we will roll over your membership automatically to assign to you all member benefits for 2024.

We've been pleased with the response to our offer of free membership and look forward keenly to the contributions of our new members. A hearty welcome to this month's new members Harry Allchin, Andrew Coorey, Bruce Coyte, Stephen Hennessy, Peter Holmick, Ned Kelly, Stephen Knight, Luke Latimer, David McBride, Catherine McKenzie, Sarah McKenzie, Dominica Nelson, Jeffrey Phillips, Margot Renton, Liam Runnalls, Harry Ryan, Rafe Ryan, David Sallway, Sarah Scurr, John Stratton, Jenny Symons, Georgina Ward, Roderic Ward and Rosalind Yang.

Clue-writing Competition. While Crowsman is very pleased with the quality of the clues submitted by our members to MANIPULATE, he will be more than happy to adjudicate additional clues. The competition remains open until 10 February and Len's contact details may be found on page 3.

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.



January 1: Valkyrie (Ulla Axelsen)

- This one required a few dips into Chambers! *Fraser Simpson*
- Had trouble finding LEMMA. Otherwise straightforward. *Nea Storey*
- It's always good to start the magazine with a comfortable puzzle and I found this one quite relaxing to solve. *Mal Cockburn*
- I found this one hard and was pleased to complete it. *Anne Simons*
- Nice honest clues to start the ball rolling. thank you, Ulla. *Bev Cockburn*
- LINEAMENTS is a new word to me. *Peter Holmick*
- Lemme is another new word for. Half and half are always interesting. *Jean Evans*

January 2: CT (Chris Thomas)

- A few 'parts of speech' inaccuracies (WEPT, EGO TRIP, APOSEMATIC), but a promising first puzzle. I liked BASKET CASE and RENT. *Len Colgan*
- Great introduction to you Chris. Thank you. *Julie Leigh*
- 3dn: I assume the 'A' is meant as 'I' in the anagram fodder, otherwise the fodder is incorrect. 9ac: not sure of the cryptic element. 5dn: unfortunately, double-duty for 'hide' it seems. *Andrew Patterson*
- The anagram fodder for CHAUVINISTIC is incorrect. *Ian Thompson*
- Well clued debut. *Roy Taylor*
- I struggled with a few and am still unsure of one, but there were also some fun and clever clues. I especially enjoyed PYTHAGORAS and RENT. *Jenny Wenham*
- Welcome Chris! Thank you for an enjoyable debut puzzle. I particularly liked EGO TRIP and MILLIONAIRES. In 3dn, the anagram fodder seems to be clueing CHAUVANISTIC, rather than CHAUVINISTIC. *Andrew Miles*
- Welcome CT. I enjoyed your first contribution. *Nea Storey*
- An enjoyable puzzle. Thank you. *Ann Millard*
- Always takes a bit of time to get to know the foibles of a new setter. Some great clues. Welcome! *Ulla Axelsen*
- 3dn appears to be an anagram of "civic haunts a" which gives CHAUVANISTIC, which is not a recognised spelling. I have entered CHAUVINISTIC, using "a" to mean "one", thus using I for one, I think both should be accepted. *Corryn Anderson*
- A great start from a new compiler, with some very clever clues (and a question mark over the anagram in 3dn). *Kath Harper*
- Thoroughly enjoyed this slot, so have chosen my COTM for the clue that gave me the most angst. *Glenda Lloyd*
- A very enjoyable slot 2, thank you CT! *Caroline Mackay-Sim*
- I enjoyed your first puzzle, thank you, CT. *Robyn McKenzie*
- CT's first puzzle augurs a bright future for this Victorian. Some very good clues are found here, and I liked 16ac RUNDOWN and 23ac TOTE. I look forward to his next challenge. *Mal Cockburn*
- Very impressive start, CT. TOTE amused me and I gave it my COTM! *Bev Cockburn*
- An excellent puzzle with many neat clues

especially SPEED LIMIT, LEATHER and TRANSLATED. *Laurence Kennedy*

- APOSEMATIC is a new word to me. *Peter Holmick*
- APOSEMATIC is another new and interesting word for my vocabulary. *Jean Evans*

January 3: St Jude (Drew Meek)

- This was really two puzzles unconnected. New words/meanings for me were CARLOT and the "ruin by soaking" meaning of RET. *Fraser Simpson*
- I query "limits torts = TS" and "initial testament = T". Otherwise, I really liked the idea in 17dn. *Len Colgan*
- TEDDY took me way too long to get. Love it. *Jenny Wenham*
- Some interesting words and clever clues. *Ann Millard*
- As always, an enjoyable puzzle by St Jude. *Ulla Axelsen*
- A high standard of clues was maintained throughout this puzzle. St Jude must own a thick thesaurus with all the obscure words he uses (maybe I need to get my own one). *Mal Cockburn*
- Pleasing cryptic puzzle. Learnt a few new words. *Bev Cockburn*
- Some new words to me: ADUMBRATE, BIBELOT and OBEAH. *Peter Holmick*
- A fun puzzle. So many interesting words such as ABNEGATE, BIBELOTS, OBEAH and a very new word CARLOT. *Jean Evans*

January 4: Manveru (Michael Kennedy)

- Excellent AJ. WEEK DAY tricked me for a while. Of course, I had WEEKEND! The last one in was XANADU. I can't believe it took me so long to find! *Bev Cockburn*
- Fun AJ. I really enjoyed the clue for M. *Fraser Simpson*
- Really liked A (an @lit clue), M (almost an @lit clue) and U. Conveniently, the two 11-letter clues were straightforward. Most enjoyable! *Len Colgan*
- My favourite clue was WEEKDAY. *Roy Taylor*
- A bit of a "jigsaw". Thank you. *Julie Leigh*
- Jigsaw-wise, exactly! *Julie Crowe*
- Always a favourite but this one had some tricky clues and was a true "JIGSAW". *Ann Millard*
- Thanks for the JIGSAW. It was rather challenging with 9 "?" clues and an &Lit. Even though D was an anagram, it still took some finding. Despite all, very enjoyable. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Is the Q clue faulty? [*capable of more than one parsing, perhaps - Ed*] Vote may be veto but vote is best. *Brian Symons*
- A healthy number of very clever clues in this puzzle. It was called 'Alphanumeric Jigsaw', I think, because initials of the first six clues (if clues were numbered) spell JIGSAW. *Ian Thompson*
- Jigsaw? Coincidence? *Richard Skinner*
- I cannot decide between vote or veto is there a protocol that provides clarification? *Jenny Madden*

Continued on page 16

Name

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[illegible]

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**Quiz 2024-2 by Valkyrie.**

The answers to the following clues are in alphabetical order AND they all have something in common. Send your answers to Ulla Axelsen

ullaaxelsen@hotmail.com or mail to 6 Maud Street Donnybrook Qld 4510. **Closing mail date 23 February 2024.**

- 1 Repeatedly (5,3,5)
- 2 Livelihood (5,3,6)
- 3 Fail disastrously (5,3,4)
- 4 Destitute (4-3-3)
- 5 Bridge partners (4,3,4)
- 6 Honest (4,3,6)
- 7 Reciprocity (4,3,4)
- 8 With complete sincerity (5,3,4)
- 9 Objections (3,3,4)
- 10 Hill climbers (4,3,4)
- 11 Implements (6,3,5)
- 12 Critical (4-3-5)
- 13 Powerful and influential people (6,3,7)
- 14 Essential details (4,3,5)
- 15 Simple (4-3-4)
- 16 What many leaders want (5,3,5)
- 17 Famous novel (5,3,9)
- 18 Hopefully Slot 1s are this (5,3,4)
- 19 State of neglect (4,3,4)
- 20 In deep mourning (9,3,5)
- 21 Amorous frolicking (4,3,6)
- 22 With all possible vigour (5,3,4)
- 23 Where Wee Willie Winkle goes (8,3,10)
- 24 A mixed drink (5,3,4)
- 25 Old building material (6,3,4)
- 26 Axes (1,3,1)
- 27 Us (3,3,2)
- 28 Repeatedly changes lanes (4,3,4)

Quiz 1-2024 A colourful quiz by The Eager Beaver (Bev Cockburn).

Entries received: 27 Correct: 13

Prizewinner: Kate Williams Congratulations!

Answers: 1 [AGES] SAGE, 2 [ANTIGEN] GENTIAN, 3 [ARGENTINE] TANGERINE, 4 [BONZER] BRONZE, 5 [BREAM] AMBER, 6 [BURY] RUBY, 7 [CAROL] CORAL, 8 [CARTELS] SCARLET, 9 [CHEAP] PEACH, 10 [CHORE] OCHRE, 11 [CURE] ECRU, 12 [DURMAST] MUSTARD, 13 [GENRE] GREEN, 14 [GYRE] GREY, 15 [HOGMANAY] MAHOGANY, 16 [INSANE] SIENNA, 17 [LUMP] PLUM, 18 [CAMERAL] CAMEL, 19 [MELON] LEMON, 20 [MICRONS] CRIMSON, 21 [MILE] LIME, 22 [NAIL] ANIL, 23 [NAMETAG] MAGENTA, 24 [OLIVET] VIOLET, 25 [ONAGER] ORANGE, 26 [PAROTIC] APRICOT, 27 [SORE] ROSE, 28 [SLIVER] SILVER, 29 [TALES] SLATE, 30 [WITHE] WHITE.

Results: 30 U Axelsen, K Bettles, D Grainger, A Millard, D Procter, D Rosendorff, W Ryan, A Shield, R Taylor, M Veress, Cheryl Wilcox, K Williams, R Wimbush, 29: P Abbott, H Cromer, J Crowe, P Garner, B Ibbott, L Jarman, R Jarman, J Leigh, D Meek, C McClelland, S Pinder, N Storey, J Wenham 28: B Siegman

Compiler's Observations: Thank you to all those who sent in entries to my Colourful Quiz. I note that there are fewer entries than usual which indicates to me that the Quiz was rather difficult. Sorry if that is the case. The main culprit was #18 (CAMERAL/CAMEL) which could be found in Collins Dictionary and Thesaurus! Thirteen of you managed to find it, though, so well done! Thank you, too, for all the "Happy New Year" wishes which I very much appreciate.

Solvers' Feedback:

- A really great quiz. Missed a couple I'm afraid, but I've almost gone blind chasing through Chambers. I'll probably kick myself when I see the answers. Betty Siegman
- Enjoyable quiz, Bev. The one that I was slow to solve was #18. Roy Taylor
- A fun quiz, thank you. Ann Millard
- Many thanks for a brain revival after the Christmas and New Year festivities. #18 and #24 were hard ones to track down. Robyn Wimbush
- Good quiz. You've beaten me with #18. Isn't interesting how any fruits and flowers have given names to colours Nea Storey
- #18 eludes me. In case I have a later inspiration, hope you'll still accept a later amended entry. [Of course. BC] Drew Meek
- I hope you are well and have avoided getting Covid. [So far, so good, thank you, David. BC] David Procter
- Thank you for your quiz. Not too sure about #18. Claire McClelland
- I hate having to give up, but I have trawled my dictionary, colour charts etc to no avail. I have put an answer in that I know is incorrect rather than nothing at all, just like exams at school! I was a very interesting quiz thank you. Julie Leigh
- Thank you for a very colourful quiz. #18 had me stumped for a while and I am still not sure it is correct. Ulla Axelsen
- A challenging but very enjoyable quiz. Alison Shield
- I learned some new words – and colours! –with your terrific quiz. David Grainger
- Here are my answers to your intriguing puzzle. Thanks for the challenge. Keith Bettles
- I'm missing one but I don't have time to investigate further, so I'm sending it anyway. Jenny Wenham
- Just making up the numbers as I can't solve #18, in spite of hours of searching. I'm sure it's probably quite simple! Thank you for keeping out aging brains busy and thanks for all you do for our favourite club. Pat Garner
- Great fun. No. 18 last in. William Ryan
- A last gasp entry from me. I've been waiting for an 'aha' moment with 18, but it hasn't happened ! A very clever puzzle - must have taken ages to put together. Many thanks for doing so. Julie Crowe
- Thank you for the colourful quiz - lots of fun with some surprises. Couldn't crack the rock clue :- (Ron Jarman
- I loved the quiz whether I am right or not. Kate Williams

January 6-2024 Cryptic by Flowerman (Ian Thompson) [For solution see page 2]

Entries received 55, Correct 43, Success rate 78%.

Prizewinner: Jenny Madden. Congratulations!

Compiler's observations

I'm pleased to read that the clues with 15-letter solutions were popular with members because including some interesting long answers was my main motivation in setting this puzzle. LIMA, surprisingly to me, produced the most errors. 'Family' lacking in extremes is 'amil' and when put up reads as 'lima'. Identifying the wordplay for ACRE was tough. 'Are' needed to be interpreted as meaning the unit of area, which is abbreviated A. Sailors collectively form a CREW, and spending the week (W) of crew can mean to lose it.

Explanations Across: **8** MI + TUNE*, **9** MIG + (IN EAR)*, **10** LAUGHING + JACK + A + SS, **11** A CRE(w), **13** (OUTER SKIN A(djectivally))* , **14** NOMAD< around E, **15** TOP in (A(cademy) I(nvestigating) C(ases)), **17** (OCKERS HUNG)*, **19** NAG + S(hoe), **20** B + (LARGE SALOON BAR)*, **22** M in RUBELLA*, **23** SONG around TA. **Down:** **1** (f)AMIL(y)<, **2** (BUDGE + S) around I + (MUGGERS around L), **3** TRICK in S(t)E(i)N, **4** IS around MARGE*, **5** AGENT with HAS replacing EN, **6** (ALBANIAN MUST OK N)*, **7** (GUNMAN SURE IS)* - RE, **12** CS around (O + AT + O FARM), **15** (poin)T in (ABS + RUSE), **16** initial letters, **18** (OO + D + L) in NE, **21** hidden.

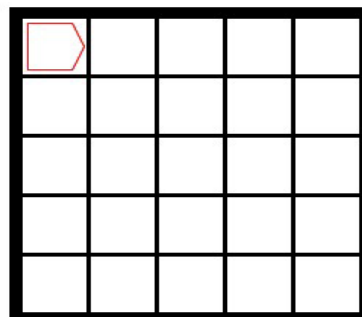
Solvers' Feedback

- I liked having such long entries. Some tricky clues here! *Fraser Simpson*
- Wow, another &lit clue this month! KERATINOUS is very clever! Most enjoyable puzzle. *Len Colgan*
- Good one. Season's greetings. *Roy Taylor*
- I loved clues for Budgie Smugglers and Laughing Jackass *Nea Storey*
- Love the 15 letter clues. *Ann Millard*
- 10 anagrams or part-anagrams perhaps a bit much for Slot 6? Anyway, it was an enjoyable solve. *Tony Dobe*
- Incredible. *Brian Symons*
- Some really clever clues made this rather challenging puzzle a delight to solve. *Ulla Axelsen*
- I have to say that 11A "Acre" is an educated guess on our part. *Richard Skinner*
- Nice clues throughout. *Robyn Mckenzie*
- I love puzzles with long answers in them. This one had four 15 letter solutions. A pleasure to solve. I was stuck with an explanation for 11a ACRE until I saw that A CRE(w) might be how it worked - hope so. *Mal Cockburn*
- Devious clues took ages to crack. "Watching grass grow" comes to mind for the time I took with each clue, but they were all impeccable! *Bev Cockburn*
- The bottom half of the grid had me stymied. until I re-sited my barrage balloons. *Kath Harper*
- Some great clues. Particularly liked the clues for UNASSUMING and BALKAN MOUNTAINS. *Jean Evans*

FRAZ WORD SQUARE 5-Feb (Solution on p 16)

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

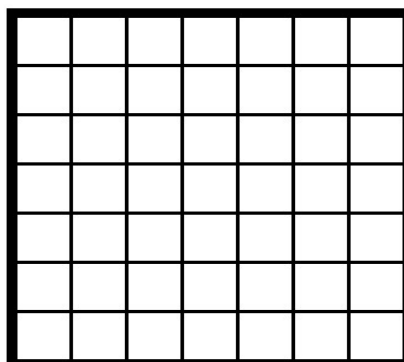
- Out back, dressing bird
- Reporter's rigid bivouac shelters
- Bird, e.g., dealing with temperature
- Hand holder finally expressing deep affection
- Send out proclamation, making Democratic victory



FRAZ WORD SQUARE 7-Feb (Solution on p 16)

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

- Arrange a coda to wrap up an anthem (2 wds.)
- Caustic Tolkien creature has travelled on
- Entertains Reginald with pub drinks
- Figure old horse is in time
- Paid no attention to engineer Gino looking embarrassed
- Succession of rulers, extremely dreary and really mean
- Useless grouse wail outside eastern food store



"Here's one you'll understand."

January 7-2024 For Helen and Peter by Eclogue (Eddie Looby and Keith Williams)
Entries received 43, Correct 36, Success rate 84%.

Prizewinner: David Grainger. Congratulations!

Compilers' observations

We were delighted by the positive reaction from members to this puzzle. Solvers will not know that Peter was the first name of a fellow partner at the accountancy practice that one half of Eclogue worked at until 2021, nor that his wife is called Helen, and why should you? But that coincidence aside, their names appear purely as a hint to the across patterns where every even placed letter is an "E". We had initially added Derek to the roll-call as well, but agreed with the editor, that this may send members down a rabbit-hole connected to The Crossword Centre site run by Derek Harrison!

It was hoped that the thematic placement would "Es" solvers towards the finishing post, mitigating the obscurity of some of the entries used (which is becoming something of a trademark of Eclogue puzzles appearing in *CrOZworld*). While assisting some, judging by the comments others only discovered this nuance upon completion, or while submitting their entries on Accolade, while a couple of errors suggest that the theme passed the unlucky solver by entirely. For info, our dictionary of choice to which we always REFER is Chambers with Macquarie almost NEVER found in the UK. Until next time...

Explanations – Across: 1 PE in TEE, 4 (J in BEE) + (L in WEED), Jonathan is a standard US indicator, 9 GREEN* + E + S, 10 (LET in DEE) + S, 11 TELE + [S for N in SEME(n)], 12 init. letters, 13 hidden, 15 MEM in SEES, 17 LET in DEED, 20 BE + DEMEN(t), 22 EM in SEE, 23 BERET< + SEEN*, 25 (DEC in SEER)<, 26 LEVER + ET, 27 (RET + EME + LET)<, 28 hidden. **Down:** 1 THRO + T + DELT<, 2 PANS + LAV, 3 init. letters, 4 SOME in BOD, 5 JUD + SEAS*, 6 WELL + F + MADE*, 7 (LUR + MYTH)*, 8 init. letters, 14 ROT + DREAMT*, 16 SIN + US + IT + IS, 18 CAMILLE*, 19 (A + TAD)< + SET, 20 BURB + REL<, 21 MANTRA(p) + M, 22 R in SCAT, 24 BO + VID.

Solvers' Feedback

- Like Helen & Peter, all Across answers had E in every alternate unchecked letter. This undoubtedly needed word compromises. *Len Colgan*
- Did I complete the Acrosses with the greatest of E's, or did they cause me to be ill at E's? I'll never tell. *Fraser Simpson*
- Eighty percent of puzzle completed before I noticed the Es in the across answers. *Ian Thompson*
- Solving these was like pulling teeth. Hope I got all the roots out. *Roy Taylor*
- After the editorial warning, I wanted to hate it but instead found it manageable. Thanks for the ride. *Andrew Patterson*
- This was an EEsy puzzle to solve for Helen and Pete. *David Procter*
- All those e's!! Every second letter in the across solutions, and thus all the vertical unchecked letters. Lots of words I didn't know either, which always makes a puzzle more challenging. *Julie Crowe*

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

- I wondered why it was so easy to type the across answers - and realised every second letter was E. A feat to achieve this, although it did produce a lot of unfamiliar words! *Nea Storey*
- "Ezy" on the eye if you look it up and down! There was, however, nothing easy about it. "Full of Scottish, archaic and obscure terminology" - now there's truth in advertising! Accolade has the little red squiggle under no less than 11 entries, as if to say "are you sure that's a word"? Presumably Helen and Peter's vowel arrangements inspired the structure? *Andrew Miles*
- I puzzled over the title for a long time and once the penny dropped, the troubling clues came together. Worthy of being Slot 7. Great!! *Ann Millard*
- 'Scottish. archaic and obscure terminology'. Say no more. Didn't realize until I was submitting every across unchecked is an E. (helen and peter?). Chambers Crossword Dictionary has 'ROT' = 'JOKE' (14 d) but I haven't found it anywhere else. *Tony Dobebe*
- Yes, it had it all: Scottish, obsolete, Greek, Hebrew, heraldry and Shakespeare. A prize must go to this crossword for the greatest number of unusual words in the history of CrOZworld. Discovering that the across words only contained Es helped considerably (thanks Helen & Peter). A great challenge. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Some crazy words in there! As usual took too long to crack the theme but it was all great fun. Thanks Eclogue. *Robyn Wimbush*
- All across clues contain only e as a vowel! Quite a few new words for me here. *Maureen Blake*
- I honestly felt like I was making words up in this one (even though I could find them all). Call me slow, but I didn't see the common thread in the across clues until after I'd finished. *Jenny Wenham*
- So many new words throughout this month but particularly in slot 7 so my clue of the month goes there. *Warren Allen*

Slot 7 Feedback is continued on page 16

Feedback on January slots 1 to 5 - continued from page 13

- A solid AJ which didn't hold too many surprises. I liked very much YESMAN, as it confounded me right to the end until I got the anagram. *Mal Cockburn*
- Good one Mike. I just noticed the Nina: 'Jigsaw'. *Laurence Kennedy*
- My favourite puzzle. Some interesting clues including KESTREL. *Jean Evans*

January 5: Crowsman (Len Colgan) [A number of contributors spelled out the Nina]

- Interesting variation! *Fraser Simpson*
- SEA TERM? *Andrew Patterson*
- Brilliant piece of setting. *Ian Thompson*
- I finished this, then discovered that the thirty letters were seasons greetings. How on earth could you construct this? Great work! I may have to change my footy team to the Crows. *Roy Taylor*
- A fun puzzle, and an interesting Nina - Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you too, Crowsman. *Sonia Roulston*
- Very clever! I was rather bewildered at the start, but then a couple of clues clicked into position, and it all became somewhat clearer. And a lovely Nina with greetings in the dropped letters. *Julie Crowe*
- For once I used the NINA to help me the last answers! A Happy New Year to you too Len. *Julie Leigh*
- And Seasons Greetings to everyone! *Nea Storey*
- Very clever. *Jenny Wenham*
- My favourite puzzle of the month. Loved the challenge. Thanks, and "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year"! *Ann Millard*
- This was just like doing a quiz but placing the answers in a cleverly constructed grid. Thanks for the Christmas greeting. Great fun. *Ulla Axelsen*
- And season's greetings to you too Len. *Richard Skinner*
- And a Happy New Year to you too Len. That was a good workout and a lovely Nina. *Robyn Wimbush*
- A species of maestro! (6) *Toby McLeay*
- Very appropriate Nina, it also helped with answers. *Corryn Anderson*
- "Merry Christmas and a happy new year" to you too Crowsman, and may 2024 bring you all you could wish. Thank you for this interesting puzzle. *Maureen Blake*
- Season's greetings to you too. *Warren Allen*
- Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. *Christina Lee*
- Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, Nina. *Claire Batum*
- And a Happy New Year to you Len. An amazing puzzle, so enjoyable. *Betty Siegman*
- A really neat puzzle, and when I finally worked out the Nina it helped me with one of the clues. Happy New Year to you, Len. *Robyn McKenzie*
- Having Nina standing by to offer season's greetings was a great help in finding some of the less familiar answers. *Kath Harper*

- The Nina leapt out of the clues pretty quickly, and armed with this knowledge I was able to negotiate my way through this thoroughly entertaining style of puzzle. I would be happy to do more like this. 4dn REMAINDER got a smiley. *Mal Cockburn*
- Luckily I guessed the Nina after a few answers, which helped with the remaining answers. *Anne Simons*
- Such a clever concept! Nina was obscure at first but the rubric offered a clue and the rest followed. SEA TERM took me a while to justify! *Bev Cockburn*
- Merry Christmas and a happy new year. *Brian Symons*
- An ingenious puzzle from 'Crowsman' with a seasonal Nina. *Laurence Kennedy*
- I liked the seasonal greetings. *Michael Veress*
- What an interesting puzzle and such a great idea. Very enjoyable Len and thank you for the challenge. *Jean Evans*

Slot 7 Feedback continued from page 16

- It was the Es that helped me reach a solution, whether it is right or not I can only guess! *Julie Leigh*
- There's something very charming about words with every second letter an E. Not sure why, but I like them. *Christina Lee*
- A devilishly difficult one to work through and for a while I was stuck without a single answer. Finally it came together. I was intrigued by some of the symmetry of the words and found the theme obscure. I was typing the solutions into Accolade when the theme revealed itself. Peter and Helen indeed. Wished I had tweaked earlier! Maybe some clever solver can write their comments with Es only. 2d PAN-SLAV gets my COTM - clever use of heads. *Mal Cockburn*
- Title was intriguing but not useful! I'd finished before I found that the only vowels in the across clues were Es! *Bev Cockburn*
- Once I worked out what Helen and Peter were doing there; they were a great help in unravelling the across clues. *Kath Harper*
- Every word found was a triumph. A challenging and worthy Slot 7. Thanks for the entertainment. *Jean Barbour*
- A very enjoyable challenge even though I almost tore my hair out at times!!! *Jean Evans*

**Solution WORD
SQUARE 5-Feb**

S	T	N	E	T
T	C	I	V	E
N	I	B	O	R
E	V	O	L	G
T	R	E	G	E

**Solution WORD
SQUARE 7-Feb**

Y	T	S	A	N	A	D
T	N	E	D	O	R	E
S	E	S	A	E	R	E
A	D	A	N	A	C	O
N	O	G	A	N	O	N
Y	R	E	C	O	R	G
D	E	R	O	N	G	I

January 2024 Bonus 1

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

January 2024 Bonus 4

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

January 2024 Bonus puzzles

January 2024 Bonus 2

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

January 2024 Bonus quiz

Answers to Quiz Bonus 1-2024 Australian places by Nigrum Cattus.

1 Adelaide, 2 Albury Wodonga, 3 Barossa Valley, 4 Bondi Beach, 5 Botany Bay, 6 Broken Hill, 7 Cairns, 8 Coober Pedy, 9 Daintree Forest, 10 Dampier, 11 Flinders Ranges, 12 Fraser Island, 13 Fremantle, 14 Gibson Desert, 15 Great Ocean Road, 16 Katherine Gorge, 17 Maralinga, 18 Moonee Ponds, 19 Nowra, 20 Ord River, 21 Phillip Island, 22 Pine Gap, 23 Surfers Paradise, 24 The Black Stump, 25 The Red Centre, 26 Townsville, 27 Tullamarine, 28 Villawood, 29 Warragamba Dam, 30 Warrnambool

Explanations to January 2024 Bonus puzzles

Bonus 1 InGrid. Across: 1 anag +tete, 5 sip backwards+I+ete, 8 cur backwards+te, 9 anag igrsss-scorned+tee, 11 n+dos+anaglknot+eeet, 13 r(i)r+eee, 16 anag+tt, 18 ns+hr+oud+e, 19 d+l+eete, 24 anag clan poll+h+teee, 26 sMaRt GeNt+c+eeee, 27 anag schoolie-shoe+e, 28 rad+l+tee, 29 biND+OR+Shackle+ee. Down: 1 x+rm+etee, 2 hundr(ed)+te, 3 ps+eee, 4 Illegitimate+Little+Darlings+tte, 5 a+gl(o)ry+a, 6 ss+tet, 7 anag sun+ee, 10 mo(i)v(e)+ete, 12 or backwards+tt, 14 anag+e, 15 arp+lug+e, 17 u(pstart)+pp+n+c+tee, 20 roman backwards+yo(u)th+e, 21 kill backwards+eee, 22 o+c+n+eee, 23 v(ei)n+eet, 24 hm+tee, 25 mnd+ee.

Bonus 2 KA. Across: 1 edi(c)t, 6 b(ea)us ea=river (Chamb), 11 bid(e)s, 15 hidden, 18 cut(-i)s, 19 a+(r)row, 20 re(p)lay, 21 a+tom+y, 22 dd, 23 s(m)ite, 25 re+morse, 28 I+so+tonic (scale), 30 prese(-n)ts, 31 dd, 33 dove=US dived, 35 pole+cat, 37 Estee + med, 38 hidden, 39 dd, 42 c(r)ape, 44 lady + junk (ship), 48 r(wand) an, 49 tips<, 50 homoph, 51 eel+like, 54 anag, 56 rev hidden, 57 sm+ear, 59 oc+tet, 60 hidden, 62 hat=tile +box (small tree), 64 ai + re + r, 65 first letters, 66 anag, 67 sc(al)ar, 68 po+sse, 69 anag, 70 o(men)s. Down: 1 es(car)p, 2 (route)* in den, 3 (p)into, 4 dd, 5 tr(a)y, 6 (arts bias)*, 7 wordplay, 8 anod(is)e, 9 (uni+wests)*, 10 hidden<, 11 (a)blest, 12 (p)imp, 13 d(el)i, 14 st + ye, 17 dd, 24 mode + rn, 26 (medico+l)*, 27 re + cess, 29 nom(ad)ic, 32 dd, 34 hidden, 35 slap<, 36 el + tray*, 40 mi+cabins*, 41 s+w+e+e + test, 43 anag, 45 dd, 46 hidden, 47 pett(il)y, 48 e +anag, 52 ling+am, 53 (h)eaters, 55 e(rod)e, 57 s + hip, 58 sate<, 60 arc + o, 61 gal + e, 63 bus(s).

Bonus 3 Lexi Conner. Across: 1 JACK + POT, 5 sQUIZZES, 9 (federalists - fads)*, 10 INS (TAN) T, 11 IN + C(R) EMENT, 12 Politica (ROW) L, 13 (takeaways - weak)*, 15 OVER + DO + uSED, 17 BIRD + CAGE + S, 19 YEA + ST, 22 TUBE Design <, 23 (gin if very)*, 25 homoph bicycles - b, 26 humBUG LIES Too, 27 EX + H(Big) IT, 28 STOOD + IN. Down: 1 JapanesE + SUITS, 2 CREW + CUT, 3 pried homoph . PRIDE, 4 THE + gnomes*, 5 QUI (swEet) T, 6 IN + SIP + IDLY, 7 blaZing + aeolus*, 8 DD, 14 YACHT + CLUB, 16 (her sounds)*, 17 BE (D) SIDE, 18 CD, 20 australiANISE EDibles, 21 T (rIght) EN, 23 VI + is^ = SI + T, 24 (of oil)*.

Bonus 4 Crow-Boy. Across: 5 C(A + PET)OW + N, 9 D + IPSWI(T)CH, 10 (c)ENTRE + N + CH, 11 A + BRAS(ION) S, 12 (figh)T + W(O)EDGED, 13 IN(T)UIT + I + ON, 14 UN + DENIER<, 15 TE(S + TAME)NT, 20 OS + C + ILL + ATE, 25 AMP in RAGES, 26 ENVI(SAG)ES, 27 (PO(PILL)OL)<, 28 (aNCIENT hIstoRY)*, 29 M(GRAN*)OVE, 30 CONQUES + (i)TS, 31 hidden. Down: 1 IDEA + LIST, 2 rev hidden, 3 (A + KIT + SAWS)<, 4 AT + ROP(IN)E, 5 CHEST + S(T)UN<, 6 POT + POUR + R(a)I(n), 7 DREAMT* + ILL, 8 WICKED + SET*, 16 BALE< + ORATE, 17 TOP + F + LIGHT, 18 M(ad)E + GAP + HONE, 19 N(PESO<)IECE, 21 COVEN + ANT, 22 LUST + SOUR*, 23 (ITS RANGE)*, 24 hidden.