



Cr OZworld

No 417 January 2025



www.crosswordclub.org



Merry Christmas

GRIDATORIAL

A few extras this month to keep you busy and entertained if Christmas activities flag. Bogeyman kicks off with an appropriately-timed puzzle, followed by a Zinzan with a delicious twist. Can you spot it? The Adelaide cartel of Crow-boy provides us with an enigmatically-titled slot 3 and the AJ wizard Manveru will be sure to please in slot 4. Valkyrie is in top form with an intriguingly themed puzzle and the ever-subtle Robespierre provides your slot 6 trickery, in the fairest way possible, of course! Slot 7 reflects a novel approach, which must have exercised all of KA's skills in compilation and will certainly test you in its solution. Raoul has put together a racy offering in the bonus slot, with the additional bonus of a prize in his soon-to-be-announced new watering hole. Pentangle makes a welcome return with a linguistic challenge and the treats are rounded off with two puzzles by our founder Noel Jessop, of very different provenances. Bonus 4 is a far cry from puzzles using today's benefits of ACCOLADE and Crossword Compiler, which makes life easy for solvers and adjudicators but still leaves us with the solving and compiling challenges. But what might AI offer us in 2025?

The end of the year gives the perfect opportunity to thank all involved for providing us with enjoyment through the year with our puzzles. We thank the compilers for their efforts and all who labour in the background to ensure that you receive your copy of CrOZworld - and the well-merited prizes for the lucky ones.

It only remains to wish all members a very merry Christmas and the happiest of new years. Enjoy the festivities and the solving pleasures!

FROM THE ADJUDICATOR

It's a little warm up here (Rockhampton) this time of year but thankfully we haven't had any natural disasters. Our hearts go out to you if you haven't been spared.

Alas, another great year of CrOZworld puzzles, quizzes and information comes to an end. However, adjudicating in December I'm pleased to be able to wish all members a merry festive season and a happy new CrOZworlding year for 2025.

Now for the dots . . .

Slot 1: A clever NINA from Valkyrie - all across solutions spell out a message for us. TESTS lost the most dots with 6 preferring TASKS. STOP for ATOP lost another 3 and there were 2 CRUZ for CLUB. Others were mostly one-offs.

Slot 2: In 1ac I liked 'rightful' to indicate inclusion of 'r'. Clever clues with very good surface readings I'm pleased to see. Very few errors with 3 COME APARTs for the expected TORE APART

Slot 3: A worthy Slot 3 with some good surface readings. All the errors were one-offs so not much to say except that a spell-check would have found at least 4.

Slot 4: I found this Slot very tricky! XIANG (a group of similar Chinese languages) caused most problems. Thirteen got the Christian part (XIAN) but added an S instead of G (going to start).

Slot 5: This puzzle has a theme, with all across clues 'NATIONAL CAPITAL' cities as indicated in the rubric. One bold soul had TEHERAN which appears to be an accepted spelling of Iran's capital but sadly does not fit the clue.

COTM: As ever it was good to see all slots included in the voting. It was a close race with Slot 3's BIN LINER and Slot 5's CANAL BOAT leading the pack with NAIROBI close behind. In the finishing straight a couple more CANAL BOATS docked, leaving it the clear winner. Congratulation to Crowsman and to all setters.

Tony Dobe

LEADING FIGURES DECEMBER 2024

Puzzle No.	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Entries received	78	76	77	76	69	376
Correct entries	51	63	71	53	63	301
Success rate (%)	65	83	92	70	91	80
Prizewinners	Anne Young	Ron Jarman	Lynne Coulton	The Void	Keith Bettles	from 84 members

Prizewinner: December Slots 1-5 correct: Greg Jones. Congratulations!

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December slot 1

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

December slot 2

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

December slot 3

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

December slot 4

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

December slot 5

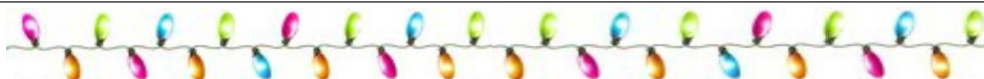
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T	A	L	L	I	N	N		N	A	I	R	O	B
	A		I		R		N		E		S		L
R	A	B	A	T		A	M	S	T	E	R	D	A
	T		I		U		M		S		R		F
L	I	S	B	O	N		Y	E	R	E	V	A	N
	I		S		C		N		S			B	
N	A	T	I	O	N	A	L	C	A	P	I	T	A
	G		R		N		E		A			U	
		C	A	R	A	C	A	S		P	R	A	G
N		P		D		L		A		A		U	F
I	S	L	A	M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

December slot 6

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

MEMBERS' RESULTS FOR DECEMBER 2024 Slots 1 to 7

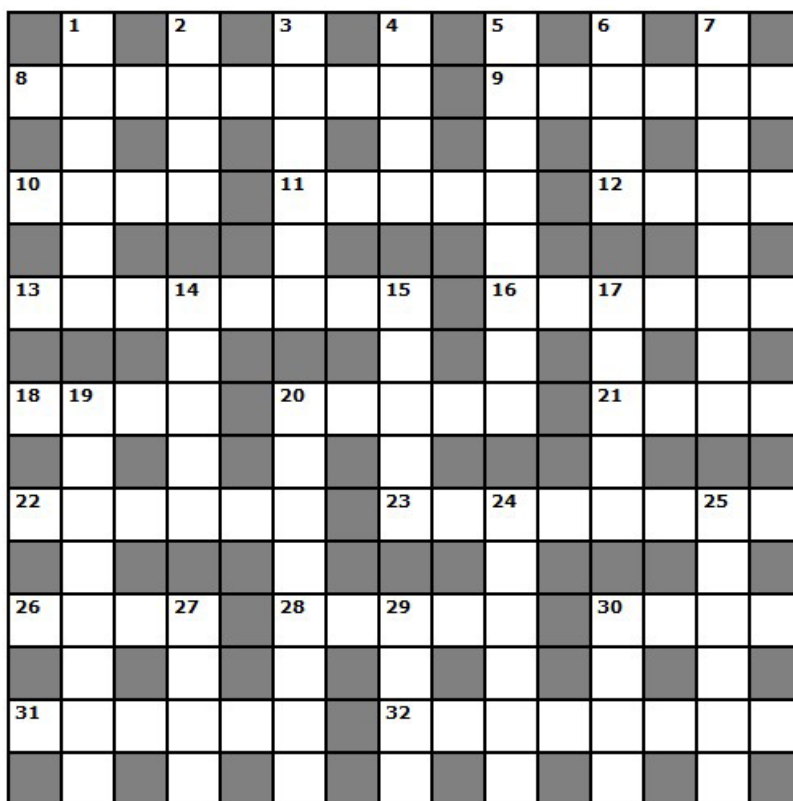
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Abbott P.								Gamble K.								Peach S.							
Allen W.								Garner P.								Pinder S.							
Anderson C.								Grainger D.								Randall J.							
Audrins K.								Graves C.								Rosendorff D.							
Axelsen U.								Hagan R.								Roulston S.							
Barbour J.								Harper K.								Ryan W.							
Barnes J.								Hearn R.								Shield A.							
Batum C.								Horadam K.								Shipway S.							
Bennett D.								Howat S.								Siegman B.							
Bettles K.								Jarman L.								Simons A.							
Blake M.								Jarman R.								Simpson F.							
Carroll L.								Jones G.								Skinner R.							
Cockburn B.								Kennedy L.								Smith J.							
Cockburn M.								Lankshear J.								Storti A.							
Cole G.								Leigh J.								Symons B.							
Colgan L.								Madden J.								Taylor R.							
Coote P.								Martin A.								Taylor S.							
Copland F.								McClelland C.								Thomas C.							
Cornish W.								McKenzie I.								Thompson I.							
Coulton L.								McKenzie R.								Veress M.							
Cromer H.								McLeay T.								Void T.							
Crowe J.								Meek A.								Wilcox C.							
Davis K.								Miles A.								Williams K.							
Dobele T.								Millard A.								Wimbush R.							
Dowse B.								Milton R.								Young A.							
Ducker R.								Moline R.															
Forward K.								Parsons D.															
Francis K.								Patterson A.															



Slot 1

'tis the
Season
by
Bogeyman

Prize
\$50



Across

- 8 At 6, found under 26 perhaps (8)
 9 Following timeless 30-down, misanthropes say it at 6 (6)
 10 With 6 or 12, a piece of it is easy! (4)
 11 Chlorine, gold and sulphur, coming from the Pole at 6
 12 Note father is American pop (4)
 13 11's transport seen here? (2,3,3)
 16 Recording nothing! Lacking aspiration? (6)
 18 With 6, something for the mantelpiece - eccentric? (4)
 20 Knockout tango is showy performance (5)
 21 Rubicund cider girl on the radio (4)
 22 What a budgie smuggler might wear on 28? (6)
 23 Cooked at 6 in the south (8)
 26 Traditional at 6 with a fairy on top? (4)
 28 Coastal location for 23 at 6 - but only in the south (5)
 30 Non-coastal location for 23? (4)
 31 Frequency of 6 (6)
 32 More likely to be seen at 6 in the south than in the north! (8)

Down

- 1 Appoint alternative outspoken Norseman! (6)
 2 Man, perhaps, upset Elsie, missing England (4)
 3 Mollusc operculum initially offers no young crab handy access (6)
 4 Intermittently aestival at 6 in the south (4)
 5 Horse - roasted at 6 in the north? (8)
 6 Originally, X marked a spot, 31-ly (4)
 7 Up, up - academic cleric to sing discordantly for treats at 6 (8)
 14 Barrier at Hungary border (5)
 15 Odd-sounding loxodromic curve (5)
 17 Kings at 6? 26 with hearts inside (5)
 19 Eagerly desiring analgesic? Good! (8)
 20 Thrown in the north but rarely seen in the south at 6 (8)
 24 Cheering greeting called out (6)
 25 Perhaps grizzly, trained, independent nurse (6)
 27 Sumerian coming back, concealing Australian natives (4)
 29 ... and, moreover ... (4)
 30 Graduate high tension expended in tBangkok (4)

SEND
SOLUTIONS
TO:

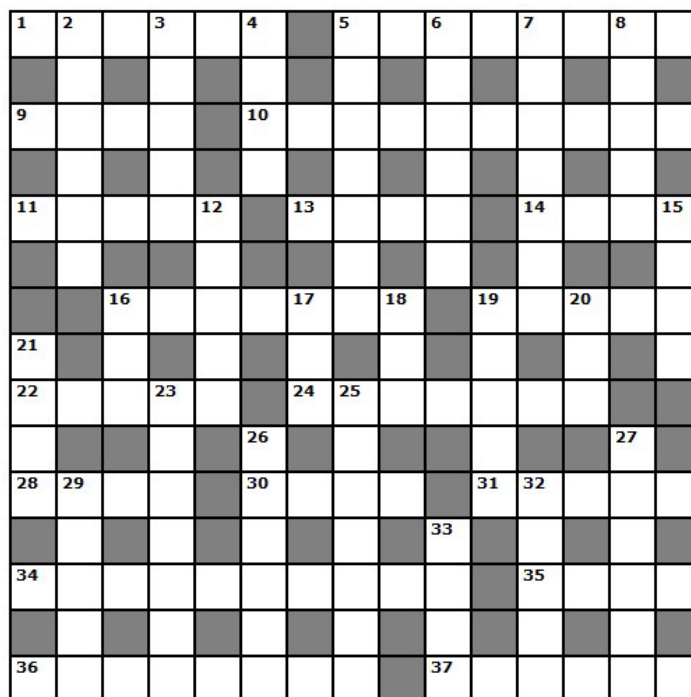
For online entry, submission and adjudication of all slots via ACCOLADE click on the ACCOLADE button on www.crosswordclub.org home page.

By email for Slots 1 to 5 Larry1061@hotmail.com or by mail to Larry Kennedy 27, Honey Richea Road, Hellyer, TAS 7321
 email for Slot 6: ianmalcolmmckenzie@outlook.com by mail :Ian McKenzie 47 Ronald Avenue Greenwich NSW 2065
 By email for slot 7: karlishane@optusnet.com.au by mail: Karl Audrins 10 Elizabeth Parade, Charlestown NSW 2290

Closing mail date for all puzzles is 31 January 2025.

BLANK
GRIDS
PAGE nn

Slot 2

Cryptic
by
ZinzanPrize
\$50

Across

- 1 Vomiting seems awful, having swallowed iodine (6)
 5 Very precise addition; 2/3 only with crushed garlic (8)
 9 Can of tuna's first to fall off benchtop (4)
 10 Large bottle inside large box we carried beginning to rattle (10)
 11 Poet, cook and lecturer going inside (5)
 13 Doctor's assisting character with eggs for breakfast, made in seconds (4)
 14 Host shows covered in warm yogurt? (4)
 16 Supported board in Turkey replacing head of Swiss food company (7)
 19 It's on again! Damaged burner head's removed (5)
 22 Overcooks small cakes, recipe is stuffed! (5)
 24 Improved soldiers laying in bed, fed after leaders go (7)
 28 Weight may be one factor to roast a turkey (4)
 30 2 by 14 by 5 by 36? It's on the side of the plate! (4)
 31 Finish off helping of pie, by the sound of it! (5)
 34 Default urn setting is not to be trusted (10)
 35 Maybe a chicken bone sent back with a note (4)
 36 Allergenic casing from dodgy chipolatas might send you here? (8)
 37 One clearing the table to busy oneself (6)

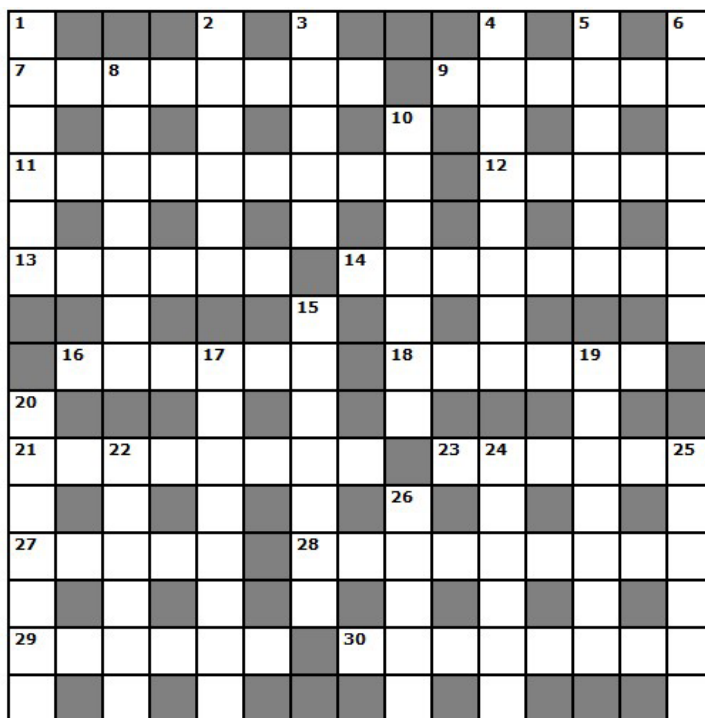
Down

- 2 Phone me about black oil bubbling (6)
 3 A shred of cured ham (5)
 4 Pigs in blankets finally impresses wife departing (4)
 5 Country girl seen stewing earlier (7)
 6 Once again, employ her to lift interest regarding exotic starters (6)
 7 Fit his pan around top of eggcup (2,5)
 8 Downed a mega top side? (1-4)
 12 Taking the same risk with eleven salad sandwiches (5)
 15 Hungers after unknown, new nosh periodically (4)
 16 Rating incomplete pie product (3)
 17 Make fast Asian food while on 2dn (3)
 18 See 20
 19 It detects lead traces in red apples deemed 'at risk' (5)
 20,18 Late flight served raw sort of fillet (3,3)
 21 Bird cut out of biscuit crumble (4)
 23 A bid on soft, evenly presented, steak (2-5)
 25 Worthless cards overlooked unagi's pronunciation (7)
 26 Portion of flaked miso tuna is discarded (6)
 27 Run through exotic recipe (6)
 29 Where the breast is sort of cut and battered (5)
 32 Nibbled on lead-free cold meat range (5)
 33 A bit over a serving of tomato paste (4)

Slot 3

Ultimate Epistles for Nina by Crow-boy

Prize
\$50



Across

- 7 Deny spinal element reported injured (8)
 9 Obsess over some comeback in state tax if overdue (6)
 11 Generous person acquires writer a stationery item (9)
 12 Lathe operator lacking right receiver (5)
 13 Mark, for one, gets an award (6)
 14 Chaotic prince returns fashionable (8)
 16 Wallow, slop about and half wash (6)
 18 Nonjuror joining two countries briefly (6)
 21 Lovers lose love for a dessert of biscuits (8)
 23 Tests for drug constituents when joining expresses (6)
 27 Penniless family stuck in street (5)
 28 Isometric exercising for libido (9)
 29 Dawn atmosphere filled with gold (6)
 30 Youngsters, at any time, included in rents (8)

Down

- 1 Nothing given up without pressure for Black Sea port (6)

- 2 Loafer boy harbouring insolence (4-2)
 3 Fanatic runs from buddy (5)
 4 Catalogue stranger sounding antenatal pathogen (8)
 5 8 meal, eating appetisers firstly (6)
 6 A mongrel cleric turns up viral excrescence (7)
 8 5 located despicable people heading north (5,2)
 10 Intensify row within competition (5,2)
 15 Hunger rising after half-empty chestnut relish (7)
 17 Tip open container (8)
 19 Chopper sent up above explosive test (7)
 20 Light breeze twisting hitch (3'1-3)
 22 Cage inside of cave abnormally airy (6)
 24 Drunken Rosie last to leave party (6)
 25 Minor prophet goes into Salvation Army for snack (6)
 26 Drunkard put plant in new container, upside-down! (5)

General Feedback for December

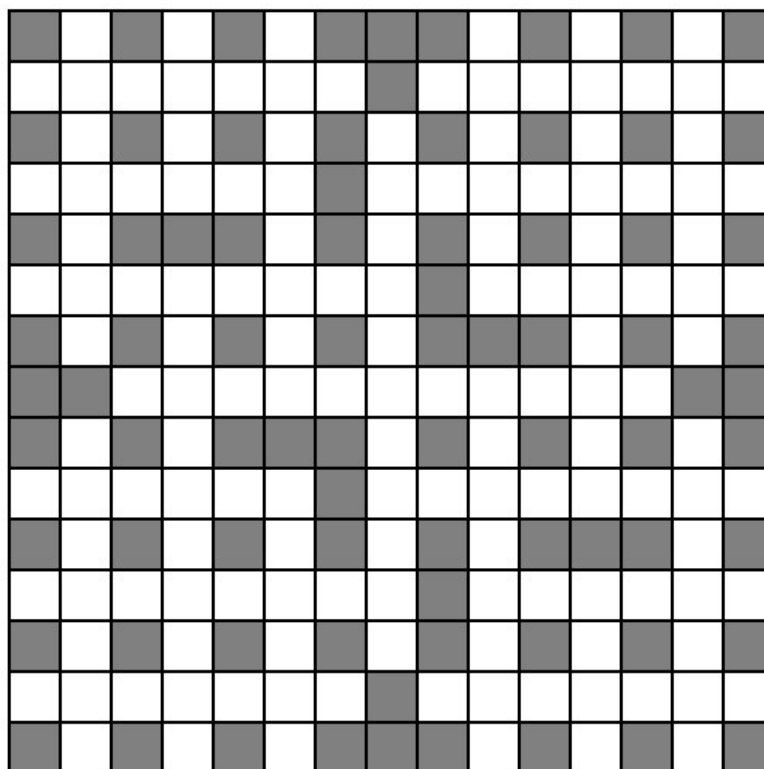
- Wishing all our members a wonderful Christmas, and happiness and good health in 2025. *Betty Siegman*
- Last month I was away in Tassie and didn't submit any crosswords but after studying the clue and explanation for 'weird'I don't think anyone should lose a dot! *Corryn Anderson*
- Struggled to nominate only one COTM - so many from which to choose! *Kathryn Forward*
- Another interesting set of crosswords. A number of clues/answers made me smile; especially STIFF.BIN LINER and NAIROBI. *Ken Francis*

Slot 4

AJ
by
Manveru

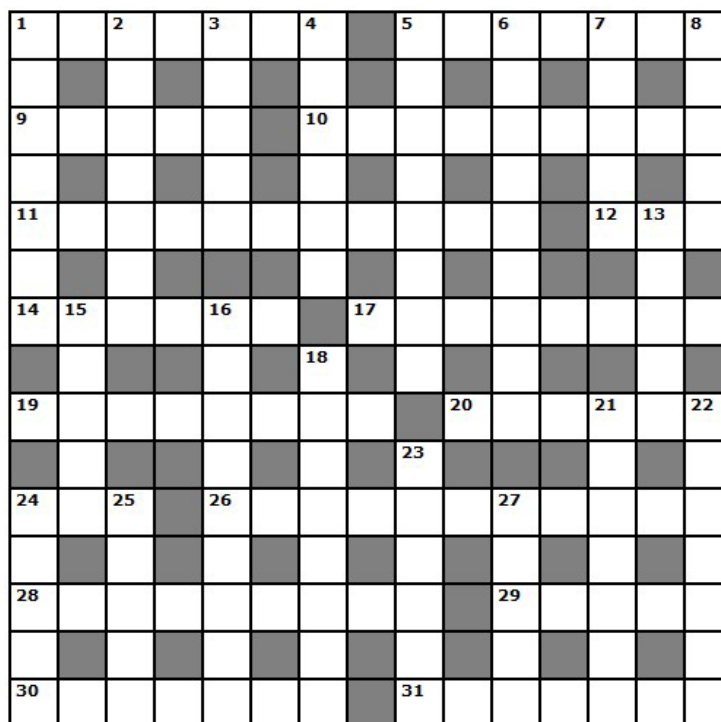
Prize
\$50

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



- A** Naturalist lost. Ancient city lost. Island lost? (8)
- B** Powerful speaker with *Economic Expansion on the Back of Lamb and Cattle* (4,3)
- C** One up in the air about compilation without main characters (7)
- D** Do males swoon for an old unmarried woman? (7)
- E** Leader of Kuwait, for instance, primed to ignore borders and push north (4)
- F** Female in a line-up? (8)
- G** Threaten to be swamped by turbulent gulf that's depressingly dark (8)
- H** Lower member represented by lobby, Unionist and Number 10 (6)
- I** Vast land. Not Sweden, but somewhere else in Europe (6)
- J** Sailor with rebellious scullers, hiding captain from hunting dog (4,7)
- K** Skeleton, missing bit of torso, found dismembered in part of ship (7)
- L** Solution to Question 1 inside cover (6)
- M** Deliveries with nothing to show after I moved near criminal (6,4)
- N** Spooner says no to a bunch of flowers (7)
- O** Memorised substandard role after Romeo is taken (3,3)
- P** Perhaps still freezing over Ireland's borders (8)
- Q** Failing to finish test with pressure to produce a witty remark (4)
- R** Managed to swallow terrible lie by government, ultimately having trust in (7)
- S** Footwear that rubs need a scraping tool (8)
- T** It will take a joint effort to make world's leader right somehow (8)
- U** Film legend with no role in *New Revolutions* (7)
- V** Going back to some remote never-never land in Italy (6)
- W** It's a blow to the board perhaps, after wiring funds accidentally (4,7)
- X** Waxy pole line - 50% dissolved by solvent (6)
- Y** Old guns lying around raises issues? (10)
- Z** Infected computers, an unknown quantity, have forced mobiles to delete voicemail, ultimately (7)

Slot 5

Cryptic
by
ValkyriePrize
\$50

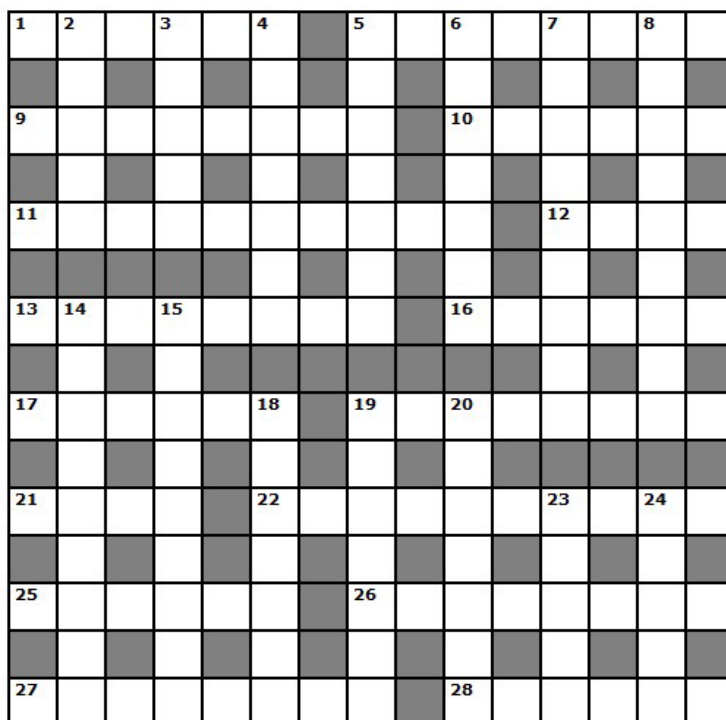
Across

- 1 Despatch pig's breakfast on time (7)
- 5 Bird, fish devoured by female pig (7)
- 9 Piggybank contents reflect a rise (5)
- 10 Pamper bird with Old English and Southern pig's trotters (9)
- 11 Listening device, next to the far end of pavilion, hears show pig (11)
- 12 Pig's metabolism hides contrary measurements (3)
- 14 Vehicle, starting to stall, left at kerb (6)
- 17 Pig ignorant without a prompt perhaps, about line (8)
- 19 Type of pig Latin, initially accepted, now denigrated by ethnic group (8)
- 20 Transport set seemingly includes sleep carrier (6)
- 24 Longing to scratch stud pig (3)
- 26 Pig out roving! Elude mayhem! (11)
- 28 Model round retreat with incline for guinea pig (9)
- 29 Pair lost heart to your first Governor-General (5)
- 30 Actor's assistant, an old queen, behind non-union threat (7)
- 31 Pig caught by drunk society cocks (7)

Down

- 1 Actors beheaded adders after opening of *Medusa* (7)
- 2 Rub pigtail with oriental strap (7)
- 3 One end of meadow remains flooded (5)
- 4 Widen old opening to pigpen as well (6)
- 5 Spanish aunt, dressed in black, can be gratified (8)
- 6 Resemblance to animated Lassie draws in half of kennel (9)
- 7 River stone! (5)
- 8 Insects spotted around front and rear of pigs (5)
- 13 Films pigs regularly in mountains (5)
- 15 Plain lines on a mirror (5)
- 16 Knotty, greasy log spouts (9)
- 18 More eccentric men in a high-rise (8)
- 21 Docked pig chases match coach (5-2)
- 22 Reportedly I rent out small, small holes (7)
- 23 Origins of the species? (6)
- 24 Disliked wearing cap without original trademark (5)
- 25 Complaint about pig stew (5)
- 27 Name first-rate city (5)

Slot 6

Cryptic
by
RobespierrePrize
\$50

Across

- 1 Bad news from butcher's as local accepts charge being overhauled (4,2)
 5 Horse collapsed from police raid? (4,4)
 9 Char possibly damns oil contamination (8)
 10 Attractive woman sitting on bar going topless for cash! (6)
 11 One rift with father rendered mother as this! (4, 6)
 12 Before kiss, take off top! (4)
 13 Premature ending is a benefit/right I treasured (8)
 16 Back-to-back parties with naked-lady gadget (6)
 17 Flight due, so frantically stealing kiss (6)
 19 Weary? Overweight, I assumed, heartlessly (8)
 21 No rise in airfares? That's a long way off! (4)
 22 Come out to open when turning ball reaches fielder (5, 5)
 25 Mountain range in South Australia I entered by mistake (6)
 26 Blood group contributes to distortion, for example, in lab test (8)
 27 King, for instance, at start rehearsed manoeuvre (3-5)
 28 See 3-down

Down

- 2 Two times oxygen needed for source of inspiration (5)
 3,28 Male meeting ghastly fate enthralled by woman - like this one!? (5,6)
 4 Language features witticism - one packing punch (7)
 5 Beginner taken off shift, feeding fellow's indignation (7)
 6 Not taken out, not having the time? (7)
 7 Two politicians go head to head over fitting end for backwater (9)
 8 At easel, master artist finally resolved drawing position (9)
 14 Cramped working space where a hit is welcome? (3,6)
 15 Driver finally faces a charge having speed captured - by this?! (5, 4)
 18 Craft home below foundation (7)
 19 Something for nothing from fellow that's holding up drink (7)
 20 Aristocrat entertains faux female forced out in parody (4, 3)
 23 Attack where shooting takes place? (5)
 24 Communication sent round in parliament (5)

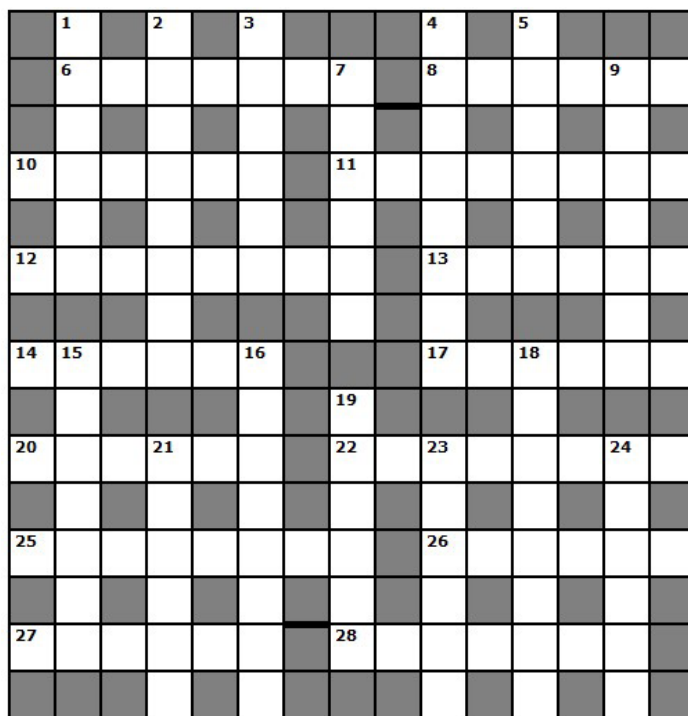
Submit solution via ACCOLADE button on www.crosswordclub.org home page or see page 3
 Closing mail date: Friday 31 January 2025

Slot 7

One or the
Other
by
KA

Prize
\$50

Each clue defines two identical anagrams, only one of which correctly fits the grid: eg "Placid bivalve (4)" gives calm and clam and "Looks at flowers (6)" gives stares and asters. Simply enter the correct one in the grid.



Across

- 6 Promotional leaflets for an art style (7) (7)
- 8 A duck for the chaperone (6) (6)
- 10 The memory of a Teuton (6) (6)
- 11 Malignant growth causing logorrhoea? (8) (8)
- 12 Directions for Hungarian gypsies (8) (8)
- 13 The meteor seethed! (6) (6)
- 14 State of social isolation for the poor (6) (4,2)
- 17 Treatises about bed linen (6) (6)
- 20 The homemaker was more uneasy (6) (6)
- 22 Advocates returned to a former practice (8) (8)
- 25 Kitchen strainer for former Mexican politician and President (8) (8)
- 26 Responds to the editor's marks (6) (6)
- 27 Cerebral haemorrhage for the famous author (6) (6)
- 28 Lose hope for nappies (7) (7)

Down

- 1 Soothing ointment for skulls (6) (6)
- 2 The hunter inanely kept repeating (8) (8)
- 3 Pilots stay behind (6) (6)
- 4 Fortifications for sceptics (8) (8)
- 5 Spots of colour on a dog (6) (6)
- 7 Deepest believer in a philosophy (6) (6)
- 9 Disparages the most imprudent (7) (7)
- 15 Finds the herb (7) (7)
- 16 Imitates aluminium hydroxide (8) (8)
- 18 Male hormone for a specialised sensory structure (8) (3,5)
- 19 Refrained from harming chaplains (6) (6)
- 21 Oils for electric motor part (6) (6)
- 23 Cover up the Native American (6) (6)
- 24 Apprehend the assessors (6) (6)

The blank grid for this puzzle is on page 11

Submit solution via ACCOLADE button on www.crosswordclub.org home page or for mail entries see page 3.
Closing mail date: Friday 31 January 2025.



Quiz 01-2025 Christmas Treats by InGrid

Here are some common ingredients for mince tarts, plum pudding and white Christmas in anagram form. Solutions are in alphabetical order. Send your solutions to Jeanb1405@gmail.com or mail to Jean Barbour PO Box 290, Wonthaggi Vic 3995 Closing mail date 31 January 2025

- 1 sold man (7)
- 2 engages bet (6,4)
- 3 dry ban (6)
- 4 scrubbed arm (11)
- 5 gun barrows (5,5)
- 6 paneled dice (7,4)
- 7 collects at home (9,5)
- 8 non-manic (8)
- 9 turns car (8)
- 10 introduce doc (5,7)
- 11 slice recharge (5,8)
- 12 gestured at (6,4)
- 13 Slapper gene (5,6)
- 14 deposing cur (6,5)
- 15 melt zones (5,4)
- 16 met gnu (6)
- 17 don earring (6,4)
- 18 unfair poll (5,5)
- 19 in saris (7)
- 20 ices blubber (4,7)
- 21 sun atlas (8)
- 22 laundrette tubs (8,6)
- 23 central taxi lav (7,7)



Quiz 12-2024 All at Sea by Valkyrie (Ulla Axelsen)

Entries received: 26 Correct: 18 Success Rate 68% Winner:

Results 25 W Allan, K Bettles, M Blake, J Crowe, P Garner, D Grainger, K Harper, J Leigh, A Miles, A Millard, D Proctor, D Rosendorff, W Ryan, A Shield, B Siegman, B Symons, R Taylor, R Wimbush 24 P Abbott, K Francis, C McClelland, I McKenzie 22 L Jarman, R Jarman 23 D Meek 18 G Cole **Winner Pat Garner - Congratulations!**

Answers: Ambassador 2. Boneshaker 3. Carotid artery 4. Choking 5. Dakoite 6. Delvers 7. Escadrille 8. Feelers 9. Foreshadow 10. Gadabout 11. Hypercharge 12. Insolence 13. Kindergarten 14. Lopsided 15. Mollycoddle 16. Orchidaceae 17. Proclamation 18. Reproachful 19. Scrabble 20. Sparring 21. Table tennis 22. Uncarpeted 23. Unfortunate 24. Wellington 25. X-raying

Compiler's Observations:

Thanks very much to the people who had a go at the quiz, I appreciate your support and kind words. It's also great to get a few entries by snail mail. The main problem was #9 and I did allow a variety of answers here if they had a correct meaning and if the contained word had something to do with the sea. There were a couple of other answers I had to disallow as the secondary word was not fully contained. All the best for 2025, I hope lots and lots of people will have a go at the quizzes.

Solvers' Feedback:

- Thank you for this enjoyable quiz. Something very fishy going on here! Though I did find most of them without too much trouble. *Andrew Miles*
- Phew! That took longer than I hoped. *Ian McKenzie*
- Had to fish around for some of the answers but think I got there in the end. As always, a most enjoyable quiz. *Patricia Abbott*
- This was a fascinating challenge. All my answers have a little fishie swimming inside. *Roy Taylor*
- I think that this was the most difficult quiz of the year. Well done! Not only was it tricky to find the longer word, many of the fish were interestingly obscure. *Ann Millard*
- That was a really good quiz. And how true is that old saying, "There are plenty more fish in the ocean." *Betty Siegman*
- This was fun, but had hard bits. Thanks to my dear old paperback crossword dictionary, I was able to locate the names of lesser-known fish. *Pat Garner*
- Many thanks once again for a great quiz. *Julie Crowe*
- Thanks for a difficult but enjoyable quiz. *Brian Symons*
- Thank you for this interesting quiz.... All answers are hiding a fish inside. Delvers and escadrille were quite difficult to find. I appreciate the work you and others put in to give us an interesting quiz each month. Thank you. *Maureen Blake*
- As always, a very entertaining quiz. *David Grainger*
- Another thoroughly enjoyable quiz, with some lesser known fish providing extra difficulty. *Ken Francis*
- Many thanks once again for a diverting quiz. I'm sure it's adding years to my productive, mental wellbeing. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Thank you for this quiz and all the others. *Julie Leigh*
- I was all at sea for a while, but I've managed to come up with 25 answers that (sort of) fit your definitions. Thanks for introducing me to a few new sea creatures. *Kath Harper*
- I'm not at all confident that I've answered your clues correctly but I've learned a bit more about fish, thank you for a cleverly constructed quiz. *Keith Bettles*
- As you can see I haven't completed it but I thought I would let you know that I at least Attempted it. *Graeme Cole* (And I appreciate it greatly. Ulla)
- Thanks for another very entertaining quiz. *Alison Shield*
- Ulla, you certainly know your fish well. I wonder how many you have tasted or perhaps caught. I could find nothing for three answers so am waiting with anticipation. I'll be happy if the rest are correct. *Lynn Jarman*
- Thank you for another fun quiz. Some deep-sea fishing - quite a challenge. I've been unable to hook the last three, however I did enjoy the trawling. *Ron Jarman*

December slot 6 Cryptic by Betelgeuse (Gillian Champion) - solution on page 2
Entries received: 50 Correct: 27
Success rate: 54%
Prizewinner: Robyn Wimbush. Congratulations!

Adjudicator's observations:

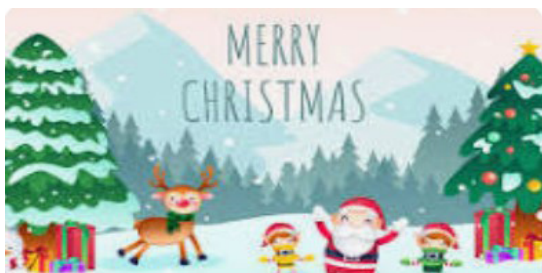
It is pleasing to see that Gillian's puzzles continue to be welcomed. TASSE provided some difficulty, perhaps because the word as such is not reflected in any of the ACC references. A mention of the French derivation may have assisted those with Chambers but after due consideration, and in the spirit of Christmas, the many entries of TASTE were accepted as valid. No major dramas elsewhere although some members are clearly not old enough to remember the meaning of SWIVE! A few "lyric"s for LORIC where LOR' is shown in Chambers as an interjection and some misunderstanding of the construction of the clue requiring the insertion of the homophone of "fates". As one commentator said, not a walk in the park - but perhaps a pleasant nostalgic ramble through Gillian's garden.

Kay Williams

Explanations: Across: 1 ITCHERS after DO + W, **6** homoph "floor", **10** homoph "fates", **11** (BOTANICAL GARDENS - costing)*, **12** (SURE* + R) in NY, **13** CACAO round UR, **14** (MAQUIS+HES)*, **16** SWIVE(L), **18** RAP + ID, **20** PRO + (O+F) in KIEV, **22** T + WINGED, **24** TR + E + FOIL, **25** OVERT + ONES, **26** A + POOP, **27** dd. **Down: 1** (FEED)* + NEST + RATIONS, **2** WATER + PUMP, **3** SETS* + ERA, **4** AD in HEY, **5** (CHIC)* in RADIO, **7** LOR' + I + C, **8** WINDOW + ENVELOPES, **15** MP in IE + DANCE, **17** I + RID + O + LOG + eYe, **19** DUG + IT + E, **21** REGAN in OO, **23** PEN< in IT, **24** TA + SS + E.

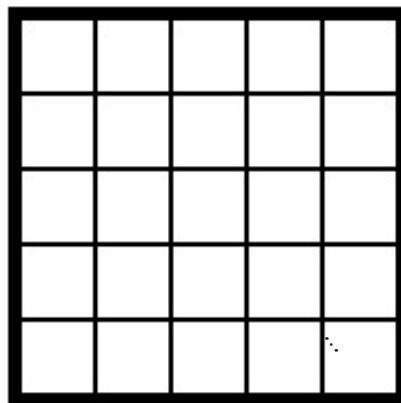
Solvers' Feedback:

- A Betelgeuse is not a walk in the park! A significant selection of obscure words & unfamiliar meanings for known words. *Ian Mckenzie*
- Phew!. I think I got there. I had never heard an eye called a water pump. Lots of COTM contenders. I loved SWIVE and FETES. *Roy Taylor*
- What a master! *Tony Dobe*
- Right or wrong I miss Betelgeuse *Brian Symons*
- Took a while but got there in the end. A great challenge. *Ulla Axelsen*
- WATER PUMP took a while to understand - I'm more familiar with the water works. A fun puzzle to solve. *Mal Cockburn*
- Classic Betelgeuse; with clever clues and a lacing of sly humour. *Kath Harper*
- Another terrific Gillian puzzle. We are so lucky to be still enjoying them. *Julie Crowe*



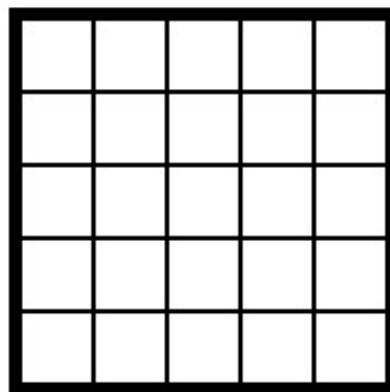
FRAZ WORD SQUARE 5 Jan 1 (Solution on p nn)
 Identical words read across and down in this square.
 Clues are not listed in order.

- Hangs ten, hiding anxiety
- Less fatalism finally in America
- Maturing booze encased in silver
- Solicit during launch
- Truly abandons awkward ambulatory president in 2010



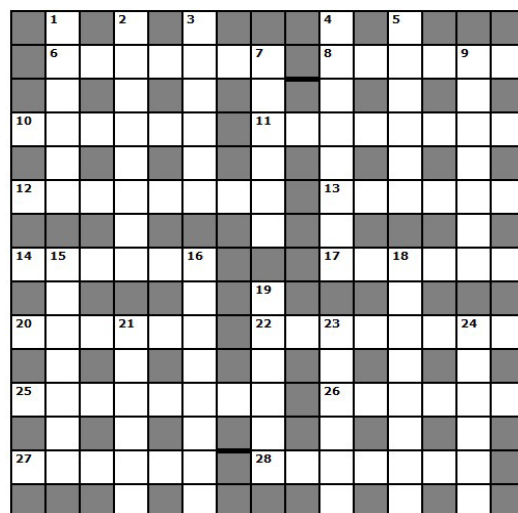
FRAZ WORD SQUARE 5 Jan 2 (Solution on p nn)
 Identical words read across and down in this square.
 Clues are not listed in order.

- Assistant welcomes small digression
- Bulb lit up somehow
- Drive back pariah from the east
- Q&A with sailor somewhere in the Middle East
- Take unfair advantage of a vehicle close to home



Blank grid slot 7

Name



December 7-2024: Crowsman's Corner (Len Colgan)

Entries: 61 Correct: 41 Success rate: 67 %.
Prizewinner: Karl Audrins. Congratulations!

Compiler's Comments: Thank you for the appreciative feedback. Just one clue gave problems "free lovers" may be greedy but cannot be defined as gourmands – the "possible payment" was a fiver, leading to the "liver" element of the solution. Overall a pleasing result for a moderately difficult puzzle

Explanations: Across: 1 FEED + BACK, **5** SAP< + SEE, **10** PUREE*, **11** F(REEL)IVER, **12** SEE + PAGE, **13** QUEEN + IE, **14** E(questrian) + MEETS<, **16** HIND + FEET, **18** LEEK< + B(O)AT, **20** dd, **24** (SEE POPE)<, **25** E(SCAPE)E, **27** EX(A + MINE)ES, **28** E + ERIE, **29** SET< + TEE, **30** SHED* in BEET.

Down: 1 F(ORES)EE, **2** E(Liberace)PEE, **3** BEE + RAGE, **4** C + (t)OFFEE, **6** ALL + SEE + D, **7** S(EVENT)EEN, **8** (b)EERIEST, **9** QUI in PEER<, **15** TEE(TOTAL)S, **17** BAN(SHE)E, **18** homoph of 'key nest', **19** NILE< in BEE, **21** EX + homoph of 'seeds', **22** (RECREaTE)*, **23** LESSEN, changing N to E, **26** RUPEE*.

Members' feedback:

- Another impressive grid where Crowsman makes it seem "eezy" to have every solution contain EE. One tiny quibble with EXAMINEES: the terminal ES would seem more accurately clued by "opponents" (cf. "partners") *Ian Mckenzie*
- EESY! But misleading; you said "some"! *Roy Taylor*
- Favourite EXCEEDS. *The Void*
- Well done Len; what an achievement! *Pat Garner*
- Clever compiling. Would have got 2 wrong if I hadn't noticed the double E in every word. *Ulla Axelsen*
- We had to "eese" into this one. *Richard Skinner*
- YippEE I've done it. Not EESY though. Thanks Len. *Betty Siegman*
- How far did I gEt into this puzzLE before I saw thE themE? 11A took a while to unravEl. *Mal Cockburn*
- Woweeeee! *Kath Harper*
- I enjoyed this clever puzzle where every answer contains a double E. *Michael Veress*
- Eek! That's a lot of EE's! *Fraser Simpson*
- 62 Es in that puzzle apart from the whole related thing. Interesting. *Robyn Wimbush*
- That wasn't eeze at all! Nice one; Len! *Kathryn Forward*
- All those double e's! Some terrific clues there. *Julie Crowe*
- I am concerned about the "some" answers are related and feel sure that I've made a stupid mistake. Merry Christmas. *Julie Leigh*
- Once I realised that all the answers had a 'ee' in them the solving became a bit easier. An enjoyable slot thanks. *Hilary Cromer*
- There is always an extra clever angle in your quizzes; Len! Shame I didn't pick it up until i was entering my answers. Silly mee! *Robyn Mckenzie*
- Being always slow on the uptake I didn't spot the pattern until entering into Accolade. At least helped to confirm all likely correct. Gees! *Toby McLeay*

Solution to December Slot 7

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

Sol'n FRAZ WORD SQUARE 5-Jan 1

L	S	G	N	V
S	U	N	I	M
G	N	I	G	V
N	I	G	E	B
A	M	A	B	O

Sol'n FRAZ WORD SQUARE 5 -Jan 2

L	E	P	E	R
E	D	I	S	A
P	I	L	T	U
E	S	U	B	A
R	A	T	A	Q



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

Explanations for December 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. Across: 1 (RITUALS HATE AN)*, 9 CROSS + ROW< + D, 10 Double, 12 EX+PORT+S, 13 A+tWeEtS + wOMEn, 14 SYNd (TACT) IC, 16 hidden<, 17 RE+B+US, 19 PIC< in (SLIDES)*, 21 S+MITTEN, 23 IN+A+DA+Z+E, 24 A+sTOP, 25 IN <> EX in INTRINSIC, 26 BRA+IN+STOR(M)ING.

Slot 2 CT. Across: 1 HANG + BY + A + (DEATH+R)*, 8 WhACK, 9 cd, 10 (LED TVs)*, 11 O + VERGe + ROW, 12 TO+REAP+ART, 14 dd, 15 dd, 17 PASS+(GREEN)*, 21 FREE+LOVE, 22 hidden<, 24 M(ag<>U)NIFICENT, 25 dd, 26 BENTS round (LAND+IS+HM) **Down:** 1 HEAVEn+HOt, 2 DEAN< around K, 3 BACK + SUP, 4 (iNnErS) in APPROPRIATES, 5 cd, 6 (E+THING+LEN)*, 7 DOFF around ASH, 13 ERICA around ShOrTiEs, 16 PER+BRUT<, 18 hidden, 19 (PERFORMANCES-(PM+FAR))* , 20 PI in CO-ED, 23 cRAYON.

Slot 3 NanaKat. Across: 8 APRIL*, 9 OPAL + EarnS + CENT, 10 dd, 11 dd, 12 (A + RinD) in SONIC, 14 APPLE + T, 16 fLOURish, 17 anag, 18 hidden, 19 IS + SUE + R, 21 anag, 23 Pun, 26 GUM in LEE, 27 OFF + (HORsing)*, 28 hidden<. **Down:** 1 anag, 2 LA + homoph "vender", 3 MEL< in SON, 4 hidden<, 5 REP + ROACH, 6 CAST* + UP, 7 stINKY, 13 I in CHORE, 15 sEX in CEMENT, 17 FORE + NO ONe, 18 MONO + GRAM, 20 anag, 22 sMALI + sIGNs, 24 spIFFY, 25 RUING.

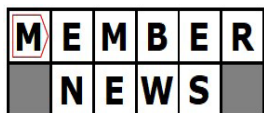
Slot 4 St Jude. A anag, **B** BAR+RAT, **C** CRAMP+ON, **D** D+ANGLE, **E** EINE KLEINE [nacht], **F** F(L)OUNDER + farthINGdales, **G** GET+AWAY, **H** HOP+LIT+E, **I** IN(s)ANELY, **J** JACK(AS)S, **K** homoph "craft", **L** LIQUI(d)+DATING, **M** homoph "males", **N** NOISE+TT+E, **O** wOMEN, **P** PRE+DIC(t)ATE, **Q** anag, **R** dd, **S** SK(E)IN, **T** TORT+(b)ELLINI, **U** anag, **V** VERI+ homoph "fires", **W** twit>WITT+(l)ILY, **X** XIAN+G, **Y** dd, **Z** anag.

Slot 5 Crowsman. Across: 9 TALL + INN, 10 (I + B(O)RIAN)<, 11 BAR< + AT, 12 (h)AMSTER + DAM, 13 S(ta) B in LION, 14 NAV(ERE)Y<, 20 (CAR + AS) around (A + c), 22 RAGU in PE(nne), 26 LAMA in (IS BAD), 27 QUIT + O, 28 J(A + KART)A, 29 M(BAB(y))ANE. **Down:** 1 S(TART)LING, 2 ALI + BIS, 3 VI + TOURS* + O, 4 MANNA<, 5 ICE aroung (N + ESSEN), 6 M(IS)ERE, 7 HOLD + FAST, 8 IMA(I)M<, 15 CAT around (ANAL + BO), 16 FUEL* in BOXES, 18 PART< + LIKE, 19 PAR(AQUA)T, 21 A + D(erby) + MIRE, 23 cd, 24 &lit clue, hidden, 25 A(DAM)S.

From the Crossword Centre: The crossword centre is urgently looking for volunteer clue writers for their next Round Robin puzzle. John Nicholson posted on its message board under Round Robin XVII [here](https://www.gironanick@yahoo.com) if any member is interested in participating. Or contact him direct at gironanick@yahoo.com

Derek Harrison reports that in the recent Spanish Scrabble championship, the winner was New Zealander Nigel Richards who does not speak Spanish. "This is an unbelievable humiliation," fumed the broadcaster Cadena Ser, saying that it had failed to interview Richards "because there was no way to do so as he doesn't speak Spanish". Known as the Tiger Woods of Scrabble, Richards, 57, "demonstrated an exceptional ability to recall Spanish words", it was claimed, to beat more than 150 competitors representing 20 countries.

Since the death of Anne Bradford, her daughter Gillian has continued the work of editing and adding to the *Crossword Solvers Dictionary*. The new edition was published in September and is available at Amazon Australia.



Subscriptions: Many thanks to those who have subscribed promptly for 2025.

Email address: Recent emails from Ian use ianw1@iinet.net.au although ianw@webone is still active. The "new" address may result in

my emails ending up in your junk mail folder, so it's worth checking the folder **and** entering the address ianw1@iinet.net.au in your address book.

Donations to the ACC Prize Fund: Many thanks for their generous donations to the Prize Fund this month to Ulla Axelsen, Julie Crowe, Mary Dodd, Greg Jones, Margaret Mayhew, , Drew Meek, Anne Simons and Cheryl Wilcox.

In the engine room: We're still short of adjudicators and quizmasters. Can you help to provide our members with these important features of our club?

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](https://www.facebook.com/AustralianCrosswordClub) or click the hyperlink

If you're not receiving your copy of the magazine, please email jenny@wenham.net.au to make sure we have your current email address.

December 1: Valkyrie (Ulla Axelsen)

- Bit tougher than your average Slot 1. Quite a few options to narrow down in top LH corner e.g. AUSTRIANS/ALBANIANS/ANDORRANS, SLOTS/SORTS, HAIR-PIN/HOOK-PIN. SYNTACTIC is a fine clue. *Ian McKenzie*
- Very clever. *Julie Leigh*
- Favourite DISCIPLES. *The Void*
- The Australian Crossword Club exports awesome syntactic tests. Rebus disciples smitten in a daze, atop extrinsic brainstorming. *Allan Storti*
- A beautifully self-evident Nina. *Sam Howat*
- Didn't see the "story" enclosed until I was submitting this. Well done, Ulla and thanks for the "Awesome Syntactic tests" etc. *Ann Millard*
- Nice puzzle, nice across story. *Roy Taylor*
- Wow, I think that's the first time the across answers have told a story. Brilliant!! *Betty Siegman*
- Very neat promo for our club. *Kath Harper*
- Found this hard for a Slot 1. *Joan Smith*
- That has to be the longest Nina I've ever seen! *Richard Skinner*
- Well, this rebus disciple is certainly smitten! Brilliant Ulla. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Nice Nina! the Australian Crossword Club does indeed export awesome syntactic tasks! *Sonia Roulston*
- Tough for a Slot 1 with a number of obscure words to discover. Fun to solve. *Mal Cockburn*
- Exactly what the Across answers say! *Fraser Simpson*
- Loved the Across message; thanks Valkyrie. My favourite clue was EXTRINSIC. *Kathy Horadam*
- Very clever. I suspect I qualify as a rebus disciple. *Julie Crowe*
- Cute message. *Andrew Patterson*
- Great hidden message! *Keith Bettles*
- Clever wording in the run of across answers. *Hilary Cromer*
- The story that the across words make is so true and so clever of you to put it together. I'm smitten! *Robyn McKenzie*

December 2: CT (Chris Thomas)

- Not certain I've got TORE APART right. As I can't see how "tore up"=to get. Hmm! [the "get" gives REAP - Ed] Capitalism was fun, but favourite is Appropriateness. *The Void*
- Lot of good clues. *Roy Taylor*
- Took ages to work out 12ac and 'to trouser' is a new one for me. Always learning something new. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Thoroughly enjoyable! *Kathryn Forward*
- 12ac proved hard to decipher with its sinuous syntax. *Mal Cockburn*
- An enjoyable Slot 2. *Fraser Simpson*
- Plenty of clever clues. *Ian Thompson*
- I liked the two-word clues (STIFF and SPOOK) and the clue for PASSENGER! *Beverley Cockburn*
- Favourite clues- CAPITALISM and MARACA. I'm not sure a WACK is an odd-ball [US usage in Chambers - Ed]. *Kathy Horadam*

December 3: NanaKat (Kathryn Forward)

- BIN LINER is a great clue. *Ian McKenzie*
- Favourite BIN LINER, lol. *The Void*
- Nice puzzle. *Allan Storti*
- I began badly thinking 8ac was RIAL, tho it is not Lebanese. Eventually realised it was LIRA. I

disliked 1dn as it is clued as a noun. But I ended up enjoying the puzzle. *Roy Taylor*

- Thanks, NanaKat, I'm enjoying your puzzles. *Betty Siegman*
- LOUR had me scratching my head until I realised that the definition was not at one of the ends, then it became obvious (I think). Thanks for the challenge. *Ulla Axelsen*
- The clue to LOUR is not Ximenean as the answer means neither flourish nor seafood. BIN LINER lacks a sounds-like indicator but acceptable I guess as a pun. A good puzzle never-the-less. *Mal Cockburn*
- I loved the clue for BIN LINER and the FROTH < thanks, NanaKat. *Kathy Horadam*
- I liked the clue for FROTH. *Hilary Cromer*

December 4: St Jude (Drew Meek)

- Favourite HOPLITE. Not sure of definitions in my last two, GETAWAY and JACKASS, so fingers crossed. *The Void*
- Clue E caused a headache. Had to have a wild guess. *Graeme Cole*
- A good mixture of easy to challenging clues. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Definitely floundering with the X clue but eventually found out what a XIAN is -obvious when you think of Xmas. Not sure about the G clue. *Mal Cockburn*
- Tough to get started on the grid, but a very satisfying puzzle. *Fraser Simpson*
- EINE KLEINE should not be an answer. Redo the grid if necessary. *Andrew Patterson*
- A few previously unknown words in this slot. *Hilary Cromer*

December 5: Crowsman (Len Colgan)

- Favourites MISERE and ADMIRE. *The Void*
- In order to make sure I can nominate your delicious CANALBOAT I've substituted missing letters with the letter X. *Patricia Abbott*
- Loved this slot, but not at all confident! 6dn is proving elusive and some of the others are doubtful. I'll keep going until I've cracked it! CANALBOAT as COTM. Cheers. *Patricia Abbott*
- I was lucky to guess TALLINN early which led to the theme. NAIROBI made me laugh, gave it COTM. *Roy Taylor*
- Most enjoyable! *Ann Millard*
- A very good puzzle, typical Crowsman! *Allan Storti*
- Getting 9ac straight away gave the game away. Some great clues. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Twiggged onto the theme early on as LISBON was my first answer. Is a similar puzzle with national currency in the pipeline? A capital puzzle! *Mal Cockburn*
- Capital fun! *Kath Harper*
- Great puzzle with great clues; favourites were NAIROBI, BLUE FOXES and ISLAMABAD. *Joan Smith*
- A challenging but interesting puzzle, but unable to fully understand CARACAS and PRAGUE. *Graeme Cole*
- A very interesting tour of the world's capitals. *Laurence Kennedy*
- I was reminded of this trivia "quiz" question: there is only one national capital beginning with each of the letters in the word QUIZ. What are these four cities? (Two were in this puzzle.) *Fraser Simpson*
- Nice to have a hook to hang one's answers on! Capital fun. Thanks Len. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Classic Crowsman! Thoroughly enjoyed the tussle. *Kathryn Forward*

Continued on page 20

November Clue-writing Competition: Write a clue for PANTRY (6)**Adjudicated by Andrew Patterson***Some definition from Collins:*

- 1.Noun:** A pantry is a small room or large cupboard in a house, usually near the kitchen, where food is kept.
- 2. Noun:** A shelter or other place where food is dispensed to the needy, either as groceries or as meals

This time round, 12 entries were received for November's judgement. Most constructors found neat ways to make their clue. A good surface and seamless wordplay are always the target. The entries are listed in order of submission.

Food store stocking early plums, apples, nectarines, tangelos & raspberries - YUM! ***

This clue opted for initial letters. Certainly, the surfaces sense is clear and appropriate. My only hesitation is 'early' which is a tad vague. In a clue-writing competition, precision is important.

Vessel, carrier, without a food store?! ** ½

We have 'pan, tr-y' as the construction. It's a tight clue with no wasted words, hinting at a ship with no food store. The punctuation is mainly for astonishment but it distracts as it usually suggests some devilry but here, not. Still, quite neat.

Gasp at really empty larder * ½**

Pan, r---y. The surface is again good and the clue is economical. And yes, an empty pantry would indeed dismay.

Larder has pest in extract ***

A construction that I imagined would arrive, 'ant' inside 'pry'. The pest is in some food extract product. The surface is possible, if not a little dispiriting.

Rubbish first, then have a go filling butler's closet ** ½

The construction is clear - 'pan' first, then 'try'. The definition had a welcome difference. I'm unsure what's happening in the surface sense and 'filling' seems an unusual choice for a connection between wordplay and definition.

Buttery recipe to stuff roast turkey wings ****

Of all the synonyms I saw, I thought 'buttery' had a lot of potential so I'm glad someone used it. Recipe=r, pan=roast (as in rant) and 'turkey wings' clearly suggests 't---y'. The surface is smooth and sensible. Hard to beat.

Room to scan a four-pointer ***

This clue had another angle with scan, as a camera might, plus 'four-pointer' as a Rugby League try. As more a Union guy, I could argue the point score aspect. The surface is a little vague but suggestive of the Television Match Official which'd be lost on many solvers.

Denigrate attempt to construct larder ***

Pan+try. The construction is simply put and the surface is viable (but a little ungenerous to the constructor!)

Make inquiries about extremely short cloak in the storeroom ** ½

Here we have 'make inquiries'=pry. But then we have 'extremely short cloak' as a reduction of 'manta' (shawl or cloak), or -ant-. I'd say that's a very tough connection to make. The surface is decent but using 'ant' would've been much more practical.

Something to cook food and something to serve food, but not a place to store food ***

This had the same construction as a previous clue but was more explanatory. The surface didn't really amount to a lot but it's still adequate.

New replacement for third of poor-quality food storage area ***

A unique method by this setter, substituting 'n'/new for the 'l' of 'paltry'. A quibble is that, as presented, 'area' needed to be a plural or 'a third' was required. Both options wouldn't have helped the clue's integrity however.

Take short strides to the railway store * ½**

Another different construction as 'short strides' is 'pant(s)' and railway=Ry. Maybe 'the' was unnecessary. The surface was tidy and the indicators were clear. Thank you for all submissions. It's nice to see how many different ideas can arrive for a relatively simple word.

Taipan trying to occupy larder ***

A fairly troubling hidden-type clue. While the construction is clear I still would've liked the answer 'to occupy taipan trying' somehow. Maybe a different indicator if using this structure.

The winner for this month is Andrew Miles, with, **"Buttery recipe to stuff roast turkey wings"**. It just had a clear, smooth surface and a nicely disguised wordplay. Congratulations, Andrew!

Clue-Writing Competition Scoring System

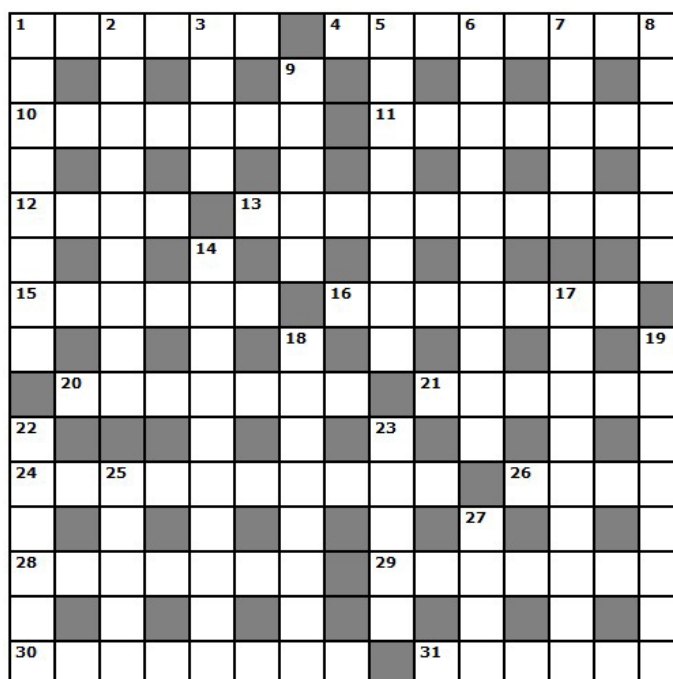
	Poor	Proper	Perfect
Definition	0	1	2
Secondaries	0	1	2
Fairness	0	1	2
Surface	0	1	2
x-factor	0	1	2
Total score	Star Rating		
1 or 2	*		
3 or 4	**		
5 - 7	***		
8 - 9	****		
10	*****		

January Clue-writing competition

The January Clue-writing competition will be adjudicated by Drew Meek. The word to be clued is **CELEBRATION (11)**. Please send your entry (one per member only), together with your explanation, to drewski1@hotmail.com or by mail to Kay Williams 12 Lindrum Crescent Holt ACT 2615 Closing mail date **14 February 2025** Prize \$50.

t **Bonus 1****Good girls?
by
Raoul**

This puzzle may be completed using ACCOLADE but will not be assessed. Entries for the bonus prize must be sent to Raoul as noted below



Twelve solutions marked * have something in common and are undefined. As a real bonus, one lucky solver will be awarded a pre-prandial (or jentacular!) beverage package to the value of \$50 at my newest watering-hole, Sydney Inner West, TBA. Send your solutions by mail using the blank grid below to William Ryan The Old Bicycle Factory 304/30 Buckland Street, Chippendale NSW 2008 or scan the completed grid and email it to williamgryan@icloud.com or text it to 018 974 123. **Closing mail date is Friday 31 January 2025.**

Across

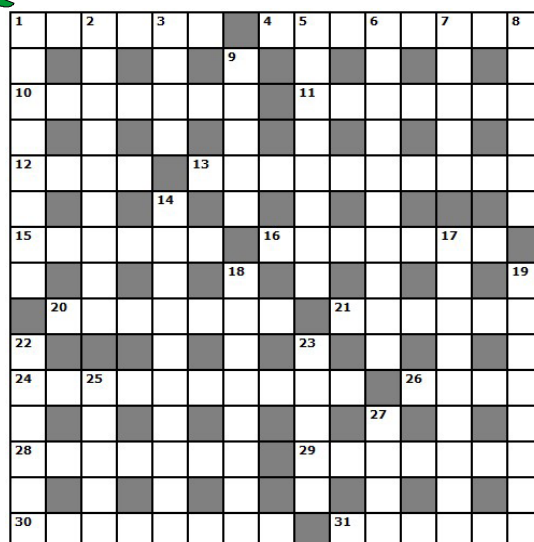
- 1 Found in Monopoly. P.S. - a pain in the arse! (6)
- 4 * No chores in ordering one of these (8)
- 10 Dry July, chez Raoul? (2-3-2)
- 11 * 8oz dealer (7)
- 12 * Oviform pitcher (4)
- 13 * Bar-room scenes! (10)
- 15 Decamped before the kick-off in the Union! (6)
- 16 * Half-myopic? Think Klink! (7)
- 20 Rises like tear gas around the object (7)
- 21 Bob is one musical dance (6)
- 24 * Twitchers' tools (10)
- 26 Bottomless dance-up a mozzie (4)
- 28 Four capriccioso couplets - not special (7)
- 29 Shrewd, but topless sceptic (7)
- 30 Better than an Inner!? (5-3)
- 31 Original equipment that must not be broken, vestally speaking! (6)

Down

- 1 * Fix church philosophy up (5-3)
- 2 Excessively lewd in naughty clearing house - no gain (9)
- 3 * 15 in TAS, 20 in NSW (4)
- 5 Polished stone unearthed in the cab? Och! Onyx? (8)
- 6 Non-broadcast? Broadcast. No. n.b. crustacean!? (10)
- 7 No Clue!
- 8 Seldom seen artist sleep (6)
- 9 It @ zero duck speed! (5)
- 14 * Peeping Tom tools (10)
- 17 * Theme for Tosca? (9)
- 18 Decalogue No. 7 proscription (8)
- 19 * Understands inherent diplomacy (8)
- 22 KAOS rising - tar on the rowan tree (6)
- 23 We used to put Condy's Crystals in the drip-trays to stop these being put back into the kilderkins! (5)
- 25 Possibly callipygous old SA province (5)
- 27 * 25 pound jumper! (4)

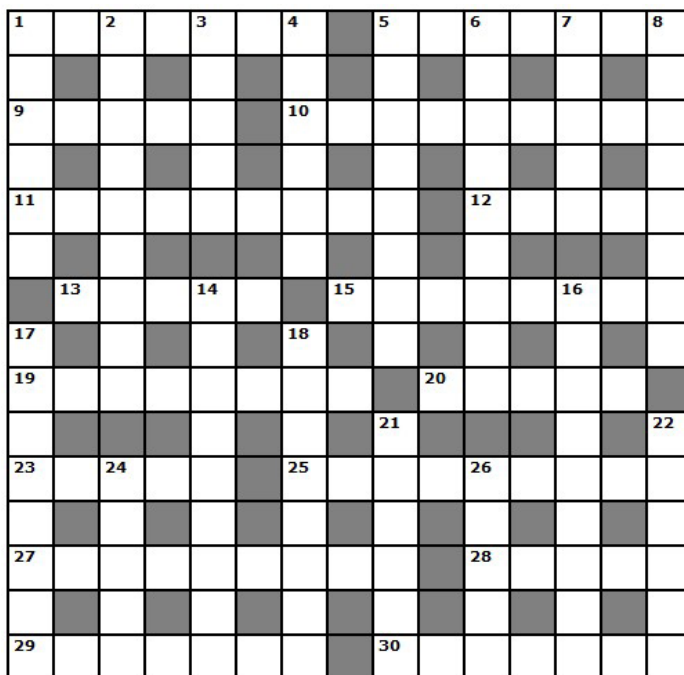


Name



Bonus 2**Franco-German Alliance by Pentangle**

This puzzle may be completed and assessed using ACCOLADE but will not be adjudicated. Solutions will be available from 1 January 2025

**Across**

- 1** The highest mountain in history is in France (7)
- 5** President and the French celebrate (7)
- 9** No one in France saw opening parts of speech (5)
- 10** Stifle ill disposition with picture (5,4)
- 11** Bent nail blocking narrow opening in a type of fence (5-4)
- 12** Stop at nothing to hold back way in which beer may be available (2,3)
- 13** The German starts to test some legislative assemblies (5)
- 15** Protections of French charges covering network computers (8)
- 19** Rude to love ranting wildly (8)
- 20** Fought centre concealing offence for taking drugs (5)
- 23** Rain beginning to hold off for planter (5)
- 25** Old Frenchman not going back to Queensland town (9)
- 27** Run art house designed for continental fashionistas living abroad (9)
- 28** Young French one following first person in France (5)
- 29** She has haphazardly followed leaders of Norway, Austria, Turkey and Albania (7)
- 30** The brief French and German articles make violent denunciations (7)

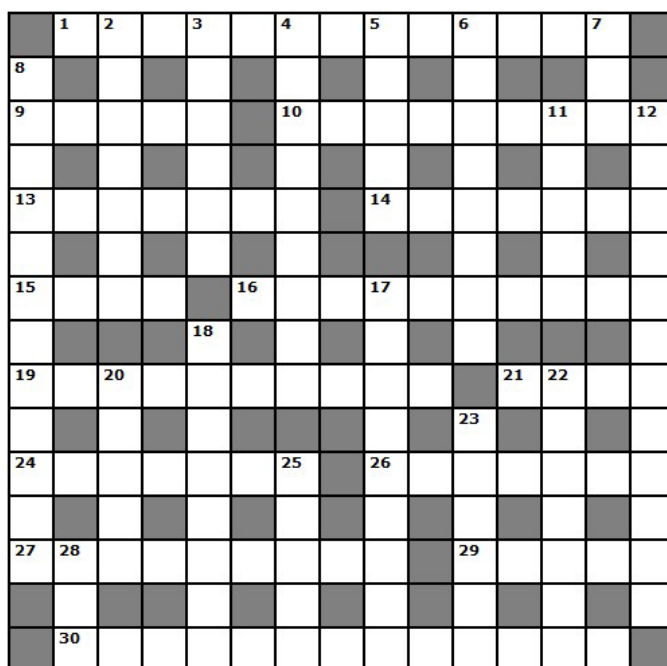
Down

- 1** Woman at the heart of feud over French city (6)
- 2** Instruction for French nobleman to supplant queen in expression of correspondence (9)
- 3** German city is missing 50% of essentials (5)
- 4** Bottom of the short suit redesigned (6)
- 5** Proceeds bit by bit to deceive the French (8)
- 6** Releases a French toilet with limited appreciation (9)
- 7** Colour French bread over time (5)
- 8** This unlawful act is very French and almost out of fashion (8)
- 14** Sharp prices for acid salts (9)
- 16** Interpreted studies on time and date surrounding the way of the French (9)
- 17** Good man admitted by German ones to be a genius (8)
- 18** Unexpectedly go on and apologise initially to native American people (8)
- 21** Love to talk about beginning to rejuvenate old fruit garden (6)
- 22** Disconnect suction device with no place to cover an opening (6)
- 24** Beat German sausage we hear (5)
- 26** Old French province identified in German journal (5)

Bonus 3

Cryptic by Jesso

This puzzle may be completed and assessed using ACCOLADE but will not be adjudicated. Solutions will be available from 1 January 2025



Across

- 1 A new fashion accepted, God willing, with approval about artist-composer (7,6)
- 9 French banker investing nothing in old Italian money (5)
- 10 Bards idly murdered coccinellids (9)
- 13 Social critic raced around hospital getting gold (7)
- 14 Placed an amount on a piece of fruit (7)
- 15 Revise new diet (4)
- 16 Bathe and rinse energetically in winters? (10)
- 19 Procurement officers - car pushers otherwise (10)
- 21 Currency requires articles back-to-back (4)
- 24 Parries inexpertly with swords (7)
- 26 Wrong handling of sailor on drugs (7)
- 27 A tool to get money from a girl without right (3-6)
- 29 Little weight with one atmospheric factor (5)
- 30 The military scares me! Drive off! (5,8)

Down

- 2 New aura given by witchcraft in the city (7)
- 3 Old boy looked on and followed orders (6)
- 4 Independent Conservative to praise one country novel (1,8) (1,8)
- 5 Fops detective sued wrongly (5)
- 6 Yellow cold going around (8)
- 7 Sheep-tick starting to kiss newspaperman (3)
- 8 It is Bert and Phil's new play (6,6)
- 11 Stir up our street disturbance (5)
- 12 Grass planted around like a banner! (4-8)
- 17 Try heading off party on about a glib fellow (9)
- 18 See about other arrangement for a pump support? (8)
- 20 Disreputable fellow at college — tear to pieces (3,2)
- 22 Disgusting racket around the middle of Rome (7)
- 23 Old actor uncommonly losing out ... not out! (6)
- 25 Invests dollars finally in Kansas (5)
- 28 A woman in Abadan (3)

Bonus 4

NJ 1 by Noel Jessop

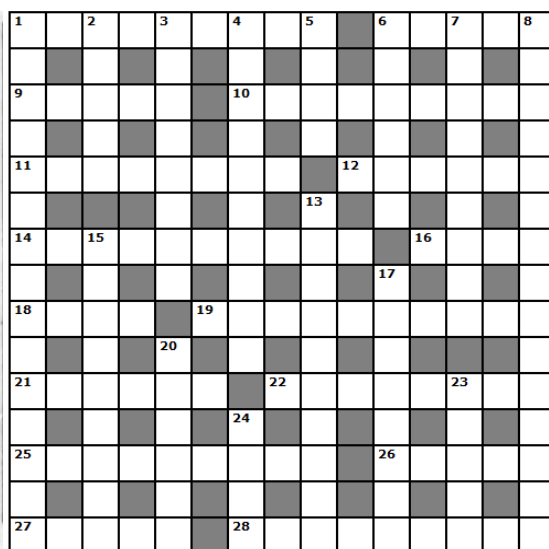
This puzzle may be completed and assessed using ACCOLADE but will not be adjudicated. Solutions will be available from 1 January 2025

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

NO. NJ 1

ACROSS

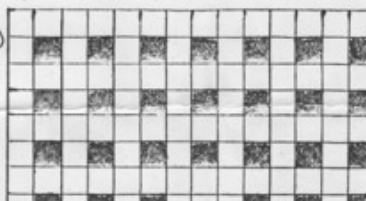
1. Achilles heel, perhaps, troublesome at tennis (4,5)
2. Plumbing musical to some with bag (5)
3. Capone sailor at ceremonial site (5)
4. Energy after feels too wrongly. Example of 1 ac. (4,5)
5. Strict untouchable yields unyieldingness (8)
6. Backbone goes east followed by me for old boat (6)
7. Remembers and assembles again (10)
8. Hundred left no tea for musical notation (4)
9. Phosphorus after mother getting wet. (4)
10. Barium oxide making Atlas sweat? (5,5)
11. Popular report on lodger? (6)
12. Different coteries continued to the initiated (8)
13. Dislocated magic nite. Very mysterious! (9)
14. I am short in smashed bin and cloudy (5)
15. Hurry back to the abysses. (5)
16. Turn diamond point some distance between axes (5-4)



DOWN

1. Fine epithet for a bird according to W.C. FIELDS (9,6)
2. Cad left right off first to become playful ichthyophagist (5)
3. Brer Rabbit to his nephew? Ungrammatical distant relative? Enough to make one boil! (8)
4. Slowed down perhaps. Could be cause of 10 (10)
5. Too much French wine up. (4)
6. Mash it up? No, it's down at last. The whole thing is raised and boxed in. (6)
7. For piano, headless bell or screw (9)
8. Murderer yawls to here (5,2,3,5)
13. Starts a lot of square rods for larkspur (10)
15. Complex, but sounds like a place where a worker might get injury and recompense (9)
17. Asked the Spanish to bat? As nightwatchman? (6)
20. Mixed mire and tacked on top of steeple for covering (6)
23. Dance to an odd degree (5)
24. Tail of trout in three directions. Tasty dish! (4)

SOLUTION TO NO. NJ



DEAR CLAIRE,

TRY YOUR HAND AT THIS. I'VE SHOT IT OFF TO THE FAIRFAXES TO TRY MY LUCK. CROSS YOUR FINGERS FOR ME. WILL SEND SOLUTION ONLY IF REQUIRED

Noel

During a house-tidy Claire Batum, one of our earliest members, unearthed this historical gem from her father Noel, our founder. It was written round about 1976. st the start of his professional compiling career. If the clues are hard to read they may be found on ACCOLADE. It is interesting to compare the style with that in Bonus 3!

**Word of the year 2024**

As has become traditional, the major dictionaries have looked at the usage of words in 2004 and have nominated their words of the year

Oxford University Press, publishers of many dictionaries and lexical resources, have nominated **BRAIN ROT**. They note "Our experts noticed that 'brain rot' gained new prominence this year as a term used to capture concerns about the impact of consuming excessive amounts of low-quality online content, especially on social media. The term increased in usage frequency by 230% between 2023 and 2024.

The first recorded use of 'brain rot' was found in 1854 in Henry David Thoreau's book *Walden*, but has taken on new significance as an expression in the digital age."

I must confess to some personal reservations regarding the Macquarie offering of **ENSHITTIFICATION**. Apart from the unpleasantness of the word itself, I can't say I've ever heard it or come across it in any written material in 2024. However, the wise etymologists of the committee at Macquarie justify it as "the gradual deterioration of a service or product brought about by a reduction in the quality of service provided, especially of an online platform, and as a consequence of profit-seeking". They describe it as "A very basic Anglo-Saxon term wrapped in affixes which elevate it to being almost formal; almost respectable. This word captures what many of us feel is happening to the world and to so many aspects of our lives at the moment." Interestingly, The American Dialect Society selected it as **its** Word of the Year in 2023.

Collins went for the well-known and often-used word **BRAT**, noting that it is newly defined in 2024 as 'characterized by a confident, independent, and hedonistic attitude'. Inspired by the Charli XCX album, 'brat' has become one of the most talked about words of 2024. More than a hugely successful album, 'brat' is a cultural phenomenon that has resonated with people globally, and 'brat summer' established itself as an aesthetic and a way of life.

Dictionary.com plumped for the word **DEMURE**, which they say experienced a meteoric rise in usage in 2024. Between January and the end of August, this term saw a nearly 1200% increase in usage in digital web media alone. This sharp rise is mainly attributed to TikTok Jools Lebron's popularization of the phrase "very demure, very mindful" in a series of videos posted to the platform in early August.

Merriam-Webster decided on **AUTHENTIC** as its 2024 word of the year, noting that more people searched for this word on their online site than any other word. "It makes sense, considering the amount of posts we've seen from friends and public figures reference how they're planning to be more 'authentic' and 'raw' with their posts for the next while. I think we all know someone who has stated they're 'going to be their authentic self' moving forward. 'Authentic' and 'authenticity' have also been tossed around a lot over the past year thanks to the emergence of A.I. technology, which has called into question what is real and what is not real."

The Cambridge Dictionary's word of the year for 2024 is **MANIFEST**. They say that the word was chosen because of increased lookups as it was looked up nearly 130,000 times on the Cambridge Dictionary website, making it one of the most viewed entries, and *widespread use*, perceiving that the word's use increased across all types of media. It was also noted that its meaning has changed over time.

The Australian National Dictionary Centre's 2024 Word of the Year was **COLESWORTH**, spotlighting growing frustration with top supermarkets.

What words will you be using in 2025? Any of the above? You pays your money and takes your choice, although looking at the

many past words of the year that have not passed into common use, I wonder how many will be with us in their new meanings or usages at the end of 2025?

Ian Williams

Bonus Quiz by Nigrum Cattus

(Ray Gooderick). Each solution contains a word consisting of its alternate letters eg. BInDnEsS gives bides, Solutions are in alphabetical order. Answers next month

1	Deviation from the right course (10)
2	Extreme loathing (10)
3	Military headgear (9)
4	One of slight build (9)
5	Leave of absence (8)
6	Large galley (8)
7	Not having a will (9)
8	Universe (9)
9	Whirlpool (9)
10	Quality of attraction (9)
11	Coming into being (8)
12	Vibrate (9)
13	Examination by touch (9)
14	Breakfast meal (8)
15	Treeless plain (7)
16	Shield from danger (7)
17	Know again
18	A source of deliverance (9)
19	Riotously merry (11)
20	Deposit of water borne particles (9)
21	Catapult (9)
22	Water pepper (9)
23	Figurine (9)
24	Meanness (10)
25	End of route(8)
26	Crookedness (10)
27	Not balanced (7)
28	Fantasies (8)

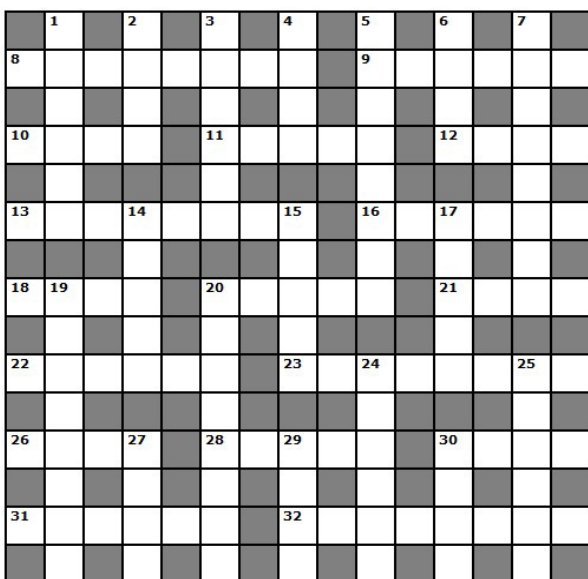
Feedback on slot 5 - cont'd from p 14

- A great puzzle! I got off on the wrong foot; with Porto, instead of Quito. Lisbon followed, which then had me touring Portugal. Eventually; it all came together. Thanks Len. *Julie Crow*
- Nice puzzle, but I'm disappointed that Ouagadougou and Yamoussoukro didn't get used. *Ian Thompson*
- Crowsman has succeeded in providing a challenge to enjoy once again. *Lynn Jarman*
- I enjoyed this themed slot with some clever clues. *Hilary Cromer*
- I learned some new capitals. *Robyn Mckenzie*

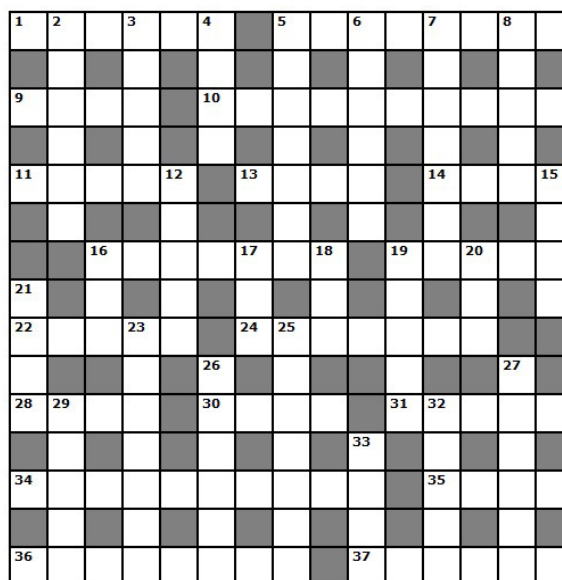




JANUARY 1 NAME.....

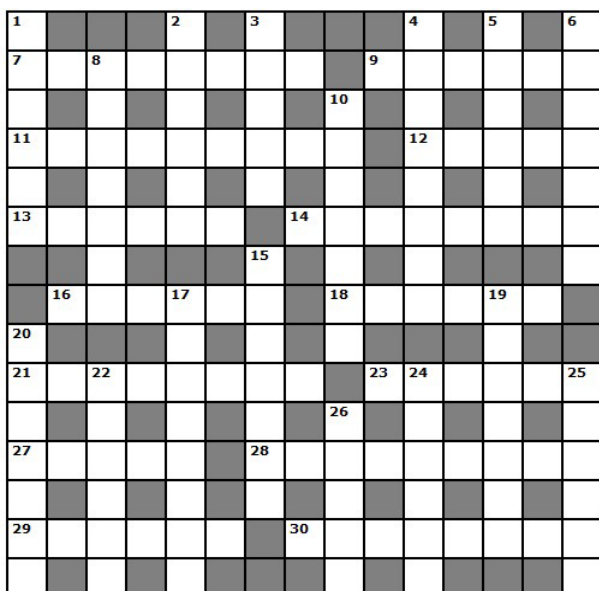


JANUARY 2

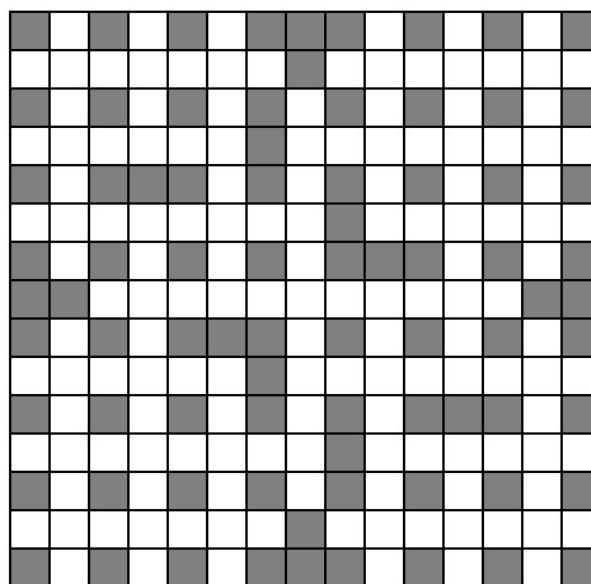


Clue of the Month

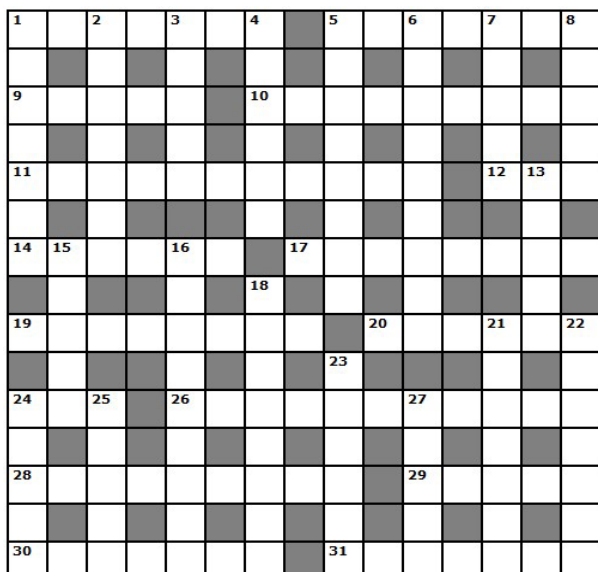
JANUARY 3



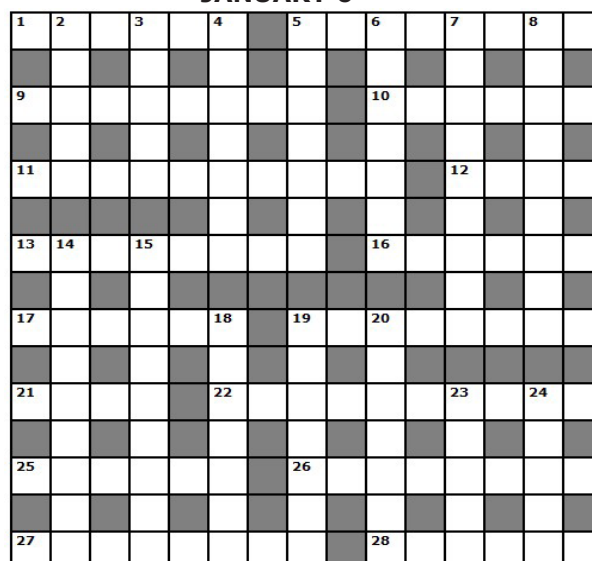
JANUARY 4



JANUARY 5



JANUARY 6



For online entry, submission and adjudication via ACCOLADE click on the ACCOLADE button on www.crosswordclub.org home page or for mail entries see page 3 Closing mail date for all puzzles 31 January 2025

Submit solution by ACCOLADE or for mail entries see page 3 Closing mail date 31 January 2025
NAME.....

