



CrOZworld

No 429 January 2026



www.crosswordclub.org



Merry Christmas

GRIDATORIAL

The Executive Committee held a virtual meeting in November. A fuller report may be found on page 21. Two matters will be of major interest to members. Firstly the financial situation of the Club remains healthy, so that subscriptions and prize levels can be maintained at current levels for 2026. Secondly, it was agreed to fund a subscription to the Macquarie Dictionary for all member. An article on page 21 provides some detail: a link will be sent to members in the next few days, which will give access without the need to log in. This will represent a considerable saving to members over the cost of an individual subscription.

We have a veritable feast for you this month to complement your seasonal fare. A half and half by KA (Karl Audrins) starts the ball rolling, followed by a polished puzzle in slot 2 by Ninian. Slot 3 is occupied by an interesting puzzle by NanaKat and the ever-popular AJ is once again provided by Valkyrie. An appropriately-timed challenge by CT will keep you busy in slot 5. Don't forget who you are dealing with when you tackle Robespierre's slot 6 puzzle! More Christmas cheer from Valkyrie will have you singing along as you solve the ingenious slot 7.

As is traditional we have provided some bonus puzzles in case you need extra simulation when the festivities pall. Their solutions will be available on 1 January (with the exception of Fraz's greetings in bonus 4 and for Michael's bonus quiz), but the puzzles will still be available for solving long after that.

We wish you all the best for Christmas and the New Year and hope to intrigue and challenge you throughout 2026. Happy puzzling!

Ian

FROM THE ADJUDICATOR

Sadly, another wonderful year of CrOZworld puzzles, quizzes, and information draws to a close, but adjudicating in December gives me the perfect chance to wish all members a merry festive season and a delightfully head-scratching new CrOZwording Year for 2026. Now for the dots . . .

Slot 1: Phew, that was a workout! The theme here was 11 seas (bodies of water) although it seems most solvers don't venture off shore much, with 5 seas having at least one error. But the most dots (13) were lost with BAY (unfortunately not YAP). Chambers: 'To bark or howl (esp of large dogs)'.

Slot 2: Every down clue ends with 'AND' = ampersand = &. I thought 24ac ATALAYA might be a problem (a?a?a?a) and so it turned out with some (9) very inventive alternatives.

Slot 3: Gratifying to see a lot of Australianisms: Wag, Long Paddock, Galahs, Billyhook, Cocky etc. DRAY HORSE unfortunately became Dead Horse for no less than 14, and Dark Horse for one. There were 4 KESTRALS (KESTREL) which is hard to credit since the answer is hidden in the clue.

Slot 4: The AJ is always popular and this was a good example. Very few errors, perhaps this will qualify for a prize for 'puzzle with least dots lost during the year'.

Slot 5: I learnt FRANKLIN and HOMONYMOUS. Tricky puzzle but if you did what it said on the tin you could get it out. I liked the imaginative RASTOFARIANISTS (RESTORATIONISTS) and DUE SOUTH for DUE NORTH - who knew it would fit perfectly?

continued on page 2

LEADING FIGURES DECEMBER 2024

Puzzle No.	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Entries received	74	75	79	77	75	380
Correct Entries	49	53	54	71	66	293
Success rate(%)	66.2	70.7	68.4	92.2	88	77.1
Prizewinners	Jean Barbour	Karlus Audrins	Greg Jones	Hilary Cromer	Cam Graves	from 89 members

Prizewinner: December Slots 1-5 correct: Corryn Anderson. Congratulations!

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December slot 1

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

December slot 2

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

December slot 3

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

December slot 4

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

December slot 5

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

December slot 6

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

MEMBERS' RESULTS FOR DECEMBER 2025 Slots 1 to 7

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

continued from page 1

COTM: As always, it was good to see every slot included in the votes. Slot 2 won the 'most clues nominated' category with a surprising 8 separate clues proposed. AITCH in slot 4 attracted 3 votes, just pipped by Slot 3's ACCUSER with 5 votes. [Crime reporter a cryptic crossword addict?] Congratulation to all setters. **Tony Dobelet**

Slot 1

Half and Half by KA



	1		2		3		4		5		6		7	
8							9							
10					11					12				
			13											
14					15		16		17		18			
19					20						21		22	
23	24				25						26			
									27					
28			29		30		31				32			
33										34				

Across

- 8 Sandwich (6)
- 9 Obscure and ambiguous (8)
- 10 An insect egg (4)
- 11 Shaw, for one (10)
- 13 Raincoat (3)
- 14 Musical accessory (4)
- 15 Activity (10)
- 19 Ghanaian currency (4)
- 20 Two (5)
- 21 An old rag (4)
- 23 Mariner (4,6)
- 26 Big bird (4)
- 27 Fish (3)
- 28 Visually impervious (5-5)
- 32 Towelling (4)
- 33 Bothers persistently (8)
- 34 Lodger (6)

Down

- 1 Excuse friend with tardy acceptance of independence (8)
- 2 Deceive spy carrying hermaphrodite in vehicle (10)
- 3 Middle of the cemetery? (4,6)
- 4 End of payment to Academy (4)
- 5 Clown left suit for the festivity (4)
- 6 Letter for the African (4)
- 7 Slang name for mineral (6)
- 12 Attachment to clothing (3)
- 16 Assert that shellfish ingested Iodine (5)
- 17 Adjusting bifurcation in instrument (6,4)
- 18 Parentage of scum gangster? (10)
- 22 Instructor takes roubles and becomes traitor (8)
- 24 South African has the Italian vessel (6)
- 25 Instruction to best friend to lift apprentice out of sludge (3)
- 29 Wish for old comedian (4)
- 30 Speed of quiet expert (4)
- 31 Duck will utilise river (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 via ACCOLADE or by mail to Larry Kennedy 27, Honey Richea Road, Hellyer, TAS 7321
 Slot 6 via ACCOLADE or by mail to Ian McKenzie 47 Ronald Avenue Greenwich NSW 2065
 Slot 7: via ACCOLADE or by mail to Ulla Acelden 6 Maud Street Donnybrook Qld 4510

BLANK GRIDS PAGE 20

Closing mail date 30 January 2026. ACCOLADE and email entries close at 00.01

Slot 2

Cryptic by Ninian



1		2		3			4	5		6		7		8
9							10							
							11							
12										13				
								14						
	15			16								17		
	18													
19														20
21		22					23			24				
							25							
26										27				
28										29				

Across

- 1 Quiet, quiet year after fish return (6)
- 4 Australian redhead viewed one regarded as a favourite (4-4)
- 9 Mindless miner (5)
- 10 Enigmatic coteries? (8)
- 12 Reschedule TWA Syria flight (8)
- 13 Very quickly over following egoless priest (6)
- 15 Cooks old crab and adds water nutrients (13)
- 18 Unorthodox turn on the lookout without whiskey (13)
- 21 Sap suckers hid sap solution (6)
- 23 Small pen for each groom (8)
- 26 Copies answers amending one note for two (8)
- 27 Stalks male, after booty (5)
- 28 Deposits of unknown hands in trousers not new (8)
- 29 Prone to sudden expulsion, Poles with axes surround borders of Europe (6)

- 3 Appeal no answer for nosey parker (5)
- 5 Hunger for characters in middle of slum \ street (4)
- 6 Go into coach without resistance please (9)
- 7 Stories with many threads (5)
- 8 Professional act needs no introduction as part of crossover! (6)
- 11 Self conscious when taken from party almost intoxicated (7)
- 14 One daughter, Penny, cast poorly yet these are hooked (7)
- 16 Censure catholic camp (9)
- 17 Uber parents, not accepting Bs, stormed \ entrance (9)
- 19 Ruler brings order to Sparta (6)
- 20 Peppery kind of steak eaten by guys outside (6)
- 22 Luck upon box of minted coins with bygone content! (5)
- 24 "Bowled Shane"! - the very essence of the Antipodean trophy (5)
- 25 When the son rises? Without hesitation, and where the son reportedly rises (4)

Down

- 1 The German is up first, one taking pleasure in pain (6)
- 2 As Dee flows around plain, author leaves riparian walkway (9)

Slot 3

**Cryptic
by
NanaKat**



	1		2				3		4		5		6	
7						8								
					9									
10							11							
12									13					
													14	
15					16			17			18			
							19							
			20	21			22		23					
	24													
25									26					
27										28				

Across

- 7 Fish joint (5)
- 8 Excess nary a problem; removing ten is essential, though (9)
- 10 Interior of Wisconsin sparse (6)
- 11 Likely to exceed PT activity (8)
- 12 Model audit set in place (8)
- 13 For starters, simply no-one wants to supply cocaine (4)
- 15 King's address might include a quip (7)
- 17 Turned over cadet pad; army located a new purpose for it (7)
- 20 Aim to be objective (4)
- 22 With first of pagan sacrifices, sister insanely carries on! (8)
- 25 African falls for Empress of India (8)
- 26 Cheers and happy days friends, each one! (6)
- 27 Badger's home overturned after clamour to find hazelnut chocolates! (9)
- 28 Grandpapa missing from supper? (5)

Down

- 1 Judicious Mr Gore concerned with \ government (9)
- 2 Igloo designated for rock band (8)
- 3 Relies on contingent (7)
- 4 Sips uneasily indeed, when so loathed (8)
- 5 Hitchcock's classic vehicle has more than a few screws loose! (6)
- 6 Environmentalist wet behind the ears (5)
- 9 One kind of accommodation (4)
- 14 Alluded to toned men I teased (9)
- 16 Charge beneath decorated tin-plate stand (8)
- 18 Indicate that decimal is missing (5,3)
- 19 Tweeter is a spokesperson (7)
- 21 First couple of obstetric tutorials seem dense (6)
- 23 Chance of loss in stocks: iron's going backwards (4)
- 24 Generous Old Testament dogmatist (5)

General Feedback for December

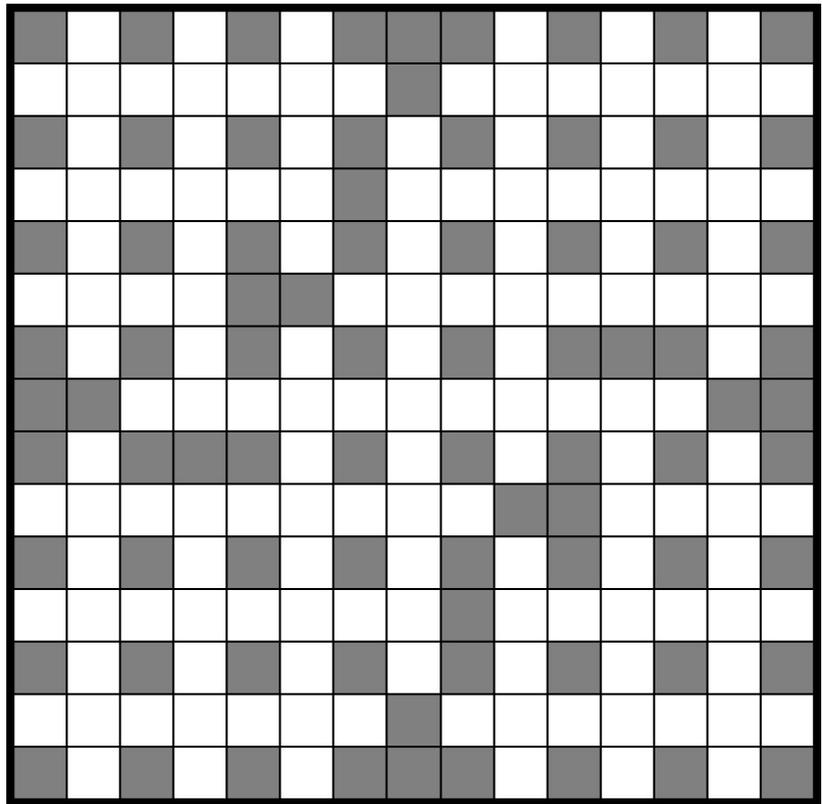
- I was so sorry to hear of the loss of Nea Storey. It has been a sad few weeks for our club. Learning that she was an Argonaut made me remember the ABC Argonauts and my time as rower number 14 in the good ship Phoenix. Do we have any more members out there? Posting in our stories and poems, and then the mad dash to the radio every afternoon to learn whether Mac (Atholl Fleming) or Elizabeth (Elizabeth Osbourne) read them out OVER THE RADIO! Great memories. *Betty Siegman*
- *Another fabulous year of crosswording! Thank you to all the setters and all those people whose efforts behind the scenes that make the ACC what it is. Merry Christmas to all. Andrew Miles*
- Winning the slots 1-5 prize was a great way to round out the year. Thank you; and best wishes for 2026. *Kath Harper*
- Thank you to the Club and especially to Rebel Warren for my calendar prize. It was a lovely surprise. *Claire Batum*
- An enjoyable group of slots this month but a bit of a struggle to get them completed by the date when everything else is so busy. *Hilary Cromer*

Slot 4

AJ
by
Valkyrie



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



- A** Encourages friend caught in adult crime \ review (8)
- B** Female abandons oxpecker for more colourful bird (3-5)
- C** Coats to cover deformed toes (7)
- D** Daughters of misogyny initially caught in senseless control (9)
- E** Key copy provides pathway to freedom (11)
- F** Released loud vibrator (5)
- G** A Rome smog, unfortunate for recreation \ area (5,4)
- H** Praise coming from prostitute and sorcerer (6)
- I** Crazy, popular state - Nebraska? (6)
- J** Travelled a day in France. New aim? \ Germany (9)
- K** Part gobbledegook is metaphor's fate (6)
- L** Small top covers very small amount (7)
- M** Feeling low before date (4)
- N** Rootless spice makes a comeback after shedding niacin shell for seed end (7)
- O** Ageing cobblestones in a mess after broken top is removed (11)

- P** Sought after tree without bend (7)
- Q** Take exception to parliamentary time perhaps (8)
- R** Have another look at note about advertisement (6)
- S** Dissociated dangerous dimension (7)
- T** This never comes to middle-of-the-road series (8)
- U** Associate free model is demoted (5)
- V** Tube carrying positive particle breaks (9)
- W** Successful football player found outside pub (7)
- X** Number ten asteroid with semisoft nucleus has severe lack of surface moisture (7)
- Y** Two thirds of yin and yang with Western twist showing signs of boredom (7)
- Z** Enthusiasm for Aztec site is repeatedly off and on (4)

Slot 5

**Chris-T-Mas
by
Chris
Thomas**



		1		2		3		4		5		6		7
	8					9								
10														
11										12				
13							14							
	15	16				17		18		19				
20														21
22				23					24			25		
								26						
27						28								
29										30				

Across

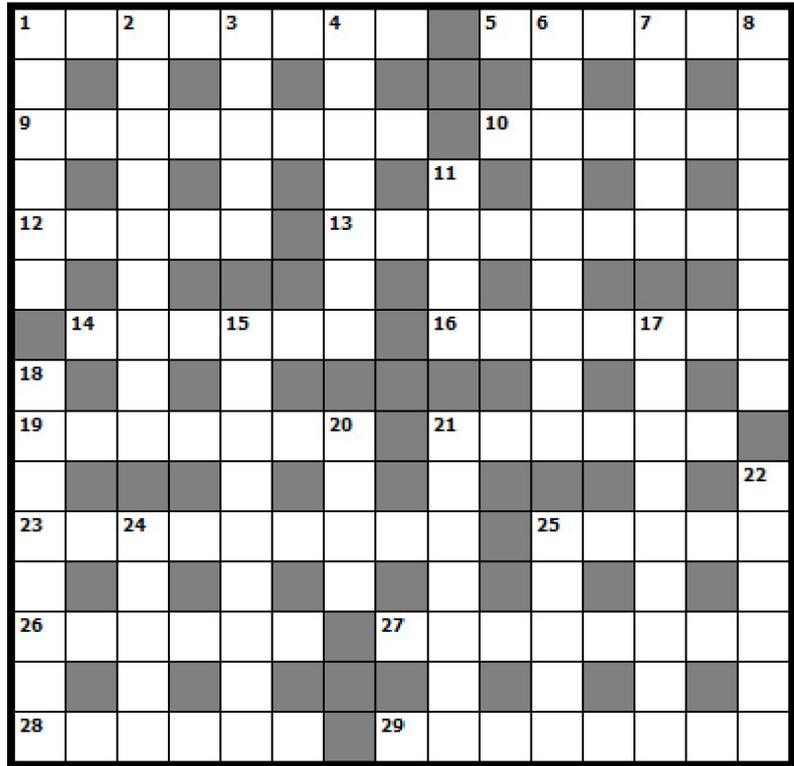
- 8 Girl almost finishing duck paste (4)
- 9 Stitch-up of french designer, left wearing a hot remnant? (9)
- 11 Most turbulent in Brugge destination (9)
- 12 Even back then I would fast (5)
- 13 Old style northerner almost resigned after flipping no-vote (6)
- 14 Charlie, Ed and Ian hold back Mo the stooge (8)
- 15 Dash for take away? (6)
- 18 Old sailor's joint (6)
- 22 My guess is one tempts a yankee (1,7)
- 24 Court, say, has jester in run-off (6)
- 27 Distiller takes off loose lids for tradie (5)
- 28 Bare one's butt - fine side-hustle! (9)
- 29 *Deep Purple, Stones'* drunken stays in possession of drug (9)
- 30 Foil bowl (4)

Down

- 1 Weapon blasted guardian after cutting lawyer (6)
- 2 Heard of Sister like an old time saint (8)
- 3 Push back as medical man pockets fee variation (5)
- 4 Killing here from a hit before anarchy, uprising (8)
- 5 Racing participant, we hear, maybe \ scratched? (6)
- 6 Resilient: likely imprisoned in a dump (8)
- 7 Frugal sort, "Tenpounder" is missing one (7)
- 10 Asks the lord (sounds like laud) (5)
- 16 Publications to coordinate morning shifts (8)
- 17 One arm is swinging, boxing hit avoided (4,4)
- 19 Single frame vision with girl taking in a drop \ of gin (8)
- 20 Humpies sag, while accommodating Juliet (7)
- 21 Irish poet's vote for Eliot (5)
- 23 Hearing organ of yours is coarse (6)
- 25 Action ends with Ms Rinehart having this issue... (6)
- 26 ...thus climbing into bunk, a place to rest (5)

Slot 6

Cryptic by Robespierre



Across

- 1 Accommodation at the bottom of the scale? (4, 4)
- 5 Underworld boss is exceptionally large and bit of a looker (6)
- 9 Remain extremely irresistible wearing this?! (8)
- 10 Plan that is borderline acceptable at the outset (6)
- 12 Mischievous little specimen of self-interest (5)
- 13 Many ladies feel uneasy draping adult with moveable sheets! (5-4)
- 14 Don't move antique buffet around (4,2)
- 16 Revolutionary rocket propellant containing yttrium ignited, producing sugar alcohol (7)
- 19 To sum up, it's about the ultimate for Mac \ users (7)
- 21 See 25 Down
- 23 Medieval hospital is popular, having backing of extremely unfortunate jobless (5-4)
- 25 Nervous, obnoxious pairs (two of them) trading places (5)
- 26 Take lid off rabbit stew! (6)
- 27 Naughty Paul getting into bed with *Endeavour's* first mate! (8)
- 28 Speaker - Chief Whip leaves in lurch (6)
- 29 Sleazebag gets drink, advances furtively (6, 2)

Down

- 1,11 Police unexpectedly outed by Number Ten's intimate communication (6-4)
- 2 On hot days Count Dracula sought this assurance?! (9)
- 3 Freshly laundered \$100 tip (5)
- 4 Armour on man with disobedient wife in tights (7)
- 6 Curse able to be translated? Oui! (5,4)
- 7 High official's expression of hesitation over first mate (5)
- 8 A couple of females dress down to go outside - someone could be suspended over this! (8)
- 11 See 1
- 15 Revealing bust firm left beset by strike (9)
- 17 Painter's having bath regularly with i\ slanders! (9)
- 18 In the main, I spout about church a great \ deal (8)
- 20 Pass lightly over runner achieving podium finish (4)
- 21 Bachelor pair in turn love Irish woman's private area! (7)
- 22 Build enthusiasm for university blocking high acoustic energy (4,2)
- 24 Church's cut an article about sex appeal (5)
- 25,21-across Nibble tip of earlobe so much beau is aroused! (5,6)

Slot 7

Cryptic by Valkyrie



1		2		3		4		5	6		7		8
								9					
10								11					
12						13							
				14		15				16			
17		18											
19													
											20		21
22				23				24		25			
26								27					
28								29					

Across

- 1 Video game for last part of *Silent Night* say (8)
- 5 *What Child Is This* staggering around unrestrained (6)
- 10 Worshipper always occupies centre of storeroom (7)
- 11 *Good King Wenceslas* at first included second-in-command, followed by old queen and small farmers (7)
- 12/25 Band with old celebrity by the sounds of it, for *The Little Drummer Boy* perhaps (5,5)
- 13 Sign of ageing, *Winter Wonderland* colour starts to have an icy rawness (5,4)
- 14 Covert operators maybe consult over spasmodic pain gripping pert cook (6,6)
- 19 *We Three Kings* brewing bread and butter pickle (5,7)
- 22 Yanks away sectarianism, it's gone (9)
- 25 See 12
- 26 Preambles to meadow noises (4-3)
- 27 Expertise cover up - tick NO! Who \ wouldn't? (4-3)
- 28 *The Holly and the Ivy* design with timeless frame (6)
- 29 Awards found under the Christmas tree? (8)

Down

- 1 *Do You Hear What I Hear?* Scarcely any scream in wild excitement (6)
- 2 Rambling call about love heart (6)
- 3 Being most precise, *The First Noel*, a right to-do with unorthodox set (9)
- 4 Ditched article containing Republican point (5)
- 6 European river said to be a mixed colour with a decided shade of red (5)
- 7 Priestly old urge: betray first person at the beginning of Christmas (8)
- 8 *Mary's Boy Child* turns anger around with reference to emphatic denial (2,6)
- 9 Sparkling silver junk (8)
- 15 Practise with a short warm up, then freshen periodically (8)
- 16 Zero jobs result in exclusions (9)
- 17 Redesign scope to protect all shellfish (8)
- 18 Concealed in Elgar, a remedial backtrack sometimes used in *Must Be Santa* endings (8)
- 20 Wild spinach good for Christmas dinner? (3,3)
- 21 *Feliz Navidad* singer initially hides rank, dirty looks (6)
- 23 Regularly did Djibouti dope (5)
- 24 More level-headed knight for Northern falcon (5)

The blank grid for this puzzle is on page 11



Quiz 2026-1 Five in Five by Crowsman.

Each answer consists of a 5-letter word inside another 5-letter word, neither of which is connected logically to the answer. For example, CHANGELESS is ANGEL inside CHESS. Where alternative spellings exist, make sure you choose the one that matches the criteria. Answers are in alphabetical order, although six letters do not occur as initials. All answers would provide great clues for cryptic crossword compilers.

Send your answers to Len Cplgan preferably by email to Len.Colgan@bigpond.com or post to 1 Ailsa Avenue, Warradale, SA 5046. Closing mail date 30 January 2026

- 1 Muslim religious leaders (10)
- 2 Gondolier's songs (10)
- 3 No longer functional (6-4)
- 4 Ornamental frames for bearing inscriptions (10)
- 5 Sears infected tissue (10)
- 6 One who takes a female's virginity, often a rapist (10)
- 7 At risk (10)
- 8 Young bird (10)
- 9 Advocates of the teachings of Christ (10)
- 10 Shoulder bags (10)
- 11 Without being said or questioned (10)
- 12 Speakers of buzz-terminology artificial language (10)
- 13 Horse breed famous for dressage (10)
- 14 Major West African ethnic group of people (10)
- 15 Psychic (4-6)
- 16 Beaver-like American aquatic rodents (10)
- 17 Military actions (10)
- 18 Too unwilling to recognise one's own achievements (10)
- 19 Deadly epidemic disease (10)
- 20 Bent (10)
- 21 People buying (10)
- 22 Manacles (10)
- 23 Weapon discharges (5,5)
- 24 In a vitriolically critical way (10)
- 25 Athletic apparel (10)
- 26 Involving three parties (10)
- 27 With confident faith and reliance (10)
- 28 Free from manacles or couplings (10)
- 29 Winning females (10)
- 30 Enjoyments rolling in mud (10)

Quiz 12-2025 'All for one and one for all' by Valkyrie (Ulla Axelsen)

Entries received: 26 Correct: 25 Success Rate: 96%

Winner: Andrew Miles. Congratulations!

Results: 30 W Allen, J Barbour, M Blake, L Colgan, J Crowe, K Forward, K Francis, S Goodman, K Harper, R Jarman, J Lankshear, J Leigh, R Mckenzie, D Meek, A Miles, A Millard, A Patterson, J Randall, D Rosendorff, W Ryan, B Siegman, R Skinner, R Taylor, M Vnuk, R Wimbush 29 C McClelland

Answers: 1 atonement, 2 baloney (boloney), 3 buffoonery, 4 citronella, 5 dishonest, 6 exonerate, 7 exponent, 8 falconer, 9 gooneybird, 10 honesty, 11 Indonesia, 12 jettisoned, 13 keystone, 14 lonesome, 15 marionette, 16 moneybags, 17 nonentity, 18 opponent, 19 pioneer, 20 questioner, 21 reckoner, 22 Spoonerism, 23 stationery, 24 trombone, 25 unironed, 26 vacationed, 27 woebegone, 28 xylophone, 29 Yellowstone, 30 zabaglione

Compiler's Observations:

I can't remember ever having such a good result, must be the spirit of Christmas. Thanks for all the kind comments, it was great to see a couple of new names crop up as well as many of the regular ones. I did accept SMARTPHONE for #21, where would we be without the help of some sort of computer device? Happy Everything and Merry Always and Happy Solving in 2026.

Solvers' Feedback

- Great stuff - only had to look up gooneybird! Thank you. *William Ryan*
- The last ONE I got was CITRONELLA. I first heard about citronella oil in an American context, so I didn't realise that it is produced from a South Asian grass. *Michael Vnuk*
- Some of these were easy, some took a lot of thought. enjoyable Quiz. *Roy Taylor*
- Thanks for the quiz. *Drew Meek*
- Another great quiz, thank you. *Ann Millard*
- The power of one! How about SMARTPHONE as an alternative for #22? :) *Warren Allen*
- Thanks for the challenge. It was all good fun. *Andrew Patterson*
- Thanks Ulla, for another interesting quiz to keep us all on our toes. *Betty Siegman*
- Another original quiz, how do you think of them? Thank you. *Julie Leigh*
- As always, it pays to read the title! A nice "ONE" to finish the year. *Richard Skinner*
- Many thanks for another great quiz. I'm not sure about #1, as it's not a plural, but think it works anyway. And I rather dubiously had SMARTPHONE as the cryptic crossword device, until SPOONERISM fortunately popped into my head! *Julie Crowe*
- It's been ages since I've done a quiz but I 'got' the common theme right away (the title was very useful!) so thought I'd continue. I really enjoyed the diversion, so thank you! Number 21 was the last to fall to my pen. *Kath Forward*
- Thank you for this enjoyable quiz - this one had it all (or maybe it was the other way around!). *Andrew Miles*
- Thank you for an enjoyable quiz which required some brain work without over-resorting to Google!! *Judy Randall*
- Thank you for this interesting quiz... One is constantly amazed that One can create such varied quizzes that delight One and give pleasure to One in the solving of them! *Maureen Blake*

Continued on page 13

December 6 2025 Cryptic by KA
Entries received 59, Correct 50, Success 85%.
Prizewinner: Keith Bettles. Congratulations!

Compiler's observations The gestation period for this puzzle felt longer than that of the African elephant. It had middle-of-the-night "eureka" moments and "that's just totally impossible" moments, but most of all, a hardly believable, exceptionally large slice of serendipity in juggling and manipulating clues, answers, and grids etc.etc. However, despite it all, I think I achieved something a little different and challenging. I have never attempted anything like this before. AND NEVER WILL AGAIN! The countries embedded were Australia, Ecuador, Suriname, France, Spain, Peru, Italy, Sudan and Chad. My apologies for the extreme confusion caused by EXTREME/EXTREMA. I accept full responsibility, and consequently both alternatives are perfectly acceptable. A pleasing success rate [88%] for a challenging puzzle. The only consistent error was in failing to identify the unclued FURNACE, which led to FRANCE. Merry Christmas.

Explanations - Across: 1 (rat+f)im pall, 7 pie+d, 13 (d)ante, 15 dr(am) in tuna, 17 hidden, 19 v+era, 22 dd, 24 i(u)ds, 26 dine<, 27 anag, 28 p(laid)s, 32 ran i(n), 33 homoph "birthing", 34 anag, 35 palindrome, 36 ste(adi)er. **Down:** 2 r(a+da)r, 3 hidden<, 4 (liar in ref)<, 5 hidden/central, 6 anag, 8 hidden, 9 dr(ear)iest, 11 f in (tut+ed), 20 r(e+dd)est, 21 (a+limit+i)*, 23 (xi in rile)<, 25 sta(i)rs, 30 done+e.

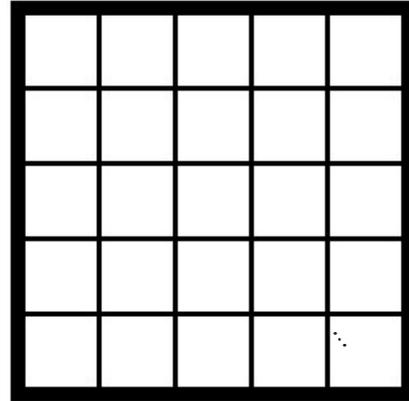
Solvers' Feedback [lists of the countries have been omitted to save space]

- Remarkable puzzle of COUNTRIES. My mind boggles in thinking how you would have gone about constructing such a labyrinth of meaning. *Ian Mckenzie*
- Clever twist. Nine names of countries and the deleted letters spell out COUNTRIES! *Tony Dobebe*
- I've done easier puzzles. Satisfying to finish. *Roy Taylor*
- 9 countries found after persistent exploration *Toby Mcleay*
- Tried hard but couldn't get the category and I suspect that I deleted the wrong letters from the solutions to the unclued entries. *Krittibas Dasgupta*
- What a great puzzle! Greatly enjoyed completing this one, hopefully correctly! *Rob Milton*
- That was good fun to slowly unpick. *The Void*
- 9 countries found!: *Julie Leigh*
- Very worthwhile. Not easy but not obscure. *Andrew Patterson*
- I thought the deleted letters spelling "countries" was a nice touch *Richard Skinner*
- Quite a world trip with nine countries visited. Great puzzle, a challenge and fun to do. Thanks Karl. *Betty Siegman*
- 9 countries found!: *Warren Allen*
- I like a challenge and enjoyed finding the COUNTRIES that were nicely hidden. *Ann Millard*
- Great fun, found 9 countries. First having 'surface' instead of 'furnace' caused a bit of a headache. Word play of 8d suggests 'extrema' but definition suggests 'extreme'. Went with word play. *Ulla Axelsen*
- COUNTRIES. Interesting puzzle *Allan Storti*
- The EXTREMA/EXTREME issue coloured what was otherwise a novel, cleverly set puzzle. *Andrew Miles*

Continued on page 12

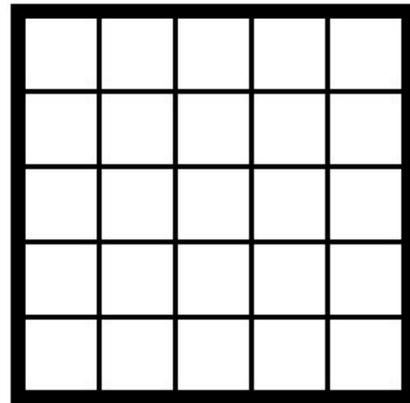
FRAZ WORD SQUARE 5 Jan 1 (Solution on p 12)
 Identical words read across and down in this square.
 Clues are not listed in order.

- Jostle the Mexican arrow shooter
- Lighter fluid mishap
- Location that's in between bar activity?
- Prepares to stop small sounds coming from cattle
- Vocal church features tropical getaways



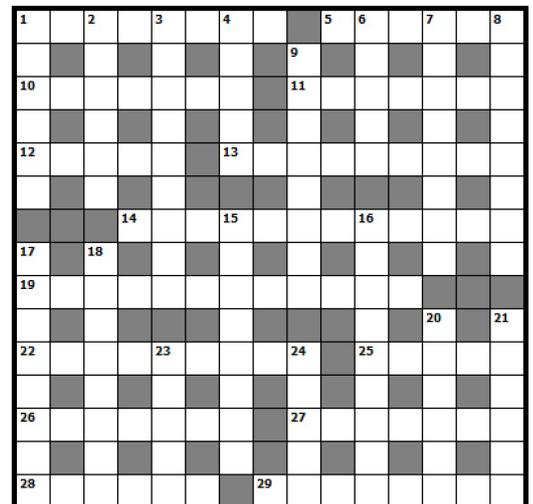
FRAZ WORD SQUARE 5 Jan 2 (Solution on p nn)
 Identical words read across and down in this square.
 Clues are not listed in order.

- Arizona city once finally chose colour
- Girl initially interrupts the obscure magistrate
- Poor editor restricted by aching back
- Pushed for Rudge novel
- Spicy cuisine around 3/4 of month



Blank grid slot 7

Name



December 7-2025: Crowsman's Corner by Crowsman (Len Colgan)

Entries 65 . Correct 50 . Success rate 77%. Prizewinner: Robyn Wimbush. Congratulations! Adjudicator's Observations

This puzzle was inspired by recognising that the countryman MALIAN was part of four other nationalities, namely SOMALIAN, MALAWIAN, MALDIVIAN, MALAYSIAN. A geographical theme snowballed from there, together with the reference to our three eminent IAN compilers. The repeated error was to misinterpret the 15Ac clue, thereby failing to recognise that a NIGERIEN from Niger is the neighbour of a NIGERIAN from Nigeria.

Explanations. Across: 1 SO + MALIAN, **5** M(ALI)AN, **10** MAL(AYS)IAN, **11** hidden, &lit clue, **12** A(GIST)S, **13** VILER around (IF + I), **15** NIGERIAN, but E instead of A, **19** MANNA<, **21** (BAR + A)< + IANS, **24** AR(MEN)IAN, **26** DA(OK<)TA, **28** IN + AID<, **29** UK + IRANIAN*, **30** (NO WAY) around R, **31** PEN(NINE)S. **Down: 1** (makes)S + A + MOAN, **2** MAL(DIVa)IAN, **3** LA(YET)TE, **4** rev hidden, **6** A(ISSUE*)S, **7** dAIQuiRI*, **8** (a)RGE(nt)INIAn*, **9** INDIA + IN< + AN, **14** CAR in (AU + GAIN)<, **17** MON + GO + NAIL<, **18** MAL(A + W)IAN, **20** hidden, **22** I RAN IN around A, **23** (SENNa + C)<, **25** MODER(n), **27** EIRE<.

Members' feedbackmembers' comments:

- Nice and breezy with the theme. MODER was new to me. *Michael Fitzgerald*
- a brilliant geographical quiz. *David Bennett*
- Good clues, my favourite being ARABIANS. Now I'm an everywhereian. *Roy Taylor*
- Amazing feat of construction! *Toby Mcleay*
- Favourites NORWAY, PENNINES. *The Void*
- A fitting end to a month of geographical puzzles. *Richard Skinner*
- Still yet more countries after Slot 6. Marvellous. *Betty Siegman*
- A bit of fun especially INDIANIAN! *Ann Millard*
- Definitely not a cruise, although it took me all around the world! A very challenging puzzle which was satisfying to solve. *Kathryn Forward*
- That was an enjoyable journey around the world meeting lots of different people. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Amazing, to be able to fit in so many countries, and words pertaining to countries. Nice to be travelling vicariously. I loved nail/lian work being a screw up. *Julie Crowe*
- I have faith that Bogeyman, Flowerman & Robespierre are all Ians. Just makes sense. *Mal Cockburn*
- I can't tick many of those off but i enjoyed the diversity. Thanks Len. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Nigerian - Nigerien had me confused for a while. *Ian Thompson*
- A geographic masterpiece... nearly succumbed to the travel bug again. *Maureen Blake*
- What a fascinating and challenging puzzle. MODER caused some extra research. *Jean Evans*
- So many tributes to Ians!, *Robyn Mckenzie*
- Thoroughly enjoyed this one. *Wendy Cornish*

Report on December Slot 6 Continued from page 11

- 9 countries.... Quite a challenge!! *Maureen Blake*
- Armchair travel is hard work when the countries are so well concealed. *Kath Harper*

Solution to December Slot 7

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

Sol'n FRAZ WORD SQUARE 5-Jan 1

S	M	O	L	S
W	B	O	L	E
O	B	W	I	L
L	L	I	P	S
S	E	L	S	I

Sol'n FRAZ WORD SQUARE 5 -Jan 2

Y	D	E	N
D	E	R	U
E	G	D	J
E	R	E	A
N	U	J	C

- A good fun puzzle, with many well crafted and precise clues. I do love a good mental workout! *Julie Crowe*
- That was a puzzler indeed. All 9 countries found. It was most enjoyable, thank you. *Robyn Wimbush*
- I was stumped by the rubric. I didn't know that unclued entries meant the answers to the unclued questions, and I had no idea what the term 'unchecked letters' meant. My thanks to my benefactor for providing the explanations which allowed me to complete the puzzle.and come up with the nine countries. *Ken Francis*
- *Armchair travel is hard work when the countries are so well concealed:*
- Immensely clever to anagram the 9 countries and incorporate them into the grid. Remarkable. *Mal Cockburn*
- Interesting and enjoyable. *Ian Thompson*

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 Nigrum Cattus. Across: 10 R in LATHES, 16 anag, 26 LAM [n THAI, 29 EL + F + LIKE. **Down:** 1 E in TINA, 2 ME + SS + AB + OUT, 5 GULLY, 6 cd/dd, 7 cd/dd, 14 homoph "horse", 18 bARK, 23 TAT in SIN.

Slot 2 Crowsman. Across: 1 NOW<, 3 S + COUR(a)GE, 7 hidden, 9 MET< + PEST, 10 BR + A(V)URA, 11 SINGLET ON, 12 D + ICE + D, 13 AS around (B + STAIN), 14 WAG(ON)S, 18 rev hidden, 19 COMP(L)ETE, 21 B(acon) + AS IS, 23 EYE + BRIGHT, 24 AT + A + LAY + A, 25 palind., 26 palind., 27 palind., 28 palind.. **Down:** 1 THATS* in WIND, 2 (NAN + IS + LAND) around OMANIS, 3 SAND around BETEL*, 4 OUTSTAND(ing), 5 RIB + AND, 6 (tre)E + LAND, 7 C(losur)E, 8/22 GRAND + STAND, 15 (c)AMPER + SAND, 16 DEWS< around (AT + BAN), 17 (be)FOREHAND, 20 RE(MAN)D, 21 BRAND(y).

Slot 3 P-brane. Across: 1 WA+G, 3 cd, 9 IRON + [s]AGE, 10 NO (r<>MA) DIC, 11 heads, 12 ANGEL+ ONE<, 14 YARD< + HORSE, 16 FLU + FF, 18 ST+EIN, 19 Spooneri "hilly book", 21 (USE TWINS)*, 23 dd, 26 hw, 27 ACC+USER, 28 (DIRE+NAIVETY)*, 29 LAD<. **Down:** 1 W{H}INGED, 2 (GO ON) + (LEAVE), 3 homoph "leech", 4 homoph "nose", 5 PINE + NEEDLE, 6 DAMSEL + FLY, 7 [c]OLDIE, 8 KICK + OFF, 13 (SUN BEER ETC)*, 15 HAND + SHAKE, 17 (UPON)* + POSED, 18 dd, 20 hw, 22 WON + GI, 24 dd, 25 (DT + AA)*.

Slot 4 Manveru. A HADES/P/O/L*, **B** B(L/OUT*)IN, **C** PESTILENCE*(-P), **D** DETOURS*(X), **E** s(EXTANT), **F** DD, **G** G(R+I)D, **H** H/OR/N/E/T, **I** MILLIONS* (US), **J** J(r)AVELIN), **K** A/STRONG/K*S, **L** DIDSLOPE*, **M** M.I.S +(LIES*), **N** Spoonerism - SEVER NO, **O** OP(T(I)O)N, **P** ALTERINGPAD*, **Q** QUEE(R)N+E/SS, **R** DD, **S** SIDE/ ARM, **T** DD, **U** U/L/TR>/A, **V** VA(R)NISH, **W** RAIN*afterW.E.B, **X** X(AM>)S, **Y** POPYRI+E*, **Z** ZEPH+YR.

Slot 5 T-boy. Across: 1 F in LIERS, 4 dd, 10 REIGN + MINI in FOSTER, 11 FOOT + BALL + MATCHES, 12 END + OWS, 13 FRANK + NIL<, 16 (HUNT + RODE)*, 17 (MED + AID)<, 19 (TO + RATION) in RESISTS, 20 AID< + CRITICAL + MARK, 21 DO in OVERSEer, 22 MEN in SHY*. **Down:** 1 dd, 2 FOR GOOD + NESS + SAKE, 3 (WORE + UNCOOL + BRAID)*, 5 HAIL + MARY, 6 INTENT in UNION + ALLY, 7 HELM in (CASE STUDIED)*, 8 hw, 9 dd, 14 SAKE in MEANS*, 15 N + TI in ATLAS, 18 A + ITCH, 19 hw<.

Report on Quiz 25-12 Continued from page 11

- This is the first time I have entered, I'm not sure why, I usually only do the crosswords. *Jill Lankshear*
- Thanks for another interesting puzzle. *Claire McClelland*
- One does what one can to come up with answers containing one, doesn't one! Lots of fun, thank-you. *Ken Francis*
- Thank you for a great collection of singular words. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Thank you for the final quiz for the year. You have such lovely ideas for us to work out. This was ONE of them! *Robyn Mckenzie*
- I was pleased that so many of these answers have appeared in my puzzles over the years, with clues often involving containments. *Len Colgan*
- Thanks for a fun and challenging quiz. It probably would have helped if I'd read the title earlier! *Jean Barbour*
- A rip-roaringly good quiz, worthy of the Three Musketeers. Thank you. *Kath Harper*



M	E	M	B	E	R
	N	E	W	S	

Subscriptions: Many thanks to those who have subscribed promptly for 2026.

Email address: *Len Colgan* has changed his email address. Please change his address in your contacts folder or address book to len.colgan@bigpond.com

Join our Facebook group and discuss anything to do with words and puzzles. (No discussion of current prize puzzles please.) Search for [Australian Crossword Club](#) or click the hyperlink

Donations to the ACC Prize Fund: Many thanks for their generous donations to the Prize Fund this month to Ulla Axelsen, Jean Barbour, Claire Batum, Hilary Cromer, Alan Dyer, Jim Fowler, David Granger, Greg Jones, Alison Martin, Robyn McKenzie, Alison Shield, Sally Shipway and Joan Smith

Los Dots: Dots for the December slot 1 Snail are awarded to Mal Cockburn, Larry Kennedy, Jenny Madden and Ian Thomson, who entered TOADLET as the "wannabe natterjack".

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 Nigrum Cattus (Ray Gooderick)

- Thanks for the message making 24 ac BERING. *Roy Taylor*
- Tricky but in the end I found all the drinks. But perversely it took me a while to click with 28A (SEA) *Toby Mcleay*
- I was getting nowhere fast with this, until I tripped over 28a. Phew. Not sure about RAW/"roar" though... *The Void*
- Stumped by 14D *Michael Fitzgerald*
- What a satisfying Slot 1. Love a theme. *Robyn Wimbush*
- A great way to start - tougher than usual for a Slot 1, but that's not a complaint! *Kathryn Forward*
- Even after working out sea theme, it was still very challenging but enjoyable all the same. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Lots of geography in this edition! *Robyn Mckenzie*
- This puzzle was positively awash with seas and other maritime items. *Kath Harper*
- Thankyou for a very interesting and challenging puzzle. Lots of great clues *Jean Evans*
- SEA in 28 across and I was on my way! *Cheryl Wilcox*
- NARRABRI and LOCATIONS threw me in at the deep end for ages. *Lynn Jarman*
- Great puzzle! But I've probably lost my dot with 14D. *Kathy Horadam*

December 2: Crowsman (Len Colgan)

- Many nice clues eg SINGLETON, FOREHAND, AMPERSAND, AND quite a few palindromes. *Ian Mckenzie*
- A nice diversion. Achievable - nothing devious (although needed dictionary). Admirably novel design, all neatly done. *Michael Fitzgerald*
- Very clever. Thanks, Len. *Ann Millard*
- Another well-crafted puzzle that provided an entertaining wrangle! *Kathryn Forward*
- Favourites WITHSTAND and (sorry, "AND") SINGLETON. Cheers. *The Void*
- Usual clever cluing. *Roy Taylor*
- Liked WITHSTAND and FOREHAND. The "Ampersand" title helped a lot *Toby McLeay*
- Ace puzzle Len, cheers....no idea at all on "dad'a dad"???? *Chris Thomas*
- Another great puzzle by Crowsman! Wouldn't have solved it without the '&' theme. *Allan Storti*
- And some neat clues too. *Michael Vnuk*
- So clever! *Sue Pinder*
- Thanks Len. Switched off when I saw 'ampersand' and completely missed all the 'ands' until reviewing! I do wonder ... *Robyn Wimbush*
- All those AND words! And leading to lots of lovely palindromes. *Julie Crowe*
- Most enjoyable & must have been good fun to compile. Really liked DICED. *Ulla Axelsen*
- I liked a number of these clues, especially SINGLETON, DAD'S DAD, FOREHAND and, my pick for COTM, WITHSTAND. *Ken Francis*
- Smileys on no less than six clues! SCOURGE, ABSTAINS, COMPLETE, WITHSTAND (cotm), STEEL BAND & FOREHAND all deserve a HAND. *Mal Cockburn*
- Such clever use of definitions to trick us! *Robyn*

Mckenzie

- Down and down and down! AGA SAGA is such an apt phrase. *Kath Harper*
- Another clever puzzle Len. *Jean Evans*
- Once the significance of the & was realised, the rest was much easier! *Cheryl Wilcox*
- All the down clues ending in AND was a help but it took me a long time to solve AGA SAGA. *Hilary Cromer*
- 'and' I'll say it again, Crowsman always delivers. Lots of great clues and especially WITHSTAND, DID, DAD'S DAD and DUD. *Lynn Jarman*
- And so it goes.... the solutions for 24A and 25A were beyond me, sadly. *Kathy Horadam*

December 3: P-brane (Roger Hearn)

- Enjoyed the Australian flavour here - at least one new to me, but well able to be deduced from the clue. *Michael Fitzgerald*
- Grouse. *Roy Taylor*
- Loved 27 across! ACCUSER *Rob Milton*
- Favourite HANDSHAKE. *The Void*
- ACCUSER??? *Chris Thomas*
- WONGI's a new one. Where does one start looking? [*Macquarie! Ed*]. Perhaps you all have better vocabularies ... *Robyn Wimbush*
- A few interesting Australianisms. We often see cattle in the LONG PADDOCK in dry areas. Great fun. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Choc-a-block full of Australia. Needed to research LONG PADDOCK. Bonza! *Mal Cockburn*
- Loved dead horse. *Jean Evans*
- No clues in the title of this Slot. *Lynn Jarman*
- Thanks P-brane, no annoying clues here! I liked LEACH, KICK-OFF and DATA. *Kathy Horadam*

December 4: Manveru (Michael Kennedy)

- Excellent. PLANTIGRADE and WEBINAR were favourites. *Michael Fitzgerald*
- Have I missed more references to Tolkien beyond Sauron? *Julie Leigh*
- Favourites DEXTROUS, GRID & PLANTIGRADE *The Void*
- Do we have a Tolkien fan here? *Richard Skinner*
- Good fun. Bottom left took a while to complete. Long live 'Lord of the Rings'. *Ulla Axelsen*
- I liked VARNISH. *Robyn Wimbush*
- I like this tricky style of crossword. I think that the clue for RASPBERRY is excellent. *Ken Francis*
- I liked the clue for VARNISH. *Robyn Mckenzie*
- With the first three clues involving Hades, poison and pestilence, I was expecting the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse. Instead, we got Sauron! *Kath Harper*
- My favourite grid. Lots of interesting clues. *Jean Evans*
- Always a pleasure, thanks Manveru. I liked LOPSIDED and XMAS. *Kathy Horadam*
- **December 5: T-boy (Toby McLeay)** With so many long answers around it, AITCH was the stand-out here. *Michael Fitzgerald*
- Good clues, especially AITCH and HYMENS. *Roy Taylor*
- I was torn between AITCH and HYMENS for COTM but went with AITCH for respectability's sake. A very enjoyable puzzle *Con Flinkenberg*
- Love those long words! *Ann Millard*

Continued on page 21

November Clue-writing Competition - Adjudicated
by Len Colgan **STROLLING (9)**

Definition from Chambers (12th edition)

stroll

vi to walk at a leisurely pace; to saunter; to wander from place to place.

n a leisurely walk; a stroller (N Am).

[Perh Ger *strolchen* (obs *strollen*), from *Strolch* vagrant]

strolling n and adj.

Various parsing options present themselves, including hidden word, two inclusions S(TROLL)ING, ST(ROLL)ING and a reverse inclusion STRO(ILL<)NG. An example of a clue using that reverse inclusion might be:

Injury setback interrupts athletic walking

where 'injury = ill', 'athletic = strong', 'setback' is a reversal indicator, 'interrupts' is an inclusion indicator, and 'walking' is the definition. Every word is active!

The winner was **Taking the air with strapping around bad back** submitted by Kathryn Forward.

The entries are listed in alphabetical order and the definitions, where appropriate, are *italicised*.

Actively scouting father replaced by son dawdling ***^{1/2}

This is PATROLLING with PA replaced by S, and 'dawdling' as the definition. An innovative realistic surface, but I cannot find '(actively) scouting' equivalent to 'patrolling' in any of my references with slight differences. Nevertheless, reasonably close enough for an imaginative clue.

Delaying a change to throne's central component that is good for the Constitution ****

This is 'delaying = STALLING', but changing 'A' to 'RO'. This is the first of two clues referring to walking for the benefit of one's health (constitution/constitutional). The surface conveys an entirely different image.

On a constitutional rant about provocative poster ****

This is S(TROLL)ING where 'rant = sing (loudly)' in Chambers, which uncomfortably surprised me, 'provocative poster = troll' and the definition 'on a constitutional = strolling'. All fair but subtly non-obvious synonyms. The surface refers to the current controversial policies regarding freedom of speech and the misuse of the internet. Misleadingly, 'constitutional' appears to be an adjective referring to the rant, but it is also a noun defining a walk for the benefit of one's health.

Rambling Francis connecting with early Stones **^{1/2}

This is ST + ROLLING, where ST represents St Francis and 'early Stones = ROLLING'. I have an issue with each of these. Francis does not equate to St, but is an example of a saint. 'Francis, perhaps' or 'Francis, for one' would be more appropriate. There are better ways to yield 'ROLLING' than 'early'. Perhaps 'Stones' antecedent' or 'introduction to Stones'.

Rambling fraud pinches wad of cash ***^{1/2}

This is ST(ROLL)ING where 'fraud = sting', 'wad of cash = roll' and 'pinches' is a containment indicator as well as the implied meaning in the surface. A perfectly good clue, perhaps needing an x-factor.

Sauntering about content from first roll in grass ***^{1/2}

This is an exemplar of a hidden word clue with the bonus of a double meaning for the word 'content'. I would add a comma after the definition.

Slowly moving to confess about Trotsky's first revolution ***

This is S(T + ROLL)ING, where 'confess = sing', 'Trotsky's first = T', 'revolution = roll'. The surface is a tad iffy, with 'inform' perhaps being better than 'confess'. A good clue.

Sunday posting to disturb walking leisurely ***

This is S + TROLLING where 'Sunday = S' (strictly speaking, 'S = Sabbath') and 'posting to disturb = TROLLING'. A straightforward charade clue with a neat expression for trolling.

Taking the air with strapping around bad back ****^{1/2}

This is STRO(ILL<)NG with 'strapping = strong' and 'bad = ill', both shown in Chambers. The wordplay is brilliant with the misdirections of 'strapping' and 'back'. The Chambers definition 'taking the air' means taking a short excursion by walking in open air. It is appropriate here, with other possible relevant health interpretations. Better than my clue at the start using the same reverse inclusion parsing.

Continued on page 16

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

Ian McKensie will add to his many contributions to the club as a setter by joining the clue writing adjudication team starting with this month's competition. You are invited to write a clue for **SCREWDRIVER (10)**. Send your entries to ianmalcolmmckenzie@outlook.com; 47 Ronald Avenue Greenwich NSW 2066. **Closing mail date: Friday 13 February 2026 .**

From David Astle's *Puzzled* newsletter [published by kind permission of David.]

He notes that his newsletter is available free to subscribers to *The Age* and *Sydney Morning Herald*. We would welcome feedback on this subject.

Let's talk about the indirect anagram – or IA in the trade. Widely seen as taboo, the formula might appear like this: Italian capital possibly increased (4)

To spare your moans, the answer is MORE, a "possible" rearrangement of Rome, Italy's capital. But wait, you didn't say Rome outright. The answer's fodder – those four bankable letters of R, O, M and E – was not supplied as the anagram recipe expects. To break that rule is to jeopardise the trust between solver and setter. Or is there leeway? Reader Stephen Clarke thinks so, his recent email broken into three key points:

[1] "Solving an anagram or a partial one requires detecting an anagram indicator and re-arranging letters to form the answer to the clue." No question, Stephen. Any anagram clue demands a signpost to mix + letters to mix + the answer's definition. Not always in that order, but those three elements are vital, from the simple version, like:

Triggered alarms for multiple panels? (5,4) = SOLAR FARM - To the more elaborate:

Wrongly called oxygen arsenic's other half on screen (3,4)
The last solution is OLD LACE, a nod to the Cary Grant comedy *Arsenic and Old Lace* (pictured below), seeing CALLED combine with O (oxygen) to make the phrase. Still not an indirect anagram, but the extra step assigns the solver one more task.

[2] Stephen Clarke again: "Clueing and solving other clue types commonly involve arriving at a working synonym and performing an operation on it – reversing it, subtracting from/adding to it, re-arranging it." Agreed again. Setters don't always provide the word to reverse, or bisect, or nest in another word. If we did, the game would be over too fast. Hence this intricacy:

Dog on end of log traps green bird (9)
Solvers must intuit two words in this hybrid operation, namely CUR (dog), plus ON (here the word is stated), plus G (end of log), trapping RAW (green). Your reward for such surgery is CURRAWONG (bird). Such "off-page thinking" leads us to Stephen's conclusion:

[3] "If solvers can do all these things, aren't they on track to being able to solve an indirect anagram? Solver to self: I see an anagram indicator but no apparent anagram fodder. This might be one of those indirect anagrams, which means I'll have to come up with a synonym (which I've proved I can do in step 2), and then solve the anagram (which I've proved I can do in step 1). It's a more complicated process but complication is why I do cryptic crosswords..."

As both setter and solver, I'm torn on the topic. Out of genre nicety, I avoid the IAs. Yet if a clue points to clear fodder – such as Italy's capital – then maybe there's wiggle room, like Stephen Clarke's sampler:

Musk's name at Christmas has changed (4)
Not unfair, you could argue, compared to the vaguer options within this IA pair:

Demolished sizable beer (5)

Wild cat release early (7)

Every month, across our clue contests, I've been

discouraging indirect anagrams, just as I sidestep the temptation every Friday. However, with caveats in place, plus a finite set of off-page options (such as the Italian capital or Mr Musk) then maybe the no-no formula could be an occasional yes.

[Solutions below]



A group (collective term Wizardry?) of cruciverbially-minded gentlemen (?) met for lunch at the Eveleigh Hotel, Fern Rouge in Sydney recently to ocelebrate. We're advised that much hilarity ensued. Those present from left to right were Stephen Clarke, Andrew Patterson (Zinman), David Stickley (The Stickler) Drew Meek (St. Jude), Michael Kennedy (Manveru), obscured, David Astle, William Ryan (Raoul) (sporting his ACC tie/belt) and Stephen Knight (The Big Issue compiler).

November Clue-writing Competition continued from page 15

THE ROLLING STONES not the ones out walking ****

After removing THE from the start and ONES from the end, it is (ROLLING ST)*, with 'out' as the sneaky anagram indicator. What I appreciate here is that the words removed are in their precise order. In CrOZworld, most word removals have the letters removed in random order which I, personally, try to avoid unless I indicate such. A top-notch removal/anagram clue, with a great surface.

Walking slowly, Carol embraces dwarf *^{1/2}**

This is S(TROLL)ING where 'carol = sing' (as a verb) and 'dwarf = troll'. Unquestionably, a precise and concise clue, with all words active.

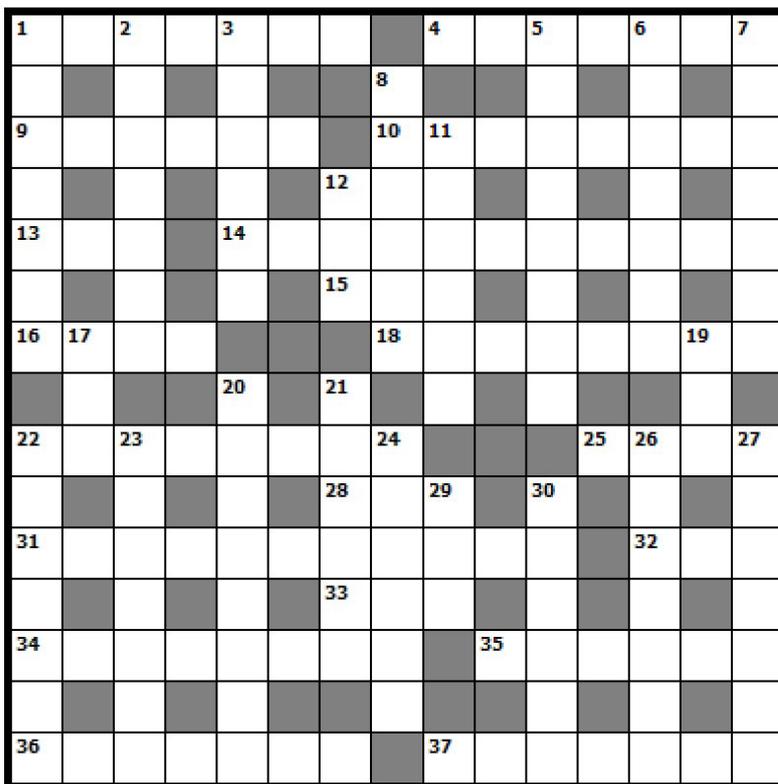


Answers to Indirect anagrams: ELON* (anagram of Noel – Christmas); LAGER* (large – sizable); PAROLED* (leopard – cat)

Bonus 1

**Cryptic
by
Nigrum
Cattus**

This puzzle may be completed and assessed using ACCOLADE but will not be adjudicated. Solutions will be available from 1 January 2026.



Across

- 1 Look with interest over school vehicle (7)
- 4 Misleading caption on US marque (7)
- 9 Goblin most level-headed regarding SUV (6)
- 10 That chap swallowed a seed inside a thermodynamic device (4,4)
- 12 The Age never suppresses news (3)
- 13 Moke will pass without parking (3)
- 14 Hit '70s tennis ace with greeting number one as status symbol (11)
- 15 Cabs do regularly find busy area of town (1,1,1)
- 16 South African master reversed motor car (4)
- 18 Herb came in about account for wheels (8)
- 22 Model's brief history on the French/Scottish emblems (8)
- 25 A lot of money in an old car (4)
- 28 Railway workers back speed (3)
- 31 In jest raise offer on hub of insulated \ funnels (11)
- 32 Shifting sands, therefore nothing is extracted (3)
- 33 Steal from Australian bank (3)
- 34 Judge upset - list the same as before (8)
- 35 Basket case to catch double meaning first (6)
- 36 Gunslinger Doc lost leading lady on tour (7)
- 37 Run in panic - incandescent lead in F! contender (7)

Down

- 1 Author had hit up with foreign correspondents (3,4)
- 2 A large volume of water is stored in dams across SE Australia (4,3)
- 3 Credit now to the French motherland (6)
- 5 No German holds sober government accountable primarily for showing a clear profit (4,4)
- 6 First Italian amateur replaced by independent fraudulently (7)
- 7 Relating to the corporation, company account is covering up wicked lie (7)
- 8 Reliable UK source: Thebes' east and south ceded before Christian era (3,3)
- 11 No lead active when lacking a connection point (6)
- 12 Good ceremonial director is required for healing body in UK (3)
- 17 Unabashedly severely pruned tree (3)
- 19 EV turned up after a regular get-together (3)
- 20 A basic vehicle (8)
- 21 Month touring Ireland to acquire first class fabric (6)
- 22 With two wheels or four, an outstanding success (7)
- 23 I fled in a distressed state from a non-believer (7)
- 24 Substitute at a game is on the wagon! (6)
- 26 A canoe I built in our own backyard (7)
- 27 Nevertheless I got biblical in sporty \ transportation (7)
- 29 Bun, roll and a small chunk (3)
- 30 Junior pinched silver having gold backing for the sports car (6)

C Bonus 2

**Cryptic
by
Lexi
Conner**

This puzzle may be completed and assessed using ACCOLADE but will not be adjudicated. Solutions will be available from 1 January 2026.

1		2		3			4			5	6	7		8
								9						
10								11		12				
							13							
14						15								
						16								
17														
							18					19		
				20				21		22				
23		24				25								
							26							
		27	28				29							
30						31								
		32												
33							34							

Across

- 1 Maybe rich Saint Francis of Assisi was such? (9)
- 5 Lowness of pitch keeps arias out of a form of hit parades (5)
- 9 Boyfriend ditched totally vacuous beauty (4)
- 10 Lisa's arranged to be on the inter-city in south-west England (9)
- 12 Abandon fight (5)
- 13 Second person to have this one lost because of teenagers (6)
- 14 Not all of a million go in gushing current (7)
- 16 Fuss with British sailors opening tour displaying decoration (9)
- 17 Train away from unorthodox abortionists who use instruments (7)
- 21 First in blue outfit (3,4)
- 23 Judgmental king tongue-lashing excessively in reprimand (7-2)
- 26 Fog causes favoured applicants to ring up (3,4)
- 27 Got the new design for slum district (6)
- 30 Newton stands out among Mount Elisa academics (5)
- 31 Brings up earlier way to describe terms (9)
- 32 Cold and not even dressed! (4)
- 33 Local official may come before heartless overseer (5)
- 34 Golfers' calls rest perhaps on those in charge of woods (9)

Down

- 1 Style of a certain women's magazine? (15)
- 2 1-across has this - an area about 500m in China (8)
- 3 Graduate leaving foundation is reflecting on gutless egregious cowards (7)
- 4 Breezy fairy vanishes lacking substance (4)
- 5 To his friends, Archbishop Tutu had negligible fortune (7)
- 6 Reads out: "Ad reaches every individual" (4)
- 7 Chase prize money held up initially (6)
- 8 They treat the phony reformed sex offenders (15)
- 11 Unopened toy? Flip twice to see it! (2-2)
- 15 Cut fuel with hydrogen (4)
- 18 Leading lady in dandy but unsuccessful performance (4)
- 19 Doctor orchestrated removal of tats to identify pigment (3,5)
- 20 Taller articulated vehicle? (4,3)
- 22 Anger over medical centre starting to sell spirits (7)
- 24 Everything's hollow in frilly gift (6)
- 25 Forgets forgone gains (4)
- 28 Cephalopod's core radiance (4)
- 29 Miranda pushed bloke off seat (4)

Bonus 3

**Cryptic
by
Crowsman**

This puzzle may be completed and assessed using ACCOLADE but will not be adjudicated. Solutions will be available from 1 January 2026

Each Across clue lacks a definition, but the answers all correspond to a theme. Two answers are not common. Down clues are normal.

1		2		3			4	5		6		7		8
						9								
10										11				
12								13						
14									15	16				
								17						18
	19	20					21					22		
23						24								
25				26				27						
28						29								
30										31				

Across

- 1 Jet went over end of carrier (6)
- 4 Obstruction retrospectively admitted by Indian cricket captain (8)
- 10 One taken in by cunning gag (9)
- 11 Summits experience loss of time (5)
- 12 Blunder overturned during take-off (7)
- 13 Everyone is in photograph (7)
- 14 Horse gets cold for brief time (8)
- 15 You and I truck to the west (5)
- 19 Take off north from country (5)
- 21 Greek character to put in appearance (8)
- 25 Revolution curtailed suffering (7)
- 27 Unacceptable service has English dock knocked back (7)
- 28 I interrupt over and over (5)
- 29 Short time involved in ridicule (9)
- 30 Achievement finally followed, for example, good scheme (8)
- 31 Star ignores bit characters (6)

Down

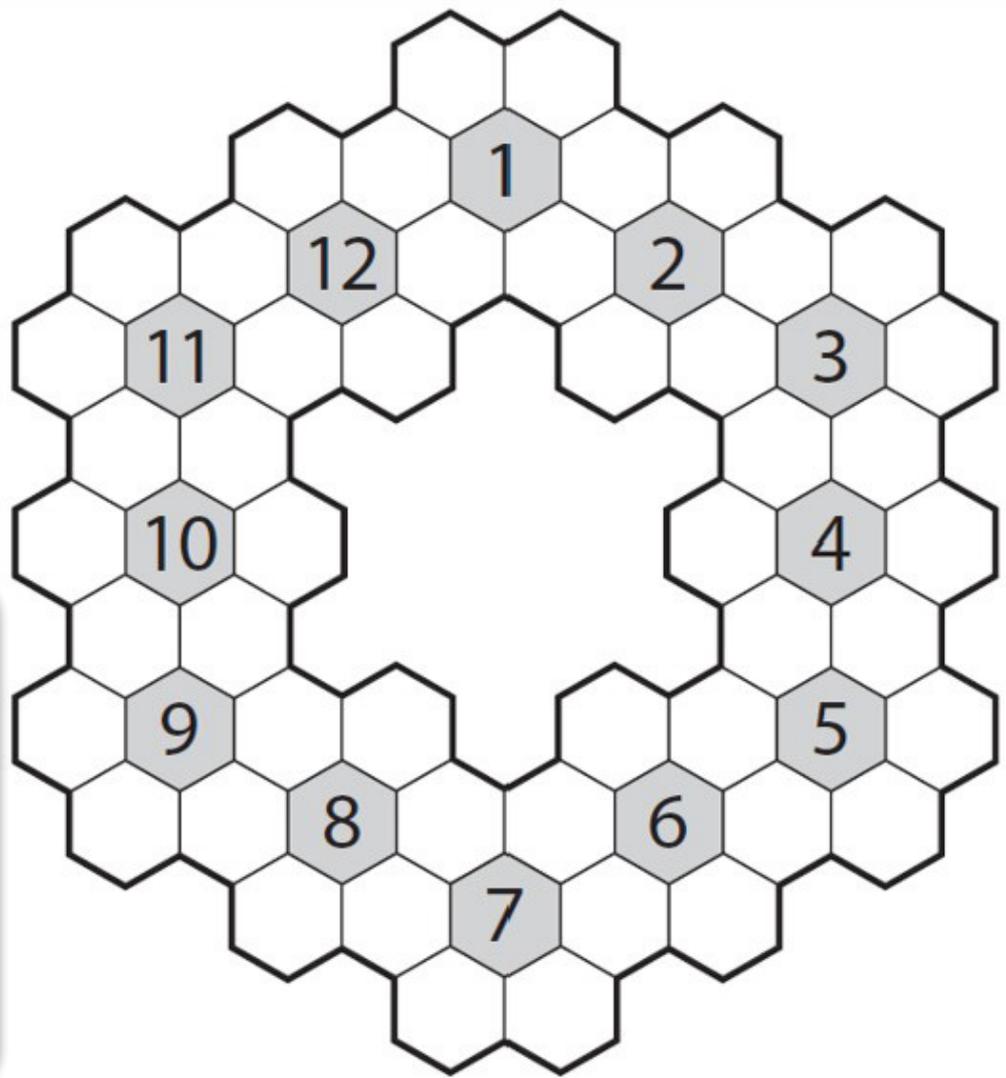
- 1 Least occupied street welcomes analyses (8)
- 2 Wine container, not cold, tipped over (7)
- 3 Made straight outside front of dairy without being thickened (9)
- 5 Old crowded Danish city (6)
- 6 Only crazy characters possess this fabric! (5)
- 7 They surround pupils having non-U gold rings (7)
- 8 Small parts in a big picture during movie scenes (6)
- 9 Start of privileges - upon and over twenty-one! (7)
- 16 Old Greek has youngster left during start (9)
- 17 Rang up multinational computer company assistance (7)
- 18 Heartless man enters alone in a serious way (8)
- 20 Fish wound seen around impact (7)
- 22 22.5 degrees protects animal nerve cell (7)
- 23 Result of incinerating mineral on land (6)
- 24 Opted for Korea under Japanese rule (6)
- 26 Temporary plant got rid of a void (5)

Bonus 4

**Snowflake
by
Fraz**

This puzzle will not be found on ACCOLADE and will not be adjudicated. Solutions will be published in the February edition of CrOZworld.

Each answer has six letters and fits into the grid either clockwise or counterclockwise around its number, from a starting point to be determined. The answer to the 13th clue is entered clockwise in the six separate hexagons that protrude into the centre. When the grid is filled, the 18 hexagons that protrude from the perimeter will spell out a seasonal message.



- 1 Commandeers bit of thatch inside henhouses (hyph.)
- 2 Austere organist owns sound system
- 3 Bishop addressing blokes somewhere in Germany
- 4 Prohibit guards at a 1942 battle site
- 5 All committed to shortened school session of superior stature
- 6 Purplish-red Jamaican liquor returned by Spanish king
- 7 Long bones Emily found among animal pelts
- 8 Sci-fi spacecraft breaking a curse
- 9 A metropolis divided over university keenness
- 10 Prime food for horses has colouring agent back in it
- 11 Pronounce Parisian tower "impressive sight"
- 12 Common allergen survey by middle of millennium
- 13 Approached demand surrounding Alfa Romeo

Using the Macquarie Dictionary link

As noted in the Gridatorial, the Executive Committee has established an account with the Macquarie Dictionary to give all members access to it as a benefit of their membership. You will shortly be receiving an email containing a link that will give direct access to the latest edition of the Macquarie Dictionary and Thesaurus. The link has been thoroughly tested, but if it doesn't work for you please contact Ian at ianw@webone.com.au with details of the aberrant behaviour and, if possible, a capture or screen shot of the display. Enjoy!

The Executive Committee

The Executive Committee held a virtual meeting in November

The following office bearers were re-elected:

President – Ian Williams

Vice President – Andrew Patterson

Secretary/Treasurer – Jenny Wenham

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer – Sam Howat

Ulla Axelsen was proposed and adopted as a member of the Committee.

The Treasurer reported that the subscription renewals for 2026 were fairly slow but that the bank balance remained healthy. He identified a number of cost saving measures that could be adopted for 2027, should it become necessary to ensure the viability of the club. These included an increase in subscription, adjustment of prize levels and investigation of more economical method of producing CrOZworld.

The Committee agreed to additional signatories to the Club's bank account.

It was agreed to retain the membership fee at \$35 and prizes at \$50 each for 2026.

It was agreed to fund a multi-user subscription to Macquarie Dictionary for Club members.

It was agreed to make a donation of \$100 to Wikipedia in light of the ongoing use of the resource by editors and club members.

If there are any questions on these decisions of the Committee or the Committee itself, the President will be very happy to answer them.

Bonus Quiz 2026-1. Off with His Head!

by Michael Vnuk

The Red Queen often called for beheadings in *Through the Looking-Glass*. Beheading is not good for people, but many words survive beheading, usually with a new meaning, eg TIN, IN; SHOP, HOP; GASTRONOMY, ASTRONOMY. This quiz has words that keep their meaning after beheading.

If the first letter is removed from an answer, the remaining word must also match the definition. Example: Be on top of (5) = COVER, as OVER can also mean 'be on top of'. Answer lengths relate to the intact word; answers (before beheading) are in alphabetical order). Answers will be available in the February edition.

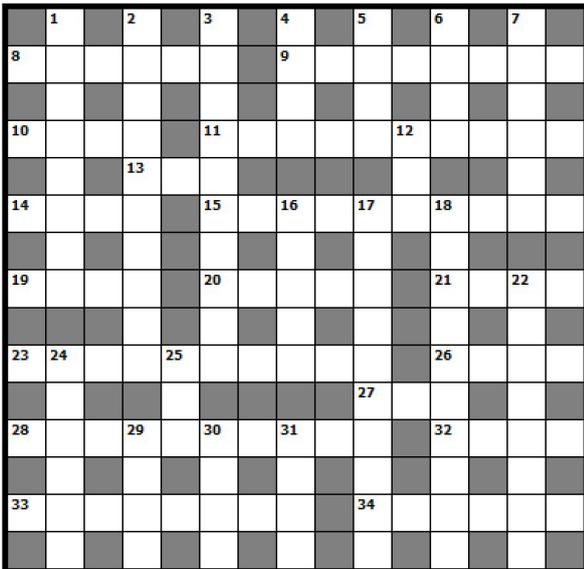
- 1 Uncluttered (5)
- 2 Unevenly distributed (6)
- 3 Unrefined (5)
- 4 True (7)
- 5 Progressing poorly (7)
- 6 Musical instrument (5)
- 7 Animal (3)
- 8 Type of edible oil (9)
- 9 Abdominal noise (7)
- 10 Eighth letter (6)
- 11 Single (4)
- 12 Simple hydrocarbon gas (7)
- 13 Exalt (6)
- 14 Wander (6)
- 15 Not strong, for oven heat (4)
- 16 Small cut (5)
- 17 Small amount (4)
- 18 Chemical element (7)
- 19 Possessive pronoun (5)
- 20 Greek letter (4)

Feedback on slot 5 - cont'd from p 14

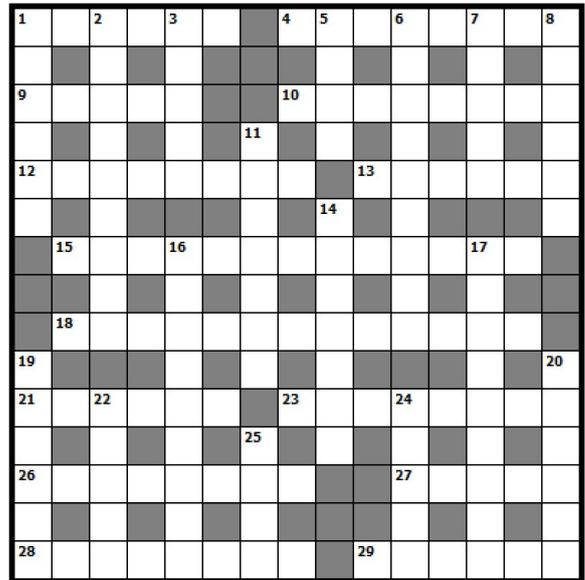
- Very enjoyable puzzle. Liked LEFT FIELD and ENDOWS a lot. Very intriguing def for FOOTBALL MATCHES? *Krittibas Dasgupta*
- I'm not sure my favourite should be HYMENS, but it is. *The Void*
- Loved this puzzle! Lots of options for COTM, but my vote had to go to HYMENS *Kathryn Forward*
- So many 15 letter words actually makes it easier to solve. Thanks for a fun solve. *Ulla Axelsen*
- A clever puzzle, with so many long words included. Many very clever clues. I particularly liked 19down, and I laughed out loud when I worked out 22a. *Julie Crowe*
- Most enjoyable. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Particularly liked the clever clues for AITCH and HYMENS, plus the 15 letter anagram for rainbow coloured. *Ken Francis*
- I thought there were some fine clues and I did like aitch! *Robyn Mckenzie*
- All the long words were great fun *Jean Evans*

Merry Christmas

JANUARY 1 NAME.....

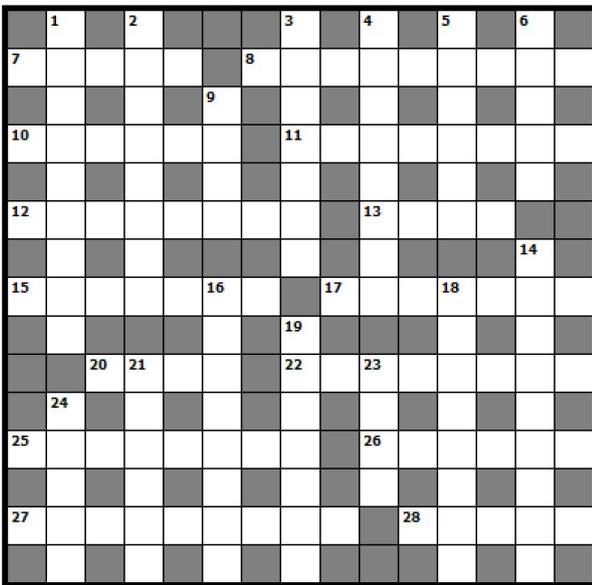


JANUARY 2

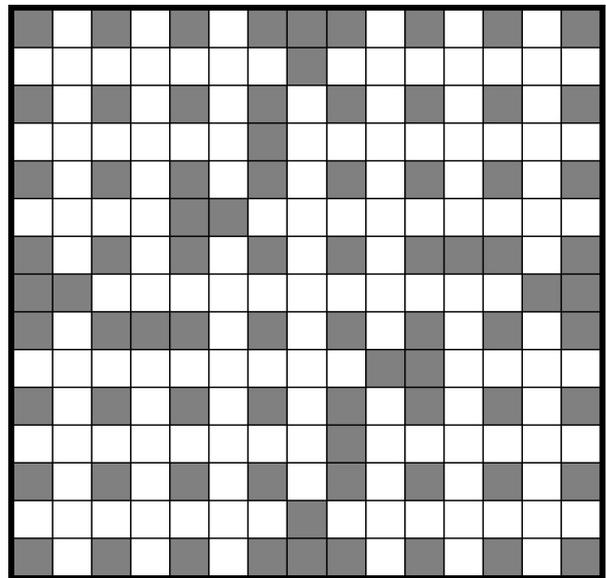


Clue of the Month

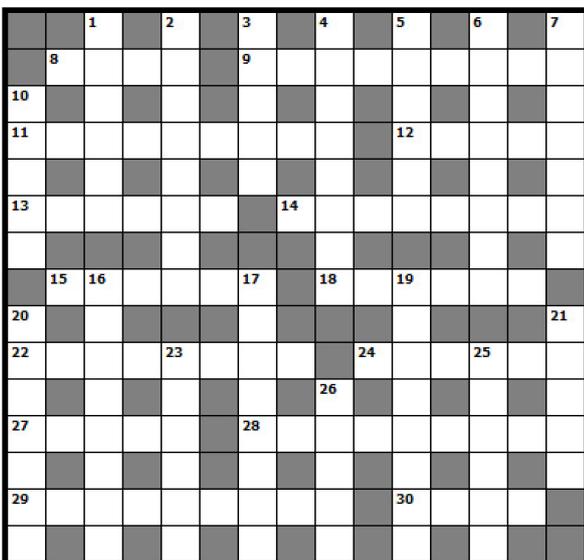
JANUARY 3



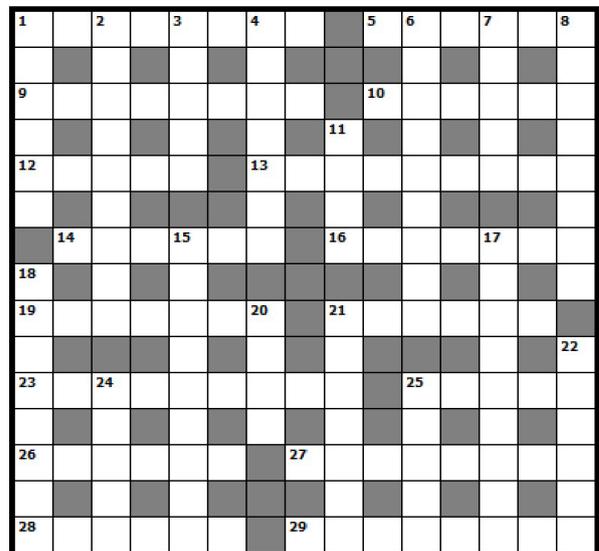
JANUARY 4



JANUARY 5



JANUARY 6



Submit solution by ACCOLADE or for mail entries see page 3
NAME.....

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

THE AUSTRALIAN CROSSWORD



THE AUSTRALIAN CROSSWORD CLUB
Subscription renewal for 2026

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

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

TOTAL \$

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

Name

Address Phone:

E-mail address: _____

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



Information for Members renewing for 2026

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

The ACC website

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

Mail

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

Gift memberships

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

Donations to the ACC Prize Fund

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

Payment options:

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

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

The Executive Committee