



No 411 July 2024



www.crosswordclub.org



**Dictionary, n:** A malevolent literary device for cramping the growth of a language and making it hard and inelastic  
Ambrose Bierce, 1911, *The Devil's Dictionary*.

## GRIDATORIAL

Another set of treats in store for our solvers this month, ably and expertly edited by Michael Kennedy, to whom our thanks are due.

Bogeyman sets the scene with a Jesso-style richly-checked half and half with a twist. T-boy follows up his recent successes in COTM and the clue-writing competition with a puzzle that is sure to please. Lexi Conner provides one of his soundly-clued puzzles and InGrid makes a welcome return with the ever-popular AJ. We have a themed puzzle from the archive of the prolific Nigrum Cattus in slot 5 and the typically devious Robespierre is responsible for this month's slot 6. Zinzan gives us a bit of a rest from his more challenging works, but as a slot 7 don't expect it to be a doddle.

We noted last month that, in response to a member's suggestion, we changed the format of the clues to the AJ and asked for members views. Only two response shas been received. We have made some other minor changes to the format of this month's magazine. Do, please, tell us what you want and like in CrOZworld so that we can meet your wishes.

Happy solving

Ian

## FROM THE ADJUDICATOR

## SLOT 1

Solvers were gratified to find a Virgo puzzle for Slot 1 and solved it with minimal difficulty, with no recurrent errors, giving a high success rate.

## SLOT 2

St Jude caused more problems, particularly with BUFFETS (BUFFERS was entered 4 times) with SPENT, CAPRI and EGOTPIP (surely a spelling error?) all entered twice.

## SLOT 3

Welcome NanaKat, I'm sure you're not the only David Astle fan in our club. A fun puzzle, with PHSA entered 15 times for PAHS. The clue clearly calls for a plural so PAHS is correct. Four members proved themselves to be not *au fait* with modern crime fiction by Tess GERRITSEN.

## SLOT 4

Slot 4 is always popular, and Isla's contribution was well received, although with a lower success rate than the normal AJ. FAUNS and FAWNS for the required FAUNA lost 8 solvers their dots and a variety of spellings for BURKINA FASO brought a further 7 undone. CAPITAL was entered 3 times for (TAX + I + WAY) as was TESTWAY for CENTRAL (CENT + R, A, L )

## SLOT 5

Slot 5 produced a few errors, particularly the solution 'ICEPOINT' where 'ICEBORNE' and 'ICEBOUND' were incorrectly entered. Those who identified the Nina at an early stage gained a considerable advantage in this puzzle. A number of commendations for many of Crowsman's clues.

## COTM

Out of a total of 35 nominations, by a bare margin NUDISM in slot 5 takes the cake with "This lifestyle is barely practiced". Congratulations NanaKat on this success in your first puzzle! PIED PIPER, ITALICISE and ANIMATED CARTOON deserve a mention with only one vote less.

Jill Lankshear

## LEADING FIGURES

Puzzle No.	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Entries received	82	81	88	84	79	394
Correct entries	78	66	62	52	59	309
Success rate (%)	95	81	75	65	75	78
Prizewinners	Sam Howat	Ken Watt	Graeme Cole	Lesley Carroll	Roger Hearn	from 89 members

Prizewinner: June Slots 1-5 correct: Julie Leigh. Congratulations!

President / Editor	Ian Williams	12 Lindrum Crescent Holt ACT 2615	ph 0417 493 431	<a href="mailto:president@crosswordclub.org">president@crosswordclub.org</a>
Secretary	Jenny Wenham	48 Shakespeare Street Comet Qld 4702	ph 0407 643 277	<a href="mailto:secretary@crosswordclub.org">secretary@crosswordclub.org</a>

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June 2024 Slot 1

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

June 2024 Slot 2

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

June 2024 Slot 3

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

June 2024 Slot 4

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

June 2024 Slot 5

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

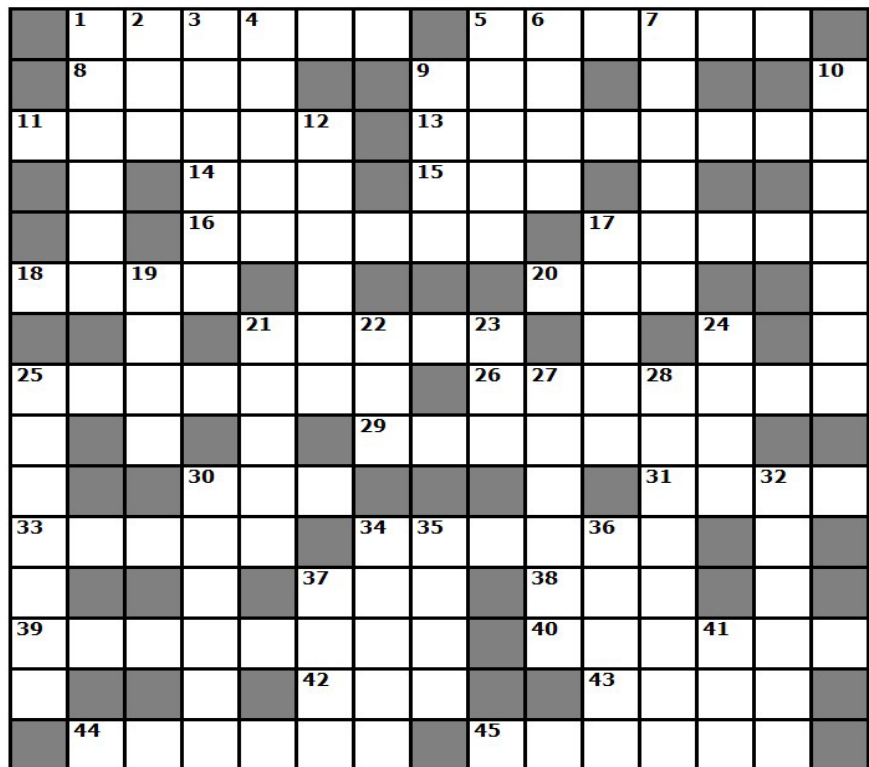
June 2024 Slot 6

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

MEMBERS' RESULTS FOR JUNE 2024 Slots 1 to 7

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

## Slot 1

Half and  
Half  
by  
BogeymanPrize  
\$50The solution of each unclued light  
contains common element

## Across

- 1 see rubric (6)  
 5 see rubric (6)  
 8 Japanned tinware (4)  
 9 Always poetic (3)  
 11 see rubric (6)  
 13 At sea (8)  
 14 Drowned valley (3)  
 15 Fish (3)  
 16 see rubric (6)  
 17 Grip (5)  
 18 Skills (4)  
 20 Vegetable (3)  
 21 Decorative foot (5)  
 25 Agamemnon's daughter (7)  
 26 Rodents (7)  
 29 Interesting, spicy (7)  
 30 Young male (3)  
 31 Concerning lads and lasses (2-2)  
 33 Shout (5)  
 34 Organic compound (6)  
 37 Pair (3)  
 38 Sheep (3)  
 39 Spiked balls (8)  
 40 see rubric (6)  
 42 Compete (3)  
 43 Freedom movement  
 44 see rubric (6)  
 45 Small underground stem (6)

## Down

- 1 see rubric (6)  
 2 Many short thgie (3)  
 3 see rubric (6)  
 4 Clusters of spore fungus in complete liaison (5)  
 5 Studies grasses we hear (5)  
 6 Sins right in the middle of bitter vetch (4)  
 7 see rubric (6)  
 9 Chief of English space station (4)  
 10 Pelts with spices (7)  
 12 see rubric (6)  
 17 Two firms contributed to a beverage (5)  
 19 Describing plant with speech impediment. Cute! (4)  
 21 Walk time for animal (5)  
 22 Knock rhythmic performance (3)  
 23 Information source means sweet nothing to Bond's technical expert (3)  
 24 Palindromic cyclist? (4)  
 25 Interesting and rare - as rector replaces ten sexy drawings (7)  
 27 Type of pig, rumoured to be foul (6)  
 28 Drunken men clout an overly respectful African-American (5,3)  
 30 see rubric (6)  
 32 See rubric (6)  
 34 Young dog for the Italian scholar (5)  
 35 Stockings not held by Liberal PM (4)  
 36 Motherless Marlowe reformed - once a smuggler of sheep (5)  
 37 Symbol of peace at party on day celebrating end of war (4)  
 41 Supplement broadcast of sound of fright (3)

SEND  
SOLUTIONS  
TO:For online entry, submission and adjudication of all slots via ACCOLADE click  
on the ACCOLADE button on [www.crosswordclub.org](http://www.crosswordclub.org) home page.Slots 1 to 5: Andrew Miles email to [smiles@asmiles.au](mailto:smiles@asmiles.au)

or mail to 62 Wilshire Street, Dickson ACT 2602

Slot 6: Ian McKenzie: email to [ianmalcolmmckenzie@outlook.com](mailto:ianmalcolmmckenzie@outlook.com)

or mail to 47 Ronald Avenue Greenwich NSW 2065

Slot 7: Andrew Patterson: email to [mcandap@bigpond.net.au](mailto:mcandap@bigpond.net.au)

or mail to 372 Great North Rd, Abbotsford NSW 2046

Closing mail date for all puzzles is 26 July 2024.

BLANK  
GRIDS  
PAGE 16

Slot 2

Cryptic  
by  
T-boy

Prize  
\$50

	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 Come up after city vegetable (8,6)
- 10 Starts vehicle into steep terrain attaining scenic view (5)
- 11 Fierce sea ill-disposed for peace (9)
- 12 In connection with a support bone (7)
- 13 Erectus perhaps with New York male namesake (7)
- 14 Recall first woman entertaining consent (5)
- 16 Splendid bow sound - it's returned nearly full (9)
- 19 Hesitant about product from hevea bushes (9)
- 20 Cows deliver some local veal (5)
- 22 Waifs or ghosts taking out the cat (7)
- 25 Leading man hugs madame causing speech impediment (7)
- 27 Urinary tract infection after survey on contamination (9)
- 28 Degree so fundamental (5)
- 29 Great arctic pet distressed in fire drill? (6,8)

Down

- 2 River rose unexpectedly, forming a dam (9)
- 3 On the dot or ball? (5)
- 4 Former copper black but understandable (9)
- 5 Quiet about mother's car accident (5)
- 6 Pumped up with the latest garden tool we hear (9)
- 7 Giant huntsman or tiny particle (5)
- 8 Tempt her male displaying rising heat (7)
- 9 Fly-away sides of toupee? (6)
- 15 Measure support before confident recess (9)
- 17 Old country has extremely deep gulf with pink dolphins (9)
- 18 Mick fouls jazzy traditional sound (4,5)
- 19 Shout about Quilton product for Olympic event (4,3)
- 21 Enhance fried rice with hot nitrogen? (6)
- 23 Frozen up in moral oppression (5)
- 24 Cut back on assorted pumpkins (no pun intended!) (5)
- 26 Part after morning circuit (5)

General Feedback for June

- Thank you all for taking my mind off my broken ankle. [Our best wishes for a speedy recovery - Ed] Robyn Wimbush
- Thank you for my Slots 1-5 prize last month. Robert Hagan
- Unfortunately Ron Jarman's father, who is my brother is unwell and crosswords have been put aside this month. Lynn Jarman



Slot 3

Cryptic  
by  
Lexi  
Conner

Prize  
\$50

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													

Across

- 4 Remove lock creating anguish? (8)
- 8 Off-the-record chatter about naked diva (7)
- 10 Bona fide information connects facts (9)
- 11 Shadowed the first to leave having flown (5)
- 12 Disputed territory due to its omission from new armistice (6)
- 13 Discerning proclaimed reasons (4)
- 14 Hippodrome back in the Ottoman era (5)
- 16 Rod, lacking skill, makes a hash (4)
- 17 Appeared to be an admitted rebel (6)
- 19 Bird latches on to innards of cuttlefish, a mollusc (6)
- 21 All of us are showered without shoes on! (2'2)
- 25 Alana Iverson is not entirely unsophisticated (5)
- 26 Middle age forsakes haggard relative (4)
- 27 Felt embarrassing serenades are to be avoided (6)
- 29 This woman went to battle losing four to an old monarchy (5)
- 30 Marvels at Dad grabbing fowl sign (9)
- 31 Archbishop identifies half-priced helper (7)
- 32 Stretch space entrepreneur's name at entrance (8)

Down

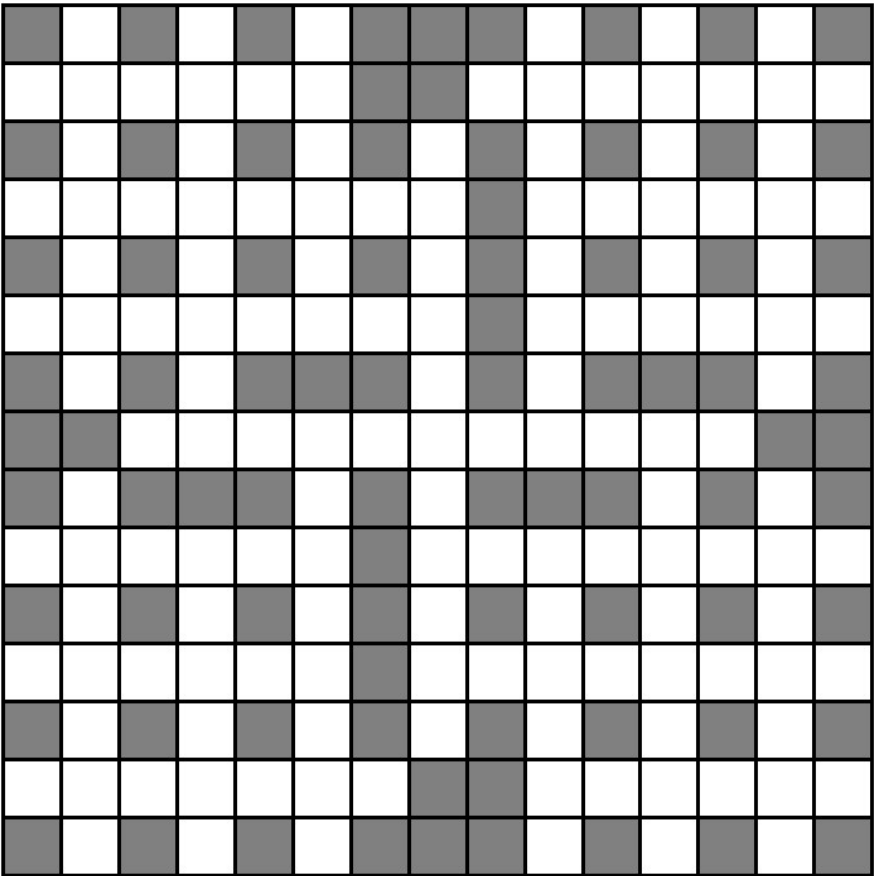
- 1 Plain box needs to get darker (7)
- 2 Hauled a crank in front of a journalist (7)
- 3 Polish man sometimes seen at the beach (10)
- 4 Document covering abuse caused failure (8)
- 5 Schedule set by department head criticised (6)
- 6 Rule says check (4)
- 7 State of mind induced by alcoholic products? (7)
- 9 Rents a complex towards the rear (6)
- 15 Attachment to TV series having switched on (10)
- 18 Picture to capture forcefully articulated point (8)
- 19 They hold parties around the Central Highlands (6)
- 20 Jumbled Lego can be set (7)
- 22 Some declare billboard a setback for politician (7)
- 23 Be regarded as reprimanded (7)
- 24 Roman statesman can see revolt in indigenous American tribe (6)
- 28 When called you left to grieve for part of the day (4)

Slot 4

AJ  
by  
InGrid



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



- A** Illicit son gains some backing from sceptic (8)

**B** It holds head up with posture somewhat reinforced (7,4)

**C** Plant occurs mysteriously (6)

**D** Harm caused by father playing game (6)

**E** Recruit bridge opponents to list double points (8)

**F** Bone and stuff alien (6)

**G** Singlet designed to shine (7)

**H** Imposition head of department placed on alcohol is boring (7)

**I** Laziness in a lawsuit (8)

**J** Dances over this puzzle with atomic numbers for einsteinium (6)

**K** Outfit leads a number to this young animal (6)

**L** Cheer a nursing unit manager primarily using tincture (8)
- M** Obstinate letter relished at heart (6)

**N** Aristocracy extraordinarily boneless (8)

**O** Get too big for good progression after being in public (7)

**P** Relishes talk of couches (7)

**Q** Faulty technique without the fruit (6)

**R** Reportedly ebbed when planted again (8)

**S** Obscure quiet places in scripts (11)

**T** Fractured thirteenths lost their fractions? (6)

**U** Let loose after shaving head? (6)

**V** House shelters an ordinary person (7)

**W** Weak army destroyed by a groundbreaker (3-5)

**X** Desex or exterminate part of returning imitations (7)

**Y** You heartlessly allowed fish at Christmas (8)

**Z** Variable meal others took part in with fanatic (6)

Slot 5

Cryptic  
by  
Nigrum  
Cattus

Prize  
\$50

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				

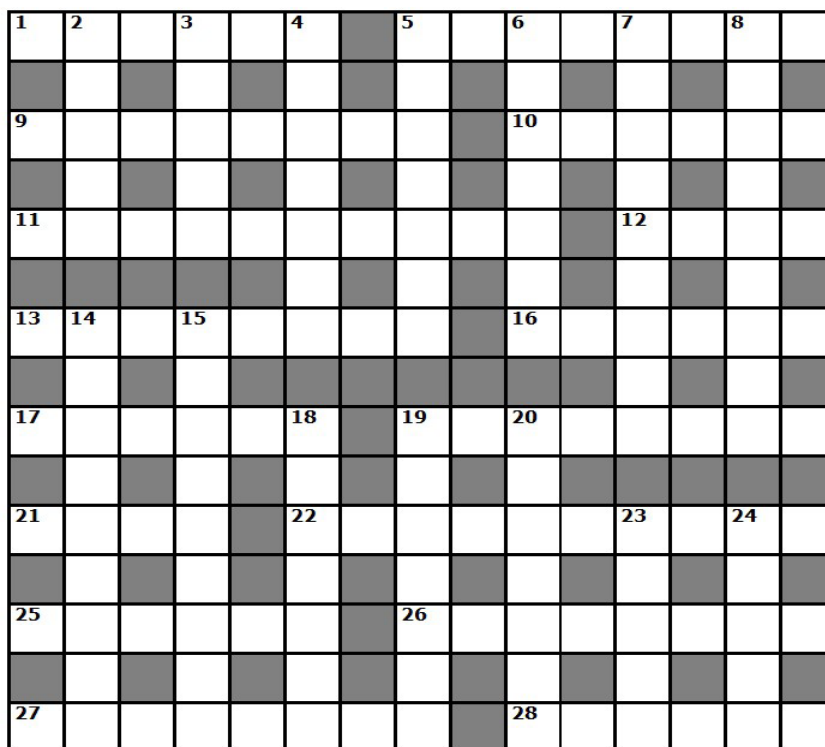
Across

- 1 Felt like green-top playing surface! (5)
- 4 Getting a break in this TV show is guaranteed? (3,5)
- 9 Game on! Bowled! An irritating experience (3)
- 10 Bus reversed around vacant corner in a remote place (5)
- 11 Flowers adorn 23 tables (5)
- 12 Chance that elf, confused, toured England, Scotland, Wales and Ulster (5)
- 13 Shot early Messerschmitt and Spitfire squadrons easily (5)
- 14 Fellow left, four of us remained (3)
- 15 Boasted sketch was by English duke (6)
- 16 Bishop deep in prayer with vocalist (7)
- 19 Comes off rod when fish runs madly around! (7)
- 22 Force without a commendation (6)
- 25 Heard odd characters have past (3)
- 26 Not out to set contribution (5)
- 27 City rebuilt. Took about a year (5)
- 28 Surpass at picnic, perhaps (5)
- 29 "I'm telling you, you sup till you finish!" (3,2)
- 30 Thousands joined extremist organisation (3)
- 31 Excessively flat out - a wild concept! (2,1,5)
- 32 Prophet or a trickster holding back some cards (5)

Down

- 1 Lacking head cover when it's keeping fine (6)
- 2 In spades keeps ace behind line (2,5)
- 3 Measures heat on high explosive cover (9)
- 4 Myriad quietly assembled in enormous building (7)
- 5 Betting organisation at Ascot taking model from state of Mexico (7)
- 6 Failure of audio circuits (5)
- 7 Big Bertha & Roaring Meg perhaps, had strokes (7)
- 8 Artisan worked for empress (7)
- 17 Dangerous place often found on 1-across! (5,4)
- 18 Suppress by ignoring scam going round United States' state of Hawaii (7)
- 20 Free old German king and dance! (7)
- 21 Pukes up violently - not a nice way to go! (7)
- 22 Quietly persevering though inept at weaving (7)
- 23 Thwart Kelvin by tangling in noose, right? (7)
- 24 Mark movie as "appropriate" (6)
- 26 Scored with a kiss but in love with two fellows (2,3)

## Slot 6

Cryptic  
by  
RobespierrePrize  
\$50

## Across

- 1 Businesses get no backing to build transformational accommodation (6)  
 5 Sloth, gluttony, lust, hate alter all heartlessly misbehaving (8)  
 9 Arsenal contrive amazing finish to game (8)  
 10 Spouse endlessly lying about allure (6)  
 11 Policeman sceptical of superior authority helping to analyse problem (10)  
 12 Expression of pride generates never-ending row (4)  
 13 Rub injured lower back before starting to storm union's base (8)  
 16 Acclaims vote to stop stale process (6)  
 17 Capital way to formulate arsenic? (6)  
 19 Blow cover exposing criminal history (3,5)  
 21 Loony to get right behind floor (4)  
 22 Private joke risque - without shock ending, it's derogatory (10)  
 25 Try swallowing retrospective story that's a confection (6)  
 26 Out of the loop, I admit, about refusal (8)  
 27 Material that's fabricated and obscenely retold excessively in turn (8)  
 28 Bird training kelpie finally to corral sheep (6)

## Down

- 2 Animal's acceleration is between satisfactory and very good (5)  
 3 Asian swinger whose phone was silent? (5)  
 4 Oxford clergyman's bean drug is foul (7)  
 5 Lear production scenery recalled Shakespearean murderer (7)  
 6 Something sweet rascal regularly placed in tea perhaps (7)  
 7 Wake that farmer, almost delirious (9)  
 8 Argue heatedly over stake to stand behind (9)  
 14 Retract plastic cigarette-holder, a light having been confiscated (9)  
 15 Chat over a piece of cake at watering hole (9)  
 18 Expect to be elated when in pole position (7)  
 19 Make merry when Paddy wears sloppy joe? On the contrary (7)  
 20 Attaches blame when returning vegetable (7)  
 23 Short, sweet ending associated with tongue (5)  
 24 Boulevard without a place for play? (5)

Submit your solution via the ACCOLADE button on [www.crosswordclub.org](http://www.crosswordclub.org) home page, or for mail entries see page 3 for adjudicator and closing mail date.



## Slot 7

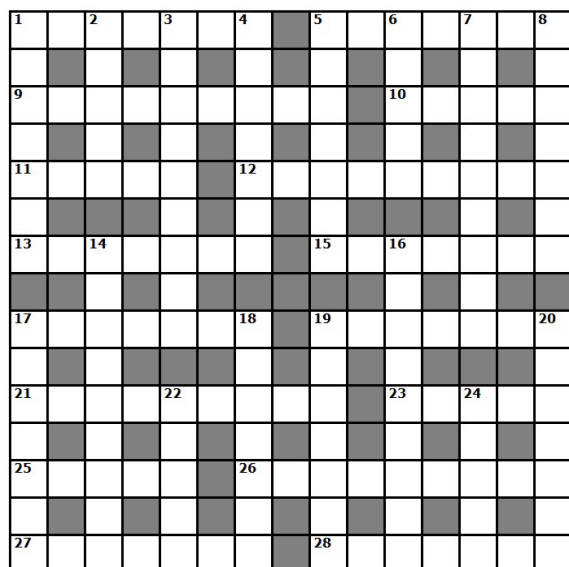
Cryptic  
by  
ZinzanPrize  
\$50

## Across

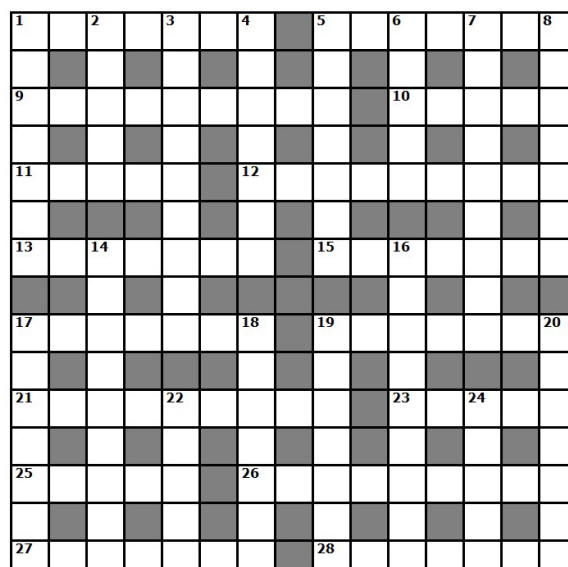
- 1 All but supreme opponents play a sneaky trick (7)
- 5 I'm in France, circling back to get them in order? (7)
- 9 Composed tie to film theme (9)
- 10 Runs, worried by large musteline (5)
- 11 Stages multiple West End productions of *Dreamgirls* in Aldwych (5)
- 12 Old standard rifle loaded with ammo (9)
- 13 Separate jewellery fit ceremonial boxes the wrong way (7)
- 15 Grey layer in pastry products rejected by quality assurance in seconds (7)
- 17 Holding the edges, barman turns over soup container (7)
- 19 Blessing said to exist free from vice in retirement (7)
- 21 About beginning of November, strangely left Lima, out of money (9)
- 23 Worth filming only the back half of family's unit? (5)
- 25 Expression of interest doesn't insist on management's sources (5)
- 26 Unscientific article located after uproar (9)
- 27 A particular school is heavy on revision (7)
- 28 Crook may pull this trick initially on cracking unusual safe (4,3)

## Down

- 1 Mineral water, very bubbly, finally better after emptying 5 litres (7)
- 2 Beginnings of new animation in aquatic domain? (5)
- 3 Congenial young lady almost climbed terrace, stopped by cold (9)
- 4 Medical team's inadequate assessment of disorder (7)
- 5 Chanciest time to leave follows, beginning in just a few moments (7)
- 6 Reddish-brown coin found in central Oslo (5)
- 7 Hints at infrastructure needs primarily by housing (9)
- 8 In seconds, a replacement for current food transport equipment (7)
- 14 Young rogue not restricted wearing hats and cloaks (9)
- 16 Those 'switching teams' occasionally terse after a gender reassignment (9)
- 17 Supplement a politician's existence curtailed by years (7)
- 18 Mobile found here half-stripped by a couple of uni graduates (7)
- 19 Part of book, under 'Botany', maybe one's found there? (3,4)
- 20 Somewhere for passengers able to put up with periodic meal and sleep (7)
- 22 Clouds devised by tech company in recession (5)
- 24 Explosive beginning to piece includes downfall of Italy (5)



July Slot 7 Name: \_\_\_\_\_



Submit solution via ACCOLADE button on [www.crosswordclub.org](http://www.crosswordclub.org) home page or for mail entries see page 3 for adjudicator and closing mail date.



**Quiz 7-2024 Substitution by KA (Karl Audrins).** Two words, both starting with the same letter, are defined, the second one having one letter different. Answers are not in alphabetical order, but all letters are

used once as starters. e.g. Flying mammal has a gamble (3) Bat/Bet Frozen horse (4) Cold/Colt. Send your answers to **Karl Audrins**, 10 Elizabeth Parade, Charlestown NSW 2290.

email: [karlishane@optusnet.com.au](mailto:karlishane@optusnet.com.au).

**Closing Date: 26 July 2024. Prize \$50.**

- 1 The serf is a bad guy (7)
- 2 There is nothing for candy (6)
- 3 The lazy are disrespectful (8)
- 4 Support the man (6)
- 5 Snake from the country (6)
- 6 Boat deviates from course (4)
- 7 Release the scholarly (8)
- 8 Talk about the document (7)
- 9 Cheese for the charlatan (5)
- 10 Not being liked, but unaffected (7)
- 11 Choose to build (5)
- 12 The most horrible sausage (5)
- 13 Evaluate the total property (6)
- 14 Magazine has vitality (4)
- 15 Pennant for the financier (6)
- 16 Cluster around the obstacle (6)
- 17 Find the fault (6)
- 18 Colouring for thickening agent (7)
- 19 Sex of the goose (6)
- 20 Bounce back to echo (7)
- 21 The sound of the verse (6)
- 22 Applause for speech (7)
- 23 Central part of the gutter (6)
- 24 The bird is nice (8)
- 25 Warnings about military supplies (9)
- 26 Fish for the bar (6)

**Quiz 6-2024. Just a Letter by Child's Play (Brian Symons)**

**Winner: Kath Harper Congratulations!**

**Results:** 26 Kath Harper, Julie Leigh, Robyn McKenzie, Drew Meek, William Ryan, 25 Warren Allan, Michael Veress 24 Ulla Axelsen, Anne Millard, David Procter, Robyn Wimbush, 23 Julie Crowe, Andrew Miles. Danuta Rosendorff, 22 David Bennett, Hilary Cromer, David Grainger.

**Answers** 1.Q [Kew], 2.X [eggs], 3.a, 4.h, 5.c [sea], 6.V, 7.i, 8.f, 9.e, 10.Z, 11.j, 12.b [bee], 13.D, 14.g, 15.p [pee], 16.K, 17.U, 18.L, 19.w, 20.m, 21.Y, 22.R, 23.s, 24.o, 25.n [noon], 26.t [tea]

#### Adjudicators comments

This quiz was meant to be fun, popular and fairly easy. From the small number of entries it did not succeed. A few clues had more than one possible answer and credit was given but the wrong choice made a completely correct solution impossible Congratulations with relief to the four members whose minds coincided with mine.

#### Members' feedback

- Great fun. Really had me scratching my head. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Great concept. *William Ryan*
- By no means easy. *Andrew Miles*
- Very interesting. Much harder than I thought it would be. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Wow. This is a tough one. A real challenge. Thank you. *Julie Leigh*
- What a lot of fun this quiz was. *Robyn McKenzie*

#### Feedback on June slot 5 - continued from page 14

- The alphabetical help made this a lot easier to finish! *Fraser Simpson*
- It was only when I went to put my answers in that I discovered the alphabet around the edge. Does Crowsman ever get any sleep? Brilliant! *Robyn McKenzie*
- An excellent puzzle with a very clever NINA of the full alphabet. *Laurence Kennedy*
- Really clever. Unlike me. *Kate Williams*
- Initially I thought this was a surprise AJ, but the real surprise was that the alphabet was around the perimeter. Clever Crowsman! *Kath Harper*
- So many great clues eg YEARNING, SWARAJ, IMMENSE and MOOLAH. *Jean Evans*

**June 6-2024 Cryptic by Flowerman (Ian Thompson)**  
[Solution on page 2]  
**Entries received 66; Correct 62; Success rate 93.9%.**  
**Prizewinner: Anne Simons. Congratulations!**

**Compiler's observations**

Thanks, members for your feedback. The success rate was possibly the highest yet for any of my puzzles; no clue yielded more than a single error. There were positive comments about the 15 letter clues in a previous puzzle of mine, so I thought I would follow up with another of the same sort. When I was searching for a 15-letter word starting with S and ending with M, I was drawn to scolopendriiform because it brought back memories of a plant I researched when I was a taxonomist. *Bossiaea scolopendria* is a pea native to NSW, and is a member of the tribe Bossiaeeae (note the six consecutive vowels!) which I studied extensively.

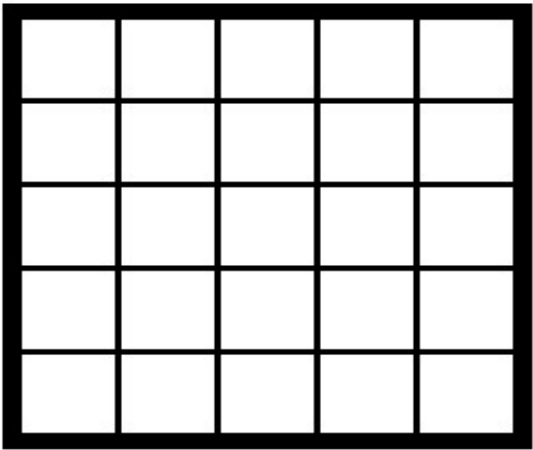
**Explanations – Across:** **1** CONCRETE + J + (b)UNGLES, **9** NIX + ON, **10** (O + CRAM)< + L in POO, **11** SEER< around LIV, **12** ALLY in T(rouble) H(ang) O(n), **13** (w) ILL + TRADERS\*, **15** hw<, **17** (D + (p)A(n)I(c)S, **18** DE + (DRY HEAT)\* + D, **20** C(ambridge) + U + (MULLS with U for L), **21** O + RIGA + I'M<, **23** (PURIST TO H)\*, **25** hw, **26** (OVER MERCHANDISE)\*. **Down:** **1** TRAIN in (ACCIDENT O)\* + D, **2** (LAX ON)<, **3** (O TAVERN)\* + E, **4** dd, **5** RAJ(a)<, **6** dd, **7** LOO + NY + FELT\*, **8** (CLONED SP FROM RIO)\*, **12** (TONE BY E)\* + P(a)PER, **14** L + TIE< + MOTIV(es), **16** hw, **19** FLIN(g) around OR, **22** A + GREE(n), **24** HH around A.

**Solvers' Feedback**

- A refreshing set of answers. Thanks Ian. *Len Colgan*
- Thank you Flowerman - I was slow to move into your puzzle. However, very pleased to complete it. *Trish McPherson*
- Thanks for the challenge. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Crowsman is justly famous for his 15-letter clues, but Flowerman has come up with some doozies!. *Nea Storey*
- TIMESERVERS took a while. Never heard of NOXAL or SCOLOPENDRIFORM. *Roy Taylor*
- A real challenge; with a few 'new to me' words and some clever clueing. *Kathryn Forward*
- I reckon Ian teaches us more new words than anybody else. SCOLOPENDRIFORM is a beauty! *Richard Skinner*
- A few lovely new words - thanks Ian. *Robyn Wimbush*
- I really enjoyed the clues for MARCO POLO and LOONY LEFT. *Brian Tickle*
- Never heard of SCOLOPENDRIFORM. Can't wait to use it in conversation. *Tony Dobe*
- Loved clue for LOONY-LEFT!. *Bev Cockburn*
- The centipede word was fun! *Fraser Simpson*
- An interesting and challenging puzzle. I especially like DEVONSHIRE CREAM and LOONY LEFT. *Laurence Kennedy*
- I enjoyed the clever clues. *Robyn McKenzie*
- Amazing what you learn from crosswords - from centipedes to fabulous fish! *Kath Harper*
- Lots of challenging and fun clues such as TEENY-BOPPER and MARCO POLO. *Jean Evans*
- SCOLOPENDRIFORM! But in fact fairly straightforward. *Con Flinkenberg*

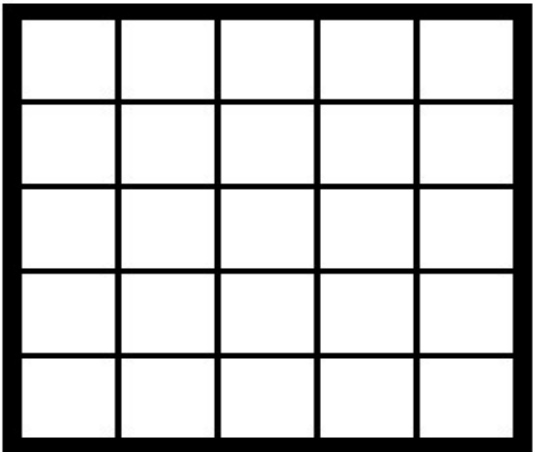
**FRAZ WORD SQUARE 5-June 1** (Solution on p 16)  
Identical words read across and down in this square.  
Clues are not listed in order.

- Amphibians run into visibility-reducing mists
- Delay yield
- Exiting revamped topless bar, Pablo relaxes
- Number of quarterfinalists took lunch in the auditorium
- Spooky eastern lake along an international border



**FRAZ WORD SQUARE 5-June 2** (Solution on p 16)  
Identical words read across and down in this square.  
Clues are not listed in order.

- Danger by way of Italian article
- Decides to inform female beside kissing couple?
- Finally includes normal dry cell battery with craft
- Flat in both directions
- White shade as an option in plant



**June 7 -2024: Cryptic by Crowsman**  
**Entries 61. Correct 58. Success rate 95%.**  
**Prizewinner: Robyn McKenzie. Congratulations!**

### Adjudicator's Observations

Seeing eight 15-letter answers might seem daunting, but that framework no doubt contributed to the paucity of errors. Congratulations to all. From a compiler's viewpoint, I am delighted that the clues as a whole only used two part-anagrams, as seen in the explanations below, but also managed two @lit clues. I must thank Jean Evans for her comment. It was my favourite clue too.

**Explanations : Across: 1** A + STRESS<, **5** MU(RATS<) D, **9** TRA(i)N STATION around PLAN, **10** CRE(w) + AS(ERE)SISTANT, **11** TIMER<, **12** NE(PALES)E, **15** TEAMS, but RANG for E, **16** (pr)EDICT(ion), **19** (A LEARNER CUT)\* around SOUR, **20** OVATIONS around (TIRES ME)\*, **21** E + STATES, **22** TEN ANTS. **Down: 1** AT + TACK, **2** STATE(DEPART)MENT, **3** RES(IS)TING + A + R + REST, **4** S(a)UL + TRY, **5** @lit clue, MIN(I)STER, **6** SEA(IS)L + AND + COT + NOT<, **7** @lit clue, reverse anagram, **8** DI(NETT)ES, **13** STAN + HOPE, **14** EMU(LATE)S, **17** PERM IT, **18** (t)HEISTS.

### Members' comments:

- Precise clues for long answers. Love it. *Andrew Patterson*
- Always wonderful solving a Crowsman grid. *Trish Mcpherson*
- Wordplay for OVERESTIMATIONS & the reverse anagram for ANIMATED CARTOON are both brilliant. PERMIT is also excellent. *Ian Mckenzie*
- Eight 15 letter words; is this the record? Can more be done? Thanks for the challenge. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Always enjoy Crowsman's 15-letter clues. Also loved the clue for PERMIT. *Nea Storey*
- Lots of clever clues. *Roy Taylor*
- Thanks Len. I do like 15 letter words. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Brilliant puzzle; with Len's trademark class. *Ian Thompson*
- My favourite clues were the reverse anagram for ANIMATED CARTOON and the one for PERMIT. *Brian Tickle*
- Great puzzle with 8 x 16 letter answers. TANGRAM is a new word; thank you! *Bev Cockburn*
- Love the "No actor!" clue. *Fraser Simpson*
- I loved the clue for permit. *Robyn Mckenzie*
- I had heard of TANGRAMS but TRANGAMS was new to me. *Kath Harper*
- Interesting grid. I liked SEA ISLAND COTTON. *Jean Evans*

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

Solution WORD SQUARE 5-June 1

Y	R	R	O	S
R	E	E	H	S
R	E	I	C	I
O	H	C	A	M
S	S	I	M	A

Solution WORD SQUARE 5-June 2

E	S	N	E	S
S	E	E	N	K
N	E	V	O	C
E	N	O	T	A
S	K	C	A	J



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

**Explanations for clues in June 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 Virgo. Down:** 1 Spooner "pops tin", 2 anag, 3 homoph "rock cocoa", 5 (FLEET + RICH + SPIES)\*, 6 cd "re-solved", 7 ddd, 8 BUTTER + SCOTCHES, 10 O + MITTED, 14 anag, 16 (gROUNDSMAAn)\*, 17 ddd, 19 S + LENDER, 20 LOTH in CE, 22 cd/dd.

**Slot 2 St Jude. Across:** 1 C+RIPPLE, 5 FIN(ESS)E, 9 (BYATONEmen)\*, 10 INV+(riot)\*, 11 axILLae, 12 cd, 13 G+LOVE, 15 PROT+RUDE+S, 17 BREAK+NECK, 18 homop., 20 anag, 23 nitrouSACid, 24 anag., 25 dd, 26 anag, 27 CR(E)ATES. **Down:** 1 CAB+LING, 2 homop., 3 PINCH+BECK, 4 EX+art>TRA, 5 FLINT+LOCK, 6 NOVeIIA+E, 7 SET(A+SIDE)S, 8 (opensmy)\*, 14 dd, 15 PIED+PIPER (cd), 16 REC+HER+CHÉ, 17 dd, 19 dd, 21 viCARPIctures, 22 cOPTIC, 23 homoph "sail".

**Slot 3 NanaKat. Across:** 8 cd, 9 anag, 11 anag, 12 sTRUMPET, 13 TT in FAY, 14 hidden, 16 INCIDENT + A + L + MUSIC, 19 anag, 21 dd, 22 dd, 23 EAR + MARK, 24 homoph "Hawn", 25 anag. **Down:** 1 dd, 2 anag, 3 PASTa + RY, 4 hEDGE, 5 QUARter + MAIN, 6 CRYPT + O, 7 heads, 10 cd, 14 anag, 17 anag, 18 SCALE round LAB, 20 hidden, 21 heads, 22 anag.

**Slot 4 Isla (Rob Moline). A** A + XI + ALLY, **B** (AKUBRAS + ON + IF)\*, **C** CENT + R\_A\_L, **D** FOOD< round OUT, **E** (FLEXY + IMP)\* around I, **F** homoph "fawner", **G** MAN in GOURDS, **H** HOVER around WE, **I** (IT + IS) in ALICE, **J** I in (JUJU around ITS), **K** homoph "calm" + IC, **L** LEA + R, **M** dd, **N** (NUT + RUM + ASTI)\*, **O** cOLD + NESS, **P** PAN + J + AND + RUM, **Q** cd, **R** (I + TARRY)\*, **S** anag, **T** TAX + I + WAY, **U** UK + RAIN + IAN, **V** (CAVEAT)\* + D, **W** (WEC + STRIKING)\*, **X** X + EN{e}ON, **Y** (READY + TO)\*, **Z** dd.

**Slot 5 Crowsman. Across:** 8 CHAR + (h)ADE(s), 9 dd, 10 Z(INN)IA, 11 rev hidden, 12 Y + EARNING, 13 WAS\* + JAR<, 14 MIX< + SEEN\*, 17 BLOKES\* around I, 20 WET + HER, 22 NOW in (S + BALL), 25 (OO + DO) in DOVE\*, 26 SCOUT\* + M, 27 UN(MAD)E, 28 IMMENSE, but R for N(ude). **Down:** 1 (ACT I) + V + E, 2 dd, 3 LAC< + AMINE, 4 GARDENE(r)\*, 5 ME< + BOSS, 6 FORES + AIL, 7 S(PARTS)AG<, 15 ICE + P(O)INT, 16 E + CHI + SAND<, 18 BOOT + CAMP, 19 Q(u)ITS\* around ADD, 21 RI(O)TE + R, 23 hidden, 24 LOO + SEN.

Keep your brain fit!

It's long been said that solving puzzles helps to stave off problems with cognitive health later in life. A new paper published by researchers at University College Cork highlights actions to take in midlife that can proof yourself against cognitive decline.

According to the paper, activities that can help to keep your brain cells ticking over as you age include watching your weight keeping active, sleeping for more than seven hours each night, drinking and smoking less, nurturing social connections, maintaining oral health – and, of course, training the brain.

According to Professor Sahakian, a professor of clinical neuropsychology at the University of Cambridge, "learning and remembering are great for the brain and increase the volume of the hippocampus" (the area of the brain that's important for everyday memory). Naji Tabet, the director of the Centre for Dementia Studies at Brighton and Sussex Medical School, goes on to say that keeping the brain sharp in midlife, such as by doing sudoku or crossword puzzles, or learning a new skill, is also helpful.

In other words, solving puzzles is not just enjoyable; it is also a key part of staying sharp.

Thanks to *The Telegraph* for permission to reprint this item from its Puzzle Newsletter.

M	E	M	B	E	R
	N	E	W	S	

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

**July Clue-writing Competition:** For the next competition, please write a clue for the word CYBERSPACE (10) complete with explanation. Note: only one clue per person. Send your clue and explanation to the adjudicator Michael Kennedy by email to manveru@bigpond.com or mail to 27 Hennessy Lane, Figtree NSW 2525 Closing mail date: Friday 9 August 2024 Prize \$50.

**New compilers welcome!** We welcome puzzles from new compilers. The easiest way to start is with a slot 1 Half and Half puzzle, which only involves cryptic clues for half of the solutions. If you're hesitant, some of our more experienced compilers will be delighted to pair with you and provide advice and assistance. Email Ian for more detail and some helpful information.

**Grids to clue:** For those who feel more comfortable clueing an existing grid, Crowsman has devised a number of novel grids for members that will be interesting to clue. Contact Ian for details.

Find us on 

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

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



**June 1: Virgo (Audrey Austin)**

- Harder than it looked! *Kathryn Forward*
- Great to get started on another month of Croz. PARACHUTERS is a word I haven't seen before. *Ann Millard*
- A few tough clues for a Slot 1 e.g. THE IPCRESS FILE. *Ian McKenzie*
- I liked the clues for BUTTERSCOTCHES and CLOTHE. *Brian Tickle*
- Virgo, still a joy to solve. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Nice to see a Virgo puzzle again. *Nea Storey*
- Good to be back. *Ian Mason*
- A friendly start for the month, thanks Virgo. I liked OMITTED. *Kathy Horadam*
- Did a lot of Googling before stumbling on IPCRESS! *Toby McLeay*
- Half and half is always interesting. *Jean Evans*

**June 2: St Jude (Drew Meek)**

- Some nice compiling here. Are 'idle' and 'idyll' meant to be homophones in the USA with 'lecture' as the indicator? Otherwise, I don't get 2dn. *Len Colgan*
- Thanks for the workout; a couple of new words to add to my growing collection. Liked 15dn, PIED PIPER. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Re 23dn: A sheet is not a sail, a sheet is a rope. *Graeme Cole*
- I'm sure others will say a sheet is not a sail. Also, not sure of 2dn and 6dn. *Tony Dobe*
- It took me ages to get CRIPPLE, and PINCHBECK is new to me. I liked HEARTLESSLY. *Kathy Horadam*
- Many interesting clues such as recherché and pinchbeck and pied piper. *Jean Evans*

**June 3: NanaKat (Kathryn Forward)**

- Thank you for launching into CrOZworld as a new compiler. Hope to see many more from NanaKat. *Julie Leigh*
- NanaKat - loved your first puzzle. Look forward to your next one. *Trish McPherson*
- Some great clues. Tarts, tarts & pastries. *Ann Millard*
- Welcome! Some clever constructions, liked the way Rider Haggard was referenced. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Loved the clue for PICCOLO. *Nea Storey*
- Excellent puzzle. *Roy Taylor*
- An interesting mixture of answers including several unknowns: QUATERMAIN, GERRITSEN, PICCOLO. *Ian Thompson*
- My favourite clue was the one for CHAMP. *Brian Tickle*
- NanaKat, loved your puzzle, keep them coming! *Cheryl Wilcox*
- I liked the CHAMP clue. *Fraser Simpson*
- Welcome to this new setter. *Tony Dobe*
- Very enjoyable thanks Kathryn. Keep up the good work! *Pat Garner*
- A pleasantly challenging puzzle. *Caroline Mackay-Sim*
- Welcome NanaKat! This was fun. I liked EKED. *Kathy Horadam*
- I enjoyed discovering the incidental music(al) terms and instruments in this puzzle. *Kath Harper*
- Thank you, NanaKat, for a very interesting and enjoyable puzzle. *Laurence Kennedy*
- Thankyou NanaKat for an interesting puzzle. LORETTA was a new word for me. *Jean Evans*

**June 4: Isla (Rob Moline)**

- Thanks, Isla. Slot 4 is always enjoyable. *Con Flinkenberg*
- Thanks, Rob. Liked the ITALICISE, TAXIWAY and YEAR DOT clues a lot, but not keen on 'browner = fawner'. *Len Colgan*
- Always a favourite. Thanks, Isla! *Ann Millard*
- I really liked the clues for FAUNA and ITALICISE. *Brian Tickle*
- Much prefer the old layout. No room to list the answers in number of letters to aid in filling the grid. *Maureen Blake*
- Always love a good AJ. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Took a lot of thinking to justify the clue for XENON. *Nea Storey*
- Enjoyed this. Liked H clue! *Bev Cockburn*
- I had a false start in filling in the grid and had to switch a few entries! *Fraser Simpson*
- Some nice clues in here, thank you, Isla. *Robyn McKenzie*
- I don't like the new layout for Slot 4. I like to rearrange the clues in order of length and use the blank area to do that *Lesley Carroll*
- Nicely balanced AJ; thanks Isla. I liked ITALICISE. *Kathy Horadam*
- As usual with AJ some interesting and challenging clues. Enjoyed KAMILASA and PANJANDRUM for two. *Jean Evans*

**June 5: Crowsman (Len Colgan)**

- Not confident about ZARATITE or FAT TRAPS! *Patricia Abbott*
- Thought it seemed too ordinary! Crowsman doesn't do ordinary! *Andrew Patterson*
- It made it easier to confirm some answers knowing that the alphabet was the perimeter of the grid. *David Procter*
- A fun puzzle & a clever NINA. Thanks, Len. *Ann Millard*
- Clever, clever, clever! Always a challenge, and so satisfying to solve. *Kathryn Forward*
- Very clever, unlike me! I didn't notice the alphabet until I entered! Doh! *Julie Leigh*
- Lovely perimeter AJ. *Michael Kennedy*
- Completed the top right corner and immediately saw the pattern. Incredible! *Ulla Axelsen*
- Clever clue for ACTIVE. *Nea Storey*
- Great clues, especially liked BOOTCAMP. And surrounded by the whole alphabet! *Roy Taylor*
- I thought YEARNING very clever and gave it my COTM. *Julie Crowe*
- Loved the alphabet running around the edge, so clever. *Betty Siegmán*
- I always look for the little extra in a Crowsman puzzle. This time it was the grid looking a little unusual that put me on to the alphabet taking its turn (around). *Richard Skinner*
- What a great NINA! My favourite clues were those for YEARNING, IMMERSE and BANNER. *Brian Tickle*
- I thought there might be a pangram with three clues to solve - found out that there was an exceptional one! *Ian Thompson*
- Took a good while to figure out CALAMINE, lots of head scratching finally relieved! *Toby McLeay*
- What an amazing puzzle with its alphabetical surround! Who would have thought it possible? Only Crowsman! *Bev Cockburn*

Continued on page 10

**May Clue-writing competition. Write a clue for SUSPENSION (10) Adjudicated by Drew Meek**  
Several definitions are provided in club references. System with springs , shock absorbers, etc for wheeled vehicles was not used in any submitted clues; dispersion of solids in a liquid also didn't get guernsey. There was one reference to the type of bridge. Variations on the delay (or possibly interruption) meaning were the ones most setters chose. Two setters used homophone indicators to go from "suss" to "sus" in their secinds but in fact, that is not needed since both spellings are accepted in all three standard club references.

Ten entries received to this competition, and most were of a high standard. For the four star clues there was a clear definition, very good secinds, fairness and surface readability. My only differentiation for granting an extra half star to two clues was in the nebulous x-factor of personal preference. The winner was Toby McLeay with: **Puss agitated by peculiar noise with no interruption**

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

**Delay claiming dodgy allowance \*\*\***  
The first charade clue using the definition of a postponement, with the secinds of dodgy(SUS) and allowance (PENSION). As noted in introductory comments, the homophone indicator (claiming) was not required, so "claiming" detracts from the clue. This superfluous word could be removed (eg): Dodgy allowance delay.

**Delay issue over American hybrid pines \*\*\*\***  
Another clue using the definition of delay. This time, a contained word clue, charade clue and partial anagram clue in one! The issue is (S-ON) surrounding (indicated by "over") American (US) hybrid (the anagind) pines. Nothing superfluous and good surface reading.

**Delay on bridge, perhaps \*\*\*\*1/2**  
The only double definition type of clue to be submitted. One being delay, as used by most setters, and the second "bridge, perhaps" indicating SUSPENSION as a type of bridge. A succinct clue with good surface reading, that may strike a chord with many drivers.

**Hanging for doubtful money payment? \*\*\***  
A reasonable charade clue with the secinds parsed as in the first clue : SUS (doubtful) + PENSION (money payment). The syntax and the ? points to "hanging" being a noun (the means of killing someone). In my mind, the syntax x for y, suggests that y should be the definition part of a clue from whatever secind manipulations are represented by x. This could be addressed by, eg, doubtful money payment results in hanging.

**Issue describing American writers' current debarmment \*\*\*\***  
This setter had a similar thought pattern to the composer of the second clue. Issue is used to indicate (S-ON) going around (describing, in the

sense of outlining) American (US). For the remaining letters, instead of an anagram of pines, they used a charade construct of writers (PENS) + current (I). Also refreshing to have another definition than delay, in this case, DEBARMMENT.

**Moratorium on payment of dubious retirement benefit \*\*\*\***  
The same definition and a similar charade construct to the first (SUS+PENSION) clue but avoiding the unrequired homophone indicator and I think it has a better surface reading.

**Phoned dodgy guesthouse, on hold \*\*\***  
The only setter to use the guesthouse meaning of pension in their clue, perhaps they have travelled in Europe where the word is more widely used. However, another setter who thought they needed a homophone indicator for dodgy (SUS). In this case, the surface reading depends on "phoned" to relate to the definition of being "on hold". While the surface is good, the clue had a lower fairness subscore because of this.

**Puss agitated by peculiar noise with no interruption \*\*\*\* 1/2**  
The setter was unnecessarily concerned about the quality of their clue. I think the surface reading is very good and a situation recognisable by any people living with cats. The definition is fine and the clue made up of sequential anagrams of PUSS and NOISE (indicated by agitated and peculiar, respectively) and then N is added (indicated by "no").

**Second United States payment in abeyance \*\*\*\***  
A straightforward and properly constructed charade clue: S+US+PENSION

**South American writers' rejection of best seller leads to delay \*\*\*\***  
Another good charade clue with good surface readability. The phrase "South American" may misdirect solvers away from the required construction of S + US. This setter has eschewed a payment for indicating "pension" but instead uses writers (PENS) and then ("leads to") rejection of best seller (<NOI). "Leads" may also misdirect a solver into looking for initial letters to include in the answer. Fair misdirection is a clever part of clue setting.

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	*****		

**Name .....**

**Name.....**

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## Clue of the Month .....

**JUNE 2024 SLOT 3**

[illegible][illegible]

**JUNE 2024 SLOT 5**

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