



No 423 July 2025



www.crosswordclub.org



– Keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them *Anonymous*

GRIDATORIAL

We sincerely hope that all of our members affected by the recent floods survived with their property, possessions and sanity intact. You have the good wishes of all members.

No announcements this month - everything is on an even keel and ACCOLADE is working well, despite a brief hiccup, soon resolved by our IT guru Rob Moline, to whom we all owe our thanks.

A goodly offering this month after the resounding success of the June issue, as reflected in your feedback. Slot 1 features the traditional half and half puzzle from T-boy, in which you will find a sprinkling of his trademark clues. We welcome a new compiler in slot 2 in the form of Ninian, whose bio appears under his puzzle. We think you will enjoy his fresh approach. Lexi Connor presents his normal well-crafted clues in an interestingly different grid and the popular AJ features a long-lost puzzle by Betelgeuse, which has been occupying a dusty corner of my hard drive for some years. The puzzle itself, however, is far from dusty, as you will find. CT presents a slot 5 with a most interesting twist while the fertile brain of Flowerman has deserted his normal horticultural bent for something completely different, the theme of which is described fully by its cryptic title. Anon make their rare appearance in slot 7 for your delectation.

The quiz this month is brought to you by KA which, he assures us, will give less grief than his recent slot 1. The clue-writing competition for May was ably adjudicated by Flowerman, for which we thank him, as well as Ken Davis for his slots 1 to 5 adjudication and all the other compilers, adjudicators and back-room workers, whose efforts are essential to bringing you your monthly challenges.

We wish you successful solving this month. **Ian**

FROM THE ADJUDICATOR

My last adjudication was for the June 2005 issue. A lot has changed in 20 years. Then I had to mark over 500 crosswords by hand. This time I marked 10. There was also no need to construct the dots page or keep track of or count errors. Accolade is amazing.

Slot 1. Most solvers, along with me, found this puzzle harder than the usual Slot 1. However, the only clue that resulted in more than a single person losing their dot was 6D with 2 entries having LUCK OUT. That being said, multiple answers were accepted for 25A [Separate -UNYOKE], 26A [Instrument - CATHETER] and 27A [Instrument - OHMMETER].

Slot 2. The Australia reference was appreciated by members. The only clue that caused major problems was 19D with 10 dots lost via "THROW UP". Apart from being the wrong tense the "over reportedly" leads to "THREW" a homophone of through.

Slot 3. Members were impressed with the clueing in this puzzle. Very few problems were encountered though 14A resulted in the loss of 7 dots with 5 having BORE and 2 GORY.

Slot 4. Members expressed their "Joy" for the included Nina, while not being fans of the M clue, MOIN, MOAN, MUIR, MAID, MOIL and MAIN costing a total of 10 members dots. MEIN, constructed via "setter in" being a Scottish word for complain.

Slot 5. Members were impressed by both the complexity of the Nina and the breadth of Crowman's travels. Most errors were due to what could only be typos. It pays to spell check your entries. Under Accolade I always cut and paste my answers into Word, which then flags most spelling errors.

continued on page 2

LEADING FIGURES

Puzzle No.	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Entries received	73	83	83	75	72	386
Correct entries	65	53	73	55	65	314
Success rate (%)	88	63	88	79	90	81
Prizewinners	Ro Ducker	Brian Symons	Larry Kennedy	Stephen Matthews	Wendy Cornish	from 89 members

Prizewinner: June Slots 1-5 correct: Jean Barbour. Congratulations!

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June Slot 1

LAPTOPDULCIMER
DAEEOM
MISRULESCAPTOR
EGIEKET
SUPERCARGOREEL
SATUFR
SEXTANTS
VRC
GELATOREBUTTAL
RNP
DYESUNIVERSITY
IFLLFHI
UNYOKECATHETER
CRNAEAI
OHMMETERAFFINE

June Slot 2

JULEPBILLABONG
UIOU
MONETISED
BAPHEOAB
UGGBOOTANTENNA
CEUE
KESTRELHOSTAGE
GRECON
TOILINGREISSUE
HNRSVYN
ROSELLAETERNAL
EAAPLLLOI
WONGIHEADLANDS
UETKEYT
PARTYLINEDEMOS

June Slot 3

HVMSDHRM
ALABASTEROSAKA
LCSAYLVN
FLATTENCLEMENT
WTEZLYNL
ICEBREAKERGORE
TKAAU
SYSTEMSANALYSTS
TYUMU
CRABTRESPASSER
ARECHMEP
RETRACEAMATEUR
PESSADTURI
EYRIESMOKELESS
TSLERWDE

June Slot 4

JOYFUL
CONCEALHADRIAN
BCRBRT
ALLIEDINTREPID
EDSLHNC
ESSE
SNGTNS
STEAMENGINE
DRRSUW
QUOTIDIANMEIN
NUELXIR
PERSONALRANCID
DSYAOON
KILLERSZYMURGY
NESSSSS

June Slot 5

SATRAPS
BELGIUM
LAMBDA
SENDERGAL
PHILANDERUSAGE
INDIA
BIASINGREDARMY
NIGER
FIENDEXPIATING
TUNISIA
TIMOROUSODEONS
AUSTRIA
PLASTERGYMNAST

June Slot 6

PAC
PHAROSRENTACOP
ECEADG
OLDSTERSPLEURA
PINENHTE
LIEDETECTORS
NITRE
IGNOREARREST
SVAE
BREATHALYZER
BENCDCNC
CEMENTORATORIO
APISSLAL
ETHERNETENDALL
RGS

MEMBERS' RESULTS FOR JUNE 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.	Garner P.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Moline R.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Allen W.	Goodman S.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Parsons D.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Audrins K.	Grainger D.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Patterson A.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Axelsen U.	Graves C.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Peach S.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Banks H.	Hagan R.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Pinder S.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Barbour J.	Harper K.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Randall J.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Barnes J.	Hearn R.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Rosendorff D.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Batum C.	Hocking A.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Roulston S.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Bennett D.	Horadam K.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Ryan W.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Bettles K.	Howat S.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Shield A.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Blake M.	Jarman L.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Siegman B.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Carroll L.	Jarman R.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Simpson F.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Cockburn B.	Jones G.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Skinner R.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Cockburn M.	Kennedy L.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Smith J.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Colgan L.	Kennedy M.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Storti A.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Coote P.	Lankshear J.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Symons B.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Cornish W.	Leigh J.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Taylor R.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Cromer H.	Madden J.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Taylor S.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Crowe J.	Martin A.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Thompson I.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Davis K.	Matthews S.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Tickle B.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Dobele T.	McClelland C.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Veress M.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Ducker R.	McKenzie I.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Void.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Dyer A.	McKenzie R.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Williams K.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Evans J.	McLeay T.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Wimbush R.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Flinkenberg C.	Meek D.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Wood J.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Forward K.	Miles A.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Woolston M.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Francis K.	Millard A.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	
Gamble K.	Milton R.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	

From the Adjudicator: continued from page 1

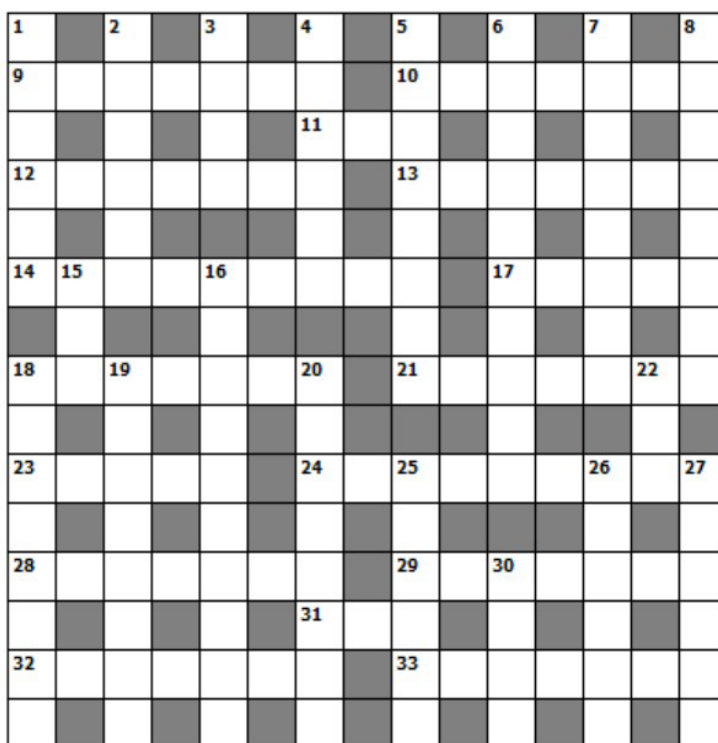
COTM. Some terrific clues this month with 24 being nominated for COTM. Multiple clues received more than a single nomination, with LIE- DETECTORS receiving 3, PLANNING 5 while HALF-WITS and PHILANDER received 7 each. As adjudicator my casting vote goes to HALF-WITS [TS: "Idiots!"]. Congratulations to NanaKat. **Ken Davis**

Slot 1

Half and Half
by
T-boy

Prize
\$50

*Cryptic clues are in plain font
and the non-cryptic clues are
italicised.*



Across

- 9** *Edible stalks* (7)
10 *Ham* (7)
11 *Colour* (3)
12 *Aunt lost in Digamma Island* (7)
13 *Get off the wagon - inebriated at diner* (7)
14 *Bully* (9)
17 *Craig disturbed by what Kipling chose over betrothal to Maggie?* (5)
18 *Transport operation* (7)
21 *Bondage* (7)
23 *Passage of complex pelvic discharge* (5)
24 *Expert group* (5,4)
28 *Preacher* (7)
29 *Honesty* (7)
31 *Bird with clipped tail becomes a hopper* (3)
32 *Malleable* (7)
33 *Ms Callas catches the French illness* (7)

Down

- 1** *Tear into abstainer making a stand* (6)
2 *Shoot messenger* (6)
3 *Demented lady perhaps* (4)
4 *Seize a British canal* (6)
5 *Cars going around old city republic* (8)
6 *Cess pit* (6,4)
7 *Tirade* (8)
8 *Fish* (8)
15 *Guyanese leader abandons desert witchcraft* (3)
16 *Cartilage flap from pork batch found in butchering site* (10)
18 *City American called up in Accident & Emergency* (8)
19 *Upbraid* (8)
20 *Ragged* (8)
22 *Coop* (3)
25 *Revenue* (6)
26 *Pig in commercial on a ship* (6)
27 *Asian scriptures embracing the end of life* (6)
30 *Invalid starts to notice ulcerated left leg* (4)

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: Jill Lanshear: email to lankshearjill@gmail.com or

post to 1/30 Grantham Street. Brunswick West, VIC 3055

Slot 6: Ian Thompson: email to irt_botanist@hotmail.com

or post to 12 Olive Street Malvern East VIC 3145

Slot 7: Kay Williams: email to ianw@webone.com.au

or post to 12 Lindrum Crescent Holt ACT 2615

**SEND
SOLUTIONS
TO:**

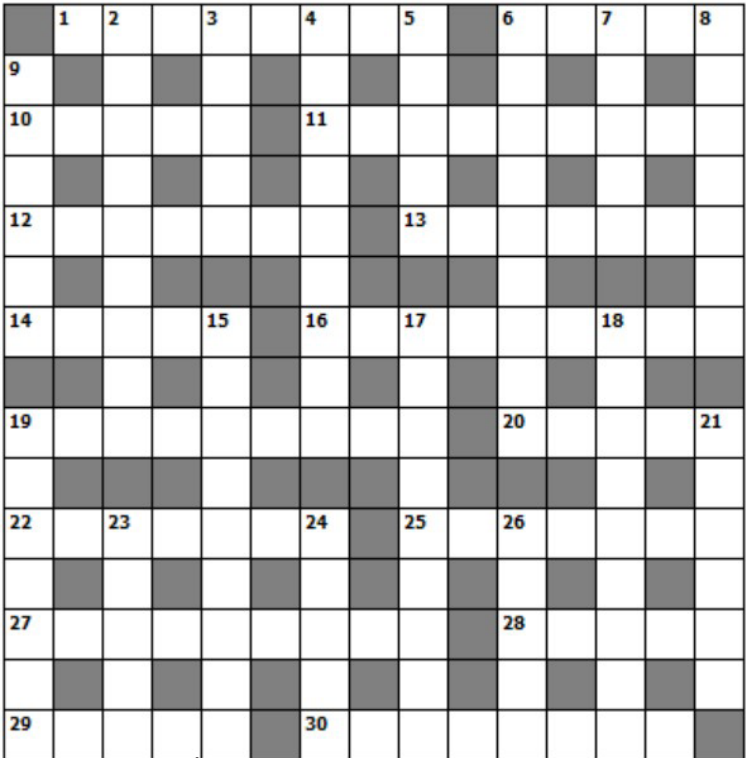
**BLANK
GRIDS
PAGE 17**

Closing mail date for all puzzles is 25 July 2025. ACCOLADE entries close at 00.01

Slot 2

Cryptic
by
Ninian

Prize
\$50



- Across
- Down
- 1 Large Austrian starter, pepper kernel and lasagne on vacation in city (3,5)

6 Plant bull on edge? (5)

10 Exists in beer alley (5)

11 Fresh dash for paper (9)

12 Royal 9-down (7)

13 Reserve avian home and contents (4,3)

14 Ensemble missing court equipment! (5)

16 Curves hit back with a returned lob to grassy centre (9)

19 Veronica, small and healthy, swallowed deepfake (9)

20 For example, soak wader (5)

22 Relieved amateur in novel deal (7)

25 Good girls raised on toast? (7)

27 Fresh mice meant for pie filling (9)

28 Precious metal in vessel returning to Pacific island (5)

29 Gourmet princess, knight and queen (5)

30 Agitated, move more? (8)
- 2 Quietly, author is out for love - what cheek! (9)

3 Sphere of Newton in place (5)

4 Yearn for forbidden fruit and get another (9)

5 Buzz Aldrin imbibing red wine? Just the reverse! (5)

6 Afterthought about nothing after work - fit to be resisted (9)

7 French flower arrangement from Oriel (5)

8 Stews, leaves without books (7)

9 Dehydrated produce is in shower (6)

15 Roosevelt's plaything - confused betrayed Democrat (5,4)

17 Drops rouge borders on the french doors (9)

18 Krypton pulsars shaped bloomers (9)

19 Hades maiden, initially maltreated - badly cheated (7)

21 Odds are even drunk returns to drink (4-2)

23 Manchester returning scoreless, European outsiders (5)

24 Gloomy sweetheart crosses river (5)

26 Dissolve ring without you and me (5)

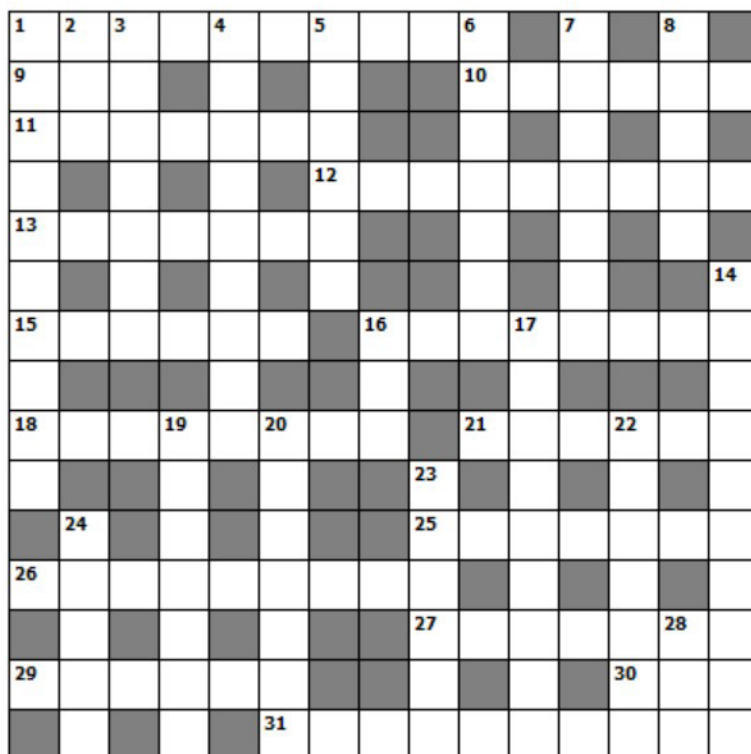


Ninian (Scott Goodman) Scott has had a love of cryptic crosswords since childhood (so for some time now), attracted by the plasticity of language and the logic of great clues. He is a product of the law and science faculties of ANU and has been a lawyer in various guises since the late 1980s. Crosswords, golf and fishing provide relaxation. Scott is also an avid follower of many sports with a particular passion for football (in the strict sense) and cricket. As a cruciverbonym, St Ninian was a good man and also a Scot.

Slot 3

Cryptic
by
Lexi Conner

Prize
\$50



Across

- 1 Clash over the hollow guise for stevedoring industry (10)
- 9 Naked chief seen to hurry! (3)
- 10 Critique a broadcast satirical show (6)
- 11 Unsusceptible people's nadir came out of disrupted Indian summer (7)
- 12 Senior police officer is one out-of-sorts stern cop (9)
- 13 Characteristic recessively contained by formulaic Epsom salts (7)
- 15 Desire to get hold of a way to be settled (6)
- 16 Country music player has single stint at musical centre (8)
- 18 Séances try engaging those who've left us (8)
- 21 Inspiration brought in today provided diversion (6)
- 25 Fashionable design lacks safe footwear protector (7)
- 26 Accomplish makes admission to much of the story (9)
- 27 Production covering everything may be superficial (7)
- 29 Spies got on the tail of leaders of folk and soul band (6)
- 30 28 needing no more introduction (3)
- 31 Pay attention to viewer's halved vantage point (10)

Down

- 1 Why a nudist went off to an island group (10)
- 2 Shoot at object (3)
- 3 Moderates excessive system personalisation (7)
- 4 Cricket scores are about numbers and flow rate (9)
- 5 Rosalie recited brightly (6)
- 6 Tour oil spill in Lebanese port (7)
- 7 Carry out hobby beforehand if not madly into fruit (7)
- 8 Melbourne player used part of a modem only (5)
- 14 Uncultivated plant in raging river (10)
- 16 Heads of English Defence League avoided deadly period (3)
- 17 Old car had front brakes linked to final blow-up (4,5)
- 19 Extract core (7)
- 20 Vehicle for Patricia, familiar with a window opener (7)
- 22 Pale overweight bird? (7)
- 23 Ancient medicine used in dystrophy sickness (6)
- 24 Announce nun unconventionally dumped by the waves' setting (5)
- 28 Even characters in Bourke rock! (3)

General Feedback for June

Thanks Fraz for your great word squares. They are always fun to do. Hope you don't run out any time soon.
Ulla Axelsen

I admire the imagination and inventiveness of all the crossword compilers. My first entry since joining the club last month. Thanks - loving the challenge. *Helen Banks*

Thank you for my Slot 3 prize and certificate. *Joan Smith*

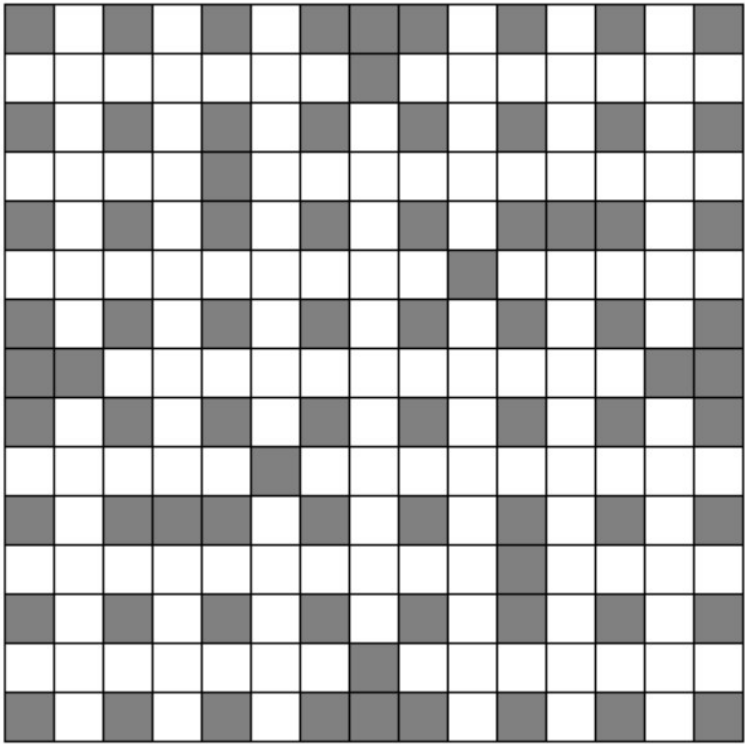
Thank you so much for my prize for my May Slot 5 entry. I was a very welcome surprise. *Brian Tickle*

Slot 4

AJ
by
Betelgeuse



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



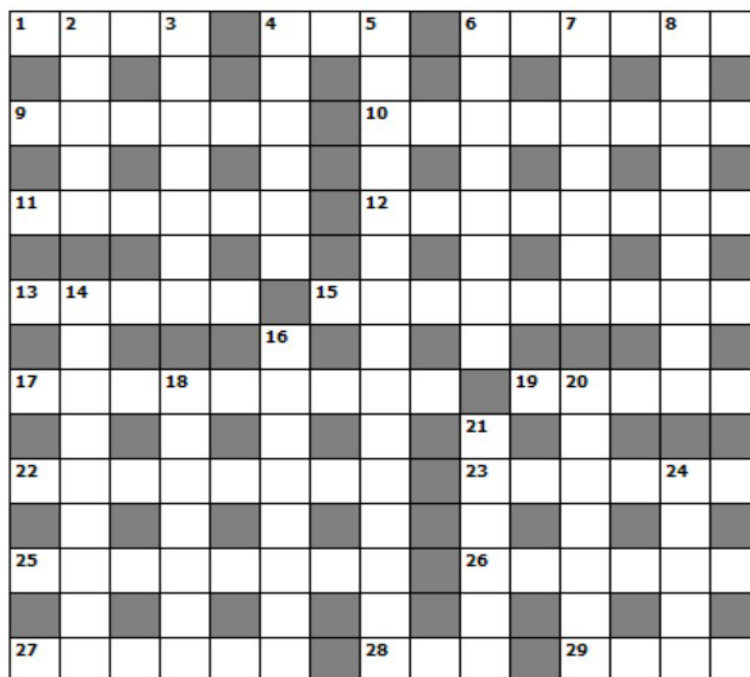
- A** Complaint near core of cardiac nerve (4)
- B** Lover needs pure guts to kiss at Government Offices (7)
- C** Love originator of American jam tart (5)
- D** Cracked china tends to be disappointing (10)
- E** Took day after Euclid complexity clarified (10)
- F** Very quickly receiving Australian flogging (7)
- G** Look into, for example, westward-flying birds (5)
- H** The same kind man - philanthropic, without hesitation (10)
- I** Start of slagging off without qualification is mean (5)
- J** Opera glasses, perhaps, found in chaotic jumble sale without, initially, any big surprise (7)
- K** Criticise support of drink (5,4)
- L** The French idiot keeps excellent American dog (11)
- M** Small man shouted, being misused (10)
- N** New poetic movement getting relatively undeserved attention (7)
- O** Like some bird, modest and long forgotten (4)
- P** Chapter out of the book has recipe included for a tree? (9)
- Q** Fraud who practices cry of bird heard on the cool sea breeze (5,6)

- R** Cycle, second hand, for one who makes deliveries (9)
- S** Netherlands shocker engineered gas exchanger (9)
- T** Description of eternity short of a minute is an exemplar of informality (7)
- U** The last word, but has no stomach for it before small last syllables (7)
- V** Kosovan essay describes a butterfly (7)
- W** Like a swelling when hospital amputated broken shin (7)
- X** Gulls are morning (late) risers (4)
- Y** Urge to get back at gossip (5)
- Z** Ferment in a hazy mess (4)

Slot 5

Cryptic
by
CTPrize
\$50

Each down solution has a common factor that is not represented in the wordplay of the clue. Definitions within these clues reflect the word to be entered. Across clues are normal



Across

- 1 Plan cycling help (4)
 4 Idiot heading off, right away (3)
 6 One-time number of The Beatles heard with R.E.M backing (6)
 9 Crude dictator's twisted and naked (6)
 10 Old Uni performance making a comeback with stars missing arrival of Quasimodo and Frankenstein, perhaps (8)
 11 Limits of go-ahead without debt (6)
 12 Heater type, plastered with timber lining (3-5)
 13 Rogue from south side (5)
 15 Cleaner, renovating our semi, had no right (9)
 17 Spoilers disrupted primaries (9)
 19 Way to dismiss batter dividing test umpires (5)
 22 Car like a roller coaster standing by a group of emotionless folk (8)
 23 Bad-tempered, petty PM urging part retraction (6)
 25 I tear around and around - for one hot item! (4-4)
 26 Ms Murdoch hiding sex appeal - it's visually inflammatory! (6)

27 Plant from a second dam (6)

28 Quiet, yet useless place for showing paintings! (3)

29 Art movement? (4)

Down

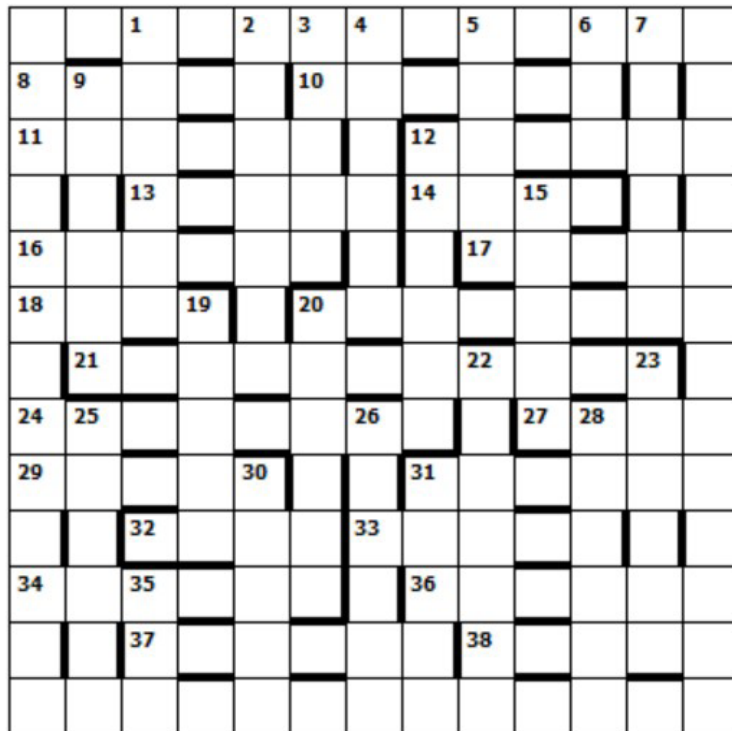
- 2 Dispute ends religious belief (5)
 3 Throwback shown by a tax rise (7)
 4 Schadenfreude, possibly, from the German flipping (6)
 5 Reportage of day in Paris, restricted by tiny amount of light the French rejected
 6 Final resignation (8)
 7 Genuineness of rock broadcast (7)
 8 In context, reminders of out-there views (9)
 14 Election tally unfinished, locking up thousands, giving rise to totalitarian regime (9)
 16 Creature from ascendant DNA group (8)
 18 Epicurean's ideal peeled tomato mixture (7)
 20 Exploration by wandering unfinished route (7)
 21 Argue regularly it's discrimination (6)
 24 Perhaps a gem of a career for spinner? (5)

Slot 6

Cryptic
by
Flowerman

 Prize
\$50

The nine unclued perimeter entries (2,4,5,5,6,6,6,6,8, not in this order) running clockwise from top left are thematic. The theme is located centrally in the completed grid in a straight line. In five clues an extra, thematically relevant, word must be removed to enable solving. Unchecked letters in the perimeter could make A RED PINE INHIBIT DAISY.



Across

- 8 Lindal having offloaded pulse loading up another (5)
- 10 Head of martial arts tried to alter critical speech (6)
- 11 Individual playing twenty-one hasn't won (6)
- 12 17 gripping long instrument (6)
- 13 Husband packing old dictionary expressed surprise (5)
- 14 Coarse seaweed ringing sound (4)
- 16 Troy visiting French city to make the first of nine special courses (6)
- 17 Patrick maybe isn't on song initially (5)
- 18 Jovial singer on Venetian bridge turning out endless aria (4)
- 20 Miss out on satire (8)
- 21 Better's ring thinking about a network's arrangements (11)
- 24 Foreign characters in cast slip on Earl's clothes (8)
- 27 One hundred and fifty leave train and drive away (4)
- 29 Pretentious rubbish by old Uranian king during first half of comedy (5)
- 31 Admire contracted black musician's device (6)
- 32 Nurse recalling extremely deficient medicine man (4)
- 33 Made demands on blind date to accept kiss (5)
- 34 Groups of ordinary citizens on vacation embracing Asian festival (6)
- 36 In peril, leader of gang coming in for new weapon (6)
- 37 Commercial privilege in cortisone supply is pointless (6)
- 38 Faith of revolutionary stopping combined operations (5)

Down

- 1 Work with one soliciting non-participation (3-3)
- 2 Henry and I after swimming not very active (2,3,2)
- 3 Nasty scratches ultimately set off inflamed swellings (5)
- 4 Ring up the Spanish outfit importing diamonds (6)
- 5 Napoleon's army stylish at the front in soft leathers (5)
- 6 Awesome needleworkers display pieces (3)
- 7 They leave the stage after ordering her execution - not terribly heroic (6)
- 9 Perhaps do this to open university's name then flee (6)
- 12 Trap set up by police finally catches Poles in Scotland; ... (6)
- 15 ... agents from Bow charging two other Poles ... (5)
- 19 ... with murder primarily, and endlessly quiz another Pole about narcotic drug (5)
- 20 Animals on bottom of Neptunian trench occupying narrow openings (6)
- 22 Wife once cracking during performance - that's rough! (7)
- 23 Lady regularly taking command mostly addressed as a titled person (6)
- 25 Sample of pompon chosen for garment (6)
- 26 System of symbols without a time concept (6)
- 28 Perhaps gardener taking hour to maintain border (6)
- 30 Dull subject? - not Writing! (5)
- 31 Set American lawyer up in port (5)
- 35 Saturnine soldier losing my cat (3)

Slot 7

Cryptic
by
Anon

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								

Across

- 1

Maturity of fully-fledged robin? (9)
- 9

Develop position of batsman! (8)
- 10

Results restrict tart from those inside (9)
- 11

Carol held back by a jerk - doubting Thomas! (8)
- 12

Marks around 4WD police vehicles (5,4)
- 13

Asian crime syndicate keeps backing racket in island (8)
- 14

Author's statement as to accuracy. Perhaps not so? (9)
- 15

Prompt to rest, taking afternoon off (8)
- 20

37.85 liters? As you were, my boys! (8)
- 25

Employed to keep new show under wraps (9)
- 26

Bedouin fracas in saloon, perhaps (8)
- 27

Satisfied individual hiding acquired synthetic drug (9)
- 28

Old Oxford Dean's advice "Stay reserved in Chinese city" (8)
- 29

Sharp increase brings in daily extra cost (9)
- 30

Aim comes around towards what Eliza could not initially do (8)
- 31

Action painters perhaps having no issue with the Spanish possessive female (9)

Down

- 1

Sound science from firm in our country initially inventing clever solutions... (9)
- 2

Remove wrinkles from backside in relative (9)
- 3

Lack of interest in returning delicatessen dip, etcetera (9)
- 4

Possibility involving time working (9)
- 5

Daisy follows comedy actor James turning to tragedy (8)
- 6

Surface impurities brought around with one metallic element (8)
- 7

Give new position to fool breaking rule (8)
- 8

Turbulent times eroded valuation ... (8)
- 16

... of democratic choice when a prince of Holy Roman Empire joined with the French rising (9)
- 17

Bard calls in question wild speech incorporating confused aim (9)
- 18

Ransacks inside the German address (9)
- 19

Those who save king having reported accumulations of fluid (9)
- 21

Questions surrounding pine packing case (3,5)
- 22

Holly, perhaps, to seize wooden pin (8)
- 23

Larger bird piercing disoriented dove in the sky (8)
- 24

Erroneously, miss rues assumptions (8)



Quiz 7-2025 First Change by **KA** Two words are defined, the first having the leading letter changed to form the second. Please enter both words. The second, changed words are in alphabetical order. e.g. Final throw (4) Last/Cast (Entry) Socially aware one-liner (4) Woke/Joke (Entry) Classify fog (4) List/Mist (Entry) Send your answers to Karl Audrins email karlishane@optusnet.com.au or post to 10 Elizabeth Parade, Charlestown NSW 2290 Closing mail date 25 July 2025.

- 1 Possessing canopy (6)
- 2 Window in cellar (8)
- 3 Huge motorcycle (7)
- 4 Urgent bandaging (8)
- 5 Cautions about wages (8)
- 6 Spleen of an antelope (5)
- 7 Model is more healthy (6)
- 8 Outcry for beauty (7)
- 9 Betting on blood sport (7)
- 10 Come in to bury (5)
- 11 Girl is happy (5)
- 12 Candy for the magistrate (5)
- 13 Catch the peg (4)
- 14 Bone of primate (5)
- 15 Concealed compost heap (6)
- 16 Taxing the traitor (7)
- 17 Ladies have a name (5)
- 18 Farmhouse for fruit (6)
- 19 Relative has American gun (5)
- 20 American car is fast (5)
- 21 Talk about riff-raff (6)
- 22 Sail has cotton material (6)
- 23 Roll around in grease (6)
- 24 Search for figure of speech (5)
- 25 Dominion has arbitrator (6)
- 26 Bottom of urn (4)
- 27 Mask for expert (6)
- 28 Secretive person has instrument (6)
- 29 Pith of the plant (6)
- 30 Look at a pike (6)

Quiz 6-2025-6 In a state by **Michael Vnuk**
Results: Entries 28, Correct 13. Prize winner: Jenny Wenham. Congratulations!
30 W Allen, U Axelsen, H Cromer, K Francis, K Harper, D Meek, A Millard, A Patterson, J Randall, D Rosendorff, B Siegman, J Wenham, R Wimbush **29** J Barbour, J Crowe, P Garner, R Jarman, J Leigh, R McKenzie, A Miles, R Moline, A Storti, R Taylor **28** D Bennett, M Blake, C Gleeson, L Jarman **25** W Ryan

Answers (underlining shows some relevant features): **1** NEW JERSEY, **2** ARIZONA, **3** PENNSYLVANIA, **4** WYOMING, **5** NEW YORK, **6** ARKANSAS, **7** CONNECTICUT, **8** IOWA, **9**

GEORGIA, **10** CALIFORNIA, **11** SOUTH CAROLINA, **12** TENNESSEE, **13** ALABAMA, **14** HAWAII, **15** MAINE, **16** MISSISSIPPI, **17** KANSAS (makes ARKANSAS), **18** VERMONT (makes MONTANA), **19** LOUISIANA, **20** MASSACHUSETTS, **21** WASHINGTON, **22** MINNESOTA, **23** NEW HAMPSHIRE, **24** DELAWARE, **25** WISCONSIN, **26** MISSOURI, **27** OHIO, **28** TEXAS, **29** ALASKA, **30** OREGON (makes FOREGONE).

Compiler's Observations

The original quiz (which I created for my family but never used) had all 50 states, but Ian Williams suggested trimming to 30 for space reasons. This allowed me to remove some less interesting questions.

The question that had the most errors (8) was: **11** Has largest number of different letters. The answer, SOUTH CAROLINA, has (coincidentally) 11 different letters in its total of 13. Repeated letters were not specifically excluded. Three people gave FLORIDA, possibly because it has no repeated letters. However, other states also have 7 unique letters (eg WYOMING), and the instructions stated 'No description applies to more than one state'. Another had DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, but it is not a state. One entry accidentally omitted one answer, perhaps because the entry did not number the answers. Several entrants commented on the spelling. Yes, some state names are tricky, but only a few typos appeared, none of which affected results.

I learnt all the 50 state names over 50 years ago, when I was about 12, as did several family members. We even learnt the capitals later, but I certainly don't remember all of them.

As this is the first quiz I have compiled for the club, I greatly appreciated the compliments and words of encouragement accompanying many entries.

Solvers' Comments

- A brilliantly clever quiz. *David Bennett*
- Don't normally do the quiz, but I'm a bit of a geography nerd, so had a go. Interesting puzzle. *Rob Moline*
- I enjoyed the exercise of matching US states to your sometimes challenging clues. *Lynn Jarman*
- I may not have them all correct but had a lot of fun finding the answers and discovered some states I knew little about. Thank you. *Maureen Blake*
- I started this with a list of the states and thought it would be easy. Wrong. It took a lot of enjoyable work to finish. I hope correctly! *Roy Taylor*
- Judy Randall
- Thank you for a really interesting quiz.
- Thank you for your enjoyable quiz on American States. Working through the clues certainly revealed some surprises. *Ron Jarman*
- Thanks for a fun quiz! *Ann Millard*
- Thanks for a fun quiz. Nice to have something that can't be Googled. *Jenny Wenham*
- Thanks for the enjoyable quiz, I'm a one finger typist so I appreciated the touch-typing note. *Ken Francis*
- Thanks for the quiz. It entertained me on a plane without internet and I was pleased I could remember 47 states and complete the quiz with only a small support search after landing. *Drew Meek*
- Thanks for the quiz. It was a lot of fun. Did all but 10 and 11 from memory. *Andrew Patterson*
- Thanks for this novel quiz, which had me more than usually conscious of how I type!! *Andrew Miles*
- Thanks for your interesting quiz. I think right now it is not the states that are in America, but the state America is in. Enough said. *Betty Siegman*
- Thanks Michael, that was a lot of fun, thank goodness for lists. I wonder how many Americans could answer that without the use of a reference. *Ulla Axelsenc*

continued on page 12

June Slot 6-2025 Cryptic by Zinzan (Andrew Patterson)**Entries:55. Correct 26 Success rate 47%****Prize-winner :** Bob Hagan. Congratulations!

Explanations. Across: 5 cryptdef, 7 (parent)*<>co, 9 (stored,s-----l)*, 10 ----ple ura----, 11 (sit,electrode)*, 13 -ign,--ore, 15 -arre-,s,t, 18 (heart,barely,z)*, 21 homoph "sea,meant", 22 ora-,to,rio-, 23 (three,---n)*,ET, 24 ----l lad ne----<. **Down:** 1 (O-----,pride,is)*, 2 A,s-----,cent, 3 a,(orphan)*,a, 4 ca(d-e-)ts, 6 -he,LP,in,G,---s, 7 rese(c)t, 8 -o gre--, 12 ESP,e-(CIA)l-, 14 even(t-----)ing, 16 (only,reds)*, 17 (coats)*,---t, 18 be,-----e,per, 19 a,---d,a,g,e,s-----, 20 be at.

Setter's observations

Although it had a police theme, that was accidental. It just evolved when filling the grid but the seed answer was BREATHALYZER for which I had a clue ready. As it turned out, that proved a problem, with many submissions including S for Z. The 'unknown' is commonly X, Y or Z, so S wasn't good enough to solve the anagram. "shares" in 6-down may have led a number of solvers to "holdings" instead of HELPINGS with "off-the-tee" in a golfing surface reading merely removing the T from the " to provide the HE and "record" the LP. These two accounted for over 20 lost dots but no other errors were worthy of note. Thank you to those who completed, or at least tried to complete, this offering and for your kind words.

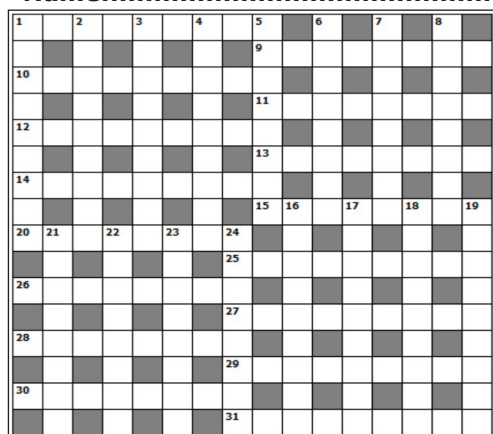
Members' feedback.

- Excellent puzzle with consistently well-constructed clues. Particularly liked OGRE, ESPECIAL: LIE DETECTORS is superb. *Ian McKenzie*
- Zinman would never use a grid without answers on the perimeter unless there was a reason. Several answers relate to a police patrol. Favourites were LIE DETECTORS and ETHERNET. Quality puzzle! *Len Colgan*
- Plenty of brain sprainers here, but I was happy until ETHERNET. I think BEAT is best for 20dn, and ETHERNET fits the definition for 23ac, but the clue??? *Roy Taylor*
- Left bottom corner took ages until a friendly POLICE PATROL came to my aid. Very challenging but fun. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Dubious about 20D and 21A. *David Bennett*
- Tough to solve the three in the SW corner. Can't parse ORATORIO fully. *Ian Thompson*
- Didn't notice the theme, or 'POLICE PATROL' until puzzle completed. *Allan Storti*
- Found this pretty hard, some guesswork with words that fit. LIE DETECTORS was very clever. Lot of letter selections going on eg ADAGES with every letter spelt out. BEAT had me fooled for a long time *Toby Mcleay*

continued on page 16

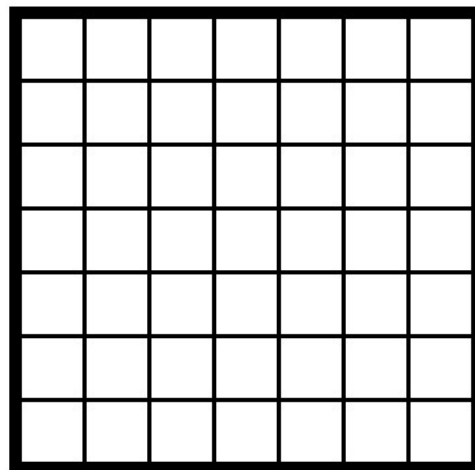
**Blank grid for July slot 7**

Name:.....

**FRAZ WORD SQUARE July 1** (Solution on p 16)

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

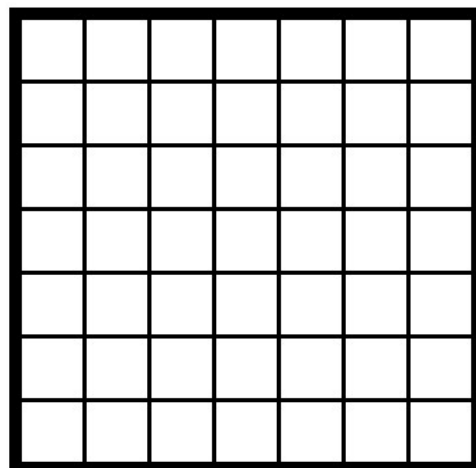
- Aromas swirling around the fifth tea urn
- Female animal he dunked in backed-up streams (hyph.)
- Gathers in the morning with donkeys
- "Release fingerboard ridge, see?" Spooner says (2 wds.)
- Go at bait
- Incorrectly name the greenhouse gas
- Section of written plan excited board

**FRAZ WORD SQUARE July 2**

(Solution on p 16)

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

- Cosy requirement used to frame St. Louis's leader
- E.g., I turned negative after indication of saintliness
- Explanatory text involved Donne and Lawrence of Arabia
- Hazards replacing pair of hares with 51 iguanas, say
- Miss holding a true opal
- Raving lunatic ran NATO (3 wds.)
- Ridiculous as 1 + 9



June 7 -2025: Cryptic by Crowsman**Entries 68 . Correct 58 . Success rate 85%.****Prizewinner:** Michael Kennedy. Congratulations!

Adjudicator's Comments: The incentive behind this puzzle was to give an opportunity to appear for some long answers such as THOUGHT-READING, DELIRIUM TREMENS and JUSTIN TRUDEAU, all promising nice clues, after waiting quite a while in my notebook. Members' feedback justifies the amount of time I have spent over the years searching for suitable long answers. The few errors were all typos.

Explanations : Across: **1** IN SIDE, **4** WRIT + ABLE, **9** C + HARM, **10** JAM + BA + LAY + A, **11** TRI(PERSON)ALISTS, **12** P(LAST)ICS + URGE ON, **14** THOUGH + TREADING, **20** RILED< + MEN in (RUM SITE)*, **21** SAVE< + (I)VELY, **22** LILLE(e), **23** SUPERB + U + (overcomin)G, **24** (NO SIDE)<. **Down:** **1** homoph of 'in sight', **2** SP(AN)IEL, **3** D(AMP)ENS, **5** RE(MINIS)CENTLY, **6** dd, **7** BR(ASS)IE, **8** PALE< + SING, **10** JUST + INTRUDE + AU, **13** STUD + RISE*, **15** cd, **16** RIG< + LIER, **17** DUE + DELL<, **18** NEEDLES(s), **19** (e) ASTERN.

Members' feedback:

- Love the 15 letter clues. *Allan Storti*
- A quite challenging, straight-forward and enjoyable solve. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Interesting concoction of words. The trinity one is definitely in the wouldn't have thought of that first category. *Roy Taylor*
- I refuse to tell anyone how long it took me to get 'tripersonalists', it's enough to say that I should have solved it much more quickly! *Kathryn Forward*
- Being both amateur golfer and fromager and a bit of an idiot I was very partial to BRASSIE. Also liked PLASTIC SURGEON *Toby Mcleay*
- Lots of clever 13-15 letter clues. Liked THOUGHT-READING. JUSTIN TRUDEAU and OIL LAMP. Couldn't parse TRAILER & EDISON. *Krittibas Dasgupta*
- It took me so long to remind my brain that 'wicked' has two pronunciations in English. Not the first time it has happened! Clever, Len. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Thanks for another brain teaser – hope it's right. *Claire McClelland*
- Favourites THOUGHT READING, ASTERN, SUPERBUG and EDISON. *The Void*
- Another great puzzle from Len. *Robyn Mckenzie*
- Classic Len. *Richard Skinner*
- I particularly loved OIL LAMP. *Julie Crowe*

Quiz 6-2025 Feedback continued from page 10

- This was an interesting quiz for me, mainly because when I was in HSC (way back in 1971), a friend and I decided to memorise the 50 US states in alphabetical order (for no particular reason)! Completely useless information, but I can still reel them off all these years later. *Allan Storti*.
- This was more challenging than I first thought – not as simple as just looking up a list of states. *Kath Harper*
- Well that was different, thank you. Hopefully I haven't made any stupid spelling mistakes! *Julie Leigh*
- Well, that was certainly something different. ... Many thanks for a very interesting quiz. *Julie Crow*

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

June Slot 7 solution**Solution WORD SQUARE July 1**

E	E	R	F	T	S
E	N	L	A	N	E
R	A	V	O	V	S
F	L	O	W	E	S
T	P	M	E	T	A
E	N	E	H	T	M
S	S	S	S	A	A

Solution WORD SQUARE July 2

D	E	T	S	N	E
E	T	O	N	D	N
L	O	S	A	R	G
T	N	A	R	A	O
S	D	A	Z	I	L
E	N	I	N	I	S
N	E	G	O	L	H

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 KA (Karl Audrins). Down: 2 a(l)di+eu, 3 targe(t), 4 pe(li)can, 5 des(s)erts, 6 (c)ock in lout, 7 imp+ (reflect=eat)*, 8 (a,cotreies)*, 14 (very) in chine*, 15 transform(er), 18 op+u+lent, 19 anag, 20 bee+ft+ea, 23 he's*+a+f(ranc), 24 t(ie)in.

Slot 2 P-brane. Across: 1 JULY + EP, 4 BILL + A BONG, 8 (MOISTENED)*, 10 C {LE} AR, 11 cd, 12 AN {TEN} NA, 13 (SLEEK T[ormentro]R)*, 15 HOST + AGE, 18 hw, 19 (f<>T)OILING, 21 RE + ISSUE, 24 RO {SELL} A[d], 26 E + (LEARNT)*, 27 (I + G + NOW)<, 28 Spooneri "lead hands", 29 dd, 30 DEMO(n<>S). **Down:** 1 JUMB(o) + (y)UCK, 2 dd, 3 (TO RIP UP OR)*, 4 BUSH + TELEGRAPH,

5 hw, 6 (I[ndi]A A ONCE)*, 7 B in GARAGE, 9 cd, 14 EG + O, 16 SoN + IV + FELLEd, 17 [L] UNG[E]<, 19 homoph "through" + UP, 20 (A SINNER)*, 22 cdd, 23 (vIoLeNcE) + S + T[yke]S<, 25 IT in LAY.

Slot 3 NanaKat. Across: 9 BASTE in ALAR, 10 OS + AKA, 11 FLAT TEN, 12 L in CEMENT, 13 DD, 14 DD, 16 aanag, 20 heads, 21 TRES + PASSE + R, 25 hidden<, 26 AMA + TRUE*, 27 Y in ERIE, 28 cd. **Down:** 1 wiTS cd, 2 anag, 3 MAS + homoph "turkey", 4 hidden<, 5 DRY + CLEAN, 6 homoph "leaky" + anag, 7 RAVE + NOUS, 8 NT in MALE, 15 anag, 17 DD, 18 anag, 19 homoph "sir" + PRISE, 20 DD, 22 DD, 23 homoph "sea + red", 24 EASE + L.

Slot 4 Valkyrie. A A+L+LIED, **B** D<> B in DILATE + RALLY, **C** CON+ CEAL (homophone of SEAL), **D** (DEN<+I) in DUN, **E** Hidden, **F** FAR+THINGS, **G** GAR(D+E)NER+S, **H** (HAND RAILS - LS)*, **I** IN + PERT< + confIDence, **J** J + nOBLESSE, **K** (LIKE ARMLETS - MEAT)*, **L** LeAn TwItChErS, **M** ME+IN, **N** NUM+I+NOUS, **O** Replace O for A in ACCIDENT, **P** PE(R+SON)AL, **Q** QUOTE + ID + IAN, **R** RAN + CID, **S** (EMINENT AGES)*, **T** TU+SS+L+E, **U** CUR(GEN)T, **V** V+ARIE(TIE)S, **W** W(I)RINGS, **X** X-RAY(from NATO alphabet) +S, **Y** Double, **Z** haZY+RUM< + GreY.

Slot 5 Crowsman. Ninas are in unchecked spaces Belgium. Senegal, India, Niger, Tunisia, Austria. Across: 1 S + SPARTA<, 5 FRAY around WEE<, 10 LAMB(a)DA, 11 RING + RO(A)D, 12 PHIL AND ER, 13 USA + EG<, 15 (A + SIN) in BIG, 18 RED + ARMY, 20 IF< + END, 21 EX + PI(r)ATING, 25 TIMOR + O + US, 26 DOES* around ON, 27 P(LAST)ER, 28 GST aeound MANY*. **Down:** 2 A + BASH, 3 hidden, 4 (INN + ALP)< + (you)NG, 7 (A + IS + A + RUE)<, 8 AL in MAGMA<, 9 dd, 14 SIRE< in DORY, 16 I + LA(I)TIN<, 17 OU in SINUS, 19 EXIT around S(helter), 22 IE in TIN, 23 (a)NANAS, 24,6 NOSE + RING.

From Derek Harrison's Crossword Centre newsletter

The inaugural World Cryptic Crossword Championship (WCCC) 2025,

There is still time to enter the Individual Championship (Online):

Register [here](https://acadglobal.crypticsingh.com/registration) [https://acadglobal.crypticsingh.com/registration] Date & Time: June 28, 2025, 1 PM – 2 PM (GMT) 11 to 12PM (AEST) on www.crypticsingh.com.

Format: Two cryptic crosswords, each to be completed within 30 minutes.

Prizes: \$1000 for 1st place, \$500 for 2nd, and \$250 for 3rd.

Cracking the Cryptic. Derek notes that Simon Anthony and Mark Goodliffe solve cryptics and sudokus on their Cracking the Cryptic YouTube channel. Simon now solves the Friday Times crossword which has become more and more difficult.

Cracking the Cryptic is increasingly popular with just short of 650,000 subscribers. You can access the website [here](https://www.crackingthecryptic.com).

Fend off Alzheimers? Does solving crosswords increase your cognitive abilities? A Guardian article from a few months ago was about 98 year-old Miriam Raphael, whose daily crossword solving keeps her young. You can read the article [here](https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2024/jun/28/crossword-solving-keeps-her-young).

M	E	M	B	E	R
	N	E	W	S	

Donations to the Prize Fund: Many thanks for their generous donations to Helen Banks, Kath Harper and Cheryl Wilcox. Much appreciated by all members!

Accolade issue. When clues are linked, the second solution may not show on the panel confirming your input. Provided that your submitted puzzle shows the correct linked solution you may be assured that the correct entry has been received and processed.

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.

Quizzes: We are still relying on the "old faithfuls" for our quizzes and would like to give them a rest. If you enjoy solving our quizzes we are sure that you will find as much pleasure in devising new ones. Help and advice will be at hand to ease the process. Contact Ian for more 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.

July 1: KA (Karl Audrins)

- Several red herrings with this more-difficult-than-average Slot 1 eg CLARINET for CATHETER, ABACUS cf. LAPTOP, TREMOR cf. TREPID, ADIDAS vs AUDI for German company. *Ian McKenzie*
- Done on my iPad awaiting flight home from Darwin! Not so easy for anagrams. I like the different instruments, though I was a little unsure of catheter being an instrument, but could not find another to fit. I'm finding slot 1's a little trickier lately. Many thanks. *Julie Crowe*
- A good start to the month with instruments of every kind. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Trickiest slot 1 for a while. *Roy Taylor*
- I can remember the days when Slot 1's were easy. They have gone forever. *David Bennett*
- Tough one. Favourite DESERTS. *The Void*
- Not an easy Slot 1 but worth persisting with to learn supercargo and affine. Thanks Karl. *Robyn Wimbush*
- I found this quite a hard slot 1. *Robyn McKenzie*
- The variety of instruments took a bit of inspired guesswork. *Kath Harper*
- More than one answer for 26ac and 27ac, the clues needed additional information. *Ken Francis*
- The SE corner took me a while to complete. *Hilary Cromer*
- I learned a few new words completing this. *Ian Thompson*
- Half and half's seem to be getting more tricky! I originally put in catheter; but couldn't find a definition for catheter as an instrument. I then found cutmeter (not in Chambers) which is definitely an instrument; but a tad more obscure! *Julie Crowe*
- Some tough words and clues in this puzzle! *Fraser Simpson*
- Harder than the later puzzles for me; the instruments did it. Thanks KA. *Kathy Horadam*

July 2: P-brane (Roger Hearn)

- Good fun with interesting Australian words, but there are a couple of clues that I just can't work out the word play. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Not at all confident with WONGI...an enjoyable puzzle, though. *Kathryn Forward*
- Had to laugh when I found the tomato sauce lake! *Toby McLeay*
- Liked the Aussie references in the grid. My favourite one is ANTENNA. Not sure about LINAGES. Some clues are not really cryptic IMO, eg 9dn. *Krittibas Dasgupta*
- Favourite KESTREL. Several I can't parse, 9dn is just a guess from crossers. Fingers crossed. *The Void*
- A neat sprinkling of Australiana. Wongi was new to me. *Kath Harper*
- Worthy of a slot 5 (perhaps with exception of LINAGES). *Tony Dobe*
- I enjoyed the Australiana, thanks P-brane. The clue for UGG BOOT defeated me. *Kathy Horadam*
- LINAGES! - thank you Chambers. *Warren Allen*

July 3: NanaKat (Kathryn Forward)

- 1dn had me looking at Eliot's poetry till the coin dropped. Clever clue. Good fun. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Good puzzle with fair and entertaining clues. I liked HALFWITS and MANTLE. *Roy Taylor*
- Smooth and easy grid with many well-constructed

clues. Liked CEMENT, TRESPASSER, SMOKELESS. *Krittibas Dasgupta*

- A particularly clever puzzle. Several possible COTMs but HALFWITS prevailed. *David Bennett*
- All the clues were good and creative. In particular it took me quite a while to get 9ac (ALABASTER). I was thinking of white meat dishes, even going so far as to see if swan would somehow fit. Very clever clueing to MANTLE. Thank you to NanaKat for compiling this cryptic - I very much enjoyed the challenge of completing it. *Helen Banks*
- Liked FLATTEN, IDIOTS and SMOKELESS. Couldn't resolve 14ac Pierce? *Toby McLeay*
- Thanks NanaKat. I really liked HALFWITS and SMOKELESS. *Betty Siegan*
- Favourite TRESPASSER. *The Void*
- Some great clues! *Robyn McKenzie*
- Some entertaining clues, though 23dn's word play indicates the answer should be an adjective rather than a verb. *Kath Harper*
- 6dn HOLEY doesn't appear to have a definition unless I'm mistaken. [A double wordplay clue - acceptable if amusing and/or apposite - Ed] *Mal Cockburn*
- Liked 1dn HALF-WITS and gave it COTM. *Richard Skinner*
- ALABASTER and HALF-WITS were my favourites. *Kathy Horadam*

July 4: Valkyrie (Ulla Axelsen)

Joyfulness s s. It always makes me happy when I finish a Slot 4. *Julie Leigh*

A JOYFUL NINA. Always a favourite of the month. *Ann Millard*

A JOYFUL AJ compared to last month. I thought MEIN was mean, the last to solve. I liked FARTHINGS and learnt that the plural of LATEX is LATICES. *Toby McLeay*
Love a 'joyful' NINA in an AJ. *Michael Kennedy*
4 new words! Most enjoyable, thank you Ulla. *Robyn Wimbush*

Favourite INTREPID. Mystified by M, I must be missing something obvious. *The Void*

Lots of enjoyment working this style of crossword out. *Ken Francis*

Took a while to work out the M, R, and W clues in the SE corner. *Hilary Cromer*

The RANCID clue doesn't seem to be correctly worded. *Ian Thompson*

I loved ZYMURGY but at a loss for M. *Kathy Horadam*

July 5: Crowsman (Len Colgan)

- Particularly liked PHILANDER, RED ARMY & "something to make you young" in PLANNING. The remarkable NINA of 6 country names helped the solving towards the end. *Ian McKenzie*
- Several potential COTMs. I voted for PLANNING. *Roy Taylor*
- A well travelled man by the looks of it. [Len tells me that he has been to them all - and many others besides! - Ed] Took a while to work out the word play of 4dn. A good challenge. *Ulla Axelsen*
- 4dn, PLANNING, is a great clue! *Allan Storti*
- The place names made it easier for the solver but no doubt harder for the setter! *Julie Leigh*
- Liked the grid construction with the 6 countries showing as NINAs. Liked GYMNAST. Some clues a

Feedback on June 5: Crowsman (Len Colgan) continues on page 16

Results of the May Clue Writing Competition Write a clue for TRADESCANTIA (12) Adjudicated by Ian Thompson

Definition from Chambers (13th edition)

noun Any plant of the American Tradescantia (spiderwort) genus, with attractive, often variegated foliage. (John Tradescant (c.1567–1637), English gardener, naturalist and traveller)

There were actually two John Tradescants, the father, after who the genus was named, and his son; they were both prolific gardeners & naturalists. When I stumbled across TRADESCANTIA, I immediately thought it had potential for anagrams because of the mix of letters. As it happened, four of the 14 entries were entirely anagram-type and three more used anagrams in part. Also, several individual words can be seen within TRADESCANTIA, eg, SCAN, so charade-type and container-type clues were also likely. Six of the entries were charade-type clues. Devices that weren't used by any of the compilers were hidden words and homophones. Plant' was used as the definition five times, and in each case the surface readings misled, suggesting factory on four occasions, and to insert on one occasion. Chambers lists 21 senses of plant as a noun and 23 senses of it as a verb, so there certainly was scope for greater diversity in this respect. TRADESCANTIA is not a well-known word, so to make a clue that's not too difficult for, say, slots 1 to 5, the compiler would need to ensure that the wordplay is fairly straightforward.

The winning clue comes from Michael Kennedy:

Wandering Jew travelling at a distance to overcome resistance (12)

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

Arcade titans destroy trailing houseplant ***

We start with an anagram-type clue [(ARCADE TITANS)*]. The use of a two-word definition here creates an issue for the solver – is 'trailing' part of the wordplay acting as an indicator of sequence, or is it part of the definition? I don't know if this was deliberate but it increases the challenge for the solver. The anagram indicator should be 'destroyed' to be grammatically correct. The surface is smooth but I'm not familiar with arcade titans!

Business inadequate prior to opening of industrial area plant ****

A charade-type clue, which also uses selection (initial letter) and an abbreviation [TRADE + SCANT + I(ndustrial) + A]. It has impeccable wordplay construction and a fine meaningful surface.

Deals with social worker in the company plant ***

This charade-type clue also has a container device with the very useful 'in' being the indicator [TRADES + (ANT in CIA)]. Worker, or in this case, social worker for ant is a classic in cryptic crosswords. It's a good clue but 'company', not 'the company', should be used to generate CIA, and I also think it would be fairer to use 'Spanish company' as CIA is not an abbreviation that many solvers would know about. The surface can be made smoother by making the ending 'Spanish company's plant' where the 'apostrophe s' appears to indicate possession. In fact, 'apostrophe s' is short for 'is' and so is a linkword between wordplay and definition

Direct Santa with a cultivated gardener's plant ***

This is a anagram-type clue, but unlike the other examples, it uses a linkword 'with' to get the anagram

fodder together [(DIRECT SANTA with A)*]. This is perfectly OK and it adds difficulty to the clue because the solver has to determine whether WITH or W is contributing to anagram fodder or being used as a link. Using gardener's in the definition perhaps creates some unnecessary complexity.

Instated a car manufacturing plant ***

This clue is an anagram-type [(INSTATED A CAR]. I don't think using manufacturing after the fodder works; manufactured would be OK, but of course then the surface would be spoiled. The surface reads well but lacks some interest because it lacks a subject.

Perennial wildflower deals are able to initially transact excellent returns ****

This clue is a charade-type with a selection (initial) and a reversal [TRADES + CAN + T(ransact) + AI<]. The definition is confirmed by Wikipedia. The wordplay is sound and the surface flows well, but I wonder whether you can transact returns?

Plant a type of recorder in diseased atria ****

This clue stood out for me as nicely original (after I confirmed what a descant is), and it was the only one to have the definition acting as a verb in the surface. The clue is a container-type clue with an anagram providing the container [DESCANT in ATRIA*]. There is an excellent meaningful surface, suggesting a medical intervention. The fact that DESCANT is not in the dictionaries I checked makes the clue relatively difficult. Diseased as an anagram indicator is borderline for me. Abnormal would be better, I think.

Randomly detain cars at plant ****

This is a good, concise anagram-type clue [(DETAIN CARS AT)*]. This compiler is the second to see the letters of CAR in TRADESCANTIA and therefore to use plant = factory in the surface reading. Having 'at' as part of the anagram fodder makes the surface reading very smooth.

Small island reverses position after exchange of image of flower ***

This clue is a charade-type and is one of two entries to use a reversal. It also uses an sequence indicator, 'after' [TRADE + SCAN + AIT<]. The wordplay works well except for the superfluous 'of' between exchange and image; it's not a link word within wordplay and as such misleads unfairly. Also, the 'of' linking wordplay and definition (in that order) is not suitable according to the British clue-writing guides I adhere to. 'For' or 'making etc' are acceptable. Flower is a trickier definition than plant because it raises the possibility of a river being the answer.

Spreading aster can't aid spiderwort ****

A nice succinct anagram-type clue [(ASTER CAN'T AID)*]. The surface initially seemed strange, but became meaningful after I thought about it a bit (An example of litotes?). It's probably more likely that spreading spiderworts hamper asters! Spiderwort as the definition is generous.

Strangely radiate about little plant with attractive foliage ****

This is one of two clues having an anagram as a container [RADIATE* around SCANT]. The wordplay is good and there is a very nice juxtaposition of little (SCANT) and the definition making the solver ponder whether 'little' is part of the definition. The surface reading didn't immediately make sense to me, but Chambers indicates that it can mean to broadcast.

Continued on page 16

Feedback on June slot 5 Crowsman continued from page 14

- bit too easy, like NANAS. *Krittibas Dasgupta*
- Some interesting travels! Only Belgium, India & Austria for me. Thanks, Len. *Ann Millard*
- Europe, Africa and India noted. Liked PLANNING and PHILANDER. I noted that 6dn didn't autofill in the spell check so I added it (RING) there manually *Toby McLeay*
- Planning is one of the best clues ever!! *Brian Symons*
- A well-travelled Nina, she certainly helped. TIE-IN caused some deja-vu, also appeared in Slot 1, 24dn. *Betty Siegman*
- The traveller! It adds another meaning to 'As the Crow flies'. *Michael Kennedy*
- You certainly are well travelled Len!. But I didn't see the included countries until had completed the crossword! *Maureen Blake*
- Favourite PLANNING. Got a bit stuck until I remembered to consider the title. Nice one. *The Void*
- Eclectic and fascinating group of countries Len. Many more to go I hope. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Took me ages to work out the cleverly clued PLANNING. *Ian Thompson*
- Lots of great clues. *Robyn McKenzie*
- Lots of great clues. Liked FIEND, PLANNING and PHILANDER which gets my COTM. *Mal Cockburn*
- Note that accolade does not represent 24dn (nose) and 6dn (ring) correctly in its summary. *Mark Woolston*
- Crowsman is certainly well-travelled - six destinations in one grid! *Kath Harper*
- Once I stopped swearing I really enjoyed this puzzle. *Con Flinkenberg*
- Clearly Len is well travelled. Apart from Belgium, Senegal, India, Niger, Tunisia and Austria he's also been to Timor, Eurasia and the US! *Richard Skinner*
- I like the geographical Ninas. *Laurence Kennedy*
- Fun countries Nina! *Fraser Simpson*
- The Nina, with all those countries is quite an amazing feat! *Julie Crowe*

- Groan-laugh at CEMENT. *The Void*
- Nice little Police Patrol Nina. I'm a bit unsure of the 3D, 23A connection though. Thanks Zinzan. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Some clever tricky clues. It took me ages to work out the ETHERNET clue. *Robyn Mckenzie*
- POLICE PATROL has come. *Michael Veress*
- A bit of a law enforcement there here, including a Police Patrol! *Richard Skinner*
- I still can't fully justify 20D, Went with "Beat" as it is synonymous with a policeman's rounds, and it fits the Nina. No idea on how to apply the "attend". *Ken Davis*
- Parsing ETHERNET took a while! *Fraser Simpson*
- What a workout! ETHERNET caused a huge amount of mental anguish, until just now, entering accolade, it dawned on me that "3 down" was not anaphora! But I particularly liked the sheer cleverness of BEAT. *Julie Crowe*

May Clue-writing competition - continued from page 15**Wandering Jew swaps can for titanium article *****

This is a charade which includes an abbreviation [TRADES + CAN + TI +A]. There is a superfluous word 'for' in the WP which unfairly misleads the solver into thinking solving requires swapping CAN and TI. Replace 'for' with 'with' and the wordplay is fine. Using this particular common name for the plant as the definition aids the surface reading as it suggests a person. Ditto for the next two entries.

Wandering jew trades can with Spanish aunt ***

No problems with the surface and wordplay in this straightforward charade-type clue [TRADES + CAN + TIA]; however, it's possibly overgenerous to not use synonyms for TRADES and CAN. 'With' acting as a linkword in the wordplay is fine.

Wandering Jew travelling at a distance to overcome resistance ****

Finally, a predominantly anagram-type clue, but with the anagram containing an abbreviation [(AT A DISTANCE)* around R]. Excellent meaningful surface, and the wordplay is fine. An archaic meaning for overcome is to cover according to Chambers.

Feedback on June 6 2025 Cryptic by Zinzan continued from page 11

- Some great clues, I liked CEMENT and EVENTING. 20dn had me BEAT for a few days, then I realised that ATTEND = BE AT, and I just had to give it my COTM. *Betty Siegman*
- Even with POLICE PATROL down the outside 20 down still had me BEAT!! *Julie Leigh*
- I found this to be very difficult. Some clever clues although 23a is too clever for me! *Ann Millard*
- ZZ following the law for a change with a 'Police Patrol' theme. PHAROS, PLEURA, and LIE DETECTORS (my COTM), are all arresting clues. *Michael Kennedy*
- Very clever and enjoyable puzzle. Required some tangential thinking as a good puzzle should. *Mark Woolston*
- Gee I found this difficult.... took me days! *Maureen Blake*

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	*****		

July Clue-writing Competition

For the next competition, please write a clue for the word **PARADOXICAL (11)** complete with explanation. One only per member, please. Send your creations to Drew Meek email to drewski@hotmail.com

Entries close Friday 15 August 2025

JULY Slot 1

Name.....

JULY SLOT 2

Clue of the Month

JULY SLOT 3

JULY SLOT 4

JULY SLOT 5

JULY SLOT 6

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

Name

ACC

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 for adjudicator and closing mail date

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