



No 435 July 2026


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"When you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth." Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, *The Sign of Four* [1890], ch. 6.

LAST MONTH'S RESULTS

Puzzle No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Compiler	KA	Lexi Conner	St Jude	Manveru	Crowsman	Robespierre	Crowsman
Entries received	80	83	79	78	65	57	56
Correct entries	71	68	58	66	57	28	54
Success rate (%)	89	82	73	85	88	49	96
Prizewinners	Sonia Roulston	David Bennet	Joan Smith	Alison Shield	Alison Martin	Michael Kennedy	Kath Harper

Slots 1 to 5 all correct 33 members:

Winner: Brian Symons

Winner of Quiz: Allan Storti

May Clue-writing Competition: Andrew Miles

Congratulations to all our winners!

FROM THE ADJUDICATOR

Slot 1 – KA's slot 1 half and half offering was well received, with several of his traditional obscure words increasing the solving/research time. There were two clues with alternative answers – TYPESCRIP/TAPESCRIP and UNPACK/UNMASK. The unusual ENTETE, a French word (in Collins) meaning "stubborn" was accepted in place of INHERE for "stay firm".

Slot 2 – Lexi Connor's Slot 2 was also well received. The main error (7 occurrences) was ALTER instead of ALTAR - the homophone indicator clearly operated upon ALTER to produce ALTAR (table). Three solvers offered REVAMPED instead of the correct RECAPPED.

Slot 3 – This offering, from St Jude, provided a number of clever challenges for solvers. Incorrect answers included MUTTON instead of the unusual MOTMOT (9 occurrences); and SPAMS and SCAMS could not be accepted in place of SHAMS where the "meat" provided the wordplay for HAMS (6 occurrences).

Slot 4 – Manveru's AJ, with its now-trademark Nina, produced a total of 14 nominations for COTM. The principal errors were HARADIM instead of HADARIM and three solvers are clearly not whiskey drinkers, submitting JIM BEAN instead of JIM BEAM.

Slot 5 – Crowsman's prolific use of SS assisted those who assessed it early enough. The main miss was BRUSSELS, which attracted DRESSERS and PRESSERS from several solvers.

Continued on Page 2

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MEMBERS' RESULTS FOR JUNE 2026 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.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Milton R.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Allen W.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Goodman S.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Moline R.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Anderson C.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Grainier D.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Morris B.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Audrins K.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Graves C.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Parsons D.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Axelsson U.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Hagan R.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Patterson A.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Barbour J.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Harper K.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Pinder S.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Batum C.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Hearn R.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Rosendorff D.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Bennett D.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Hocking A.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Roulston S.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Bennett Moses L.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Horadam K.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Ryan W.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Bettles K.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Howat S.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Shapiro R.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Blake M.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Jarman L.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Shield A.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Blundell C.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Jones G.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Siegmah B.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Carroll L.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Kennedy L.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Simpson F.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Cockburn M.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Kennedy M.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Skinner R.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Colgan L.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Lankshear J.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Smith J.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Coote P.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Leigh J.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Steinberger M.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Copland F.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Lim S.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Storti A.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Cornish W.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Madden J.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Symons B.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Cromer H.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Martin A.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Taylor R.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Crowe J.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Martin F.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Thompson I.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Dasgupta K.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Matthews S.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Vnuk M.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Davis K.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	McClelland C.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Wenham J.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Dobelet T.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	McKenzie I.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Wilcox C.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Dyer A.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	McKenzie R.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Williams K.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Evans J.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	McLeay T.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Wimbush R.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Fitzgerald M.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	McLelland C.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Wood J.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Forward K.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Meek D.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Woolston M.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Francis K.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Miles A.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*								
Gamble K.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Millard A.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*								

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

Explanations for 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). Across: 6 moor+e, 7 hurt+ling, 10 pica in lot<, 11 lance*+ve, 12 anag, 13 truck+le, 14 d+inner+party, 19 do+or+way, 21 homoph "son"+burn, 23 (roue+man)*, 25 re+issue, 26 dd/cd, 27 hidden.

Slot 2 Lexi Conner (Ron Shapiro) Conner. Across: 1 YELLOW + CAKE, 6 hidden, 9 (sly eagles)*, 10 D + AT + rectUM, 11 ozONE, 12 GREEN + GAGE, 13 role*, 15 DA + TA, 18 CAL(I)L<, 19 SA(Face) RI, 21 homoph "heirs", 23 NAN + KIN, 26 (bleach - a)*, 27 E + DNA, 29 (sociology - cools)*, 31 MEAN+ERRED*, 33 moldOVA, 34 G(L)OAT, 35 led ZEPPELINS, 36 NEVER<, 37 (tiny blonde)*. **Down:** 1 (bodY LANG) hidden repeated, 2 L+(WELLY) in LEN, 3 cocaine*, 4 CAST (A) WAY, 5 KAY + owed homoph, 7 homoph "alter", 8 DD, 10 dealt* or homoph "dealt" + A, 14 O(A)F, 16 DD, 17 RICHARDS + ON, 20 ALL + ERG + IS + T, 21 ANNalist, 22 DD, 24 (keeping - pine)*, 25 fInDs It OuT, 26 (dad able)*, 28 AMAzing + ON, 30 OZ + ONE, 32 wheEL GOing<.

Slot 3 St Jude. Across: 1 S+CUM+Muddy, 4 A[L<>CR]IMONY, 10 CUB+ITAL, 11 anag, 12 COWBOY+tHAT, 13 S+HAMS, 14 cd/dd, 15 anag, 18 dd, 20 PHOton, 22 C+LINK, 23 CHAMP+AG+NE, 24 BOB+TAIL, 25 CHAP+AT+I, 26 DA in NO WAY+S, 27 homoph "chatter". **Down:** 1 SACK+CLOTH, 2 cd, 3 MOT+MOT, 5 COUNTER+BALANCE, 6 anag, 7 anag, 8 initials, 9 anag, 16 anag, 17 DECK+HAND, 19 homoph "reign"+BOW, 20 PAGE+ANT, 21 S+PLASH, 22 CA+BIN.

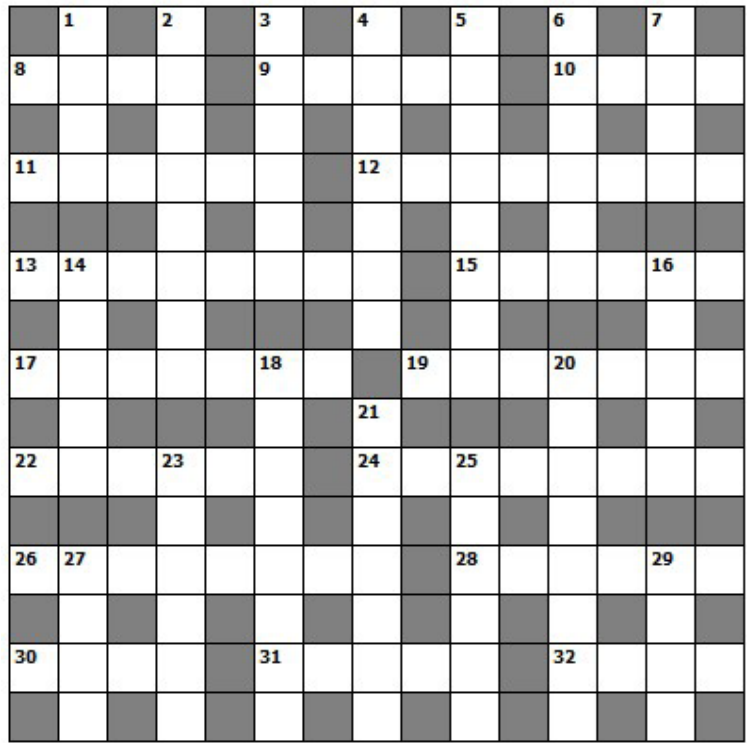
Slot 4 Manveru. A (IE+DAT+ABB+REV)*, B cd, C C+U+RIVER*, D LYINGDEVICE*, E hERRING, F FATIGUE(s), G (ICELAND+G+O)*, H HA(RAID*)M, I heads, J homoph "gym"+BEAM, K K/(m)ILLER, L L+AX+EVITA>, M MAJ>ORCA, N Hidden, O OC>H(o)R(s)E, P PATCH+Y, Q QUIT(o), R cd, S dd, T T(m)ERRIER, U cd, V V(AIR*F)OCAL, W RAW>B+RIDE, X cd, Y CAY>+THE*+D, Z (E+Z+LINES+P+P)*.

Slot 5 Crowsman. Across: 1 AS + SAY + S, 5 DE(CLASS)E, 9 BRUS(h) around LESS<, 10 (A + SAIL) around (mas)S(ive), 11 SARAH< + S, 12 REST + MASS, 13 AS SET, 14 ASSE(ROSS<)S, 16 G(ame) + RUFF + NESS, 19 A(BY)SS, 23 SIT< + SUING, 24 D(a)RES S(a)Y, 25 AS + SURE, 26 AS + S(ASS)IN, 27 dd, 28 AS SENT. **Down:** 2 SUR(e) + PASS, 3 A + (E + GAUSS)<, 4 SHEA(r)S + (thi)S, 5 DIALS around (STRESS SIGN), 6 CAR has A replaced by LASSIE, 7 AS + (on)E in SUMS, 8 (IS CROSS)*, 15 IN + KIN + EaSeS, 17 RE + ISSUE, 18 F + IS + SURE, 20 LESS in BES(t), 21 NOISES< around S(hop), 22 (pASSED Out)<.

Slot 6 Robespierre. Across: 1 UP+DATE, 5 [NIG(h)TMARE]*, 9 A P(u)B inside SLANG, 10 homoph "pigeon", 11 W+ATE+Rum+TIGHT, 12 (m)AMBO, 13 OS COD <> TRA(p), 16 hidden, 17 (G+RE) in O SS, 19 HE(a) RS+TORY, 21 dd, 22 (LEBANON)* (YEN)*, 25 [BO(t)ANIS(t)]*, 26 (CT+R) inside DO IN+E, 27 (AS+H) in STING, 28 (UNDI(e)S+T)*. **Down:** 2 O(L)K in PA, 3 (s)AMPLE, 4 ALE rev. STIC(K), 5 GAG in (NEED)*, 6 I+(STUMP+E)*, 7 RED+CAR+P(r)E(t)T(y), 8 NAIL+BITE+despaiR, 14 SU(ccessful beg)GAR, 15 R(ud)E+EXPO+SES, 18 HI in (LAWS)*+ I, 19 G(oalie) inside HAND+OG (own goal), 20 homoph "Rubik"+ON, 23 Spooner "rue lid", 24 T=>Y in TANKS.

Slot 7 Crowsman. Across: 1 EPI(c) + TOM(IS)E, 9 D + E(L)IGHT, 10 MARI(JUAN)A, 11 D(EVIL)RY, 12 AC(QUIT)TED, 13 EL(LIP)SE, 14 ORGAN + DIE, 15 S(peeding) + PORT + SCAR, 18 SUBSID(IS)E, 21 T + (p)ETRARCH, 24 SLY around (WEE + T), 26 BON(APART)E, 27 OS + PREYS, 28 R(EVER)ENDS, 29 AKIN in LEG, 30 SMILEY* around MEN. **Down:** 2 P + RA(N)CER, 3 BUN in TRIALS, 4 MOUND around T(h)E, 5 SENSE + LESS, 6 JE(WELL)ER, 7 BIKIN(g) + I, 8 CHAR(IS)M + A, 16 P(ainting) + MUTE< around ROLE, 17 SE(AFAR)ERS, 19 UNW(ASH)ED, 20 D(ALL)YING, 22 A,Z in PETER*, 23 (LED A TIC)<, 25 cd.

A Super Half & Half by Valkyrie



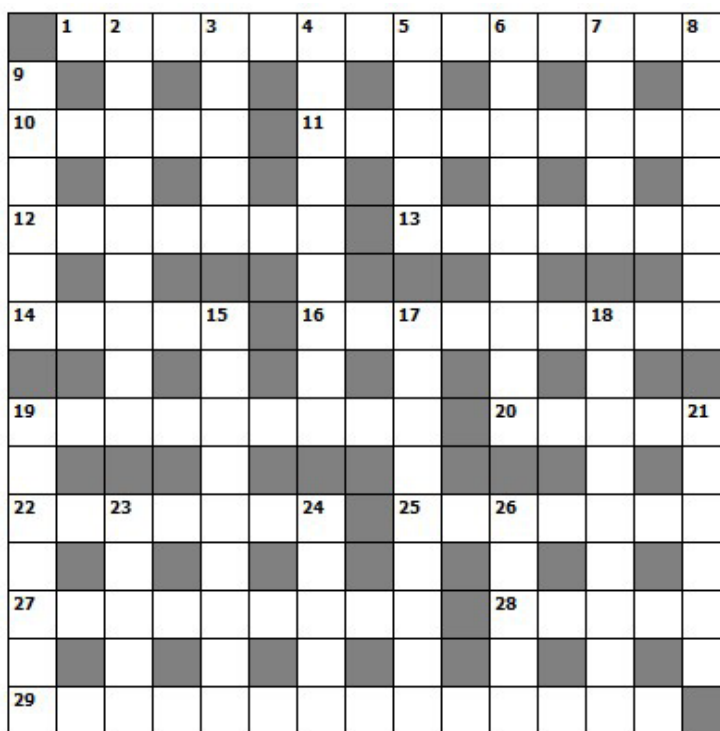
- 8** Prostitute conceals expression of hesitation for good guy (4)
- 9** High-class drunk found in outskirts of Elsinore (5)
- 10** New, incomplete, egg-shaped star (4)
- 11** Eyeshades for guests lacking sex appeal (6)
- 12** Rogues' residence in the capital of Sudan (8)
- 13** Flood contrary state with uniform tax (8)
- 15** Aggro upset some parties (6)
- 17** Simple triangular rig removed before being worked on (7)
- 19** Yankee snores, worried with regards to five bodily faculties (7)
- 22** Burden international male with model (6)
- 24** Number cycle remarkably empty of numbers (8)
- 26** Ample time after a roll with karate master (8)
- 28** Mean home nurse (6)
- 30** Section of Assisi zealot's mass (4)
- 31** Revolutionary Communist protects United Press deceiver (5)
- 32** Bond girl left Universal with woebegone heart (4)

- 1** Ape-like creature (4)
- 2** Capital of Hawaii (8)
- 3** Japanese entertainer (6)
- 4** Street clothes (7)
- 5** Sexy nightwear (8)
- 6** Surround with a circle of light (6)
- 7** Not odd (4)
- 14** Danger signal (5)
- 16** Trimmer (5)
- 18** Wife of William IV (8)
- 20** Long term plan (8)
- 21** Parts of the feet (7)
- 23** Snow leopards (6)
- 25** Containing no animal flesh (6)
- 27** Two-masted, square rigged vessel (4)
- 29** Common sense (4)

**BLANK
GRIDS
PAGE 17**

ACC

Slot 2

Cryptic
by
T-Boy

Across

- 1** Circulatory vehicle returning empty with causal malfunction primarily rectified (14)
10 Extract of ripe Canadian hickory fruit (5)
11 Unhappy document about journalists (9)
12 Empty wagon loading alcohol compound for horse opera (7)
13 Bird with boyfriend heading off to large country house (7)
14 Turning lips back with constant smug smile (5)
16 Badly geld, cutting starved juvenile (9)
19 Doctor of letters caught in non-legal misrepresentation (3,6)
20 Satiny long johns incorporating polyamides (5)
22 I adopt expression of doubt after kind of stone turns to metal (7)
25 Cheat XX ! (3-4)
27 Complain and moon following a small amount of raw meat (9)
28 Extremely thankful about fresh fish (5)
29 Writer accepted into position for town council (5,9)

Down

- 2** Accountant meeting starting off to reveal acquisition (9)
3 Social twist (5)
4 Bygone food served up in Lower Saxony city (9)
5 Jelly snake with almost zero calories (5)
6 Alternative areas in Channel city port for delivery option (9)
7 Measure of distance has golfer spinning a yarn (5)
8 Journalist invested in Globe to provide return (7)
9 Generates special front line soldiers (6)
15 Studious person sent up one lofty egotist (4-2-3)
17 Onto thief carelessly supplying kind of lock implement (4-5)
18 Good worker keeping country house up for gadabout! (9)
19 Soldier goes into pub coherent (7)
21 Torment when born dead with life gutted (6)
23 Intoxicated Cyril becomes emotional (5)
24 Las Vegas of the East produces Son of Gold? (5)
26 External course with head going to finish (5)

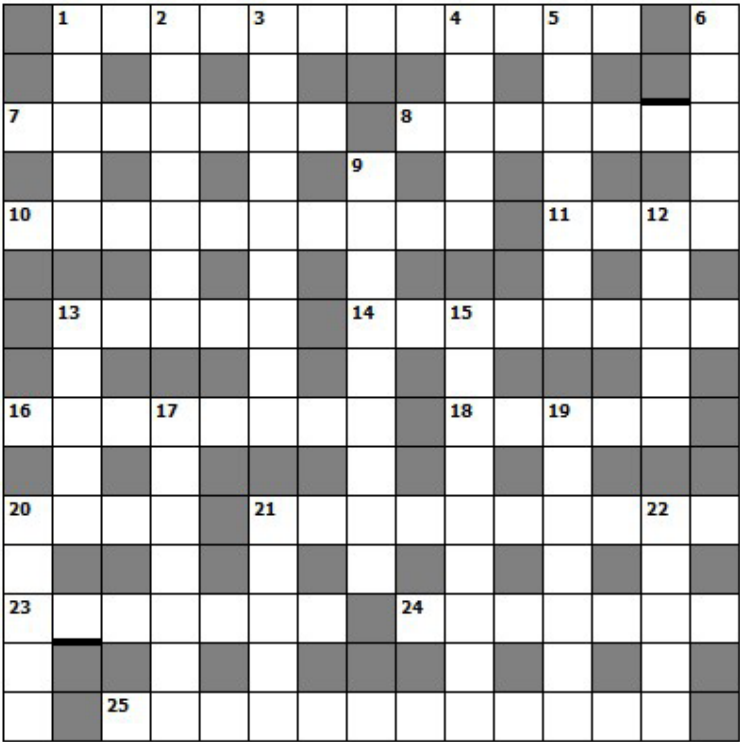
General feedback for June

- Thank you all for another great month. *Robyn Wimbush*
- I like the scratchpad. Thank you. Agree it might be better on the right hand side of the AJ but it's fine where it is if that's where it lives. *Jenny Wenham*
- Many thanks for my May Quiz prize. *Julie Leigh*

Slot 3

Cryptic
by
Ninian





Across

- 1 Before and after, rouseabout is utterly absurd! (12)
- 7 Saints flag of last resort - that's about right (7)
- 8 Takes action to avoid recreational vehicle going in various directions (7)
- 10 Sunken and in Hamburg, QE2 with a shelled stern (10)
- 11 Token misandrist wish? (4)
- 13 Jerk plans return to cover start of season (5)
- 14 Black hat tolerates family? (8)
- 16 As I recalled, in touch with a missing pest (8)
- 18 Break best friend's feet on release from trap (5)
- 20 Carve into wretched heart (4)
- 21 Flaunts dark and threatening look during Pisces (10)
- 23 Going astray, hugging a stud (7)
- 24 Amelia's broken and indefinite weakness of body (7)
- 25 Solonic assembly - old fashioned but made stronger (12)

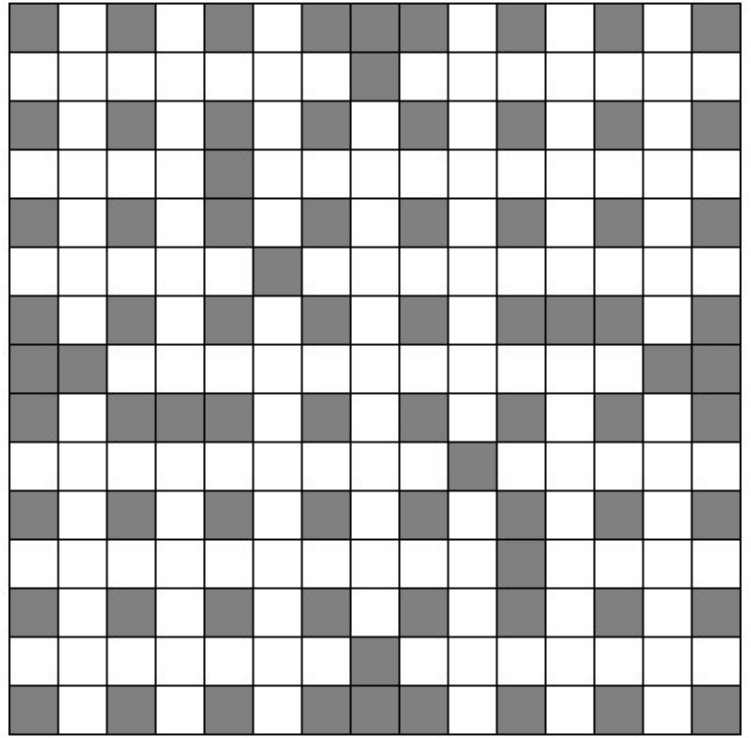
Down

- 1 Pledge to include Romeo as a member of the cocktail set? (5)
- 2 Ups and downs as old flame beat up mate about start of rumour (7)
- 3 Users of blades, in packs of 4 or 8? (9)
- 4 Rarely in front, debtor is one of 3 (5)
- 5 Takes out or corrects porous tip of tooth (7)
- 6 Old Greek skipper in lead for five months (5)
- 9 Groom lad to go after stout (9)
- 12 Echoes around top of bypass (5)
- 13 Exercise to occupy the thickset (5)
- 15 And shift to key seven (9)
- 17 Mensch, taking into account 11 and zero, confused vigorous movement (7)
- 19 Would be winning advantage (7)
- 20 Strain of specialist lacking peer leadership (5)
- 21 Sources of, say, unicorn, elephant and modern love (5)
- 22 Crumpled, discredited but relaxed! (5)

**AJ
by
Meridian**



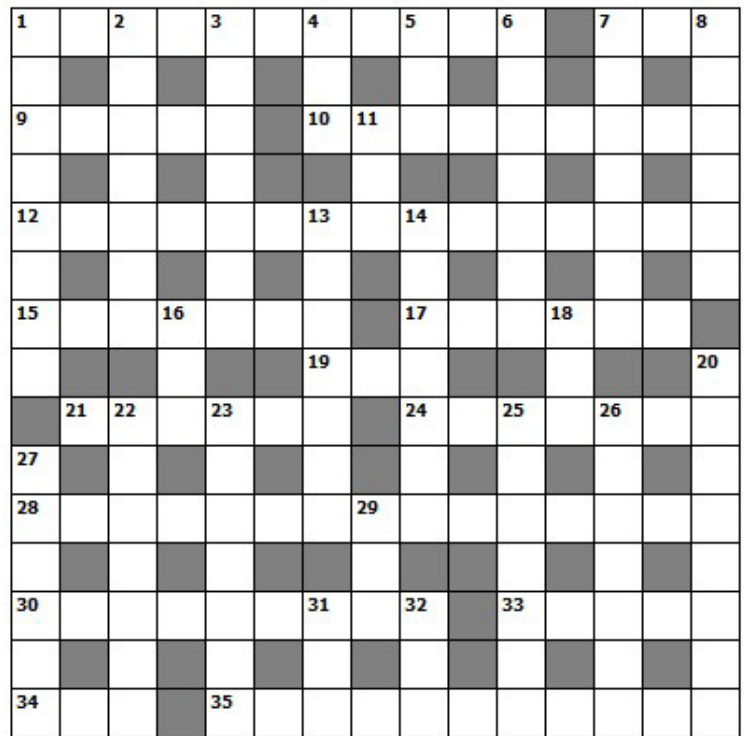
- A** Crooks' trolls (6)
- B** Diversifies episode about US stations (8,3)
- C** Sterilise female organs in surgical patient (9)
- D** Shoots through cracks (7)
- E** Agitated steer in compound (5)
- F** Initially facilitate one senior person stopping the runs (7)
- G** Pensions with estimates squeezing you (5-6)
- H** One refusing to conform having that girl's name spelt backwards (7)
- I** Crimson vehicle concealed by native (9)
- J** Annoyingly over-technical speakers making sardonic comments about 1% of the atmosphere (10)
- K** Yoko draped in Kardashian's robes! (7)
- L** Extra-dynamic organ, a whopper seen inside! (8)
- M** Shuffle around place settings (7)
- N** Country with endlessly pleasant unbounded South American land (9)
- O** Birds in East German capital (9)
- P** Opt for short cut mentioned in walk in the park (6)
- Q** Leaves on equal terms (5)
- R** Secure retiring space (4)
- S** Clear dirt from ooze around opening of wound (5)
- T** Very consuming pain, without suspicion (10)



- U** Cold single carrying weapon (8)
- V** Countenances fall during contests (7)
- W** Elks rest with one foot turned (7)
- X** Dry skin blister in cardinal turning up (7)
- Y** Kelly's final cry of pain? That's an Australian legend (5)
- Z** Unknown individual's belt (4)

Meridian is a partnership between Kathryn Forward (NanaKat) and Len Colgan (Crowsman). "Meridian" is a word which works equally well when talking of global travel, mathematics and poetic lyricism. Both Len and Kathryn enjoy travelling - mathematics is Len's forte and Kathryn loves poetry and all things literary.

Slot 5

Cryptic
by
P-Brane

Across

- 1 Sound maker's audibly a morally despicable Parliamentary Chair (4,7)
- 7 Has article changed to one denoting third person ownership? (3)
- 9 Australian whopper: new for a foreigner (5)
- 10 Agree dodgy wrapping of stash will present afresh (9)
- 12 Emu plume's a diggers' tongue-in-cheek xenograft? (8,7)
- 15 Australian losers floundering up the creek without a paddle (7)
- 17 Harnessing and prodding Yankee to replace President (6)
- 19 Model reversed short statement confirming identification (3)
- 21 The head breaking stick on one's backside (6)
- 24 No time to staff the Empire (7)
- 28 Becoming comfortable with uncovering what it is you are standing on (7,4,4)
- 30 Teach old woman in train (9)
- 33 Merriment surrounding short child in Japanese swag (5)
- 34 Either way it's ineffectual (3)
- 35 Lucky charm probably wasn't for its original owner (7,4)

Down

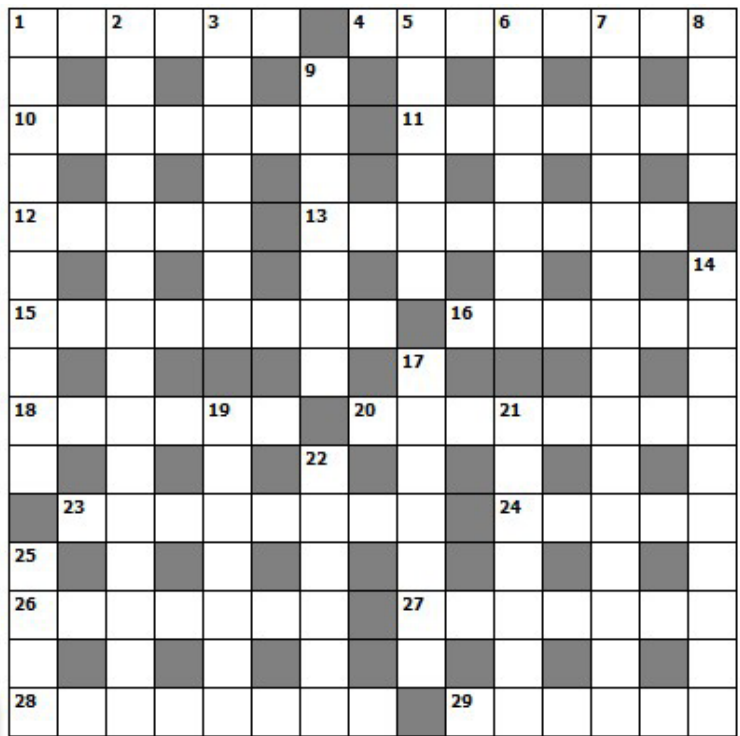
- 1 Logger for Murray-Darling plains tree (5,3)
- 2 Reprobate covering quiet participant in two-up game (7)
- 3 Our star cook maybe delivers up skin cancer (7)
- 4 Listener's are last to rise (3)
- 5 Shut-eye to 2's equipment (3)
- 6 Wind up again about eccentric individual (2-5)
- 7 Warm layer for a non-believer (7)
- 8 Ringer's blades burn catching leading hand's on (6)
- 11 Blog eloquently covering up self conceit (3)
- 13 Giving the boot to a daytrip taking in Gravesend (7)
- 14 Sly fool contrived for there to be no copilot or passengers onboard (3,4)
- 16 Currency for Bluegum alternatives (3)
- 18 Partnering affirmation closing gap to issue of Esperanto (3)
- 20 Innate behavior this month in court (8)
- 22 Plan guidelines encompassing a relaxed state (7)
- 23 East-ender's depleted locks may have vanished there (4,3)
- 25 The House Senators principally divided over division of savings (7)
- 26 Playing team or Symphony's principal conductor (7)
- 27 Upset as not working to the close (6)
- 29 Baker's cultured assistant loses as of even now (3)
- 31 A large black vestment (3)
- 32 Man in an endless spiral (3)

Slot 6

Unmitigated Bollocks by Betelgeuse



[* 1Ac 8Dn **** 12Ac 9Dn *** * 22Dn **
 **** 16Ac] is a famous acerbic quote showing disdain for modern art such as that illustrated on this page. The fourteen missing letters (six words) make "Haha - a nude twirp". The person responsible for the quote can be found in the puzzle. All clues are normal.



Across

- 1 Question and answer covered by confident conservative (6)
- 4 Knocking banality, nearly drunk after first sherry (8)
- 10 Repeated beat (3,4)
- 11 Worked in a brothel, having left inside type of a fingerprint (7)
- 12 Playing card first held in the palm perhaps (5)
- 13 Adults are into unorthodox refreshment (8)
- 15 Women leave dance after school with Monsieur Mush (8)
- 16 Fork out two hundred hot rands (6)
- 18 Devise art style at court (6)
- 20 He is lacking in enthusiasm but has affectation (8)
- 23 Cover for fast ride on river (8)
- 24 Small Scottish headdress for the homeless (5)
- 26 Could be caught, thrown and rejected (7)
- 27 What's left, right, side-splitting and initially unusually ear-piercing (7)
- 28 They make bits and pieces, or long reins (8)
- 29 Wit of fiendish priest (6)

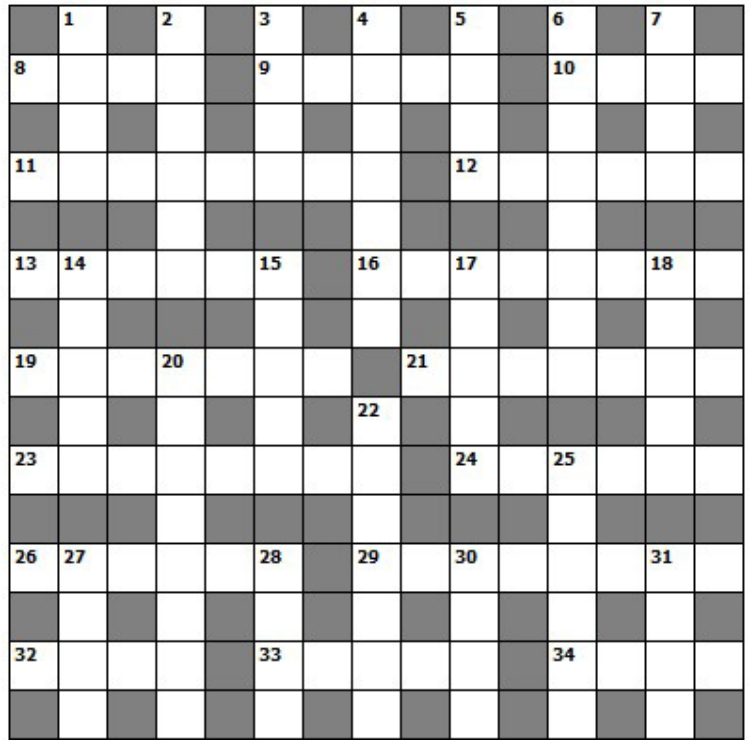
Down

- 1 Back and forth to cut through sports teams (4,2,4)
- 2 Favoured treatment for English opposition after thunderstorm (5-3-7)
- 3 Flower, one in a coastal region (7)
- 5 Fish have fight in which to find the fainthearted? (6)
- 6 Catalogue includes old antagonist in *The Nun's Priest's Tale* (7)
- 7 As sheep do, flock has hesitation going about down the meadow (6,3,6)
- 8 Woman to wager about daughter (4)
- 9 Surmounts resistance in animals (7)
- 14 Most hideous deformed hag is Lett's nightmare (10)
- 17 It is owing to you being in(7)

- 19 Restrain and throw into can (7)
- 21 First to enter in ship is adamant (7)
- 22 Sailor heading north loses North, but given turn with instrument (6)
- 25 Carol not beginning to lift sign (4)



Slot 7

Cryptic
by
Bogeyman

Across

- 8 Southern English river is safe (4)
 9 Australian girl is out of order (5)
 10 Clean small salmon (4)
 11 Olden car wrecked - it's full of holes! (8)
 12 Deipnosophist - terrific in opera part (6)
 13 Reply to the tree, wise one! (6)
 16 Vehement speech, not initially ideological, created rotten compromise (5-3)
 19 Logician listening to the susurrus of autumn leaves (7)
 21 Lapse into wrongdoing by medico in frantic lust, having taken Ecstasy (7)
 23 Organ components conveyed by global transport system using donkeys (8)
 24 Sage father takes exercise by commencing running (6)
 26 Dialectician with composed Senegalese taking ease (6)
 29 City's emergency department not yet ready internally, it's rumoured (8)
 32 Infection of poorest yeast (4)
 33 Fine back, just like native animal (5)
 34 Swiss Franc perhaps - as in Switzerland ... (4)

Down

- 1 ... and wallaroo's measure of value in France (4)
 2 Epistemologist in Adelaide's a detective (2,4)
 3 Theorist organised opening of document (4)
 4 Leave from Russia at about Mach 2.8! (7)
 5 Would I ever take the lead from a suspiciously intellectual fellow? (2,2)
 6 US government agency takes the best dessert (3,5)
 7 Merit is at the core of relearning (4)
 14 African people in Ulster carrying weapon (5)
 15 Metaphysician grinds away! (5)
 17 Behave badly in performance at university (3,2)
 18 Counterfeit note found at British centre of learning (5)
 20 Coach group in theatrical arrangement (5,3)
 22 When story by author becomes instrument of offence (7)
 25 Max, the distinguished physicist, sounds bored! (6)
 27 Grammatically, it ain't me, nor the compiler! (3,1)
 28 Religious adherent is backing king's horse (4)
 30 Impetuosity of short-tailed antelope (4)
 31 Detritus of the French street (4)

The blank grid for this puzzle is on page 2



Quiz 2026-7 Take Note by Michael Vnuk. As Julie Andrews, playing Maria the governess, memorably sang in The Sound of Music, 'When you know the notes to sing, you can sing most anything.' However, combining the names of the notes, commonly rendered as DO, RE, MI, FA, SO, LA, TI, won't make many words. But we can try.

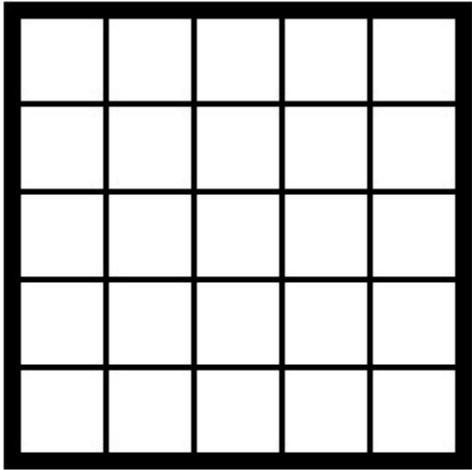
Using only the 7 notes as above, answer the following clues. Number in square brackets is the number of notes to use. Notes may occur more than once in an answer. Word pronunciation may not follow note pronunciation. Answers may include capitals or hyphens. Clues are in random order. Example: Painful [2] = SORE

Send your answers by email to Michael Vnuk michaelv@futureweb.com.au or post to 583 Greenhill Road, Burnside SA 5066. **Closing mail date 31 July 2026.**

- 1 Bog [2]
- 2 About [1]
- 3 Hence [1]
- 4 Couch [2]
- 5 Trip fee [2]
- 6 Haircut [1]
- 7 Withdraw [3]
- 8 Extinct bird [2]
- 9 Los Angeles [1]
- 10 Australian tree [1]
- 11 Become sleepy [2]
- 12 Nothing special [2]
- 13 Undertake again [2]
- 14 NSW goldrush town [3]
- 15 Famous English cup [1]
- 16 South American monkey [2]
- 17 Texan city next to Mexico [3]
- 18 African country: Burkina ---- [2]
- 19 Tree used to make pith helmets [2]
- 20 Japanese fermented soybean paste [2]

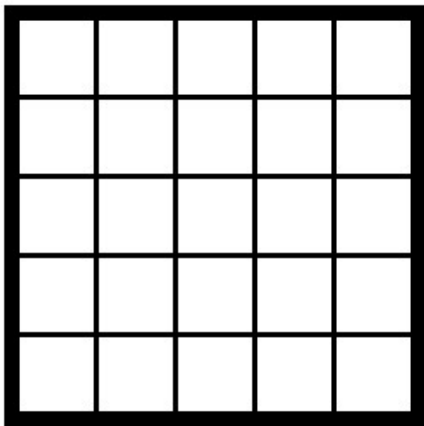
FRAZ WORD SQUARE 5 - July 1
 Identical words read across and down in this square.
 Clues are not listed in order.

- Texted, "You are shut out of the city"
- Knight in bottom of boat, ready to pray
- Group of actors in speech class
- Take undue advantage of a coach house
- in the end
- Elmer Fudd's first-rate duck call



FRAZ WORD SQUARE 5 - July 2
 Identical words read across and down in this square.
 Clues are not listed in order.

- Felt bad artificial intelligence was winning
- Horse info sent back
- Lingerie item ultimately lost near whirlpool
- Pros finally got something bakeries need
- Select flipped-over Scrabble vowel



Answers to Fraz Squares on page 12

Results of Quiz 6/2026 by Crowsman.**Entries: 25****Winner: Allan Storti. Congratulations!**

37: P Abbott, W Allen, U Axelsen, M Blake, J Crowe, K Forward, K Francis, R Hagan, K Harper, M Kennedy, A Martin, A Miles, A Millard, R Milton, A Patterson, D Rosendorff, W Ryan, B Siegman, F Simpson, R Skinner, A Storti, B Symons, C Wilcox, R Wimbush **35:** P Garner

Answers: 1 Ajman, 2 Amman, 3 Andaman, 4 Cayman Islands, 5 Diamantina, 6 Erymanthos, 7 Fremantle, 8 Germany, 9 Helmand, 10 Inkerman, 11 Kalimantan, 12 Kathmandu, 13 Kilimanjaro, 14 La Mancha, 15 Managua, 16 Manama, 17 Manaslu, 18 Manaus, 19 Manchester, 20 Manchukuo, 21 Manchuria, 22 Mandalay, 23 Manhattan, 24 Manila, 25 Manitoba, 26 Mannheim, 27 Manning, 28 Murmansk, 29 Neman, 30 Normandy, 31 Norseman, 32 Oman, 33 Omdurman, 34 Petermann, 35 Romania, 36 Salamanca, 37 Tasmania

Setter's Observations: The extra length of this quiz was because several of the answers were very easy. I must admit that I did not personally know #17, 29, 34, but I wanted a few obscure places. Strictly speaking, Ann and Robyn are correct, suggesting that Cayman Islands is actually a self-governing British Overseas Territory.

Solvers' Feedback:

- I found this geography quiz quite demanding! *Fraser Simpson*
- Indeed, it was geographical fun! *Cheryl Wilcox*
- Thanks for the Geographical fun quiz. I really had to man up for this one. *Michael Kennedy*
- No.4 caused some angst. Did you mean a place that is a territory of a sovereign country? Fingers crossed! *Ann Millard*
- Once we sorted the "comman" theme we manned the atlas and set manfully about managing to get the answers. *Richard Skinner*
- Thank you for this, it was a pleasant way to fill in a rainy afternoon in Canberra. I had to do a bit of searching as several were totally unfamiliar to me. I had never learnt about Lithuanian Rivers or Kitchener's battles! Number 4 caused me a few headaches. *Pat Garner*
- Enjoyed this quiz. *Rob Milton*
- Thanks for an informative quiz *Brian Symons*
- Man oh man, that was a bit of fun. Sad to say I had to look up a majority of the answers *Ulla Axelsen*
- Thanks Len for an interesting quiz. I spotted Amman and Tasmania early, and the penny dropped. 37 clues, is that a record? *Betty Siegman*
- What a lot of men! 4 worries me a bit though... Quite a few AI-free for me too so that's a plus. Thank you for an enjoyable quiz. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Thank you for the great Geography lesson! I just hope all the new knowledge can be retained by my aging brain! *Maureen Blake*
- Thanks for your 'manly' quiz! That could have been one of the places. Indeed, you could base a whole quiz on places starting with MAN. *Andrew Miles*
- You've certainly rounded up a lot of males to support your theme - well done, as always. *Kath Harper*
- I really enjoyed this armchair travel - thanks Len! *Alison Martin*

FRAZ WORD SQUARE 5-July 1 Solution

L	E	E	N	K
E	T	S	A	C
E	S	U	B	A
N	A	B	R	U
K	C	A	U	Q

FRAZ WORD SQUARE 5- July2 Solution

Y	D	D	E	T
D	E	E	T	S
D	E	L	I	A
E	T	I	L	E
T	S	A	E	Y



Machu Picchu, Peru

GRIDATORIAL

Thank you for your patience, when eventually this does arrive in your inbox. We hope that the new publishing arrangements will promote rather more attention to detail, given the extended timeframe, and a consequent reduction of activity on the part of those annoying gremlins.

While the feedback on our puzzles is rather more active than in former days there is a considerable amount of space in the magazine that can be made available for articles by members on some of the principles of clueing – or any other aspects of crossword puzzles or quizzes in general. We have had some interesting articles in the past, but they are few and far between: if there is anything in particular that irks you in the puzzles, or things that you'd like to see more of, we'll be only too pleased to publish your views. Maybe it would be the start of a continuing discussion? We look forward to hearing from you.

Thanks to the two members who volunteered to try their hands at editing puzzles. We would like to build up a panel, so please consider whether you would like to have a go at this essential aspect of maintaining the standard of publication of the Club's puzzles. All assistance will be provided as necessary.

Do we have some treats in store for you this month? A Half and Half with a twist from Valkyrie opens the bowling (or perhaps a soccer metaphor would be more appropriate at this time? – in any case, the progress or otherwise of the Socceroos will be known by the time you read this). But let's continue with the summery theme in the hope of allaying the present wintry conditions – in Canberra at least... In slot 2 we have some of the expected medical prescriptions in a typically well-crafted puzzle by T-boy, while Ninian bowls some of his googlies from left field in his slot 3 puzzle. We have a new partnership in the AJ slot who are capable of scoring a century or two individually – see what can they do together in slot 4!

Slot 5 this month is occupied by P-brane with another collection of his home-grown vernacular – but all in Macquarie. The welcome return of Betelgeuse with a long-lost masterpiece in slot 6 may raise a few eyebrows – but who amongst us has not had similar thoughts when presented with an indeterminate set of squiggles masquerading as art? Bogeyman hopes that you will apply the necessary degree of mature consideration to his slot 7 puzzle and the night watchman this month is Michael Vnuk with a musical diversion in the form of a quiz. If you haven't tried them yet, we can recommend Fraz's squares over a quick cup of coffee, and guarantee that an entry to the clue-writing competition may be the easiest \$50 that you've ever earned – we're sure you won't die of BOREDOM!

Many thanks to those who have contributed to this edition of CrOZworld, especially to Scott Goodman in his first term as our adjudicator.

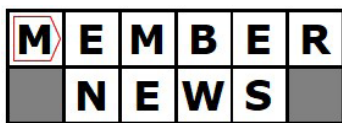
Happy puzzling to you all throughout the wintry month of July.

Ian



July Clue-writing Competition

All members are invited to submit a clue for **BOREDOM (7)**; Please submit your clue (one per member, please), together with the explanation, to Len Colgan by email to Len.Colgan@bigpond.com or post it to 1 Ailsa Avenue, Warradale, SA 5046. Closing mail date 14 August 2026



Welcome to our new members, Michael Bradley of the ACT and Stewart Newton and Leonard Yong, both from Victoria. We know that you will enjoy our challenges and our fellowship and look forward to your contributions to the Club.

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 devising 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. We also have some interesting grids available if you are hesitant about creating your own. Email Ian for more detail and some helpful information.

New adjudicators and editors will be welcomed with open arms - see the Gridatorial.

Donations to the Prize Fund - Our sincere thanks to those members who have donated their prizes back to the prize fund. While we are confident that at present prize values and subscriptions we will remain in a healthy financial position. Such donations help to stave off reductions in prizes or increases in subscriptions in these unfortunately inflationary times.



Find us on
Facebook

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

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

June 1: KA (Karl Audrins)

- Some interesting words like TRUCKLE & HELVE. Thanks. Karl Ann Millard
- Some of the non-cryptic clues remained 20dn for a while. 21ac was very clever, as was 16dn in its own way. Michael Fitzgerald
- 6ac and 10ac had me scratching my head for some time, thanks for the puzzling, KA. Kathy Horadam
- A good warm-up with a couple of unusual words. Ulla Axelsen
- Some unusual words hidden in this puzzle - my Chambers got a work out! Most enjoyable, KA. Mal Cockburn
- Entertaining! HELVE is a new word for me. Kathryn Forward
- An enjoyable puzzle but I am not sure about 18dn, INHERE. Laurence Kennedy
- Hats off to anyone who solved 3d without resorting to a library of reference resources. Lynn Jarman
- Half & half are always interesting. Jean Evans
- 18dn: ENTETE = stubborn; INCEDE = march on. Both of these can be conceived as "stay firm". [Agreed - Adj] Alan Dyer

June 2: Lexi Conner (Ron Shapiro)

- Good workout with some tricky clues. Roy Taylor
- Thank you. Lyria Bennett Moses
- 8dn is, I believe, open to interpretation. Frosty leads to RIMY, both being adjectives, whilst verse leads to RIME, both being nouns. I could mount an argument for either, but in the end assumed that frosty (adjective) verse (noun) would be a RIME (noun). But... Richard Skinner
- Many entertaining clues here. I liked SAFARI, ENID BLYTON and OZONE. Kathy Horadam
- Ylang-ylang was new to me but the clueing made it quite gettable. An enjoyable solve. Ulla Axelsen
- I liked the grid. OVA took me a while to understand. Great work, Lexi Conner. Mal Cockburn
- Nice puzzle favourite clue GLOAT. Joan Smith
- A challenging grid comprising so many answers. Lynn Jarman
- Some great clues. Loved YLANG YLANG. Jean Evans

Lexi Conner writes - Richard raises a valid point above. I agree that either RIME or RIMY fit the clue and I would count either correct. That the two words in the clue are different parts of speech, one an adjective, the other a noun does not necessarily mean that the solution word has to be able to be considered both an adjective and a noun. The ? at the end of the clue indicates that at least one of the definitions may be fanciful and thus not strictly synonymous with the solution. I took the view that 'frosty' was the fanciful definition and 'verse' the real definition but it could reasonably be argued that 'frosty' was the synonymous definition and 'verse' was fanciful.

June 3: St Jude (Drew Meek)

- Not convinced by "assumes" in 4ac and where is the noun definition in 13ac? Len Colgan
- Wow! That was a head scratcher! Not sure about some of the answers. Sally Shipway
- I don't think intros is right but cannot fit anything else there! Lyria Bennett Moses
- CHATTA (and ORD if correct) are new to me. I liked PHO and SACKCLOTH (but not the spelling of YESES) [Chambers has both yeses and yesses and

yes's as acceptable plural forms - St J]. Kathy Horadam

- The top left had me going around in circles for ages. Ulla Axelsen
- Never heard of a plash but there it is in Chambers. Don't understand why ODD is 3rd class. [3rd is an ordinal number. One of the classes of numbers is odd numbers - St J] But an enjoyable puzzle nevertheless. Mal Cockburn
- Liked ALPHABETICALLY. Toby McLeay
- Two new words for me in this puzzle resulted in a bit of head-scratching! Kathryn Forward
- Seems that 1A could be either SCUMMY or spummy. I've gone with scummy but I will wait to see the explanation. Hilary Cromer
- This cryptic required help from several resources and kin. Lynn Jarman
- UNBOWED and MOTMOT were among some great clues. Jean Evans

St Jude writes - Regarding Crowsman's comments, 1) in 4-across, "assume" can mean to take on but it is used here literally here rather than in its usually sense; and 2) In 13-across, the noun plural form is "counterfeits" when considered as a countable noun. However, I think the adjectival noun form "counterfeit" is acceptable to express a concept in general rather than a specific number.

June 4: Manveru (Michael Kennedy)

- DECEIVINGLY is an excellent clue. Also liked LAXATIVE, KILLER, WAR BRIDE & FATIGUE. HADARIM is plural whereas the clue has a singular definition. Ian McKenzie
- Nina FROZEN, MELTED. Allan Storti
- Some great clues especially LAXATIVE & YACHTED. Interesting that ABBREVIATE & ZEPPELIN appear twice this month. FROZEN & MELTED for a NINA! Ann Millard
- Liked the NINA. Julie Leigh
- Voted LAXATIVE COTM. Lot of zeppelins in the sky this month. Roy Taylor
- I nearly missed the Nina's - frozen and melted. Julie Crowe
- Thank you. The bottom left corner was hard, and still not sure about connection between 'war' and green for the W clue. Lyria Bennett Moses
- From frozen to melted in 25 (or 26 if you wish to include Frozen) steps. Richard Skinner
- Tricky clues. Krittibas Dasgupta
- Very good - thought CURVIER, MAJORCA and YACHTED were the best here. Michael Fitzgerald
- Lots of good clues but I did like "Snap snap" for X-RAY. Robyn Wimbush
- Some fun definitions in this one. I enjoyed it. Jenny Wenham
- Always fun, whether frozen or melted! I specially liked BAPTISTS and LAXATIVE. Kathy Horadam
- Some great clues, KILLER, VARIFOCAL and LAXATIVE, my COTM. I actually spotted the Nina, from FROZEN to MELTED. Betty Siegman
- A very enjoyable AJ with FROZEN and MELTED moments. Ulla Axelsen
- Loved the clue for X-ray. And the 2nd ZEPPELIN for this month. Mal Cockburn

Continued on Page 15

MEMBERS' FEEDBACK Continued from Page 14**June 4: Manveru (Michael Kennedy) c'ntd**

- Loved the clues for LAXATIVE and UROLOGIST. *Hilary Cromer*
- Great AJ; liked clues FATIGUE, MAJORCA and WAR BRIDE. *Joan Smith*
- Fun overall, though it took a while to find the H answer, as the clue indicated a singular noun. Not sure that 'She's on the way [back]' is an adequate definition for WAR BRIDE. *Kath Harper*
- A good job, Mike, especially the Ninas. *Laurence Kennedy*
- There's that Z word again; used twice this month at least. This is my last submission for June because of so many other priorities. Who'd have thought retirement would be so hectic? *Lynn Jarman*
- My favourite puzzle. Lots of interesting clues *Jean Evans*

June 5: Crowsman (Len Colgan)

- A slow start until it clicked. Clues very good. *Michael Fitzgerald*
- Another clever collection of words, Len. Thanks! *Ann Millard*
- This clever puzzle got easier when, after several clues, I noticed SS! *Roy Taylor*
- Such a lot of sssssssss!! *Julie Crowe*
- Despite each answer holding "SS" we found this a little tough as it seemed not to be a classic set of "Len" clues. Clever though. *Richard Skinner*
- Another nice puzzle from Crowsman. It helped a lot when I noticed all answers contained 'SS'. *Allan Storti*
- After a few answers and a preponderance of Ss, I thought it was a poorly designed, unfair grid. But then I realised that double-S was the shared element in all clues and so I approached the grid with new vigour. Did I pass? *Michael Vnuk*
- Thanks Len. Blissful crossword puzzle. *Robyn Wimbush*
- It was looking to be a tough puzzle to solve until I identified the SS requirement. *Ian Thompson*
- S-super crossword - I hope I passed. *Betty Siegman*
- Found some of the clues very difficult to get my head around until I saw the SS pattern. Very challenging. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Crowsman usually has a theme, so I checked early and was rewarded with an aid to solving this essay puzzle. Loved ASSENT. Nice work. *Mal Cockburn*
- The letter S appears 54 times! Surely a record for this grid. *Maureen Blake*
- Still tricky even after spotting the esses. Liked 18dn, FISSURE. *Toby McLeay*
- It didn't take long to notice the masses of SSs - and they just kept coming. *Kath Harper*
- What an achievement! (Assuming my Guesses are Successful.) *Kathy Horadam*
- Thank you, Crowsman, for this very enjoyable puzzle from your apparently endless supply! *Laurence Kennedy*
- Sssssneaky! *Kathryn Forward*
- Great puzzle; don't think I have "dressers" correct for 9 ac *Christopher Thomas*
- SSO many esses! *Keith Bettles*
- I have struggled with the bottom right corner of this puzzle for weeks! I am sure my entry is not correct;

just like to know if others felt the same. Completion accuracy percentage will tell. *Rob Milton*

- Didn't notice the common element until submitting! Would have saved a lot of time if I had noticed sooner. *Danuta Rosendorff*
- Another great puzzle Len. Some interesting words such as déclassé ; rest mass and she ass *Jean Evans*

Crowsman writes - With a puzzle where every answer contains SS, the issue was always going to be avoiding too many ASS synonyms in the clues, as well as excluding references to a ship or Himmler's lot. *Richard's comment is spot on, as the clueing styles in Slots 5 and 7 could hardly be more different. Whereas the objective in Slot 7 was to have predominantly containment parsings to enable mostly typical Crowsman inclusion clues, the sever restriction of SS here took precedence instead.*

June 6: Robespierre (Ian McKenzie)

- Still trying to justify 12ac, AMBO. *Len Colgan*
- Clever throughout but quite tough - in the end I couldn't parse 9ac or 11ac and am a little hesitant about 12ac. Some very good clues - 14dn sticks out. *Michael Fitzgerald*
- Some easy clues and many really difficult clues. The joy of cryptic when Prime Minister immediately makes you think of ALBO but it isn't! SUGARCOAT was a tough one. *Ann Millard*
- Lot of COTM contenders, especially 11ac and 22ac. I thought maybe ALBO for 12 ac before I realised AMBO. *Roy Taylor*
- Particularly liked 12ac so gave it COTM after going down a dry hole to start with! *Richard Skinner*
- Lots of good clues and not so easy! Thanks Ian. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Some great clues, specially SLAP-BANG, NAIL-BITER. *Krittibas Dasgupta*
- Plenty of interesting surfaces here. *Ian Thompson*
- Would love to read some herstory. I can just imagine how different it would be. For a lot of the clues I worked out the answer first then worked out the word play. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Challenging as ever! *Merci beaucoup, M. Robespierre. Mal Cockburn*
- Took all my resources to crack this but lots of great clues. IMPUTES, NAIL-BITER, POLKA. Learnt a new meaning for AMBO. *Toby McLeay*
- Some great clues here! *Kathryn Forward*
- So many interesting words eg SAPOTA; HERSTORY and OSTRACOD, *Jean Evans*

June 7: Crowsman (Len Colgan)

- Particularly liked MARIJUANA, SPORTS CAR & TRAPEZE. *Ian McKenzie*
- I always find CROWSMAN what's a challenge. This was no exception! *Patricia Abbott*
- Such perfect clues that followed the rules but I really struggled with many of them. Thanks, Len. *Ann Millard*
- All clues clever, especially DELIGHT and MARIJUANA. *Roy Taylor*
- Very good, 14ac and 3dn were among the last to go in and my favourites here. *Michael Fitzgerald*
- Very enjoyable. *Julie Leigh*

Continued on Page 16

MEMBERS' FEEDBACK Continued from Page 15

- Great clues. *Krittibas Dasgupta*
- Thanks Len. Quite a few tricky clues. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Top left took a while. All but seven clues were insertions. Good fun. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Usually I find a few noteworthy clues in Crowsman's puzzle. But this time, he's provided us with his A-game, and I stopped ticking clues after I reached 7. So many brilliant wordplays - it's hard to choose the best, but I'll select CHARISMA as my COTM, with DELIGHT, TRIBUNALS & MOUNTED all a close second. Candidate for puzzle of the year! *Mal Cockburn*
- A nice challenge, as usual from Crowsman! *Kathryn Forward*

Crowsman writes - *This unprecedented grid was created to enable the majority of answers to be parsed as one word contained inside another word. Ulla's insightful observation reflects this. Crowsman is known to over-indulge in such answers, both in puzzles and quizzes. The challenge here was to find so many different inclusion indicators, but it was fun.*

May Clue-writing Competition Report

May 2026 Clue-writing Competition - Write a clue for **SHOULDER (8)** - Adjudicated by Andrew Patterson
Some definitions from Collins:

1. the joint at the junction of the forelimb with the pectoral girdle.
2. the strip of unpaved land that borders a road
3. to bear or carry a burden
4. a cut of meat

Thank you for all submissions. This time round, 9 entries were received for May's judgement. SHOULDER was a topical word selection for me as I underwent replacement surgery last month. What fun that was! I expected 'holder' to figure in many clues and probably 'should'. Most clues went one of those directions. It's nice to see variations on the expected wordplay.

The winner for this month is Andrew Miles, with, "**Carry small container round for all to see**". It just had a clear, smooth surface while being tight in the wordplay and it left me wondering!. Congratulations, Andrew! Entries are set out in alphabetical order below.

An expression of hesitation ought to precede acceptance of responsibility ***

should before er.

Similar construction to another entry but let down by the definition being a noun rather than a verb.

Carry small container round for all to see ****

s,holder outside U.

Fairly concise wording with an obscure use of U as 'universal, for all to see'. The surface seems reasonable but now I wonder what was in it!...

Coming back embarrassed after delirious lush love? Take responsibility! *½**

An anagram of (lush,O) followed by red<.

The wordplay is very expressive and generous. The surface reading is pretty clear coz haven't we all been there! . . .

Is obliged to converse about location of a blade *½**

should, re(<)

Unique for taking a different slant on the definition. The surface suggests a police grilling!

Lush rode over to joint **½

Anagram of lush,rode.

A simple anagram. I find 'over' a little vague and 'to' is not a good connector between definition and wordplay.

Must express hesitation to assume burden ***

should,er.

Straightforward construction with no wastage. The surface is clear and reasonable. Sometimes the simple clues are better than others.

Roadside joint ***

Double definition.

As simple as it gets but still a cohesive clue as the two words fit together as a phrase while being different usages.

Society proprietor protecting posh joint ***

s,holder outside U.

An interesting surface of business dealings. This use of U is 'upper class'. No problem with the construction.

Take responsibility for independently adding hydrogen and uranium into fusion alloy? *½**

Solder, with H and U added.

A different tack taken here. Good technique to signal H and U are inserted separately. The surface is a little niche but plausible.

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	*****		

Slot 1

Name

Slot 2

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Clue of the Month

Slot 3

Slot 4

Slot 5

Slot 6

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