



No 422 June 2025



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– English and French spoken; Australian understood
Anonymous, 1990s, shop notice seen in Turkey

GRIDATORIAL

First of all some thanks. Thanks once again to Michael Kennedy. The feedback on the May puzzles shows what a good job he as editor, and the compilers of the month's puzzles, had done in entertaining you. Thanks to all.

This month's offerings are led by KA with a half and half puzzle containing a selection of his customary interesting words. P-brane treats us to a puzzle with his trademark Australian tinge in slot 2 while NanaKat returns with a well-constructed, conventional cryptic in slot 3. The Queen of the AJ, Valkyrie, tests our skills with another of her popular puzzles and Crowsman invites us to join him in a trip to some interesting places in slot 5. Zinzan makes a welcome reappearance this month with one of his inimitable slot 6 challenges and you will find 14- and 15-letter solutions galore in Crowsman's Corner. It's pleasing to see something completely different in this month's quiz by Michael Vnuk in response to our plea, but we still need more quizzes from new compilers as noted in Member News.

Finally, don't forget that the May clue-writing competition is still open for a few more days if you wish to throw your hat in the ring to win a generous prize for a single clue. Details in Member News.

We are sure that you will enjoy this month's delights, so happy puzzling through June.

Ian

FROM THE ADJUDICATOR

Slot 1 Only two clues gave more than incidental problems: "shoe" for a brogue may have been a relevant homophone for SHOO ("Go away"!); but the consequential "repe" in 15-across doesn't appear in any of our references as cordage. "Animus" does not correspond with the souls obtained from the anagram of Ian and Sam. While a journey to Macca's for a burger may represent a pilgrimage to some it doesn't quite satisfy the meaning of haj, where MECCA was the intended answer. 85% correct is a little disappointing for a slot 1 and could have been improved with the exercise of our built-in spellchecker.

Slot 2: A sprinkling of his trademark medical terms from T-boy presented no difficulties to our lay solvers. PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCH, with its clued ingredients, was singled out for praise. The only standout error was "snowball" for the required SNOWFALL, where "trip" provided the FALL. A twerk dance could be a dangerous jig, but the homophone of "sawed aunts" gave the necessary Scottish pursuit. A variety of errors, but again most were typos.

Slot 3: I would have thought that HAMBLETONIAN may have given some problems but the 5-part charade was clear enough for all but one solver. The 19th Century stallion also gives its name to an annual trotting race in America. Just three stumbling blocks brought the success rate down. SWOONED was an anagram of wooden and S, where the spatulas provided the S, not a type of spoon to give SPOONED. The others were a repeated misspelling of MAMELUKES and a failure to identify the hidden CODA for the "final section".

Slot 4: The ever-popular AJ gave little trouble, although the three word-lengths format was not welcomed by some. However, despite the format not permitting the usual "easy" start by focussing on the two 11-letter solutions, our intrepid solvers achieved an 85% success rate. A number of "tastings" for TESTINGS apparently did not recognise the sheep as TEGS containing the NITS backwards. The noun form of TESTING is confirmed by Chambers as the act of subjecting to a test.

continued on page 2

LEADING FIGURES

Puzzle No.	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Entries received	89	88	86	75	77	415
Correct entries	74	71	65	63	66	339
Success rate (%)	83	81	76	84	86	82
Prizewinners	Shelia Taylor	Kate Williams	Joan Smith	Cheryl Wilcox	Brian Tickle	from 90 members

Prizewinner: May Slots 1-5 correct: Alan Dyer. Congratulations!

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May Slot 1

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

May Slot 2

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

May Slot 3

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

May Slot 4

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

May Slot 5

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

May Slot 6

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

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

From the Adjudicator: continued from page 1

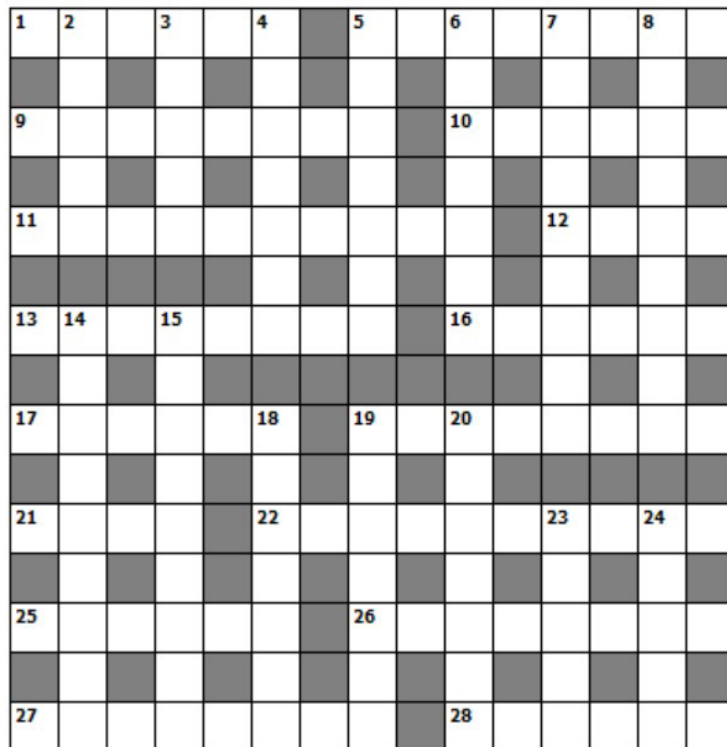
Slot 5: Few (non-typo) errors in, and much praise for, this engaging, nutty-themed puzzle. VIPARA gave rise to a few different interpretations and, although there is a mollusc *viviparus viviparus*, the word VIVIPARA only appears in our references in relation to live birth. Nevertheless the clear wordplay of VI + VI + PARA (Spanish for "for") led most solvers to a correct answer.

COTM: 36 Nominations for clues from all slots. A number of clues gained multiple nominations, including KHAKI, PLOUGHMAN;S LUNCH, ETCH and LOCO, but the winner by a short head was CLIMBS - *Centipede may need these as it ascends?* in slot 1. Congratulations, Bogeyman!

Slot 1

**Half and Half
by
KA**

**Prize
\$50**



Across

- 1 Portable calculator (6)
- 5 Instrument (8)
- 9 Disorderly governments (8)
- 10 Incarcerator (6)
- 11 Merchant navy officer (10)
- 12 Dance (4)
- 13 Instruments (8)
- 16 Quaking (6)
- 17 Ice cream (6)
- 19 Contra-argument (8)
- 21 Anil and henna (4)
- 22 Sydney or Melbourne, perhaps (10)
- 25 Separate (6)
- 26 Instrument (8)
- 27 Instrument (8)
- 28 A relation (6)

Down

- 2 Farewell - German company loses licentiate to continental organisation (5)
- 3 Shield quarry out of time (5)
- 4 Bird hiding metal in nut (7)
- 5 Son leaves sweets and runs away (7)
- 6 Exclude decapitated bird carried by hooligan (4,3)
- 7 Spoiled naughty child will refect sloppily (9)
- 8 Amateur coterie's dreadful secrets (9)
- 14 Re-designed chine hides light completely (5,4)
- 15 Change electrical component without hesitation (9)
- 18 Wealthy operator at socially acceptable religious observance (7)
- 19 Carl and Ira rebuilt wagon (4,3)
- 20 Insect with short distance to each drink (4,3)
- 23 He's changed a French money bundle (5)
- 24 Connection that is inside container (3-2)

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: Ken Davis: email to kenjdavis@gmail.com

or post to 15 Beattie St, Temora NSW 2666

Slot 6: Kay Williams: email to ianw@webone.com.au

or post to 12 Lindrum Crescent Holt ACT 2615

Slot 7: Len Colgan: email to Len.Colgan@unisa.edu.au

or post to 1 Ailsa Avenue, Warradale, SA 5046

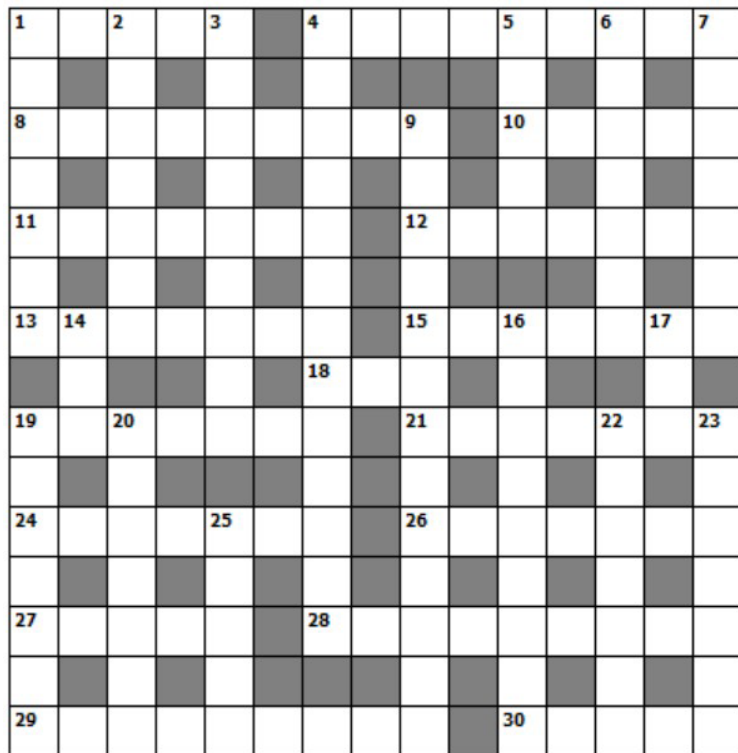
**SEND
SOLUTIONS
TO:**

**BLANK
GRIDS
PAGE 16**

Closing mail date for all puzzles is 27 June 2025. ACCOLADE entries close at 00.01

Slot 2

Cryptic
by
P-brane

 Prize
\$50


Across

- 1 Month, not year to record drink (5)
- 4 Charge a water pipe at a haunted watering hole (9)
- 8 Realised assets moistened mistakenly (9)
- 10 Transparent vehicle hiding French article (5)
- 11 Fleecy footwear for one fleecing his flock? (3,4)
- 12 Aerial X-sports Indian coinage (7)
- 13 Sleek heartless tormentor; extraordinary flyer (7)
- 15 Multitude mature as one in captivity for a price (7)
- 18 Elements of the common environmental qualifier (3)
- 19 Doing hard yakka thwarting principal tutor as replacement for Fellow (7)
- 21 About Kid's re-release (7)
- 24 Short way to cover up trade in a colourful parrot (7)
- 26 English learnt afresh now and forever (7)
- 27 One thousand presently backing an informal chat (5)
- 28 Spooner's metal mitts and capes (9)
- 29 Official dogma on a shared communications platform (5,4)
- 30 Protests fiend switching poles (5)

Down

- 1 Ram is mostly very big, gross, not prime yearling (7)
- 2 Extraction of roots (7)
- 3 To rip up or repackage spice and herb concoction (9)
- 4 Rapid rumour-mongering network using rural text-messaging service (4,9)
- 5 Tie has cotton insert (5)
- 6 India borders a once turbulent region (7)
- 7 Bold digging into lock-up waste (7)
- 9 Pond of tomato sauce near Menindee? (4,5,4)
- 14 For example, getting over the metaphysical self (3)
- 16 Hungry son, four, dropped - not loudly - cried feebly (9)
- 17 Antelope to spring back with removal of borders (3)
- 19 Brought to light over reportedly being ahead (5,2)
- 20 Bit more disturbed, a sinner reformed (7)
- 22 Not unlike a clue sought by a straight setter (7)
- 23 Engages in regular violence raising small tykes without core values (7)
- 25 Place it within the realm of ordinary people (5)

General Feedback for May

- Thank you very much for the Slot 1-5 prize. A pleasant surprise after some silly errors in recent months! Ann Millard

Slot 3

Cryptic
by
NanaKat



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

Across

- 9 Moisten meat inside wing; it's white, soft and perfect for carving (9)
- 10 Japanese port has operating system known by another name (5)
- 11 Level Apartment 'X' (7)
- 12 Left inside to bond, becomes compassionate (7)
- 13 Craft warm-up exercise (10)
- 14 Pierce? Yes, and bloody Al! (4)
- 16 IT efficiency experts suggest that Stan lays Ms Tessy off (7,8)
- 20 For starters, cook rare and beautiful crustacean (4)
- 21 Invader's French very out of date, right? (10)
- 25 Back in the car, Terry! Double back! (7)
- 26 Australian doctors collectively, with true absurdity, labelled unprofessional (7)
- 27 From high on a cliff, osprey tail lands in the middle of North American canal (5)
- 28 'Quit' message describes chewing tobacco? (9)

Down

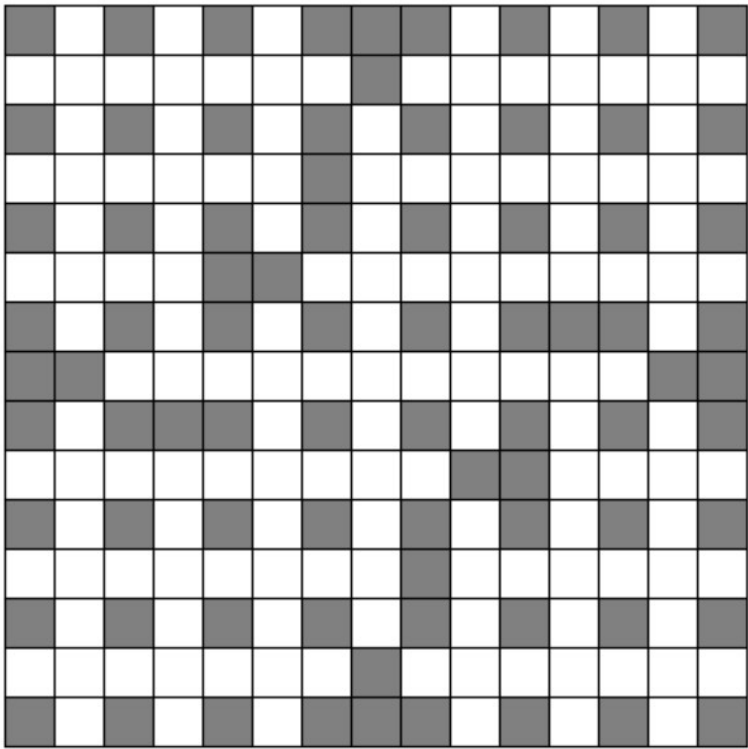
- 1 TS: "Idiots!" (4-4)
- 2 Annul imperfect caveat (6)
- 3 Mother's Thanksgiving bird, reportedly, opens all doors (6,3)
- 4 From A-Z, Nats spin some lines (6)
- 5 Teetotal and drug free, freshen clothing (3-5)
- 6 Hearing Leakey, Hoyle shuffled (5)
- 7 We French, after dance party, greedy for food (8)
- 8 Sperm donor going round the northern Territory is lower than the upper crust (6)
- 15 For a term, lama managed old school (4,5)
- 17 Appetisers for race officials (8)
- 18 Relief from sea cures, surprisingly (8)
- 19 Knight to use a lever, we hear, to reveal something totally unexpected (8)
- 20 Blanket reprimand! (6)
- 22 Closely follow in obscurity (6)
- 23 Angry by the ocean with Scarlett, so I hear (3,3)
- 24 Reduce left support (5)

Slot 4

AJ
by
Valkyrie



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



- A United American league told a porky (6)
- B Date changed to the 5th October in spread out gathering so as to include both sides (11)
- C Teach marine animal say, to keep out of sight (7)
- D Writer supports contrary haunt of vice in dingy city (7)
- E The sum and substance found in people’s sexuality (4)
- F Very little money from remote goods (9)
- G Nurserymen collect fencing, ends of wood and manure before start of spring (9)
- H Wall builder built hand rails after removing left section (7)
- I Courageous, popular, rebelliously flippant with a core of confidence (8)
- J Redundant judge removing extremists from nobility (7)
- K Sharks and crocodiles possibly, weirdly like armlets lacking meat (7)
- L Juices from some trees regularly found in lean twitchers (7)
- M Complain about setter in Glasgow? (4)
- N Deity found in Book of Numbers with independent talent (8)
- O Smash love for area where the sun sets (8)
- P Ring about Republican issue becoming intimate (8)

- Q Commonplace, short allusion I would associate with Chappell or Botham maybe (9)
- R Police consequently hurried off (6)
- S Revolutionary, eminent sage - a source of power during the Industrial Revolution (5,6)
- T Melee with Trade Union societies initially lacking enthusiasm (6)
- U Top, concise information within becomes vital (6)
- V V-sign for example, protects Bond types (9)
- W Electrical systems’ racks store current (7)
- X Help for doctor coming after whiskey with head of staff (1-4)
- Y Measurements for enclosed areas (5)
- Z Knowledge of fermentation half hazy with rum turning dishearteningly grey (7)

Slot 5

Crowsman's Travels

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						

- Across
- Down
- 1 Ancient Persian leaders made southern Greek enemy retreat (7)

5 Major road tax gathers little back (7)

10 Energetic dance scratched a character in Crete (6)

11 Call staff about a particular motorway (4,4)

12 Play around with royal couple disrespectfully (9)

13 Trump’s home, for example, turned over some cell phone bill data (5)

15 A wrongdoing involved in substantial influencing (7)

18 Revolutionary soldiers’ Bloody Mary cocktail? (3,4)

20 Wicked person provided twisted conclusion (5)

21 Paying for previous partner copying without right (9)

25 Old American at end of tropical island, afraid (8)

26 Does comic set about working old fashioned theatres? (6)

27 Dressing for each outside extreme (7)

28 Athlete gets extra charge, admitting many being interfered with (7)
- 2 Humiliate a party (5)

3 Rise up from severe belting (5)

4 Mapping out local mountain climbing, something to make you young (8)

6 See 24

7 Writing up article is a regret - it included all of the Soviet Union! (7)

8 Molten rock rises, containing aluminium compound (7)

9 A place for putting jade (5)

14 Scoffing fish cut up by father (8)

16 I upset one in Hispano-American primary (7)

17 Where, in France, entering cavity is windy (7)

19 Live way out, concealing front of shelter (5)

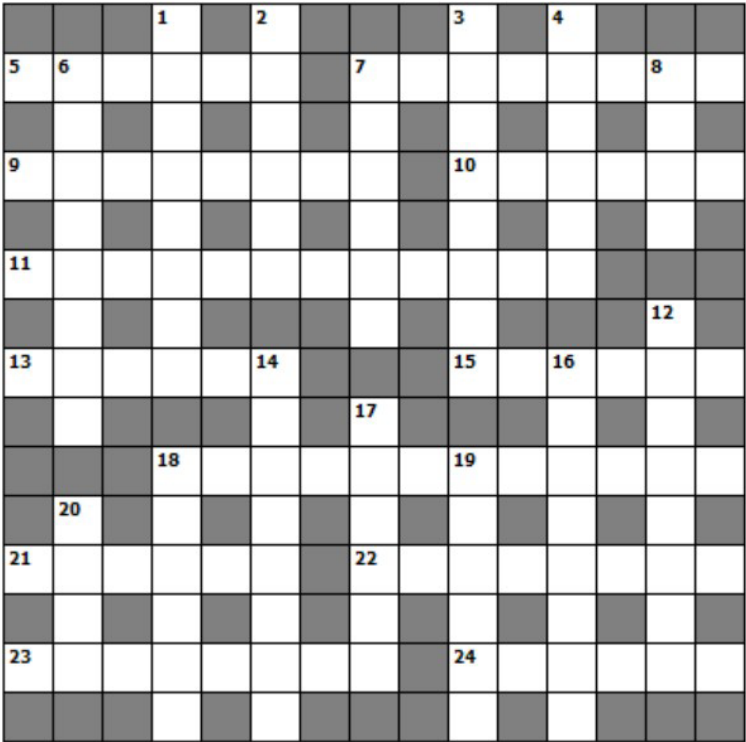
22 Connection that’s accepted by an element (3-2)

23 Elderly women cutting top off pineapple (5)

24,6 It controls a bull smell in front of arena (4-4)

Slot 6

Cryptic
by
Zinzan



Across

- 5 Wonder about warning made by ancient Egyptians? (6)
- 7 Inferior security company checked by troubled parent (4-1-3)
- 9 Experienced midshipmen incorrectly stored shrapnel casings (8)
- 10 Membrane bonding, for example, uranium (6)
- 11 Targets of these awkwardly sit with electrode? (3,9)
- 13 Discount sign not originally on store down the street (6)
- 15 Endless amount of oil leads to significant traffic delay (6)
- 18 Heart barely beating about unknown result of this? (12)
- 21 It's hard to say Tasman possibly had a plan (6)
- 22 Dramatic composition almost said to curtail bad behaviour (8)
- 23 3-down finally unravelled alien communication system (8)
- 24 Small lad nearly uncovered regressive ultimate purpose (3-3)

Down

- 1 Spanish Post Office's original pride is misplaced (8)
- 2 Rise of Australian dollar, in part follows Senate's lead (6)
- 3 Adult confused orphan with a piece of grammar (8)
- 4 The law in training lions possibly includes diet oddly (6)
- 6 Shares the off-the-tee record in golf stats finally (8)
- 7 Calorie cramming to start again? Cut it out! (6)
- 8 A bit partial to green monster like Shrek (4)
- 12 Extraordinary mind trick by spy service getting into the heads of elected leaders (8)
- 14 Start to twitch during the night getting one's leg over competitively? (8)
- 16 Only reds drunk by actor Burt (8)
- 17 Damaged coats given back to machinist without making a profit (2,4)
- 18 Be appreciative finally for each reminder (6)
- 19 Saws a final piece of wood with a good log base stacked at first (6)
- 20 Attend rounds? (4)

Slot 7

Cryptic

Prize \$50



Crowsman's Corner

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

Across

- 1
- Position affording exclusive information of the batting team (6)
- 4
- Suitable for penning makes summons effective (8)
- 9
- Ill following cold spell (5)
- 10
- Stuff graduate put with a New Orleans dish (9)
- 11
- Being amongst candidates are believers in the Trinity (15)
- 12
- Give encouragement after ultimate in photos features doctor (7,7)
- 14
- Ability to discern what someone else is thinking, even if walking (7-7)
- 20
- Annoyed over blokes in rum site, drunk, getting this? (8,7)
- 21
- In a misleading way, cut costs back quick after the start (9)
- 22
- One known for fast deliveries dropped final letter in French city (5)
- 23
- First-class university close to overcoming MRSA (8)
- 24
- Not a single bank backed inventor! (6)

Down

- 1
- Prompt is visible during hearing (6)
- 2
- Story about an Irish water dog (7)
- 3
- Becomes wet with current penetrating holes (7)
- 5
- Small cars parted not long ago with nostalgia (13)
- 6
- He's in the rear caravan (7)
- 7
- Old club idiot gets stuck into cheese (7)
- 8
- Turning up anaemic, Carol is slipping away (8)
- 10
- Only enter uninvited with gold for the former prime minister! (6,7)
- 13
- Those learning make boss rise in an agitated way (8)
- 15
- It was illuminating but wicked! (3,4)
- 16
- More feminine-like doctor brought up one lying about (7)
- 17
- Fought against scheduled valley ascent (7)
- 18
- Undesired short sewers (7)
- 19
- European leaves Asian behind (6)
- ..

The blank grid for this puzzle is on page 11

Quiz 2025-6 In a state Michael Vnuk



Which American state name uniquely matches each description? Send your answers to Michael Vnuk - email michaelv@futureweb.com.au or post to 583 Greenhill Road, Burnside SA 5066. Mail entries close 27 June 2025

Notes

- No state appears more than once.
- No description applies to more than one state.
- Names of states are the standard simple names. Ignore longer, formal names, eg 'Commonwealth of Massachusetts'. Ignore the spelling 'Hawai□i', a form used to show pronunciation in the Hawaiian language.
- Ten states have 2-word names. Ignore the space for word length, etc.
- For simplicity, Y is deemed to be a consonant.
- 'Contains' means anywhere within a name.
- 'Shortest', 'longest' and similar superlatives may refer to a comparative, ie with only two possibilities.
- Typing refers to standard touch-typing on a QWERTY keyboard, in which the left hand types QWERT,ASDFG,ZXCVB and the right hand types YUIOP,HJKL,NM.

- | | | | |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Has J | 16 | Has longest palindromic sequence |
| 2 | Has Z | 17 | Gains 2 letters at front to give another state |
| 3 | Has 3 Ns | 18 | Last 4 letters are first 4 letters of another state |
| 4 | Ends with G | 19 | Contains USA in order (but not consecutively) |
| 5 | Ends with K | 20 | Contains STATE (not in order) |
| 6 | Longest with 3 As | 21 | Contains IOWA (not in order) |
| 7 | Has a silent C | 22 | 1-word name that contains MAINE (not in order) |
| 8 | Shortest with 3 different vowels | 23 | 2-word name that contains MAINE (not in order) |
| 9 | Shortest with 4 different vowels | 24 | State of WAR |
| 10 | Longest with equal no of vowels/consonants | 25 | State of SIN |
| 11 | Has largest number of different letters | 26 | OUR state |
| 12 | Has 2 consecutive sets of double letters | 27 | Typed using right hand only |
| 13 | All letters come from first half of the alphabet | 28 | Typed using left hand only |
| 14 | Longest made of letters with no curves (Caps) | 29 | Typed using middle row only |
| 15 | Is a 1-syllable name | 30 | Takes F at start and E at end to make a word |

Quiz 2025-5 Nesting! By Zinzan

Submissions: 27. Correct: 27. Prize-winner: Michael Veress Congratulations!

Adjudicator's comments: I was pleased to see a full set of perfect scores. I assume Google played a big role but that was intentional. It seemed no.11 was the trickiest to nail down and no.19 had a variation of answers but 'tit' was consistent.

Results: 20 W Allen, U Axelsen, M Blake, L Colgan, J Crowe, K Francis, K Forward, P Garner, S Goodman, D Grainger, K Harper, L Jarman, R Jarman, J Leigh, R McKenzie, A Meek, A Miles, A Millard, D Parsons S Pinder, D Rosendorff, W Ryan, B Siegman, F Simpson, R Taylor, M Veress, R Wimbush.

Answers: 1-Head over heels, 2-Wayne Gretzky, 3-Apartheid era, 4-Coffee mug, 5-Malvern East, 6-Battle of Inchon, 7-The Ronettes, 8-Garibaldi biscuit, 9-Smoke alarm, 10-Took it easy, 11-Think nothing of, 12-Solar keratosis, 13-Snow leopard, 14-Brave New World, 15-Hear hear, 16-Marrakesh Agreement, 17-Dante Alighieri, 18-Chester Nimitz, 19-Big-ticket item, 20-Marriage vow renewal.

Solvers' feedback

- Such a fun puzzle – thanks!. *Sue Pinder*
- I flew through most of this one, but had to do a bit of research to fill in gaps. Thanks for a fun quiz!. *Fraser Simpson*
- Most enjoyable. I took quite a while working on #19. I hope NET-PROFIT ITEM is correct. *Len Colgan*
- Thanks for the challenge presented by this month's quiz. *Kathryn Forward*
- Thank you for this most enjoyable quiz. *David Grainger*
- My grandchildren (8 and 10) enjoyed helping find the birds. *Julie Leigh*
- A most enjoyable quiz! I've been playing a bit of Wingspan recently, so birds were on my mind. *Drew Meek*
- Thanks Andrew for a Quiz requiring lots of thinking. *Roy Taylor*
- I was enjoying this, with minimal searching until I got to 11! *Pat Garner*
- Many thanks for this challenging quiz. Ironically, I found hardest No 11 which was neither easy nor routine for me. *Scott Goodman*
- Thanks Andrew, that was an interesting quiz. I imagine some of the clues took a bit of finding. *Betty Siegman*
- That was a lot of fun. Took a while to find some of the full answers even though intuitively I knew what bird it was. *Ulla Axelsen*
- The hardest quiz in ages. Took me ages and needed quite a bit of research. Great! *Ann Millard*
- Your Nesting quiz was a twitcher's delight, but some of the answers were more elusive than rare birds. Ice hockey? WTO? Korean War? Way outside my home range! *Kath Harper*

May 6 2025 Cryptic by Robespierre (Ian McKenzie)
Entries received: 66; Correct: 45; Success rate: 68%.
Prizewinner: Kath Harper. Congratulations!
Compiler's observations

EXONYMS brought undone a hefty 14 solvers, who proffered instead EPONYMS or EUONYMS. Neither of these alternatives, however, fits the definition or wordplay. [As an aside, I can understand the logic of a language deploying an exonym in circumstances where the foreign name is difficult to pronounce or spell eg English substitutes Warsaw for *Warszawa*. But would it be so difficult for English-speakers to cope with such toponyms as *Napoli, Roma, Torino, Milano, Firenze*, etc?]
Apart from 3 one-off typos, the only other error was made by two solvers who perplexingly wrote HEAT HEAT for DEAD HEAT in conjunction with the first HEAT producing the non-word SITESTEPS (cf. SIDESTEPS)! Savours of inadequate proof-reading before hitting the Submit button.

Explanations – Across: 1 rev. anag., **6** (defectiv)E, in FACT, **9** OPEN SEAsOn, **10** IN MATES, **11** MED, AID rev., **12** (es)CO(rt), A, LACE <> F, **14** dd, **15** dd, **18** EL, DER, BY <ERR>, **20** LAVAtory, **23** ST, RAW, MAN, **24** GNOME <> E, **26** REP, LACE, **27** (MONEY)* <> X, (busines)S, **28** PLEAS(e), **29** dd. **Down: 1** (UNCLE DOINg)*, **2** dd, **3** ref. to box/plane tree, **5** TAILOR [nursery rhyme ref.], BIRD, **6** FA, MI, RAIL rev., **7** hidden rev., **8** dd, **13** SERENA, RED rev, Serving, **16** (SET)* <> RAVERS, **17** CROWS <> BAR, **19** spoonerism (pert, dye), **21** ANOYNE <> D, **22** VEal, TOES, **23** dd, **25,4** DEAD, HEAT.

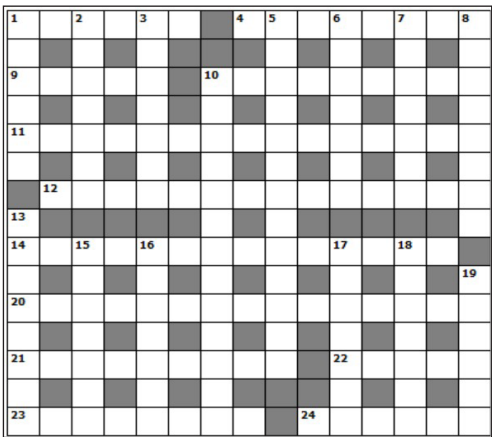
Solvers' Feedback

- Some clever subtleties easily overlooked. Favourites include CLEAN SHOT, FACET and CROWBARS. *Len Colgan*
- Favourites CLEAN SHOT; NESTED; FACET; ELDERBERRY. "Back" used three times as a reversal indicator...["brought back" & "back" each used once as reversal indicator; "back" also used once in hidden-word fodder. Robespierre] *The Void*
- Plenty of interesting clues in this puzzle. *Ian Thompson*
- So many excellent clues in slot 6! *Sue Pinder*
- Enjoyably challenging clues. *Roy Taylor*
- I enjoyed the Spoonerism *Nea Storey*
- I liked INMATES; but LAVA was my COTM because it gave me a good laugh. *Betty Siegman*
- Be very happy to get a dot for this one! *Richard Skinner*
- Took a while to get started with this one. Thinking of 'Federer' rather than 'SERENADERS' in 13d didn't help. *Ulla Axelsen*
- EXONYM is a very interesting word completely unknown to me. Leads one down many rabbit holes! *Robyn Wimbush*
- Quite a challenge! *Maureen Blake*
- A fun puzzle and some interesting words. EXONYMS was new for me! *Ann Millard*
- Found a new meaning for gnome in the GENOME clue - I will look at a major charity event at Canberra's Floriade in a different light this year. *Alan Dyer*



Blank grid for June slot 7

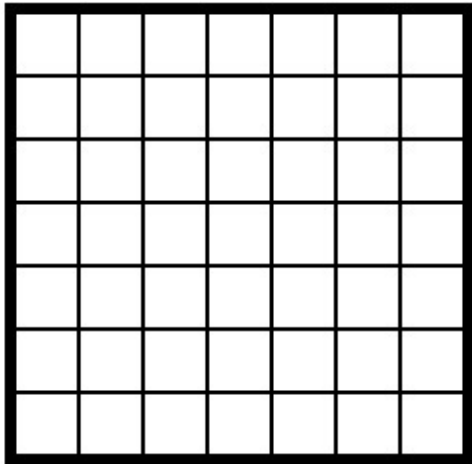
Name:.....



FRAZ WORD SQUARE June 1

(Solution on p 16)
Identical words read across and down in this square. Clues are not listed in order.

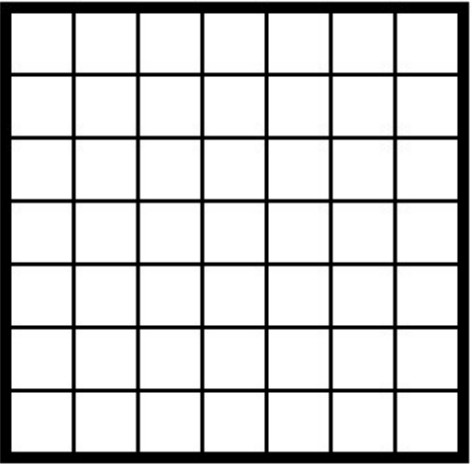
- Beneficiary, way out inside shelter
- Hey now! Main catch is pronounced (2 wds.)
- Neolith ruined direct link (2 wds.)
- Outside large church, insect swarm bursts forth
- Roosevelt ultimately became thin, as a choice
- Sounds like I complete part of a mask
- Type of bread found in music hall ahead



FRAZ WORD SQUARE June 2

(Solution on p 16)
Identical words read across and down in this square. Clues are not listed in order.

- English cathedral city understands what follows Champs?
- Feel terrible going after pub serving duck
- I spelt poorly before beginning to edit letter
- Leave hair infestation, once head is shaved
- Popular, like early childhood
- Some Tibetan linens, a vacation souvenir? (2 wds.)
- Streets filled with competent horse barns



May 7-2025 Cryptic by Nigrum Cattus (Ray Gooderick)
Entries received 76; Correct 39; Success rate 57%.
Prizewinner: Tony Dobe. Congratulations!

Adjudicator's observations

A puzzle replete with biblical characters that seems to have been enjoyed by all who tackled it. Two clues led to significant loss of dots. ZECHARIAH: Wikipedia tells us that 'Zachariah means "Yahweh remembers", derived from the words "zakar" (to remember) and "Yah" (one of the names of God)'. Despite the familiar modern name, normally shortened to Zack, all Google results say that the name "Zachariah" is associated with the prophet in the Old Testament, Zechariah. In the clue, "book" is relevant, referring to the Old Testament Book of Zechariah, and in the word play "imitation almost" leads to ECHO. The other big loser was "Ninevah" and other variant misspellings of NINEVEH. Otherwise, the usual crop of typos, which in this case may have tested spell-checkers. One solution offered of DOSES for 24-down may seem to be associated with doctors and tablets, but in this case the doctors were MOS and the one taking the tablets was MOSES.

Explanations Across: 1 ZE(P/H/AN/I)AH, 6 J(ON)AH, 9 CARTOON*, 10 SERBIANS*(-R), 11 Hidden, 12 (SALVO+GUY)*, 15 (F(-F)AIR+ISLES)*, 16 THERES*, 19 H+A+G+GAI, 21 (US+LOSE+BY)*, 25 oNcEtHeIMsIAtHed, 26 t(RUTH), 28 (AS+IM+HIS)*, 30 (LOHENGRIINS-HRN)*, 31 SA(SS)Y, 32 (RADAR+ON+SO)*. **Down:** 1 Z(ECH(o)+p(ARIAH), 2 P(e)ARL/OUR, 3 Hidden, 4 IR(O+QUO)IS, 5 H(Y+S+S)OP, 6 DD, 7 NINE/V/EH<, 8 He OuStEd An, 13 LE(SSS)O, 14 PARES<+H, 17 HUGEDRONE*, 18 C+LEANS+ER, 20 EMPHA(SISE+NEG)<OTIATIONS, 22 (RE+GNU+OY)<, 23 AM(RIT)A, 24 MOS+ES, 27 DD, 29 Homophone.

Solvers' Feedback

- Favourites ESTHER and GENESIS. *The Void*
- Lot of old dudes with cool names! *Roy Taylor*
- A plethora of Biblical references *Nea Storey*
- I hope Sunday School has paid off for this one. *Betty Siegman*
- Well' the answers passed the spellcheck but it'll be a miracle if they are all actually correct! *Richard Skinner*
- Thank goodness for the internet. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Good clues. My biblical knowledge was sorely tested! *Anne Simons*
- Took me awhile to work out the theme' great puzzle... Bless you Nigrum Cattus *Sally Shipway*
- Wow...no less than 12 books of the Bible' and ! Counted 5 other biblical references! I really enjoyed this. Thank you. *Maureen Blake*
- Some unusual words requiring looking into the obvious reference. *Ann Millard*
- I should have foreseen that this main theme would be initially difficult! *Alan Dyer*
- A lovely trip into the past bringing back memories of AH at SU in 1957! Almost as far back ... *Robyn Wimbush*
- An entire symposium of prophets. *Kath Harper*
- A fun puzzle' I like the biblical theme. *Michael Veress*
- The theme was helpful. I had not heard of sloe berries until recently when I attended the Celtic Festival in Glen Innes where there were several distilleries exhibiting. Sloe Gin was added to my vocabulary. *Lynn Jarman*
- I enjoyed the biblical theme. Sloe gin was also a great clue. *Jean Evans*

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

May Slot 7 solution

Solution WORD SQUARE June 1

E	R	E	H	E	E	S
R	O	N	S	E	T	E
E	N	I	T	O	H	
H	V	L	V	H	C	
E	E	T	V	G	E	T
E	T	O	H	E	E	E
S	H	E	C	L	E	B

Solution WORD SQUARE June 2

S	E	E	S	A	T	E
E	C	N	E	C	I	L
E	N	I	N	V	A	T
S	E	L	B	A	T	S
Y	C	N	A	F	N	I
L	I	A	T	N	I	P
E	L	E	S	I	P	E

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

Explanations for clues in May 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 Bogeyman. Down: 1 (FARE INCREASE - nice)*, 2 anag, 6 AX + LE, 7 hidden, 8 anag, 9 hidden, 16 PUBLIC + ANS, 18 anag, 20 ORnATE, 21 homoph "car key", 23 ER + R, 25 hidden/central, 27 cd, 28 anag, 29 MY + O + SIN, 30 C + LIMBS, 32 The + RIFT, 34 homoph "nose", 35 A + LES, 36 heads, 37 inTACT.

Slot 2 T-boy. Across: 1 IN + CONS + PI (CU) OUS, 8 hw<, 9 CLOSE + D + BOOK, 10 dd, 11 GAg + SLIGHT, 12 STAG + ENAME(L), 14 F + AIR, 15 tRIO + T, 16 ANNE+OPIUM*, 20 SNOW + FALL, 21 dd, 23 homoph "sawed aunts", 24 sEVER, 25 CIDER/HAS/ACIDS*.

Down: 1 IMP/R/IN/T, 2 dd, 3 NU(CLEO)N, 4 dd, 5 cd, 6 BOB* + GAIL* + TO, 7 S + MOTHER, 13 G + LOW + WORMS, 15 REN(EWE)D, 17 UNCLE + ARab, 18 wILLingNESS, 19 DRAB< + nICe, 22 homoph "bred".

Slot 3 Jesso. Across: 1 WOODEN/S*, 5 A/NSW/E/R/D, 9 C/U/TIE, 10 MA(MULE*)KES, 11 HAM/B/LET/ON/IAN, 14 SISTERS*, 15 DIE/TIN/G, 16 S/PA, 17 TEA/VINE*, 19 MUG/W/UMP, 21 BOOZE/RULES/AT*, 25 T(L/LIE/N)OME<, 26 IM(p)/A/GO, 27 EL(APSE)S, 28 R(LIGHT*)Y. **Down:** 1 CHANCESAIR*, 2 OP/TIM/IS/TIC, 3 NEED(LES), 4 SET/ASIDE/M, 5 AMEND*, 6 SULLA/GE, 7 b(EL)t/KS, 8 S/ASH, 12 Homophome, 13 GOOGLYTYPE*, 15 (A + MB) in DUSTER, 18 EM(BALM)S, 20 GREY/IN/G, 22 BOYS(E)*, 23 FATE/FETE, 24 Hidden.

Slot 4 KA A anonym(a), B bolt+hole, C anag, D E e(name)l, F health food = fruit, G gi+anag, H I hid, I I/S(O)BAR, J anag, K ko+ok+ie, L M zoons=animals, N word play, O O P prat(i)es, Q qua(i)nt, R re(a+son)ed, S st(old+I+i)y, T te(stin)gs, U uk+a+ses, V v+o+lute, W dd, X texan(anag) around hat(=stetson), Y yea+sty, Z (embla)zoning.

Slot 5 Katydid. Across: 8 inits, 9 hidden, 10 DIVA<, 11 RA(VIN)G, 12 &lit, 13 or + hom "Gandhi", 15 SITU+PS, 17 &lit, 19 ST(e->AU)NCH, 22 IN(S)ANE, 24 DECK+HAND, 26 CD+anag, 28 S+INGLE, 30 NUTS<, 31 DD, 32 (f)ETCH. **Down:** 1 DD, 2 VI+VI+PARA, 3 RAW DOG<, 4 "said debt", 5 anag, 6 WAL+NUT, 7 sPINet, 14 hom "rue" + EN, 16 P+ECA<+N, 18 vIDEOGRAM, 20 UN+HINGED, 21 anag, 23 A+L+MOND, 25 anag, 27 (I)OATH, 29 LOCOmotive.

You may have heard this before...

- What do you give the Pharaoh who has everything? A gift cartouche.
- A clown held the door open for me. What a nice jester!
- They say that no two people see colour in exactly the same way, so really, colour is just a pigment of your imagination.
- Researchers for the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority found over 200 dead crows near greater Boston recently, and there was concern that they may have died from Avian Flu. A Bird Pathologist examined the remains of all the crows, and, to everyone's relief, con-firmed the problem was definitely NOT Avian Flu. The cause of death appeared to be vehic-ular impacts. However, during the detailed analysis it was noted that varying colors of paints appeared on the bird's beaks and claws. By analyzing these paint residues it was determined that 98% of the crows had been killed by impact with trucks, while only 2% were killed by an impact with a car.
- MTA then hired an Ornithological Behaviorist to determine if there was a cause for the dis-proportionate percentages of truck kills versus car kills. He very quickly concluded the cause: When crows eat road kill, they always have a look-out crow in a nearby tree to warn of impending danger.
- They discovered that while all the lookout crows could shout "Cah", not a single one could shout "Truck."
- My friend just installed ethernet in his home in Sydney. I can't wait to visit the LAN down under.
- My wife and I sometimes disagree about whether to add eggs to cream. Custardy disputes are always rough.
- Did you hear about the guy who jumped off a Paris bridge? He was in Seine.
- I was sitting in a coffee shop, and "Bolero" came on. Around 8 minutes later, everything started to un-Ravel.

M	E	M	B	E	R
	N	E	W	S	

Clue-writing Competition: Flowerman (Ian Thompson) has had few entries so far for the May competition.

Just to remind you, the challenge is to write a clue for **TRADESCANTIA (12)**. Ian's contact details are:

email irt_botanist@hotmail.com or post to 12 Olive Street Malvern East VIC 3145. **Entries close Friday 13 June.** Some background, and maybe inspiration, may be gleaned from the interesting Wikipedia article on John Tradescant, the Elizabethan (ER I) gardner [here](#).

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.

June 1: Bogeyman (Ian Williams)

- Favourite THRIFT *The Void*
- My favourite clues were those for KHAKI and CLIMBS. *Brian Tickle*
- A pleasant and gentle start to this month's solving. *Kathryn Forward*
- Nice start for the month, liked CLIMBS. *Joan Smith*
- Half and half is always interesting. *Jean Evans*
- Having so many words meant lots of squares were checked. *Nea Storey*
- Great warm up with all those 4 letter words! Liked the clue linking two of our executive members. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Great CLIMBS clue! *Maureen Blake*
- I really liked the centipede with its hundred limbs! *Tony Dobe*
- A good puzzle to start with, and CLIMBS was clever. *Kathy Horadam*
- A challenging Slot 1 with so many 4-letter answers. *Lynn Jarman*
- Liked the clue for CLIMBS. *Ron Jarman*

June 2: T-boy (Toby McLeay)

- Nice puzzle. Clues have consistently good surface. Particularly liked CHEESE and PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCH. *Ian McKenzie*
- There were several clues in this crossword that were contenders for clue of the month. Shame I had already submitted one. *Julie Leigh*
- I really enjoyed the double definition clues for PICKLE and CHEEK. *Brian Tickle*
- Favourite PNEUMONIA *The Void*
- Loved PLOUGHMANS LUNCH and STAGE NAME clues. *Jean Evans*
- Some very clever clues. I liked the PLOUGHMANS LUNCH theme. *Julie Crowe*
- I had a laugh at GA = Half-demented in 11ac. Thanks T-boy. *Betty Siegman*
- I thought clue to SWORD DANCE was a little unfair as there are two ways of pronouncing 'dance'. Liked PLOUGHMANS LUNCH with all its ingredients. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Nice one, T-boy. I particularly liked 4dn. *Kathy Horadam*
- I liked the clue for ILLNESS *Robyn McKenzie*
- It's refreshing to have different pointers in the clues. *Lynn Jarman*
- A good start to the month. Thanks T-boy. *Robyn Wimbush*

June 3: Jesso (Noel Jessop)

- MUGWUMP has excellent surface. *Ian McKenzie*
- This brought back memories. I solved my first Jesso puzzle 35 years ago. Favourite clue was the one for MUGWUMP. *Brian Tickle*
- Favourite ABSOLUTE ZERO. *The Void*
- Hambletonian and mugwumps were my favourite clues. *Jean Evans*
- I see mugwump also means "a person of great importance, or one who thinks himself to be so" - Jesso could not have foreseen that it rhymes with Trump! *Nea Storey*
- Jesso is always an enjoyable solve. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Am not a racing fan so took me a while to discover Hambletonian! what a great name for a horse! *Maureen Blake*
- I couldn't parse 27ac - ELS? [a wing giving a building the shape of the letter L (*Chambers*)

- Ed]. HAMBLETONIAN was new to me, thanks Jesso. *Kathy Horadam*

- What a lovely word mugwump is! *Robyn McKenzie*
- Good to have a varied set of pointers in the clues and HAMBLETONIAN must almost be a record for number of pointers. *Lynn Jarman*

June 4: KA (Karl Audrins)

- A tougher Slot 4 than usual with solutions having one of only 3-word lengths. Plus, the reference to Vauxhall Wyvern is a bit obscure. TASTINGS: I don't see how TAGS equates to "sheep" (cf. tufts of sheep's wool). INSIGNIA is nicely hidden. *Ian McKenzie*
- Thanks for a challenging AJ, KA. This was a much tougher grid than usual. *Keith Gamble*
- Took a while to reconcile (embla)ZONING, LOL. *Len Colgan*
- It made it much tougher as there were only three different word lengths. We had to work out the 7 letter ones first! *Julie Leigh*
- The grid was not very user-friendly but many of the clues were. My favourites were the two O clues. *Brian Tickle*
- Some tricky clues, some unusual words and a difficult format but a good challenge! Thanks, Karl. *Ann Millard*
- Favourite CERTAIN. Can't parse a few, so fingers crossed. You have "[DEF] for [WORDPLAY]" several times, which is the wrong way round. "From" would be preferred in that sequence. *The Void*
- A few tricky clues. Placement surprisingly easy, starting with 7 letter words. I remember the old Wyvern cars. *Roy Taylor*
- Great extra challenge this month with only three different word lengths. *Ken Watt*
- Didn't like this grid! *Nea Storey*
- Not at all happy about the X word, should be XANTHATE? Reasened doesn't make sense, what am I missing here? *Betty Siegman*
- That was difficult. I can't remember ever having to do trial and error to find the right fit. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Did not like this grid for an AJ. *Anne Simons*
- Madzoons, kinkier - both a bit crazy. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Lots of fun, KA; I went down some rabbit holes for D. MADZOONS is new, and the clues for T and Z were great. *Kathy Horadam*
- Took a long time to put this one together. If it's PRETZEL for P I can't work out why. Liked OODLES *Toby McLeay*
- I chuckled over 'wyverns' which is the name of the prep school for a Stanmore NSW-based non-government school - 'school of monsters' eh? Spellcheck was unhappy with several answers. *Lynn Jarman*
- Always a good challenge, oodles of fun, my Vauxhall was a Velox rather than a WYVERN. *Ken Francis*
- Thankyou for an interesting puzzle as usual. MADZOONS and VOLUTE were weird words. *Jean Evans*
- This grid made the AJ so much harder!! I still don't know whether I have it correct. *Hilary Cromer*

Feedback on June 5: Katydid (Kathy Horadam) is on page 15

Feedback on May slot 5 Katydid continued from page 14

- A clever puzzle that made considerable demands on one's nut. I especially enjoyed TOMMY GUN, including the etymological education. *Ian McKenzie*
- I really liked SIT UPS. *Len Colgan*
- Favourite RAVING. Is GANDIE meant to sound like grandee? Not for me [*perhaps suggests an Indian statesman? Ed*]. *The Void*
- Wonderfully themed. *Brian Symons*
- Nicely themed puzzle! *Kathryn Forward*
- Found this hard going until I cracked the theme. Laughed out loud when I worked out TOMMYGUN so it got COTM from me. *Toby McLeay*
- Bring Quietly = Fetch without F! Nuts! Or COTM. *Roy Taylor*
- I didn't get the wordplay in IDEOGRAM. Otherwise a clever nutty theme. *David Bennett*
- This puzzle was driving me 'nutty'! *Allan Storti*
- Certainly nutty in more ways than one. Thanks Katydid. *Betty Siegman*
- Clearly, not everything nutty is a nut! *Richard Skinner*
- Loved the theme. Nuts, in all guises! *Julie Crowe*
- Nearly went nuts solving this puzzle. Great fun though, challenging. *Ulla Axelsen*
- My favourite clue was the one for ORGANDIE. *Brian Tickle*
- I enjoyed the nutty theme. A lot of the solutions fitted even if it wasn't spelled out in the clue. *Tony Dobebe*
- Loved all the nutty clues! *Maureen Blake*
- I was floundering a bit for a while. Two nuts were hard to handle. Thanks Kathy, I really enjoyed it. *Robyn Wimbush*
- A bit nutty! *Ann Millard*
- Crazy theme! *Robyn McKenzie*
- I am sure this has already been said: this puzzle what absolutely NUTS! *Alan Dyer*
- A truly nutty effort! *Kath Harper*
- I enjoyed solving the 'themes'. *Lynn Jarman*
- Thanks Katydid for your serving of mixed nuts! *Ron Jarman*
- Lots of nutty clues!! Good fun. WALNUT was interesting. *Jean Evans*

Feedback on May 6 2025 Cryptic by Robespierre continued from page 11

- I am happy with my answers but not sure how the clue fits. *Lynn Jarman*
- Some great clues. Especially enjoyed ANODYNE; EXONYMS and STRAWMAN, *Jean Evans*

You may have heard this before...as well...

- Why don't chemists like puns? All the best ones argon.
- How can you tell when a clock is hungry? It goes back four seconds.
- What did the buffalo say to his son who was leaving for college? Bison.
- Did you hear about the woman who put snakes in her hair to cure migraines? Yeah, it's oddly Medusinal.
- What do you call a book on Voyeurism? a Peeping Tome.

- Did you hear the guy making fake \$1 coins? They arrested him in his apartment.
- My very favorite dishes are all cooked with petroleum byproducts. I guess you could say I have refined taste.
- My local Renaissance Festival is casting Knights tomorrow at 4pm. Be there or be Squire.
- Why did the owner of a gentlemanly goose move to North Korea? He heard it was a great place for his propaganda.
- My friend David just had his ID stolen. We just call him Dav now.
- Did you hear about the machine that electronically castrates bulls? Yeah, these days, nobody buys a farm without power steering.
- Fiction always talks about the drama and mystery surrounding a departed relative's will. But most of the time, it's a dead giveaway.
- What do you call it when a cat wins first place at a dog show? A cat-has-trophy!
- Did you hear about the man who left his fortune to the San Andreas nature preserve? He was generous to a fault.
- I need to stop hanging around with pessimistic horses. Neigh-sayers never add anything to the conversation.
- Did you hear about the oil spill relief workers who cleaned 15 dolphins with a single box of borax? Turns out that, just like it says on the box, it's a great multi-porpoise cleanser.
- Two amphibians were croaking at each other outside my window. It was Toadally ribbeting!
- "Doctor, help! I'm shrinking!" "Take this and you'll be back to normal in a few weeks. Until then, you'll just have to be a little patient."
- Did you hear about the casino restaurant that feeds its cows cannabis? Yeah, some gamblers prefer high steaks.
- What'd the conductor say when she found her missing music? SCORE!
- Did you hear about the school that voted to change their mascot? It was an agricultural area, but they wanted to be progressive and offer a female mascot. So, they had three choices, a female sheep, a female goat, and a female deer.
- After a long campaign, a series of debates, and a day of students voting yes or no on each, the principal stood before his students and announced that, in a unanimous vote, the new school mascot would be a female sheep. It seems that even after all the campaigning, debate, and division, the student body only had Ayes for Ewe.
- How does Satan like his pasta? Al Dante.
- Did you know that dropping an ant into a glass of water will tell you its gender? If it sinks, girl ant. If it floats, boy ant.
- Why don't mathematicians use knives to eat prime rib? They know it can't be divided!
- Why do bulls make terrible salesmen? They charge too much.
- To the guy who invented Zero: Thanks for nothing!
- Where did the king keep his armies? In his sleeves.
- Did you hear about the cannibal social? Yeah, they really like to meat new people.
- A man walks into a bar with a slab of asphalt under his arm, and says: "A beer please, and one for the road."

JUNE SLOT 2

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A 15x15 grid of squares, each either gray or white. The pattern is complex and non-repeating, with gray squares scattered throughout the grid. The grid is composed of 15 rows and 15 columns, totaling 225 squares.

[illegible]

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