



"Who overcomes by force hath overcome but half his foe." John Milton 1608-1674, *Paradise Lost*, bk. I, l. 648. .

LAST MONTH'S RESULTS

Puzzle No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Compiler	Bogeyman	REW	NanaKat	Valkyrie	Betelgeuse	Crow-boy	Flowerman
Entries received	78	87	81	80	72	71	28
Correct Entries	70	83	68	59	56	71	24
Success (%)	89.7	95.4	84	73.7	77.8	100!	85.7
Prize-winners	Sue Pinder	Pat Garner	Michael Fitzgerald	Richard Skinner	Jill Lankshear	David Grainger	Danuta Rosendorff



Slots 1 to 5 all correct 36 members.
Winner: Cam Graves
Winner of Quiz 2062-5: Julie Leigh
Congratulations to all our winners!



FROM THE ADJUDICATOR

It has been just over a year since I have had the pleasure sat in the adjudicator's chair. I have been multi-tasking – adjudicating whilst also listening to 'Rob Words' and 'Words Unravelled' on You Tube. Only two snail-mail entries, this is consistent with previous adjudications.

As noted in my comments below, I did see a few reasonable alternatives for some of the answers, but not quite close enough in either definition or response to the wordplay to allow through for the dots.

Slot 1: ITES for ITAS, BEEN for BEAN, and PICK for PECK twice each. Wikipedia (but not the Chambers) also uses ITE and ITA for the palm, but that does not fit with the surface reading of 33dn (BEAN). Peter picked a PECK of pickled peppers, the 'Protestant Episcopal' being the big hint to the spelling. Also, what appears to be two simple misspellings: TACH for a TICH and TUNGSTON for TUNGSTEN.

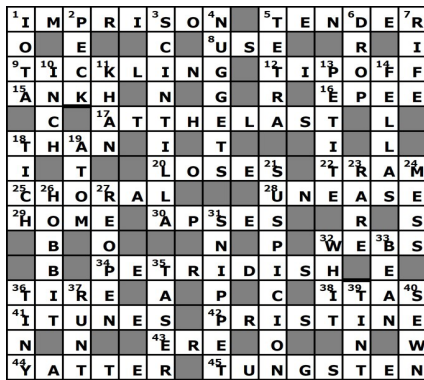
Slot 2: A series of one-off errors, a couple related to not aligning the tense of the answer with the tense of the clue (DEBASER instead of DEBASES). AGRONYM does not fit the clue, and FOULSCAP/ENUOGH would have been caught by a spell checker. INDIE suffered twice – once with an INDYE (could be a transcription error) and once with an answer (ISTLE, derived from *wh-istle*?) that did not relate to the clue but may have been influenced by a wrong across answer.

Slot 3: Hans Christian may have been miffed, as his name (ANDERSEN) was replaced with ANDERSON 9 times. Beth, Matthew, Laurie and Clarence (amongst others) may feel a little honoured, but they did not match the wordplay! SAN DIEGO got mentioned three times, but IAGO was the relevant villain and only one word was indicated. A FRESH IDEA leading to JAUNDICED occurred twice – neither fit the word play, with IRIS being a well-known synonym for 'flag' (based on *Middle English*) leading to the eventual answer.

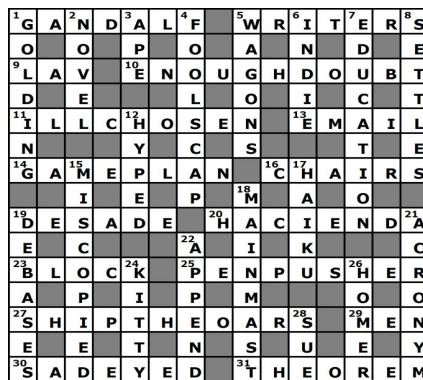
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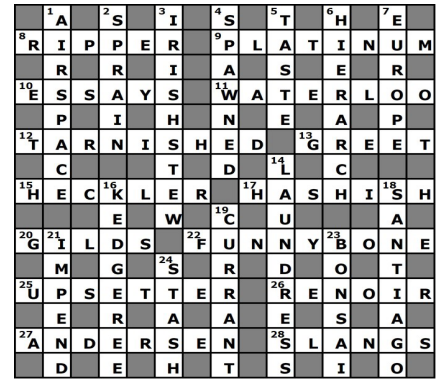
May Slot 1



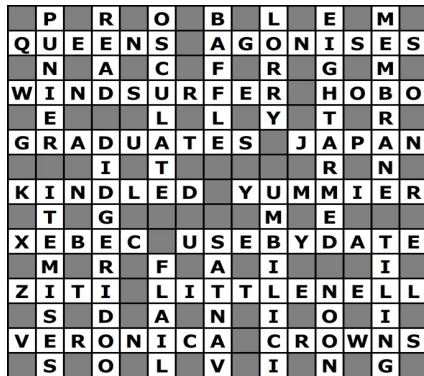
Slot 2



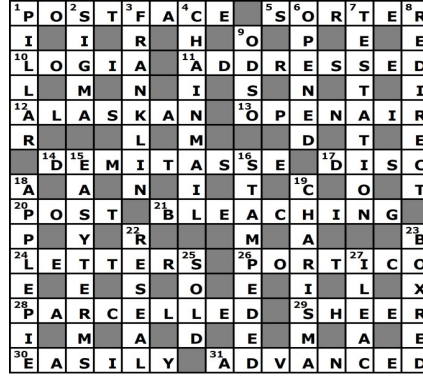
Slot 3



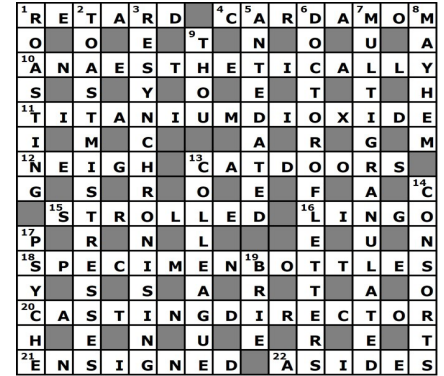
Slot 4



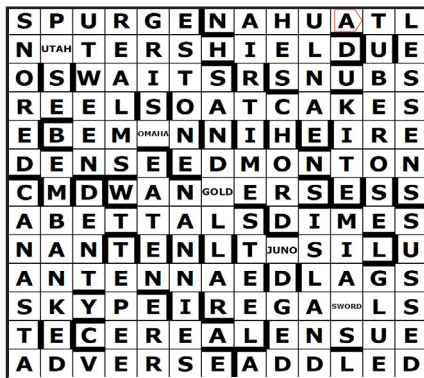
Slot 5



Slot 6



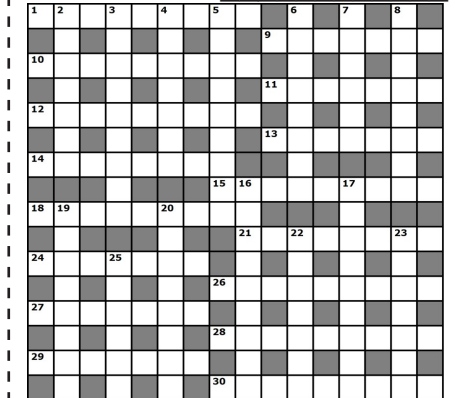
Slot 7



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June 7 Name



From the Adjudicator: continued from page 1

Slot 4: 11 distinct wrong entries in Slot 4 with GRADUATED/GRADUATER (the tense in the clue indicates GRADUATES) and KINDRED/KIDDIES (the surface reading of the wordplay indicates KINDLED is derived from KINDRED) being the main offenders.

Slot 5: I think this Slot *corresponded* with its position this month! PORTER and ROUTER did not fit the homophone 'sought of' indicated for SORTER (the most problematic clue). PILLAR BOX RED is also known as LETTER BOX RED, but I can also understand where POSTAL comes from – this does not align with the across answer. There was another 'tense' error, with an OPENER instead of OPENED. POSTFACE (in the Chambers) fits the wordplay, but POSTFACT (not in Chambers) does not meet the definition or wordplay.

Slot 6: What can I say? I mean it literally – a Slot with no recorded errors! Well done Crow-boy and the 71 solvers.

Slot 7: Some one-off errors, and certainly less than I thought might occur for such a complex and difficult puzzle. The clashes and form of the grid caused some issues (GRIPE for GRISHAM, SEMEN for BEMOAN, TJSIL for TONSIL, HANGER from WANGLERS). Getting SNUBS relied on identifying SUN ('about' – reversed), so SNOBS didn't match either the wordplay or definition. ULNAS was presented for ULNAE – ULNAS is an acceptable match for the definition (according to the Collins, but not Chambers or Macquarie) but does not match the wordplay – a hidden reversal.

COTM: 41 nominations for COTM were spread across all of the Slots: An honourable mention to the runners-up, the REW crew for ACRONYM in their first puzzle for the Club. The clear winner, however, with ten percent of the votes was USE-BY-DATE [*I'm off after this!*] in slot 4. Congratulations to Valkyrie.

Alan Dyer

MEMBERS' RESULTS FOR May 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.	*	*				*	*	Morris B.	*	*					
Allen W.	*	*	*	*	*	*		Goodman S.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Parsons D.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Anderson C.	*	*	*	*	*	*		Grainger D.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Patterson A.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Axelsen U.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Graves C.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Peach S.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Barbour J.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Hagan R.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Pinder S.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Barnes J.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Harper K.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Randall J.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Batum C.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Hearn R.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Rosendorff D.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Bennett D.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Hocking A.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Roulston S.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Bennett Moses L.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Horadam K.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Ryan W.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Bettles K.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Howat S.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Sanson G.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Blake M.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Jarman L.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Shield A.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Carroll L.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Jarman R.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Siegmán B.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Cockburn M.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Jones G.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Simons A.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Colgan L.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Kennedy L.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Simpson F.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Coote P.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Kennedy M.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Skinner R.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Copland F.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Lankshear J.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Smith J.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Cornish W.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Leigh J.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Steinberger M.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Cromer H.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Madden J.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Storti A.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Crowe J.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Martin A.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Symons B.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Dasgupta K.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Matthews S.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Taylor R.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Davis K.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	McClelland C.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Taylor S.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Dobele T.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	McKenzie I.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Thomas C.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Ducker R.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	McKenzie R.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Thompson I.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Dyer A.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	McLean J.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Umean W.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Evans J.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	McLeay T.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Vnuk M.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Fitzgerald M.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Meek D.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Wilcox C.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Flinkenberg C.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Miles A.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Williams K.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Forward K.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Millard A.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Wimbush R.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Francis K.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Milton R.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Woolston M.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Gamble K.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Moline R.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Yeatman R.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

Explanations for clues in May slots 1 to 7: Note: cd = cryptic definition; dd = double definition; rev or < = reversal; homophones shown 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. Across: 5 dd, 8 U+heads, 9 L in TICKING, 12 cd, 16 E+PE+E, 20 SO< in LES, 25 CH+ORAL, 36 TI+RE, 41 anag, 42 anag. **Down:** 1 IO+TA, 2 PE+CK, 3 anag, 4 UGG in NETS, 5 dd, 6 DR+OP, 7 RIF(f<>E), 10 IN+CH, 11 anag, 13 PET+I+TE, 14 FELL+A...S, 18 acTion+CH, 19 A+TOM, 23 dd, 27 ROPE*+EN, 31 NIP+P in SET, 32 W+HIT, 33 homoph "been", 35 TA+Series, 36 IT<+NY, 37 RUN+T, 40 N, S, E and W.

Slot 2 REW. Across: 1 G+AND+A+L(i)F(e), 5,23 WRITERS + BLOCK, 9 L+A+V, 10 (BOUND TO HUGE)*, 11 ILL + CHOSEN, 13 (ME<) + AIL, 14 (MAP ANGLE)*, 16 C+HAIRS, 19 hidden, 20 (HAD A NICE)*, 25 PEN + PUSH, 27 (HAS TROPHIES)*, 29 MEN(d), 30 SAD + EYED, 31 THE(ORE)M. **Down:** 1 GOLD+IN+G, 2 NOV + E...+L..., 3 (t) APE, 4 FOOLS + CAP, 5 WAG + ON + S, 6 homoph "(w)indy", 7 (AI TO DUNCE)*, 8 dd, 12 hidden, 15 (POISED MIC)*, 17 homoph "high coo", 18 (MMI + SANTA)*, 19 cd, 21 cd, 22 A + PP + END, 24 dd, 26 dd, 28 SUE(t).

Slot 3 NanaKat. Across: 8 (s...t)RIPPER, 9 PL(IATINo)UM, 10 DD, 11 W(ALTER*)OO, 12 TAR + IN< + SHED, 13 Hidden, 15 HECKLE + R, 17 HAS(HIS)H, 20 Homoph "guilds", 22 FUNNY + BONE, 25 HIDDEN<, 26 RE + NOIR, 27 AND + heads, 28 (seda)N in GLASS*. **Down:** 1 AIRS + PACE, 2 P in SARIN*, 3 IRIS + H + STEW, 4 (PAWN) in DES<, 5 dd, 6 homoph "hire ark", 7 EURO + P...+E..., 14 LA + UNDRRESS, 16 (EDGER) in KEE, 18 SA(i)NT + IAGO, 19 CUR(RAN)T, 21 IMP + END, 23 SNOB< + AI, 24 S(T)ASH.

Slot 4 Valkyrie. Across: 8 QUEENSland, 9 Hidden, 10 WIND+S+(REF+RU)<, 11 H+O+B+O, 12 (DU+A) in GRATES, 14 J+NAPA<, 15 KINDRED replace R with L, 17 YoU+MM+IE+R, 19 X(rEBEI)C, 20 Pun, 24 Z(IT)I, 25 Double, 27 (IRON)* in (CAVE)*, 28 CR+OWN+S. **Down:** 1 p(UN)IER, 2 RE(A)D, 3 OS+CU+LATE, 4 BA(FF)LE, 5 L+sORRY, 6 EIGHT+(ARMED)*, 7 ME+M+homoph "brain", 13 (OUD IS DODGIER - US)*, 16 Hidden, 18 UM...+BI...+LI...+CI..., 21 (STRAVA - R + N)*, 22 TI+LING, 23 FLAIR+...L..., 26 ON< + ON.

Slot 5 Betelgeuse. Across: 1 FACT* in POSE, 5 homoph "sort of", 10 LOG In+A, 11 dd, 12 ALAS + NAKed<, 13 O+PE in (RAIN)*, 14 anag - HRS, 17 DISCover, 20 dd, 21 L in BEACHING, 24 dd, 26 PORT+I+CO, 28 PAR+CELL+swEDen, 29 dd, 30 ASIo in ELY, 31 (VAN+CE) in ADD. soso**Down:** 1,23 dd, 2 IS<+MAG*, 3 FRANK+LING, 4 cd, 6 OP+NEED*, 7 ThE+STATION, 8 RE+DIRECT, 9 heads, 15 anag, 16 STAMP+ED+ED, 18 PP in ALE+ PIE, 19 R in (CHA+IS+MA), 22 hidden, 25 SOLDER, 27 (coELIAC)*.

Slot 6 Crow-boy. Across: 1 TAR in RED, 4 DAM in CAROM, 10 AN + AESTHETIC + ALLY, 11 (I INITIATED MUD)* around OX, 12 homoph "nay", 13 (TODO*) in CARS, 15 SORT* + DELL<, 16 hw, 18 SPECIES around (MEN + BOTTL(e)), 20 STING in CADI + RECTOR, 21 SIGN in NEED*, 22 AS + IDES. **Down:** 1 OAST in RING, 2 TO + A + ST(MIST)RESSES, 3 (NO HENS CRY)* in RISING, 5 (DE(iTs)AD + ETNA)<, 6 rev anag (OF LETTERS)*, 7 (A + LUNAR + GIT + L)< in MUTED, 8 MAY[Gibb] + HEM, 9 wiTHOUT, 13 COL + LEAGUE, 14 (NOT + CROSS)*, 17 hw, 19 BRIEF.

Slot 7 Flowerman. Across: 1 (S + URGE) around P, 5 (U in HAT) in (N AL), 11 ...N + UTTER, 13 SHIED around L, 14 (IT WAS)*, 16 B in (SUN + S)<, 17 RE(b)EL, 18 (SACK O(f) TEA)*, 21 BAN around EMO, 22 (s)IRE, 23 D + (s) ENSE, 26 NOTED* around MON, 29 W + (ANGLES around R), 31 ABS around LATTE<, 33 MEDI(co)S*, 37 NANNY - N(utt)Y, 39 hw<, 41 ANTE around ANNE<, 42 dd, 44 ...S + KY + P(rivat)E, 46 REWARDS with G<>w, 47 homoph "serial", 48 hw<, 49 A D(i)VERSE, 50 D(u)D(e) in DEAL*. **Down:** 1 HERONS< with D replacing H, 2 homoph "fey's", 3 LEISURE + REALMS anag is LAUREL MESSIER, 4 GRI(n) + SHAM, 6 MARI(n)E* around T... I..., 7 HE(n)S, 8 hw<, 9 (SURE TO BE)*, 10 ESSEN in (car)LS(bad), 12 WE in TEN, 13 (h)ESTON*, 15 S + AND + DOLLAR, 19 C + H(ear) + ORD, 20 (s)KITE, 24 (NAKED ME(n) B)*, 25 (h)EAT(h)EN, 27 (CAST around AN) + A, 28 D(eapartments) + E(valuating) + NT, 30 (SEAN around INN)<, 32 S(cale) T(he) + EEL, 34 (IN DALES)* - ...E, 35 (S + WO + AIM)<, 36 S(urgery) + (USED around S), 38 PE in TEE, 40 J + (f)UDGED, 43 GLU(m) + E, 45 hw.

Slot 1

**Half & Half
by
KA**

**\$50
PRIZE**

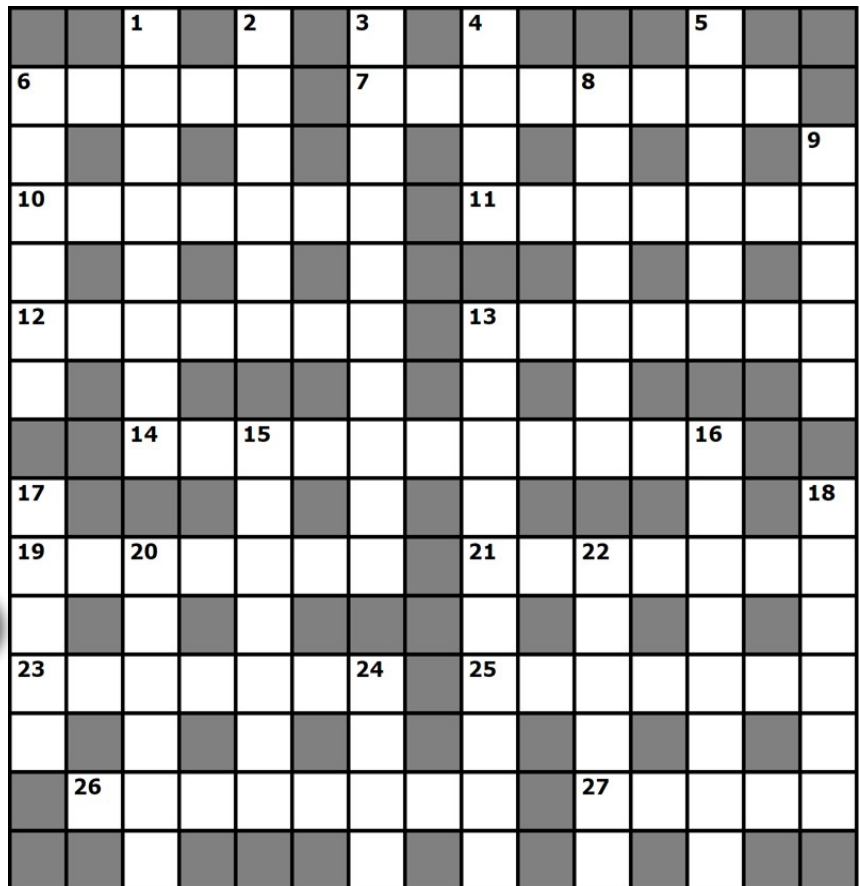
Across clues are cryptic.

Across

- 6 Tie up English comedian (5)
 7 Injured fish is moving quickly (8)
 10 Bird inside returned auction item is local (7)
 11 Lance tangled with very ethical leaders of the district (7)
 12 Engineered a TV coil like a battery? (7)
 13 Transport the French regional cheese (7)
 14 Social event for duke's secret political grouping (6,5)
 19 Party with men at street entrance (7)
 21 It sounds like the boy at the stream has erythema (7)
 23 Captivate roue involved with man (7)
 25 A reprint concerning progeny (7)
 26 Second athlete is out of bed (6-2)
 27 The satchel vendor concealed the axe handle (5)

Down

- 1 Put together (8)
 2 Early British kingdom (6)
 3 A case for relics (10)



- 4 Faithful (4)
 5 Reveal (6)
 6 Incitement of the will (6)
 8 Hard glossy coating (7)
 9 Headwear (5)
 13 Mechanically-prepared written matter (10)
 15 Part of lunar cycle (3,4)
 16 Sane (8)
 17 Glandular organ (5)
 18 Stay firm (6)
 20 Impervious to light (6)
 22 Makes equine noise (6)
 24 Lightly cooked (4)

**SEND
SOLUTIONS
TO:**

For online submission and adjudication, click on the ACCOLADE button on the www.crosswordclub.org home page.
 Entries for slots 1 to 7 should be submitted using ACCOLADE or posted to Scott Goodman PO Box 37, Seaforth, NSW, 2092

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GRIDS
PAGE 17**

Closing mail date is 26 June 2026. ACCOLADE and email entries close at 00.01

Slot 2

Cryptic
by
Lexi
Conner

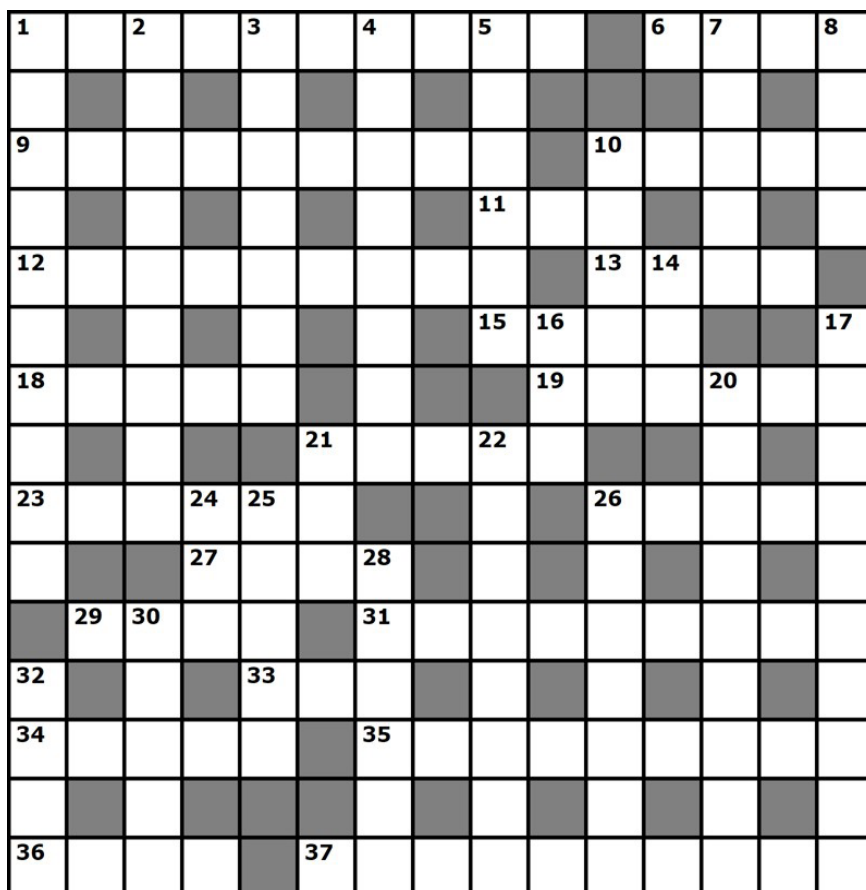


Across

- 1 Gold bar, a source for nuclear reactor fuel (10)
 6 Locks maintained by British Airways (4)
 9 Sly eagles adrift as if keeping young (9)
 10 Doctor gets at 1/3 of rectum to reveal example of 15 (5)
 11 30 abandoned wizard's home unit (3)
 12 Pledge to go after raw fruit (9)
 13 Unconventional role for traditional knowledge (4)
 15 Information giving US lawyer expression of gratitude (4)
 18 Ring back about Central Asian shrub (5)
 19 Expedition requires Indian garment to cover half the face (6)
 21 Successors reported early SA premier (5)
 23 Grandma and relatives produce cotton fabric (6)
 26 Violently emit a discarded bleach solution (5)
 27 Woman egghead associated with genetic code holder (4)
 29 Hindu philosophy practitioner cools off sociology as translated (4)
 31 Rover erred carelessly pursuing aim (9)
 33 Eggs from European country shunned by cast from America (3)
 34 Glory in making top of the line in butter (5)
 35 Led away from band's airships (9)
 36 Never return without right uniform (4)
 37 Representation of tiny blonde author (4,6)

Down

- 1 A fragrance emerges from repeated body language (5-5)
 2 Starting from Launceston, Len carries a boot to Tasmanian lake (9)



- 3 Widespread cocaine distribution (7)
 4 Shy manner grips a stranded person (8)
 5 Singer Starr, heard to be in debt, rendered unconscious (6)
 7 As announced, make amendments to table (5)
 8 Frosty verse? (4)
 10 Engineer dealt in a podcast with a feature of some rivers (5)
 14 A breaking of clod (3)
 16 In NY, bottom of the equine family? (3)
 17 She wrote as Henry about succeeding three English kings (10)
 20 The total work unit is needing a bone specialist (9)
 21 Girl who, with a register, could be a yearly chronicler (3)
 22 Picked for the team again when reviewed (8)
 24 Keeping bits of pine out of a container (3)
 25 Dope finds it out every second (5)
 26 Dad able to renegotiate a poor transaction (3,4)
 28 Stunning left bank on river (6)
 30 Australian 11 generates fresh air! (5)
 32 Look at wheel going excessively in reverse (4)

General feedback for May

- I thought this month's lot of puzzles was of excellent quality: lots of difficult but fair clues. Roy Taylor
- Very pleased to receive the Clue Competition prize... and very happy to send it back into the prize pool! Kathryn Forward
- I'd like to thank the Club for the most welcome but unexpected prize. Mal Cockburn

- I didn't even attempt slot 7! Anne Simons
- Thank you to all compilers for a very enjoyable set of puzzles. Laurence Kennedy
- Thank you for my Slot 3 prize last month. Ron Jarman
- Love the new layout - thanks for all the work. Jean Barbour

Slot 3

Cryptic
by
St Jude



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

Across

- 1 Initially soap combined with muddy surrounds to become frothy (6)
- 4 Councillor assumes allowance left out for spite (8)
- 10 Apprentice journo's typeface refers to old measurement (7)
- 11 Discloses development to liven us (7)
- 12 Incompetent worker that misses primary sun protection (6,3)
- 13 Initially suspect meats are counterfeit (5)
- 14 3rd class? Extraordinary! (3)
- 15 Beat brave with one rough cut (10)
- 18 Arachnid farmer? (10)
- 20 Semi-light soup (3)
- 22 Charlie to go arm in arm to prison (5)
- 23 Bubbly hero gets silver position (9)
- 24 Robert to follow part of rabble (7)
- 25 Bloke near Italy makes bread (7)
- 26 At present, impossible to take in father's son (8)
- 27 Overheard talk of umbrella (6)

Down

- 1 Penitent's fire blanket? (9)
- 2 Weaponless archer is defiant (7)

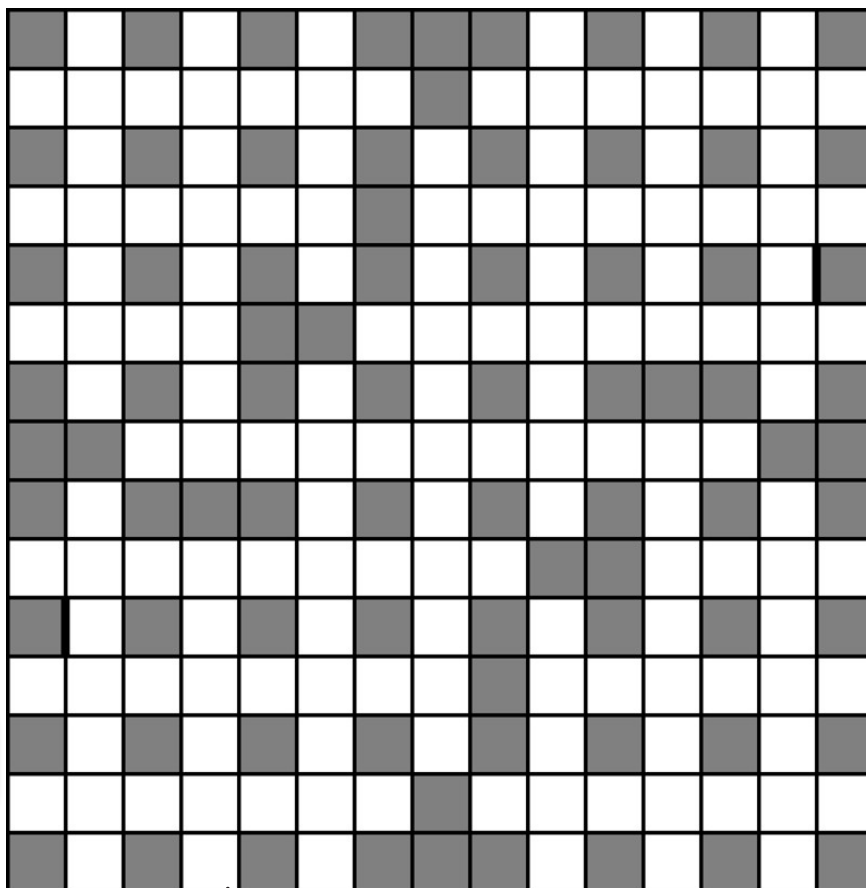
- 3 Irish girlfriend's saying "bird" (6)
- 5 Bar level offset (14)
- 6 Coming in via Nevis transport (8)
- 7 Constructed oak wain on island (7)
- 8 Leaders of youth emphatically support environmentally sustainable agreements (5)
- 9 Aaabcehilllpty is arranged thus (14)
- 16 Mysterious things in erotic sea change (9)
- 17 Sailor collects two sets of cards (8)
- 19 Reign by declaration before surrender to Iris (7)
- 20 Display by attendant worker (7)
- 21 Spatter small puddle (6)
- 22 About to trash shack (5)

Slot 4

AJ
by
Manveru



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



- A** Shortened cryptically (i.e. dat, abb and rev) (11)
B People heading down under for their beliefs? (8)
C Turbulent river east of cape containing type of bend that's more serpentine (7)
D Behave like this to beat lying device (11)
E Swimmer losing cap and going astray (6)
F No zip in incomplete military clothing (7)
G Iceland glacier's western point unexpectedly storing oxygen related to mass extinction (9)
H Religious school sees bad actor getting involved in chaotic raid - on the contrary! (7)
I Take in one million bucks in bitcoin earnings following top tips (6)
J Fitness centre reportedly has bar with bourbon (3,4)
K One knocking off after conclusion of work with unmarried factory worker (6)
L Learner getting the chop in US before writing up musical for producer of movement? (8)
M Large Mediterranean island with bottleneck heading west to find monstrous whale (7)
N It's most orderly to examine a testimony with a series of letters (7)
O Firm backing on horse, oddly called *Earthy Pigment* (5)
P A period of time (year) that's variable (6)
Q Depart from capital city, leaving Ohio behind (4)
R A game of chance for a wheeler-dealer? (8)
S Sign of the whale or rabbit? (5)
T Dog that is tense and happier without lead (7)
U See this doc to spend a penny! (9)
V A type of lens said to be filled with air mixed with fluorine (9)
W She's on the way back with Green Beret's first tour? (3,5)
X Snap snap? (1-3)
Y Sailed to island, bearing north and the tempestuous Dardanelles initially (7)
Z Old bombers destroying English zone lines with power and pressure (9)

Slot 5

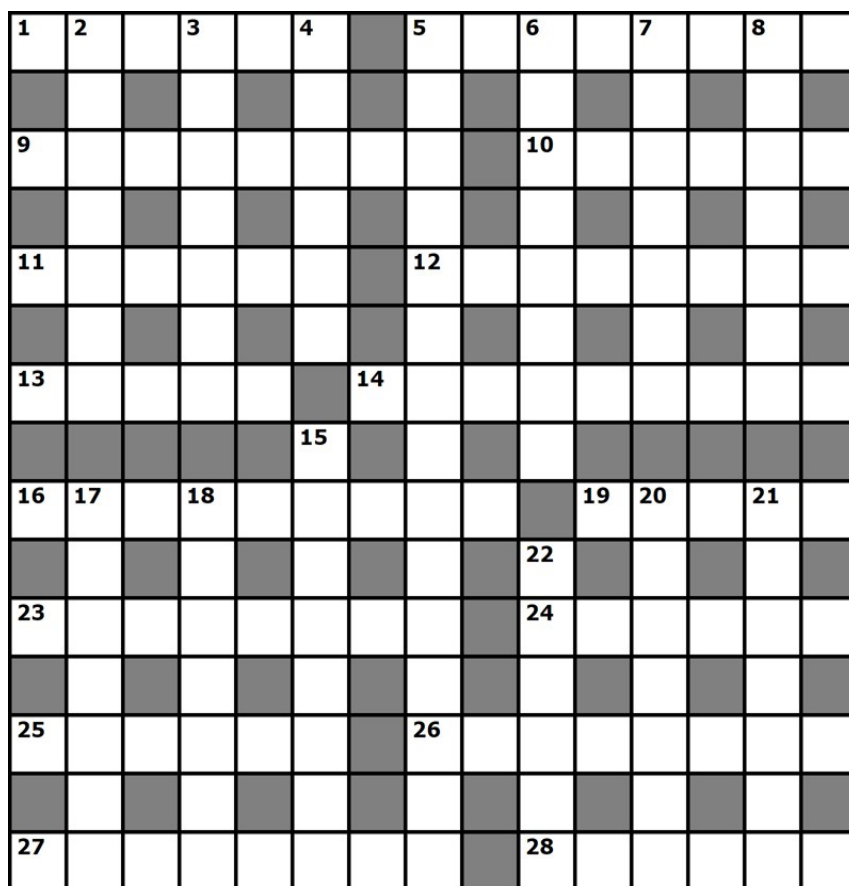
Cryptic
by
Crowsman

Across

- 1 Tests for purity when perhaps small (6)
 5 Scottish flower worn by group of pupils of low social standing (8)
 9 Carpet clean almost pinching lower back (8)
 10 A captain admits massive heart attack (6)
 11 Israel's ancestress brought back small hound (6)
 12 Others (majority) identifying m in $E=mc^2$ (4,4)
 13 Benefit in the way specified (5)
 14 They judge nitwits holding back Diana, perhaps (9)
 16 Rasping sound from front of game bird head (9)
 19 Gull circling near ravine (5)
 23 Model returns, taking action against weaving (8)
 24 Is bold enough, for example, to remove a pair. Smart! (6)
 25 Warrant, seeing that safe! (6)
 26 When Wally is involved in offence, he knocks off (8)
 27 School breaks open spaces in a wall (8)
 28 Unaffected since being posted? OK! (6)

Down

- 2 Trump's almost guaranteed warrant (7)



- 3 Moderate a European mathematical genius on the rise (7)
 4 Garden tool not right close to this Jenny (3-3)
 5 Rings about acute accent, for example, with SOS calls? (8,7)
 6 More up-market vehicle has inside replaced by young lady (8)
 7 Thinks like one finally dividing numbers (7)
 8 Cut criminal is cross! (7)
 15 Dark quality in blood eases periodically (8)
 17 New printing concerning controversial topic (7)
 18 Female is indeed showing cleavage! (7)
 20 Is thankful for smaller amount within reduced choice (7)
 21 Drill sounds elevated, restricting shop front (7)
 22 Passed out! Put out, bringing up port (6)

Slot 6

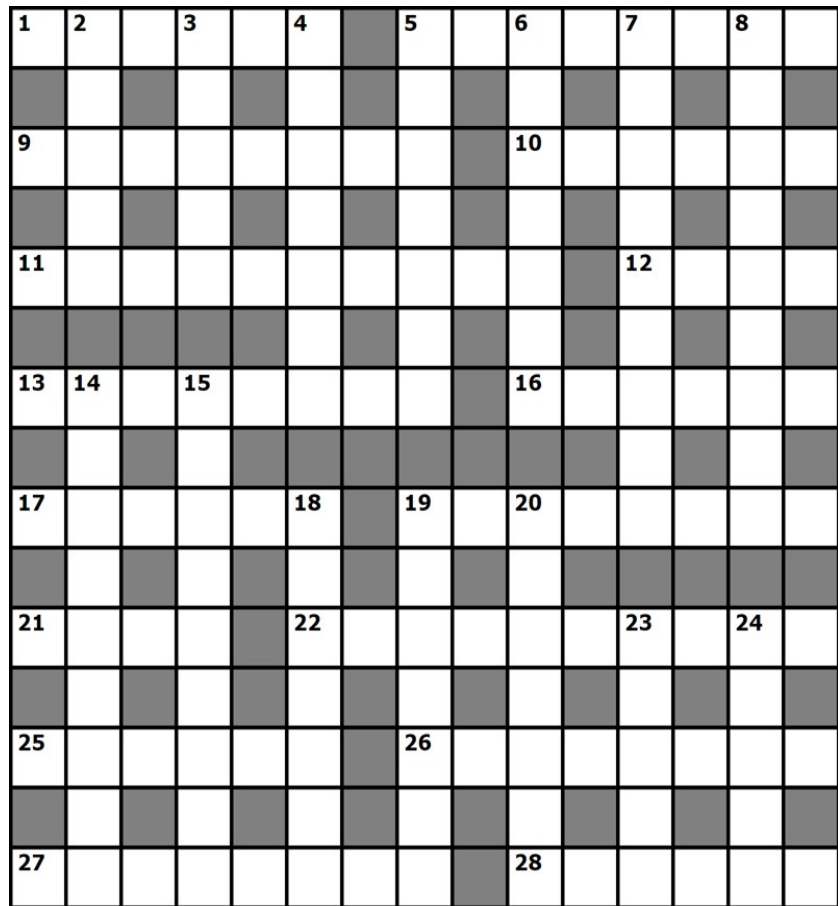
Cryptic
by
Robespierre\$50
PRIZE

Across

- 1 Brief is not in bed with escort (6)
 5 He departs nightmare abroad, but not heading home (8)
 9 Precisely where a pub ends in terms of the street! (4-4)
 10 Bird squawking simplified language (6)
 11 Able to hold liquor? Drunk after whisky consumed on top of rum! (10)
 12 Prime Minister dragged off dance platform (4)
 13 Small shellfish and oversized fish snared in trap almost? On the contrary (8)
 16 Sweet fruit prefers a pot as container (6)
 17 Giant old steamship transporting last of remaining soldiers (6)
 19 Listens to spineless politician's alternative take on the past (8)
 21 Wuss's plumbing problem (4)
 22 Woman who incurred capital loss in Lebanon, undone by yen movement! (4,6)
 25 Finicky botanist has no time whatsoever for undersized plants (6)
 26 Extremely contingent regulations initially introduced to kill off end-of-life belief system (8)
 27 Concealing pain when husband separates (8)
 28 This person has undies and shirt off - no modesty essentially! (6)

Down

- 2 All right to hold lady's top when Dad's around at dance (5)



- 3 Topless model is more than enough! (5)
 4 After beer knocked back, Rod nearly becomes stretcher material? (7)
 5 Heading for wedding, dire need to consume crack (7)
 6 Drive one on off stump over point! (7)
 7 After signal to stop limo, pretty regularly see VIP on this! (3,6)
 8 Pin down champ close to despair in tense contest (4-5)
 14 Successful beggar wears this disguise? (9)
 15 Recidivist 28 does this extremely rude display in front of emergency organisation (9)
 18 I follow innovative laws about greeting language (7)
 19 Guilty-looking face of goalie, having intercepted pass with defensive gaffe! (7)
 20 No going back over this working after puzzle inventor pontificated (7)
 23 Spooner to regret covering for graphic (5)
 24 Jerks tracked vehicles after temperature becomes variable (5)

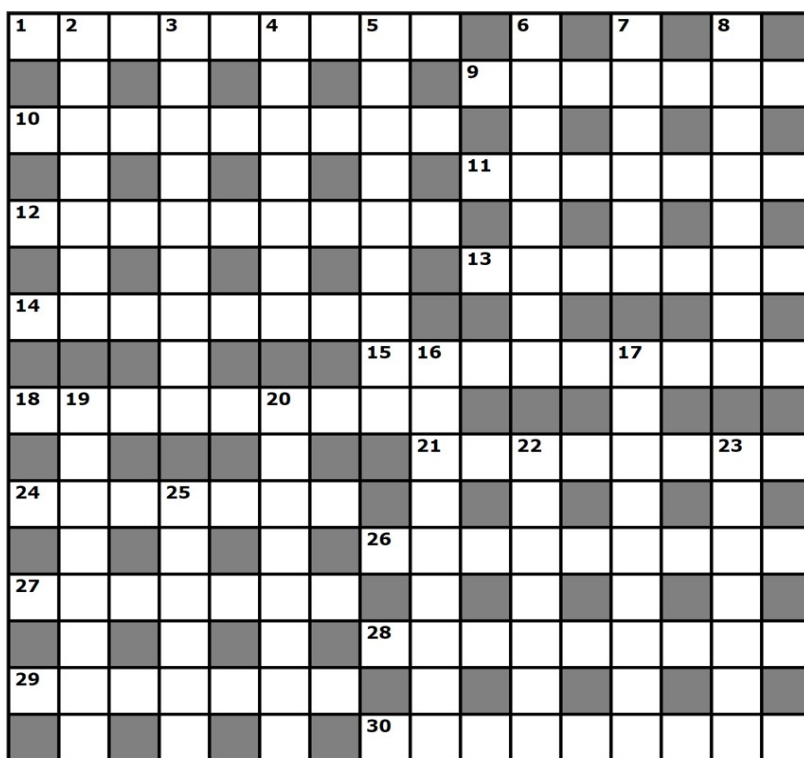
Slot 7



Cryptic



CROWSMAN'S CORNER



Across

- 1 Represent very well - abridged version of saga is in book (9)
- 9 Pride identifying five hundred and eight divided by fifty (7)
- 10 John is embraced by Mary in Barcelona grass (9)
- 11 Wicked behaviour on the wagon involving immorality (7)
- 12 Cleared, played outside left (9)
- 13 Instead, circled edge of oval (7)
- 14 Newspaper with long fine material (8)
- 15 Speeding leader left mark of damage in what he's driving? (6,3)
- 18 Back is restricted by fall (9)
- 21 Poet laureate Francesco lacking pressure after time with Herod, perhaps (8)
- 24 With charm and cunning, consuming little time (7)
- 26 Emperor isolated during a hard matter (9)
- 27 Raptors' large targets (7)
- 28 Members of the clergy always in tears (9)
- 29 Divulging secret information of a similar nature, intercepted by cricket side (7)
- 30 Very composed Smiley brought in blokes (9)

Down

- 2 Pressure on galloper containing new mettlesome horse (7)

- 3 Bars hairstyle adopted by pilots (9)
- 4 Bank of earth holding both sides of the rose (7)
- 5 Silly suspect taking off! (9)
- 6 Ring dealer's mockery about fine (8)
- 7 Swimwear for one after cycling briefly (6)
- 8 It is hidden in magic article (8)
- 16 Oil painting at first has mum upset about portrayal (9)
- 17 Those making forecasts protecting far off mariners (9)
- 19 Single housing remains dirty (8)
- 20 Passing on the outside of everyone taking their time (8)
- 22 Extreme characters getting stuck into Peter disrupted bar for swingers (7)
- 23 Was on top of a jerk climbing tower (7)
- 25 Greek version of bingo! (6)

The blank grid for this puzzle is on page 2



Quiz 2026-6 Geographical fun by Crowsman

All answers have something in common and are in alphabetical order. Send your answers to Len Colgan preferably by email to Len.Colgan@bigpond.com or post to 1 Ailsa Avenue, Warradale, SA 5046.

Closing mail date 26 June 2026

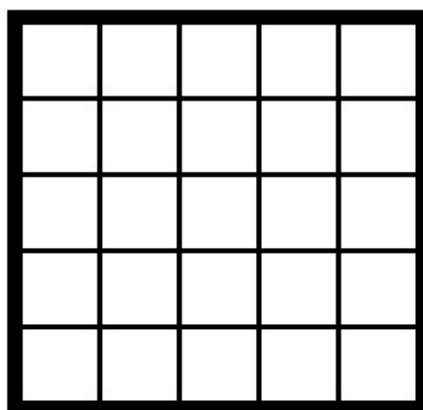
- 1 One of the UAE (5)
- 2 Middle-east capital city (5)
- 3 Indian Ocean islands and sea (7)
- 4 Country (6,7)
- 5 941 km Australian river (10)
- 6 Peloponnese mountain (10)
- 7 WA port (9)
- 8 Country (7)
- 9 Major Afghan-Iranian river (7)
- 10 Crimean War battle (8)
- 11 73% of Borneo (10)
- 12 Asian capital city (9)
- 13 African mountain (11)
- 14 Largest plain in Spain (2,6)
- 15 Central-American capital city (7)
- 16 Middle-Eastern capital city (6)
- 17 World's eighth highest mountain (7)
- 18 Largest Amazon River city (6)
- 19 Large English city (10)
- 20 Puppet state resulting from #21 (9)
- 21 Vast area of NE Asia invaded by Japan in 1932 (9)
- 22 Myanmar city, the centre of Burmese culture (8)
- 23 NY borough (9)
- 24 Asian capital city (6)
- 25 Canadian province (8)
- 26 Upper Rhine city (8)
- 27 Double delta river in NSW (7)
- 28 Putin's largest Arctic seaport (8)
- 29 Largest river in Lithuania (5)
- 30 NW region of France (8)
- 31 WA gold-mining town (8)
- 32 Country (4)
- 33 Kitchener v Khalifa historical battle (8)
- 34 Peak in NE Greenland (9)
- 35 Country (7)
- 36 Spanish province (9)
- 37 Australian state (8)

FRAZ WORD SQUARE June 1

(Solution p 13)

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

- Roundup horse that runs back
- Support British track event
- Hesitation before Commie blew it
- Skilled engineer taped
- Animal available in full-size brass

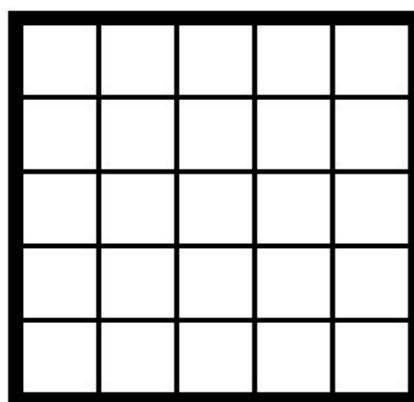


FRAZ WORD SQUARE June 2

(Solution on p 13)

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

- Fruit very quietly dropped into pub quaff
- Gussy up A through M?
- I won back each squeegee
- Fight me and Confederate general
- Took a dip at quiet marsh



Results of Quiz 2026-5 True to type by Valkyrie

Results: Entries 16 All Correct!: 30 J Crowe; K Harper; L Jarman; R Jarman; M Kennedy; J Leigh; R Mckenzie; D Meek; A Miles; A Millard; A Patterson; D Rosendorff; W Ryan; B Siegman; F Simpson; M Vnuk.
Winner: Julie Leigh - Congratulations!

Answers: 1 epopee, **2** equerry, **3** equity, **4** irrupt, **5** orrery, **6** outpower, **7** perpetuity, **8** pirouette, **9** powwow, **10** proprietor, **11** puppetry, **12** query, **13** quitter, **14** repertoire, **15** require, **16** router, **17** terrier, **18** territory, **19** tiptop, **20** torture, **21** trooper, **22** trope, **23** Twitter, **24** typewriter, **25** uppity, **26** uproot, **27** wipeout, **28** wittier, **29** yowie, **30** yuppie.

Compiler's Observations

Absolutely amazing, everyone got 100%! Thanks to all those participated and for all their kind words. It was interesting how many words could be made from the top line of the keyboard, but I suppose it does contain 4 of the vowels.

Solvers' Comments

- I didn't notice the title until more than halfway through. However, I had already guessed the common property after only a few answers, probably because I had started creating a similar quiz myself. I now have no need to finish preparing that quiz! And yours has some more interesting words anyway. *Michael Vnuk*
- Top marks for this top-row quiz. My first two were ORRERY and TWITTER, which led me to the theme, especially as orrery was fifth in an alphabetical list. *Fraser Simpson*
- Took longer than it should have for the penny to drop! Most excellent fun. *William Ryan*
- Thanks for the quiz which was fun to consider without added complication.
- The placement of ORRERY at no.5 had me very, very suspicious! *Andrew Patterson*
- Spent half a day mulling over these. I could not see the connection for a long time, even though some of the answers had the letters from 'true' and 'type'. Thankfully the penny dropped when I noticed 'typewriter' uses only letters in the top row of a keyboard. Clever idea! *Michael Kennedy*
- Thanks again Ulla for an interesting quiz. I found ORRERY first, and wondered why O was so early in the list, then I saw TYPEWRITER, and the penny dropped. Who would have thought so many words. *Betty Siegman*
- Thanks for the quiz. At first, I was confused by the alphabetical order with the 5th entry definitely starting with O. Finally realised you'd assembled a fine collection of top shelf words. *Drew Meek*
- Thank you for another original quiz. It was only as I was typing my answers that my fingers strayed onto the second line and I realised that "request" needed replacing by "require"! *Julie Leigh*
- How do you come up with the ideas? I had about 25 answers before "typewriter" rang a bell in my Trivia file. Qwerty came to mind and there was the 'common property'. Thank heavens, because the alphabetic condition was in turmoil with ORRERY at No.5. *Ann Millard*
- It took me a while to work out the system and I thought it was very clever. *Robyn Mckenzie*
- It took a lot of puzzling before the keys clicked into place and the title made sense. Very clever! *Kath Harper*
- Thanks for the enjoyable quiz. It took a while for the penny to drop (at least P was on the right row). I spent a while looking for "T" in everything before I saw the pattern. *Andrew Miles*
- Finally I twigged to the common property. An amazing quiz. Certainly tested the touch-typing skills. *Lynn Jarman*
- Thank you for another top shelf challenge. Quite a QWERTY quiz! *Ron Jarman*
- Love the theme - top line of keyboard, though sometimes I use a French keyboard, which didn't help nab the theme. *Julie Crowe*

Sol'n FRAZ WORD SQUARE June 1

T	P	E	D	A
P	A	C	E	R
E	C	A	R	B
D	E	R	R	E
A	R	B	E	Z

Sol'n FRAZ WORD SQUARE June 2

N	E	E	R	P
E	E	L	E	M
E	L	P	P	A
R	E	P	I	W
P	M	A	W	S



**Singing honeyeater
Satin bowerbird**



Photos courtesy of Rebel Warren

GRIDATORIAL

Thank you to those members who have so far offered their help by acting as the adjudicator of slots 1 to 7 puzzles. The more the merrier, so if you wish to contribute to the club in this way we'd love to hear from you. The process for preparing the pdf edition of CrOZworld is changing, so we have to ask that you be a little patient from now on. Rebel Warren will be producing CrOZworld and we thank her for "volunteering" to continue this important task. This will mean that I shall be providing her with the results, prize-winners and the last of the input material on the closing Friday and she will use the weekend to put it all together. Unfortunately the additional coordination will mean a slight delay in its distribution by email, but we aim to be able to email it to you, and upload it to the internet, early in the week - as was formerly the case for many years. This only affects the availability of the pdf copy, as ACCOLADE will operate normally and display the puzzles for the forthcoming month at 00.01 on Friday, as usual.

We are looking for a volunteer, or volunteers, to assist with puzzle editing. At the present time all puzzles are edited by Ian or Michael but we would be very keen to expand the pool. The task involves solving puzzles submitted by members, assessing the clues, interacting with the compiler to ensure that it meets the club's standards and preparing the puzzle for publication. Possession of a recent version of Crossword Compiler is necessary. You could start with a single puzzle to see how you go. Do let Ian know if you are interested.

May was a noteworthy month with an all-correct Quiz and an all-correct Slot 6. Not a single typo. Well done, everyone! The puzzles for this month continue to meet our high standards. KA has compiled one of his classic half and half puzzle that, while assisting novice solvers to come to grips with cryptic clues will still provide enjoyment to our more experienced members. Lexi Conner follows up in slot 2 with a carefully crafted cryptic and St Jude makes a welcome return with another in slot 3. The Jigsaw Maestro, Manveru, has prepared a typically polished offering in slot 4. Crowsman's compiling skills are in full view in slot 5 this month and Robespierre's unique brand of humour shines through his clues and surface readings yet again in slot 6. Crowsman's Corner, as we expect, exemplifies the Master's talents. Crowsman makes another appearance in globe-trotting mode in his blockbuster quiz. If you're not a normal quiz competitor but fancy yourself as a geographer you might wish to give this one a go.

Thanks to all who have contributed to this edition of CrOZworld, whether as compilers, quiz setters, adjudicators or contributors, and especially to Alan Dyer, this month's adjudicator, and to Scott Goodman in his initial foray into analysis of this month's results. Have a good month's puzzling.

Ian

Westside Crossword Tournament

Westside Crossword Tournament is being organised next month as part of Williamstown Literary Festival. It was said to have been very popular and a sell-out in its inaugural year in 2025. The tournament takes place on Saturday 13 Jun, 12:30pm - 2pm AEST at Williamstown Library: LIBRARY GALLERY

Williamstown VIC, Australia. It involves three increasingly difficult timed rounds, followed by a live final where the top three competitors battle it out on giant whiteboards (very Wordplay). The clueing style is said to lean very Australian: lots of wordplay, irreverent humour, and occasional western suburbs in-jokes. Tickets are on sale for the event [here](#) for less than \$16 and information on the event can be obtained from the Willylitfest site [here](#).

ACCOLADE Scratchpad

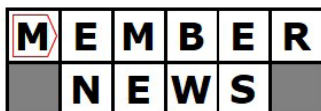
We have implemented a new feature in Accolade in the form of a handy Scratchpad.

It's a text box that allows you to write anything. It is anticipated its main uses will be for storing Alphabetic Jigsaw answers before you know where they're going in the grid; and for writing the letters to solve anagrams. But it's just a text box and you may write anything you wish.

At present it's below the grid (below the clues on AJs). For solving on PCs it would probably be better to the right of the clues. Please, let Ian know your preference and we'll go with the majority.

Similar to the puzzles, click "Save or Submit" to save the contents of the Scratchpad.

It's presently out for Beta testing and might still have bugs. If you find any faults or unexpected behaviour please tell us, so we can fix it.



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 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.

May Clue-writing competition is still open. You are invited to write a clue for **SHOULDER (8)**. Send your entries to mcandap@bigpond.net.au or post to 372 Great North Rd, Abbotsford NSW 2046. Closing mail date: **Friday 13 June 2026**.

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.

May 1: Bogeyman (Ian Williams)

- A complex Slot 1. Took me ages to work out what was going on. 4dn NUGGETS doesn't seem to have a definition either. *Ann Millard*
- A challenging slot 1 but got there in the end. Thanks. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Just a little, tiny quibble, my printout did not have an asterisk on 4dn. *Roy Taylor*
- Most enjoyable twist on the usual half-and-half! *Kathryn Forward*
- Well, that was a workout and a fine number 1 peppered with interesting *little clues. *Robyn Wimbush*
- A large number of words for small. *Betty Siegman*
- A little more complex than usual? *Richard Skinner*
- It's the little things that make the difference. *Mal Cockburn*
- Liked FELLAS & LOSES. Only worked out NUGGETS when I realised it should have been italicised. *Toby McLeay*
- Amazing effort, Bogeyman! All those little bits! A lovely puzzle. *Kathy Horadam*
- Enjoyable start to the puzzles, favourite clue TIP-OFF. *Joan Smith*
- Re 18ac, THAN, has anyone else noticed that the use of than is deprecated with a lot of young people using THEN instead. I first started taking notice of this 30 years ago when my sons were told by a primary school teacher that THAN wasn't a word. *Ken Davis*
- I liked the clue for TIP-OFF! *Robyn McKenzie*
- I prefer Half and Half for Slot 1. *Lynn Jarman*
- A nice mix of clue types. *Hilary Cromer*
- Not too sure about 17 ac. Could equally be 'as' or 'at'. *Greg Jones*

Bogeyman writes: "Sorry about the missing asterisk but happily it didn't cause anyone a lost dot. I'm pleased that this introductory puzzle found favour. We try to vary the half and half formula from time to time to provide variety. A few "small" errors but, overall, a 90% success rate is satisfying"

May 2: REW (Rod Umean, Elloit Pyle, Wilf Pickles II)

- I really liked this one. Challenging but doable. *Lyria Bennett Moses*
- I loved the image of a wicked writer trapped by two blondes. *Kath Harper*
- Welcome to the club. A really great warm-up puzzle. The many anagrams were a bonus. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Welcome new setters. *Brian Symons*
- Clever clues, I particularly liked DESADE. *Roy Taylor*
- Had a chuckle at DE SADE! *Kathryn Forward*
- Good to see some new blood. Liked WAGONS, and GANDOLF had me stumped for a while. Looking forward to the next one Guys. *Mal Cockburn*
- Welcome. I liked CHAIRS and WRITERS BLOCK. *Toby McLeay*
- Very enjoyable puzzle - really liked GANDALF and EMAIL. *Scott Goodman*
- Welcome REW! I liked ILL-CHOSEN and SUE. *Kathy Horadam*

- Very enjoyable puzzle - really liked GANDALF and EMAIL. *Scott Goodman*
- Good clues especially Liked GANDALF, WAGONS and HOMER. *Joan Smith*
- Such clever clues! *Robyn McKenzie*
- No queries on any of the clues. A good cryptic, thanks. *Lynn Jarman*
- Enjoyable - a number of clues that were clever without being tortuous or obscure. 1ac was first in and probably the highlight. *Michael Fitzgerald*
- Enjoyed your clues REW. Particularly ACRONYM. *Hilary Cromer*
- The 'flag' in 3d and the curry were new to me. Favourite was 1d, which was also the last to go in. *Michael Fitzgerald*

REW write: "The REW Crew were delighted with member responses to our first crossword. It is a very positive and welcoming group. Very keen to keep challenging members with more submissions."

May 3: NanaKat (Kathryn Forward) [Feedback only identifying the Nina has been omitted]

- Apposite Nina: AS IS THE MOTHER, SO IS THE DAUGHTER. *Ian McKenzie*
- Enjoyed the edgy tribute for Mothers Day. *Michael Kennedy*
- I'm worried now as I can see: As is the mothers..... Got it! As is the mother, so is the daughter. *Julie Leigh*
- Good fun. Finally worked out what 'tenth' referred to. I hope I have many of the wonderful qualities of my late mother and that I have passed them on to my daughters. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Lots of excellent clues. GILDS, with dictator's used as a homophone indicator. I liked WATERLOO. *Roy Taylor*
- When I see TASTE, IRISH STEW and KEDGEREE I realise winter is almost here. *Betty Siegman*
- I'm not sure whether the Mother's Day message is a compliment or a warning. *Kath Harper*
- Thank you Kathryn, for the Mother's Day Nina too. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Lots of nice clues here. "Dictator's" as a homophone indicator was an uncommon one which misdirected me for a while. However, I think it unnecessary as Chambers also has GILD as an alternative spelling for GUILD = union. *Drew Meek*
- I had suspicions which were confirmed as I worked my way around the perimeter. Smilies for WATERLOO, GILDS & SPAWNED. Most enjoyable, NanaKat. *Mal Cockburn*
- Nina possibly from Ezekiel, read at Yom Kippur on the 10th of Tishri. *Toby McLeay*
- Very enjoyable grid. *Krittibas Dasgupta*
- Took a long time to get GILDS. *Anne Simons*
- Very apt, NanaKat, for the 10th! I liked GILDS, FUNNY BONE and LAUNDRESS. *Kathy Horadam*
- Enjoyable cryptic, favourite clues RIPPER and SPAWNED. *Joan Smith*
- Tricky puzzle but with a message for Mothers' Day around the perimeter. Well done! *Tony Dobe*
- Imaginative clues, for example GILDS, UPSETTER. *Lynn Jarman*
- Nice work, NanaKat, especially the 'Mother-daughter' Nina. *Laurence Kennedy*
- I wish I'd noticed the Nina before filling in the entry. It might have helped! *Julie Crowe*

continued on page 15

- A few clues, a challenge until I saw the message around the perimeter. Loved the clue for LAUNDRESS. *Hilary Cromer*

NanaKat writes: "Many thanks to all who took the time to make a comment on the May Slot 3 puzzle, giving feedback is absolutely the best gift that you can bestow on a setter. It seems that the Nina was spotted by many. The puzzle's original title was 'Ezekiel 16:44', so yes, Toby McLeay, you were quite right! – quite a delightful coincidence this year!

Credit must be given where credit is due. Some of you may have detected Crowsman's clever hand behind the grid. When Len offered me the opportunity to provide the clues, how could I possibly refuse? So thanks to you as well, Len!"

May 4: Valkyrie (Ulla Axelsen)

- Nice to have a different pattern to work with and to find "Problem Solving"! *Ann Millard*
- I voted EIGHT-ARMED COTM. *Roy Taylor*
- Problem Solving! (It would help if I noticed these Ninas whilst I am solving rather than afterwards!! *Julie Leigh*
- Luckily the only problem I encountered was the Nina. *Betty Siegman*
- AJ meets Nina - I love it! *Kath Harper*
- I love learning new words so this month it's VERONICA. Who knew? Thanks Ulla. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Like slot 1 this was a little more challenging than usual. Nice to see a more complex grid. It helped with the "Problem Solving". *Richard Skinner*
- Straight-forward AJ - no PROBLEM SOLVING it at all. *Mal Cockburn*
- A few I'm not sure about but grid filled so I am submitting it as a problem solved! *Toby McLeay*
- Some very good clues, favourites being EIGHT-ARMED, JAPAN, KINDLED, MEMBRANE, and UMBILICI. *Anne Simons*
- So much fun, thanks Valkyrie! UMBILICI was new to me, and I enjoyed JAPAN and MEMBRANE. KINDLED is clever. *Kathy Horadam*
- AJ puzzles are my favourites, liked OSCULATE. *Joan Smith*
- 'Problem solving' - another clever Nina! *Laurence Kennedy*

Valkyrie writes: "Glad so many enjoyed the slightly different format and the NINA. I like to compile AJs so it's always good to get some feedback, both positive and negative."

May 5: Betelgeuse (Gillian Champion)

- Some great clues, especially the thematic clues! Had never before come across ODSO! Thank you! *Ann Millard*
- This was a good workout. It took me a while to get POST and LETTERS, and things fell into place after that. Is there an indirect anagram in SIGMA? [No - IS<+MAG* - Adj] I also couldn't find any reference to P = Parish in Chambers [But it has PP for parish priest - Ed]. *Krittibas Dasgupta*
- Although not as tough as some of her puzzles, it was still a real challenge. Pity the stock has run dry. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Exquisitely tricky clues as usual. 5ac I think must be POSTER, but why crudely spoken? [SORTER as a form of "sort of" crudely" - Ed] *Roy Taylor*
- Some challenging words to discover in this puzzle,

but the clues made the intentions clear. I always enjoy a themed puzzle! *Kathryn Forward*

- ODSO! Lillian has gone postal! I hope there are many more Betelgeuse stashed away. *Richard Skinner*
- ODSO is another of the, by me, never before seen or heard words. There are so many of them! *Robyn Wimbush*
- SORTER had me stumped for a while (sorta). DISC is a clever clue. *Mal Cockburn*
- Lots of nice clues- ALASKAN, DEMITASSE, DISC. Gave it to SORTED. *Toby McLeay*
- Great puzzle - some clever clues and new words (for me). *Scott Goodman*
- A fun challenge. *Lynn Jarman*
- All excellent clues, but my nom for COTM was 5a. *Michael Fitzgerald*

May 6: Crow-boy (Len Colgan & Toby McLeay)

- I liked the reverse anagram. *Rick Yeatman*
- Great puzzle. *Chris Thomas*
- Those 15 letter words are always a good challenge, but sometimes easier than 3 letter words. Good fun. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Another very clever puzzle. Clue for DOCTOR OF LETTERS particularly good. *Roy Taylor*
- What a great tease. (Never did work out Julia Gillard or where the 'ox' came from) ["neat" = OX from Old English for cattle - Ed]. Thank you, Crow-boy. *Con Flinkenberg*
- An enjoyable challenge. Some clever clues, including but not limited to CARDAMON and TOASTMISTRESSES. *Kathryn Forward*
- Clever and challenging. *Kath Harper*
- In line with a tough month. *Richard Skinner*
- Hard but fun 15 letter words are difficult. *Brian Symons*
- Love the long word touch of Len. Good puzzle. *Robyn Wimbush*
- A toughy with so many 15 letter answers. I pondered whether 6dn could have been A RANGA (arranger) of Letters but it didn't fit. *Mal Cockburn*
- Really liked CARDAMOM, THOU and DOCTOR OF LETTERS. *Scott Goodman*
- There is no doubt about who the setter is here! *Ian Thompson*

Crow-boy writes: "Constructing such a grid needing eight 15-letter clueable answers is quite an exercise in itself. But the amazing success rate for entries makes it all worthwhile. We have more similar grids compiled for the future."

May 7: Flowerman (Ian Thompson)

- An ingenious and challenging puzzle. I note that the nuances include that, when the grid is rotated clockwise, the order of the 5 clashes across the grid matches the five landing beaches' geographic position along the Normandy coast. *Ian McKenzie*
- The intersection of 21ac and 4dn revealed the theme early. With no definition for 19dn, I had CALMS for too long. Surprisingly, the spell-checker accepts WANGERS. *Len Colgan*
- Quite a construction...I enjoyed solving this! *Fraser Simpson*
- Genius, as ever. *Andrew Patterson*

Feedback on June 7: (Flowermanman) continues on page 16

Feedback on June 7: (Flowermanman) continued from page 15

- Normandy. D-day beaches: Utah (nutter/phase), Omaha (bemoan/grisham), Gold (wangers/sand dollar), Juno (tonsil/judged), Sword (regards/miaows). Well done! *Rob Moline*
- Just like the Battle of Normandy, this puzzle has been meticulously planned. The date (6/6/1944), the 5 beach landings mapped in order of location, and the double meaning of 'clashes'. More please. *Michael Kennedy*
- That was tough. Googling Normandy 6/6/1944 gave me 5 words: Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword. These then finally led to an understanding of the rest. *Ulla Axelsen*
- I read the rubric many times and thought this to be impossible but found NORMANDY and 44 eventually, and it gradually fell into place. What satisfaction was felt at the end! Thanks for the challenge, Ian. Wow!! *Ann Millard*
- On first (and several subsequent) reading of the rubric I had doubts about solving this puzzle. Most was solved still without understanding the rubric. Penny dropped for me from the date and then circled letters and then the first part of the rubric made sense. Very cleverly constructed and (ultimately) fair! *Drew Meek*
- Tough one. Even after sorting out the theme, which took a while, it took a bit more effort to decode the rubric. But we got there (well, somewhere!). I just hope I've keyed it in correctly. It's puzzles like this that remind us why we love cryptics. Thank you Ian. *Richard Skinner*
- Wow. Great puzzle. Many thanks. *Scott Goodman*
- What an effort! I had the puzzle mostly solved before I even understood the complex letter exchange of the clashes. I was stuck for a while with the BEMOAN/GRISHAM interchange but resolved it with an epiphany. An amazing job putting this all together. For the record: Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno, Sword. Normandy. 6.6.19.44. Bravo, Flowerman! *Mal Cockburn*
- Circled letters give NORMANDY. 5 beaches .UTAH, OMAHA, GOLD, SWORD. 6/6/1944. I had thought this too complicated for me, but I got there! I was held up by thinking 12dn was BETWEEN, causing a clash, but twas just TWEEN. *Roy Taylor*
- Not sure what to say. All the squares are filled, it was a great workout and a sad reminder. NORMANDY set the ball rolling and then the dates. Thank you Ian. *Robyn Wimbush*
- My brain was well and truly 50ac by the time I fought my way through the multiple layers of warlike complexity. A compiling tour de force! *Kath Harper*
- Wow. Such a lot going on here. Normandy is the theme, 6/6/1944 in there too, along with the 5 D-Day beaches. Filling in the grid on accolade was fraught with danger! Many thanks for a great workout. *Julie Crowe*
- Daunting at first, but it grew on me (got bogged down on a couple where I was working to the wrong number of letters - much easier once I had the theme and could see the 'map'). Some excellent clues here. *Michael Fitzgerald*

Puns and worse

- Living in Canberra, I have developed a terrible speed bump addiction. But I'm slowly getting over them.
- Did you hear about the man who called his doctor's office because he'd turned invisible? Sadly, nobody could see him for weeks.
- Why can't bikes stand up unsupported? They're two tired.
- Did you hear about the Norwegian robot that analyzed a bird? Yeah, it's Scandinavian.
- Plateaus are the highest form of flattery.
- Did you hear about the man who swallowed six small plastic horses? Doctors described his condition as "Stable".
- I think somebody added more dirt to my vegetable garden. The plot thickens!
- Did you hear about the group of boats which crushed each other against their mooring structure? Yet another casualty of pier pressure.
- I don't trust stairs. They're always up to something.
- What's the best courier company to send parcels of food to former lovers? Fed Ex!
- I just burned a Hawaiian pizza I was making. Should have cooked it at aloha temperature!
- A bottle of Omega 3 Fatty Acids fell on my head yesterday. Don't worry, I only got super fish oil injuries.
- I keep trying to start exercising, but it just isn't working out.
- Did you hear about the explosion at the cheese factory? De-brie went everywhere.
- Did you hear about the fork factory with inconsistent quality control? It was the best of tines, it was the worst of tines.
- Did you hear about the pacifist insect farmer? He got fired because he wouldn't herd a fly.
- Guy walks into the bar with jumper cables over his shoulder. Bartender says, "Don't start anything!"
- Two old vulture buddies have been flying from New York to Florida every winter together for years. But one year they mutually decide that they're too old to be flapping their wings for those many hundreds of miles, and they're going to take a commercial airplane. So they make their reservations. They arrive at the airport and walk up to the counter to check in. The agent, seeing that one of them has a suitcase, says 'May I check that for you, sir?' The vulture replies, 'No thank you. It's carrion.'

Clue of the Month

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