



No 407 March 2024



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One cannot but be impressed by the amazing hospitality of the English language. Robert Burchfield, 1985, *The English Language*, Ch 3.

## GRIDATORIAL

We are pleased to announce the results of our 2023 running competition for slots 1 to 7 and the quizzes. Congratulations to Len Colgan and Ian Thompson, who each completed (and entered!) correctly 83 of the year's 84 puzzles! Congratulations also to Andrew Patterson for his clean sweep of the year's puzzles with correct answers to all 327 of the year's clues. More detail on other successful competitors on page 10. A magnificent achievement by all!

Many thanks this month to Michael Kennedy, who comined some hectic post-retirement work and overseas travel with editing the month's puzzles most effectively.

Thanks are also due to the compilers, adjudicators and all the other members who contribute their time and efforts to providing you with your monthly challenges. Thank you all.

A good mix this month with a half and half from InGrid to get the ball rolling. T-boy and Jesso provide cryptics in slots 2 and 3 and one of Valkyrie's polished AJs will be found in slot 4. Two more jigsaw-type puzzles will stretch your intellects in slots 5 and 7 and Robespierre provides a typically Machiavellian challenge in slot 6. The whole is rounded out by KA, with a quiz that should not need any internet-based searches.

Do enjoy your solving in March

Ian

## FROM THE ADJUDICATOR

The weather hasn't been the kindest lately. I hope you have all survived without any major problems. Hopefully the crosswords brought some sunshine and enjoyment into your days.

**Slot 1:** Many comments about learning new words such as BERDACHE and BRICKFIELDER though some are not sure whether they will ever use them. With a 90 percent success rate only a few mistakes in this puzzle, the main one being RETAIN (6) for REGAIN for the quick clue "Recover".

**Slot 2:** NEARLY for NEARBY (6) lost the most dots in this puzzle but there were quite a few one-offs, including a number of typos. Most members enjoyed this puzzle with its many cryptic definitions, despite some editorial errors. Quite a lot of queries about the spelling of Mary Reiby and a mention of more new words.

**Slot 3:** A number of Australianisms in this puzzle, including BROGGIE and COCKEYED-BOB and some unfamiliar words including ISOPLETH and the puzzle was well received. BROGGIE (in Maquarie) and BOULDER both had 3 incorrect answers and a few more one-off answers lost dots,

**Slot 4:** A well received AJ from Crowsman with many favourable comments and lots of nominations (12) for COTM. Unfortunately 11 dots were lost for HOVERED (HOWEVER), 3 for LOCOTION (LOCATION), 3 for ABROAD (ABOARD) and 2 for JUDAISM (JUDIAST), where the clue clearly referred to an individual, not a belief.

**Slot 5:** A score of ten out of ten was given to this puzzle which everyone seemed to enjoy, having an overall success rate of 91 percent, the few mistakes all being one-offs. It was amazing that many admitted to not noticing the TEN theme for all down clues until filling it in in ACCOLADE. TENDON was nominated twice for COTM.

continued on page 2

## LEADING FIGURES

Puzzle No.	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Entries received	77	74	76	71	68	366
Correct entries	70	60	64	53	62	309
Success rate (%)	91	81	84	75	91	84
Prizewinners	Ken Davis	Ulla Axelsen	Kathy Horadam	Shelia Taylor	David Bennett	from 84 members

Prizewinner: November Slots 1-5 correct: Ro Ducker. Congratulations!

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## CONTENTS

page

Half and Half by InGrid	3
Cryptic by T-boy	4
Cryptic by Jesso	5
AJ by Valkyrie	6
Circulars by St Jude	7
Cryptic by Robespierre	8
AJ by Flowerman	9
Member News	10
Explanations February 1-5	10
Members' Feedback	11
Quiz 3-2024 KA	13
Results Quiz 2-2024	13
Results February slot 6	14
Fraz Word Squares	14
Results February slot 7	15
January Clue-writing	17

February 2024 Slot 1

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

February 2024 Slot 2

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

February 2024 Slot 3

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

February 2024 Slot 4

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

February 2024 Slot 5

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

February 2024 Slot 6

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

## MEMBERS' RESULTS FOR February 2024 Slots 1 to 7

MEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	MEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	MEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Abbott P.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Hearn R.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Patterson A.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Allen W.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Hocking A.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Peach S.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Audrins K.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Holmick P.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Pikler M.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Axelsen U.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Horadam K.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Pinder S.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Barbour J.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Howat S.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Procter D.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Barnes J.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Jarman L.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Rosendorff D.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Batum C.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Jarman R.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Roulston S.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Bennett D.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Jones G.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Ryan W.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Blake M.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Kennedy L.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Shield A.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Carroll L.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Lankshear J.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Siegmán B.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Cockburn B.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Leigh J.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Simons A.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Cockburn M.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Mackay-Sim C.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Simpson F.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Colgan L.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Madden J.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Skinner R.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Coote P.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Martin A.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Smith J.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Coulton L.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Mason I.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Steinberger M.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Cromer H.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Matthews S.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Storey N.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Crowe J.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	McClelland C.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Storti A.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Davis K.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	McKenzie I.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Symons B.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Dobele T.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	McKenzie R.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Taylor R.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Dowse B.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	McLeay T.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Taylor S.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Ducker R.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	McPherson T.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Thompson I.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Ferguson J.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Meek A.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Veress M.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Flinkenberg C.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Miles A.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Wenham J.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Garner P.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Millard A.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Williams K.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Grainger D.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Milton R.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Wimbush R.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Hagan R.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Moline R.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Wood J.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Harper K.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Parsons D.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.								

## From the Adjudicator - continued from page 1

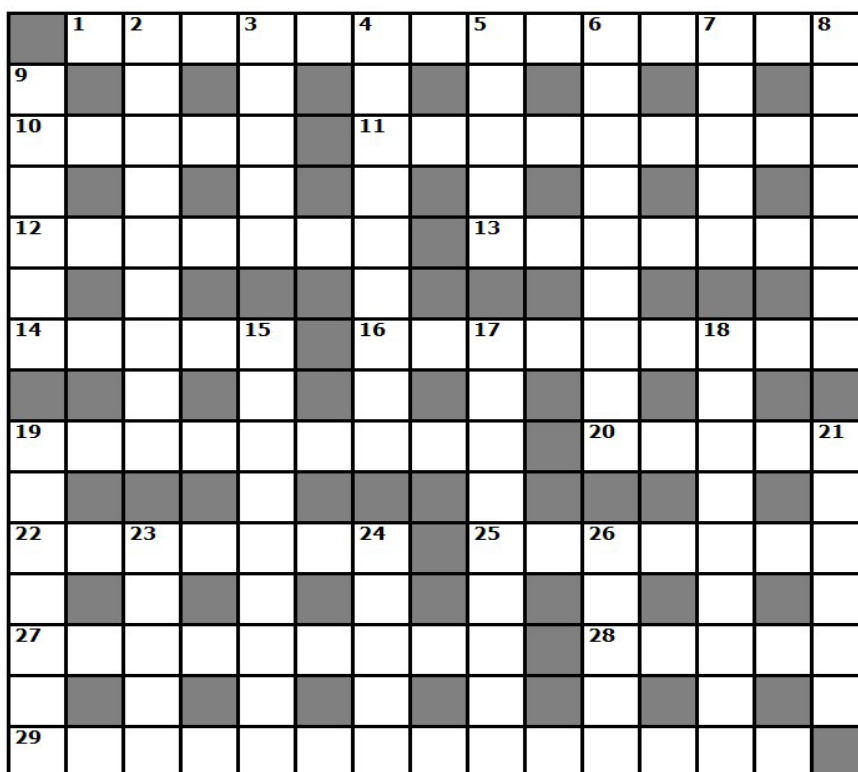
**COTM:** A total of 28 nominations were received across all slots, a tribute to our compilers. Many clues received one vote and 4 received 2 votes. Clues in slots 4 and 7 (both by Crowsman) were the winners, with NYMPHET and ACCENT both receiving 3. Congratulations Len.

Joan Smith

## Slot 1

Half and  
Half  
by  
InGrid

Prize  
\$50



## Across

- 1 This treatment requires no physical says doctor (14)  
 10 Bacteria cause colic to a certain extent (1,4)  
 11 Pursue space for criminal activity? (9)  
 12 Renovated operating tables not sporting anything esculent (7)  
 13 Gentleman officer in charge of company gets full of hot air (7)  
 14 Orion's star half forward a nut! (5)  
 16 Lecturer after notes on coming excitement (9)  
 19 Disgusting worker followed agent with lost gun (9)  
 20 Mythical humanoids still in Sweden, initially (5)  
 22 Steal principal computer (7)  
 25 A toilet pest, unsociably (7)  
 27 Hoses out a messy kiln (4,5)  
 28 Example of conservation by this old inmate (2-3)  
 29 Nourishment provided by computer parts or kitchen aids (4,10)

## Down

- 2 Baseball position (9)  
 3 Scale (5)  
 4 Musical group (9)  
 5 Speech parts (5)  
 6 Word for word (9)  
 7 Uncomplaining (5)  
 8 Gossip (7)  
 9 Recording equipment (6)  
 15 Warning vessel (9)  
 17 Intimate meeting (4-1-4)  
 18 Mechanic (9)  
 19 Censure (7)  
 21 Saw (6)  
 23 Rope (5)  
 24 Dwarf planet (5)  
 26 Signs (5)

For online entry, submission and adjudication of all slots via ACCOLADE click on the ACCOLADE button on [www.crosswordclub.org](http://www.crosswordclub.org) home page.

Slots 1 to 5: Jean Barbour [jeanb1405@gmail.com](mailto:jeanb1405@gmail.com)

or mail to PO Box 290, Wonthagi Vic 3995

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

or mail to 47 Ronald Avenue Greenwich NSW 2065

Slot 7: Ian Thompson - email to [irt\\_botanist@hotmail.com](mailto:irt_botanist@hotmail.com)

or mail to 12 Olive Street Malvern East VIC 3145

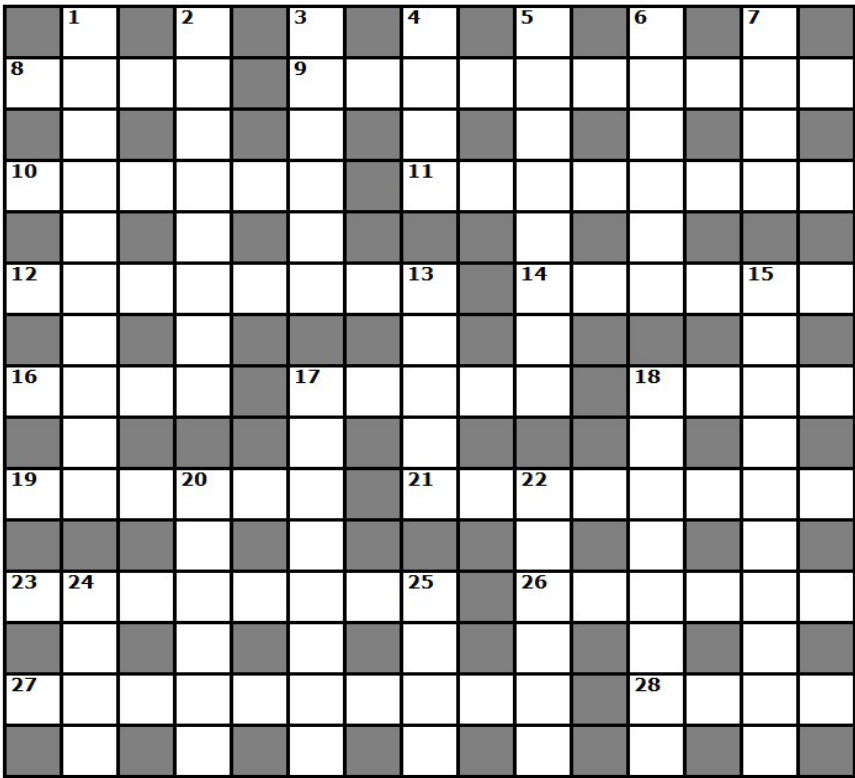
Closing mail date for all puzzles is 29 March 2024.

SEND  
SOLUTIONS  
TO:

BLANK  
GRIDS  
PAGE 12

Slot 2

Cryptic  
by  
T-boy



Across

- 8 Programming language for early man (4)
- 9 I get into rations after the vice-admiral changes (10)
- 10 Sex object in Mongolian tent (6)
- 11 Country father reportedly kissed Anne (8)
- 12 Alpha and Beta Centauri are hunting dogs (8)
- 14 Shoelace ends at legs in a tangle (6)
- 16 Reports from all directions (4)
- 17 Bed called for delivery (5)
- 18 City six out of hard drug? (4)
- 19 Gazed fixedly at frolicking daughters, but no hug! (6)
- 21 Cryptic device to promise amusement (8)
- 23 Oracles announced for those that listen (8)
- 26 Eastern men broadcast messages (6)
- 27 Induce foul mix into liquid measure (5,5)
- 28 Defeated nation holding Methuselah's wife (4)

Down

- 1 Vote all men off - malicious! (10)
- 2 Crazy about Dutch spotted cloths (8)
- 3 Opposed to a piece of poetry (6)
- 4 Mouth corner (4)
- 5 Unexpected reaction to what the cat does? (8)
- 6 Conks out before the Spanish engine (6)
- 7 Ms Karenina part Russian native (4)
- 13 Cheat small company (5)
- 15 Large sheets regulating partial sun (10)
- 17 Hostility managed by a haematologist (3,5)
- 18 Turned up a soft seed cherry (8)
- 20 Sun god's in dried fruit (6)
- 22 It really stank to scrape by in debt (6)
- 24 Every second character in Gum Gully is unattractive (4)
- 25 Dispatch for southern terminus (4)

General Feedback for March

- Thank you for my November Slot prize; it was a pleasant surprise. *Claire Batum*
- A very enjoyable set of puzzles as always. Many thanks for my Slot 5 prize which is much appreciated. *Laurence Kennedy*



Slot 3

Cryptic  
by  
Jesso



1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8
9									10					
11					12									
				13										
14		15				16	17							
18						19		20		21				22
23											24	25		
										26				
27						28								
29								30						

Across

- 1 Practice university English with a frequent visitor (7)
- 5 State of a small research establishment and many doctors (7)
- 9 Crowd back of Gundagai bore false witness about son being made ready to fight (9)
- 10 Overdraft about small truck removed (5)
- 11 Island's ragged suit (4)
- 12 Fixer starting to devise terrible crime with a needle (10)
- 14 Provider to falsify return about heavenly centre (5)
- 16 Committed and terribly addicted, to the import of ecstasy (9)
- 18 Storm around about old Norse country is outrageous (9)
- 21 Poke undraped figure about midnight (5)
- 23 Cassettes in wagons going around crest (10)
- 24 Canticle format accommodates a musical character (4)
- 27 Tail a crook in the mountains (5)
- 28 Cleaner information to become known gradually (3,6)

29 Going on a sort of belt (7)

30 A little food is square, in part (7)

Down

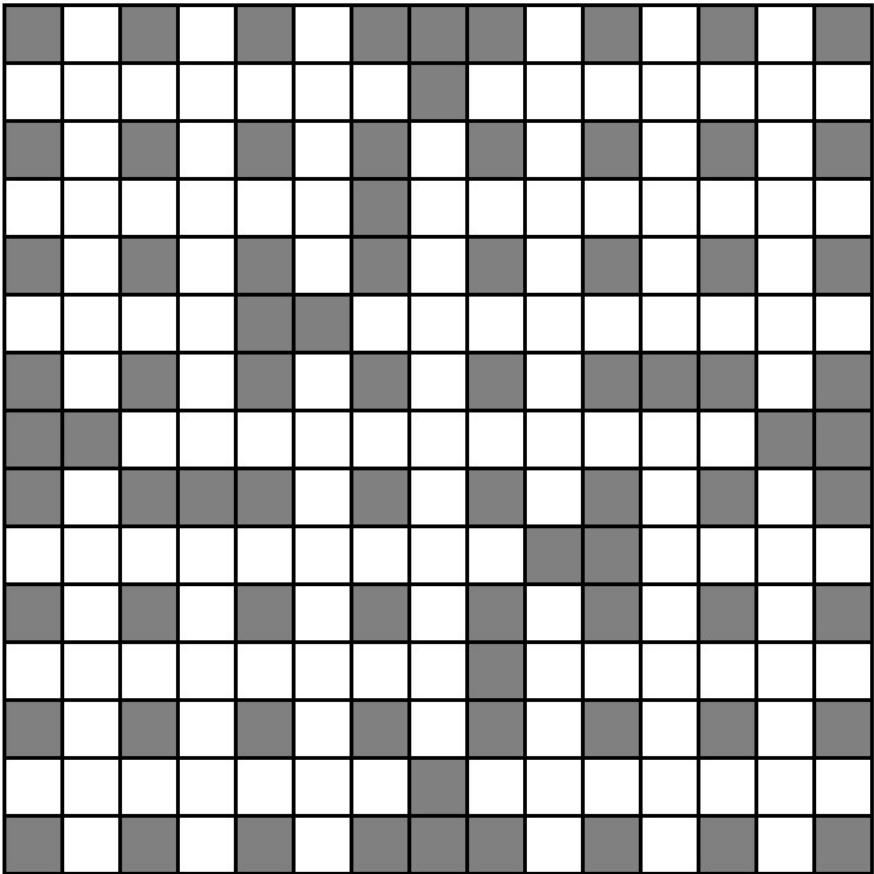
- 1 Call doctor with some urgency for cover (7)
- 2 The Bahamas adopting honest man's infants ... (5)
- 3 ... thanks liberal king for conference (4)
- 4 Tried composition on media executive (7)
- 5 And the King of France died a robot (7)
- 6 Rise about unemployment relief when maturing (10)
- 7 Tried a casual spread after a time (9)
- 8 Cited and put on about Italian leader (7)
- 13 Get along near strife following resolution (10)
- 15 Highly respected and educated veteran, perhaps (9)
- 17 English mother is not finished with this bird (3)
- 18 Arm came off in handicraft (7)
- 19 Old theologian hits sundry tasks (3,4)
- 20 Top performer accommodating a measure of luminaries (7)
- 22 Compel eleven sides in favour of church (7)
- 25 Left to return to gambling (5)
- 26 Sybil ate, say, his shirt-front! (4)

Slot 4

AJ  
by  
Valkyrie



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



- A** Light following sunset confused great wolf (9)

**B** Flower arrangements - openings for frogs? (11)

**C** Enclose beam, without force, into empty commodious cavities (7)

**D** Spooner's vessel, uninteresting for insect (9)

**E** Uprising during prudish Copernican times (6)

**F** I've left joyful ball, nothing new to decorate (7)

**G** First principle of good, top school time (4)

**H** Stitch the girl's band with black on end of stripe (11)

**I** A little bit of erudite rational repetition (9)

**J** Scottish country lass Juliet, eighteen, disheartened by city (5)

**K** Surgery control perhaps, by all except wife (7)

**L** Desire spirits for ceremonial purification (7)

**M** Reformers wind up in French sea with leader of Scientology (7)
- N** Sons lug alcohol back for misers (8)

**O** Put forward sour Eastern wine (7)

**P** Give instructions for the preparation of kinky, crisp beer (9)

**Q** Creative design to replace centre of eccentric neighbourhood (7)

**R** Wash your hands of short lease with cat (8)

**S** First of steam locomotive express (6)

**T** Value time, restore confidence, remove source of stress (8)

**U** Self-seekers raise street trades (8)

**V** Inane, very Australian slang (6)

**W** Caused insipid editor to include radical opener (7)

**X** Axes half of lemons' woody tissue (5)

**Y** Insubstantial drainage channel with stone between two yards (6)

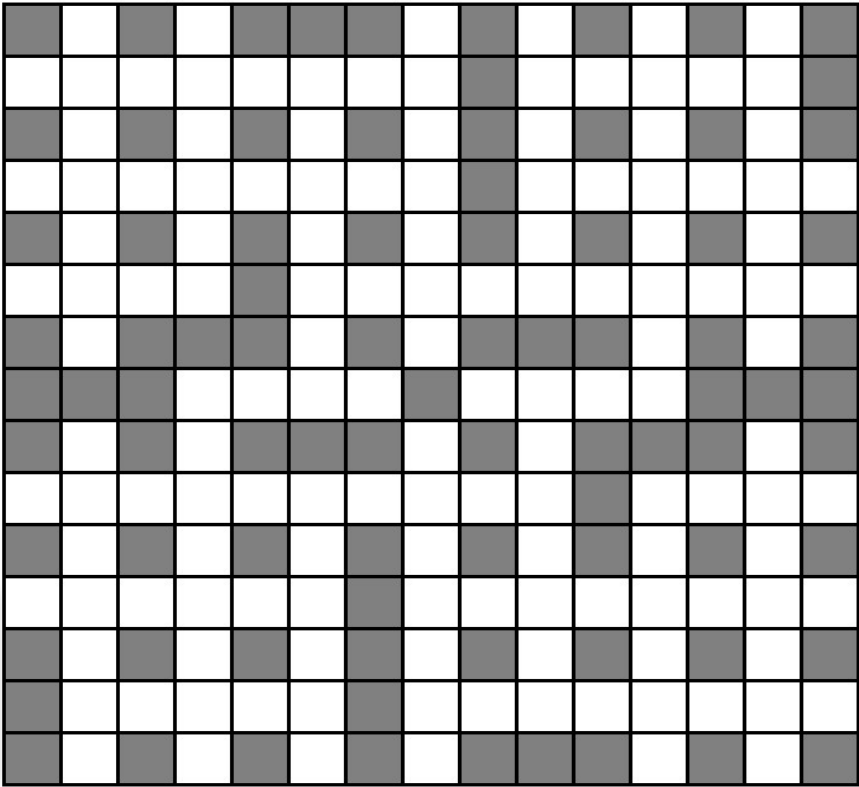
**Z** Safari park head reportedly African (4)

Slot 5

Cryptic  
by  
St Jude



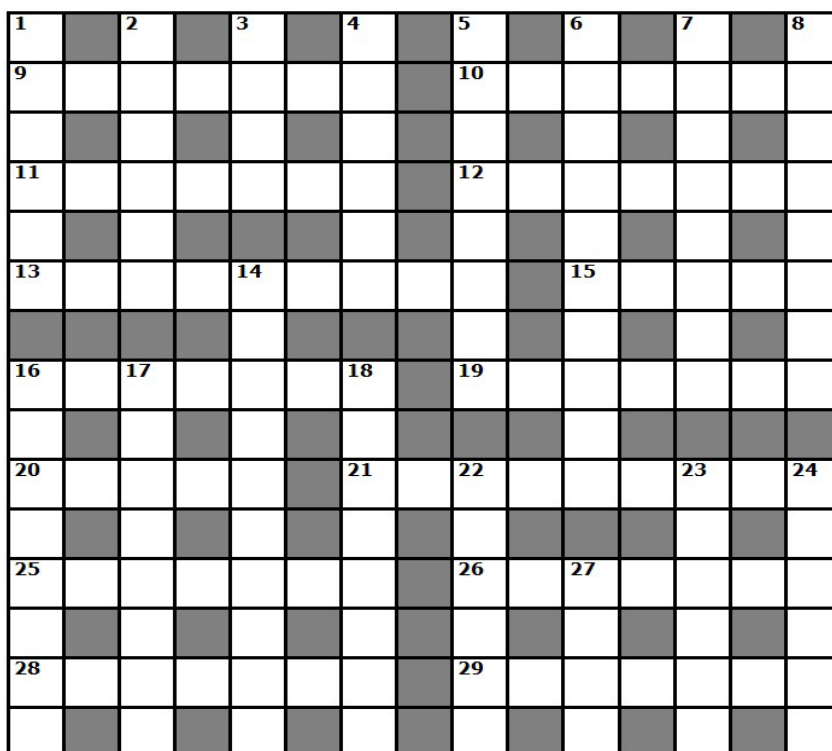
Answers have something in common. Fit them into the grid.  
Note 1: "\*" indicates two crosslinked clues.  
Note 2: *Clue #2 has been corrected from that shown in ACCOLADE*



Alternative to fury is to keep energy within  
greenhouses (10)  
Testicular growth\* caused by chronic humours  
disturbance, not rum heart (10)  
Certainly about links? (2,6)  
Chose our blend of red or yellow earths (8)  
Hero's partner going after old plant (8)  
Judgements of duck feathers (8)  
One debt I converted to become compliant (8)  
Ruler disturbed choir gal (8)  
Agitated, I atoned for undertaking regime (2,1,4)  
Apes filled with excitement, initially for fruit (7)  
Filthy old boy incident (7)  
Month's operation to take too much sealife (7)  
Opening for a female leaving address (7)

Oscar beheaded wizard with lever on boat (7)  
Pompous lies nuts regularly elaborate (7)  
Unsettling old endless aches of growth\*  
location (7)  
Align to the east (6)  
Dams don't begin to get the rest (6)  
Donkey may be a goner (6)  
Ducks protracted drink (6)  
Love to empty small eggs perhaps (6)  
Some boys terrified by shellfish (6)  
Primarily, ornate violet umbels link evergreen  
flower part (5)  
Toff only has binary choice (3,2)  
Agree with god to supply vegetable (4)  
Earlier, not so expert (4)  
Mostly waters trees (4)  
No second class alcohol leak (4)

## Slot 6

Cryptic  
by  
RobespierrePrize  
\$50

## Across

- 9** Kill Kate? (4,3)  
**10** Approve/reprove (4,3)  
**11** Raise more hands to expose improper veto? (7)  
**12** Cure filling veins outside healing site (7)  
**13** Scold gunmen concealing reading material in temporary accommodation (9)  
**15** Fashionable daughter, with heart of steel, leaving for battle site (5)  
**16** Pained expression caught by reporters' skill (7)  
**19** Piece missing from coin-operated transport is causing a stink (7)  
**20** Ruler has measurement unit always shortened (5)  
**21** Romantic interlude involves darling maiden with nothing on! (9)  
**25** Don't react when breast placed in block! (3,2,2)  
**26** Girl carries sack - of cheese? (7)  
**28** Score in error, letting in own goal. He usually gives nothing away! (7)  
**29** Type of lead possibly draining power from supply opposite (7)

## Down

- 1** Top scoutmaster frantically races off (6)

- 2** Ray confronts riot leader, an individual using blades (6)  
**3** South American capital avoided extremes following uprising in country (4)  
**4** How aardvark starts to be an incarnation of wisdom? (6)  
**5** Dirk steps over the top when climbing (8)  
**6** Our organisation outs Ray - maliciously engaged in finger-pointing (10)  
**7** New dawn breaking in part of India supercontinent (8)  
**8** Splinter group cancelled filming session (8)  
**14** Trained bear helping to show anomaly (10)  
**16** Without rival, unlike the House of Lords? (8)  
**17** Open ballot box, causing upset (8)  
**18** Large glass more quickly filled by both taps (8)  
**22** Scandinavian associated with gate damage, according to Spooner (6)  
**23** Travelling into work introduced choice (6)  
**24** Restore order when hurricane at enterprise warehouses (6)  
**27** Skite in seating close to the front? (4)

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



# Slot 7

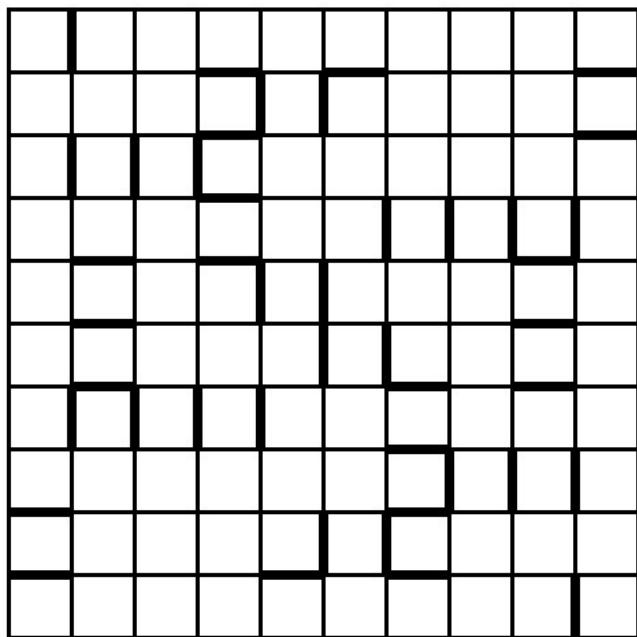
**AJ**  
by  
**Flowerman**

**Prize  
\$50**

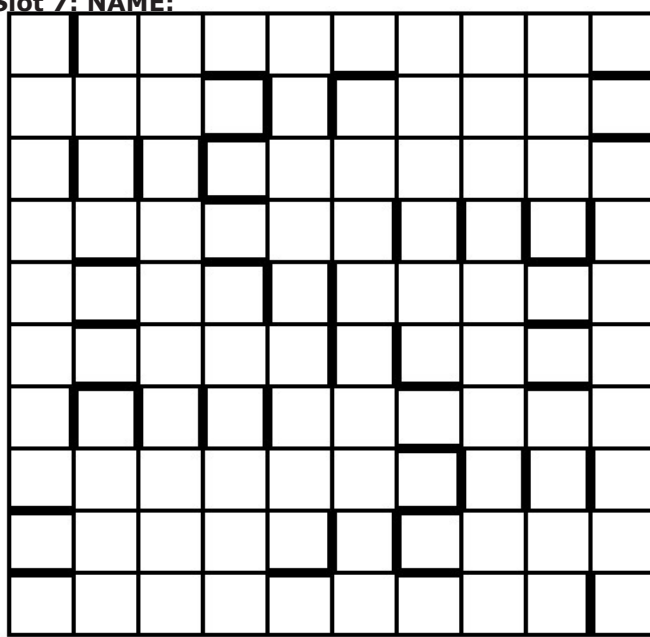
Each solution contains the given letter in the position indicated. Place solutions in the grid jigsaw-wise where they fit.

- A(6)** Idlers glug rum in Sardinian square (9)  
**B(1)** Curse on British boxer losing weight (6)  
**C(5)** Nearly everything is outstanding in historic French region (6)  
**D(5)** Roman poet claiming nothing is shaped like an egg (5)  
**E(3)** Upright slab of slate crumbling (5)  
**F(8)** After dismissing poor Rosa, arrogant fools modified gallery (5,4)  
**G(9)** Dodgy agent in outskirts of Phuket securing a government licence (9)  
**H(4)** Local pharmacy showing character (5)  
**I(2)** Students on vacation bagging Irish gentlemen (4)  
**J(1)** Fuel in reserve on first couple of 747s (5)  
**K(4)** European crow poking around, scratching with another bird (4,6)

- L(2)** Turkish commander getting line in tangle? (4)  
**M(1)** Religious guy in contact with Kelvin after mass (4)  
**N(3)** Suspend one kicked out of social gathering in Dunedin (4)  
**O(3)** Country party losing heart, going backwards (4)  
**P(1)** Enrolled nurse in pain in Malaysian island (6)  
**Q(2)** Brief storm over Republican's grubbiness (7)  
**R(3)** Instruments from South American capital making Charlie money (7)  
**S(7)** Genius out at sea with liberal outfit (6,4)  
**T(5)** It's allowable putting great Italian on board (9)  
**U(3)** A marsupial not OK, essentially, sinking in water (4)  
**V(2)** Forming saliva is of benefit (6)  
**W(2)** Ancient symbol was set in stone in centre of Ankara (8)  
**X(3)** Say, lets go in blue! (4)  
**Y(3)** Ceremonial air displays pass quickly over Sweden (8)  
**Z(4)** Famous navigator from India retiring in Zambia (4)



Slot 7: NAME:



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

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

**Explanations for February slots 1 to 5** Note: cd = cryptic definition; dd = double definition; rev or < = reversal; homophones are noted as "homoph" and words from which they are derived may be shown in quotes; anagrams as anag. if straightforward, or (NNNN)\*. "Heads" or "Tails" are first or last letters of part of a clue; letters forming solutions are normally written as capitals and removals as lower case; hw or hidden = hidden word. Explanations provided by individual compilers may vary from this format.

**Slot 1 KA. Down:** 1 debar\*+che, 2 belie+f, 3 Idi in ropes\*, 4 hidden<, 6 m(o+tor)ist, 7 r+egret, 8 tom+e, 12 ep+he(me)r+a, 14 mo+urn+ful, 16 collie+ry, 17 a+broad, 18 dd, 19 dd, 20 men+u.

**Slot 2 Penobscot. Across:** 1 dd, 5 cd, 9 homoph "pandas", 10 homoph "kernel", 11 hidden, 12 dd, 13 TINE + A, 14 anag, 16 cd, 19 dd, 22 hidden, 23 MEN + TO< + TI, 24 I + MB + RUES, 26 NEAR + BY, 27 homoph "first up". **Down:** 1 IS< in DEPOT, 2 ddd, 3 anag, 4 dd, 5 BACK + WOODS, 6 SO-LONG, 7 cd, 8 dd, 12 L in SASH, 14 cd, 15 ACE in RR, 16 cd, 18 cd, 20 dd, 21 [nursery rhyme], 25 cd.

**Slot 3 P-brane. Across:** 1 Heads, 5 Spooner "gear but", 9 cd, 10 F<b EE, 11 DIE + STAMP, 12 BAR(L<>E)Y, 14 homoph "roo mates", 16 cd (L + OWED), 18 (L + FIST)\*, 19 OVER + DRIVE, 21 FAC {I + L} E, 23 I +(HE PLOTS)\*, 26 IRE(land), 27 COCK + EYED + BOB, 28 RE + MORSE, 29 TYPE + SET. **Down:** 1 U in BOLDER, 2 cd, 3 G + AUNT, 4 (EXOTI(c) HUMAN)\*, 5 B in BAY, 6 EYE + homoph "bawled", 7 homophone "gaff", 8 homoph "Thai died", 13 (MESS)\* in ASSENT, 15 MUSCLE + RACe<, 17 cd, 18 rev hidden Cent(RE IT FOL)lowing<, 20 EX + H(a>I)BIT, 22 dd, 24 PRE + O + P, 25 hw shell(AC NE)etly.

**Slot 4 Crowsman. A** A + BOARD, **B** B(LOOM)ED, **C** dd, **D** DE(IN<)ED, **E** GOT in SPIRE<, **F** UGHS< in FLANS, **G** GAMIN(g), **H** HO(WE)VER, **I** IS + LEAR<, **J** JU(DAIS)T, **K** K(EN)DO, **L** L(TACO<)ION, **M** MO(ROT<)IST, **N** NYET around MPH, **O** TROPPO< + UNITY, **P** PROD + I + GAL, **Q** GRIME\* in QUAD, **R** R(EVEN)UE, **S** dd, **T** TOR(RIDES)T, **U** UN(JUST)IFIED, **V** (lo)VIN(g)LY\*, **W** WA(GONE)R, **X** X + (FAR GONE)< + T, **Y** YEAR + DEN<, **Z** ZIMBAwEaN\*.

**Slot 5 Hot & Cold. Across:** 1 TO + TE, 3 DD, 6 A + TIT, 10 C in NONE, 11 hidden, 12 NONET rev, 13 IMP + IN +GE [IVR], 14 cd, 15 (GATES I'D)\*, 16 DAMS + ON, 19 EX + homoph "tolls", 21 FED< + LATE, 25 TINT + Y + P + E, 26 PENZANCE, 27 CR + I + ER, 28 dd, 29 homoph "allowed", 30 hidden, 31 eASTER, 32 US + ED. **Down:** 1 (PHENACETIN - ache)\*, 2 Spooner "pent teg", 4 TENDER + ED, 5 hidden<, 7 NEUTERS\*, 8 ENEM(y) in TENT, 9 cd ref Margaret Court, 12 anag, 17 TEN + C in TALE, 18 NET< + PEN + CE, 20 Homoph "tense isle", 22 cd "ten dons", 23 TEN + ORS, 24 End in TED.

For those addicted to *The Listener* crosswords, Derek Harrison has reminded his Crossword Centre members of the *Punch* spoof from 1978 "The Hardest Crossword in the World". ACC members who complain that some of our slot 6 and 7 puzzles are too hard may be entertained by attempting the Hardest Crossword [here](#)

M	E	M	B	E	R
	N	E	W	S	

### Solvers of the year 2023

We are delighted to announce the winners of our year-long competitions.

#### Puzzles 1 to 7

**1st** Len Colgan, Ian Thompson with 83 correct submissions out of 84  
**3rd** Ian McKenzie, Julie Crowe with 82.

#### Quiz

**1st** Andrew Patterson with 327 correct solutions out of 327  
**2nd** David Proctor with 326  
**3rd** Julie Leigh, Anne Millard, William Ryan with 323

**Many congratulations to all for such splendid success!**

Our thanks to Andrew for maintaining these important records of our members' achievements

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

**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.

**Crowsman** has devised some interesting grids that he will be happy to donate to any compilers who would relish the challenge of devising clues to them (see February's slot 5 for an example). Do let Ian know if you are interested.

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.

**February 1: KA (Karl Audrins)**

- Had never heard of BRICKFIELDER despite having experienced many! Hope I remember it! *Ann Millard*
- An interesting slot 1. I had never heard of BERDACHE, and only a faint recollection of BRICKFIELDER. *Ian Thompson*
- My holiday brain struggled with a couple of the more obscure words, but clear clueing got me through. *Kath Harper*
- Spent too long with ASSESS as the assumed solution for 13ac! *Ian McKenzie*
- A few new words to add to my vocabulary, although can't see me using BERDACHE too often. Thanks for the warm-up. *Ulla Axelsen*
- I liked COLLIERY, and finding some new words in Slot 1 is a pleasure, thanks KA. *Kathy Horadam*
- A couple of new words - BERDACHE and BRICKFIELDER - which is always nice, though I'm not sure when I'll get to use either! *Julie Crowe*
- BERDACHE and BRICKFIELDER are new to me. *Peter Holmick*
- HOURGLASS would seem to be in the wrong column; however, there are no rules to say where the clues live. I liked MOTORIST. *Mal Cockburn*
- I thought COLLIERY had a very good clue. *Robyn McKenzie*
- Difficult for a Slot 1. *Lynn Jarman*
- A good Half-and-Half. *Peter Holmick*

**February 2: Penobscot (Maurice Cowan)**

- Mary Reiby also used the surnames RAIBY, REIBY & REIBEY interchangeably according to Wikipedia. *Michael Veress [Thanks, Michael, but I should have checked my wallet! Luckily the solecism led to few errors, which have been deemed correct - Ed]*
- More new words for me to remember in 12ac and 19ac. *Ann Millard*
- I am currently worried about Mary Reibey?? *Julie Leigh*
- I am worried about Mary Reibey/Reiby so maybe I have something wrong there. *Julie Leigh*
- I learned the phrase "first up, best dressed" from this puzzle! *Fraser Simpson*
- Sorry, didn't enjoy this much. Too many vague clues. 5ac non-cryptic. 11ac is it a hidden answer? What does 'language' do? 23ac seems incorrect. 27ac should be 'first in'. 2dn barely cryptic. 4dn two of the same meaning. 8dn as 4dn. 14dn answer is wrong. Even the banknote mentioned has Reibey. 21dn I don't understand. 25dn barely cryptic. Plus 16ac, 17ac incorrectly presented. Really needed more editing [*Agreed - Ed*]. *Andrew Patterson*
- Some nice cryptic definition clues in this puzzle. Will wait for explanation of how "racketeers don't think much" indicates contempt. I think MENOTTI has an error in parsing. "back note (TI) to" indicates OTIT not OTTI. For 14dn, Macq and Reserve bank indicated REIBEY. *Andrew Meek*
- A few unfamiliar phrases here, but thankfully I was already acquainted with Taffy and Mother Brown. *Kath Harper*
- I've guessed MARY REIBY at 14dn. Is an E AWOL? *Jan Wood*
- 14dn appears to clue MARY REIBEY but its misspelling is required to fit the grid. *Ian McKenzie*
- The alternative spelling of REIBEY caused a bit of grief. A very challenging slot 2, but good fun. *Ulla Axelsen*

- Isn't it REIBEY for 14dn? I liked NEARBY, but not TASED (if correct) as I can't parse the clue. *Kathy Horadam*
- Several new words for me: STEMWINDERS, MYOGRAPHS, STUMP ORATOR, IMBRUES. *Peter Holmick*
- For a while I thought DROPOUT was an anagram of prod - giving a kick. Research found it to be a proper football term. I also learned about Taffy. *Mal Cockburn*
- I had trouble with the parsing of MENOTTI at 23ac (the note Ti is not reversed) and with the spelling of Mary Reibey at 14dn, assuming of course these were the correct answers. *Caroline Mackay-Sim*
- I'm not too sure about the way I had to spell Mary Reibey's name! *Robyn McKenzie*
- A very busy grid - clever! *Lynn Jarman*
- A very unusual spelling of Mary's name. I would think it should have been Reibey? That's assuming we have the correct answer of course! *Richard Skinner*

**February 3: P-brane (Roger Hearn)**

- I've never heard of a willy willy being called a buckeyed bob- nor has google. Obviously I am too city oriented. *David Bennett*
- If I was agile enough I would kick myself for wasting so much time trying to make sense of 1ac. *Kath Harper*
- Lived through a few cyclones, but never heard the term 'Cockeyed Bob' before. Thanks for the workout. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Some new Aussie slang for me here. I hope LOFTIER is correct! *Kathy Horadam*
- Some of these clues seemed fair. *Roy Taylor*
- BROGGIE, ISOPLETH, COCKEYED BOB, and I'd never heard of a "bin chicken" (must've had a sheltered life) ... and even more words which are new to me. *Peter Holmick*
- A puzzle full of colloquialisms. Never heard of a BROGGIE or COCKEYED BOB but certainly know a BEERGUT when I see one. *Mal Cockburn*
- An enjoyable puzzle. Thanks, P-brane! *Caroline Mackay-Sim*
- Gosh three new words for me - BROGGIE, MUSCLE CAR and ISOPLETH. *Trish McPherson*
- Lots of great clues in this puzzle. *Robyn McKenzie*
- A veritable mix of good clues such as ROOMMATES and WHITE IBIS and some unusual answers such as BROGGIE and COCKEYED BOB. *Lynn Jarman*
- BROGGIE is a new slang word to me! *Nea Storey*

**February 4: Crowsman (Len Colgan)**

- Nice to see clear clues that led to definite answers. Thanks Len. *Andrew Patterson*
- Lots of nice container clues here: E, F, J, T stand out. *Fraser Simpson*
- Judaism or Judaist. *Brian Symons*
- Opportunity. *William Ryan*
- An enjoyable challenge. *Allan Storti*
- A nice, straightforward AJ to start my month. The J definition was a bit tricky. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Well done to include so many reversals. I liked QUAGMIRED and XENOGRAFT, but the clue for J was opaque. *Kathy Horadam*
- Numerous great clues in this offering. *Ian Thompson*

Continued on page 16

**Name .....**

Name.....

[illegible][illegible]

## Clue of the Month .....

**MARCH 2024 SLOT 3**

[illegible]

1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8
9										10				
11					12									
				13										
14		15				16	17							
18						19		20		21				22
23												24	25	
										26				
27						28								
29								30						

MARCH 2024 SLOT 5

[illegible]

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





### Quiz 2024-3 Reverse Inclusions by KA (Karl Audrins).

Each clue defines two words. One is a subsidiary of the other, and both lengths are given. For example .

Publican has a look (9)(4) Answer:

Barkeeper/peek. The longer words are in alphabetical order, with the subsidiary reading backwards.

Please submit both words. Send your solutions to [karlishane@optusnet.com.au](mailto:karlishane@optusnet.com.au) or mail to Karl Audrins 10 Elizabeth Parade, Charlestown NSW 2290. Closing mail date Friday 29 March 2024

- 1 Vehicles are part of removal (5)(11)
- 2 Game includes bird (9)(4)
- 3 Delete part of operation (5)(9)
- 4 Award includes old card (10)(5)
- 5 Newspaper article about Indian sandwich (9)(4)
- 6 Illumination includes young sow (10)(4)
- 7 Wander around house (9)(5)
- 8 Superhuman concealment of riches (9)(5)
- 9 Doubt surrounds solution concentration (11)(5)
- 10 Shot into a climbing shrub (5)(9)
- 11 Cuts into relative (4)(9)
- 12 Satchel holds securing rope (8)(4)
- 13 Jewelled pendant contains volcanic material (9)(4)
- 14 Shrub conceals wild animal (9)(4)
- 15 Traditional knowledge is part of occult study (4)(10)
- 16 Driver embraces sailor (8)(3)
- 17 Fantastic to have flower (10)(7)
- 18 Pickle contains flower (10)(5)
- 19 Small group has fish (9)(5)
- 20 Unfortunately, cricketer is included (11)(6)
- 21 Hardening around ulcer (9)(4)
- 22 Senseless to be in underhand dealings (5)(11)
- 23 Turtle swallows fish (8)(4)
- 24 Reticent to hide some hair (11)(5)
- 25 Girl is put in bondage (4)(9)
- 26 Audacity of the resident (4)(8)
- 27 Clerical wear is in season (5)(10)
- 28 Drying up around trap (8)(5)
- 29 Juveniles surround antelope (10)(3)
- 30 Fermentation includes spirit (7)(3)

### Quiz 2 2024 by Valkyrie (Ulla Axelsen)

Entries received: 35 Correct: 24 Success Rate 70%

**Winner: Hilary Cromer. Congratulations!**

**Results** 28 P Abbott, M Blake, H Cromer, C Flinkenberg, K Harper, B Ibbott, L Jarman, R Jarman, J Leigh, R McKenzie, D Meek, A Miles, A Millard, D Procter, D Rosendorff, W Ryan, B Siegman, R Skinner, N Storey, B Symons, R Taylor, M Veress, K Williams, R Wimbush 27 J Crowe, I Mason, C McClelland, F Simpson, M Steinberger 26 P Garner, J Mitchell, S Pinder, S Shipway 25 B Cockburn 23 D Bennett

**Answers** 1. Again and again 2. Bread and butter 3. Crash and burn 4. Down-and-out 5. East and west 6. Fair and square 7. Give and take 8. Heart and soul (or hand) 9. Ifs and buts 10. Jack and Jill 11. Knives and forks 12. Life-and-death 13. Movers and shakers 14. Nuts and bolts 15. Open-and-shut 16. Power and glory 17. Pride and Prejudice 18. Quick and easy 19 Rack and ruin 20. Sackcloth and ashes 21. Slap and tickle 22. Tooth and nail 23. Upstairs and downstairs 24. Vodka and (lime, soda, coke) 25. Wattle and daub 26. X and Y 27. You and me 28. Zigs and zags

**Compiler's Observations:** Thanks for all the kind comments, it was great to see a couple of new names crop up as well as so many of regular ones. #16 was the main bone of contention, but I think Robyn Wimbush worded it well, 'I toyed briefly with PEACE AND QUIET but then came to my senses.' Unfortunately, I had to disallow some entries as they were not a common saying and others that just did not meet the definition e.g. "ins and outs" for #9. I did allow a lot of flexibility however with #24 as I couldn't really discount what some people drink with their vodka providing it had 4 letters.

### Solvers' Feedback:

- Thanks for your enjoyable quiz. Once the "and" connection was apparent, it wasn't too hard to find familiar phrases. *Drew Meek*
- Most enjoyable quiz. *Patricia Abbott*
- Thanks for all you do. *David Procter*
- Delightful quiz. Thank you. *Kate Williams*
- Great stuff. Tried to do without Googling, but was stumped on No. 20. And, had to check spelling on 19! Thank you! *William Ryan*
- Thanks for the great quiz. I was good & ready for this one! *Fraser Simpson*
- Number 16 worried me, I wondered if some great leaders wanted "Peace and Quiet" but decided in the end that the majority want Power and Glory. Maybe I have seen too much of Trump on the news recently? *Julie Leigh*
- Thanks for a great quiz. I'm amazed you managed to get every letter of the alphabet, a couple twice. *Betty Siegman*
- A novel entertainer – thank you. *Ian Mason*
- An enjoyable puzzle. "Sackcloth and ashes" beat me for a long while. *Con Flinkenberg*
- Another enjoyable quiz from you -- thank you. I toyed briefly with PEACE AND QUIET for 16 but then came to my senses. Maybe just wishful thinking. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Another great puzzle, thank-you. *Sue Pinder*
- Thank you for this interesting quiz. *Maureen Blake*
- Thank you for this bit of light relief after the arm wrestle with the grids. Even better exercise for the

continued on p 16



**February Slot 6 Cryptic by Nigrum Cattus (Ray Gooderick)**

Entries received 60, Correct 45, Success rate 75%.

Prizewinner: Brian Dowse. Congratulations!

**Adjudicator's observations** The unfamiliar PEDREROES gave problems to some and 5 members lost their dots due to their knowledge, or lack thereof, of the minor planets ERIS and SEDNA, both referenced in *Collins*. Otherwise, dots were lost due to the normal crop of typos that could have been obviated by using the spell check built into ACCOLADE. Overall, a well-constructed themed puzzle that was well-received by members.

**Explanations – Across:** 1 OPEN< + TIC, 5 MAR(ABOUT)S, 10 rev anag SLEET\*, 11 OCULI(st), 12 AS + PEN, 13 dd, 14 O(EP<)RATORS, 15 A + D + VICE, 18 PE(SET)A, 20 S(DEEP<)TRAP, 24 RATIO(ns), 25 C + LIMB, 26 EVIAN<, 27 rev anag GENERATES\*, 28 CAS(SET)TES, 29 MISTY + P(lac)E. **Down:** 1 SON< + HOW, 2 PRE(SUP)POSITIONS, 3 TALL(I)ER, 4 COOL + ANTS, 5 MIS(APPROPRIATE)S, 6 R + A + RING, 7 BUCK + LED, 8 UNI + MAGI + NATIVELY, 9 S(IN)ISTER, 16 OP(ERA)TIC, 17 BEAR\* in SEAM, 19 T + ROUBLE, 21 TONG(AN)S, 22 cryptic def (RÉSUMÉ), 23 cryptic def.

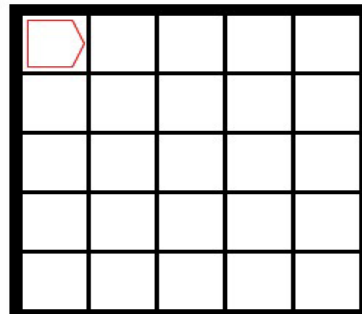
**Solvers' Feedback**

- Liked the theme. All the new dwarf planets to remember now. Not sure on the parsing of 2d. Eggs kept in reserve indicates RE(ROE)S but nor clear to me how Hamper indicates PED. *Andrew Meek* ["Chambers" **ped!** n a pannier or hamper – Ed]
- I enjoyed the theme! *Fraser Simpson*
- PEDREROES was a tough one to find! *Julie Leigh*
- A remarkable effort to cram all 8 planets & 5 dwarf planets into a grid. 19d The anagram fodder for WEASEL CAT seems to have an unused "a". *Ian McKenzie*
- The one of five misdirection slowed me down a bit but it was a very enjoyable and interesting puzzle. *Robyn Wimbusch*
- Looked for groups of 5 until I realised it was referring to clue 5. Despite all the planet names; it was still quite a challenge. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Great fun finding the solar system entities although not certain of the groups of five within. *Maureen Blake*
- Interesting astronomic journey. *Roy Taylor*
- A lovely trip around the solar system; and now I know the difference between dwarf planets and minor planets! *Julie Crowe*
- A tour of the Solar System. PEDREROES had me scouring my dictionary. *Mal Cockburn*
- Lots of themes this month. I didn't know that there were so many minor planets. *Richard Skinner*
- Think I identified all the planets; but not sure of some other answers. *Nea Storey*
- I've heard of CERES and ERIS but SEDNA and ORCUS are new to me. *Peter Holmick*
- It all came down to solving PLANETS. *Lynn Jarman*

**FRAZ WORD SQUARE 5-Mar 1** (Solution on p 16)

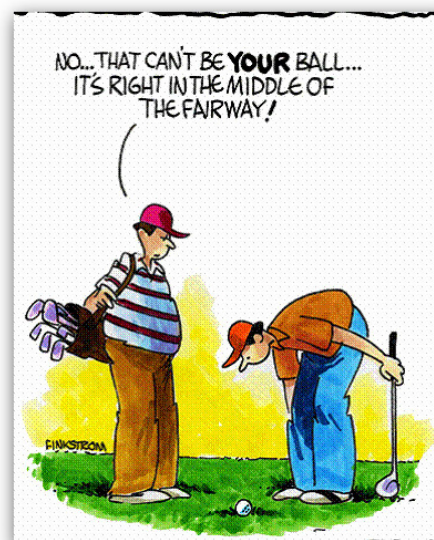
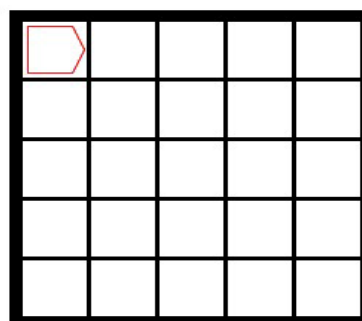
Identical words read across and down in this square. Clues are not listed in order.

- A fellow representative
- Head off from aircraft routes
- Knockout imitating marsupial
- Minor gang has heart, perhaps
- Nasty jockeys unable to sit still

**FRAZ WORD SQUARE 5-Mar 2** (Solution on p 16)

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

- Brownish yellow room overlooking church
- Embrace notes found in backed-up computer
- Got a whiff of fish
- Leaves band after reflection
- Proposition creative male banking millions



**February Slot 7 Cryptic by Crowsman (Len Colgan)**

**Entries received 53, Correct 43, Success rate 81%.**

**Prizewinner: Andrew Patterson. Congratulations!**

**Compiler's observations:** The puzzle was built around the two 17-letter answers, both 'reverse anagrams' where the anagram indicator is part of the answer instead of being in the wordplay as usual. They produced no errors. A repeated mistake was to enter ACCEPT instead of the correct ACCENT, where the clue cryptically related RESUME to RÉSUMÉ.

**Explanations – Across:** 1 OPEN< + TIC, 5 MAR(ABOUT)S, 10 rev anag SLEET\*, 11 OCULI(st), 12 AS + PEN, 13 dd, 14 O(EP<)RATORS, 15 A + D + VICE, 18 PE(SET)A, 20 S(DEEP<)TRAP, 24 RATIO(ns), 25 C + LIMB, 26 EVIAN<, 27 rev anag GENERATES\*, 28 CAS(SET)TES, 29 MISTY + P(lac)E. **Down:** 1 SON< + HOW, 2 PRE(SUP)POSITIONS, 3 TALL(I)ER, 4 COOL + ANTS, 5 MIS(APPROPRIATE)S, 6 R + A + RING, 7 BUCK + LED, 8 UNI + MAGI + NATIVELY, 9 S(IN)ISTER, 16 OP(ERA)TIC, 17 BEAR\* in SEAM, 19 T + ROUBLE, 21 TONG(AN)S, 22 cryptic def (RÉSUMÉ), 23 cryptic def.

**Solvers' Feedback**

- Lots of fun wordplay, as usual with Crowsman. The repeated word at 19D and 27A was a surprise, though. *Fraser Simpson*
- Fab. *Andrew Patterson*
- I liked the clues for PRESUPPOSITIONS and ACCENT the most. *Ian Thompson*
- So many wonderful clues and the joys of the English language with 'letters' and 'letters' etc, some of which can send you down a rabbit hole. 22d ACCENT was the last clue of the month that took days of angst before the penny dropped. What a puzzle!! *Ann Millard*
- Not sure if they are all correct but I absolutely loved this puzzle. *Betty Siegman*
- Thanks Len. Quite a few gems here. Loved TALLIER and PESETA but ACCENT my favourite. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Interesting anagrammatic structures, a bit harder when you have to find the indicator. 22d took some working out, and I've even studied French! Very clever. *Ulla Axelsen*
- So many big words! *Maureen Blake*
- The beautifully constructed clue for ACCENT should be clue of the year. *Roy Taylor*
- Great clues. I loved steel construction *Robyn Mckenzie*
- Another CROWSMAN with some very long words to nut out. A joy to work through the tricky clues and finish. 5D was a brilliant clue. *Mal Cockburn*
- Another set of beautiful clues so typical of Crowsman. Interesting grid, too! *Bev Cockburn*
- Did not like the asymmetrical grid. *Nea Storey*
- Your vocabulary is truly amazing. Being able to fit five 15-letter words into one grid is just awesome. So many clues were worthy of COM. I particularly applaud 20a and clever 23d took a while. *Lynn Jarman*

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

**High-flyer**

High-flyers, sometimes spelled high-fliers, are people who have achieved notable success, especially those who have become successful more quickly than is normal. The term is also used to describe speculative stock that has reached a high price in a short time.

**Origin**

We might expect this term to have originated in the world of aviation. In a way that's correct. The phrase does in fact predate the invention of planes/balloons by some hundreds of years, but there is an avian connection - if we recall that the word aviation derives from the Latin name for birds - *avis*. The first known citation of it in print is in Richard Harvey's diatribe *Plaine Percevall the peace-maker of England*, 1590: "Men haue great desire to be compted [*regarded as*] high fliers and deepe swimmers." When looking for the origin of the term we need to take account of its change in meaning over time. When coined in the 16th century it wasn't used admiringly to refer to someone who had achieved success, but critically about someone who unwisely aspired to achievements beyond their talents. We still retain a version of the phrase with that meaning - *high-flown*, which we reserve for critical judgments of people who are extravagantly ambitious and bombastic. These are of course exactly the character faults that were ascribed to Icarus, the figure of Greek mythology who ignored his father's warnings not to use his homemade wax and feather wings to fly too close to the Sun, resulting in the inevitable crash to Earth. It is clear that, until the late 17th century at least, high-flyers were directly equated with Icarus. For example, William Chilton's *Practical treatise concerning evil thoughts*, 1698: "These highflyers, when they are in their altitudes, suddenly their waxen wings melt, and down they fall headlong."

Thanks to A Phrase a Week ([www.phrases.org.uk/meanings](http://www.phrases.org.uk/meanings)) for permission to reprint this article.

**Feedback on January slots 1 to 5 - continued from page 13**

- Enjoyable well clued AJ. I liked NYMPHET. *Roy Taylor*
- A lovely puzzle which was a pleasure to do. Some beautifully worded clues, with my favourite being the very clever NYMPHET. *Julie Crowe*
- A fun AJ to solve with great surface readings. KENDO gets my COTM. The J clue has me scratching my head. Hopefully, it's a term I was unable to find. *Mal Cockburn*
- Lots of lovely clues, each one worthy of mention. I just love the simplicity of some of them - WAGONER, REVENUE, ISRAEL, OPPORTUNITY, etc. etc! but KENDO was my favourite. *Bev Cockburn*
- Thanks, Crowsman for answers that are mostly words that I've heard before. *Lynn Jarman*
- Interesting AJ with a theme but this time in the clueing! Typical Len. *Richard Skinner*
- Thanks for another enjoyable AJ. Liked the clues for ABOARD, LOCATION and OPPORTUNITY. *Ron Jarman*
- The I/J connection had me puzzled for a while! *Robyn McKenzie*
- Another enjoyable AJ, thanks. *Hilary Cromer*

**February 5: Hot & Cold (Jenny Wenham and Ian Williams)**

- Very clever creating a crossword with all the down answers beginning with TEN. *David Procter*
- A wonderful collaboration of talents!! *Ann Millard*
- A score of 10/10 for all! *Fraser Simpson*
- Can't believe how long it takes me to catch a theme. Thank you all. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Ten out of ten for this puzzle. Great fun. *Ulla Axelsen*
- I didn't spot the Tens until I was filling in Accolade - must be more alert. *Con Flinkenberg*
- Would have been much easier if I had noticed earlier that all down clues began with 'TEN'. Nevertheless, an enjoyable puzzle. *Maureen Blake*
- I can't believe I didn't notice all the tens until I was entering it in accolade! Would have made it much easier. *Roy Taylor*
- Very clever. Not sure when I noticed that all down clues started with 'TEN' - probably not early enough to be useful! And I thought a theme was happening with the across clues too, for a while. *Julie Crowe*
- 10 out of 10! *Kath Harper*
- TEN out of TEN for this one. *Mal Cockburn*
- Very enjoyable puzzle and ten out of ten for the setter! That was no mean feat! *Bev Cockburn*
- I enjoyed the TEN theme in this puzzle. *Sonia Roulston*
- The TENS have it ! *Peter Holmick*
- It took a long time to get on the right wavelength. I still can't properly justify 8dn TENEMENT (perhaps it's wrong?). Noticing the common theme for the down clues improved the fun tenfold! *Lynn Jarman*
- This should probably have been an honorary slot 10! *Richard Skinner*
- Some clever clues for TENPIN, DEFLATE and TEN GALLON HAT. *Ron Jarman*
- The number 10 got a good work-out. *Nea Storey*
- 'Ten out of ten!' for this one. *Hilary Cromer*
- I give it ten out of ten! Laurence Kennedy
- The down clues all starting with TEN show Crowsman's skill! *Robyn Mckenzie*

**Feedback on Quiz 1-2024 - cont from p 13**

- brain without having to research the answers. *Pat Garner*
- This was very entertaining. 20 and 22 took me the longest. *Roy Taylor*.
  - Many thanks for another terrific quiz. I have laboured long and hard over 22, and think I have it. It doesn't feel quite as tried and true, or cut and dried as the others though. *Julie Crowe*
  - Thanks for an excellent but difficult quiz. *Brian Symons*
  - Thanks for another fun quiz. *Claire McClelland*
  - I actually feel quite positive this time that maybe I haven't made any mistakes, I really enjoyed working it out. Thank for a great quiz. *Barb Ibbott*
  - Hello Ulla, thanks for your fun quiz. *Margaret Steinberger*
  - Thanks for this quiz. A lot of fun and I appreciated that the alphabetical order did not have too many repeats of a letter. *Lynn Jarman*
  - Thank you for your quiz, which was "Nice AND Easy"! *Andrew Miles*
  - Thank you for another enjoyable quiz. As always, you've put together a challenging set of clues that required a search in every nook and cranny for the last couple. *Ron Jarman*
  - My thanks for something that gave much food for thought, both in completing the quiz and then thinking of other possibilities - probably enough for another quiz! *Judy Mitchell*
  - Thanks Ulla. A pretty straight forward one this time. I thought 10 was a bit cheeky though! *Richard Skinner*
  - Here's my entry for this enjoyable quiz. Number 20 took me quite a while as I've never heard that expression. *Hilary Cromer*
  - Another lovely innovative quiz from you which I very much enjoyed. Hopefully there are no mistakes as I find I'm often in too much hurry to send them off! *Bev Cockburn*
  - Thank you for the quiz. I enjoyed doing it and have been thinking about other 'and' phrases ever since. My husband and I couldn't agree on the accompaniment to vodka. He likes lime and I like soda! *Robyn Mckenzie*

**Solution WORD SQUARE 5-Mar 1**

Y	S	T	N	A
S	E	N	L	A
T	N	E	G	A
N	A	G	O	R
A	L	A	O	K

**Solution WORD SQUARE 5-Mar 2**

S	T	R	P	A
T	L	E	M	S
R	E	B	A	M
A	M	A	L	E
P	S	A	C	L



**January Clue-writing Competition: Write a clue for MANIPULATE (10)****Adjudicated by Len Colgan**

Definition from Chambers (12<sup>th</sup> edition) **manipulate** vt to work with the hands; to handle or manage; to treat by manipulation; to give a false appearance to, change the character, etc, of; to turn to one's own purpose or advantage; to move, edit or alter text, data files, etc (comput).

[LL *manipulāre*, -ātum; see **maniple**]

I anticipated that wordplays using (A + LUPIN)< in MATE, or similar strategy, would be the most common. Did that eventuate? This answer lends itself to multiple approaches, some of which I never anticipated. Not surprisingly, most clues began with a definition for the verb MANIPULATE. Only two definitions were the same. Perhaps the answer kindly provided multiple clever options, but what a great set of entries!

The winner was Toby McLeay with

**Cook scoffed after nibble coated in batter**

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

**Appalling, a male in the beginning up to change for own advantage \*\*\***

This is (A MALE IN T(he) UP)\*, with 'appalling' as the anagram indicator. Would 'appallingly' be better? I like the definition. Surface is a bit strained.

**Capitalise on cooking Putin a meal \*\*\*\***

The best of the complete anagrams, with 'cooking' being the anagram indicator for (PUTIN A MEAL)\* and 'capitalise on' being a definition shown in Chambers. The surface certainly conjures up images in one's mind.

**Control a returning pulse in friend \*\*\*\***

This is (A + LUPIN)< in MATE and is the only one similar to the strategy I anticipated. It refers to a medical emergency with 'control' being the definition. Misleadingly, LUPIN is a pulse crop rather than anything to do with an apparent heart beat. Great surface.

**Control pet animal loose around university \*\*\*\***

Also with 'control' as the definition, this is (PET ANIMAL)\* around U, 'loose' being the anagram indicator. Excellent surface with every word actively contributing to the clue.

**Cook scoffed after nibble coated in batter \*\*\*\*1/2**

Some very clever misleads in this clue in which a cook appears to be ridiculing the use of batter covering a nibble. But 'cook' is the definition for 'manipulate', 'scoffed = ate', 'nibble = nip' and 'batter = maul', all of which are in Chambers. It uses MA(NIP)UL + ATE. Brilliant!

**Handle Putin, alpha male \*\*\*1/2**

This is an anagram (PUTIN + A + MALE)\*. The intention is that 'handle' is both the definition and the anagram indicator. But it is not an @lit clue, even though the whole clue is the wordplay, because that would require the whole clue to be the definition also, not just the first word. A fine surface, and very imaginative.

**Juggle with crazy beat shortening it by about a second \*\*\***

This is MANI(c) + PUL(s)ATE, using 'juggle with' as the definition (in Chambers), 'crazy = manic', 'beat = pulsate'. It is then necessary to remove 'about = c' and 'second = s'. A nice idea, but the method used is not quite smooth enough.

**Manage to get backed up in the morning – behind schedule \*\*\*\***

This is (UP IN AM)< + LATE, with 'backed' being the part reversal indicator. The surface presumably refers to heavy traffic on the way to work. I really like the originality in this clue which reads really well and I would be proud to present it.

**Manoeuvre a piece of metal up in a material backing \*\*\*\***

A reverse hidden, (mETAL UP IN A Material)<, an extended version of the previous clue, with 'backing' as the reversal indicator and 'a piece of' as the hidden indicator. The surface is fine and I suspect it would not be easy to spot such a well-incorporated complete reversal. Excellent!

**Promise to get stone removed by fellow doctor \*\*\*\***

Using 'doctor' as the definition for MANIPULATE, this has the ingredients for a great clue incorporating MAN + (st)IPULATE with 'st = stone' removed. The surface provides a clear surgical image. I am not convinced that 'promise' is a precise synonym for 'stipulate' and placing 'fellow = MAN' at the front could be made fairer. I love the creativity.

**Strategically manage to put a plant back in infusion \*\*\*1/2**

This is the only entry to use precisely my predicted (A + LUPIN)< in MATE, although I must admit I did not expect the less common meaning 'infusion = MATE' to appear. The definition is 'strategically manage' and, of course, 'a plant = A LUPIN'. Not quite matching the succinct earlier one, but it gladdened me.

**Work on irregular main beat lacking focal point \*\*\*1/2**

The definition is 'work on', 'irregular main' is MAIN\* and 'beat lacking focal point' is PUL(s)ATE.

Another clue referring to a heart beat emergency but involving a totally different approach. The surface is not quite as pure as the previous one, but the clue is imaginative and fine.

**Clue-Writing Competition Scoring System**

	Poor	Proper	Perfect
Definition	0	1	2
Secondaries	0	1	2
Fairness	0	1	2
Surface	0	1	2
x-factor	0	1	2
Total score	Star Rating		
1 or 2	*		
3 or 4	**		
5 - 7	***		
8 - 9	****		
10	*****		

For the next competition, please write a clue for the word **GONDOLA (7) complete with explanation**. Note: only one clue per person. Send your clue **and explanation** to the adjudicator Andrew Paterson by email to mcandap@bigpond.net.au or mail to 372 Great North Rd, Abbotsford NSW 2046

**Closing mail date: Friday 12 April 2024 Prize \$50.**