



No 419 March 2025



www.crosswordclub.org



I have laboured to refine our language to grammatical purity, and to clear it from colloquial barbarisms, licentious idioms, and irregular combinations. Samuel Johnson, *The Rambler*, no. 208 March 1752

GRIDATORIAL

We are delighted to announce the winners of the puzzle and quiz marathons for 2024. The Slots Champion with 83 correct from 84 was Andrew Patterson, closely followed by Karl Audrins and Kath Harper with 82 correct slots each. The 2024 Quiz Champion's prize went to both William Ryan and Anne Millard with 325 correct solutions from 327. Congratulations to the winners and commiserations to those who just missed out.

We have some rare treats for you this month. Crowsman makes a rare appearance in slot 1 with a scholarly but eminently solvable half and half and T-boy presents a slightly medically-inclined slot 2, which should not require a stethoscope. Manveru deserts slot 4 with a clever cryptic in slot 3 and Flowerman can this month be found with an AJ, rather than in his customary slot 6 or 7 location. NanaKat returns with a stylish and cleverly contrived puzzle in slot 5 and St Jude introduces us to a fascinating aspect of our language in slot 6, while a polished thematic puzzle by The Void will keep you entertained in slot 7. The whole is rounded up neatly with a carefully constructed quiz by none other than Crowsman.

Our thanks to all who have contributed to the content and preparation of this issue of CrOZworld. We couldn't do it without you!

We wish you well with your solving throughout February
Ian

FROM THE ADJUDICATOR

Well done to all who solved (or nearly solved) the great puzzles created by members this month.

Slot 1: Several solvers mentioned that the triple unches could have been avoided by the use of the words RAPID and DRAFT. The only error which appeared more than once was HONKYDORY for HUNKYDORY (twice).

Slot 2: A spelling mistake that somehow doesn't quite look like one was the downfall for 16 solvers: CONCENSUSES for CONSENSUSES while three other members tried DYPITYCH for DIPTYCH.

Slot 3: Not too many problems for solvers with this one though 5 solvers tried IPANEMA for ISABELA. Some of the shorter solutions caused problems too with three instances of SPOT for SPIT and three occurrences of LILT for LULL.

Slot 4: Quite a few solvers pointed out the number of unusual words in this puzzle. This is, of course, an occupational hazard when filling the grid for an AJ but it's certainly great for expanding the vocabulary. The Y clue turned out to be the most dangerous with 9 members trying YOURS for YOUN (URN was the vase as the tip-off). 6 solvers chose CORMORANT for the unusual COMMORANT, overlooking the COMMO implied by the L clue, while 3 solvers chose ENVOi for ENVOY. Unfortunately this doesn't quite fit the bill as it doesn't mean 'messenger'.

Slot 5: Members' comments on this puzzle expressed delight and admiration for the cleverness and difficulty of its construction. Many of the errors related to the insertion of the three missing letters or typos, which need extra care in a barred puzzle.

COTM: Nominations for clues in all slots. Once again we have a tie and the award goes to P-brane for his ROSEBUSH [Bed-ridden resident perhaps got up and took public transport to hotel] and to Crowsman for SLIP OF THE TONGUE [Spoonerism gets hopeful into trouble – *an ingenious anagram, but how many sent hours looking for that non-existent Spoonerism?*], each with four of the 40 votes, Runners-up with 3 votes each were SNAKE IN THE GRASS [Deceiver has pay] by CT and SUNUP [Dawn French, one restricted by drink] again by Crowsman
Brian Tickle

LEADING FIGURES

Puzzle No.	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Entries received	80	832	83	74	75	393
Correct entries	74	61	61	57	54	2998
Success rate (%)	93	74	74	77	72	76
Prizewinners	Sue Pinder	Mal Cockburn	Kate Williams	Maureen Blake	Ulla Axelsen	from 85 members

Prizewinner: February Slots 1-5 correct: Michael Veress. Congratulations!

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February Slot 1

1	P	A	R	T	A	K	I	N	G	5	R	O	W	E	R	8		
	A	O		V		N		U				H		E				
9	S	U	C	C	U	M	B		10	Y	A	P	P	I	N	G		
	T	K		L		L		D				S		A				
11	E	V	E	N	S		12	A	N	E	C	D	O	T	A	L		
	L	R		I		C		M				L		E				
13	S	14	H	Y	L	O	C	K		15	A	W		16	H	E	E	17
	I				N		A		U		U			E				
18	P	19	A	R	S	O	N		20	P	U	N	S	21	T	E	R	22
23	A	M				D		A	K		R		E					
24	S	H	U	T	D	O	W	N	S		25	Y	E	A	R	S		
	H	S				H	S		D		C		O					
26	O	R	I	G	A	M	I		27	A	N	O	T	H	E	R		
	R	N				T	N		R		E		T					
28	E	I	G	H	T		29	E	N	T	R	Y	P	A	S	S		

February Slot 2

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

February Slot 3

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

February Slot 4

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

February Slot 5

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

February Slot 6

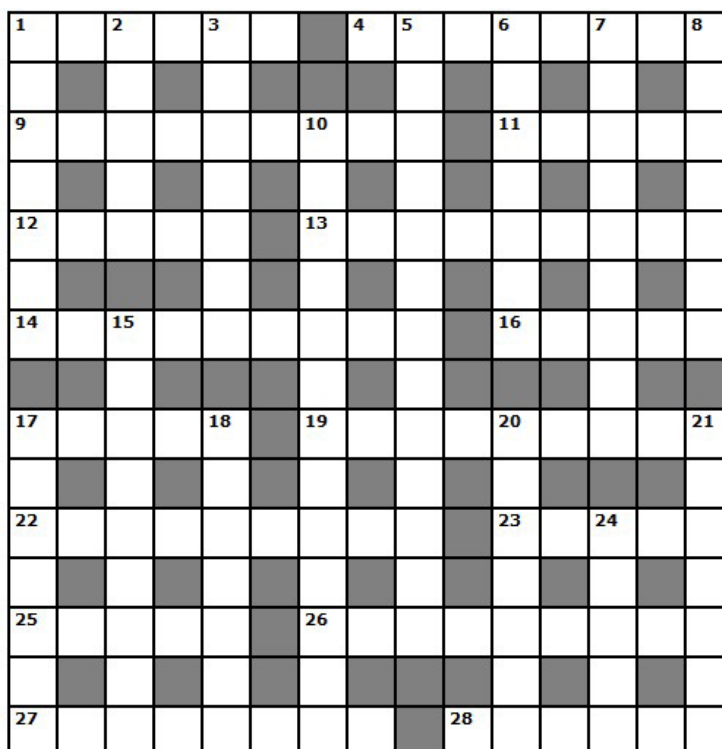
T		A	P		C	T		P		C		S						
H	A	N	O	I		O	P	E	R	A	T	I	O	N				
U		O		N		R		A		R		N		A				
M	A	N	K	I	N	D		M	I	D		W	E	E	K			
B			O		L	U		O		M		E						
N	O	M	I	N	E	E		P	U	N	J	A	B	I				
A	A				S				E		G		N					
I	N	S	U	R	E	S			W	O	R	K	O	U	T			
L	S		A			E			E		H							
S	N	A	P	P	E	D			I	N	T	E	R	N	E			
K	C		S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

MEMBERS' RESULTS FOR FEBRUARY 2025 Slots 1 to 7

MEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	MEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	MEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Abbott P.	•	•					•	Graves C.	•				•		•	Randall J.	•		•				•
Allen W.	•	•	•	•		•		Hagan R.	•						•	Rosendorff D.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Anderson C.	•	•	•	•			•	Harper K.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Roulston S.		•				•	•
Audrins K.	•	•	•	•	•		•	Hearn R.	•	•	•	•	•		•	Ryan W.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Axelsen U.		•	•	•	•		•	Horadam K.	•	•	•	•				Shapiro R.			•				
Barbour J.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Howat S.	•	•	•		•	•	•	Shield A.	•			•	•	•	
Barnes J.	•		•	•			•	Jarman L.	•				•	•	•	Siegman B.	•			•		•	•
Batum C.	•	•	•	•	•		•	Jarman R.	•				•	•	•	Simons A.	•	•	•	•			•
Bennett D.	•	•	•		•	•	•	Jones G.		•	•	•	•	•	•	Simpson F.	•	•	•	•	•		•
Bettles K.				•	•	•	•	Kennedy L.	•	•		•	•	•	•	Skinner R.	•	•	•	•	•		•
Blake M.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Lankshear J.				•		•	•	Smith J.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Carroll L.	•	•	•	•	•		•	Lee C.	•	•	•	•	•	•		Storey N.			•	•			
Cockburn B.	•		•	•		•	•	Leigh J.	•		•	•	•		•	Storti A.	•		•	•		•	•
Cockburn M.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Madden J.	•	•	•					Symons B.	•		•			•	•
Colgan L.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Martin A.	•			•	•			Taylor R.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Coote P.	•	•	•	•	•		•	Matthews S.	•		•	•			•	Taylor S.	•	•	•	•			
Cromer H.	•	•			•			McClelland C.	•		•	•	•	•	•	Thomas C.					•		
Crowe J.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	McKenzie I.	•	•	•		•	•	•	Thompson I.	•			•	•	•	•
Davis K.	•	•	•	•	•		•	McKenzie R.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Tickle B.	•	•	•	•	•		
Dobele T.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	McLeay T.	•	•		•	•	•	•	Veress M.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Dowse B.		•					•	Meek A.	•					•	•	Void T.	•	•	•	•	•		
Dyer A.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Miles A.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Watt K.	•						
Evans J.		•				•		Millard A.	•	•	•	•			•	Wilcox C.	•						•
Forward K.	•		•		•		•	Milton R.	•		•				•	Williams K.	•	•	•				•
Francis K.	•	•	•	•	•		•	Moline R.	•	•			•		•	Wimbush R.	•	•	•	•	•		•
Gamble K.	•		•		•	•	•	Parsons D.	•	•	•	•	•	•		Woolston M.			•	•	•	•	
Garner P.	•			•	•		•	Patterson A.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Young A.	•		•				
Goodman S.	•			•	•			Peach S.	•	•	•	•	•		•								
Grainger D.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Pinder S.	•		•				•								

Slot 1

Half and Half
by
Crowsman

 Prize
\$50


Across

- 1 Cross with one cricket side! (6)
 4 Swiss citizens backing European septet, for example (8)
 9 Temporary job with concrete after peak turnover (9)
 11 Factory spy (5)
 12 Draught supported by light blow (2,3)
 13 Timber bench excludes small boiler (3,6)
 14 Money-man more confident following revised rate (9)
 16 Recognised sound where crime occurred (5)
 17 High class European square ceramic brought back (5)
 19 Repeat collecting in travel from place to place (9)
 22 Schizophrenia involving rigidity gets action at a resort (9)
 23 Cold look turned around unpleasant person (5)
 25 Infusion absorbed in fungal skin disease (5)
 26 His message goes up in smoke (9)
 27 Second tiny taste is most sugary (8)
 28 Desert fibre (6)

Down

- 1 Take advantage of (7)
 2 Precise (5)
 3 Frees from liability; grants immunity (7)
 5 Outstanding, remarkable (13)
 6 Rapid; speak (7)
 7 Skin eruption, accompanied by fever (9)
 8 Limit; intense (7)
 10 Criminals securing money by force or blackmail (13)
 15 Survival (9)
 17 Arouses (7)
 18 Passage taken from a book (7)
 20 Passage taken from a book (7)
 21 Was no longer valid (7)
 24 Additional (5)

For online entry, submission and adjudication of all slots via ACCOLADE click on the ACCOLADE button on www.crosswordclub.org home page.

Slots 1 to 5: Alan Dyer: email to alan@thedyers.id.au or mail to PO Box 162, Bungendore, NSW, 2621

Slot 6: Drew Meek: email to drewski1@hotmail.com or mail to Kay Williams 12 Lindrum Crescent Holt ACT 2615

Slot 7: The Void: email to void@tlmb.net or mail to Kay Williams 12 Lindrum Crescent Holt ACT 2615

Closing mail date for all puzzles is 28 March 2025.

SEND
SOLUTIONS
TO:

BLANK
GRIDS
PAGE 16

Slot 2

Cryptic
by
T-boy



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					

Across

- 1 Brown Betty has flower piercing nipple (6)
- 5 Price of money is foul temptation says the Reverend (4,4)
- 9 Jam! Female gets sick after six bowls (8)
- 10 Tedious routine, a Sydenham's dance (6)
- 11 Northern Victorian town with political alliance taking on my brain organisation (12)
- 13 Flog some of the rebel troops (4)
- 14 Liberal speaker office - a pillar of light? (8)
- 17 Lie dying, wounded, giving up (8)
- 18 A shaft around horse (4)
- 20 Kind of blue following French sea song for fleet (8,4)
- 23 Local icon exhibiting piebald horse? (6)
- 24 Print fashionable label with cream backing (8)
- 25 Steve and Mark lose wicket, caught by Fish, expressing amusement! (8)
- 26 Finally notable compiler loses edge admitting to marginal literacy (6)

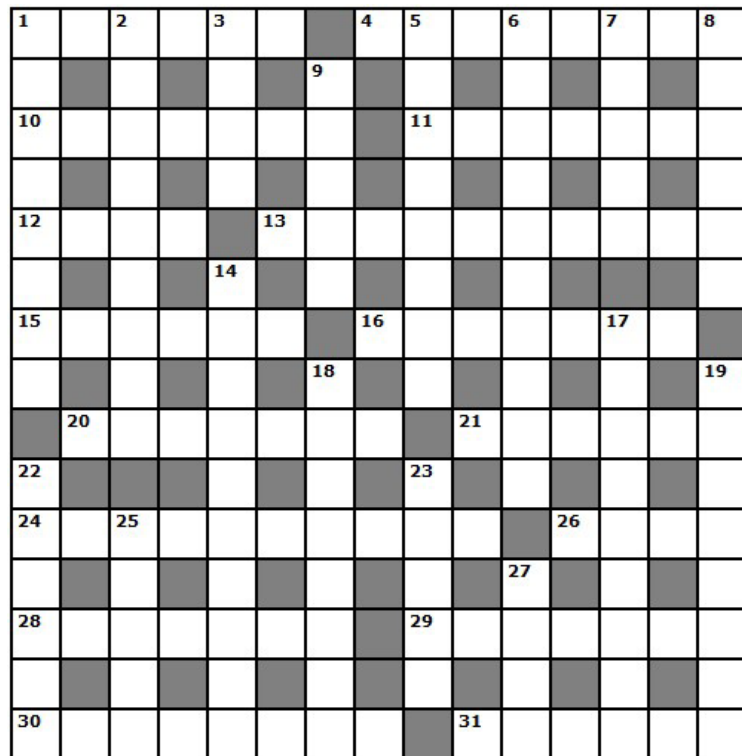
Down

- 2 Resentment in Gallic hollow victory (4)
- 3 Flowering part absorbs fresh rain around birth (9)
- 4 Three-dog trick (4,2)
- 5 Rush of heroin used in strangely tingling shocker (4,2,9)
- 6 Pilfer label for familiar epithet (8)
- 7 Settle overseas - surrounded by rubbish (5)
- 8 The junior doctors flog the heat controller (10)
- 12 Things longed for reside curiously in statistics (10)
- 15 Doctor Henry's gap for throats (9)
- 16 Pasta capital not up with Italy (8)
- 19 Carry the Spanish alliance (6)
- 21 Stick going on all fours - not natural! (5)
- 22 Crowd starts to fight in Latino locality (4)

General Feedback for February

- Many thanks for my prize last month: A very pleasant surprise and most welcome. Getting Crozworld is like Christmas every month and this was the icing on the cake. Betty Siegman
- Many excellent contenders for COTM. Laurence Kennedy
- Thanks for my slot prize last month - I am very appreciative to all who contribute to this wonderful club. Jeremy Barnes
- A plethora of canan this month! A good brain workout. Alan Dyer

Slot 3

Cryptic
by
ManveruPrize
\$50

Across

- 1 Range in Switzerland say, with no western point (6)
- 4 Factory housing church area will contribute to a future issue? (8)
- 10 Insert one new clue containing the letter D (7)
- 11 iTunes updated on mobile to produce 7d (7)
- 12 Liquidated two lots of diamonds (4)
- 13 One who'll copy 7d to reproduce Asian menus (10)
- 15 Missing assets ready to be regularly written off (6)
- 16 Rejoinder - 'I'm dangerous, withdrawn - somewhat loved' (7)
- 20 Complex found in Troy by bend on delta (7)
- 21 Cuts and gives an edge to keeper (6)
- 24 Mark found in Bible's letters? (10)
- 26 A killer perhaps, reportedly makes an animal cry (4)
- 28 Halfway to Scottish peak, needing to cross river but falling short (7)
- 29 Have a shot with a non-drinker, nearly drained (7)
- 30 Score falling short of the mark to get 19 (8)
- 31 Bar beset by drugs, deserted and worn down (6)

Down

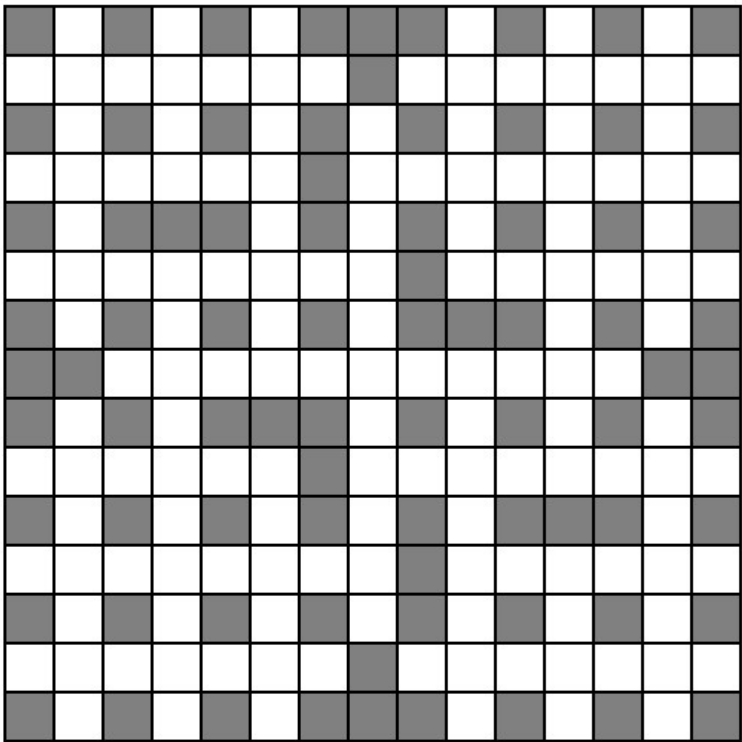
- 1 Sinner - prone to faulting? (8)
- 2 Other cars in need of a tune-up? They're in the pit! (9)
- 3 Culture frequently neglects this? (4)
- 5 Reformulated old enema is a fizzer (8)
- 6 Study opening to trap knight with one piece - ending is within reach (10)
- 7 Money that a grand can make? (5)
- 8 Pitch in Adelaide spins sharply in second test for openers (6)
- 9 Spiderman possesses a true layer of skin underneath the top layer (5)
- 14 The most unruly guest in hotel getting a ticket, ultimately thrown out (10)
- 17 Called out former editor maintaining allegation (9)
- 18 Snow leopard, positioned below lair, is set for attack (8)
- 19 Is love dead? Destined from the start to be single (8)
- 22 Coal is primarily made of this (6)
- 23 Highly acidic Australian lake could be sampled in this? (5)
- 25 In many cases, proof tends to hold the answer (5)
- 27 Culprits, (half of them), turn up here? (4)

Slot 4

AJ
by
Flowerman



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



- A** Grant denying wife has run over African native (8)

B Ultimately the pilots firm in stand for Sully (7)

C Fish in lock reportedly (4)

D Great wave provided by copper in short order (7)

E Greek character during sleep developed unknown disease (8)

F Stickler following American covers up (7)

G Plaster surfaces in lodges so esoteric (7)

H Supply hounds for English explorer (6)

I Biomolecule in carbon-free isotonic fluid beginning to luminesce (8)

J Jack diabolically used to keep arsenic for traitors (7)

K Gentile turning up in Kentucky for a comic interlude between plays (6)

L Be judged after wasting time getting dressed (8)

M Monsieur Lambert probing country that's copied Inuit boot (6)

N Vote against people in club endlessly bagging Victor (Oscar's predecessor) (8)

O Extremely old, extremely hideous duck (2-2)

P Hard to cede to solicitors initially in aggressive legal document that hurts plant (5,6)

Q Chechaqua haughtily holding native American clam (7)
- R** Romeo dropping over twice clutching superb arrangement of flowers (6)

S Two-thirds of crowd left; that's most disgraceful (10)

T Dorm sprayed with what to arrest concerning parasite? (10)

U Leading Green reportedly in racket (6)

V Brother had to cut visit after spilling Italian's shakes (8)

W Told to flog writing implements and piano parts (7)

X Photos sent back by Henry of fish that's sword-shaped (7)

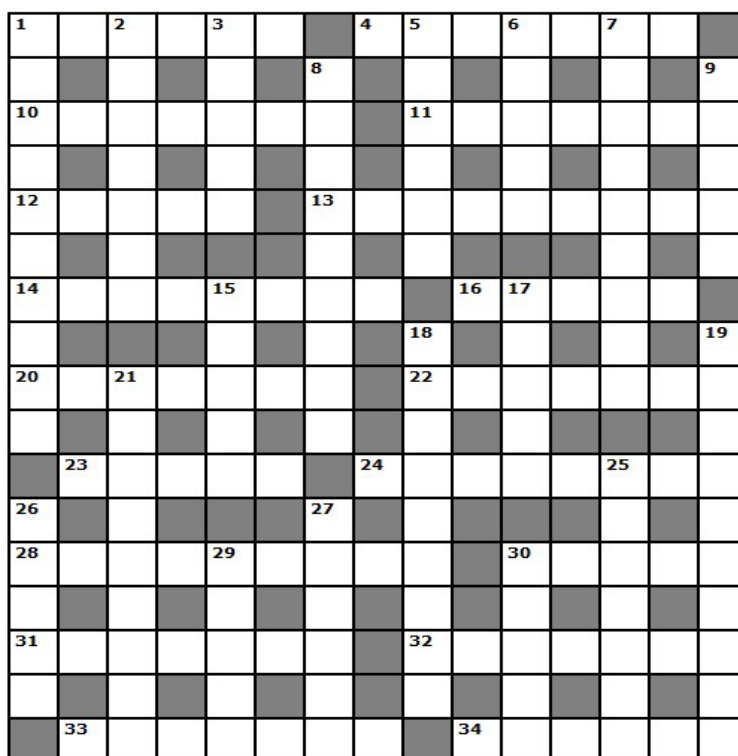
Y Recollected life with north-western yokel in territorial capital (11)

Z City church bearing impedance by Geller, perhaps (6)

Slot 5

**In All
Directions
by
NanaKat**

**Prize
\$50**

**Across**

- 1** Slumbering snake coils around sheltered spot (6)
- 4** Boring quiet party retiring without getting feet wet (3-4)
- 10** Award for having placed in routine (7)
- 11** Quick movement restricted by minimal leg room (7)
- 12** Predict profit, you say? (5)
- 13** Related to belly-dancing Bali nomad! (9)
- 14** Restates: "Back parts of marmoset are tiny!" (8)
- 16** Opportunity abandoned by northern dowager (5)
- 20** Present since coming around May, perhaps? (7)
- 22** Beginning of English course, in my understanding (7)
- 23** Anger from ghost I abandoned (5)
- 24** Demonstrates decomposition in cockroaches, say? (8)
- 28** Exploit one of Santa's eight - a hooper! (3,6)
- 30** Headdress for aunt, Spanish artist (5)
- 31** Learned it's beer gut, even on varied diet! (7)
- 32** Pretend dropping soap (7)
- 33** Most solid assets evenly distributed during Depression (7)
- 34** Rear ends of southern seabirds (6)

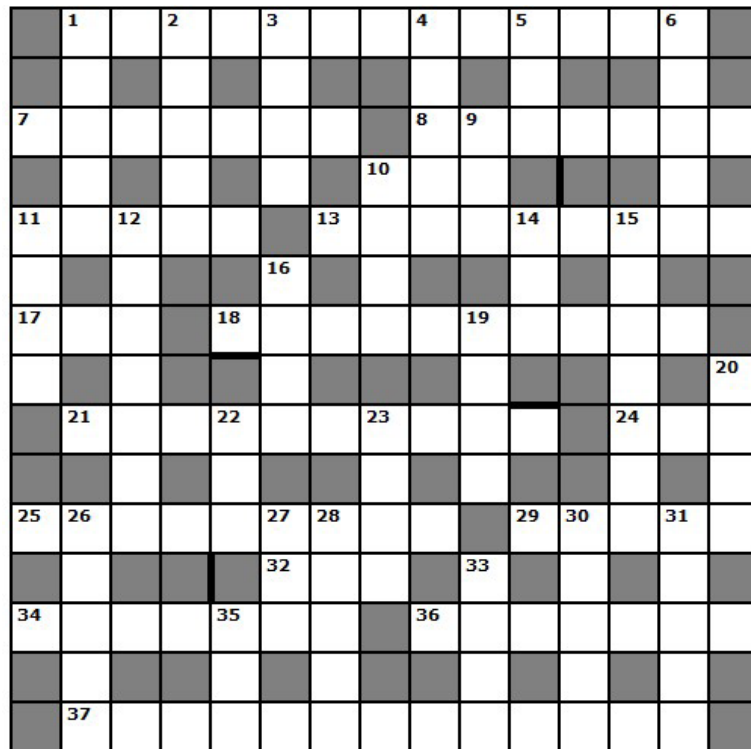
Down

- 1** They're swingers? It's a serial wrongdoing! (10)
- 2** Decline in artery product of Nonna's cooking, perhaps? (7)
- 3** Biblical queen's household leader missing in compound (5)
- 5** Country of war and strife (6)
- 6** Setting for Miller's play: Mr Gibson as back-up (5)
- 7** Stomach throw-up, perhaps, in church gallery (5,4)
- 8** Quandary parking inside? Sleep on it! (9)
- 9** Mobile platform for western chanteuse (5)
- 15** Mature state of Darwin's deputy (5)
- 17** Russian leader after exchange of words yields data (5)
- 18** Al-Qaida member's mistake is accepted by Tamil Tigers, initially (9)
- 19** Look at dogs in cosmetics! (10)
- 21** Beaten up near picture, with one about to be removed from entrance (9)
- 25** Flee small mobile home (7)
- 26** Emma Peel's boss's mount (5)
- 27** Cheats southern teams (6)
- 29** Australian music awards replaced 'One Direction' with the other stage name (5)
- 30** Brown drink (5)

Slot 6

Cryptic
by
St JudePrize
\$50

Across clues of 7 or more letters have something in common. This commonality is not indicated in Club references for all these words but all clues are normal.



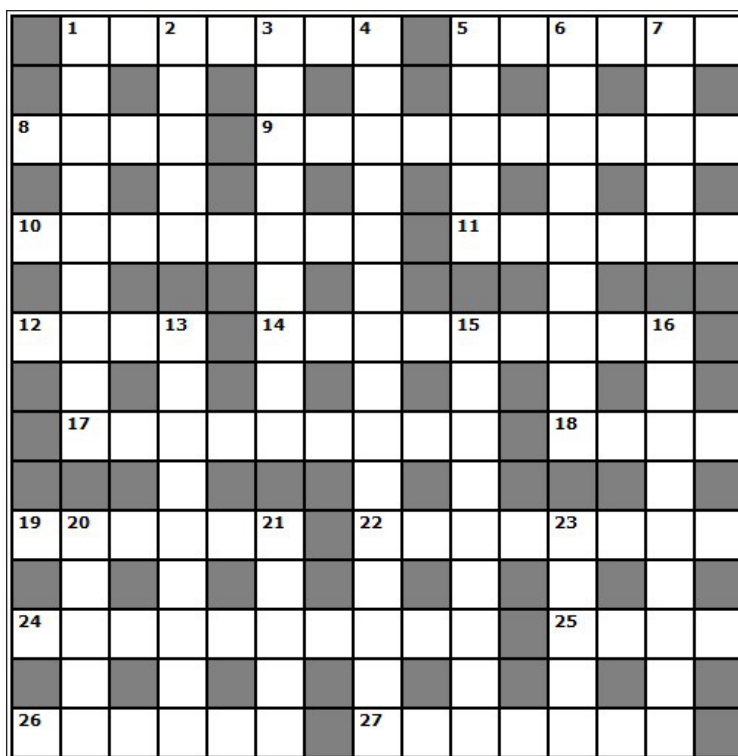
Across

- 1 Climax excitedly from the mutton (6,2,5)
- 7 Detail of lexical question is thematic (7)
- 8 Attention to Dragon's old catchy tune! (7)
- 10 Timid throw (3)
- 11 Alderney riever keeps stronghold (5)
- 13 Yearn for one fruit or another (9)
- 17 Against reverend being overthrown and cast out for being doubtful (3)
- 18 Neither son makes jewellery (10)
- 21 Metal freak trashed second hand stores (4,6)
- 24 Peptic ulcer neoplasm starts to pound (3)
- 25 Support at home was hardly starting to indoctrinate (9)
- 29 Seaman indicates consent and endures as it was in the old days (5)
- 32 One found in a great number (3)
- 34 Cold fish to freeze on mountain (7)
- 36 Perhaps Truffaut described novel direction taken of old to be well and happy (3,4)
- 37 Attack group of old Queen's soldiers (13)

Down

- 1 My consuming worry is substantial (5)
- 2 French resistance fighter cut down shrub (5)
- 3 Hammer back the turnip (4)

- 4 Rival to Honduras for hot wind (5)
- 5 Play about robots starting rebellious uprising resolutely (1,1,1)
- 6 Hourly chorale is unrestricted (5)
- 9 Somewhat delayed? Affirmative! (3)
- 10 Trace signal (4)
- 11 Relaxed at illicit bar's quiet zone? (4)
- 12 Fruit for bird (7)
- 14 Posterior signal not weak (3)
- 15 Brilliant covering sweep operation to collect first two lycanthropes (7)
- 16 Fish friend (4)
- 19 Separate outhouse (4)
- 20 Objectively we take on prior burden (4)
- 22 Ear is almost brown (3)
- 23 Hopeful prayers are almost abandoned (4)
- 26 Competes against Automobile Club going to Eastern States (5)
- 27 Conflict developed when protection curtailed (3)
- 28 Read Only Memory deleted from a small unit to cause distress (5)
- 30 Popstar's knife for Texan hero (5)
- 31 Anything projecting from sheaves (5)
- 33 Prohibit old soldier taking first order (4)
- 35 To remarry regularly makes sense (3)

Slot 7**Going to
Pieces
by
The Void****Prize
\$50****Across**

- 1** Truculent government agent repulsed independent soldier (7)
- 5** Throw out fishing line by the French fortress (6)
- 8** Friend has tea (4)
- 9** They gather scraps from seven crags when roaming (10)
- 10** Manuscript describes one short section of foot in butterflies (8)
- 11** Consider heading west, roping in good horseman (6)
- 12** Lie about mid-off getting hit (4)
- 14** Maritime centre's occasional warm wind ultimately soothes joints (9)
- 17** Card game by South African politician who takes revenge on tourists? (9)
- 18** Bird is gull (4)
- 19** Nailed intros of pianos in Nina Nastasia's excellent Dogs (6)
- 22** World champion on board fixed leak with machine, not computer (8)
- 24** Blood sustains this form of life, mainly (6,4)
- 25** Sticker intended to be given to king (4)
- 26** Hungarian grandmaster has bit of cloth cut back (6)
- 27** A number rejected dance as a sport (7)

Down

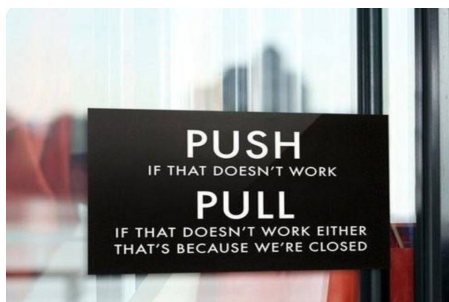
- 1** Outlaw briefly breaks up poorly lit acts of devilry (9)
- 2** Father reversed agreement to conjure up goddess (5)
- 3** Idiot spies interrupting old exhausted techie's ally (9)
- 4** Grant for Tunisia's reconstruction creates complete change in appearance (15)
- 5** Tartan, possibly the latest in chic? Damn! (5)
- 6** It gives an indication if Geri's in Barking (9)
- 7** Stagger queen, substituting hint of nutmeg in meal (5)
- 13** Backing imposing a penalty on grasping African political party (9)
- 15** Declaration from guys by gallery in road (9)
- 16** Cad ruled Cons terribly (9)
- 20** Geronimo had Indians encircle elevated area of US (5)
- 21** Grain squeezed by medic in device for extracting water (5)
- 23** Old American union boss going into hotel area (5)

The blank grid for this puzzle is on page 11



Quiz 2025-3 Heartfelt Words by Crowsman. Each answer, a single word of ten letters, consists of **either** a six-letter word in the precise centre of a four-letter word **or** a four-letter word in the **precise** centre of a six-letter word. Both words are unrelated to the answer. Answers are in alphabetical order, although the initial letters involve only sixteen letters of the alphabet. Because of the structure of each answer, crossword compilers should be aware that they all would provide excellent clues in your puzzles. Send your solutions to len.colgan@unisa.edu.au or mail to Len Colgan 1 Ailsa Avenue, Warradale, SA 5046 Closing mail date 28 March 2025

- 1 On familiar terms
- 2 In a fearsome way
- 3 Greek mathematician
- 4 Boos in the UK but support in Australia
- 5 Cheeses
- 6 Declaring null and void
- 7 Building curators
- 8 Criminals who stop and steal a vehicle
- 9 Providing cheer and support
- 10 Deprive of spirit and confidence
- 11 Formal or informal conversations
- 12 Sonic depth measurer
- 13 Skipping about in a frolic
- 14 Gathering a crop
- 15 Make poor
- 16 Bone between the heel and toes
- 17 Adherent of Islam
- 18 Sovereign nations
- 19 Surpassing in splendour or brightness
- 20 Ominously significant or indicative
- 21 Citizens of a Canadian province
- 22 Apropos
- 23 Defendant in a divorce suit
- 24 Confined within limits
- 25 Making fun of
- 26 Splashed and scattered upon impact
- 27 Extending by tension
- 28 Additional costs
- 29 Removes creases or wrinkles
- 30 Nuns immediately below an abbess



Quiz 2025-2 When in Rome by Child's Play (Brian Symons).
Results: 20 Correct Ulla Axelsen, Len Colgan Julie Crowe, Betty Siegman, William Ryan, Andrew Miles, Andrew Patterson, Pat Garner, Julie Leigh, Robyn McKenzie, Fraser Simpson **19 Correct.** Ann Millard Michael Veress, Robyn Wimbush,
Prizewinner Betty Siegman. Congratulations!

Answers: All answers are expressed in Roman numerals: **1** cid, **2** civic, **3** civil, **4** did, **5** dill, **6** dim, **7** dividivi, **8** id, **9** lill, **10** lid, **11** livid, **12** mild, **13** mill, **14** mim, **15** mimic, **16** mix, **17** villi, **18** vim, **19** vivid, **20** xi

Compiler's Observations

Many thanks for all the entries especially for the positive comments. Once it was realised all answers used only I V X L C D M a fairly easy dictionary search may have been needed.

Solvers' Feedback

- Vidi vici -good fun *Ulla Axelsen*
- Wow, that was a clever one. *Julie Leigh*
- Dili, the capital of East Timor comes to mind. *Len Colgan*
- Many thanks for an intriguing quiz. It's amazing, how many words can be made from few letters. *Betty Siegman*
- Good stuff. Amazing! *William Ryan*
- Gratos for the Roman themed quiz. *Andrew Miles*
- amazing how long it took me to 'get it'. D'oh! Mostly easy but three look-ups for dividivi, lill and mim. *Andrew Patterson*
- After two days of head scratching, the penny finally dropped - and the fun began! Thanks for this gem. *Pat Garner*
- Thank you for the quiz Brian. Once the clue in the title made sense the numbers and letters were workable!. *Robyn McKenzie*
- Many thanks for this quiz. A bit different, with limited letters, but no word length indicators. Most enjoyable. *Julie Crowe*
- Quite a challenge! *Ann Millard*
- What an interesting quiz. Nephew Ron helped me discover the 'something in common'. *Lynn Jarman*
- Your 'When In Rome' quiz initially had me utterly bamboozled. Once I cottoned on, most answers were apparent, but a few took considerable research. Thank you. *Kath Harper*
- DIXI, you are now my vocabulary DILLI (at least for this week)! *Alan Dyer*
- Many thanks for your quite difficult quiz. Took me a while. *Robyn McKenzie*
- It was fun! *Fraser Simpson*
- Thanks for your "When in Rome" quiz - lots of fun and scores a "X out of X" rating from me. *Ron Jarman*



February 6 2025 Cryptic by CT (Chris Thomas)
Entries received 70; Correct 42; Success rate 60%.
Prizewinner: Andrew Miles. Congratulations!

Compiler's observations

The puzzle seems to have been well received, although was noted as tricky by several members. (You were warned) :)
The cryptic definition "Such is a newborn's communication device" yielded most of the loss of dots - with WORDLESS quite common, instead of CORDLESS, the answer linking the umbilical cord and the US term for a mobile phone. I think this clue would have been fairer had the opening letter C been gettable from other clues. This accounted for most of the reason for the success rate being a little lower. Thanks for all the feedback. I'm pleased to say that the only other solving error, in company with some evident typos, was one "earnest" for EARSHOT.

Explanations - Across: 9 hidden<, **10** OPERA + INTO*, **11** Spooner "CAN MIND", **12** M+ID+ homoph "weak", **13** (KEEN IM ON) <, **15** PUN+JAB+I, **16** IN+SUR+ES, **18** dd/cd, **19** (SPEND+A+P)*, **21** INTERNET, **23** rEpAiR+SH+OT, **24** H+ARBOUR, **26** (EX CON IN ON)*, **27** mETHOdIsm. **Down: 1** THUMB+N+(SAIL)*+KETCH, **2** abANDON, **3** cd, **4** dd, cd, **5** TUP+EA+M, **6** PARDON+hER, **7** (MIRAGE ONCE)*, **8** ASP in HAY, **14** (RING + AC) in MASS, **17** RAP+SHEET, **18** WEIGH-IN+G, **20** dd, **22** TURnKEY, **25** heads.

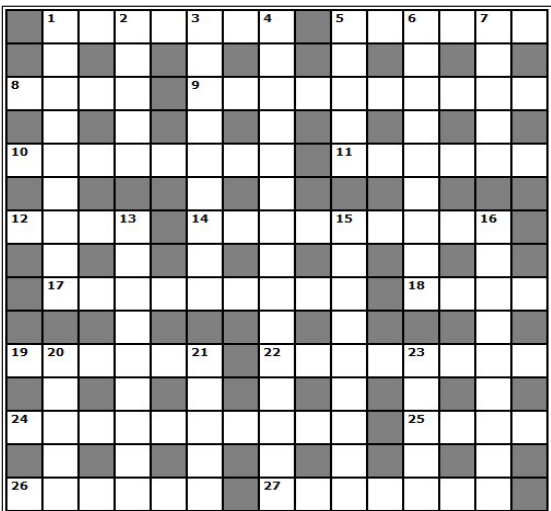
Solvers' Feedback

- Fave RAP SHEET. Also liked THUMBNAIL SKETCH & SNAKE IN THE GRASS . "has pay" was a great spot; but I felt it needed a "?" or "cryptically" or similar to be completely fair. *The Void*
- Some brilliant clues; but I think the otherwise impressive SNAKE IN THE GRASS'S clue should have a question mark after "has pay" *Ian Thompson*
- Brilliant *Brian Symons*
- Took a while to get my mind around some of these clues; especially MIDWEEK...Wednesday weddings! *Roy Taylor*
- I loved SNAKE IN THE GRASS, so concise, my COTM. *Betty Siegman*
- A fun and challenging puzzle - I learned another word for sheep. *Mal Cockburn*
- A tough nut to crack but very enjoyable! *Kathryn Forward*
- 4d is a mystery to me! Some unusual words! *Ann Millard*
- An enjoyable challenge. Not sure of 4D CORDLESS(?). *Ulla Axelsen*
- HANOI proved to be one of those irritating clues where I'm sure I have the right answer but it doesn't match up with the adjoining answers. *Lynn Jarman*



Blank grid for March slot 7

Name:.....

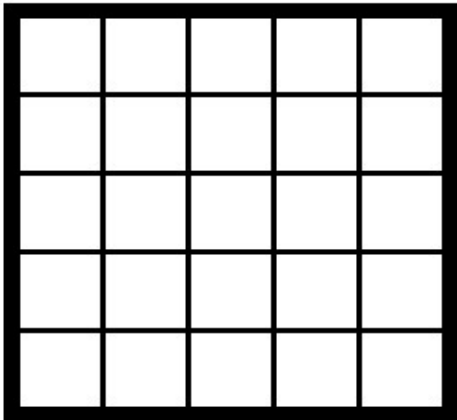


- Thanks for an enjoyable puzzle. *Sonia Roulston*
- So many terrific clues. I loved MIDWEEK and CORDLESS and TEAM UP. (it was the first time I had heard that ram could be tup! *Jean Evans*

FRAZ WORD SQUARE 5 March

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

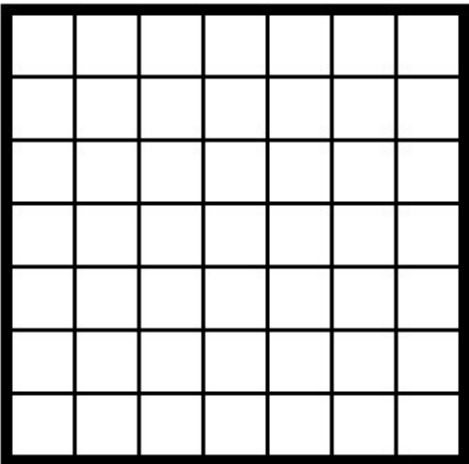
- Clipped part of printer's error
- Fort tenants are dancing later on
- Ransack biathlon equipment
- Speaker's followed pamphlet
- Staff leaders mostly remaining, taken in by hapless chaps



FRAZ WORD SQUARE 7 March

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

- Detestable cats scrambled around mangy mutt
- Fool cleaning woman with made-up story
- A prison's leader hurts Native Americans
- Completely fills in a tenor, just to see what you'd do (3 wds.)
- Scamp loses his head in the French opera house (2 wds.)
- A clam tossed beside a California strait
- Swedish physicist repaired sluices



February 7-2025 Cryptic by Crowsman (Len Colgan)
Entries received 76, Correct 69, Success rate 91%.
Prizewinner: Robyn Wimbush. Congratulations!

Compiler's observations: Virtually all of the errors were for variations of JILLAROO which was clued via ILL in JAR + OO. I found the comment by Ian Thompson to be insightful and oh so relevant. I did create over the years a large list of 15-letter answers with parsing available to create clues without resorting to anagrams or word-for-word charades. Unfortunately that list is now almost exhausted and so I will need some judicious searching to maintain this style of puzzle. I am glad LET THERE BE LIGHT finally managed an appearance.

Explanations – Across: **1** REIGNS around D(r)E(s)S, **6** hidden, **9** SAT< + MAN + I + AND + EVILS, **10** (SEX + PLAN + A + TORY) around ELF, **11** MAC(R)ON, **12** M(AND)ATES, **14** ROMAN + TIC, **15** dd, **17** GENERA(LISA)TIONS, **19** (LETT + HEIGHT) around REBEL, **20** S(UN)UP, **21** OVER + PEELS<. **Down:** **1** dd, **2** DISPLA(y) + CEMENT + NOT<, **3** (HARE + DOWNERS) in SHIP, **4** GRIPPE(d), **5** SWAY around (END + A), **6** (RANDS + KIT) in BEETLES, **7** (GETS HOPEFUL INTO)*, **8** SITES* around YASS<, **11** MAR + I(GOLD)S, **13** J(ILL)AR + OO, **16** U(gly) + SABLE, **18** dd.

Solvers' Feedback

- Another fun one. Couple of answers I'm not super confident about but here goes! *Patricia Abbott*
- For once, I found myself on the same cryptic wavelength as Crowsman - a rare quick solve which was thoroughly enjoyable! *Kathryn Forward*
- SLIP OF THE TONGUE is a beauty! *Toby McLeay*
- Favourite SUN UP. Hope my answers to 13 & 15 are right. They seem to work.... *The Void*
- It was enjoyable working through these well constructed clues. I wasted time looking for native trees for 9ac instead of the obvious devils. *Roy Taylor*
- Classic Crowsman, who must have had every 15-letter word fully tested for parsing suitability by now. *Ian Thompson*
- An enjoyable Crowsman! *Nea Storey*
- Some big clues to fill. 7D gets my COTM. *Mal Cockburn*
- Some fun to finish off the month. *Ann Millard*
- Very enjoyable. So much easier than your slot 5. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Month after month how do you manage to create such original clues? Thank you. *Julie Leigh*
- Great clues favourites were OVERSLEEP, BEER AND SKITTLES and ESSAYISTS *Joan Smith*
- I thought Sunup was a very clever clue in a great puzzle. *Robyn Mckenzie*
- So many good clues and words. *Lynn Jarman*
- Thanks for an enjoyable puzzle. *Sonia Roulston*
- Lots of terrific clues; very enjoyable. *Ken Francis*
- Lovely lot of 15 letter words. Thanks Len. *Robyn Wimbush*
- I always enjoy Crowsman's 15-letter clues. *Kath Harper*
- Some great clues as usual from Crowsman! *Beverley Cockburn*
- Enjoyed the clues for MACRON and LET THERE BE LIGHT! *Jean Evans*
- Entertaining. Not all BEER AND SKITTLES! *Mark Woolston*

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

February Slot 7 solution

Solution WORD SQUARE 5 March

E	S	R	E	T
S	F	E	L	C
R	E	T	F	A
E	L	F	I	R
T	C	A	R	T

Solution WORD SQUARE 7 March

T	S	E	T	A	S	A
S	U	I	C	L	E	C
E	I	L	R	A	H	C
T	S	R	U	C	C	V
A	L	A	C	S	V	L
S	E	H	C	A	P	A
A	C	C	A	L	M	A

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

Explanations for clues in 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 Virgo. Across: 1 homoph "part aching", 6 dd, 9 (CUCUMBerS)*, 10 PP in (IN + GAY)*, 11 homoph "Eton", 12 anag, 13 SCHool + MUCK, 15 A + WHEEL, 18 PAR + SON, 20 anag, 24 (NSW HUTS DO)*, 26 YEARS*, 27 hidden<, 28 cd A.N.Other, 29 dd, 30 (PRESBYTERIANS - brie)*.

Slot 2 P-brane. Across: 1 4d, 5 T[r]OPICAL, 9 dd, 10 (IS GRANTED)*, 11 cd, 13 hidden, 15 dd, 17 (SHUT IMPOSTERS)*, 21 A + (E in WAR) + Y, 22 dd, 24 cd, 25 homoph "stayed", 27 R in PHASES, 28 (RUSE)* in END. **Down:** 1 ROSE + BUS + H, 2 cd, 3 Spooner "tip Dick", 4

PERPET(u<>Rex)ATE, 5 hidden<, 6 P + (R in RIOT) + O, 7 CON + SENS (US) ES, 8 L + (SORES)*, 12 LOUD + SPEAKER, 14 ACCESS + TIME, 16 mIM {PLOD} ED, 18 IN + ROADS, 19 (BOOTS IS)*, 20 LAP + TOP, 23 STAB<, 26 FAIR.

Slot 3 Lexi Conner. Across: 1 (sharp chance I'll)*, 9 IN + DULI + GrimacE, 10 caution*, 11 hidden, 12 DD, 13 heads, 14 rEpAiR, 15 Tourism + MAN in ASIAN, 18 (ceremonies - irons)*, 21 hidden, 24 CRAB + APPLE, 26 A + SH [Ash Barty], 27 DD, 28 ENVoY, 30 DD, 32 DO + ZENiTH, 33 IS + A + BEL + A, 34 revenge* + GET ABLE. **Down:** 1 DD, 2 AD + DRESS, 3 LULLaby, 4 peels<, 5 HEAR + TEN, 6 DD, 7 (indication-ann)*, 8 UNALTERED + STATE, 12 hidden, 16 MILk, 17 hAIR, 19 cosMOPolitan, 20 O + BEY, 22 AwfuL + C(A)ZAR, 23 MA + TIN +wEEK, 24 homoph "check off", 25 PROVER + oBjectives, 29 enVYING, 31 FA(chipS)T.

Slot 4 KA (Karl Audrins). A ar+ling+t+on (rev), **B C** commo+rant, **D E** dd, **F** free+t, **G** ga(um)s, **H** hid rev, **I** anag-e, **J** j+a+car+and+a, **K** kym+o+graph, **L M** dd, **N O** off+y, **P** phar-lap+anag, **Q** word play, **R** dd, **S T** dd, **U** u(nnatu)ral, **V** dd, **W** (n+sco(t)) in waiting, **X** x+one*+graft, **Y** yo+urn, **Z** dd.

Slot 5 Crowsman. Across: 2 PASS*, 6 (A + GUN)< + (lif)E, 11 TU + TEE, 12 PENN + E(at), 13 ALMO(n)D*, 14 STEN<, 15 IMA(I)M<, 16 S + (h)OUR, 17 MODE + L, 21 A + RAW< + (gam)E, 22 dd, 23 A + SIAN, 25 S + AVER, 28 hidden, 29 BART, T to the front, 30 (L + AN + OZ)<, 34 O in RID<, 35 GO(N)ER, 36 IN + LAY, 37 LAKES*, 38 hidden, 39 (p)ARTS. **Down:** 1 dd, 2 AUDI(t), 3 TO in AS<, 4 PEL(ME)T, 5 dd, 6 (A + SAY + N)<, 7 (A + ONE + G)<, 8 dd, 9 ENTRE(ch)AT, 10 S(tate) in REIGN, 16 MAWS<, 18 OU(S)TING, 19 (O + LOB + AID)<, 20 REEL<, 22 STUD + IO, 24 dd, 26 (A + R) in VAN, 27 RIG + ID, 30 (gorgon)ZOLA, 31 dd, 32 (m)ARKS, 33 dd.

M	E	M	B	E	R
	N	E	W	S	

2024 Champion Solvers :The 2024 Slots Champion with 83 correct from 84 was Andrew Patterson, closely followed by Karl Audrins and Kath Harper with 82 correct slots each. The 2024 Quiz Champion with 325 correct solutions from 327 was shared by William Ryan and Anne Millard. Runners-up

were Julie Leigh, David Proctor and Robyn Wimbush, on 324. Impressive achievements indeed! Our congratulations to all successful and slightly less successful solvers. The 2025 competition commenced with January's grids and quiz. No need to enter - your achievements will be recorded by Andrew Patterson, whom we thank.

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.

Subscriptions: Many thanks to those who have subscribed promptly for 2025. We regret that those who are not financial have been removed from our mailing list.

Donations to the ACC Prize Fund: Many thanks for their generous donations to the Prize Fund this month to David Bennett, Ken Callan, Cam Graves, Richard Skinner, Chris Thomas, Jan Wood.

Unknown payment: of \$35 reference: 10/10 AGENT DEPOSIT 484714924. If this is your subscription, please let Jenny know and we shall be pleased to restore you to the distribution list.

New compilers welcome! We welcome puzzles from new compilers. The easiest way to start is with a slot 1 Half and Half puzzle, which only involves cryptic clues for half of the solutions. If you're hesitant, some of our more experienced compilers will be delighted to pair with you and provide advice and assistance. Email Ian for more detail and some helpful information.

Grids to clue: For those who feel more comfortable clueing an existing grid, Crowsman has devised a number of novel grids for members that will be interesting to clue. Contact Ian for details.

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

February 1: Virgo (Audrey Austin)

- Not keen on four answers having three consecutive unchecked letters. Why were not, for example, RAPID and DRAFT added to the grid to remove all consecutive unchecked letters? Strange. *Len Colgan*
- Favourites PARTAKING and SHYLOCK. The double - and triple-unches could have been avoided with, say, DRAFT and RAPID being added to the grid. *The Void*
- I did enjoy this. Vale Virgo! *Nea Storey*
- Why wasn't RAPID and DRAFT included as Down answers to make the grid fairer? *Andrew Patterson*
- There was a lot of head-scratching going on for the top left corner, until the revised clues were published. *Mal Cockburn*
- A challenging but enjoyable slot 1, as expected of a Virgo. *Ulla Axelsen*
- The gremlins had me worried for a bit! *Robyn Wimbush*
- Sorry it's the last Virgo. I liked YEARS. *Kathy Horadam*
- Great puzzle. *Lynn Jarman*
- Loved the clue for YEARS. *Hilary Cromer*

February 2: P-brane (Roger Hearn)

- Definition in 24ac? *Len Colgan*
- Nice QD at 1ac. Made me smile. *Keith Gamble*
- Quite challenging, I thought. Loved the Aussie flavour. *Ann Millard*
- Favourite STIR THE POSSUM. Pretty hard parsing a lot of these. *The Void*
- Some of these clues were rather obscure, but I liked TOPICAL which I voted COTM. *Roy Taylor*
- I've never heard the phrase Stir the Possum - sounds political, and I learned that a road is an anchorage - who'd have thought? *Mal Cockburn*
- Some very tricky definitions, doable but tricky. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Quite difficult but rewarding when solved! *Beverley Cockburn*
- I loved the clue for ROSEBUSH. *Robyn McKenzie*
- 4 definitions for 1ac! I also liked the 17ac anagram and ROSEBUSH. *Kathy Horadam*
- Some of the clues don't seem to meet the standard cryptic format. *Lynn Jarman*
- Some great clues. *Jean Evans*

February 3: Lexi Conner (Ron Shapiro)

- Really liked 24ac and 34ac. Not keen on 'back' in 4dn. I query whether 8dn is a genuine cryptic clue using two similar synonyms of 'unaltered'. The clue order in 30ac is askew, assuming the answer is HOPS. *Len Colgan*
- Favourite CHARLES CHAPLIN. *The Void*
- CRICKET GROUNDS was a great clue. *Betty Siegman*
- Really enjoyed this puzzle with great clues, my favourite was HOPS. *Joan Smith*
- Loved the clue for CRICKET GROUNDS. *Nea Storey*
- A straightforward puzzle with no question marks. *Mal Cockburn*
- Overall, very enjoyable. Took me ages to interpret wordplay for 30ac. Liked 24ac. *Ulla Axelsen*
- An honest and enjoyable puzzle. *Beverley Cockburn*
- Some clever clues, I especially liked AUCTION, HOPS, LULL and FAST. *Kathy Horadam*
- What I consider a genuine cryptic to be. Thanks

Lexi. Lynn Jarman

- Thank you for a very enjoyable puzzle... the clues were clever and often witty! *Sonia Roulston*
- ISABELA took a lot of work. I chuckled at CRICKET GROUNDS. *Toby McLeay*
- Some interesting clues. *Jean Evans*

February 4: KA (Karl Audrins)

- Most clues not very hard, but fitting them in...! I used options from the 4 letter words to place the 9s, then the rest fell into place. *Roy Taylor*
- Not only an interesting format but some very interesting words! Thanks, Karl. *Ann Millard*
- Definitely some new vocabulary in this one! *Julie Leigh*
- The exigencies of compiling an AJ frequently throw up unusual words. This one is no exception. GAUMS, FREET and - am I right? - HWYL? Who'd have thought it?! *Nea Storey*
- Some very unusual words to challenge us. I'll try and use HWYL in a conversation at the first opportunity. *Mal Cockburn*
- Some interesting new words to learn and I enjoyed the clue for quarterdeck. *Robyn McKenzie*
- Favourite Q. Learned some new words. Not sure if variant spellings ENVOY/ENVOI both work: I've gone with -Y. Could perhaps have avoided several repeated indicators: new=N, return(s/ing), one=A. *The Void*
- Many unusual words together with a tricky grid, made this quite difficult. Thanks for the challenge. *Ulla Axelsen*
- GUAM, HWYL, YOURN, FREET, BANI! All new words for me and not easy to find. I did like QUARTERDECK though! *Beverley Cockburn*
- Fairly difficult. *Ian Thompson*
- This puzzle added substantially to my vocabulary! *Cheryl Wilcox*
- Had to push for some of these: HWYL, GAUMS and KYM as a man's name, I hope they are correct. *Kathy Horadam*
- Not sure about E. Enjoyed the rest - quite a few unknowns. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Fitting the answers into the grid adds to the enjoyment of completing this type of crossword. *Ken Francis*
- I was stumped for quite a while by (among others) the H clue, although it was clearly signposted. *Kath Harper*
- Nearly confused COMMORANT with CORMORANT (which usually has both left and right wings)! *Alan Dyer*
- Some great clues and interesting words REET, YOURN, COMMORANT and KYMOGRAP, not to mention hwyl! *Jean Evans*

February 5 Crowsman (Len Colgan)

- Another amazing construction! I got the 3 letters but still pondering the 14%. *Toby McLeay*
- Cleverly done! *Ian Thompson*
- That was good fun working out the theme. *The Void*
- What a brilliant puzzle! This one was a real teaser, filling in those final three blanks took me much longer than it should have! Another Crowsman tour de force. *Kathryn Forward*
- Empty squares I, X, E. *Philip Coote*

continued on page 15

Feedback on February slot 5 continued from page 14

- Enjoyed this, but the three blank letters have me stumped. I'm guessing AUS as an anagram of USA. *Patricia Abbott*
- Don't know the three letters! *Sue Pinder*
- Excellent puzzle. *Roy Taylor*
- Very clever incorporating so many US states - plus Miami. *Nea Storey*
- Very clever puzzle and must have been difficult to construct with the 14% of 50 US states. *Mal Cockburn*
- Seven American States included! I am constantly gobsmacked by the cleverness of our crossword setters. Thank you, Len for this fun challenge. *Maureen Blake*
- The missing letters are I, X and E to complete the words: Maine, Texas and Oregon. I love Crowsman crosswords because once you have found the answer, every part of it can be explained...no doubt about it. Thank you. *Julie Leigh*
- Another imaginative puzzle, thank you Len. It did take me a while to click and then I saw all the other states you had fitted in. Brilliant! *Robyn McKenzie*
- 7 states - nice. *Andrew Patterson*
- I found the solving very difficult. Once solved, 4 USA states popped out so that the 3 empty boxes could be filled to give another 3 states. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Challenging puzzle but very enjoyable. great clues especially liked OUSTING, NEAT and DIOR. *Joan Smith*
- MAINE, MIAMI, DELAWARE, TEXAS, VERMONT, MISSOURI, OREGON. Missing letters - I, X and E. What a fantastic puzzle! Sooo clever! *Beverley Cockburn*
- Brilliant puzzle, thanks. *Scott Goodman*
- The three empty squares are I, X, and E, completing Maine, Texas and Oregon. But you also managed to squeeze in Missouri, Delaware, Vermont and Arizona. Did I miss any? Well done! Loved nearly all the clues, but could make neither head nor tail of 8dn, and look forward to the explanation. *Julie Crowe*
- Pleasure to solve as always. *Lynn Jarman*
- Very tricky rider. Ixe means "intelligent and wise" in Nahuatl - well chosen I'd say! But ... compiler or solver? Great fun Len. *Robyn Wimbush*
- I really enjoyed this clever puzzle. *Michael Veress*
- With the risk of stating the obvious...Maine, Missouri, Delaware, Texas, Vermont, Arizona and Oregon. So, letters required are I; X and E. *Richard Skinner*
- Missing letters I X E. *Claire Batum*
- So much territory hiding in plain sight! *Kath Harper*
- Easy to pick the rubric (14% of USA = 7 states). Finding out how this was applied was more difficult and it was not until I had solved most of the clues did it (and the three extra letters) fall in place. Well played, sir! *Alan Dyer*
- I have no idea what the 14% is, so I put FLA for Florida, as Miami was the only thing I found relating to the USA! *Corryn Anderson*
- Very clever to fit the 7 states into the grid with the cryptic twist. *Hilary Cromer*

Results of January Clue-writing Competition
Write a clue for CELEBRATION (11)

Adjudicated by Drew Meek

Only six entries were received for this one. Perhaps most members were too busy celebrating Christmas and New Year and Australia Day to put their mind to this. One entry (not listed) was for celebrity rather than celebration. Although low in quantity, the entries received were overall of a good standard.

The winner was Peter McDonald— with: **Disputed election keeps support for party**

The first two entries listed are grouped since the setters used an almost identical clue construction. The rest follow in alphabetical order. The definitions are *italicised*.

Changing sides in thought can lead to merriment ***1/2

Thought a change of sides might make do ****

These two submissions based their word play on thought= CEREBRATION with the R being replaced by L indicated by "changing sides/change of sides" to give CELEBRATION (merriment/do). Cerebration was a new word for me, so these clues appealed to me. For me, I prefer the surface reading of the second one compared to the first.

Disputed election keeps support for party ****1/2

A clue with a topical surface reading! *Disputed* is the anagrind to indicate the letters of election are to be rearranged. These letters surround (keep) support (BRA) and result in a party (definition). A nice misdirection as to the type of party is given by the surface construction.

Do note calibre anomaly ****

A straightforward anagram clue with *anomaly* as the anagrind and Do as the definition.

Festival of superstar proportion ***1/2

A reasonable charade construction of CELEB (superstar) + RATION (proportion) leading to festival (definition)

New role! Cabinet to run jubilee ***

This one is another anagram clue, indicated by *new* as the anagrind. Role Cabinet are the letters to be rearranged for jubilee (definition). "Run" is superfluous. The word (or the letter R) are not part of the anagram fodder. Seems it has been put in only for readability. However, unlike "lead to", "make" and "for" used in other clues "run" does not point to formation of the definition.

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	*****		

March Clue-writing Competition: For the next competition, please write a clue for the word **EPHEMERAL** (10) complete with explanation. Note: only one clue per person. Send your clue and explanation to the adjudicator Michael Kennedy by email to manveru@bigpond.com or mail to 27 Hennessy Lane, Figtree NSW 2525 Closing mail date: Friday 11 April 2025 Prize \$50.

MARCH SLOT 2

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Clue of the Month

MARCH SLOT 4

A 15x15 grid with a complex black and white pattern. The pattern consists of various shapes and lines, including a large 'X' shape in the center, a vertical line on the left, and a horizontal line at the bottom. The grid is composed of 15 columns and 15 rows, with each cell being either black or white.



MARCH SLOT 6

[illegible]

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

Name