



No 409 May 2024



www.crosswordclub.org



A gentle answer turns away anger, but a harsh
word stirs up wrath *Proverbs 15:1*

GRIDATORIAL

No earth-shattering news or essential administrative information to impart this month. Just the best selection of cryptic crosswords this side of the British quality dailies.

Crowsman provides our half and half ration with a puzzle that is generous to the solvers of 5-down and 17-down. T-boy weighs in with a well-crafted slot 2 and P-brane deploys more Australian idiom in the clues and solutions of slot 3. The sisters of Both Sides make a welcome return with the ever-popular alphabetical jigsaw and Katydid, also after a break from compiling, has contributed this month's slot 5. French cunning is the watchword for slot 6, featuring the old revolutionary Robespierre while Australian cunning is demonstrated by Zinzan, who asks you to solve two solutions in the same well-crafted clue and then decide which of two grids should be the appropriate home.

If you haven't yet tried the challenge in Fraz's word squares, perhaps now is the time, while there are only five words to solve and then juggle into the correct order. Valkyrie has devised one of her interesting quiz for your delectation, which will give a new slant on some familiar and some less familiar names.

Zinzan (a very busy man this month) displays his forensic skills to analysing the encouragingly large number of excellent efforts by members to provide a clue for GONDOLA.

Enjoy the challenges.

Ian

FROM THE ADJUDICATOR

It doesn't seem like 12 months since I had the pleasure of adjudicating. Time flies when you're enjoying great puzzles. It's good to see some new names appearing on the leaderboard, although the majority of solvers comprise the familiar "faces".

Slot 1:

Members' comments suggest that most solvers found this puzzle both challenging and enjoyable. Two clues proved to be the downfall of many. There were 27 instances of SENT instead of SEAT for 44dn. The clue was an anagram of Tassie minus IS corresponding to the definition of "Electorate". The N in SENT resulted in 27 substitutions of NEAR and 7 AFARs for AJAR ["not quite two"] in 50-across. A small number of DAFFY Ducks for Donald's partner DAISY resulted in a success rate of less than 50 per cent overall.

Slot 2:

EARLOBE for EARHOLE was the main culprit here with 7 incorrect submissions, although there were a large number of one-off errors and typos.

Slot 3:

Not too many problems for solvers with this one though 4 solvers tried WARS for WARD.

Slot 4:

Quite a few members commented on the word JINXED in the top row of the grid. Not much to bother solvers with this one with a success rate of some 5 per cent: 2 misspellings of EUTHANASIA and 2 minicabs for minivans contributed to the small number of lost dots.

Slot 5:

Many solvers said they had almost completed the puzzle before they noticed that all of the down clues ended in MAN. The MAN that caused the most problems was RAGMAN with 9 solvers trying their luck with TAXMAN.

continued on page 2

LEADING FIGURES

Puzzle No.	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Entries received	85	81	83	77	74	400
Correct entries	41	55	68	73	50	287
Success rate (%)	48	68	82	95	68	72
Prizewinners	Michael Kennedy	Claire Batum	Tony Dobebe	Shelia Taylor	Betty Siegman	from 92 members

Prizewinner: April Slots 1-5 correct: Mal Cockburn. Congratulations!

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April 2024 Slot 1

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

April 2024 Slot 2

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

April 2024 Slot 3

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

April 2024 Slot 4

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

April 2024 Slot 5

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

April 2024 Slot 6

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

MEMBERS' RESULTS FOR MAY 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.			•	•		•	•	Pinder S.			•				•
Allen W.		•	•	•	•	•	•	Hocking A.				•				Procter D.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Anderson C.			•	•	•	•	•	Holmick P.	•		•	•				Randall J.	•		•				•
Audrins K.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Howat S.		•	•	•	•	•	•	Rosendorff D.		•	•	•	•	•	•
Axelsen U.		•	•	•	•	•	•	Ibbott B.	•							Roulston S.	•			•	•		•
Barbour J.			•	•				Jarman L.	•	•	•		•	•	•	Ryan W.	•	•	•	•	•		•
Barnes J.		•	•	•	•		•	Jarman R.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Shapiro R.			•				
Batum C.		•		•	•			Jones G.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Shield A.		•	•	•	•		
Bennett D.		•	•					Kennedy L.	•		•	•			•	Siegmán B.		•	•	•	•	•	•
Bettles K.		•	•		•			Kennedy M.	•		•	•	•	•	•	Simons A.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Blake M.		•	•	•	•		•	Lankshear J.	•			•				Simpson F.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Carroll L.	•	•	•	•	•		•	Leigh J.		•	•	•	•		•	Skinner R.			•	•	•	•	•
Cockburn B.	•	•	•	•	•		•	Mackay-Sim C.	•		•					Steinberger M.				•			•
Cockburn M.	•	•	•	•	•		•	Madden J.			•	•		•	•	Storey N.	•		•	•	•		•
Colgan L.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Martin A.		•	•	•			•	Storti A.		•	•	•			
Coote P.	•	•	•	•	•		•	Mason I.			•				•	Symons B.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Cornish W.				•			•	McClelland C.			•	•		•	•	Taylor R.	•		•	•	•	•	•
Cromer H.	•	•	•	•	•		•	McKenzie I.		•	•	•		•	•	Taylor S.	•	•	•	•	•		
Crowe J.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	McKenzie R.		•	•	•		•	•	Thomas C.		•					
Davis K.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	McLeay T.		•		•	•		•	Thompson I.		•	•	•	•	•	•
Dobele T.	•	•	•	•	•		•	Meek A.				•	•	•	•	Tickle B.	•	•	•	•	•		
Ducker R.	•	•	•	•	•		•	Miles A.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Veress M.		•	•	•	•	•	•
Evans J.		•	•	•	•	•	•	Millard A.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Wenham J.	•		•	•	•		
Forward K.	•	•	•		•		•	Milton R.				•				Wilcox C.							•
Garner P.		•		•		•	•	Moline R.			•		•	•	•	Williams K.	•	•		•	•		•
Glissan B.				•		•	•	Parsons D.	•	•	•	•	•		•	Wimbush R.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Grainger D.		•	•	•	•	•	•	Patterson A.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Wood J.	•			•			
Hagan R.			•	•				Peach S.		•	•	•	•	•	•	Woolston M.				•		•	•
Harper K.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Pikler M.		•	•	•		•	•								

From the Adjudicator - continued from page 1

COTM:

Nominations for clues in all seven slots this month. The winner was CROW from slot 2 by CT - "Boast about being involved in a murder" and the runner-up Crowsman with MONOSYLLABLES " Shabby male-only slob! They include Len, but not Ian!". Congratulaations to Chris and Len.

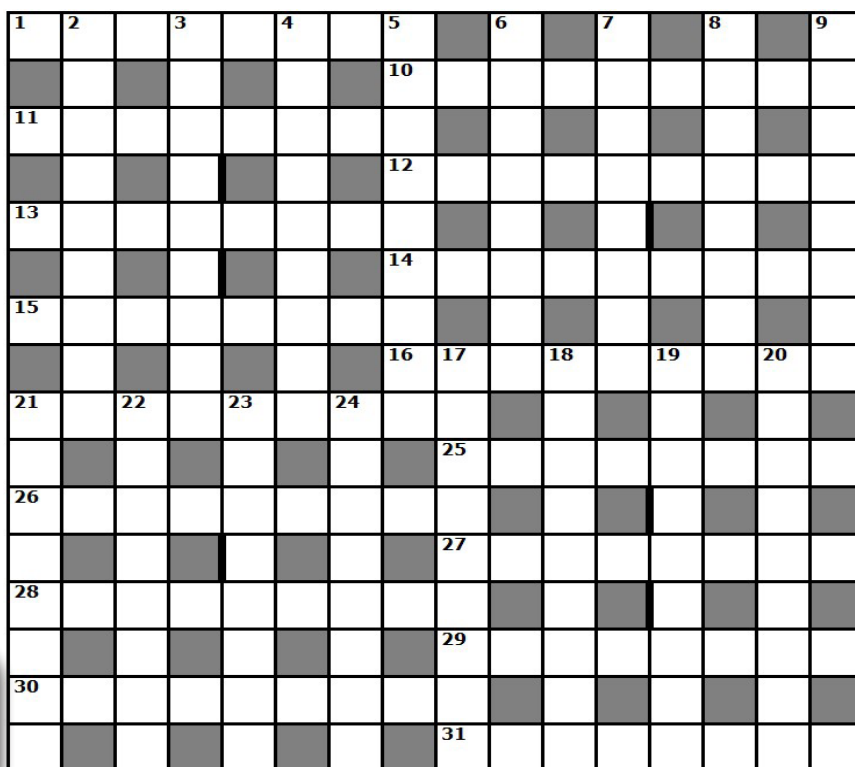
Brian Tickle

Slot 1

Half and
Half
by
Crowsman

 Prize
\$50

The 16 cryptic clues are in plain font. The 16 non-cryptic clues are italicised. One answer is not specifically in Chambers.



Across

- 1 Worries intensely (8)
 10 Raise pillar stone (9)
 11 Spooner's well-balanced chap provides ketch canvas (8)
 12 Concentrated (9)
 13 Pleasure-seeking academic involved in robbery (8)
 14 Well-organised and productive (9)
 15 Miracle-worker (8)
 16 Nonconformist (9)
 21 Storage medium for home videos pre-2002 (5,4)
 25 Investigated material cut back-to-front (8)
 26 A warning of danger (5-4)
 27 Wing shape giving more lift than drag (8)
 28 High quality China sport (9)
 29 Secretly devised Scottish flower tartan (4-4)
 30 Surface point directly above origin of earthquake (9)
 31 Update British maritime flag, removing centre (8)

Down

- 2 A crippled Yank turns up, going around a Hispanic country! (9)
 3 Immovable; not related to a cellular telephone system (9 or 3-6)
 4 Criticised if I enter afraid (9)
 5 Hairy problems for gridiron players (5,4)
 6 Bishops of Rome (8)
 7 Salt penetrates exposed crustacean (8)
 8 List of plane passengers (8)
 9 Person who absconds from the army or battle (8)
 17 I vilify outspoken countryman (9)
 18 Bird involved in sedate landing (9)
 19 Manicurists' tools (4,5)
 20 Writing a song of mourning (9)
 21 Spooner's haricot foliage for non-fat steak (4,4)
 22 Acts as a substitute (6,2)
 23 Grass covering large amount of water survived (8)
 24 I reject framing bird image (8)

**SEND
SOLUTIONS
TO:**

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: Andrew Patterson: email to mcandap@bigpond.net.au

or mail to 372 Great North Rd, Abbotsford NSW 2046 - email to

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

or mail to 12 Lindrum Crescent Holt ACT 2615

Slot 7: Andrew Patterson : email to mcandap@bigpond.net.au or mail to 372 Great North Rd, Abbotsford NSW 2046

Closing mail date for all puzzles is 31 May 2024.

**BLANK
GRIDS
PAGE 16**

Slot 2

Cryptic
by
T-boy

Prize
\$50

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

- Across
- Down
- 9 After book returns I've something that excites strong feelings (7)

10 Belligerent proprietor with a French island (7)

11 Pierced intramuscularly, then turned white (7)

12 Colour got removed from stroganoff stew (7)

13 Those who fill quivers said to be female seducers (9)

15 Sexually transmitted infection comes back after former partner leaves (5)

16 My French curve ruler (7)

19 Hoodwinks tests (5,2)

20 Fuel outlet located in the middle of storage facility (5)

21 Sweet liquid in eastern fruit (9)

25 Said I see space around polar collections (7)

26 Pins bugs (7)

28 Noticed teacher concealing a drink (4,3)

29 ABC seen broken down into non-existence (7)
- 1 Complaint bagging lithium dogma (6)

2 Dead body right in thicket (6)

3 Parisian addition for little Guillaume (4)

4 Tamper with defective, airless middle ear (6)

5 All the Kings' men are on the board (5,3)

6 Oaf said eat concoction of smelly Indian cooking spice (10)

7 Look right - helps bombing runs (3,5)

8 Poet rewrites New York sonnet (8)

14 Birds from south coming after Latin heart breaker! (10)

16 Tit amiss? (8)

17 Scandinavian fellows produce gametic fluid after Ron turns up (8)

18 Arachnid who manages the hounds (8)

22 Container tube for an oil painting (6)

23 Identify fish killing time (6)

24 Most beaters out at egg time (6)

27 Every third agenda mostly straight forward (4)

General Feedback for April

- Thanks for this months puzzles; but as usual every slot seemed to have one or two clues that I struggled with for some time. Hopefully I've managed to get them correct. It's frustrating when you can't complete a slot for the sack of a couple of letters. *Hilary Cromer*
- Lots of excellent clues across the board with many contenders for COTM. *Laurence Kennedy*
- Many thanks for my prize for slot 7 last month. *Corryn Anderson*

Slot 3

Cryptic
by
P-brane

Prize

\$50

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

Across

- 1 Short joey’s early language principally a clamorous hubbub (5)
- 3 Notorious mythological Australians scrap with grizzlies (4,5)
- 8 Sister proclaimed “Got Buckley’s” (4)
- 9 Normal as it is minute, it is exploitation of others (10)
- 11 Initiate research without verifying elementary principles (9)
- 12 Look over small strongholds (5)
- 13 Two anagram indicators for a statistical entity (6,8)
- 17 Those near the end of the table are usually holed up below stairs (6,8)
- 19 Inference drawn from cut forest’s iconic margins (5)
- 21 Space needed for what’s stashed to save space? (9)
- 23 Nation crazy for snack food (6,4)
- 24 Sure, Will regularly backs an alternative (4)
- 25 Always fresh leaves like a eucalypt but not a boab (9)
- 26 Notoriously uncultured Australian born feral, heart exchanged for the heart of kangaroo (5)

Down

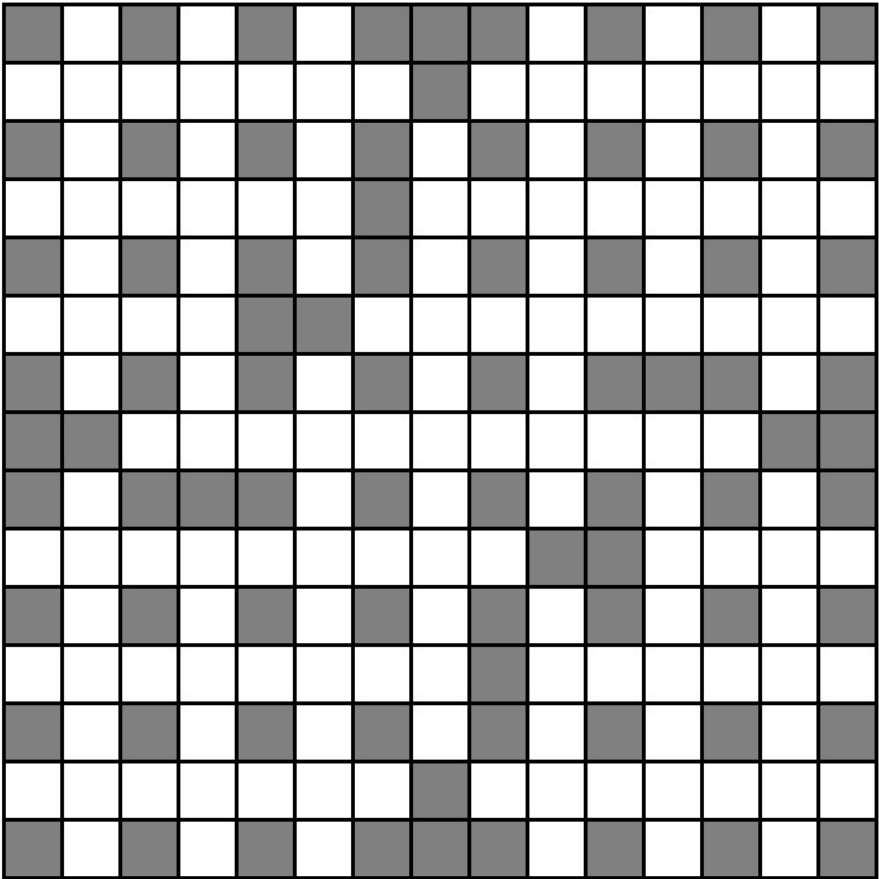
- 1 Short crook has a short sharp bark at a mythological Australian (6)
- 2 Groups of musicians heard to howl at a rural shindig (1,3,1,4)
- 3 Madras going crazy without spices: primarily a Shakespearean tragedy? (5)
- 4 It’s generally the case that old knight was mean (2,7)
- 5 Wind placing block on ball catcher perhaps (12)
- 6 A line I have for still being around (5)
- 7 Seem variable with random rest for six months study (8)
- 10 Spooner’s affliction: twitching? (4,8)
- 14 Organised Danes seem to have had it all adding up (4,5)
- 15 Undertaking Wombat’s home renovation possibly using a loan uniform for nothing (9)
- 16 Room for experimentation in dimension adjustment for that which can be climbed (8)
- 18 Question mischievous child playing with gun (6)
- 20 Important tomb (5)
- 22 Boat engaged is loaded with grain (5)

Slot 4

AJ
by
Both Sides



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



- A** Sesame, Acorn, Djokovic, and Nadal? (3,5)

B Sheds extras, including run (5)

C Warning to vacate during tremors (6)

D Accuse fool of holding one back (8)

E Rank! Rebel sporting musk (7)

F Make pork-mince stuffing (9)

G To romanticise *l'amour in guise* is doubly-non-U (9)

H When chased, Roundhead dispatched Royal Artillery in panic (7)

I Little pub frequented by top-notch Scotsman (4)

J Enthusiasm becomes envy when, initially, Jove deposes Zeus (11)

K Indian weights sound like confectionery (7)

L The French-American girl is legitimate (5)

M Ugly short Pauline mated and changed appearance (11)
- N** Number, with right and left trailing Greek character and me (7)

O Formerly, weight not acceptable (4)

P Tout potassium-free heart of elusive scarlet flower (9)

Q IT Queen ordered to pipe down (7)

R Reportedly circles again, only to fall back (7)

S Rest for Saint! Work finished. (8)

T Worms wrecked tree parties (7)

U Academy's rhyming creation! (8)

V Turn around North-East face (6)

W Without carbon, wall-coping ruined by pounding (9)

X Reportedly no mother suffers dryness of the eye (6)

Y Beefeaters display your old token (6)

Z African zebras stampede stockades (7)

Slot 5

Cryptic
by
Katydid

Prize
\$50

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

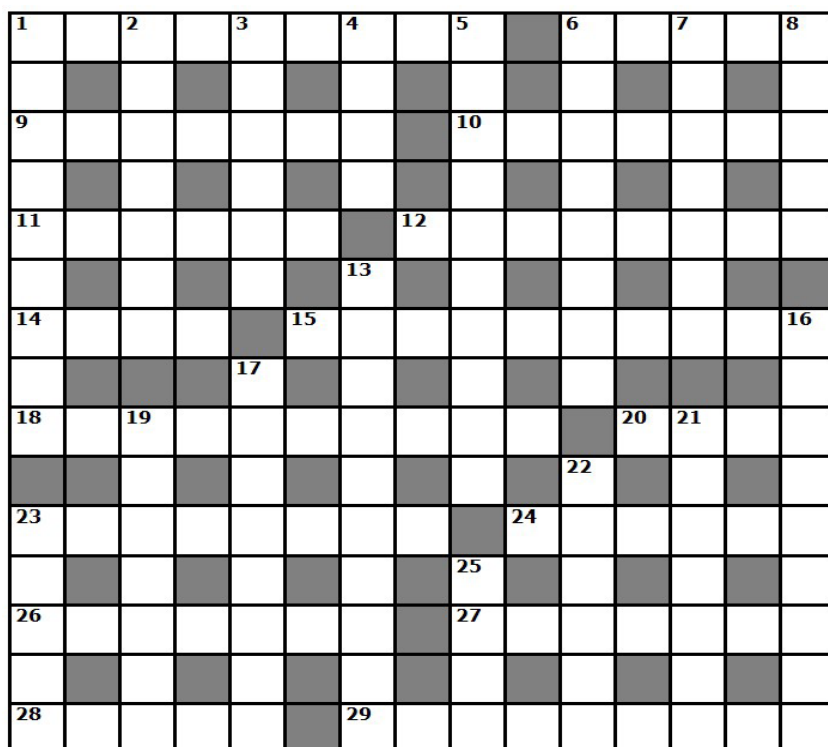
Across

- 1 Credlin’s way is explosive (6)
- 4 Virtue found in solitaire (8)
- 9 Truly concerning friend (6)
- 10 “Magical villa in sun” theme composer (8)
- 12 Part of church announced as meditation point (8)
- 13 As a group, move lb once (2,4)
- 15 Salt water? (4)
- 16 French choir of songbirds! (4,6)
- 19 Baldric’s no graduate, go-getting boatmen (10)
- 20 God backed anti-art movement (4)
- 23 Planetarium error moved Mercury last (6)
- 25 Excessive slaughter ended before (8)
- 27 Magician makes daughter disappear and councillor appear in screen mirror (8)
- 28 A Big Apple number for all (6)
- 29 Missing English fine opera, sadly, in this operetta (8)
- 30 Spooner’s ocean tariff is transmitted again (6)

Down

- 1 Sequel about mad bandits (7)
- 2 Throw grenade at public drinking spot (3,6)
- 3 Doggerel is harmless, entertaining fancy (6)
- 5 Not very obscure illness (4)
- 6 “Fairy moon over central Milan” theme (8)
- 7 Maritime occupation a valued component (5)
- 8 Shun clue, Noel, about men missing! (7)
- 11 Can’t swallow it: the Samoan capital is hiding a witch (7)
- 14 Measure tomb to carve (7)
- 17 The witch’s curse: Drug, or die horribly (9)
- 18 Signed by Santa’s helper to you (8)
- 19 Good fight over drink develops (5,2)
- 21 Partner of 10 swaps first girl with fourth for comic strip (7)
- 22 Royal house fruit (6)
- 24 Broadcast again about escape (5)
- 26 Sounds like Cockney German guy will inherit (4)

Slot 6

Cryptic
by
RobespierrePrize
\$50

Across

- 1 Aircraft returns with fractures - these are shoddy items (9)
- 6 Not exactly a mug that could be used for chocolate (5)
- 9 Stingy customer knocking back smoke and booze (7)
- 10 One who makes a move beginning to resent stuffy atmosphere among many English (7)
- 11 Sound returns provided by economic banks and gardens (6)
- 12 Insect gains height, pursued by another, a whopper (8)
- 14 Bottle that's spilled by confessor (4)
- 15 Like it or not, sex organ has nothing left at pointy end! (5-5)
- 18 Dennis and Edna sinned, say, with mate in Denmark's capital city (10)
- 20 Secretary intrudes into rejected document - much of it's blocked out (4)
- 23 Kid arrested by inspector put away for attack (8)
- 24 Hunt garment covering nothing (6)
- 26 Convict, when imprisoned, starts to nibble at food (7)
- 27 Warning how penny may drop? (5-2)
- 28 Maybe perfect schoolmate is discontented after getting top mark (5)
- 29 One shunning less stylish nursing sister here (4,5)

Down

- 1 Opening for hermaphrodites? (6, 3)
- 2 Reason for burnt fingers found in police record? (7)
- 3 Extremely prone to break back, one gathers (6)
- 4 Couples from computer dating attain felicitous conclusion (4)
- 5 Actress admits whisky, when knocked back, is source of illumination (10)
- 6 Drug that's very strong held back by staff (8)
- 7 Tease student about silly old soft toy (3,4)
- 8 Request to cut edges of shade tree (5)
- 13 Story regarding deal for building material (10)
- 16 Member has nap, blocking second person's moving fast (3,6)
- 17 Cast unite around costume and plot (8)
- 19 Naked man is involved in prowler affair (7)
- 21 Expressed approval of power lift by daughter (7)
- 22 Marked spot with gold and plastic in palace (6)
- 23 Took flight back ahead of time for European city (5)
- 25 It's essential to establish ownership for exhibition (4)

Submit your solution via the ACCOLADE button on www.crosswordclub.org home page, or for mail entries see page 3 for adjudicator and closing mail date.

Slot 7

Double
Cryptic
by
ZinzanPrize
\$50

Solvers' Instructions: Each clue comprises two separate clues seamlessly joined together, one for grid A and one for grid B. The markers A and B are at 19-down. Split each printed clue at a suitable place, solve the two shorter resultant clues, and put the two different words in the two grids. The order is random, sometimes the first part of the clue gives the solution for grid A, sometimes it gives grid B's solution. The two formats, in brackets, give the word lengths for the two solutions. The word lengths are ordered randomly, sometimes the first shown applies to the first part of the clue, sometimes to the second part of the clue; and sometimes to grid A, sometimes to grid B.

Across

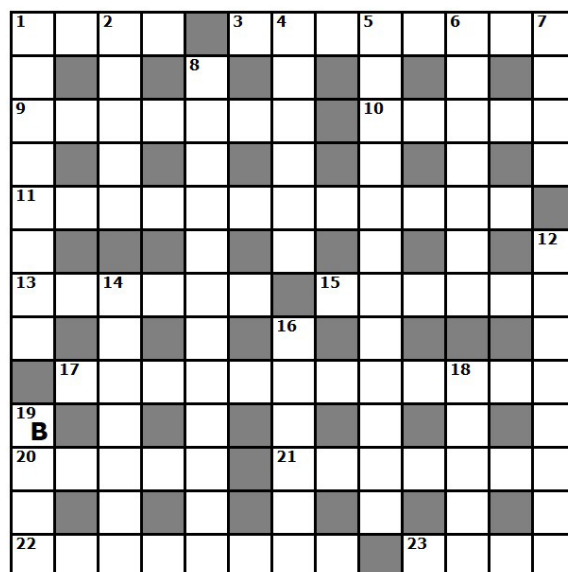
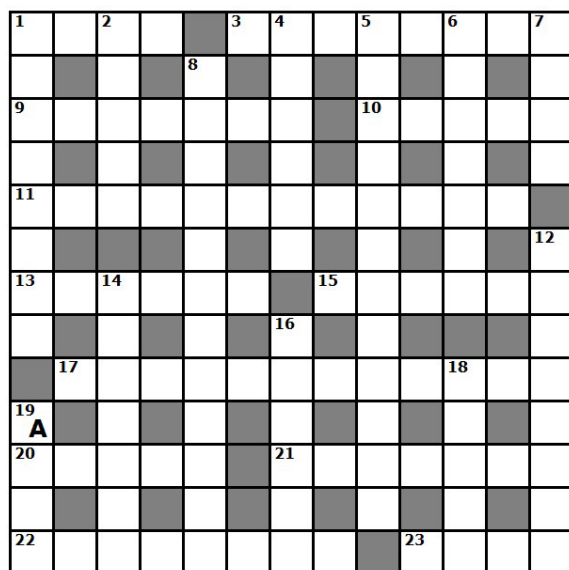
- 1 Spots a 3D figure with nothing missing and a 3D figure of small power (4) (4)
 3 'Tired and emotional', nails performances in campaigns for used cars to be restored (8) (8)
 9 Speaking of the worst possible evaluation, 1 in 10 in support of leading compound (7) (7)
 10 Key acquisition once more signifies affluence (5) (5)

Down

- 1 Amateur partner positioned inside to remove teeth from rotten corpse with purplish extremities (8) (8)
 2 Assassin's boastfulness unpacked commercial Ruth's mother-in-law and I complain about (5) (5)
 4 One with Wings taken in by some rock on hearing bridge worker suffering in audition (6) (6)
 5 Holidays makers wind up with a cygnet running around at the same time an emu is lost running around university (12) (6,6)
 6 Presided over church broadcast of search granted by mistake (7) (7)
 7 Distress call placed before Oscar's passable dishes in kitchen carried in this? (2-2) (4)
 8 A fractional device, "No Diving" is plastered around entrances to Indoor Swimming a moment before fraud that's not quite as important (8,4) (6,6)
 12 Safe haven initially in weak performance of company with new CEO introducing arts hub (8) (8)
 14 Invent claim a gin expert maintains, old French king resides in land that's unclaimed (7) (7)
 16 Ring computer-based criminal gangs to take down the leader of Greek island (6) (6)
 18 One protests against my bin being moved, so had it back outside a place east of Washington (5) (5)
 19 Ignoring end of storm, blame unusually clever weathermen beginning to believe it will go badly (4) (4)

- 11 Before replay ends, get monitor fixed as skill of maths expert leads mind to revise ultimate goal (8,4) (12)
 13 Way to split this second extra portion off bread no child wasted oddly (6) (6)
 15 Leader chosen by retiring soldiers sorted out danger that's outside the house (6) (6)
 17 Inca ancestor transported from the other side of the Pacific? In that area, big city can answer a crime organisation (12) (5,7)
 20 Increase required payment by auditors from the Middle East? Back very soon! (5) (5)
 21 One who hesitates after Dr Starr's one lecture about medical complication (7) (7)
 22 Three spaces near Thames' banks lead copper and others to functions in transport company (8) (8)
 23 Britain's long-established conspicuous error manifest in party politics (4) (4)

Blank grids for this puzzle will be found on page 14



Submit solution via ACCOLADE button on www.crosswordclub.org home page or for mail entries see page 4 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 April 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 Zinzan Cryptic clues. **Across:** 14 in,K, 20 plane* + ESE, 26 T,hug, 43 u-----t<>(seen)*, 47 ER,I <, 48 (Metro)*<>is. **Down:** 2 (I,am)*, 4 s,log, 6 ddef, 11 -ade n---, 18 men,-d,-s, 21 pr-yr, 24 ceased -c, 36 homoph "poor", 38 OT.no- <, 44 (Tas--e)*, 47 ----icu--, 49 sedition -tides<.

Slot 2 CT. **Across:** 1 PACIFIC + IS + LAND, 8 dd, 9 dd, 10 SNITCHy, 11 NUDE* around ROOM<, 12 EX + TENDING, 14 cd, 15 dd, 16 EVA(L<>C)UATED, 20 hidden, 21 REMIT< + S, 23 cd, 24 dd, 25 (GUARD + AND)* in STAGE. **Down:** 1 Spooner "knee fix", 2 dd/cd, 3 CH in FETED, 4 (CRAVING COURT AIM)*, 5 (STAY + ME)*, 6 hidden, 7 D + (N + S + E + W + OR)*, 13 MPH in (EASE + MY)*, 15 MARK + TYRE + So, 17 CU + TA + RUG, 18 cd, 19 TIE + RED, 22 heads.

Slot 3 Lexi Conner. 1 claimed*, 5 A + LAB + A + MA, 9 cd, 10 jacoB ASHamed, 11 L in KINS, 12 DOZEN, 15 thE + PI + TOME, 16 A + BRIDGE, 17 cd "de-sires", 19 limit* + IndiA, 21 WAR + D, 22 F + jUDGE, 23 whoA + X, 26 GRAPE + FRUIT + JUICE, 27 A in ROTTED, 28 GG in (SCARY)*. **Down:** 1 CAB in homoph "mayor", 2 DOMESTIC + taverns*, 3 agriscienCE DEpartment, 4 LOW + homoph "tied", 5 NET< in ANNA, 6 damaged, 7 AIR + CONDITIONING, 8 (grIEVed) in ACHE, 13 homoph "bored", 14 3D, 17 DO + WAGER, 18 SQUARE + D, 19 MAG + PIES, 20 (exit)* in ANY, 24 kebaB EATers, 25 RAJA^.

Slot 4 Manveru. A (P+POLICE+ACT)*, B BRID(-)ES, C DD, D DD, E (I+AT+H+NAUSEA)*, F DD, G GOLD+F+(HIS)*, H HOUR+GLASSES, I HIDDEN, J cd - J = Journal, K (KNIT(w)EAR)*, L (IN/I/N) in L + G, M IVAN after M+IN, N (SOME+R+NOW)*, O OIL*/P(H)ANT, P P+(A in ARMOUR), Q QU+ANNE+T, R GUERRILLAS*(minus IS/L), S (SUB+ALLY+S)<, T Homoph "Thai" +W+A+N, U U+PURSE*+D, V (U+H+COVER)*, W (AIRCREW + M)*, X HIDDEN<, Y Y+A+R+D, Z HIDDEN.

Slot 5 The Co-op. **Across:** 1 WOO + D, 3 dd, 6 PAN + (bu)G, 11 howL, 12 ALL AY, 13 HOME + R(oom), 14 hidden, 15 AMMON + I + A, 16 anag, 17 NAG in SS, 21 STOMK<, 23 PROMISEE*, 27 w(AR)m + RANGE, 29 MED(i)CINE*, 30 MA + MBA, 31 MAMMA(I), 33 NE around IN(nings), 34 IN(s)ANE, 35 (c) ANON. **Down:** 1 SOD* in WOMAN, 2 K in HALO< + OMAN, 4 (MAN IS TAL(L))* , 5 CAY + MAN, 7 hidden<, 8 GERM + AN, 9 B(ARM)AN, 10 hidden, 18 G(ROOMS)MAN, 19 ME(TERM)AN, 20 HEN(CH)MAN, 22 NIT< + MAN, 24 M(ADM)AN, 25 R(AGM)AN, 26 NAM(A)ES<, 28 ROAN around M(afia).

Vale Norma Heyes

We are sorry to report the passing of our active and valuable long-time member Norma Heyes. She will be sadly missed. Her daughter tells us that she really loved her cryptic crosswords and looked forward to receiving them each month, but unfortunately the time has come for her to put down her dictionary and pen.

Crossword Centre News from Derek Harrison

The Guardian has introduced a Saturday crossword which will be an easier access for beginner solvers. The Quick Cryptic has only four types of wordplay, or tricks, and these are explained in a preamble. Number 1 is available [here](#). On Sundays the on-line Guardian will also have a Quiptic crossword – "a cryptic crossword for beginners and those in a hurry".

In a similar vein, Raider has introduced a new aid for solvers. On the fantastic [Mycrossword](#) site, there is now a button on puzzles which will underline the definition part of the clues.

Derek notes that for many years, he has been solving John Nolan's monthly crosswords. John, an exiled Scot who now lives in Farmington, New Hampshire, often breaks Ximenean rules but always creates a fun puzzle with a theme. He acknowledges all his solvers and offers a monthly prize. You can try the Very Logical Puzzle at [this site](#).

M	E	M	B	E	R
	N	E	W	S	

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. Email Ian for more detail and some helpful information.

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.

April 1: Zinzan (Andrew Patterson)

- Very clever but a bit hard for Slot 1. *David Bennett*
- Trickier & more innovative than your typical Slot 1. *Ian McKenzie*
- Much easier with less unchecked letters. *Toby McLeay*
- Wow! What a start to the month. Harder than the average Slot 1? *Ann Millard*
- The normal clues were almost more difficult than the cryptic ones. Did wonder about 'mere' in 51, 1ac until I found an alternative meaning. Good fun. *Ulla Axelsen*
- ICU is simple but effective. *Jenny Wenham*
- Good puzzle. required much thought. *Roy Taylor*
- Good fun! *Ian Thompson*
- Quirky - as you'd expect from Zinzan, even in a Slot 1. *Kath Harper*
- Putting in PAGODA instead of DAGOBA caused me all end of trouble until I researched a little more while AJAR had me scratching my head. Very good puzzle overall. *Mal Cockburn*
- 5ac, enjoyed this clue. 14ac must be INK but not sure why. 15ac initially thought it was Pagoda - never heard of DAGOBA. 30ac, THETA, this foxed me longer than it shoulda. *Peter Holmick*
- A very busy grid with an amusing theme. Thanks, Andrew! *Bev Cockburn*
- I am surprised this was approved as a Slot 1. I disliked the clues, the mixed layout of cryptic and non-cryptic clues, the use of too many three-letter answers and found completing the grid on line problematic. I'll be surprised to get a dot for this. *Lynn Jarman*
- Most things indeed - so many clues. Loved NEPALESE, gave it my COTM. *Betty Siegman*
- Loved it! *Lyria Bennett Moses*
- A great puzzle, with a mix easy and tough clues and a lot of variety. *Kathryn Forward*
- I found this quite hard for a slot 1. *Anne Simons*
- Great mixture of cryptic and straight clues. *Jean Evans*
- 12ac Man at home? - required some thinking outside the diamond. *Ron Jarman*
- Enjoyable cartoon clues and a great variety of other ones. Thank you Zinzan. *Robyn Mckenzie*
- Quite tricky! And I have my doubts about some of my answers! Nea Storey

April 2: CT (Chris Thomas)

- Some fun clues. loved 1dn - a brilliant Spoonerism. *David Bennett*
- Liked UNMOORED & DOWNERS. *Ian McKenzie*
- Liked CROW. 7dn, DOWNERS was a bit overworked. *Andrew Patterson*
- Some challenging clues. Like 1dn PHOENIX - clever. *Ann Millard*
- Very, very tricky definitions. Still not quite sure about 8ac. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Doubts about SNITCH, TEES and EARHOLE. *Roy Taylor*
- Personal favourites are EARHOLE and MOPS because of their brevity and clever use of synonyms - shocks = mops, for instance. Clever! *Kathryn Forward*
- Some clever clues contained here. Not sure of BOMB. A fun puzzle. *Mal Cockburn*
- 8ac BOMB and 10ac SNITCH are guesses. *Peter Holmick*
- Very enjoyable puzzle, particularly liked clue for TEES. *Bev Cockburn*

- After the horrors of Slot 1 this was a pleasure. I find a few long words as answers very helpful. *Lynn Jarman*
- Loved CIRCUMNAVIGATOR, what a great anagram and clue. *Betty Siegman*
- Not sure whether you were referring to golf hackers or computer hackers in 14ac. *Hilary Cromer*
- Another fun puzzle! *Kathryn Forward*
- TEES was devious and clever. *Ian Thompson*
- Some interesting clues such as TIERED and PACIFIC ISLAND. *Jean Evans*
- Liked the clue for TEES and STANDARD GAUGE. *Ron Jarman*

April 3 Lexi Conner (Ron Shapiro)

- I'm a little unsure of one word. Hopefully I have it. Favourite clue 16ac ABRIDGE. *Jenny Wenham*
- Fine puzzle, but a couple of inactive intrusions, such as 'a' in 8dn and 'of the' in 15ac. *Len Colgan*
- An enjoyable, straightforward cryptic. Thank you. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Not too difficult, but some really good clueing! *Kathryn Forward*
- HOAX took me a while to justify but I worked it out - clever. 7dn still escapes me. Good puzzle overall. *Mal Cockburn*
- Couldn't justify AGED, HOAX, 26ac. Riesling = GRAPEFRUIT really needs a "?" to indicate the pun. *Peter Holmick*
- Some really clever clues here, particularly HOAX! *Bev Cockburn*
- Thanks for including the 15-letter words. I find them very helpful. *Lynn Jarman*
- EPITOME took me a long time to solve. *Hilary Cromer*
- Some good clues. I enjoyed this one. *Anne Simons*
- Lots of interesting clues. HOAX took me a little while. *Jean Evans*
- Clues for LOW TIDE, ANTENNA and MAGPIES were great. *Ron Jarman*
- BOARD is a clever clue. Nea Storey

April 4: Manveru (Michael Kennedy)

- XENIAL & ZEALOT well concealed. *Ian McKenzie*
- Appreciated the clues for APOPLECTIC, MINIVAN and SYLLABUS. *Len Colgan*
- I'm not sure I can justify all my answers so hopefully they are all right. *Jenny Wenham*
- Don't know if there is any significance in the top row letters being JINXED. *David Procter*
- Jinxed....this took a couple of attempts to fit in. *Julie Leigh*
- JINXED as a NINA?? *Ann Millard*
- Some tricky clues. Took ages to work out wordplay for EUTHANASIA. Thanks for the challenge, hope it's not JINXED. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Some very neat and entertaining clues. *Kath Harper*
- These puzzles are a joy to struggle through. *Jenny Madden*
- A great puzzle with some interesting words like OLIPHANT. *Mal Cockburn*
- My first complete AJ of the year! Still can't justify JOURNAL. *Peter Holmick*

Continued on page 12



Quiz 5-2024: What's in a name? by Valkyrie (Ulla Axelsen)

All names have a special meaning however some names can also be used as everyday English words e.g. Drew = inferred, Bob = curtsy. The answers are in alphabetical order.

Send your answers to ullaaxelsen@hotmail.com or mail to 6 Maud Street Donnybrook Qld 4510 Closing mail date 31 May 2024

1 Rose (11)	14 Bill (6)
2 Pip (9)	15 Sally (7)
3 Dot (6,5)	16 Frank (5-6)
4 Mark (12)	17 Nick (6,7)
5 Harry (7)	18 Barney (7)
6 Ray (12)	18 Pierce (3,7)
7 Hew (7)	20 Patsy (9)
8 Sandy (7)	21 Eve (9)
9 Nina (6,7)	22 Billy (9)
10 Hector (10)	23 Dicky (8)
11 Ally (7)	24 Eddy (6)
12 Matt (10)	25 Peg (6,3)
13 Dan (6)	26 Jock (5)

Quiz 4-2024 Oddly counterproductive! By Nigrum Cattus (Ray Gooderick) Adjudicated by Julie Crowe.

Entries 16; Success rate 12/16; Winner Danuta Rosendorff. Congratulations!

Results

26. D Procter, A Miles, D Rosendorff, A Millard, J Leigh, U Axelsen, K Harper, R McKenzie, W Ryan, W Allen, R Jarman, R Wimbush 25. R Taylor, L Jarman, M Veress 24. P Garner

Answers 1 cabbage, 2 Cabramatta, 3 decibel, 4 duck-board, 5 Eddic, 6 endocrine, 7 field, 8 freedom, 9 gaffer, 10 gifted, 11 high five, 12 in high spirits, 13 jailhouse, 14 malakatoone, 15 melik, 16 nimble, 17 nomology, 18 oenomel, 19 ornament, 20 Phoenix, 21 prodnose, 22 taser, 23 test run, 24 untasted, 25 vaulter, 26 vaunted

Adjudicator observations

Perhaps the low number of entries indicates the degree of difficulty of this quiz. Most entrants seemed to find the theme after a time. Interestingly, all gave "malik" for 15, and "untasted" for 24, rather than Roy's choices of "melik" and "untasted". Both were perfectly fine alternatives. Another alternative I accepted was the beautifully evocative "in high feather" for 12.

Member Feedback

- Most of the answers may have been easy enough to find, but the theme needed to be translated to fill the gaps. A beaut challenge!. *Ann Millard.*
- It always helps to look at the title. Very enjoyable. I often wonder why more people don't do the quiz. *Ulla Axelsen.*
- I found it quite difficult to identify a pattern, or at least, a pattern that related to the title!. *Andrew Miles.*
- Well, that was certainly original. Thank you. *Julie Leigh.*
- Interesting quiz. Quite a challenge. *Dani Rosendorff.*

- The title was a good indicator of both the process and the amount of time spent on this quiz. It took a while for the theme to emerge. *Kath Harper.*
- Wow! Got most out before realising the theme. Great fun in the end. *William Ryan.*
- This caused more than a few headaches for me, and for a long time, I feared being unable to complete it. *Pat Garner.*
- Hmmm. Quite a challenge. Glad to have the answers. *Lynn Jarman.*
- After a couple of attempts, I think I have finally worked out the theme. In any case, I have learnt at least 4 new words. *Warren Allen.*
- An enjoyable quiz, where finding the locks revealed the key. *..Ron Jarman.*
- Oddly difficult, but great fun. *Robyn Wimbush.*
- Finishing a quiz was quite an accomplishment for me. *Dave Parsons*

Feedback on April slots 4 and 5 - continued from page 11

- Pleasantly challenging AJ. Liked clue for BRIDES. *Bev Cockburn*
- I wonder if I'll remember XENIAL and QUANNET should they be future answers. *Lynn Jarman*
- Why is it with Manveru we seem to find the answer before working out why? Frustrating. But wouldn't miss it for quids. *Richard Skinner*
- I'm not sure if this puzzle is JINXED as the top line suggests. *Michael Veress*
- One of my favourite puzzles because of the number of fascinating words such as XENIAL, QUANNET, and OLIPHANT and great clues like LINING and VOUCHER. *Jean Evans*
- Really enjoyable puzzle. *Robyn Mckenzie*

April 5: The Co-op (Bev and Mal Cockburn)

- Virtually finished solving before waking up that all down clues end in -man. Quite an achievement by the compilers. A few obscure meanings (eg "spider" = "pan" in PANG, "devil" = RAGMAN) slowed down solving. *Ian McKenzie*
- I didn't realize until I was ready to send in my entry that all the down answers ended with MAN *David Procter*
- I had two answers left before I saw the MANs! Duh. *Andrew Patterson*
- I only noticed the common ending of down clues when filling in to submit. That helped me correct a couple of answers that lacked the correct ending and were previously unsupported guesses: daemon instead of RAGMAN (a new word for me) and Newcombe instead of HENCHMAN. *Andrew Meek*
- I found this challenging but it did take me a while to pick up the "MAN" theme. Interesting variations on that! *Ann Millard*
- Oh man, that was fun. Was not sure about 19dn, is 'grey ghost' a southern reference? *Ulla Axelsen*
- Oh man! I would have finished this a lot sooner if I'd seen the connection. Didn't click until I was reviewing the answers. MADMAN took me far too long to get and gave me an out loud "aha" moment. *Jenny Wenham*

Continued on page 13

April 6-2024 Cryptic by Betelgeuse (Gillian Champion)

[see page 2 for solution]

Entries received: 56 Correct: 44 Success rate 79%.**Prizewinner: Kath Harper. Congratulations!****Adjudicator's observations**

A good success rate for one of Gillian's more conventional puzzles, but the challenge seemed to have been enjoyed by all. A few random errors, the only clue giving problems being NOMES, a province or department, in ancient Egypt or modern Greece. Perhaps a little tricky with the misplaced apostrophe in one definition and "Swiss financiers" could have been kinder as the homophone. Nevertheless, most solvers cracked it successfully.

Explanations – Across: 1 AINT* in CLEVER, 6 dd, 10 MPH in AORTA, 11 VAN + GO + G + H, 12 CA + AT< + R + ACT, 13 homoph "require-re", 16 (C + I + LOT + SAID)<, 17 DrAGON, 18 homoph "gnomes", 20 TENNERs + SEE, 22 G in PLUS, 24 A in FUSTIAN, 27 FUR< + FIANce, 28 ROT in 'OUND, 29 dd, 30 (NP + COLLIERS)*. **Down:** 1 (CY + L + ONCE + HAD)*, 2 NAP + T in HH + A, 3 I + (CRATE in SOS), 4 anag, 5 homoph "n v", 7 LOO + MING, 8 (L + HUB)<, 9 AN + K + H, 14 DA in (SCAN + LOUSE), 15 INTERN + LOAD*, 17 cd, 19 AM< + LEft + IC, 21 S + PIC + homoph "you'll", 23 A in GIT, 25 (BReAD)*, 26 dd.

Solvers' Feedback

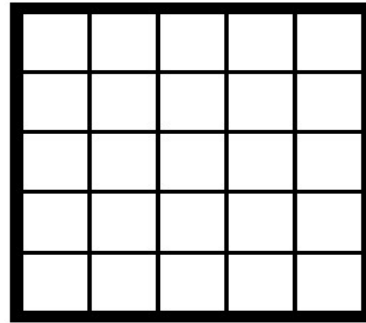
- Quality crossword with a good number of tough (but fair) clues, some with wit. Particularly liked CANTILEVER & RUFFIAN. *Ian Mckenzie*
- Bit of a toughie but good clean fun. *Andrew Patterson*
- Another challenging puzzle. My favourite clues being 7d LOOMING, 14d SCANDALOUS & 21d SPICULE, the latter being a new word for me. *Ann Millard*
- Wow, I forgot just how challenging Betelgeuse could be. It will be a sad day when we run out of her puzzles. *Ulla Axelsen*
- As always Betelgeuse produced a tricky puzzle, satisfying to finish. I voted CHOIR COTM. *Roy Taylor*
- Two new words - always a bonus! Both 8d BUHL and 13a DAGON were unknowns for me and I was only able to solve them because of the clever clueing. *Kathryn Forward*
- Betelgeuse puzzles, with their clever creative clues and wide general knowledge, are always a pleasure. *Kath Harper*
- A tough puzzle indeed with a bit of faith needed to get through it. I liked FAUSTIAN and AMPHORA. *Mal Cockburn*

- I liked SCANDALOUS. *Robyn Wimbush*
- So many challenging clues and interesting words such as SPICULE, NAPHTHA, BUHL, DAGON and DIASTOLIC. *Jean Evans*

Continued on page 14**FRAZ WORD SQUARE 5-May 1** (Solution on p 16)

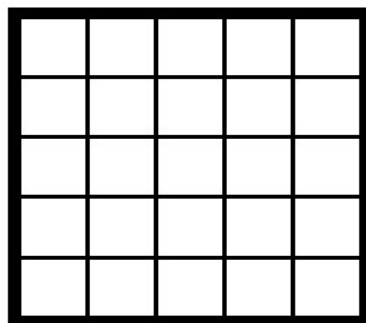
Identical words read across and down in this square. Clues are not listed in order.

- Audibly clip gossamer
- Pierre's here with...um...slicker
- A young lady out of place
- Pitiful mills after six shifts
- Virile Scotsman next to Hotel Oscar

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

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

- For example, smell perfumes in my ear
- Group of 13 counted originally by baker
- Make up loads with drug
- Raises flags
- Turning, noticed 1,000 joints

**Feedback on April slot 5 - continued from page 12**

- I didn't notice all the MAN endings until I was entering it! Took a while to find a spider can be a frying pan, a ragman a devil and meter man a grey ghost. *Roy Taylor*
- Some really tough clues, but all solvable, which is great. The 'man' theme revealed itself early, which helped. New to me include spider as a kind of pan (6ac), and 25dn, RAGMAN. Very challenging – new words learned today, thanks! *Kathryn Forward*
- Interesting puzzle. *Ian Thompson*
- Almost enough MANpower for an Aussie Rules team. Well done! *Kath Harper*
- Such an impressive puzzle finding and clueing so many down words with the same last three letters. *Lynn Jarman*
- Oh Man! Took me a while to discover them. *Maureen Blake*

- Oh man, what a good puzzle. *Betty Siegman*
- After many a day I finally managed it! *Toby McLeay*
- Realising there was the clever 'man' theme helped with some of the solving. *Hilary Cromer*
- Had some trouble making progress before I realised that all down answers ended in MAN! *Anne Simons*
- Such a clever puzzle. It was only during the submission process that I realised that all the down clues end in 'man'!! Also, there were some challenging clues such as ALLAY, PANG and STONK. *Jean Evans*
- How clever to end all the down clues with a man! Some lovely clues too. *Robyn Mckenzie*
- Definitely more men than women! Discrimination? No; just clever! *Nea Storey*
- Do I detect a touch of Crowsman about this one? *Toby Mcleay*
- So many men! *Richard Skinner*

April 7-2024: Cryptic by Crowsman (Len Colgan)

Entries 67 . Correct 66 . Success rate 99%.

Prizewinner: Cheryl Wilcox. Congratulations!

Adjudicator's Comments:

Only one error, and that a typo! As mentioned more than once in the feedback, the definition for 22Ac is imprecise, emanating from my lazy reading of Chambers. At least nobody got it wrong. This very old puzzle had been waiting many years for an appearance, with thanks going to Ian for resurrecting it. It is distressing that seal slaughter is still a Greenpeace issue nowadays.

Explanations. Across: 1 IN SECT, 4 PERK + SUP, 8 DUO + MO, 9 Spoonerism of 'stain maize', 10 dd, 11 S + P(ICE)UP, 12 SEALS + LAUGHTER, 14 GRAN + DALLIANCE, 18 ALL + U + VIA, 19 GYP + SI(d)ES, 21 Spoonerism of 'Plougher, pay!', 22 rev hidden, 23 (I) EARNERS, 24 N + EARLY. **Down:** 1 IN + DIG + O, 2/12 S + WORDS + WALLOWER, 3 ARC< around HOLE, 4 PA(IN)STA + KINGLY, 5 R(ASP)ING, 6 SEA(NE)TTLE, 7 SAP< + SPORT, 9 (MALE ONLY SLOBS)*, 13 (PE(o) PLE GAG)*, 15 DIVERS + (ar)E, 16 PEN< + TUNE, 17 AS(h)TRAY, 20 IN + CUR.

Members' feedback:

- Another Crowsman classic with consistently well-compiled, fair clues. Especially appreciated GYPSIES, SWORD SWALLOWER, MONOSYLLABLES (my COTM), PASSPORT, EGG-APPLE & INDIGO *Ian McKenzie*
- Another tricky one Len but most enjoyable. Cheers. *Patricia Abbott*
- Always great but 22ac definition seems incorrect. *Andrew Patterson*
- I love a sense of humour so I'm going with MONOSYLLABLES for COTM *Toby McLeay*
- Had a good laugh at 9d. Thanks for the challenge. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Great puzzle again. 22ac clue is missing a word... defect or hole. *Roy Taylor*
- This was easier than some of the other cryptics, but provided enough challenges to keep me engaged. Nice mix of clue types too. *Kathryn Forward*
- Numerous excellent clues and an interesting set of answers. *Ian Thompson*
- A typically difficult puzzle from Crowsman and always a pleasure to solve. *Mal Cockburn*
- Very satisfying puzzle from Len, just the right amount of difficulty! Loved clues for DIVERSE and INCUR. *Bev Cockburn*
- SWORD SWALLOWER is good. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Thanks Len for some great clues. Really enjoyed ALLUVIA. *Jean Evans*
- Neat clue for DIVERSE. *Nea Storey*

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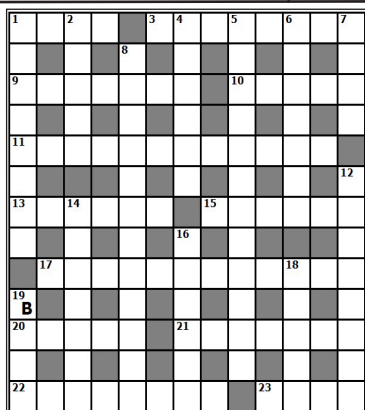
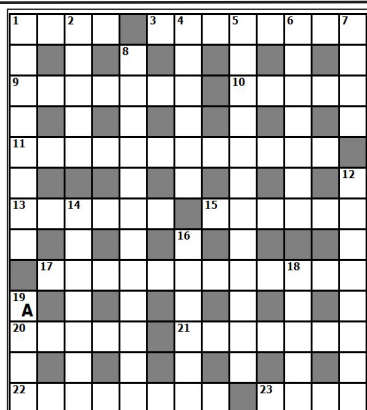
Solution WORD SQUARE 5-May

Y	R	R	O	S
R	E	E	H	S
R	E	I	C	I
O	H	C	A	M
S	S	I	M	A

Solution WORD SQUARE 5-May

E	S	N	E	S
S	E	N	E	K
N	E	V	O	C
E	N	O	T	A
S	K	C	A	J

Blank grids for slot 7



Name:

Feedback on slot 6 - cont from p13

- After a day or two of pondering I can't believe that I got it filled for submission although there's a couple of doubtful answers. Quite a challenge for me anyway. *Toby McLeay*
- What an amazing vocabulary this compiler had. Even for a Slot 6 there were too many answers that required specialist knowledge and an array of reference books. However; spell-check confirmed that all words I have entered do exist and are correctly spelt. *Lynn Jarman*

March 2024 Clue-writing Competition - Write a clue for **GONDOLA (7)**

Adjudicated by Andrew Patterson. *Some definition from Collins:*

- NOUN 1** *a long narrow flat-bottomed boat with a high ornamented stem and a platform at the stern where an oarsman stands and propels the boat by sculling or punting: traditionally used on the canals of Venice*
- 2. a.** *a car or cabin suspended from an airship or balloon*
- b.** *a moving cabin suspended from a cable across a valley, etc*
- 5. a set of island shelves in a self-service shop: used for displaying goods**

This time round, 14 entries were received for March's judgement. As the answer is somewhat narrow in definition, I was looking for creativity and surface reading. Most clues were anagram variations. The entries are listed in alphabetical order.

Boat departed without first examining dubious load ***

gon--, (load)*. A nice surface in this one but 'first examining' for the 'e' and 'dubious' as an anagrind felt a little, well, dubious.

Boat intermittently aground with load shifting ***

-g-o-n--, (load)*. Similar to the previous clue. The surface is a bit more of a stretch but the indicators are very sound.

Boat is often unloaded after midnight before adding another load **½

--g--, o---n-, (load)*. 'Midnight' for 'g' is contentious and 'another' as an anagrind is too vague. The surface works well and piques interest into what's going on!

Cable car has awkward load with George on first **½

G,on-, (load)*. This one, the surface is more mysterious. I understand why George=G might be acceptable but Chambers doesn't have it as an abbreviation. For a clue-writing comp, 'by the book' is a good idea.

Canal boat, meandering along, holds party ****

(along)*<>do. Our first one without 'load' being used. It paints a lovely picture of a pleasure cruise. The indicators and structure are excellent. A contender.

Damaged load on Grand Canal transportation ***

(load,on,G)*. Back to dodgy loads, this is a total anagram. Surface seems possible and it has a nice use of 'Grand' to enhance the Venetian feel.

Floating along delta on flat-bottomed boat *½**

(along,D,o)*. It seems odd that 'o' is short for 'of' or 'on' but Chambers lists it. The average solver wouldn't know that, so it'd confound many, like me. Otherwise, the clue works nicely.

In gaol Don designed a form of transport for water, air and rail **½

(gaol,Don)*. Probably a bit too much definition but the surface is plausible. Don had too much time on his hands unfortunately.

Left with great sorrow; caught boat *½**
(gone, homoph "dolour"). Instantly different as a homophone clue (ie 'caught'), it stands out from the others, which is good in a competition. The homophone words take some understanding, depending on one's pronunciation of 'gondola'. It sounds like a 1950s movie ending.

Lost money declared in construction of cabin *½**
(gone, homoph "dollar"). The prior clue didn't stand out for long as we have another homophone! This one feels closer to the target by a whisker. The surface portrays an honest act.

Mad dog on city bound basket **
(dog,on)*,LA. Back to partial anagrams, this one takes a different approach. Its problem is the fanciful surface reading which initially left me wondering if I'd read it correctly.

Rearrange logo and supermarket shelving ****
(logo,and)*. Ooh, now for something different . . . no transport mentioned but supermarket shelving. Again, it grabs my attention by being different. It works very nicely and I like anagrams with conjunctions as they usually make for better clue structure. This one is on the top shelf.

Rosewood edges removed before revamp of old dragon boat ****
(old,--agon)*. This clue takes the anagram beyond partial and goes subtractive! The surface is excellent with a nice workshop scene presented in the smooth clue. This clue will also be hard to beat.

Suffered agony, Lord, removing your empty boat **½
(agon-,Lo-d)*. Then another subtractive anagram. The difference here is the surface reading which is a bit clunkier and has no clear picture.

Summary: The three four-star clues were all very good and I feel a tad rueful that two of them leave unrewarded but the winner for this month is Ulla Axelsen, just, with, **"Rosewood edges removed before revamp of old dragon boat"**. It just had a clearer image presented and a very smooth surface. Congratulations, Ulla!

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 **SUSPENSION (10) complete with explanation**. Note: only one clue per person. Send your clue **and explanation** to the adjudicator Drew Meek by email to drewski1@hotmail.com
Closing mail date: Friday 14 June 2024 Prize \$50.

Name

Name.....

[illegible]

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Clue of the Month

MAY 2024 SLOT 3

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[illegible]

MAY 2024 SLOT 5

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