



No 421 May 2025



www.crosswordclub.org



"Lies, damned lies and elections: The dark art of pumping out lies for votes becomes a corrosive superpower at election time."
Nicole Chvastek, *The Politics Newsletter* March 2025

GRIDATORIAL

Daylight saving over for some of us and heaters on following ANZAC Day. Don't time fly?

Many thanks this month to Michael Kennedy for his expert editing of the month's grids, which he combined with adjudication of an excellent batch of clues submitted for our bi-monthly competition. Thanks also to Joan Smith for her perceptive analysis of your results this month. We welcome Ian Thompson (Flowerman) who takes on his first adjudication of the clue-writing competition.

Congratulations are due to all relevant members and to Crowsman on achieving the first 100 per cent success that I can recall with his slot 7 puzzle. Well done, all!

A wide variety of cryptic challenges is presented this month for your solving pleasure. Bogeyman has provided a half and half in the well-checked format pioneered by Noel Jessop. T-boy features in slot 2 with an eminently solvable puzzle and the aforementioned Jesso makes a welcome appearance with one of his professionally-crafted slot 3s. KA has devised an interesting and somewhat different grid into which to enter the answers to the favourite AJ. Katydid, at slot 5 is sure to require a little lateral thinking and the ever-intriguing Robespierre crosses swords with solvers at slot 6. May's offerings are rounded out by a richly-themed puzzle from the pen of our former colleague Nigrum Cattus. And finally, our 2024 puzzle -solving champion Zinzan has put his pen to paper in an intriguing quiz of his own for your enjoyment.

Good luck with your solving this month. Ian

FROM THE ADJUDICATOR

Lovely weather for the Easter weekend with lots of puzzles to keep you busy while eating your Easter eggs. The puzzles were appreciated as usual and many positive comments were made on the ANZAC Remembrance Slot and the interesting format of the AJ.

Slot 1: An enjoyable puzzle with a few tougher clues, the problems were GODSON for COUSIN and HAILSTONE with entries of HAILSTORM and HAILSTORE. The rest were one-off errors.

Slot 2: UNITY (UNIFY) created the most errors with 11 members falling by the wayside by overlooking the vacancies in Faculty, SPRINGING (SPROUTING) and BENIN for (BANTU) also resulted in lost dots. The other mistakes were single errors and the overall comments were that it was an enjoyable puzzle.

Slot 3: Quite a few accolades for the Remembrance Slot though 5 mistakes occurred with REFRESH attracting ENFRESH, ENFLESH and EEFRESH. Also, surprisingly, 6 WISARDS were submitted and those who proposed SWELTER FOR SWELTRY did not notice the definition of "steamy" nor the Y in the anagram of Westerly. A few COTM nominations were received for MODERATE in this puzzle.

Slot 4: As always Slot 4 proved to be very popular and the different grid format seemed to be well liked. Mistakes were JETFLAP (JETFOIL) 5, QUADRILATERALS (QUADRILITERALS - in Chambers) 5, ZINNEA for ZINNIA in 3 cases and a couple of KNEEPADS for KNEECAP: the rest of the few errors were one-offs.

Slot 5: Many comments on this challenging Betelgeuse puzzle with its tricky, unusual words, which is perhaps why there were fewer entries. The clue that lost most dots was THUMBS (THUMBY defined as "awkward"): 8 members had this wrong. 5 errors were found in the rhea, NANDOO (not a duck), one hip member submitting DADDYOO. Four fell foul of FELLY.

continued on page 2

LEADING FIGURES

Puzzle No.	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Entries received	83	84	76	76	53	372
Correct entries	76	69	57	62	37	301
Success rate (%)	92	82	75	82	70	81
Prizewinners	David Grainger	Danuta Rosendorff	Alison Martin	Claire McClelland	Alan Dyer	from 88 members

Prizewinner: April Slots 1-5 correct: Anne Millard. Congratulations!

President / Editor	Ian Williams	12 Lindrum Crescent Holt ACT 2615	ph 0417 493 431	president@crosswordclub.org
Secretary	Jenny Wenham	48 Shakespeare Street Comet Qld 4702	ph 0407 643 277	secretary@crosswordclub.org

CONTENTS

	page
Half and Half by Bogeyman	3
Cryptic by T-boy	4
Cryptic by Jesso	5
AJ by KA	6
Cryptic by Katydid	7
Cryptic by Robespierre	8
Cryptic by Nigrum Cattus	9
Quiz 5-2025 by Zinzan	10
Results Quiz 4-2025	10
Results April slot 6	11
Fraz Word Squares	11
Results April slot 7	12
Member News	13
Explanations April 1-5	13
Members' Feedback	14
Results of March Clue Comp	15

April Slot 1

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

April Slot 2

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

April Slot 3

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

April Slot 4

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

April Slot 5

¹ B	² U	³ S	⁴ Y	⁵ C	⁶ O	⁷ N	⁸ I	⁹ A	¹⁰ H	¹¹ W	¹² O		
L	C	O	I	A	H	W	O						
⁹ A	¹⁰ I	¹¹ R	¹² L	¹³ E	¹⁴ T	¹⁵ T	¹⁶ E	¹⁷ R	¹⁸ D	¹⁹ O			
N	A	R	R	A	M	R	B						
¹¹ C	¹² U	¹³ B	¹⁴ I	¹⁵ C	¹⁶ L	¹⁷ E	¹⁸ D	¹⁹ E	²⁰ B	²¹ U	²² S	²³ S	²⁴ Y
		B	I			I	Y						
¹³ N	¹⁴ O	¹⁵ L	¹⁶ O	¹⁷ V	¹⁸ E	¹⁹ L	²⁰ O	²¹ S	²² T	²³ A	²⁴ G	²⁵ E	²⁶ R
O	E	E	E	E	I	L	O	A					
¹⁸ S	¹⁹ I	²⁰ D	²¹ E	²² P	²³ S	²⁴ Y	²⁵ C	²⁶ H	²⁷ O	²⁸ P	²⁹ O	³⁰ M	³¹ P
E		N	S			N	S						
²¹ F	²² O	²³ R	²⁴ G	²⁵ A	²⁶ V	²⁷ E	²⁸	²⁹ F	³⁰ I	³¹ G	³² L	³³ E	³⁴ A
L	I	N	N	O	P	W	E						
²⁵ U	²⁶ N	²⁷ D	²⁸ I	²⁹ D	³⁰ I	³¹ N	³² G	³³ L	³⁴ U	³⁵ V	³⁶ I	³⁷ A	³⁸ L
T	G	O	N	U	L	N	L						
²⁷ E	²⁸ R	²⁹ E	³⁰ L	³¹ O	³² N	³³ G	³⁴	³⁵ P	³⁶ H	³⁷ L	³⁸ E	³⁹ G	⁴⁰ M

April Slot 6

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

MEMBERS' RESULTS FOR APRIL 2025 Slots 1 to 7

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

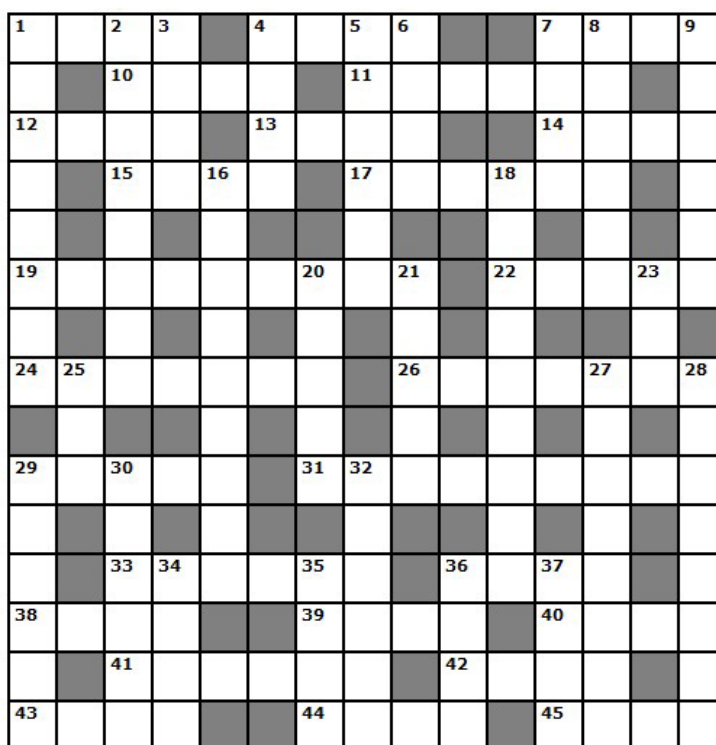
From the Adjudicator: continued from page 1

COTM: A total of 45 nominations was received for all puzzles with Slot 7 receiving 16 and Slot 4 13 votes. The winner was ENDING [Finish what young and ageing both do] from slot 4 with 8 votes and COLONNADES was second with 7 votes. Congratulations Len.

Joan Smith

Slot 1

Half and Half
by
Bogeyman

 Prize
\$50


Across

- 1 Exhausts (4)
- 4 Dad (4)
- 7 Surety (4)
- 10 State (4)
- 11 Gas (6)
- 12 Voice (4)
- 13 Strip (4)
- 14 Publicises (4)
- 15 Cordage (4)
- 17 Boredom (6)
- 19 Obstruction (9)
- 22 Stunner (5)
- 24 Wine (7)
- 26 Terminal (7)
- 29 Destination of haj? (5)
- 31 Manners (9)
- 33 Insect development stage (6)
- 36 Cheese (4)
- 38 Form of wrestling (4)
- 39 Former currency (4)
- 40 Excited (4)
- 41 Faith (6)
- 42 Rodents (4)
- 43 Headland (4)
- 44 Eye affliction (4)
- 45 Former ruler (4)

Down

- 1 Traveller: "Train fare increase - not nice!" (8)
- 2 Troop sat around for a meal (3,5)
- 3 "Go away" heard in brogue, perhaps (4)
- 4 River exercise for church dignitary (4)
- 5 Author has convulsion - charming! (6)
- 6 American cut the French support (4)
- 7 Boyfriend found in Montrabé auberge (4)
- 8 Ian and Sam - tortured souls! (6)
- 9 Medical pioneer engrossed in chilli stereotaxis (6)
- 16 Innkeepers' civil answer (9)
- 18 Elder nut I chewed in the interval (9)
- 20 Declaim "Baroque not new!" (5)
- 21 Colour of mobile security device reported (5)
- 23 Hospital department: "Run results in slip!" (3)
- 25 First lady in the middle of Cape Verde (3)
- 27 Atrocious acts at 28s' wild picnics? (8)
- 28 Youth brewed green tea (8)
- 29 Author's old transgression - a factor associated with muscles (6)
- 30 Centipede may need these as it ascends? (6)
- 32 The short break leads to savings (6)
- 34 Objectors reputed to move slowly (4)
- 35 Bar content found in Franco/British articles? (4)
- 36 Renown of first of females at Methodist enclave (4)
- 37 Faultless, but unpopular. diplomacy! (4)

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

Slot 6: Ulla Axelsen: email to ianmalcolmmckenzie@outlook.com

or mail to 47 Ronald Avenue Greenwich NSW 2065

Slot 7: Kay Williams: email to ianw@webone.com.au

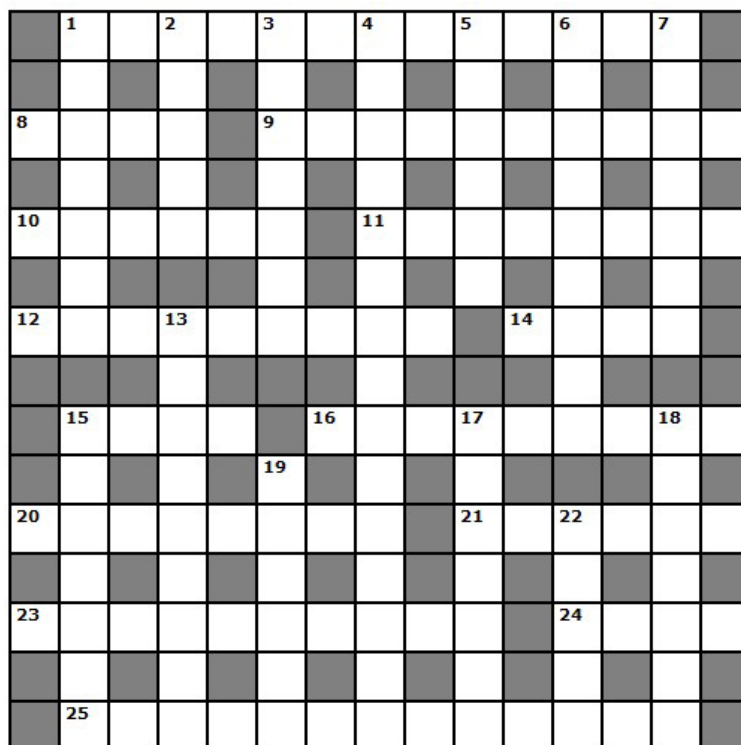
or mail to 12 Lindrum Crescent Holt ACT 2615

**SEND
SOLUTIONS
TO:**

**BLANK
GRIDS
PAGE 16**

Closing mail date for all puzzles is 30 May 2025. ACCOLADE entries close at 00.01

Slot 2

Cryptic
by
T-boyPrize
\$50

Across

- 1 Unobtrusive copper, good on the outside, goes after popular scams (13)
- 8 Recess left in engine space (4)
- 9 Enigmatic person near dead reserve (6,4)
- 10 Relish trouble (6)
- 11 Manipulate into self-doubt from half demented insult (8)
- 12 Monicker buck with glossy coat, missing tail (5,4)
- 14 Dispassionate female atmosphere (4)
- 15 Triad leader made to go last creating uproar (4)
- 16 Anne got mixed up with opium leading to serious illness (9)
- 20 Langlaufers' need for cocaine trip (8)
- 21 Put together round stone (6)
- 23 Dangerous jig we heard cut up Mum's sisters (5,5)
- 24 Always chop head off (4)
- 25 Cider has acids brewed with sugars (13)

Down

- 1 Rascal joining Republican in Texas, originally to capture the mind of the young (7)
- 2 Buttock nerve (5)
- 3 Sister holding old magazine showing atomic content (7)
- 4 Feed around 12 (5+10+22) (9'1,5)
- 5 A big one of these may be found on a board? (6)
- 6 Bob and Gail dancing to musical accompaniment (9)
- 7 Choke small dam (7)
- 13 After end of long depression takes Combantrin for light larvae (4-5)
- 15 Revived sheep during break (7)
- 17 Obscure relative half Arab (7)
- 18 Willingness without extension results in disorder (7)
- 19 Shakespearean whore turns up sick at heart (6)
- 22 Reportedly raised cash (5)

General Feedback for April

- Thanks so much for the prize for the 2024 quizzes. Very excitin
- Thank you all for my Slots 1-5 prize. A big surprise! *Robyn Wimbush*
- Thanks for the prize last month; very encouraging! *Sonia Roulston*
- Thanks to all concerned for a great lot of puzzles. *Anne Simons*
- I find clues where I need to come up with a longer word and then deduct some letters difficult. I did not attempt Slot 5 for this reason.

Slot 3

Cryptic
by
Jesso



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

Across

- 1 Passed out wooden spatulas, originally for spreading (7)
- 5 A state election requiring signatures initially 28 needed to be correct for credit? (7)
- 9 A smart girl at Catholic University match (5)
- 10 Forces wild mule inside for slaves (9)
- 11 Amateur second-class permitted to ride Scotsman's trotting horse (12)
- 14 Holds out against ugly sisters (7)
- 15 Perish with can goods, initially after fasting (7)
- 16 Southern Pennsylvania resort (3)
- 17 Tea vine cultivated in natural simplicity (7)
- 19 Attempt to steal wicket with umpire showing he's one not taking sides (7)
- 21 Booze rules at work mean nothing when it's this cold? (8,4)
- 25 Application to get book returned containing Latin story ending in dissension (9)
- 26 Optical counterpart of imp not finished with a turn (5)
- 27 Runs out of room in church enclosed by wings (7)
- 28 Railway to adopt new light indicating the proper way (7)

Down

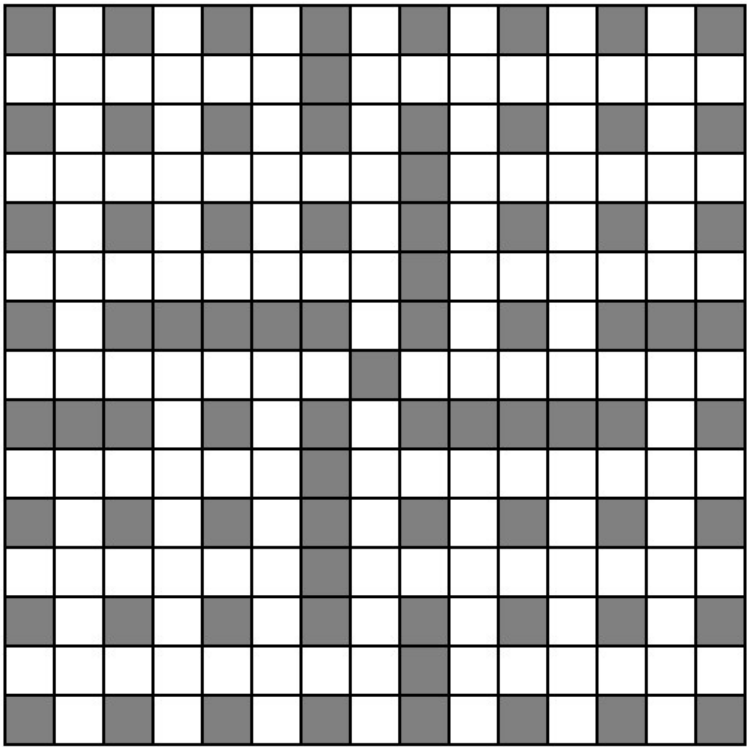
- 1 Chances air disaster of sickly sweetness (10)
- 2 Set work, tiny chap is followed by a spasm, but hopeful (10)
- 3 Goads the French after necessity (7)
- 4 Unexpectedly, set aside medium cup for a small one? (9)
- 5 Publicity people amend new version (5)
- 6 Refuse Roman dictator. Starts to go east (7)
- 7 Animals in endless belt on Kansas (4)
- 8 Window-frame of southern ash (4)
- 12 Officer abandoned letter by the sound of it (10)
- 13 Funny googly type in science of antiquities (10)
- 15 War hero's a doctor, taking cleaner out (3,6)
- 18 Preserves aromatic stuff in German river (7)
- 20 Horse in front of gate going white (7)
- 22 Complies with boy's poor presentation about English (5)
- 23 A lot heard about festival (4)
- 24 Disco dancer secures the final section (4)

Slot 4

AJ
by
KA



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



- A** Old woman of easy morals is without a pseudonym (6)

B Refuge for runner with a difficult situation (4-4)

C Without doubt, nice art is unusual (7)

D Frame for container behind entrance (8)

E Paint train containing famous person (6)

F Health food club for nocturnal forager (5,3)

G Soldier with broken ligger is laughing more? (8)

H Call contrary girl for prayer (4,4)

I Train sign I altered included badges (8)

I Map feature shows nothing in international southern shoal (6)

J Complicated ear job for rodent (6)

K Win endorsement that is crazy (6)

L The French assay is the most recent (6)

M Foods for crazy animals (8)

N Only this size is extinct? (2,6)

O Lots of dogs are powerless (6)

O Money for East German man (7)

P Raves on about island vegetables (7)

Q Old fashioned dress designer holds onto independence (6)

R Argued with a child involved with musical instrument (8)
- S** Unemotionally, malodorous lecturer enters dirty enclosure (8)

T Examinations show parasite eggs returning in sheep (8)

U Edicts for British and Australian volunteers (6)

V Very old instrument is spiral-shaped (6)

W Old cars are monsters! (7)

X Crazy Texan covered stetson with salt (8)

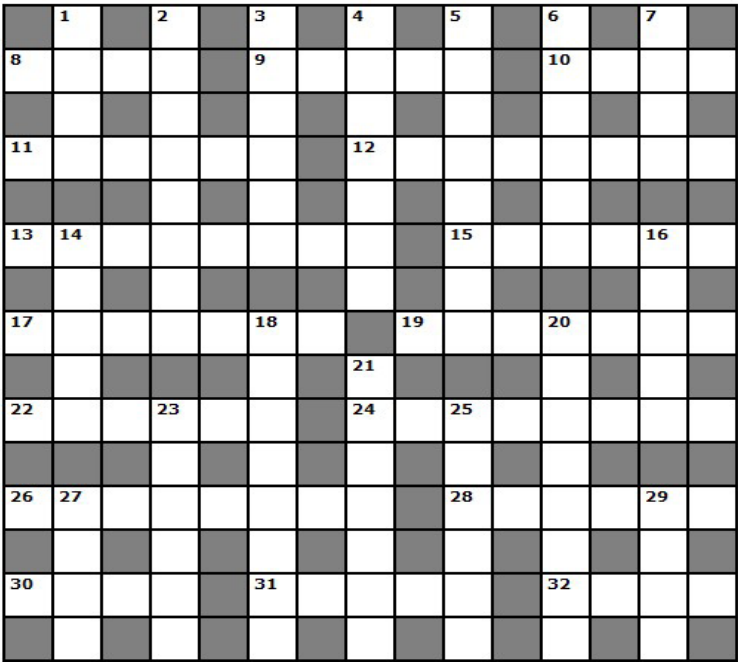
Y I agree - the infection is insubstantial (6)

Z Decorating nearly half the division? (6)

Slot 5

Cryptic
by
Katydid

Prize
\$50



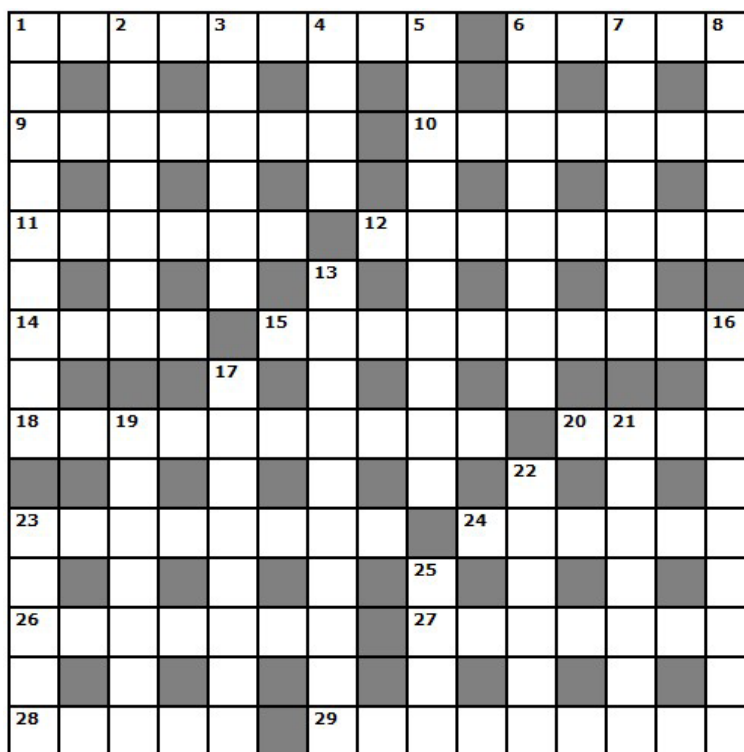
Across

- 8 Firsts! Play it Largo, it's a theme (4)
- 9 Welfare case shelters lawless 6, for instance (5)
- 10 Keen prima donna is moving west (4)
- 11 Cloth absorbs French wine and crackers (6)
- 12 Psycho tended me! (8)
- 13 Otherwise, sounds like elder statesman material (8)
- 15 Exercises in place with rider (3-3)
- 17 Screwy nut, Alic! (7)
- 19 Constant fishy smell when drug swapped for gold (7)
- 22 Insipid! Include One Direction theme (6)
- 24 Whole pack and part make a crew member (8)
- 26 "Chicago Typewriter" by Thompson: OMG my theme reused! (5,3)
- 28 Son sits by hearth, alone (6)
- 30 Rock themes return (4)
- 31 A-team in reserve (5)
- 32 Bring quietly, maybe, to stand out (4)

Down

- 1 Magpie's eating problem (4)
- 2 Twice 6 for Spanish mollusc (8)
- 3 Mars, for one, upset pooch (untrained) (3,3)
- 4 Resolute Spooner stated deficit (4,3)
- 5 Primate roams Met - uproar! (8)
- 6 Jupiter's royal acorn is 1/3 browallia bean (6)
- 7 Old instrument loses casing nut (4)
- 14 Audible regret in French city (5)
- 16 Virtuoso soars in quiet new theme (5)
- 18 AV recording Take 5, "A graphic character" (8)
- 20 Theme peacekeepers articulated (8)
- 21 Tissue I dead - no treatment (7)
- 23 A large part of Monday's theme (6)
- 25 Chews, chews, a kin to 8 (6)
- 27 My word! Unwilling, not listening first (4)
- 29 Train without motive? Thematic! (4)

Slot 6

Cryptic
by
RobespierrePrize
\$50

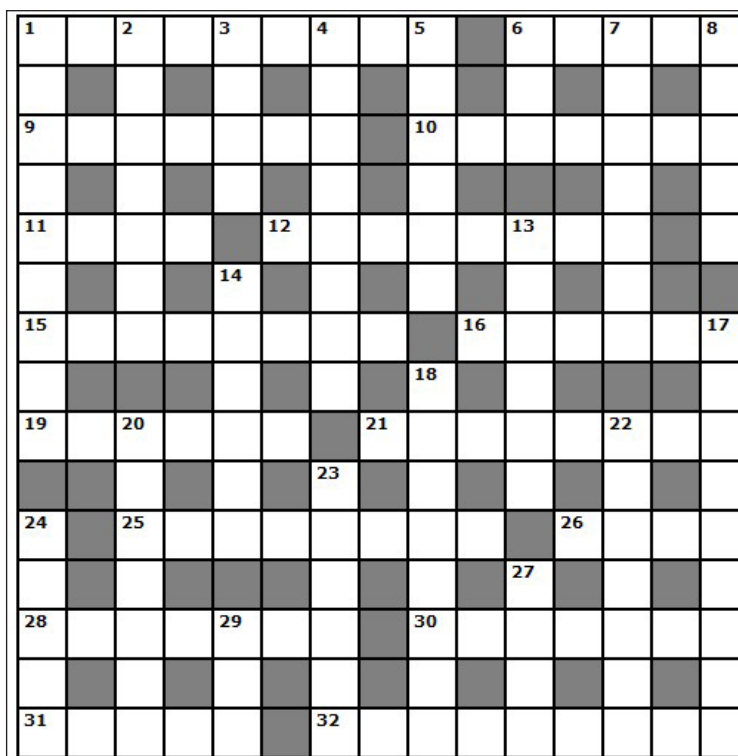
Across

- 1 Unobstructed path for lance? (5, 4)
- 6 Small plane ultimately defective, in reality (5)
- 9 Main period to hunt, son recalled (4, 3)
- 10 Time-servers showing how chess games may end (7)
- 11 Temple decoration in sea - with relief brought back? (6)
- 12 Escort sheds clothing - a delicate fabric fringing fine exposed seam (8)
- 14 Run slowly but not moving? (4)
- 15 Uncomfortable to sleep with this gloomy person (3, 7)
- 18 Mistake in two foreign articles by Bush! (10)
- 20 Politician exits toilet leaving product of an eruption! (4)
- 23 Person lacking substance is one who's very good with inexperienced staff (5, 3)
- 24 Powerful financier holds key to nuclear codes? (6)
- 26 Substitute coarse material with flimsier one (7)
- 27 Moscow and Vienna, but not Berlin and Madrid, splash money to secure vote by close of business (7)
- 28 Courtroom entries mostly satisfy (5)
- 29 Nimbly avoids tradesmen's entrance? (9)

Down

- 1 Scruffy uncle doing no good in heaven (5,4)
- 2 Closely observe what's in orbit (7)
- 3 Made a home in a box or plane? (6)
- 4 See 25
- 5 Flapper that sews, leaves tinker's successor on time (10)
- 6 Absolutely nothing on motorway and train back. That's usual (8)
- 7 Back law tackling lifted trousers in parade area (7)
- 8 Smack of discrimination? (5)
- 13 Tennis player, getting colour back, to start serving for those making court (10)
- 16 Passes over party goes among bad set (9)
- 17 Murder besets pub - these might give you leverage to get in? (8)
- 19 Spooner's cheeky colour that's fashioned by children at play (4,3)
- 21 Unexciting date accepted by anyone after change of heart (7)
- 22 Knocks back half the meat on the piggies (6)
- 23 Where to land and take off (5)
- 25,4 Passed on sexual ardour with drawing! (4,4)

Slot 7

Cryptic
by
Nigrum
CattusPrize
\$50

Across

- 1 Terrible haze to cover Portugal, Hungary, and almost Italy, according to forecaster (9)
- 6 Jinx pilgrimage's come-back keeping on (5)
- 9 A lively dance exhibited in animated cartoon (7)
- 10 Serbians losing right to mix with old Italian people (7)
- 11 Foreteller from Asia Minor had a bite of a samosa! (4)
- 12 Salvo guy converted a Balkan (8)
- 15 Stormy Fair Isles losing force to western Asians (8)
- 16 Remarkably, there's a Jewish queen married to a gentile (6)
- 19 Ms Waterhouse following husband to a good old tipster (6)
- 21 Beat us; lose by an expression of affection (5,3)
- 25 Once, the elms I lathed regularly became a bearer of the future (8)
- 26 Book will result, after truth sees leader deposed (4)
- 28 As I'm his cook, we'll have a fish dish (7)
- 30 Every second character from The Ring excluded in Lohengrin's rearrangement. But it's still top shelf stuff (4,3)
- 31 State entertaining sadistic organisation is impertinent (5)
- 32 Turns radar on so staff has power (6,3)

Down

- 1 Holy book (the last letter) imitation almost by social outcast with no leader (9)
- 2 Lustrous globule (not earth), belonging to US, found in a private room (7)
- 3 Queen with a partial unclean neck? (4)
- 4 Flower covering over where Roman/American tribe ... (8)
- 5 ... dance around yard with second special herb (6)
- 6 A task for a patient man (3)
- 7 9 to 5? He travelled up to this old city (7)
- 8 Oddly he ousted an old author (5)
- 13 Apparently lion-esses kept in captivity not so frequently (4,2)
- 14 Person with angelic character cuts back on heroin (6)
- 17 Made more harsh, huge drone crashed (9)
- 18 Chanel primarily is inclined to essentially overdo production of skin purifier (8)
- 20 Emphasise negotiations are holding up production (7)
- 22 Arising concerning wild animal confronting Scottish grandson when more youthful (7)
- 23 Doctors' body slowly accepting drink to help one live longer (6)
- 24 Doctors taking directions from the one with tablets (5)
- 27 A good book found in the loo (4)
- 29 I see why it sounds like a very cold spell (3)



Quiz 2025-5 Nesting by Zinzan. All answers have a themed component. They are listed in alphabetical order of the component. The word length indicator () gives the phrase or words answering the clue and that in [] the themed component. Only the component needs to be submitted but the full answer would be appreciated.

Send your answers by email to Andrew Patterson mcandap@bigpond.net.au or by mail to 372 Great North Rd, Abbotsford NSW 2046
Closing mail date 30 May 2025.

- 1 Besotted (4,4,5) [4]
- 2 Ice hockey's "The Great One" (5,7) [5]
- 3 Time of notorious policy ending in 1994 (9,3) [5]
- 4 Morning receptacle, maybe (6,3) [3]
- 5 Suburban Melbourne home of Australia's largest shopping centre (p/c 3145) (7,4) [4]
- 6 Decisive Korean War operation (6,2,6) [5]
- 7 "Be My Baby" group of the 1960s (3,8) [5]
- 8 British snack featuring currants (9,7) [4]
- 9 Fire Department recommendation (5,5) [3]
- 10 Relaxed (4,2,4) [4]
- 11 To regard as easy or routine (5,7,2) [4]
- 12 Pre-cancerous skin condition (5,9) [4]
- 13 Ounce (4,7) [3]
- 14 Huxley novel (5,3,5) [5]
- 15 A shout of agreement (4,4) [4]
- 16 Declaration signed enabling the World Trade Organisation (9,9) [4]
- 17 Italian poet (5,9) [4]
- 18 WW2 US Fleet Admiral (7,6) [4]
- 19 Object of a major financial commitment (3-6,4) [3]
- 20 Re-affirmation for a couple (8,3,7) [4]

Quiz 2025-4 A quiz on US! by Nigrum Cattus (Ray Gooderick)
Results: Submitted 23 Correct 9: Prizewinner Pat Garner. Congratulations!

Answers: 1 acciaccatura, 2 accipiter, 3 accrescent, 4 bacca, 5 baccalaureate, 6 baccarat, 7 bacchant, 8 bacchius, 9 Bacchus Marsh, 10 Boccaccio, 11 cacciatora, 12 carpaccio, 13 disaccharide, 14 Fibonacci, 15 flaccid, 16 focaccia, 17 laccolith, 18 Maccabaeon, 19 Malacca, 20 Oxford accent, 21 Pagliacci, 22 peace accord, 23 raccoon, 24 saccade, 25 saccule, 26 staccato, 27 tobacco, 28 unacceptable, 29 vaccination, 30 yacca

Results: Correct 30: W Allen, U Axelsen, L Colgan, P Garner, K Harper, R McKenzie, A Millard, A Patterson, M Veress. **29:** P Abbott, M Blake, D Grainger, D Meek, A Miles, D Rosendorf, W Ryan, R Wimbush. **28:** R Jarman, J Leigh, R Taylor. **27:** L Jarman, B Siegman C Wilcox

Adjudicator's observations:

I enjoyed receiving many positive comments for Ray's quiz. Most entrants seemed to take pleasure in finding previously unknown words. #3 seemed to give the most trouble. Accrescent was the answer we wanted, from the verb accrete. However, I also found a more obscure version of the verb, accresce, so I accepted accrescing (as it also fitted the required word count). I also happily accepted a couple of variations on the set answers if they fitted the criteria. **Julie Crowe**

Solvers' feedback

- I think it will be a nightmare checking all those weird and unusual answers. *[Not quite a nightmare, Ulla, but I did have to doublecheck quite a bit. Julie] U Axelsen*
- Penny dropped early, but still took a while for the last to appear. Thanks for the few new words added to my personal lexicon. *W Ryan*
- I found this one, with our ACC, quite a challenge, with all the unusual words. Fingers crossed! *R McKenzie*
- Much enjoyable research required for some words. *R Taylor*
- I enjoyed the quiz with the Club theme. *D Meek*
- An enjoyable quiz which took a while to crack. #17 took ages to find. PC doesn't just mean postcode, and I found that Dell make a computer with that model number! *P Abbott*
- There were some old friends and some new ones, which I don't think I'll ever get familiar with! *P Garner*
- So many new words for me! *M Blake*
- Most enjoyable - and quite a few new words! *D Grainger*
- Lovely to see our Club front and centre in so many interesting words. *K Harper*
- A very enjoyable quiz. Many unfamiliar words, so a lot of time spent researching, which is always a lot of fun! *R Wimbush*
- At first I thought it might be American states, but thanks to #9, the theme appeared. *W Allen*
- Another challenging quiz that required some digging to track down all the answers, however I certainly had fun doing so. *R Jarman*
- Fortunately, I found the 'something in common' fairly quickly. Here are my answers including several words I had not heard before. *L Jarman*

April 6 2025 A Tribute to Bush Poets by Valkyrie
Entries received 61; Correct 43; Success rate 71%.
Prizewinner: David Bennett. Congratulations!

Compiler’s observations

Thank-you to Banjo Patterson and Henry Lawson for their inspirational poetry and lots of varied titles.
I really enjoy compiling crosswords where I have to try to include some common aspect in the clues. There was really only one word which gave grief to a few and that was LEER instead of LEAR. All other mistakes were one of a kind. Thank-you for your positive comments.

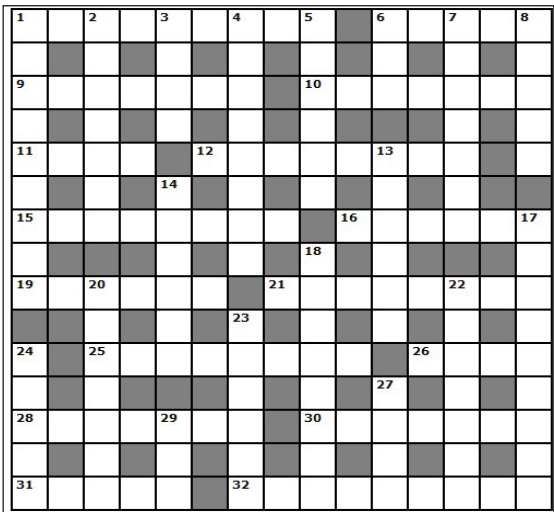
Explanations – Across: 7 HE+ADS, 8 E+(MENU)*+RATE, 10 L+E+S+LIE, 11 (ERR) in homoph “tears”, 12 (CONSIDERATE - AND)*, 13 SIGHT, 15 FLORID + A, 17 PS inside (NOTtES)*, 20 (LAOTIANS - ON IT)*, 22 (RACE)* + ANDY, 25 PAST+ORAL, 26 IT in VERY, 27 (FAT CAT ERRS - A)*, 28 V(O)ICE.
Down: 1 (R + SA) in REVELS, 2 I DO + LATER, 3 CATS< in jUNK, 4 (TEST RAMS)<, 5 sURGING, 6 Double, 9 Homoph “leer”, 14 homoph “would” + STOCK, 16 DIS+ARRAY, 18 P+LAY+gROOM, 19 FED< + LATE, 21 LE+TT+ER, 23 pROVE, 24 BA(I)RN.

Solvers’ Feedback

- Unexpectedly tricky. Really liked 4Dn.-*Len Colgan*
- That was very hard - or I was off the wavelength. Needed aids for quite a few.-*Rob Moline*
- Favourite DEFLATE. Well done on getting all those titles in.-*The Void*
- Very clever concept. SMART SET is a brilliant clue.-*Mal Cockburn*
- A couple of clues are still confusing me but will keep fingers crossed.-*Ann Millard*
- Excellent clues.-*Roy Taylor*
- Nods to Banjo Patterson; Henry Lawson; William Wordsworth and no doubt others I don’t know about. Well done VALKYRIE.-*Tony Dobe*
- I had to sift through several Howards before I found the right one for 10 across. *Kath Harper*
- I loved the clue for idolater *Robyn Mckenzie*
- Lots of excellent clues. Liked DEFLATE; PASTORAL and WOODSTOCK *Ron Jarman*
- Wow! What an amazing head for bush poets and words. *Lynn Jarman*



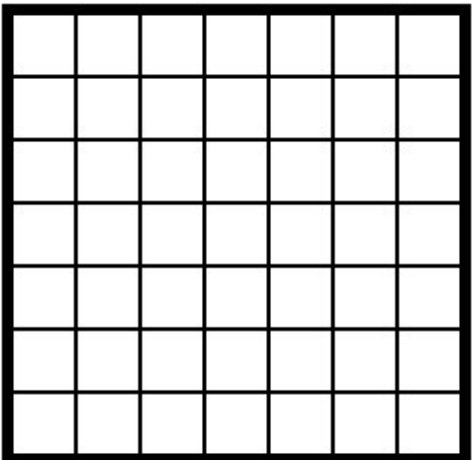
Blank grid for May slot 7
Name:.....



FRAZ WORD SQUARE May 1 (Solution on p 16)

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

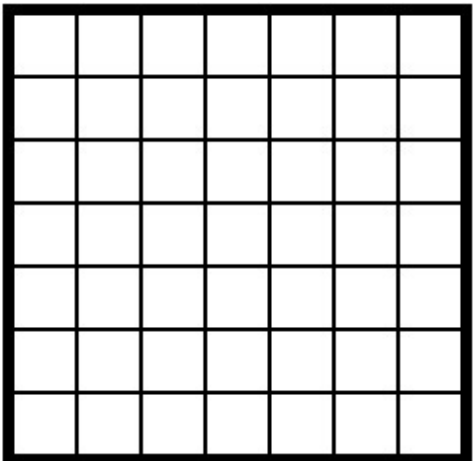
- In bad dream, church took to the streets in protest
- Region of Ghana shall not put in artificial intelligence
- Take up reparation of thrones
- Gee, inquire about mother’s hazmat gear (2 wds.)
- Lit class went ahead
- Marble sculpture’s head support linked to invention
- Thin breaks in entire mound full of insects



FRAZ WORD SQUARE May 2 (Solution on p 16)

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

- Craft sneakily crosses enemy lines, missing ceremonies
- Indicates high returns outside Spain
- Creation of mountains affected Oregon by end of century
- Crude metal ring amid nuts in grip (2 wds.)
- Pardon with large contract
- Unopened note claims Vera was a glutton
- Oops! Sid cooked some crustaceans



April 7-2025: Cryptic by Crowsman (Len Colgan)
Entries 66; Correct 66; Success rate 100%.
Prizewinner: Andrew Patterson. Congratulations!

Adjudicator's Comments: I rarely use 10-letter answers in my puzzles and so I constructed this unprecedented 16x16 grid with that in mind. It enabled some long-awaiting answers having nice clues to make their appearance, such as IMPLICATED, BRANDY SNAP, BALDERDASH, COLONNADES. I suspect the high success rate is connected to Julie Crowe's observation regarding the spine of the grid.

Explanations. Across: 1 PER(DIE)M, 9 IMPLI(CAT)ED, 10 BE + SIDES, 11 BRAND + PANSY<, 12 ACCEN(t)ED*, 13 HIT + PARADES, 14 MEN* in ASIA, 15 REST LESS, 20 SHE* in RAPES, 25 P(I)EASANT, 26 BALDER + DASH, 27 A + T(EL)IER, 28 COLON + SEDAN<, 29 IS around SINCE*, 30 (REQUESTS GO)*, 31 SAY in SEED*. Down: 1 I in (PUB CHAIR), 2 RE(SIDE)NTS, 3 IND(ONES)IA, 4 IS in MBE + HAVE, 5 S + PLATTER, 6 WIND + LASS, 7 dd, 8 DE(BA)TERS, 16 ME< + PHAS(IS)E, 17 TR(AGED)IES, 18 (IVY LEAVES)*, 19 SAT(IRIS)ED, 21 MANE< + OURS, 22 (ca) T in HIDEOUS, 23 (S(py) + SENT + REP)<, 24 ST(AND) OUT.

Members' feedback:

- Good difficulty level with neat clues.-*Andrew Patterson*
- Another great cryptic from Crowsman.-*Allan Storti*
- So many clever clues with great surface reading with no less than 5 smilies. Hard to pick the best one for COTM but my choice goes to COLONNADES because it took me ages to find the obvious colon! Special mention to BRANDY SNAP & HIT PARADES.-*Mal Cockburn*
- My favourite clue was for HIDEOUTS. It took me a while to see that the T is the tail of the cat.-*Roy Taylor*
- Favourite BALDERDASH-*The Void*
- The usual wit and clever clueing on display!-*Kathryn Forward*
- An enjoyable challenge. (Still looking for that Crowsman twist.)-*Ulla Axelsen*
- Gosh, where did all the short words go? Quite a challenge.-*Betty Siegman*
- Very enjoyable, as always. This was a very helpful diagram for the solver!-*Fraser Simpson*
- I loved the clue for colonnades-*Robyn Mckenzie*
- What a busy puzzle! All letters checked in 2 words, and nearly all in another 2. Loved 28A and 1D, but 14A got my COTM.-*Julie Crowe*
- Liked enamours. Lots of fun; thanks Len. *Robyn Wimbush*
- I nearly forgot the COTM from 14-across! *Alan Dyer*
- Lower left quadrant took a while for this excellent puzzle. HIDEOUTS clue clever... Cat's tail = T. *Roy Taylor*
- Great puzzle with so many good clues. Among the favourites were BRANDY SNAP; EMPHASIS; TRAGEDIES HIDEOUTS and BALDERDASH. *Joan Smith*
- I wanted to give COM to 'brandy snaps' and 'colonnades' and 'enamours' and 'balderdash' which is such a fun game. However 16d is brillianter(?). *Lynn Jarman*

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

April Slot 7 solution

Solution WORD SQUARE May 1

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

Solution WORD SQUARE May 2

S	S	E	N	Y	S
D	E	T	O	N	D
E	T	A	R	E	O
N	O	R	I	G	P
Y	N	E	G	O	R
L	E	V	I	R	H
S	D	O	P	O	S

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

Explanations for clues in 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 InGrid. Down: 1 death+row, 2 s+trumpet, 3 strIDE ALmost, 4 anag, 5 dm, 6 hails+tone, 7 (audiogram-rum)*, 8 en+tit+y, 14 s+team+iron, 16 habit+UsAbLe, 17 anag, 19 anag, 20 gET TO RAGE<, 21 sp(o+ok)y, 22 cou(nt)+sin, 25 hidden<. **Slot 2 Lexi Conner. Across:** 1 prUNE(QUA)Lla, 5 DD, 9 disAPPOINT, 10 DD, 11 DOCK + YARDS, 12 (Imperial) in CHE, 13 DISCusS, 15 PINES in SLUM*, 17 homoph "poor trade", 19 WAR in AD, 22 BAN + lecTures, 23 (tips recur)*, 25 IDOL+ mISer, 26 T(R) OPICS, 27 HAND + GUN, 28 OFTEN in SpaceS. **Down:** 1 aUNT + AIDE + D, 2 (excerpts - r)*, 3 UNI + Faculty, 4 LITE + RALLY, 5 SURFaceS, 6 (on beach in)*, 7 IN + VOICE, 8 dd, 14 SPR(OUT)ING, 16 MODE(RATE) S, 17 PUB + estabLISHments, 18 RAN + GO ON, 20 A + BUS + IVE, 21 adDRESSES, 23 einSTEIN, 24 P + ROOF.

Slot 3 The Mythtcs Across: 7 WeI(ZA)RD + S, 8 cd, 11 MA in WEBSTER, 12 IDE + A + L, 13 ST< in LEG + O, 14 (SPORADICALLY - oscar)*, 17 R + (FREE)* + SH, 19 ELO + PER + S, 21 MIR + OR in RS, 23 (HEMINGWAY - why)*, 27 OP in MED, 28 (A + IN + MA) in BRIE, 29 EU + NU + CH, 30 ROUNDERS. **Down:** 1 TIT+BIT, 2 HA+RANG+U+E, 3 Hidden, 4 MUTt + IN + Y, 5 LEVE(RAG)E, 6 LEGAL EAGLE, 9 (WESTERLY - E)*, 10 Double, 15 W(H)ERE + BY, 16 E+STATES, 18 F+LIP+P+ANT, 20 (NOTE+MINT)*, 22 RED+ACT, 24 homoph "Garrett", 25 (BEER + M)*, 26 (GIaNT [A<>O])*.

Slot 4 Crowsman. A SENT in (A + BEE), **B** BE(HOLD)ER, **C** COMET + RUE, **D** D(READ)ING, **E** END IN G, **F** F + (r) EIGNING, **G** G(uerrilla) + ONE, **H** (TOO + H)<, **I** ILL(ITERATE)NESS, **J** JET + FOIL, **K** NEE in PACK<, **L** L(O)ITER, **M** MOP(OK)E, **N** (puti)N + YET, **O** OP(era)TION, **P** PRONOUN + CEMENTS, **Q** QUADRILATERALS, but I for A, **R** (R(OAR) ING + TIES) around FOR, **S** homoph of 'site', **T** TU(ARE)GS, **U** US + R(ace) in UP, **V** dd, **W** W(HIT)E + TIE, **X** (MORE + X)< + A, **Y** YARD + AGE, **Z** Z(INN)IA.

Slot 5 Betelgeuse. Across: 1 BUSY + CON, 5 POT + HERB, 9 AIR + LETTER, 10 (ODER + U)<, 11 CU + L in BICE, 12 DEBUS + ShY, 13 O in NOVEL* + LOST, 15 I(L)AGER, 18 heads, 19 PSYCHO + POMP, 21 FOR + G + AVE, 23 FIG + LEAF, 25 UN + D+I+D, 26 (OUTRIVALLING - rot)*, 27 (GENERAL STORE - tears)*, 28 (HELP)* + MY round G. **Down:** 1 L in BANC, 2 S + CRAB + BLED, 3 anag, 4 anag, 5 anag, 6 UMBo in THY, 7 sEWERS, 8 BOOB + PARTY<, 13 NO + SE + FLU + TE, 14 LING round ESSEN, 16 GOOSE + WING, 17 PONG* in LULL, 20 NAN + DO + O, 22 bRIDGE, 23 (PUG + O + F)<, 24 (L + L) in FEY.

You may have heard this before...

- Did you hear about the World War I soldier who survived both pepper spray and mustard gas? He was a seasoned veteran.
- This girl said she recognized me from the vegetarian club, but I'd never met herbivore.
- I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can't put it down.
- I stayed up all night to see where the sun went. Then it dawned on me.
- Broken pencils are pointless.
- I went to a dog show the other day. A Yorkie took Best in Show, a Jack Russell took second, and a Scotty took third. - I'm starting to think the judges had some sort of All-Terrier motive.
- Did you hear about the actuary who wouldn't make whipped cream? She was whisk-averse.
- What do you call a dinosaur with an extensive vocabulary? A thesaurus.
- I don't enjoy computer jokes. Not one bit.
- I changed my phone's name to Titanic. It's syncing now.
- Jokes about German sausage are the wurst.

M	E	M	B	E	R
	N	E	W	S	

New Member: A hearty welcome to Sandra Fregona and Helen Banks. We hope that you enjoy our fellowship and look forward to your active participation in the activities of the Club.

Donations to the ACC Prize Fund: Many thanks for their generous donations to the Prize Fund this month to Sandra Fregona, Richard Skinner and Andrew Miles.

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

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

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

Find us on 

Join our Facebook group and discuss anything to do with words and puzzles. (No discussion of current prize puzzles please.)

Search for [Australian Crossword Club](#) or click the above hyperlink.

April 1 InGrid (Jean Barbour)

- Not sure about 13ac - I don't think OVERSEE means to disregard. [*Chambers references this apparently contradictory pair of definition – Ed*] *Allan Storti*
- Favourite GRADATE. *The Void*
- A few tougher clues in this one. I was thrown off by the extraneous words "for" in 8dn and "building" in 25dn (that last clue also appeared to need another "in" to make the indicator work.) How about instead: "Native wedding in a tale (5)"? *Fraser Simpson*
- An enjoyable start to the month. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Enjoyable, thankyou InGrid. *Sally Shipway*
- Interesting that OVERSEE has such contrasted meanings of 'watch over' and 'ignore'. *Kath Harper*
- Any day I learn a new word is a good one. In this case it was PROEM. I spent a lot of time thinking about a DEATH BED before finally moving to DEATH ROW (thankfully not in real life!). *Alan Dyer*
- The variety of clues makes for an interesting puzzle. *Lynn Jarman*

April 2: Lexi Conner (Ron Shapiro)

- My favourite clues in this enjoyable puzzle were those for MODERATES, RANGOON and DRESSES. *Brian Tickle*
- Liked PORTRAYED but the double defs for SUBMITS and SCREENS were too similar. *Andrew Patterson*
- Really liked MODERATES and ABUSIVE. Both SUBMITS and SCREENS are not true double definitions, as both meanings are virtually the same, as demonstrated in the Chambers thesaurus. Also, 'idol' is too close to 'idolise' to be used in that clue. *Len Colgan*
- Favourite PORTRAYED. *The Void*
- Liked MODERATES. *Roy Taylor*
- Very enjoyable. I liked "first impression" for PROOF. *Fraser Simpson*
- Quite a challenging slot 2. *Ulla Axelsen*
- I liked the clue for RANGOON! *Robyn McKenzie*
- That was great! *Sally Shipway*
- Good clues. Favourites PORTRAYED, SOFTENS and LITERALLY. *Anne Simons*

April 3: The Mythtics (Ulla Axelsen & Ian Williams) [*Feedback repeating the Nina have been omitted to save space*]

- Many thanks to Crowsman for his clever and timely grid with its brilliantly-conceived Nina. We enjoyed clueing it. *The Mythtics*
- Great clues, Mythtics. LILY PAD and ENIGMA were similar and both deserved a COTM nomination. *Keith Gamble*
- Well, what a work of art! *Julie Leigh*
- My favourite clues were those for WHEREBY and TIGON. *Brian Tickle*
- Favourite GARRET for the Adam Ant reference. :-) Nice grid-fill, given the long Nina. *The Void*
- Very clever puzzle. Congratulations! *Rob Milton*
- The title led me to an anagrammatic remembrance! *Ann Millard*
- Good puzzle with ANZAC theme and first letters message. *Roy Taylor*
- We will remember them, lest we forget. Yes

indeed. *Betty Siegman*

- Makes me think of my grandfather who was a stretcher bearer. *Toby McLeay*
- Was there an 'R' missing in the wordplay for REFRESH? [*The R was provided by "take" from "recipe (Latin)" given in Chambers – M*] Finding the (very topical) Nina helped. *Alan Dyer*
- Something missing from the REFRESH clue? Nice extra feature in the grid. *Andrew Patterson*
- Are we still allowed to remember them? Or have they been cancelled too? *Karlis Audrins*
- A clever timely Nina. *Julie Crowe*
- A bit of searching needed but it's all there! *Robyn Wimbush*
- A timely message, and such a clever way of including it! *Kath Harper*
- Fun! Tigon was hard! *Lyria Bennett Moses*
- A challenging puzzle. I do admit that I had only one clue to get before I worked out the 30 Leads to Remembrance. *Ken Watt*
- Well done to The Mythics - a worthy tribute. *Ron Jarman*

At first I thought 'Oh no; these compilers set hard cryptics!' However; when the clues started to make sense; the puzzle became enjoyable. I especially enjoyed HARANGUE, EAGLE, MIRRORS and BAIN MARIE. *Lynn Jarman*

April 4: Crowsman (Len Colgan)

- QUADRILITERAL is so not a word, really nasty. Especially crossing the dubious foil/contrast. Foil/complement, yes, contrast... only in dictionaries. Otherwise, the usual Crowsman brilliance. *Rob Moline*
- Always fun to have a different format. Thanks! *Ann Millard*
- Among all the big clever clues was the little one for ENDING which I liked best and voted it COTM. *Roy Taylor*
- I loved the clue for ENDING. Other favourites were the clues for OPTION and ILLITERATENESS. *Brian Tickle*
- First time I managed a puzzle in one sitting! *Toby McLeay*
- Interesting AJ grid layout...I don't think I've seen this one before. Enjoyable puzzle. *Fraser Simpson*
- Loved ENDING, my COTM. *Betty Siegman*
- A very enjoyable AJ despite the lack of anagrams. ENDING gave me a good laugh. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Umm, why can't we have anagrams? I quite like them. *Andrew Patterson*
- Favourite NYET. *The Void*
- I loved the clue for ENDING. *Robyn McKenzie*
- Some lovely clues here. Loved PRONOUNCEMENTS and ENDING. *Julie Crowe*
- Took a while to get my head around QUADRILITERALS. *Robyn Wimbush*
- I did not know that the term for four-letter words was QUADRILITERALS, but it makes perfect sense. *Kath Harper*
- Really enjoy this type of crossword, particularly liked the clues for PRONOUNCEMENTS and ROARING FORTIES. *Ken Francis*
- My first success in this style. *Lyria Bennett Moses*

continued on page 15

Feedback on April slot 5 continued from page 14

- Another set of clues that cause me to smile especially those 14-letter answers; although I'm not sure about the Q answer. *Lynn Jarman*
- An enjoyable puzzle - I liked the clues for ENDING and OPTION. *Ron Jarman*

April 5: Betelgeuse (Gillian Champion)

- Phew, some unusual words here. Len Colgan
- Very challenging puzzle with some very obscure words that I've yet to hear in conversation. Loved INGLUVIAL. I anguished over PATHERB - I hope it's right. Mal Cockburn
- Some very unusual words made it a bit more tricky! Thanks! Ann Millard
- I think I will go and pick some BUSYCON and play my NOSE FLUTE to relax before the PSYCHOPOMPS get me. Roy Taylor
- BUSYCON, UREDO, PSYCHPOMO, UMBO, INGLUVIAL, NANDOO, GOOSEWING, FELLY, BICE. Betelgeuse must have swallowed an encyclopaedia before she set this! Tony Dobeles
- Favourite SIDE. Some tricky words (esp. the SE) and parsings here. Not sure of getting my dot... The Void
- For a so-called 'straightforward' Betelgeuse, this sure was a challenge. Ulla Axelsen
- I suspect I have some wrong as some of the words don't appear in my online Chambers. Julie Leigh
- I found this tough going, partly because of a number of unfamiliar words! Fraser Simpson
- Love the idea of Debussy being a barman! Very clever. Julie Crowe
- So many uncommon words! Typical of Betelgeuse! So pleased we occasionally have a puzzle from her again. Maureen Blake
- FELLY and INGLUVIAL are new ones for me. Fingers crossed. Robyn Wimbush
- I think I picked up a week's worth of new words here! I think PSYCHOPOMP is a classic. (boom-boom!) Alan Dyer
- A lovely mix of entertaining clues and previously unknown words. Kath Harper

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

- I got a job at a bakery, because I knead dough.
- What do you do when you find Niacin and Thiamin at your front door? You in-vitamin, of course!
- Did you hear about the guy who started chirping after a one night stand? They think he caught a canarial disease.
- I refuse to work with compost, it's degrading.
- A guy walks into the doctor's office. A banana stuck in one of his ears, a cucumber in the other ear, and a carrot stuck in one nostril. The man says, "Doc, this is terrible. What's wrong with me?" The doctor says, "Well, first of all, you need to eat more sensibly."
- Why aren't depressed people worried about flat tires? They're always carrying despair.
- What do Russian kings order on their pizzas? Czardines.
- Did you hear about the banker who left her job? She just lost interest.
- What happens when a piano falls down a mineshaft? A flat miner.
- Did you hear about the guy who turned into a vampire before he was bitten? He suffered from premature edraculation.
- What happens to nitrogen when the sun rises? It becomes daytrogen
- How do you measure the quality of my puns? A sighsmograph!
- A termite walks into the bar. He sits down and asks "hey, is the bartender?"
- Did you hear that somebody spiked the punch at a roof designer convention? The next day, everybody had a terrible overhang.
- A Mexican magician told his audience he would disappear on the count of three. He wrapped his cape around himself and counted. "Uno... Dos..." and then disappeared without a Tres.
- Did you hear about the exorcist who offers a payment plan? Apparently if people fall behind on payments, they'll get repossessed!
- Did you hear about the antiques collector who found an old Coca-Cola lamp? She was soda lighted.
- Did you hear about the Celiac Disease sufferer who went to a wheat processing plant? She was a real Gluten for punishment.
- My friend fell into an upholstery machine. He's fully recovered now.
- Upon his coronation, a tribal king decided he wanted to upgrade his woven-grass-and-wood home. So, he commissioned the best weavers in the village to build him a two-story home. Weeks later, the grass-weavers finished, and moved the king's property in. But the King wasn't happy. He wanted to build a king-size bed, but the massive stone throne used in the tribe was in the way. Figuring a second-floor throne room would be more impressive, the King ordered the workers to bring the throne upstairs, and then weave him a nice, big bed on the first floor. A few more weeks later, the King finally moved in. On the first night, he and the Queen decided to test out the bed. Their testing got vigorous, and they shook the walls of the house, causing the heavy throne to plunge through the grass ceiling onto the bed, killing them both. The moral of the story? When you live in a grass house, don't stow thrones.

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	*****		

see page 16

Results of the March Clue Writing Competition Write a clue for EPHEMERAL (9)

Adjudicated by Michael Kennedy

Definition from Chambers (12th edition)

adjective Existing for only a day; short-lived, fleeting
(*Gr ephemeris* living a day. From *epi* for and *hemera* a day)

Literally, the word *ephemera* is defined as *for a day*. Back in *ye olde* times it was used as a medical term to describe a fever or any other malady that lasted for about a day. Now it has broadened in scope and can mean anything that's short-lived, much like a crossword clue. The word this month gave plenty of scope for parsing options, and the thirteen compilers obliged by covering all of them. There were several clues vying for the top prize but in the end the winning clue comes from the pen of Ulla Axelsen.

Short-lived drug border cut through eastern part of Bolivia close to Brazil (9)

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

A gem, not a diamond, following extreme pressure and heat will be short-lived ****

We start with a lovely chemically-themed clue that is parsed as follows EMER(-a)L(-d) after EP (extreme pressure) and H (heat). I couldn't find a reference that contained H for 'heat'. It is used to express *enthalpy*, but not *heat* directly. The clue has superb surface sense.

Ample here, all over the place, but not for long! ****

This one is a simple anagram of AMPLE/HERE as indicated by '*all over the place*'. What makes this clue neat is the connection between the definition and the parsing, creating a clue whereby the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

Ecstasy on the thigh reportedly not long lasting ***1/2

This clue is very economical and is cleverly parsed as E/PHEMERAL (sounds like femoral). I'll leave the intent of the surface reading to the reader's imagination.

Help a mere criminal – that'll be short-lived ***1/2

This clue is a quaint anagram of HELPAMERE, as indicated by *criminal*. The segue to the connection is cleverly done and the clue as a whole even conveys a salient lesson.

Joseph, emerald display is temporary **1/2

Have you spotted the solution hidden amongst the first two words? The indication is 'display'. Grammatically, 'displaying' would be a preferable option. I'm not completely sure what Joseph may have to do with an emerald display, but given it's only temporary, we need not worry too much.

Leaper jumped over edge, vanishing ****

The first thing that grabs you with the clue is the surface sense which is both perfectly plausible and engaging. So, what about the parsing? It's an anagram of LEAPER (as indicated by *jumped*) around HEM (edge). I wasn't sure about JUMPED as an indicator initially, but it literally means 'to change out of sequence', so perfectly fine.

Maple here, chopped – it didn't last long **1/2

This clue reminds me of recent stories where people have been cutting down or poisoning long-lived trees for a better view. In this case it's a maple tree. The anagram is very simple and the clue's surface sense is fair. The definition *didn't last long* is not quite right as the equivalent would be 'it was ephemeral', as *didn't* is past tense.

Real trouble follows FM broadcast that is short-lived ****

Here we have another well rendered clue that uses an anagram of REAL after EPHEM (sounds like FM). A lovely neat partial homophone. To be pedantic, following' reads a little more smoothly than 'follow, but otherwise this is a fine clue.

Short-lived drug border cut through eastern part of Bolivia close to Brazil ****

I'm always amazed with the diversity of themes, and here we have a drug trafficking clue. The parsing is E/P(HEM)ER/A/L. The tricky part (well the one that held me up, is 'border cut through' which is P(HEM)ER, where *through* is 'per'. I think the clue would have been served well with *cutting* rather than *cut*, but an excellent clue nevertheless.

Sounds like those standing for the French Monarchy Restoration League will be short-lived ***1/2

This clue utilises homophones, four in fact, for the entire clue! As far as I can tell, the French Monarchy Restoration League (F.M.R.L) doesn't actually exist, but if it did, you could see how the four letters (*those standing for*) sounded together spell out *ephemeral*. While *standing* does work, another good option would have been *leading*.

Transient central neuralgia appearing after record blood pigment ***1/2

This one could have been taken straight out of a medical journal article. The parsing is EP/HEME/RAL. It works well, although keep in mind that when using indicators like *central* that it could refer to various letter groupings, thereby making it more challenging. For example, *central neuralgia* could be A,RAL,URALG or even EURALGI. But excellent effort in maintaining the medical theme.

Transient Palmer loses right here ***

This would seem at first glance to be a straightforward anagram of PALME(-r) and HERE. What makes this less than obvious is 'transient' is serving double duty as both the definition and anagram indicator. Given this is unorthodox some indication to the solver (as in a ?) would be helpful. The surface reading could relate to Clive Palmer who is no stranger to losing court battles.

Volatile, headless, wild after catching radio transmission ***

We finish with another FM homophone joining f(ERAL). The definition *volatile* is one you may question, as it's most often associated with 'explosive', but it's perfectly defined as *transient* or *fleeting* too. The surface reading is a little stymied by the punctuation.

For the next competition, please write a clue for the word **TRADESCANTIA (12)** complete with explanation. One only per member, please. Send your creations to Ian Thompson email to irt_botanist@hotmail.com or post to 12 Olive Street Malvern East VIC 3145. **Entries close Friday 13 June**

MAY SLOT 2

[illegible]

MAY SLOT 4

MAY SLOT 6

[illegible]

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

Name