



"Omit needless words." William Strunk, Jr. *The Elements of Style* [1918], ch. 2, sec.13

LAST MONTH'S RESULTS

Puzzle No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Compiler	Crowsman	T-boy	Jesso	KA	CT	P-brane	Crowsman
Entries received	82	74	82	82	74	52	47
Correct Entries	73	58	67	69	52	43	43
Success (%)	89	78.4	81.7	84.1	70.3	82.7	91.5
Prize-winners	Lyria Bennett Moses	Scott Goodman	Ron Jarman	Krittibas Dasgupta	Mal Cockburn	Rob Moline	Andrew Miles



Slots 1 to 5 all correct: Wendy Cornish
Winner of Quiz 2062-3: William Ryan
Winner Clue-writing Competition Kathryn Forward
Congratulations to all our winners!



FROM THE ADJUDICATOR

This month's slots were noteworthy for a few reasons. Firstly, both of Crowsman's puzzles (slots 1 and 7) required answers to be modified for entry. This meant that solvers had to undertake much more of what is called cold solving, ie, where there is no (or less) help from crossing letters in the grid. Also, this month there were two AJs, and two of the puzzles had Australian themes, slot 2, "footy" and slot 6, "yabby".

Slot 1: In this much-appreciated Crowsman puzzle, the across clues provided definitions, but not the definitions for the entries; the letter P had to be added somewhere to provide the entry. This certainly increased the level of difficulty; however, solvers appeared to handle the unusual requirement quite well, and several commenters couldn't resist making p-puns.

Slot 2: This high-quality puzzle from T-Boy had an Australian Rules Football (footy) theme. AUSTRALIAN RULES appeared centrally in the grid, the answer to a very nice clue. There were several comments praising the cleverness of some clues. I must admit I hadn't noticed the numerous answers that were names of AFL teams (Cats, Power, Roos, Bombers, Swans, Dockers, Crows). BOOT instead of FOOT and TEEM instead of TEAM were the two main errors. In the latter, the homonym indicator is adjacent to 'abound' but not to 'Giants for example', so it was clear that TEAM was required.

Slot 3: This offering from Jesso was spot-on for a slot 3, with commenters unanimously enjoying it. What surprises me, however, is that the clue ALBEIT was highly rated. It's flawed because R is not an abbreviation for 'ran'. It is for 'run' or 'runs' (a cricket abbreviation). The unusual spelling of ELVAN caused some uncertainty, but the wordplay was clear.

Slot 4: This AJ from KA was on the easy side, and that is often good for boosting a solver's confidence. All clues were nice and sound and not overly complex. The curious fact that unthaw means to thaw was news to most solvers. The only clue with multiple errors was the one for ROLL where ROLE was given instead. This clue has the same pattern

continued on page 2

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April Slot 1

1	S	P	E	L	L	A	B	L	E	R	A	P	I	D
2	I	X	I	R	X	A	L	L	O					
3	S	W	A	M	P	O	V	E	R	P	L	A	Y	S
4	Y	C	D	W	M	H	Y	A						
5	P	U	T	T	E	R	S	P	L	A	C	I	N	G
6	H	P	E	E	T	A	C	E	N	E				
7	U	S	R	P	E	R	S	P	L	U	G	S		
8	S	N	S	R	U	E								
9	S	C	A	R	U	T	E	R	A	P	I	N		
10	S	R	U	B	S	E	R	A	P	I	N			
11	P	L	U	M	B	E	R	P	L	A	T	T	E	R
12	A	M	B	A	O	C	R	E						
13	D	E	P	L	E	T	I	O	N	T	R	A	M	P
14	E	L	R	N	S	E	D	O						
15	S	P	E	W	S	P	E	E	D	I	E	S	T	

Slot 2

1	F	G	P	R	S	T	F	R						
2	O	P	E	R	A	O	N	T	H	E	S	I	D	E
3	O	N	S	O	A	A	R	A						
4	T	H	E	I	S	T	S	B	O	M	B	E	R	S
5	W	R	N	L	F	L	W	O						
6	S	W	A	N	F	E	E	S	T	A	I	N		
7	E	T	E	E	M	C	L	E						
8	A	U	S	T	R	A	L	I	A	N	R	U	L	E
9	C	U	L	T	A									
10	R	O	A	S	T	O	W	E	P	O	W	E	R	
11	E	R	W											
12	D	O	C	K	E	R	S	C	A	M	E	L	O	T
13	D	I	W	H	A	A	L	O						
14	E	X	T	R	E	M	I	S	T	C	R	O	W	S
15	R	Y	R	P	S	E	W	S						

Slot 3

1	C	O	N	A	B	A	R	A	B	R	A			
2	C	B	I	A	E	A	A	A						
3	A	L	V	I	N	C	A	L	C	U	L	A	T	E
4	P	E	J	K	E	H	C	F						
5	T	A	R	T	A	R	E	T	A	I	L	O	F	F
6	A	S	S	D	N	R	O	F						
7	I	D	E	A	D	O	G	S	D	I	N	N	E	R
8	N	T	F	E	A	O	B	O	E	V				
9	B	U	T	T	E	R	F	I	S	H	O	B	O	E
10	L	E	L	O	A	E	S							
11	I	C	E	F	L	O	M	E	L	O	D	I	C	
12	G	N	U	N	E	B	E	E						
13	H	E	Y	P	R	E	S	T	O	E	L	V	A	N
14	T	I	U	I	E	L	I	A	N					
15	C	H	I	C	K	E	N	L	I	T	L	E		

Slot 4

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

Slot 5

1	D	O	W	N	I	N	T	H	E	M	O	U	T	H
2	N	E	I	A	E	N	E							
3	M	E	M	O	N	A	L	D	D	E	U	C	K	
4	S	C	I	N	O	E	T							
5	O	H	D	E	A	R	A	L	D	E	R	M	A	N
6	O	L	Y	T	R									
7	T	V	I	N	N	E	R	P	A	R	E	S		
8	E	R	K											
9	L	U	N	C	H	S	E	A	B	R	E	A		
10	N	A	D	Y	I									
11	C	H	U	G	I	N	G	L	A	T	I	S	H	
12	I	O	W	L	E	H	T							
13	S	T	A	N	D	A	L	O	N	E	R	A	R	E
14	C	A	L	G	C	O	A							
15	H	O	L	D	I	N	G	T	H	E	B	A	L	L

Slot 6

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

Slot 7

1	E	N	A	G	E	D	R	U	I	N	G	S		
2	V	U	Y	U	E	D	E	O						
3	E	M	I	G	R	A	N	T	S	L	O	S	E	R
4	N	N	A	G	E	E	T	N						
5	S	P	E	C	T	R	A	N	I	R	V	A	N	A
6	R	I	R	T	P	T								
7	D	I	S	C	O	V	E	R	I	G	N	O	R	E
8	E	N	E	S	E	L								
9	P	E	R	U	S	E	S	T	I	N	G	R	A	Y
10	O	E	U	E										
11	S	E	C	U	R	E	D	M	A	R	B	L	E	D
12	I	I	I	O	B	A	I	U						
13	T	I	T	A	N	R	E	L	A	T	I	V	E	S
14	S	A	S	E	L	E	E	T						
15	A	L	T	E	R	S	R	E	S	I	S	T	S	

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May 7 Name

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
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50

From the Adjudicator: continued from page 1

as the TEAM clue in slot 2. In the ROLL clue the homonym indicator, speaker's, is adjacent to 'part' and not to 'list', so solvers had to find a homonym of a synonym of 'part' that matches the definition 'list'.

Slot 5: This was a good and challenging puzzle by CT, with several quirky clues. DOWN IN THE MOUTH was humorous (DOWN can mean soft fluffy hair (fur) as well as soft feathers). HECTARE was very clever, with the unusual occurrence of an abbreviation being the definition. Juxtaposing 'funny act' and 'ha' in the clue was brilliant LATEST instead of LATISH was the only clue that had multiple errors. The wordplay can provide LATEST using TE for the note instead of TI, and ST for quiet instead of SH. However, 'latest' is not a synonym of delayed.

Slot 6: An AJ with an unusual theme – decapodal crustaceans! This was an impressive feat of setting by P-brane to incorporate so much thematic material. I am sure every solver felt a bit anxious when the two most obscure names KOONACS and SQUAGGA had to be verified. For the SQU of SQUAGGA 'Unidentified cephalopod' would have been fairer as 'Cephalopod lacking identity', I think, although this was probably the easiest part of the clue! There were five occurrences of MARROW instead of MARRON. Identifying 'matron' as 'once senior nurse' was key to solving this clue.

Slot 7: Anagram Heaven was an impressive feat of setting by Crowsman, and it created quite a bit of brain strain (hell rather than heaven for some). As I said in the introduction, this type of puzzles forces solvers to solve the clues cold, ie, without the assistance one usually gets from previously entered crossing letters. One solver commented that the whole idea of crosswords is to benefit from these crossing letters. That's true in general, but variety is the spice of life. Crowsman definitely knows how to produce fair clues, and in this puzzle it was very important to do so

COTM: There were 24 different clues nominated, but no clearcut winner. The following clues received two votes: BRAINS from slot 1; ON THE SIDE from slot 2; ALBEIT and CAPTAIN BLIGH from slot 3; HECTARE from slot 5; OFFICE in slot 6; and SQUAGGA, also in slot 6. Well done Crowsman, T-Boy, Jesso, CT and P-brane respectively. The winner from slot 5 with three votes "Blue, having a furry tongue?" for DOWN IN THE MOUTH, a double definition with one definition cryptic. The surface reading was quite meaningful. Congratulations to CT.

Ian Thompson

MEMBERS' RESULTS FOR APRIL 2026 Slots 1 to 7

MEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	MEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	MEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Abbott P.	Gamble K.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Moline R.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Allen W.	Garner P.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Parsons D.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Audrins K.	Goodman S.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Patterson A.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Axelsen U.	Grainger D.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Peach S.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Barbour J.	Graves C.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Pinder S.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Barnes J.	Hagan R.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Randall J.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Batum C.	Harper K.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Rosendorff D.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Bennett D.	Hearn R.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Roulston S.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Bennett Moses L.	Hocking A.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Ryan W.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Bettles K.	Howat S.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Shield A.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Blake M.	Jarman L.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Shipway S.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Carroll L.	Jarman R.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Siegmán B.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Cockburn M.	Jones G.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Simons A.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Colgan L.	Kennedy L.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Simpson F.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Coote P.	Kennedy M.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Skinner R.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Copland F.	Lankshear J.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Smith J.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Cornish W.	Leigh J.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Steinberger M.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Cromer H.	Madden J.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Storti A.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Crowe J.	Martin A.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Symons B.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Dasgupta K.	Martin F.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Taylor R.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Davis K.	McClelland C.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Taylor S.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Dobele T.	McKenzie I.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Thomas C.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Dodd M.	McKenzie R.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Thompson I.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Ducker R.	McLeay T.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Wilcox C.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Dyer A.	Meek D.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Williams K.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Flinkenberg C.	Miles A.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Wimbush R.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Forward K.	Millard A.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Wood J.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Francis K.	Milton R.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Woolston M.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

Explanations for clues in April slots 1 to 7: Note: cd = cryptic definition; dd = double definition; rev or < = reversal; homophones shown as "homoph" and words from which they are derived may be shown in quotes; anagrams as anag. if straightforward, or (NNNN)*. "Heads" or "Tails" are first or last letters of part of a clue; letters forming solutions are normally written as capitals and removals as lower case; hw or hidden = hidden word. Explanations provided by individual compilers may vary from this format.

Slot 1 Crowsman. Down: 1 (HIS SPY)* + US, 2 dd, 3 rev hidden, 4 B(R)OWSERS, 5 EX + EMPT(y), 6 PAR< + LEAH<, 7 P(LAYING)UP, 8 DO + SAGE, 14 UNC(RUMP)LE, 16 (PRESS ONE)*, 17 ENTER* + POT, 19 dd, 21 RE(ACT)ED, 22 'IN SPADES', 23 BRA(IN)S, 26 T(i)RADE.

Slot 2 T-boy. Across: 9 O++P+ARE<, 10 anag, 11 HEIST in T...S, 12 MoB in BOERS, 13 WAN in SS, 15 FEED, 16 STRAIN, 17 (L+R+NATURAL AUSSIES)*, 20 dd, 21 homoph "O", 22 QWE in PR, 24 D+OCKERS, 26 CAME+LOT, 29 anag, 30 dd. **Down:** 1 dd, 2 hidden<, 3 PAS+S, 4 RODEOS, 5 B in STALEMATE, 6 homoph "teem", 7 Spooone "wire fall", 8 dd, 13 diSEase, 14 dd, 15 FELLOWS+HIP, 16 S CRAPS, 18 TIC< in SCARY, 19 hidden<, 20 palindrome Swans team colour is red, 23 ILL in WOW, 25 brEWER<rEWERb, 26 sCAT S, 27 M+ACE, 28 cd.

Slot 3 Jesso. Across: 1 anag, 9 A+L+V+IN, 10 CU in CALL+ATE, 13 ART in TARE*, 14 (IF+FLOAT)*, 15 ID+EA, 16 dd, 19 BUTTE+R+FISH, 21 heads, 24 ICE+FLO+E, 26 anag, 27 HE+YPRES+OT<, 29 deVon in ELAN, 30 CHIC+KEN+LIT+LET*. **Down:** 2 anag, 3 N+IN+JAS, 4 BACK+ED+OFF, 5 hidden, 6 B+AU+H+IN+I+A, 7 TAN<, 8 anag, 11 anag, 12 EF+SCE in FERVENT, 17 S+E+SAME+OIL, 18 TELL+UR+IC, 20 TEE+NY, 22 BED+V in LIE<, 23 ALBE(r<>I)T, 25 E+N+SUE, 28 hidden.

Slot 4 KA (Karl Audrins). A anag, **B** boo+lean, **C** chor(e)+data, **D** anag, **E** el+piles*, **F** anag, **G** gi+vein, **H** hidden, **I** peek< in inning, **J** j+ailing, **K** kor(e)ans, **L** lance+t, **M** (loud)* in mar, **N** ran<+co+tic, **O** overall+s, **P** anag, **Q** qu+a+sar(i), **R** homoph "role", **S** (my castle rim)*, **T** anag, **U** anag, **V** oil* in vin, **W** lies in wit, **X** dd, **Y** (a+dr<+s) in Yale, **Z** (CA+TN+AZ)<

Slot 5 CT/ Across: 1 cd, dd, 9 MEMber+E, 10 DONALD + DUCK, 11 pOsH iDIE pAiR, 13 DREAMLAND*, 14 (INADVERTANT-EAT)*, 17 E moved in PEARS, 18 LaUNCH, 20 SE + AB + MARE*, 24 CHIN arnd UGG + G, 26 LA+TI+SH, 28 ALONE after STAND, 29 DD, 30 DD. **Down:** 2 DD, ONE'S HOT, 3 NICE arnd E, 4 hidden<, 5 CHENNAI, 6 ELO inside (MOODY - OO), 7 DD, CD, 8 HERE arnd ACT*, 12 tAbLoId, 15 D+ LACE< arnd AGONY, 16 DD,BEFORE - FOB, 19 CD, 21 Hidden, 22 MISTRIAL, 23 DILI arnd WA, 25 iGLOo+GG, 26 C inside HEEL<, 27 PUN, DD.

Slot 6 P-brane. A hidden, **B** BALMAIN + BUGS, **C** C + RAY + FISHING, **D** DUMB + W in DON, **E** heads in END, **F** Spooner "den fed", **G** GIL[I] + GI [v]ES, **H** HAZE +[a]LLY, **I** (I DO ITS)*, **J** IN in JOEY + R, **K** (SCAN+ bOOK)<, **L** (BOLTERS)*, **M** MA(t...>...R)RON, **N** BAN< + OBS, **O** cd, **P** Prawn + OP + homoph "you" + L + A + Runner, **Q** QUASi + bARS, **R** (DO I RING A)*, **S** SQUid + wAGGA, **T** homoph "tea" + OFF, **U** (DUGONg)* + [f]LY, **V** hidden, **W** (W+ON+Rocks)*+ OUT, **X** (o>X)YSTERS, **Y** homoph "why" + A + BoBbY, **Z** Z + OIL + US.

Slot 7 Crowsman. Across: 1 (m)EN in GRADE; GRENADE*, 5 RIG in SUN*; UNRIGS*, 9 ST(REAM)ING; STREAMING*, 10 (matado)R + OLES; ROLES*, 11 CAR PETS; CARPETS*, 12 (i)NVARIAN(t)*; NAVARIN*, 13 DIV(ORC)ES: DIVORCES*, 14 RE(li)GION; REGION*, 17 SEER< around UP; RUPEES*, 19 TRAY in SING; STRAYING*, 22 RED around (S + CUE); RESCUED*, 24 RAM + BLED; RAMBLED*, 26 T(A)INT; TAINT*, 27 ERSAT(z) in VILE; VERSATILE*, 28 (crutche)S + LATER; SLATER*, 29 (as)SISTERS; SISTERS*. **Down:** 1 S + EVEN; SEVEN*, 2 IN + SURER; INSURER*, 3 SIGN + A + TORY; SIGNATORY*, 4 NUDE* + RAGE; UNDERAGE*, 5 (carp)ENTERS; ENTERS*, 6 R(IL)ED; RILED*, 7 POST + AGE; POSTAGE*, 8 T(rustworth)Y + ROLE + AN; TYROLEAN*, 13 POT< + SIDES; TOPSIDES*, 15 cd; TEENAGERS*, 16 dd; TUMBLERS*, 18 (p)ARTICLE; ARTICLE*, 20 SERVE around (I + L); SERVILE*, 21 SO + A + RED; SOARED*, 23 REI(g)NS; REINS*, 25 dd; STUDS*.

Slot 1

**Thirds
by
Bogeyman**



About one third of the clues, marked "*", relate to a specific quality and are clued only by wordplay. Another third are cryptic clues, which are italicised, and the remainder are definitions.

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		31							
											32		33	
			34		35									
36		37									38	39		40
41							42							
					43									
44							45							

Across

- 1 Bang up (8)
- 5 Sensitive nurse (6)
- 8 Employ university heads for superior education (3)
- 9 Wrapping Liberal in strong cotton material is amusing (8)
- 12 Hint that end is missing? (3-3)
- 15 Ansaté cross (4)
- 16 Naperian base to exercise European weapon (4)
- 17 After all (2,3,4)
- 18 Comparative conjunction (4)
- 20 Goes down to the French, keeping well back (5)
- 22 Vehicle (4)
- 25 Church examination may be sung (6)
- 28 Apprehension (6)
- 29 Nest (4)
- 30 Recesses (5)
- 32 Fine structures (4)
- 34 Laboratory apparatus (5,4)
- 36 Note after note will weary (4)
- 38 Palms (4)
- 41 Use tin reels for music collection (6)
- 42 Sprite in cocktail untouched (8)
- 43 Poetically before (3)
- 44 Jabber incessantly (6)
- 45 W (8)

Down

- 1 *Expression of triumph, with thanks (4)

- 2 *Protestant Episcopal clothes designer (4)
- 3 *Isn't lilac fresh? (9)
- 4 Boot caught in snares (7)
- 5 Describing four tropical fish (5)
- 6 *Medico at his work (4)
- 7 Lowering note at end of riff is common (4)
- 10 *Visiting Switzerland (4)
- 11 Construct 15-across for great leader (4)
- 13 *With feeling of resentment, compiler takes note (6)
- 14 Tripped on ends of A-frame's guys (6)
- 18 *Champion supports essential action (4)
- 19 *One cat perhaps (4)
- 21 Hint (9)
- 23 Uncommon way to serve roast beef (4)
- 24 Untidy state (4)
- 26 Tolkien creation (6)
- 27 Toss rope - space is clear again (6)
- 31 *Hurry to park in group (7)
- 32 *Wife's success (4)
- 33 Head no longer here reportedly (4)
- 35 "Cheers!" The first half of series is a stunner! (5)
- 36 *Take it back to the big city (4)
- 37 *Rush for first of tickets (4)
- 39 Shade (4)
- 40 Stitched all points together (4)

SEND SOLUTIONS TO:

For online submission and adjudication, click on the ACCOLADE button on the www.crosswordclub.org home page. All slots 1 to 7 should be submitted using ACCOLADE or posted to Alan Dyer PO Box 162, Bungendore, NSW, 2621

BLANK GRIDS PAGE 16

Closing mail date is 29 May 2026. ACCOLADE and email entries close at 00.01

Slot 2

Cryptic by REW



1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8
9				10										
11				12						13				
14		15							16	17				
								18						
19						20								21
23				24		25						26		
27										28		29		
30								31						

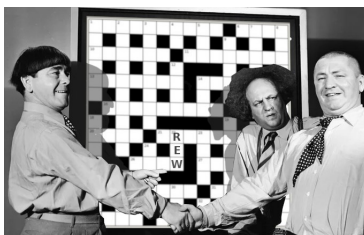
Across

- 1 Fantastic speller has gravity and a life editing vowels (7)
- 5,23 Pens clog – a problem for author (7,5)
- 9 Leaders of lunatics are very potty (3)
- 10 This reason for acquittal is bound to huge mishandling (6,5)
- 11 Ailing favourite is poorly picked (3-6)
- 13 Message giving me back trouble (5)
- 14 Strategy emerges from adjustment of map angle (4,4)
- 16 Furniture made from carbon fibres (6)
- 19 Wicked writer shackled by blondes "a deux" (2,4)
- 20 Plantation had a nice design (8)
- 23 See 5
- 25 Hold drug dealer and clerk (3,6)
- 27 To fulfil berthing manoeuvres, engineer has trophies (4,3,4)
- 29 Mend frayed guys (3)
- 30 Blue looked doleful (3-4)
- 31 That group accepted mineral hypothesis (7)

Down

- 1 Treasure in bargain centre for chronicler of Piggy's plight (7)
- 2 Book "Principals of English Literature" after November (5)

- 3 Copy clipped tape (3)
- 4 Takes in top sheet (8)
- 5 Coaches skip school on Sunday (6)
- 6 Heard it is windy out west, but production is self-sufficient (5)
- 7 Teaching new A.I. to dunce (9)
- 8 Comes to an agreement and calms down (7)
- 12 Shy pedant somewhat talked up (5)
- 15 Badly poised mic recorded inaccurately (9)
- 17 Falsetto coo, sounds like poetry (5)
- 18 2001: Santa mixed up the most important pole (8)
- 19 Degrades and removes alkalis? (7)
- 21 Initial word? (7)
- 22 Add on a two-piano conclusion (6)
- 24 Bengal may provide communal fund (5)
- 26 Old storyteller is big hit (5)
- 28 Cut the fat and take to court (3)



An organic chemist & two medicos make up The REW Crew. With wide ranging hobbies and interests, they all currently reside in Victoria. We are - Roderick 'Woddy' Umean - Elliot 'Nessy' Pyle - Wilfred Pickles II ('Wilf')

'My girlfriend and wife to be, got me started on the gentle Women's Weekly cryptics in 1982, then built up to more challenging ones and have been doing them ever since. Early on my wife and I together would race her Dad on Saturday mornings. He beat us every time.' - Woddy Umean

I entered the cryptic world in my 30's, doing them with my father. I was hooked. Some clues are hard work, some are brilliant! - Nessy Pyle

'I loved any puzzle as a kid after my Dad brought me back a 'Chinese Puzzle Box' from a work trip. Much later, Woddy & Nessy infected me with the cryptic bug.' - Wilf Pickles

Slot 3

For the
Tenth
by
NanaKat



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							19							
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25										26				
27										28				

Across

- 8 Killer of exotic dancer dropped sweet wrapper (6)
- 9 Silver blonde and naked latino in fruity embrace (8)
- 10 Tentatively tries compositions (6)
- 11 Alter preparation in court, leading to resounding defeat (8)
- 12 Salt in back outbuilding is discoloured (9)
- 13 Agree that constituents shake hands (5)
- 15 Jeckle's other half, right? What a mischief maker! (7)
- 17 Chop belonging to him inside is narcotic (7)
- 20 Makes more attractive for dictator's unions (5)
- 22 Part of arm is peculiar off-white (5,4)
- 25 Unexpected winner from Bachelorettes pushed over (8)
- 26 Artist concerned with film genre (6)
- 27 Children's writer, with start of each reading session, engaging nippers (8)
- 28 Utters abusive language at broken glass around sedan's rear end (6)

Down

- 1 Control tower's coverage of winds and speed (8)
- 2 Sarin variant containing phosphorus results in ligament damage (6)

- 3 Menu offering from Flag Hotel cook (5,4)
- 4 Des, rising, grabbed Patsy and produced many offspring (7)
- 5 Small amount of discernment (5)
- 6 Reportedly lease vessel for chief priest (8)
- 7 Mainland getting common currency: leaders of Poland ecstatic! (6)
- 14 Washerwoman makes the French disrobe! (9)
- 16 Australian fashionista Jenny entertained garment finisher with fish curry (8)
- 18 Saint disheartened by villainous Venetian with capital (8)
- 19 In short, managed fruit (7)
- 21 Threaten naughty child with death! (6)
- 23 Stuck-up elitist connected artificial intelligence to create Japanese art (6)
- 24 Beauty pageant award took time to stow away (5)

General feedback for April

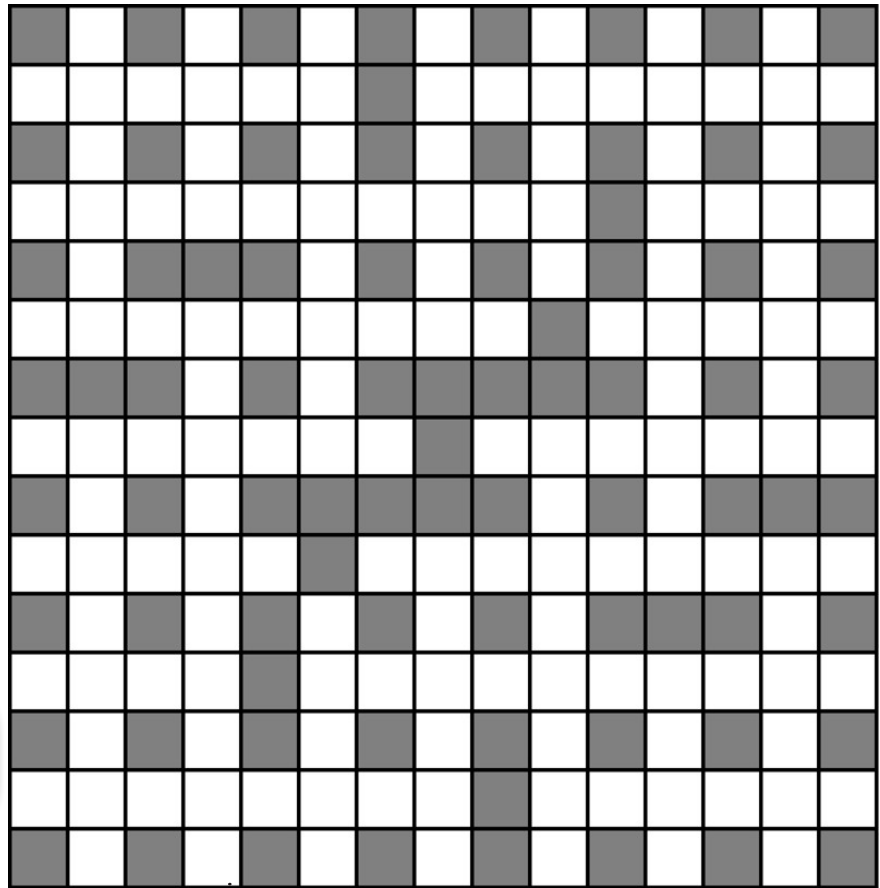
- Only three straight cryptics left me wanting more! *Kathryn Forward*
- Thanks so much for my Slot 4 prize in April! *Fraser Simpson*
- Fun crosswords *Rick Yeatman*
- Nice to be back from holiday with time to complete all puzzles. I really like the new layout. *Richard Skinner*
- Thank you so much for my prize last month. Completely unexpected, but a lovely surprise as it's my birthday at the end of April. *Betty Siegman*
- Rebel and I are currently travelling across South America. Imagine my dismay at not being able to access ACCOLADE from Bolivia! Now we have arrived in Peru things are back to normal - somewhat. *David Parsons*
- A very enjoyable set of puzzles this month. Some extra twists and turns to add to the difficulty.. *Ken Francis*

Slot 4

AJ
by
Valkyrie



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



- A** Bandwagon is essentially a cover for struggles (8)
- B** Fox pack caught loud fellow (6)
- C** Caps credit with personal start to saving (6)
- D** Musical instrument oud, is dodgier without US compilation (10)
- E** After seven, dream about octopuses perhaps (5-5)
- F** Endless skill central to hurling medieval spiked weapon (5)
- G** Grid around Dutch American section marks out divisions (9)
- H** Henry initially obscured budding love for swagman (4)
- I** Lists erudite, misestimation content (8)
- J** Give black, shiny coat to judge, with reversible soft leather (5)
- K** Changing sides, family becomes roused (7)
- L** Australian actress from *The Old Curiosity Shop?* (6,4)
- L** Vehicle learner contrite after ignoring beginning (5)
- M** Film setter with master mind say (8)
- N** Climbing over on time (4)
- O** Big copper departed to form a connecting link (8)
- P** More feeble French one in dock (6)

- Q** State loses real estate to Victoria and Adelaide perhaps (6)
- R** Interpret rubric overshadowing academy (4)
- S** Google maps for example, unsettles Strava after run becomes national (3-3)
- T** Small tree and heather roof cover (6)
- U** Pairs of Umbrian bivalves line circular depressions at base of spiral shells (8)
- U** I'm off after this! (3-2,4)
- V** Cape movement disturbs iron in unstable cave (8)
- W** Umpire, rugby union, retired after turn by southern sportsperson (10)
- X** Ninety surround stripped mutiny ship (5)
- Y** Lacking love, you take on two Frenchmen, that is the start to remaining more attractive (7)
- Z** Fill scooped out zucchini with Italian pasta (4)

Slot 5

Cryptic by Betelgeuse



Across

- 1 Concluding note takes an attitude embodying erroneous fact (8)
- 5 Organiser of the 20 is rather crudely-spoken! (6)
- 10 Almost connect with one of old sayings (5)
- 11 Gave a talk, a prerequisite for those about to 20 24 (9)
- 12 What a pity! Returning more than half-naked gets one in a state (7)
- 13 Old rain dance involving exercise outside (4,3)
- 14 Disorganised headmistress, taking hours for a small cup of coffee . (9)
- 17 Realise lack of deliveries of data storage medium (4)
- 20 Station support (4)
- 21 Learner, in driving on stretch of sand, caused coral degradation (9)
- 24 They permit messages by 20 (7)
- 26 Left one company at front of building (7)
- 28 Wrapped up standard battery and 11 to the centre of Sweden (9)
- 29 Utter deviate (5)
- 30 With little trouble ASIO duck out into cathedral city. (6)
- 31 Lent sum to cover vehicle at church. (8)

Down

- 1,23 Colour indicates where to 20 wine (6-3,3)
- 2 Pulp magazine is recalled before one of the Greek 24s (5)

1		2		3		4		5	6		7		8
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				22									23
24						25		26				27	
28									29				
30							31						

- 3 Fish not good below open river. (8)
- 4 Worn by the recipient of never ending 24? (5,4)
- 6 Started work with need for development (6)
- 7 Witnessing the assigned place after the heroin removed (9)
- 8 Note honest actipn regarding 24 when wrongly 11 (8)
- 9 Expressing surprise at first of Daisy's shoplifting outings. (4)
- 15 Never never see smarty confused! (4,5)
- 16 Rushed to impress newspaper bosses (9)
- 18 Parish priest into beer and snack kind of order? (5,3)
- 19 Tea is given to parent right inside - a personal gift (8)
- 22 Where's Ealing? Centrally located? Close again! (6)
- 23 See 1
- 25 Convinced to join without hesitation (4)
- 27 Cure coeliac without cobalt affecting the small intestine? (5)

Slot 6

Cryptic by Crow-boy



Across

- 1 Put the brake on Jack getting into wine (6)
- 4 Barrage splits cannon - it's likely in a mess in India (8)
- 10 An elegant friend without sensitivity (15)
- 11 I initiated mud mixture containing neat white powder used in ceramic glazes (8,7)
- 12 Refusal heard from the horse's mouth (5)
- 13 Ways for Rex perhaps to escape unruly to-do inside means of transport (3,5)
- 15 Took a walk to sort out contrary dean (8)
- 16 Some Dublin gossip is mumbo-jumbo (5)
- 18 They provide testing matters for class containing males with endless courage (8,7)
- 20 Magistrate imprisons smart clergyman, one assisting the enactment of tragedies (7,8)
- 21 Highly decorated recruit in dire need (8)
- 22 Confidential remarks when with old date in Rome (6)

Down

- 1 Blasting kiln inside enclosure (8)
- 2 Those presenting tributes to a film restricted by taxes (15)

1		2		3			4	5		6		7		8
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	15									16				
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20														
21										22				

- 3 Adjusting after daylight saving, no hens cry out amidst emerging (15)
- 5 Went before "extinct" volcano blew up around its core (9)
- 6 Settle for Julia Gillard, for one (6,2,7)
- 7 Holding various grains, a moony fool left northwards in quiet (15)
- 8 Chaos has Cuddlepie's mother on edge (6)
- 9 Humour abandoned without you (4)
- 13 Pass just less than 5km from partner (9)
- 14 Partners upset, not cross (8)
- 17 Gypsy cheerfully revealing Cupid's love (6)
- 19 Detailed instructions for cheese (4)

Slot 7

Clashes by Flowerman



The grid represents a map rotated roughly 45 degrees from normal. Clashes (letters of crossing entries not matching) occur in five appropriately positioned cells forming a theme. Numbers in brackets indicate the cells available for each entry. (This is not necessarily the length of the solution since entries associated with clashes each contribute at least two letters to the cell in which the clash occurs.) The clashing letters can be arranged to form names of thematic areas. For submission solvers must enter the initial letter of each name in the five cells.

Three clues consisting of wordplay only have surface readings [not their solutions] hinting at the theme. Their clue numbers, one used twice, can form a thematic date. The eight circled letters can be arranged to provide the location of the theme.

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							
31							32	33	34	35		36
37		○	38				39	40				
41									42		43	
44		○		45		46						
		47						48				
49							50		○			

Across

- 1 Special force securing power plant (6)
- 5 Native American unionist wearing hat in northern Alabama (7)
- 11 Luncheon's ending with perfect fruitcake (5)
- 13 Guard in Lima getting tossed about (6)
- 14 Delays? It was chaotic (5)
- 16 Baron probing star soprano about insults (5)
- 17 Dance by revolutionary lacking heart (4)
- 18 Fellow not partaking in free sack of tea biscuits (8)
- 21 Regret boycott covering musical genre (5)
- 22 Father ignoring son's displeasure (3)
- 23 Dutch leader out of touch, perhaps lacking intelligence (5)
- 26 Canadian city's noted criminal comprehending my French (8)
- 29 Crafty types with schemes to acquire recipe (7)
- 31 Sailors drinking coffee after backing incitements (8)
- 33 Medicos upset after losing company money (5)
- 37 Children's nurse discarding extremely nutty bread (3)
- 39 Lymphatic tissue in bowel is not regressing (5)
- 41 They feel advance payment holds queen back (8)
- 42 Fourteen convicts (4)
- 44 Kentucky private exhausted after last of landings (5)
- 46 Considers prizes if the whiskey's good (5)
- 47 On radio set of programmes about edible grain (6)
- 48 Follow recurrent segment of the US news (5)
- 49 Unfavourable if a manifold's losing current (7)
- 50 Dude regularly interrupting deal ordered off (6)

Down

- 1 Birds heading north after the first day breathed unusually (6)
- 2 Eccentric's reported stage in development (4)
- 3 Mixing leisure with these fields of study could make Laurel messier (6)
- 4 American novelist's smile mostly fake (5)
- 6 Nameless marine shocked about the intensity at the front (7)
- 7 Females rejecting neuter males (3)

- 8 Hebridean lugging up seal bones (5)
- 9 Fragrant amaryllid sure to be cultivated (8)
- 10 Shrinks from German city visiting Carlsbad's centre (7)
- 12 In the middle of bridge partners feeding cardinal (5)
- 13 Apart from the opening, Heston bombed in plum part (5)
- 15 Saint with money for urchin (4,5)
- 19 Corps beginning to hear ordnance (5)
- 20 Boastful person taking out second bird (4)
- 24 Put a barrier around cavorting naked men, mostly British (8)
- 25 Worried husbands avoiding unbeliever (5)
- 27 Players welcoming article on Australian card game (7)
- 28 Depression in heads of departments evaluating books (4)
- 30 On way up perhaps Connery claiming local is overprotective (7)
- 32 In the kitchen, Rod starts to scale tropical fish (5)
- 34 Maybe Jersey cattle finally removed from ground in Dales (6)
- 35 Sounds like a queen turned soprano without intention (5)
- 36 Head of surgery exploited nurses Sierra discovered (6)
- 38 Lodge in Prince Edward Island invested in area for driving (5)
- 40 Decided Jack cheated, but not initially (5)
- 43 Bond unhappy with M leaving base (4)
- 45 Miss the mark in paper round (3)

The blank grid for this puzzle is on page 2

Quiz 2026 - 4. Also Known As by Ingrid (Jean Barbour).

Results: Correct 25 - Warren Allen, Maureen Blake, Julie Crowe, Kath Harper, Ron Jarman, Michael Kennedy, Julie Leigh, Ann Millard, Andrew Patterson, William Ryan, Anne Simons, Richard Skinner. **24** - Ulla Axelsen, Dani Rosendorff, Fraser Simpson, Roy Taylor, Robyn Wimbush. **22** - Drew Mee, Mark Woolston. **21** - Betty Siegman. **20** - Ken Francis.

Prizewinner - William Ryan. Congratulations!

Answers: 1 Adjutant, 2 Baltimore, 3 Bantam, 4 Coot, 5 Demoiselle, 6 Eyas, 7 Falcon, 8 Gander, 9 Grouse, 10 Halcyon, 11 Hermit, 12 Jay, 13 Kite, 14 Loom, 15 Mew, 16 Noddy, 17 Owl, 18 Pink, 19 Quail, 20 Rainbow, 21 Swallow, 22 Thrush, 23 Umber, 24 Vulture, 25 Weaver.

Adjudicator's Observations

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete this quiz. I think most solutions reflected the BIRD link. There were some clever alternative answers for some of the clues. I accepted NUN for OWL, TOPAZ for UMBER and DOVE for EYAS. EYAS was the most problematic with DUCK or ERNE given as alternatives, closely followed by NODDY with some suggesting NINNY or NELLY.

Solvers' Feedback

- Only 16 birds were familiar to me so it was an educational experience indeed. Maureen Blake
- Great quiz! Had to wing it a bit. Michael Kennedy
- Great learning exercise. The Penny dropped fairly quickly, but needed a bit of to and fro with Chambers. William Ryan
- Not so much new words but in many cases I did not know they were birds. Richard Skinner
- I was 'choughed' when I thought BIRDS after the first clue but it was downhill from there. Robyn Wimbush

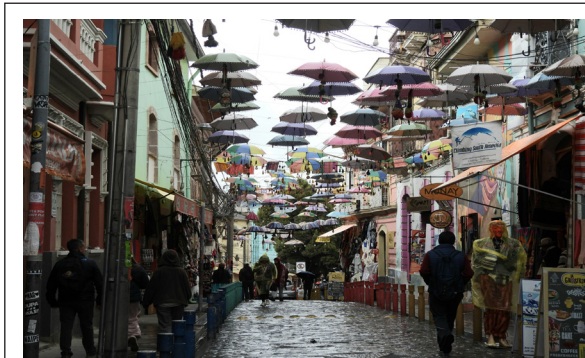
Sol'n FRAZ WORD SQUARE May 1

E	S	N	E	T
S	L	O	D	I
N	O	Y	A	R
E	D	A	V	E
T	I	R	E	M

Sol'n FRAZ WORD SQUARE May 2

S	E	R	Y	L
E	S	O	R	A
R	O	T	O	R
Y	R	O	V	I
L	A	R	I	V

From our globe-trotters (Rebel Warren and Dave Parsons)



Clockwise: Market Street in La Paz; Floating Islands Lake Titicaca; View from our accommodation on the Isla del Sol on Lake Titicaca; Inca style tools still being used today by the Aynara people.



GRIDATORIAL

Thanks to the one member who commented favourably on the new-look CrOZworld. We received no suggestions following our request for ideas on further improvements, so assume by your silence that all members are happy with the current presentation and the selection of puzzles. I was rather disappointed that we received not a single offer of help with the adjudication that forms an important part of our Club. The strength of a club such as ours depends on contributions by its members. Now that ACCOLADE does most of the hard work, and we have a very small number of postal entries to be assessed manually, the adjudicator's main task is the final report. The adjudicator is provided with full results and comprehensive lists of errors as well as the collected feedback from members on the puzzles. With this detailed information readily available the preparation of the report shouldn't take more than an hour or two. The task will only come round once a year and we would hope to make that longer with a greater number of helpers. Please consider whether you can contribute to the effectiveness of our Club by volunteering.

We have a good assortment of puzzles for you this month. Bogeyman kicks off with a tripartite puzzle having its theme words identified by wordplay, the other clues take the form of the more conventional half and half. We are delighted to welcome a new consortium of compilers to slot 2 and are sure that you will enjoy solving REW's initial puzzle. Background to the members of the troika can be found beneath their puzzle. The title of NanaKat's slot 3 puzzle should result in a close inspection of her interesting challenge, once completed. Valkyrie's slot 4 AJ is just a little different from the more conventional grid but will present the normal challenge of fitting the solutions neatly where they belong. In slot 5 you will find a puzzle by Betelgeuse that was lurking in the archive that may be a little more straightforward than some of her earlier offerings. The team of Crow-boy has compiled an elegant cryptic in slot 6 that indulges their individual propensity for the 15-letter solutions that are so appreciated by our members A clueing technique that may be new to some members in slot 7 includes solutions that reflect a different approach to a theme and is, appropriately, entitled "Clashes". We hope that the principles are clearly set out in the comprehensive instructions and that you enjoy the challenge. Valkyrie makes a second appearance this month with one of her more intriguing quizzes.

Our thanks to all who have contributed to this edition of CrOZworld, whether as compilers, quiz setters, adjudicators or contributors, and especially to Ian Thompson for his analysis of the month's results and his sterling work as adjudicator and analyst of the clue-writing competition.

We are sure that you will enjoy this month's offerings. Happy puzzling!

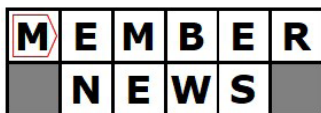
Ian

Anagram Assistance

For those who enjoy solving anagrams the hard way (instead of turning straight to AxWord or a similar anagram finder – as I am inclined to do) an application has been developed for iPad and iPhone users that will help you. It was developed by Rich Miller of Sydney who writes:

"When solving online cryptics, I have been struggling to do the mental gymnastics with the letters to help with my anagram solving and often revert to paper. I have tried using freeform online drawing apps to write out the letters in random locations but have not found them to be useful. Frustrated, I took to writing an app in my spare time to solve the problem for me and built an iOS app that acts like digital scrap paper for anagram solving. Importantly, it does NOT solve the clue for you, just merely replicates the paper solving method."

The app is free, although a premium option is available. Simply Google "theanagrind" (one word). Do check it out and download it if you find it useful.



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.

New adjudicators will be welcomed with open arms - see the Gridatorial.

Donations to the Prize Fund - Our sincere thanks to those members who have donated their prizes back to the prize fund. While we are confident that at present prize values and subscriptions we will remain in a healthy financial position. such donations help to stave off reductions in prizes or increases in subscriptions in these unfortunately inflationary times

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: Crowsman (Len Colgan)

- Nice puzzle with a clever twist and some cracking clues! *Kathryn Forward*
 - I have never heard the expression "lip deep". *David Bennett*
 - A bit of fun to start the month. Thanks! *Ann Millard*
 - Great puzzle as always. *Chris Thomas*
 - A very entertaining variation. *Roy Taylor*
 - Ah! P was the mystery letter. Very good; enjoyable. *Sally Shipway*
 - Probably peeved P-Brane? *Toby McLeay*
 - Clever compiling. By coincidence; the day I entered this was Raphael's birthday. *Ulla Axelsen*
 - Effectly leasurable uzzling! *Fraser Simpson*
 - It must have been interesting finding the words to fit with the mystery letter. *Rick Yeatman*
 - A different number 1. Excellent. *Richard Skinner*
 - P-p-pure p-p-puzzling p-p-pleasure! *Kath Harper*
 - Loved this puzzle; favourite clues were EXEMPT, UNCRUMPLE, RUBBERS and ENTREPOT. *Joan Smith*
 - That was fun. *Hilary Cromer*
 - It was fun to do. The surprising word for me was TERRAPIN. *Robyn McKenzie*
 - Just one question: What LIGHTS did you have to go through to come up with this idea? I hope I ASSED it, though. *Alan Dyer*
 - Luckily I found P early. *Anne Simons*
- Crowsman writes** "It seems the concept was well received. I have compiled another puzzle for the distant future featuring a different mystery letter. Some unfortunate typos, as usual. The only answer with more than a single error was BRA(IN)S."

April 2: T-boy (Toby McLeay)

- I found the bottom R corner to be a tough solve, especially for a Slot 2. *Ian McKenzie*
- Glad to see the Swans are there. Stablemate a good clue. *Roy Taylor*
- Very enjoyable; spotting the theme helped with some clues. Some clever deception; loved PENFRIEND for STABLEMATE. *Scott Goodman*
- Not being a great footie fan, I didn't realise there were quite a few Aussie Rules teams until I checked my answers. Some clever, misleading clues. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Love the clue for 6dn, TEAM. *Fraser Simpson*
- A good job my wife follows Australian Rules! *Richard Skinner*
- Must be footie season! *Robyn Wimbush*
- When the AFL appears in the ACC, you know the season's well underway. *Kath Harper*
- No 'free kick' in this one! (foot, pass, team, season, toss, roos, swans, power, dockers, cats - all to support Australian Rules at 17ac). Possibly missed an amusing opportunity to have the CATS next to the MICE (26dn and 27dn)! Was the 'pedler/peddler' spelling deliberate in 26ac? [Just another gremlin - Ed] *Alan Dyer*

T-boy writes "I'm glad to see my &Lit ON THE

SIDE was appreciated. My other personal favourite was 22a POWER where I hoped the clue would mislead at least some to consider Blackjack rules but in fact was just referring to OWE in the previous clue (21).

April 3: Jesso (Noel Jessop)

- Not sure ELVAN, ELVEN...wordplay suggests elvan, definition seems elven, hoping for the best [Chambers gives them as alternatives, but the wordplay requires ELVAN - Ed] . *Chris Thomas*
- ALBEIT was my favourite clue. I think ICE FLOE is 2 words. *Roy Taylor*
- Wasn't sure that ELVIN means mischievous (cf elfin) but the wordplay works (?) *Scott Goodman*
- I thought ALBEIT was clever. *Toby McLeay*
- Jesso always provides a straightforward cryptic challenge. A pleasure to do. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Thanks Jesso. Liked Alvin and Elvin. *Robyn Wimbush*
- I note that the late & most erudite Noel Jessop set the answer to 30-across as 'CHICKEN LITTLE'. Whilst that obviously fits the clue, I'd like to put on the record, and if space permits, in print, that the correct nomenclature of the centuries old fairy-tale character is, in fact, 'Chicken Licken', with her friends Cocky Locky, Ducky Lucky, Goosey Loosey, Turkey Lurkey, Foxy Loxy and Henry Penny. I blame the Seppos, and especially, the evil Disney empire, for the dumbing down. *William Ryan*
- Lots of fun clues, I particularly liked CHICKEN LITTLE, BEDEVIL and ALBEIT. *Ken Francis*
- Lovely to still be having some of Jesso's crosswords. *Hilary Cromer*
- Troubles with 29ac. Wordplay is 'ELAN around V' -> ELVAN. but 'ELVAN' is a geological term, not 'ELVIN', which is a synonym for mischievous. I have put in ELVAN. Otherwise I enjoyed this slot. *Alan Dyer*

April 4: KA (Karl Audrins)

- Easiest KA ever? Maybe I was lucky with the answers, all known except ZANTAC and UNTHAW, which Chambers tells me is "to thaw". *Rob Moline*
- I don't think UNTHAWS means liquifies. *Roy Taylor*
- Enjoyable, thank you KA. *Sally Shipway*
- Lots of interesting anagrams helped with solving. An enjoyable AJ. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Most enjoyable Karl, thanks. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Weird quirk of the English language that UNTHAW means 'to thaw', but UNTHAWED means 'not thawed'. *Kath Harper*
- Good fun as usual. *Anne Simons*

April 5: CT (Chris Thomas)

- Difficult. HENNA was last one solved (from CHENNAI, colour of copper). *Roy Taylor*
- Interesting puzzle. I like HECTARE and DONALD DUCK and now I know what GLOGG is! *Toby McLeay*
- An interesting puzzle with GLOGG and RYA being new words for me. Thanks. *Ann Millard*
- Quite challenging. Took a while to get 17ac. *Ulla Axelsen*

continued on page 15

continued from page 14

- Some great clues and some 'aha' moments - many thanks Chris. *Scott Goodman*
- 1ac: well, 'down' is feathers rather than fur! Interesting clues but surface readings I felt could be better. *Tony Dobele*
- I thought HENNA was good. *Robyn Wimbush*
- I do like the bloody unlikely clues that provide rare answers. *Ken Francis*
- GLOGG and RYA were new to me! *Alan Dyer*
- HECTARE was superb. *Krittibas Dasgupta*
- Winter's almost here: time to start chugging some glogg. *Kath Harper*
- Unsure of 17 across *Anne Simons*

April 6: P-brane (Roger Hearn)

- Clever puzzle. KOONAC & SQUAGGA are absent from most dictionaries, impeding solving. *Ian McKenzie*
- Some unnecessarily verbose non-themed clues grated, such as WORN OUT. *Len Colgan*
- Some of these were very hard to find, like SQUAGGA, KOONACS. Multiple quasars seen this month. *Roy Taylor*
- I think XYSTERS were before my time but I did once catch a SQUAGGA near Adelaide! *Toby McLeay*
- Lots of seafood, took some finding though. Can see why it was not a normal slot 4. Thanks for the challenge. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Great theme! I really enjoyed GILGIES and SQUAGGA (CotM) *Scott Goodman*
- Really enjoyed this puzzle and learnt some new words. Thanks, P-brane. *Ann Millard*
- Very enjoyable challenge. *Julie Leigh*
- Some very serious head scratching and deep diving with KOONACS and SQUAGGA. *Richard Skinner*
- So many Australian regional sea-life names. It would have been handy to have Macquarie Dictionary. *Tony Dobele*
- What a delightful lot of exciting names for delicious seafood. I vote for MARRON. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Some great clues, though many shellfish were new to me. I loved OFFICE. *Robyn McKenzie*
- Great to have a second AJ even if there were some strange words. *Hilary Cromer*
- KOONACS was last. Took LOTS of research. *Anne Simons*
- Crustacea all over the place - it reminded me of childhood yabbing. *Kath Harper*

April 7: Anagram Heaven (Len Colgan)

- Superbly constructed puzzle, achieving the nirvana (sic) of every solution being a unique anagram without resort to obscure words. Plus some subtleties in the wordplay. *Ian McKenzie*
- A couple were hellish but all is forgiven. *Andrew Patterson*
- The clever variation made this a very interesting challenge. *Roy Taylor*
- Another from your amazing box of tricks. Glad to see you made relatives versatile at last! *Toby McLeay*
- A challenging and enjoyable solve. *Ulla Axelsen*
- When I saw "Anagram Heaven" I thought this will be easy (& heaven). Of course; that was a

silly idea and it proved to be quite a challenge.

- Thanks, Len. *Ann Millard*
- An interesting challenge. *Ian Thompson*
 - Phew! This was devious. *Julie Leigh*
 - Ingenious puzzle and kudos to the setter for coming up with a grid which works with anagrams of the answers. I am unsure if my answer to 5ac is a real word, though. *Krittibas Dasgupta*
 - An interesting puzzle but once you started entering in anagrams of answers, you lost the benefit of crossing letters, which is the whole idea of crosswords. *Tony Dobele*
 - A challenging and enjoyable solve. *Ulla Axelsen*
 - An anagram heaven indeed, what a clever concept. *Ken Francis*
 - Challenging puzzle Favourite clues were TOPSIDE and TEENAGERS. *Joan Smith*
 - I'm still recovering from Slot 7 Len - 2 weeks later! There was no heaven involved. *Robyn Wimbush*
 - At times more like anagram hell, but a wonderfully clever idea! *Robyn McKenzie*
 - Wonderful especially RESENT. *Brian Symons*
 - Loved this puzzle, but struggled with a few. Not feeling terribly confident. *Julie Crowe*
 - What an ordeal. The top right corner had me perplexed for weeks until I discovered some new words. *Warren Allen*

Crowsman writes "This was always going to be a challenge with the checked letters being of lesser assistance. The only answer with more than a single error was 17Ac. The clue yields RUPEES = (SEER < around UP), with anagram PERUSE. The two incorrect answers were not anagrams of RUPEES."



Results of the May Clue Writing Competition Adjudicated by Ian Thompson

Write a clue for **BEWILDERMENT (12)**

Definition of **BEWILDER** from Chambers (13th edition)
 Verb. 1. To perplex, confuse; 2. To cause to get lost (archaic)
 [**BEWILDERMENT** is given in Chambers, but does not have its own definition.]

Definition of **BEWILDERMENT** from ODE on-line
 Noun. A feeling of being perplexed and confused
 There are numerous synonyms available for BEWILDERMENT, with only one that I could see that had the obvious potential to mislead. In the six entries the definitions were all suitable, and in most cases were relatively easy to identify. Four of the six entries were similar in that they employed container-type wordplay; the other two were anagram-type clues. As you can see from the scores, the standard of clues was high and it was difficult to pick a winner.

The winning clue comes from Kathryn Forward. Congratulations, Kathryn, on yet another award!
More aggressive board members engaged in speculation, creating confusion (12)

The entries are listed in alphabetical order and the definitions are italicised.

Confusion at roadside path provides location for playwright's first of epic Norse tragedies ****

The first entry is quite complex, being a charade-type clue that consists of both a 'container' element and an 'initial letters' element [(WILDE in BERM) + E.. + N.. + T..]. The surface reading is perhaps a bit awkward. Apart from the 'ENT' component, the wordplay is difficult, and I would suspect most solvers would identify BEWILDERMENT as the answer then try to work out the rest of the wordplay for confirmation. There are plenty of playwrights but WILDE is well-known; however, BERM for roadside path is tough. The indication to put WILDE in BERM is unusual but accurate. Playwright's doesn't translate to WILDE'S in this clue. Instead it means that (WILDE in BERM) has ENT, ie, the 's is short for has.

Fearful wife initially rarely drove my Beetle in fog****

This anagram-type clue has 'fearful, as in terrible' being the anagram indicator, and is relatively complex because three of the required letters for the anagram are initial letters of words and one is an abbreviation of a word [(W + R.. + D.. + M.. + BEETLE + IN)*]. The surface reading is smooth and is designed to mislead the solver into thinking that 'fog' means an actual mist. 'In' is commonly used as a linkword or as a containing indicator in clues; here it forms part of the anagram fodder and so could mislead.

Gene, perhaps, and I, objectively are in twisted state of confusion ****

This container-type clue [(WILDER + ME) in BENT]) has a slightly awkward surface. It uses, as does the next entry, 'Gene, perhaps' to give WILDER, the late Gene Wilder, a quite well-known American actor. The fact that the definition runs directly on from the 'twisted' of the wordplay enhances the clue as the solver may be misled into thinking 'twisted state of confusion' is the definition. The use of 'twisted' is also devious as solvers may see it as a likely anagram indicator.

Gene, perhaps male, found in insect, starts to nurture taxonomy uncertainty****

This, like the first entry, is a charade-type clue with both a 'container' element and a 'initial letters' element [((WILDER + M) in BEE) + N(urture) + T(axonomy)]. The surface reading is interesting. The setter has juxtaposed 'taxonomy' and 'uncertainty' making it harder for the solver to pick the definition; however, 'taxonomic' would have been better than 'taxonomy'. The wordplay is fairly complex but perfectly fair.

Mild beer went off, causing consternation ****

This is the second anagram clue, and it uses 'off' as the anagram indicator [(MILD BEER WENT)*]. It is straightforward and has an amusing surface reading. Using 'causing' as a link word makes it easier for solvers to recognise the wordplay and definition components. Placing 'went' with 'off' was clever, as solvers may initially think the phrase 'went off' is relevant for solving.

More aggressive board members engaged in speculation, creating confusion****

This container-type clue [(WILDER + MEN) in BET] is very similar in style to the third entry. It has a smooth, interesting surface reading. The container indicator 'engaged in' is good. The trickiest part for solving the clue was the requirement to identify three synonyms in the wordplay. One of these, MEN was cleverly cryptically defined as 'board members' alluding to (chess)men. As with the previous entry, using 'creating' as the link word makes it easier for solvers to separate wordplay from definition.

May Clue-writing competition

You are invited to write a clue for **SHOULDER (8).**

Send your entries to mcandap@bigpond.net.au or post to 372 Great North Rd, Abbotsford NSW 2046

Closing mail date: **Friday 13 June 2026 .**

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	*****		



May SLOT 1

Name.....

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SLOT 2

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Clue of the Month

SLOT 3

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SLOT 4

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SLOT 5

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SLOT 6

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