



No 427 November 2025



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A word in a dictionary is very much like a car in a mammoth motorshow – full of potential but temporarily inactive..
 Anthony Burgess, 1992, *A Mouthful of Air*, l, Ch 10.

GRIDATORIAL

More sad news to report. We have lost another of our long-standing stalwarts, Brian Tickle. A moving tribute will be found on page 11. We extend our sincere condolences to Brian's family.

Our thanks to all those members who have renewed early for 2026. Great to have you back! Information on renewing is provided on page 18. Please complete an online application if you need to advise us of changed contact details or email address.

We are again fortunate for the generosity of Rebel Warren who is making her wonderful calendar available as a consolation prize for all competitions this month. Thank you, once again, Rebel.

Some rare treats are presented within these pages this month. A snail makes its return in slot 1 and may be submitted via Accolade. We apologise in advance for the complication of completing the grid - ACCOLADE wasn't designed for it. Slot 2 features one of the polished puzzles from the "pen" of Lexi Conner. In Slot 3 you will find CT's latest intriguing creation, while slot 4 is filled this month by the inimitable Valkyrie, with the ever-popular AJ. The Void makes a welcome return in slot 5 with his "Sun and Moon" puzzle and Robespierre has provided yet another devilishly cryptic puzzle in slot 6 for your delectation. Manveru has devised a most crafty puzzle for our slot 7 entertainment, the whole being rounded off by one of KA's ingenious quizzes, which requires mental dexterity rather than expertise with Mr Google.

Please don't forget the early closing date this month, so that we can serve up your festive treats before the festive season.

We hope that you enjoy your solving.

Ian

FROM THE ADJUDICATOR

Solvers were impressed with the quality of clues in this month's slots 1 to 5. There were no major problem clues except in slots 3 and 4 (one clue and two clues respectively; see below).

Slot 1: There were quite a few different errors in this enjoyable offering from KA. The straightforward clue 'Herbaceous plant' _A_A_A resulted in a host of different answers, but with most plumping for the intended BANANA. PAPAAYA was accepted as correct because, despite being a dicotyledonous tree, it apparently doesn't produce true wood. The little-known MAYACA was also accepted. The sweet potato BATATA and a melon CASABA, would also have been accepted if chosen.

Slot 2: Several clues were highly praised in this puzzle from Ninian, and quite a few were nominated for COTM. Unfortunately, six solvers put CONJURER instead of CONJUROR, while four gave MACERATE instead of LACERATE.

Slot 3: This slot by CT, like slot 2, provided an interesting and fairly tough challenge, as well as having numerous clues nominated for COTM. The very tricky and clever SEPT clue caused eight solvers to lose dots, partly, I think, because 'sept' isn't a well-known word.

Slot 4: A fine offering from Crowsman, but unfortunately this puzzle was the source of the two clues yielding the greatest number of errors. Both HURRA and the misspelled ALSATION seemed to have been entered without an understanding of the wordplay. The K clue called for a palindrome in a devious sort of way. KAZAK was the answer Crowsman had in mind, but KANAK was also accepted as correct.

continued on page 2

LEADING FIGURES

Puzzle No.	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Entries received	78	75	76	75	68	372
Correct entries	60	59	57	48	62	286
Success rate (%)	76.9	78.7	75	64	91.2	76.9
Prizewinners	Hilary Cromer	Philip Coote	David Parsons	Stephen Peach	Anne Simons	from 84 Members

Prizewinner: October Slots 1-5 correct: Joan Smith Congratulations!

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CONTENTS

	page
Snail Fun by KB	3
Cryptic by Lexi Conner	4
Cryptic by Jesso	5
AJ by Valkyrie	6
Cryptic by The Void	7
Cryptic by Robespierre	8
Cryptic by Manveru	9
Quiz 11-2025 by KA	10
Results Quiz 10-2025	10
Results October slot 6	11
Fraz Word Squares	11
Results October slot 7	12
Member News	13
Explanations October 1-5	13
Members' Feedback	14
Blank Grids	16
Invitation to Renew	17

October Slot 1

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

October Slot 2

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

October Slot 3

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

October Slot 4

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

October Slot 5

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

October Slot 6

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
S	E	M	I	N	A	R	I	A	N	N
13	C	A	M	E	14	G	15	R	U	M
16	H	P	O	W	R	E	17	E	18	U
19	A	P	N	E	A	S	21	N	O	T
22	23	R	E	A	D	24	I	O	L	I
25	26	L	A	V	A	27	E	D	28	W
29	30	E	R	E	31	C	L	E	32	A
33	34	S	P	L	A	35	H	Y	36	A
37	38	39	S	T	R	I	K	E	40	G
41	42	O	R	A	L	43	U	N	44	D
45	46	R	I	C	47	H	A	R	48	D
49	50	S	O	Y	A	S	51	Y	52	O

MEMBERS' RESULTS FOR OCTOBER 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.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Goodman S.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Moline R.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Allen W.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Grainger D.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Parsons D.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Audrins K.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Graves C.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Patterson A.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Axelsen U.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Hagan R.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Peach S.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Barbour J.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Harper K.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Pinder S.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Batum C.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Hearn R.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Randall J.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Bennett D.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Hocking A.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Rosendorff D.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Bettles K.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Horadam K.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Roulston S.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Blake M.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Howat S.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Ryan W.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Carroll L.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Jarman L.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Shield A.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Cockburn M.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Jarman R.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Siegman B.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Colgan L.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Jones G.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Simons A.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Coote P.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Kennedy L.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Simpson F.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Copland F.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Lankenshear J.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Skinner R.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Cornish W.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Leigh J.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Smith J.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Cromer H.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Lim S.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Storti A.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Crowe J.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Madden J.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Symons B.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Dasgupta K.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Martin A.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Taylor R.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Davis K.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Matthews S.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Thomas C.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Dobele T.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	McClelland C.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Thompson I.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Dowse B.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	McKenzie I.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Tickle B.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Evans J.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	McKenzie R.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Vnuk M.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Flinkenberg C.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	McLeay T.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Void T.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Francis K.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Meek D.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Wilcox C.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Gamble K.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Miles A.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Williams K.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Garner P.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Millard A.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Wimbush R.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Gleeson C.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Milton R.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Woolston M.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

From the Adjudicator: continued from page 1

Slot 5: T-boy employed a very clever secondary aspect in his excellent puzzle. The title, 'Ultimate Deception' was intended to prompt solvers to look for a NINA of sorts. In this case it was the ultimate letters of all the answers in order spelling out a phrase describing 'deception'.

COTM: There were a massive 28 different nominations for clue of the month, predominantly from slots 2, 3 and 5, and there was no clear stand-out clue. There were two votes each for Ninian's FLAGELLATE and PEARLS in slot 2, and for CT's ABACUS and DONG in slot 3 – well done! However, the winners with four votes each were Crowsman's INANE (slot 4) with its unusual kind of wordplay indicator, and T-boy's BICYCLIST (slot 5), which sounds like (for at least four solvers!) 'buy psych list'. Congratulations to Crowsman and T-Boy.

Ian Thompson

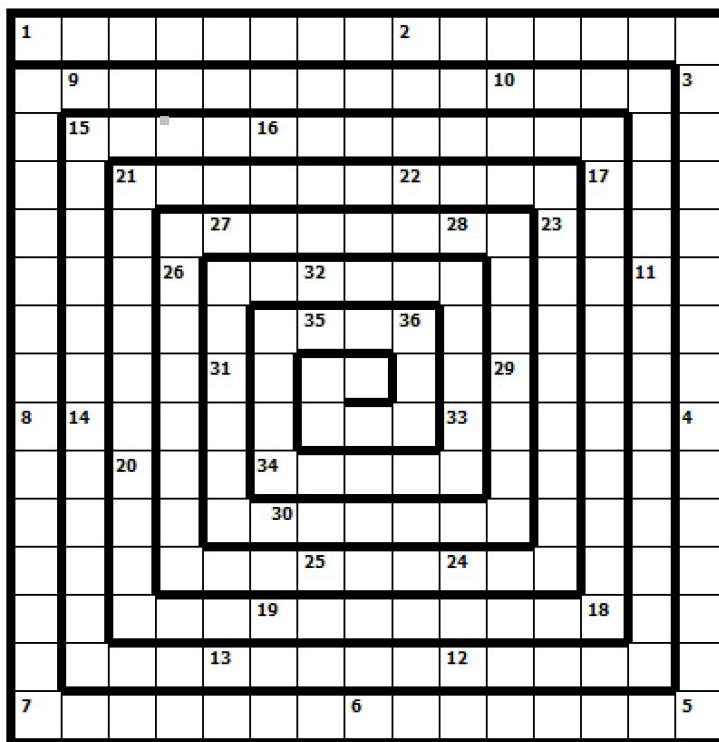
Slot 1

Snail fun
by
KB

Calendar



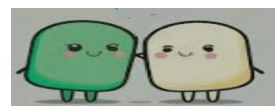
All solutions are of a type and begin with the final letter of the preceding solution. Length indicators apply to the full solution. Clues in italics are cryptic(ish).



- 1 Type of Australian grass (9)
- 2 *The plane crashed* (8)
- 3 Ancient military formation (8)
- 4 *Loosely chained* (7)
- 5 First in the dictionary (8)
- 6 Australian heraldic supporter (8)
- 7 Tree dweller (7)
- 8 *Employ in fashion gear occasionally* (5,4)
- 9 Type of beetle (10)
- 10 Hide away (8)
- 11 Self-satisfied scavenger (8,5)
- 12 *Yes, Captain!* (3-3)
- 13 Aquatic mammal (5,4)
- 14 *Sign on American partner* (7)
- 15 Cheat (5)
- 16 *Endless fruit to leaderless country* (5,4)
- 17 *Talk to Jill's companion* (10)
- 18 *Whim of a jovial old uncle, initially* (8)

- 19 British heraldic supporter (7)
- 20 *Ran back to tailless mammal* (7)
- 21 *Female with pride?* (7)
- 22 *Welsh, changing hands energetically* (5)
- 23 Veldt inhabitant (10)
- 24 Greatest of all time in the Himalayas (4)
- 25 *Just huge!* (5,5)
- 26 *Not me, we hear!* (3)
- 27 Adornment to ceremonial robes (6)
- 28 *Silicon Valley?* (5)
- 29 Arabian cargo carrier (9)
- 30 *Bark well* (5)
- 31 Not really a bear (5)
- 32 5 – not one either! (3,4)
- 33 Talk at length (6)
- 34 *Bright burner in forest?* (5)
- 35 *Returning sailor* (3)
- 36 Wannabe 17? (7)

KB A 60-odd year long Guardian-solving partnership who have turned their collective minds to compiling. We hope you enjoy the somewhat off-beat clues. Why KB? In an address to his constituents, our Chief Minister's congratulations were transcribed electronically as "Well done Ken Behrens!" an identity by which our inhabitants have been known ever since.



SEND
SOLUTIONS
TO:

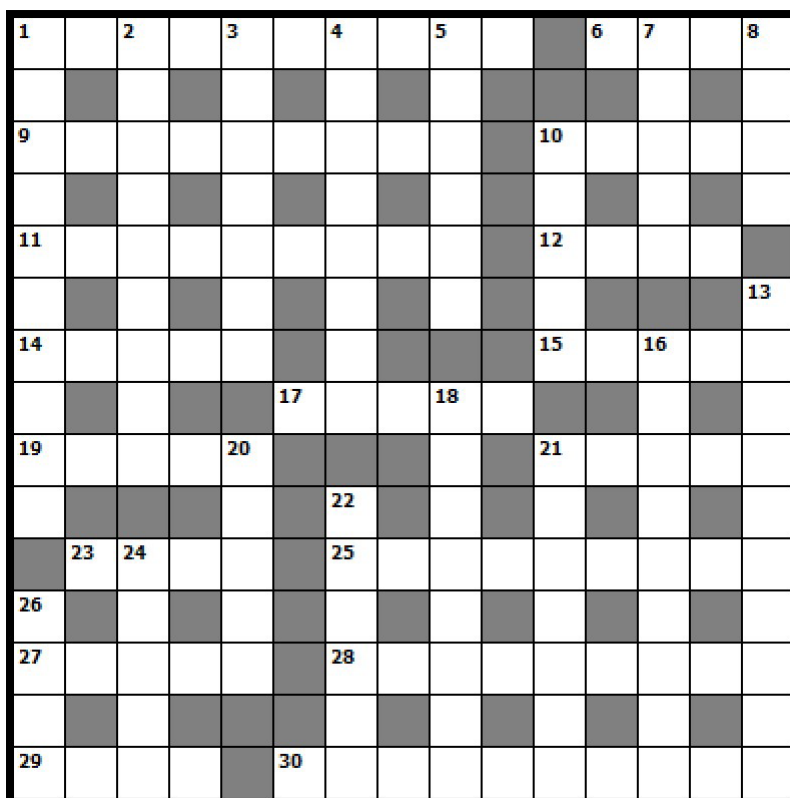
For online entry, submission and adjudication of all slots via ACCOLADE click on the ACCOLADE button on www.crosswordclub.org home page.
Slots 1 to 5: David Grainger: email to djgrainger@gmail.com
or post to 3/ 19 Lucerne Avenue, Morningside Vic 3931
Slot 6: Ian McKenzie: email to ianmalcolmmckenzie@outlook.com
or post to 47 Ronald Avenue Greenwich NSW 2065
Slot 7: Michael Kennedy: email to manveru@bigpond.com
or post to 27 Hennessy Lane, Figtree NSW 2525

BLANK
GRIDS
PAGE 16

Closing mail date is 21 November 2025. ACCOLADE entries close at 00.01

Slot 2

**Cryptic
by
Lexi
Conner**



Across

- 1 Patty's following spring's launches (4-6)
- 6 Applied for openings at university studying economic development (4)
- 9 NY alcohol server shows skill during a drinking bout (9)
- 10 Woman in NZ let out a cry (5)
- 11 American achievement award given to song attracts professional fees (9)
- 12 The interior of Nordic edifices is cold (4)
- 14 Foreshadowed a dumb loss being assessed (5)
- 15 Investigator at IOC uncovers relationship (5)
- 17 It is not in the make-up of a physicist to motivate
- 19 Tennis star gives lad an upset (5)
- 21 Pungent corrosive substance engulfed centre of Paris (5)
- 23 Support dies from insulin-related disease (4)
- 25 Slur as Darius received zilch for a replacement (9)
- 27 Loll about US airport (5)
- 28 Spanish is employed here in translating a Guam tale (9)
- 29 Come across backing for pelt (4)
- 30 Butchers been forced to produce cured meat (6,4)

Down

- 1 Assignments shifting fast with more than one person in position (3-7)
- 2 Immersed in challenging talk at harbour's end (9)
- 3 Becomes angry as designer reasserted ditching art... (4,3)
- 4 ...and linking clubs to make metal stands (8)
- 5 Robot arm activated to maintain runway (6)
- 7 Parasites after last crumbs of piece of cake (5)
- 8 So-called beloved four-footer (4)
- 10 Buzz at the start of Westland helicopters indicates repair required (5)
- 13 Biblical idol exhibiting resplendent lower leg (6,4)
- 16 Complete course to treat tinea (9)
- 18 10 gets top level domain patent (8)
- 20 Doctors exalt liquid from some plants (5)
- 21 Scatterbrain bearing down on boss (7)
- 22 Champion driver crashed in a fog (6)
- 24 Refute faith when its leader departs (5)
- 26 Criminal wrote in one negated legal document (4)

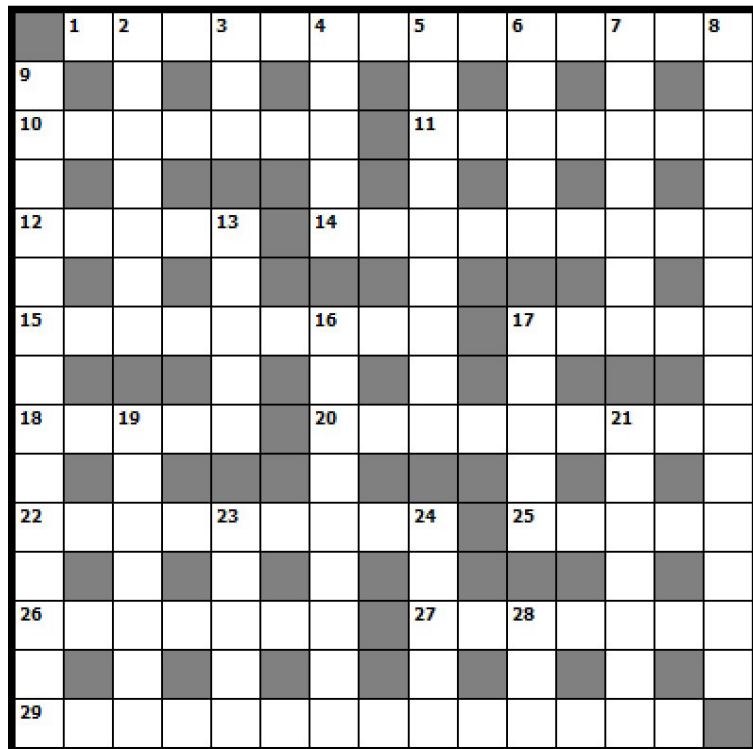
General feedback for Octoner

- any thanks for my surprise Slot 1 prize!. *Kathy Horadam*
- I was delighted to receive my prize for September slot 5 and will make sure I buy myself an early Christmas treat. And thank you Jenny for a copy of Learn to Crack the Cryptics - a welcome addition to my library! *Patricia Abbot*

Slot 3

Cryptic
by
Jesso

Calendar



Across

- 1** Some shells going through the mail? (6-8)
10 Quack measure by Greek character, almost wealthy (7)
11 Operate inside to go down to get milk-sugar (7)
12 Reviles rotten liars (5)
14 Thus raises foolish individual's utensil (9)
15 Rome isn't a disaster for the lake (9)
17 Spiteful woman has hesitation to provide for a function (5)
18 The Spanish hand is small, with delicate frame (5)
20 After greeting, manage to eat like a swallow (9)
22 Sets aside ancient history reigns (9)
25 Young fellow you think has nothing to write in (5)
26 Air-clad mixture going to the root (7)
27 Rangier kin not finished in alley, right? (7)
29 Criticise and turn initial song out with noise and violence (6,3,5)

Down

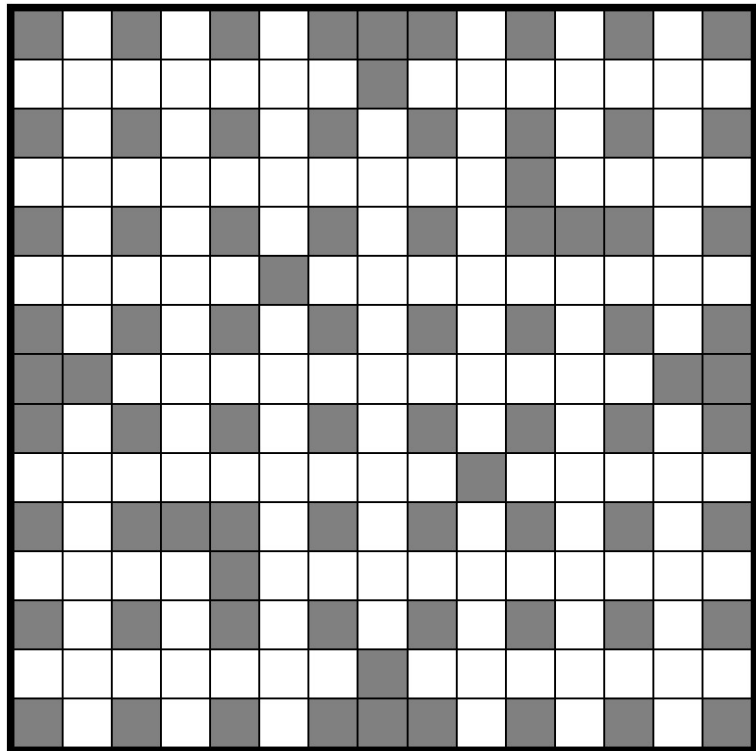
- 2** Concerning president left in charge with a copy (7)
3 Starts to obtain review about a paddle (3)
4 Disturbs boulders (5)
5 Bad smell round old city causes grumpiness (3-6)
6 Distorts stretchers (5)
7 Settle in club at the far end (4,3)
8 Dull minds listen to a marine creature (4,5,5)
9 Monarch's symbol for inductance - D? (5,3,6)
13 Offshoot of sonic change (5)
16 Palaeolithic tip off ... dumb, senseless repetition (9)
17 Confectionery container on dairy outskirts (5)
19 ... but companion turned on the way back, getting around female sphere of influence (7)
21 Becoming accustomed in your circle, by the sound of it (7)
23 Look around church behind playground (5)
24 Starting to serve a boy's dish (5)
28 One altered new prefix (3)

Slot 4

AJ
by
Valkyrie

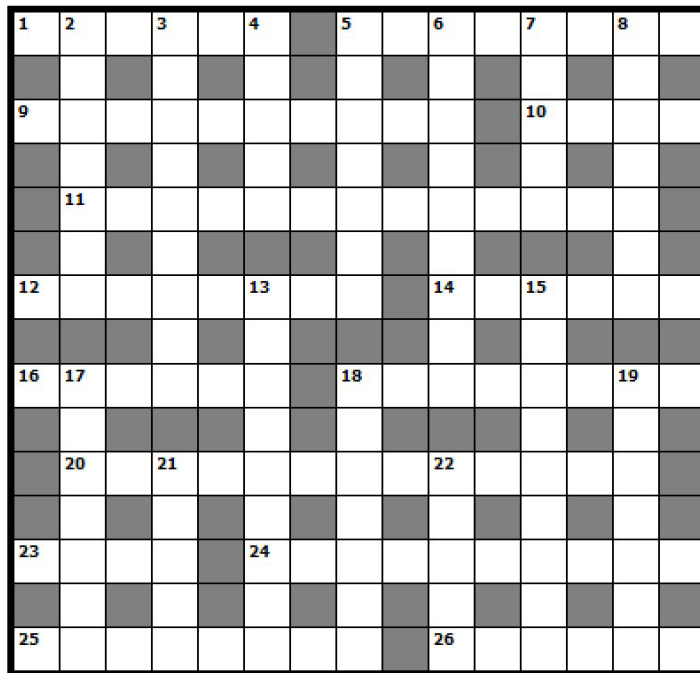



Solutions begin with the given letter. Place them in the grid jigsaw-wise, where they fit.



- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>A Genderlessness, a result of rampant axes beheading class (10)</p> <p>B Weird bleed at sea! (10)</p> <p>C Participate in alternate school dog lecture (11)</p> <p>D Core of bait displaced by strong zap (7)</p> <p>E Even beat subdued for musical composition (5)</p> <p>F Vivacity coming initially from one variable zone (4)</p> <p>G Combatant reptile eats Aldi convert (9)</p> <p>H The man's conservative record (7)</p> <p>I Designs with not 5, but 500 cuts (7)</p> <p>J Actor names Jade inept (5,4)</p> <p>K Speed of granny, perhaps (4)</p> <p>L Ties up marmoset, agility recedes in part (7)</p> <p>M Jacket, for example, made from rug in Eastern Spain (7)</p> <p>N Sterilizes Spooner's fish (7)</p> <p>O Aussie male wharfie needs no introduction (5)</p> <p>P Nurses run to and fro! (10)</p> <p>Q Bottom disc (5)</p> <p>R Tell about threatening internet computer unit heads to form into a network (10)</p> | <p>S Old music storage device sounds worn out (5)</p> <p>T Storyteller told first about fire by Republican leader (11)</p> <p>U Clear up centre of county, party by lake to follow (7)</p> <p>V Riot explodes during evil Southern conquests (9)</p> <p>W Tempest encircles rocky hill by noon (9)</p> <p>X Kiss excited ox, deer ran off (7)</p> <p>Y ox embraces colt causing idle talk (4)</p> <p>Z Rear end fuzz - it is one source of teenage angst (4)</p> |
|--|---|

Slot 5

Sun & Moon
by
The Void

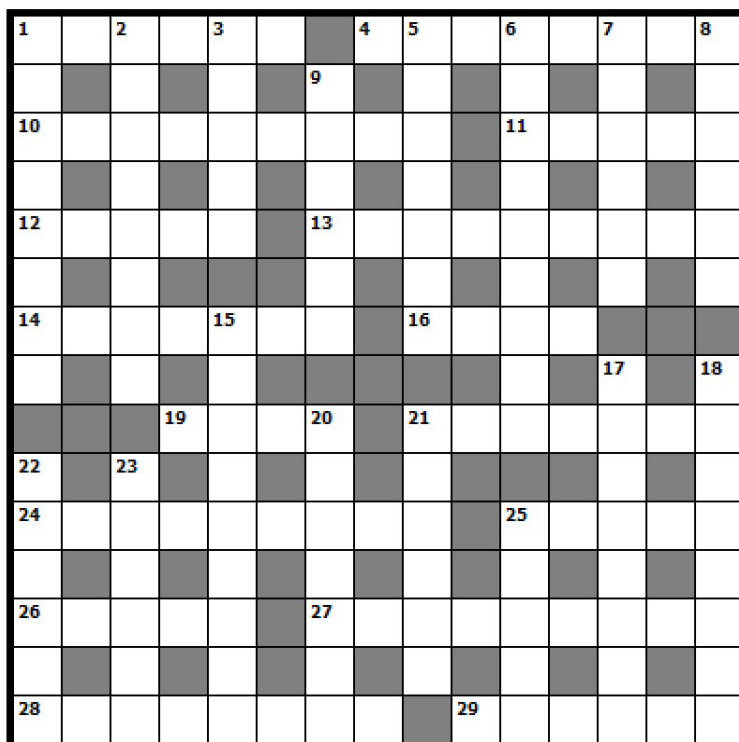
Across

- 1 Cover loose rocks with end of tarpaulin (6)
- 5 Chivalric knights' extra note describes crusaders' enemy losing son (8)
- 9 The Red Devils' catacomb mentioned in document (10)
- 10 Fruit's almost chubby (4)
- 11 Rogue erecting wrong detector (6,7)
- 12 Maybe Hazel supports spoken pacts (8)
- 14 *What Makes Comet Come Prior To Expectation* by Newton (6)
- 16 Perhaps bride-to-be's nervously sat around in city (6)
- 18 Environmental problem of limited companies stocking sparkling wine (8)
- 20 Writer's glad aeroplane crashed (5,5,3)
- 23 Occasionally meets near volcano (4)
- 24 The Void's second skill's missing a lack of animation (10)
- 25 Terrible place outside of epicurean international college of Greece (8)
- 26 Threaten to obtain Next or Topshop trousers (6)

Down

- 2 Horse dish (7)
- 3 Give further details in cryptic clue that is about digital audiotape (9)
- 4 Specific area's hot in Med resort (5)
- 5 These initially popular royal ingrates now considered extremely selfish? (7)
- 6 I hail aunt misbehaving in republic (9)
- 7 Take plant from container in warehouse (5)
- 8 Real nut can become disinterested person (7)
- 13 It's Ronnie's outlandish entry (9)
- 15 Gold cap - one auction item that might fly (9)
- 17 Show place where Earth's spinning in the void (7)
- 18 European device that can pick up invective (7)
- 19 Bloke leaves English city for another (7)
- 21 Good transport method for sacred relic (5)
- 22 Mack's musical partner tucks in fringes for stroll (5)

Slot 6

Cryptic
by
Robespierre

Across

- 1,11** Thoughtlessly accept problem with woofer terminal in elite sound equipment (6,5)
4 New information might reopen this CD cryptically (4, 4)
10 Newsworthy quote? It's carried by live channel first. (9)
11 See 1
12 Historical official getting on with first-time wrongdoer (5)
13 He doesn't toe the line and is dispatched in red revolution (9)
14 When beers tip over, it's time for a break! (3, 4)
16 Public showing seductress naked? (4)
19 Refuse fruit jam that's served up (4)
21 Sewer rat I caught has irregular constituent (7)
24 Risky place to drive: front of bunker has no grass! (5, 4)
25 Capital Greek characters picked up (5)
26 Swell gangleader splits fine with me (5)
27 One family after another takes directions from unblemished character (9)
28 Sat in place, rewinding records (4, 4)
29 Lie about nothing when in charge (6)

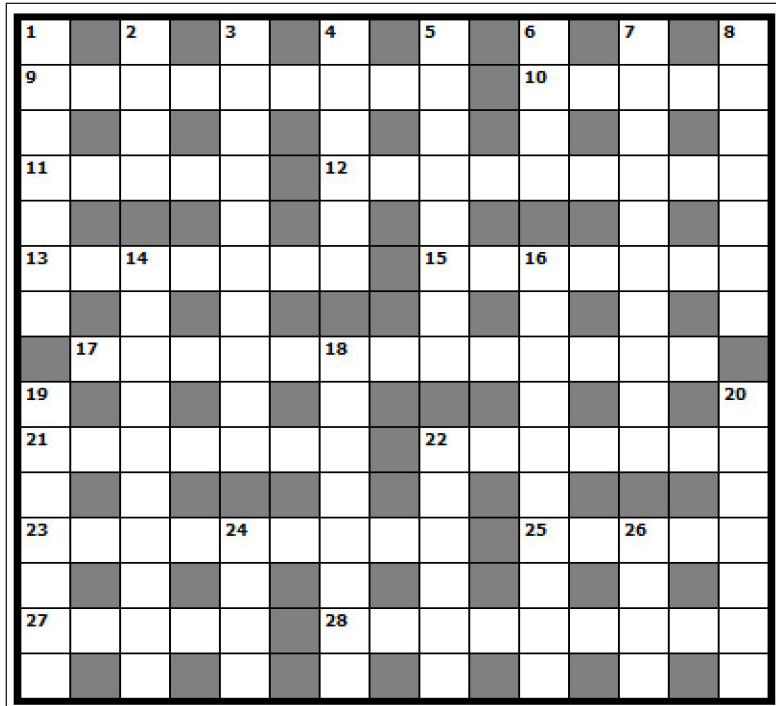
Down

- 1** Revise text about epitaph (among others) (8)
2 Happen to meet Ms Davis? Not what gentlemen would prefer (8)
3 Provide clothing when topless people expected (5)
5 Run obtained by England's opener twice after at least twelve balls (7)
6 Paint dries poorly - fill-in worker implicated (9)
7 Changes appropriate to appear in publicity (6)
8 Assuming power, strive to secure authority (6)
9 In this way prisoner may be kept occupied (4,2)
15 Metal joints unfinished so not recognised (9)
17 Hit lofted catches without strain (8)
18 Nothing given away by cheapskate pinching a Parisian bum! (8)
20 Plagiarist caught by unfortunate typo about accountant (7)
21 Consider English appear accepting of Brexit finally! (6)
22 Posh son, sleeping around, taken advantage of (6)
23 Bugs would like to eat this product of the endless work of tractors (6)
25 Swindle twice to acquire American property (5)

Slot 7

Cryptic
by
Manveru

Five related solutions are undefined but a hint as to the theme may be obtained from two other solutions.



Across

- 9** Departs! Is shield starting to yellow? (9)
10 Free peacekeepers in Palestine initially caught in the middle (5)
11,20 Clues - the past transport! (5,7)
12 Manoeuvred for repair following cancellation of launch (9)
13 Suspicious clan given refuge by First Lady in Vatican City, say (7)
15 Accelerates recklessly on purpose or not? (5,2)
17 Potentially salvage a few or it typically balances out (3,2,8)
21 It's a part of speech heard in Nepal at a lamasery (7)
22 Artwork found in trench spotted irregularly with hints of pink and yellow (7)
23 Local church embracing 'love' screens regularly for chastity (9)
25 Cramming figures, I tried to do the exam again (5)
27 Transpose plutonium electron's shell with deuterium to cause significant disruption (5)
28 Corresponding and broadcasting of Columbia's launch in detail (9)

Down

- 1** Going out? Do say yes! No answer (7)
2 Tips over skeleton scattering ankylosaurus bones (4)
3 Searches through a book set up for revision (5,5)
4 The key needed by a removalist? (6)
5 Disease symptoms - dry vacuous eyes with no rheum, ultimately requiring treatment (8)
6 A clumsy boat on tail end of Bora - it'll blow windward! (4)
7 On high, he created the planets and earth with recipe and unknown stuff (10)
8 Create a clue for English newspaper's leader *Vault* (7)
14 Modify cap of ring and measure up internally (10)
16 Former anonymous spy's cover pirated, somehow losing ID with electronic bug (10)
18 Is gone, according to Plato! (8)
19 The very best surgery on abdomen requires infusion of Iodine medication to start with (7)
20 See 11 Across
22 Pass exhausted triathlete to run faster? (6)
24 Aide-de-camp giving up surrender (4)
26 Drone perhaps, dropping in at Heaven's Gate, maybe? (4)

The blank grid for this puzzle is on page 11



Quiz 11-2025 by KA Two Letters .

Each defined word has two letters in common.

They may be in any order, and anywhere in the word. After removing these letters, the remaining letters (in order) form another word (which is not defined). Word lengths relate to the defined word and answers are in alphabetical order.

Say the letters are I & T – then:

A Central court (6) Ans = A(t)r(i)um = Arum

B Outlaw (6) Ans = Band(i)(t) = Band

C A salt (7) Ans = C(I)(T) rate = Crate

Send your answers by email to Send your answers to Karl Audrins email karlishane@optusnet.com.au or post to 10 Elizabeth Parade, Charlestown NSW 2290 Closing mail date 21 November 2025.

- 1 Extraterrestrials (6)
- 2 Type of boat motor (7)
- 3 Narrow openings (8)
- 4 Bold contempt of opposition (8)
- 5 Horselike nature (8)
- 6 Type of pigeon (7)
- 7 Ungrateful person (7)
- 8 Addictive drug (6)
- 9 Falsely believes (8)
- 10 An order (10)
- 11 Estonian monetary units (6)
- 12 Diplomatic mission (8)
- 13 Domestic servant (6)
- 14 Simpletons (7)
- 15 Give immunity (9)
- 16 Mournful song (6)
- 17 Judicial investigation (7)
- 18 Regular procedures (8)
- 19 Neck muscles (7)
- 20 Contaminates (6)
- 21 Sanitary fittings (7)
- 22 An interpretation (7)
- 23 Slowly decreasing (6)
- 24 An explosive (8)
- 25 Hindu philosophy adherent (6)
- 26 Central American creepers (8)

Quiz 2025-10, Drunk with power by Michael Vnuk

Results (from 25 entries): Correct 25 P Abbott, W Allen, U Axelsen, J Barbour, K Francis, K Harper, C McClelland, R McKenzie, A Patterson, D Rosendorff, W Ryan, B Siegman, R Wimbush. **24** J Crowe, P Garner, R Jarman, J Leigh, D Meek, A Miles, A Millard, A Simons, F Simpson, R Taylor. **23** D Bennett, D Grainger.

Prizewinner: Jean Barbour. Congratulations!

Answers: 1 blind, 2 bombed, 3 floored (+ bonkers, crocked), 4 fried, 5 hammered, 6 hosed, 7 juiced, 8 lathered, 9 legless, 10 lit, 11 lubricated, 12 oiled, 13 paralytic (+ paralysed), 14 pickled, 15 plastered, 16 ratted, 17 smashed, 18 soaked (+ soused, sodden), 19 stewed (+ soused), 20 stinking, 21 stoned, 22 tight, 23 wasted, 24 wobbly, 25 wrecked

Adjudicator's Observations

I was a little concerned that **11** Oiled (10) = LUBRICATED and **12** Lubricated (5) = OILED, which were coincidentally consecutive, might trip people up. But the only casualty was someone wrongly conflating the two in typing their entry. I gave them 1 out 2 for that segment.

Everyone was marked correct for **18** Saturated (6). My expected answer of SOAKED was provided by 11 people. The other answers of SOUSED (13 entries) and SODDEN (1 entry) were easily confirmed in dictionaries. One entry also received a tick for SOUSED for **19** Cooked slowly in liquid (6), as some dictionaries include 'cook in a marinade' as a definition of 'souse'.

I allowed PARALYSED for one entry for **13**, but most others had the usual PARALYTIC.

For **3** Baffled (7), my expected answer was FLOORED (10 entries). However, after some searching, I eventually allowed BONKERS (6) and CROCKED (3).

There were also several typos, words of the wrong length, answers that did not fit the alphabetical order, etc.

(While checking answers, I found video clips of British comedian Michael McIntyre claiming, with impressions, that posh people can use any word to mean drunk, eg 'gazeboed', 'pyjamaed', 'carparked'.)

Solvers' Feedback

- Loved 11 <> 12! Could have had another 25! I'll be watching the Wallabies, this afternoon – so I could be any of these by 5:00pm... *William Ryan*
- A fun quiz but I needed a few drinks to get into it. *David Bennett*
- Thanks for the quiz Michael. None of those options sound very pleasant, I guess that's what happens when we overdo Make Merry. *Betty Siegman*
- Thanks for another interesting quiz, number 3 had me baffled for a while but I think that I've come up with the right answer, I hope so anyway. *Ken Francis*
- So many words for drunk, this quiz barely scratched the surface. Thanks for a fun quiz. *Ulla Axelsen*
- This was a bit of fun, though I doubt you have ever been one of these, I know that I haven't! *Pat Garner*
- Thank you for the quiz. A bit of a dilemma, given the topic – almost hoping to score poorly this month. Nah :-) *Ron Jarman*
- This quiz looked simple at first glance, but I encountered some unexpected hurdles and struggled to finish. *Kath Harper*

October 6-2025: Monarchs by Flowerman (Ian Thompson)
Entries 49. Correct 40. Success rate 81.6%.
Prizewinner: Jean Evans. Congratulations!

Adjudicator's Observations:

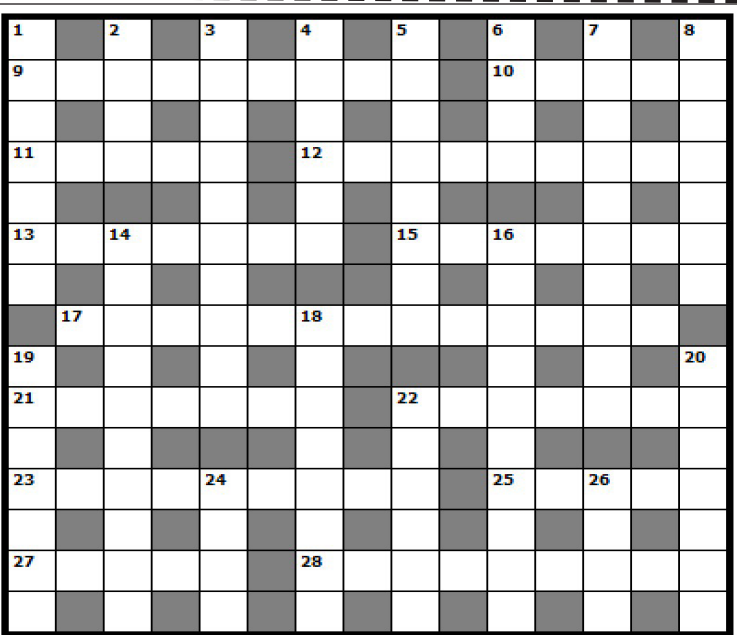
I apologise for accidentally omitting King John. I did have 'Jack' opening 20d! Also, a few solvers noticed in NOTICES that the instruction 'to the right' should have been 'to the left'. I was pleased that solvers apparently didn't have too much trouble in identifying the names in the jumbles. Dots were lost for failing to give either NAVEL, MERI (the E needed for ANNE) or FINAGLER.

Explanations. Across: 3 hw, 8 J + (b)UM + P, 12 (S IN ARMENIA)*, 13 CAMERAMEN - (RAMEN), 14 U in (GR + MP), 16 dd, 17 (F SUIT M(ock))* , 19 (PEASANTS)* - T(oo) - S(erious), 21 (S(uav)E + CIT + ON)<, 23 (b)READ, 24 VIOL(ence) + IN, 27 LAVA(ge), 30 First letters (P I R D)*, 31 C + LEAVE, 32 A in GINS, 34 PALS* + SHY, 36 (O FATAL)*, 37 dd, 42 (am)ORAL, 43 ((a)R(e) NUDE)*, 44 BELO(w)*, 45 HARD + HEAD + ED, 46 (SAY O)*, 47 YOKE + L'S. Down: 1 SEARCH* [for my ancestors, MARY], 2 REAP + PEAR, 3 AMMONITE - 'night', 4 VIE + W + E + D, 5 (G + R) in (E NAVE), 6 T + RUE [flaw limiting, WILLIAM], 7 K + A + PUT, 9 UN(f)IT, 10 ME + RI, 11 PRESS + UP [outdoor activity, VICTORIA], 15 (E + S(wear) in RIDE, 18 F + IN + D, 20 "knave" + L, 21 NO(r)WAY [eldest nephew, STEPHEN], 22 CUR + I + O, 25 LAV + AGE, 26 (L FEARING)*, 27 LES + (SS around OR), 28 hw<, 29 (t) R(i)E(d) + (E in FREE), 32 BLOG* + AL, 33 S + TEE + D(eciduous) S(hrubs), 35 (ASK US)*, 38 hw [with zeal being, ELIZABETH], 39 C in RAY, 40 hw, 41 RODIN'S - IN.

Members' feedback: [For reasons of space, contributions listing the monarchs have been noted but are not recorded here]

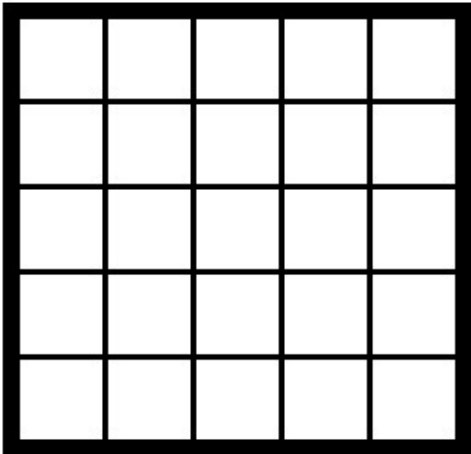
- A stunning achievement to include 7 monarch names linearly hidden while completing a complex grid and 5 "jumbled-letters" monarchs. Doesn't JOHN represent a 13th monarch who would qualify for inclusion? Ian McKenzie
- Bravo! John was the only omission. Perhaps 35Dn could be "Ask US about research on jet fliers". Len Colgan
- This was an entertaining puzzle. I'm missing John of Magna Carta fame. Fraser Simpson
- This was a bit of a marathon but good fun. Found 7 but John wasn't there! Ann Millard
- Cleverly composed, dodgily difficult puzzle. Roy Taylor
- Very challenging - I found the 7 but could not find John in clues or grid. Scott Goodman
- Monarchs galore, in the clues and the grid. Really enjoyed this one. Betty Siegman

continued on page 12



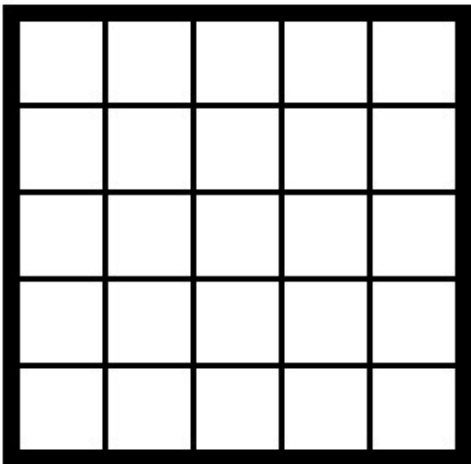
FRAZ WORD SQUARE November 1
(Solution on p 12)
Identical words read across and down in this square. Clues are not listed in order.

- Almost take 3-way intersection—there's enormous interest in it
- Black Sea peninsula's unending illegal activities
- Engineer lit up bulb in the garden
- Flashy person keeps bouncing off the walls
- Obviously hosting leader of tennis clubs from the Netherlands



FRAZ WORD SQUARE November 2
(Solution on p 12)
Identical words read across and down in this square. Clues are not listed in order.

- Golf course's 18 sum totals announced
- Block faceless man turning 54
- Cycling around floor covering subway entrance
- Handy bottle fluid? Try to find out
- Slow-fast oscillator's beginning



October 7-2025: Crowsman's Corner by Crowsman (Len Colgan)
Entries 61. Correct 57. Success rate 82%.
Prizewinner: Julie Crowe. Congratulations!

Adjudicator's Observations: The missing part-word in the Down wordplays is IVE, which needs to be appended to the letters resulting from their explanations. Repeated mistake was to give IRISIDE instead of the correct IRIDISE. Both fulfil the wordplay IS in (I + RIDE), but only one is a word matching the definition.

Explanations. Across: 1 dd, 3 MOOR< + S(ofa), 6 rev hidden, 10 IN CH=church, 11 SPIT<, 12 O + ILL + AMP, 14 EP(IS)ODE, 15 I + N(TEST)INE, 16 SPEED< + PACE, 18 IS + (I + LEAR)<, 19 RUB + ELLA, 21 (in) SPECT + AC(L)E, 23 (V + ALI) in CHEER, 24 COVE + RED, 26 IS in (I + RIDE), 27 SIRI<, 28 IRIS<, 29 homoph of 'islet', 30 SE(X)ES, 31 (sho) WERE(d). **Down:** 1 AN<, 2 ARCH, 4 O(i)L, 5 MASS, 7 TRIAL* around LUST, 8 SAVE<, 9 EXP(o) LET, 12 LOUT, but L dropped, 13 CONSUL + TAT, 16 DIRECT, 17 (rom)A(nce) + MAT, 20 BEE + H, 21 V(i)RUS<, 22 CURS, 24 CH, 25 D(ange)R.

Members' feedback:

- I found the SW quadrant difficult; despite knowing the IVE finish to the down words. DEEP SPACE was a great clue; and I voted RUBELLA COTM. *Roy Taylor*
- It took me ages to find the common 'part-word' and what a joy when it all fell into place. Thanks; Len. *Ann Millard*
- Superlative. Thanks Len. *Betty Siegmán*
- Took a while to unravel all the wordplays; with SPECTACLE finally revealing itself: (in)spect+ace+I. Nice work; Len. *Mal Cockburn*
- Very enjoyable. Didn't expect all the 'ives' to be at the end. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Favourites EPISODE; DEEP SPACE *The Void*
- Finding the part word was only part of the problem. Some devious clues here. Hope I got them right *Con Flinkenberg*
- Len must think about patterns of words all the time! *Robyn Mckenzie*
- I've enjoyed this crossword. *Sonia Roulston*
- Took a while to find the part-word but it sure helped! Thanks Len. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Another lovely Crowsman puzzle. I particularly liked the clues for beehive and olive. 17 D gave me the most trouble however; as I read the definition to be 'felt affectionate' rather than 'affectionate'; which then of course; left me lacking part of my word play. *Julie Crowe*
- I enjoyed this puzzle once I found the part-word. Thank you. *Claire McClelland*
- Great puzzle; great clues and the 'IVE' ending helped. *Joan Smith*
- High five to the setter who can give us such an impressive; immersive puzzle. *Kath Harper*
- Once the "ive" was found everything was much easier! *Cheryl Wilcox*

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

November Slot 7 solution

Solution FRAZ WORD SQUARE Nov 1

R	E	P	Y	H
E	M	I	R	C
P	I	L	U	T
Y	R	U	S	U
H	C	T	U	D

Solution FRAZ WORD SQUARE Nov 2

S	E	L	O	H
E	L	I	T	S
L	I	V	N	A
O	T	N	E	L
K	S	A	L	F

Slot 6 feedback continued from page 11

- Always a satisfying solve. *Andrew Patterson*
- Some hurdles to overcome solving this but it came together. *Mal Cockburn*
- Sometimes reading the instructions is more difficult than solving the clues. Found the monarchs hiding in the clues and in the grid. A very challenging solve. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Really good fun. but I can't find John in the grid! (I even looked for "lackland") Poor old John. *The Void*
- What a good puzzle, thank-you very much. The set is 13 names long from William (The Conqueror) to Victoria. What happened to John? *Ken Francis*
- A lot of fun. Thanks Ian. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Only John misses out! I was thrilled to complete this as it sounded quite complicated and I was tempted to not even give it a try... then was surprised how much enjoyment there was in completing it. Thanks Flowerman. *Maureen Blake*
- Does John not get a guernsey in the list? Another of Flowerman's great headspinners! Many thanks. *Julie Crowe*
- Should 21ac be 'to the left'? *Tony Dobe*
- Thanks, Flowerman. *Con Flinkenberg*
- Seven spotted but still hunting for the others! *Toby Mcleay*
- Great puzzle. Thanks Flowerman. *Lesley Carroll*
- Monarchs are usually easier to spot, but what about John? *Kath Harper*
- Took some time this one. Took some time. I mean, Ian's are always tough but this one! *Richard Skinner*
- What a long time it took for me to get my head around this. *Robyn Mckenzie*
- That was an interesting challenge. I took a while to get going but then it was great fun. *Jean Evans*
- Tricky clues. Liked READ, FLOAT, BOLE & HARDHEADED. *Krittibas Dasgupta*

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

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

Slot 1 KA (Karl Audrins). Across: 8 hidden, 9 ASS + InSTANCE, 10 REC + ALL, 11 anag, 12 IN in KG, 13 cd, 17 DEER<, 18 cd, 19 homoph "watt", 20 STRUCTURALism, 22 anag, 23 LIB* in POSSE, 27 A in MIDDY, 28 STRENGTH + EN, 29 hidden

Slot 2 Ninian Across: 1 PRO+VERB, 5 QUART + Z, 9 (STATUE)* + LibertY, 10 UN'S +TOP, 11 (ILK)* around (CRIME)*, 12 TALE< in GO, 14 CA+L+LCENT+RE, 18 hidden, 22 JEW+ELS, 23 dd, 24 ROOS + <ST, 25 LA+(CREATE)*, 26 (SISTER)*, 27 rEX + PLA(I)N. **Down:** 1 PEA(R)LS, 2 OPT+I+MA, 3

EX+TORT, 4 geLaTo in BACLAVAS, 6 U + N + NEE + D(i)ED, 7 RE+TRACTS, 8 cd - 88888 is the zip code for the north pole, 13 FLAG + ELL + (TEA)*, 15 CON + JUROR, 16 RED + WOODS, 17 AC+O+ (STYLE)*, 19 LEE in ASP, 20 dd, 21 TERM in INN.

Slot 3 CT. Across: 1 IM inside TIME + MEMORIAL, 8 dd, SEPTember, 9 cd, 10 dd, 11 CAN+NAB+IS, 12 Spooner "wed better", 16 dd, 17 hidden<, 19 SEE + (IN LOVE)*, 23 homoph "bawl" + BOYS, 25 cd, 27 PIERRE around DATE, 28 dd, 29 (OPTIONS STAR IS)* around N. **Down:** 1 hidden, 2 MOT + ET, 3 cd, 4 MaIn RoAd CaLTEx, 5 cd in Down clue, 6 RIG + ROLE around MAC, 7 AS + SS around AIL, 13 WhIM+B+LED ON, 14 TASMANIA-MANIA, 15 (cOuRsE)*, 18 (E+LA+FIRE)*, 20 sENSE dURESS, 21 EAT in NEST, 22 GI<+(SAUNA)*, 24 hidden, 26 AUD+IO.

Slot 4 Crossman. A SAT in (A + NAIL<), **B** B(OWING)OUT, **C** CO(US)INS, **D** (SO MANY + D)<, **E** EX + ACTS, **F** FEA(THE)RED, **G** DIG< + EON, **H** HURR(a)Y, **I** IN AN E, **J** JA(UNTIE)R, **K** palindrome, **L** LA(TIN)OS, **M** MIS(TIT)LED, **N** NE(AREAS)T, **O** (b)OILER, **P** PRES(SAG)ENTS, **Q** QUA(LIT)Y, **R** R + (s)EASON, **S** S(TOO)PED, **T** TIT RATES, **U** UN(ADULT*)IONS, **V** VE(R)NAL, **W** W(EST)HAM, **X** (LONELY + X)<, **Y** NAVY< around ERE, **Z** ZO(O + LOG)IST.

Slot 5 T-boy. Across: 7 (QUOTE LEN)*, 9 dd, 11 CHAR + IV + ARId, 12 LEMON*, 13 WIG + WAG, 14 W in NEWTONS, 16 RAFF + vIAL, 18 hw<, 21 CON + homoph "clued", 23 PUG in chIMNey, 27 TAB + OO, 28 homoph "buy psych" + LIST, 29 hw, 30 ELCE (heads) in FULL (=charged). **Down:** 1 EAC in SOW, 2 MI in LUNA, 3 IN + LAY, 4 CLIMATES*, 5 OUT + LAW, 6 aRChdEaN kIrSch, 8 (AI + GeLATO)<, 10 Definition in 29 across, 15 B + ADD + Electronic Benefits Transfer, 17 (HALF + M + OUT)*, 19 sElLoUtS + IVE, 20 CST in EASY, 22 homoph "no bulls", 24 CUL in MAE, 25 NET + LET*, 26 CuR in SUM

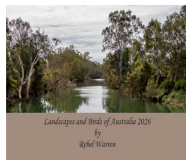
Vale Brian Tickle

Brian had undergone medical procedures for melanoma removal in recent weeks and, despite being in his early 80's, was otherwise healthy and fit. His sad passing in early October was totally unexpected and a real shock to all. Although I had known Brian socially for many years, it was around 5 years ago Brian led me into the world of Cryptic Crosswords. Brian was presenting Cryptic Crossword sessions through the U3A in Taree, myself and another friend (Mike Healy) attended. It was during this time I commenced my real journey of the world of Cryptic Crossword and gave him the nickname "Cryp-Tick".

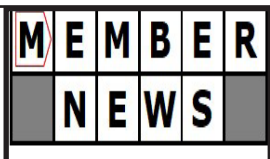
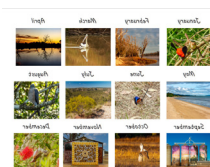
After retiring from cryptic tuition a few years back, we and Mike met each Wednesday for Croffee (Crosswords and Coffee). Brian, Mike and I have met almost weekly for Croffee for several years now since that time, the last time being Sept 27th. Brian indicated this 'filled a void' and he thoroughly enjoyed these mornings. We also met Friday evenings at our local club for Crossword discussions over convivial ales. It was a win / win for the 3 of us, we continued our learnings and Brian could impart his. Brian his great knowledge, wisdom and wit.

Brian was a very special person, his friendship second to none. We have only fond but everlasting memories, and are thankful for the privilege of having Brian in our lives. Rest in Peace Tick. *Shaun Higgins*

Calendars for 2026



The unlucky members who have missed out on a consolation prize calendar, and who wish to enjoy Rebel's superb photography throughout 2026, may order one via email from rebelwarren51@gmail.com at \$25.10 including postage. Rebel will advise payment options when you order. For an enlarged view of the thumbnails, use the Zoom control on the right of the page in Adobe Acrobat or press Ctrl and +. Repeat as necessary and enjoy.



Donations to the Prize Fund Many thanks for their generous donations to the Prize fund to Patricia Abbott, Len Colgan, Ken Davis, Scott Goodman, Kath Harper, Roger Hearn, Sam Howatt, Bhavan Kasivajjula, Jill Lankshear, Betty Siegman, Anne Simons, Richard Skinner, Robyn Wimbush. Much

appreciated.

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

Find us on 

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

Search for **Australian Crossword Club** or click the above hyperlink.

October 1: KA (Karl Audrins)

- 6dn is ambiguous. According to Google BANANA, MAYACA & PAPAYA are all herbaceous plants. *[All accepted as valid solutions Who'd have imagined so many herbaceous plants named *A*A*A?– Adj] Allan Storti*
- Thrown a bit by ASSISTANTS/ASSISTANCE & USED/USES, but otherwise fine. *Mal Cockburn*
- A good warm up exercise. Thanks. *Ulla Axelsen*
- This one was tricky. We made so many mistakes lol. *Sandy Lim*
- A few I can't parse, so I don't think I'll get my dot... *The Void*
- Now I know a banana is herbaceous! Thanks KA. I liked KING and MIDDAY. *Kathy Horadam*

October 2: Ninian (Scott Goodman)

- Lot of excellent clues, some very deceptive. *Roy Taylor*
- Great misdirection on FLAGELLATE. Very clever! *Sandy Lim*
- Favourite RESIST. *The Void*
- Lots of contenders for COTM here. *Kath Harper*
- Some nice clues - liked PEARLS, ZIP CODES & FLAGELLATE. Overall an enjoyable puzzle. Well done, Ninian. *Mal Cockburn*
- An enjoyable pangram. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Favourite clues PEARLS, CONJUROR AND REDWOODS. *Joan Smith*
- A neat puzzle! I liked CONJUROR and especially liked PLUS SIGN. *Kathy Horadam*
- Congrats. I found it quite tricky. *Tony Dobebe*
- Some cleverly disguised definitions, like 'give the cat' and 'present for 30 years'. *Ian Thompson*
- Liked the clues for CALL CENTRE and PLUS SIGN. *Ron Jarman*

October 3: CT (Chris Thomas)

- I enjoyed TOAST. *Fraser Simpson*
- Some clever clues with tricks of the English language in such things as "summer" and "summer" etc. *Ann Millard*
- Lateral thinking required for many of these clues, like HOROLOGIST. *Roy Taylor*
- Favourites ABACUS, HOROLOGIST. *The Void*
- I loved HOROLOGIST - when I finally got it. *Kath Harper*
- BATTER gave me trouble as did MOTET. Tricky puzzle all round and a lot of fun to solve. Thanks, CT. *Mal Cockburn*
- An interesting collection of words, some rather tricky. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Liked clues WIMBLEDON and PIED-A-TERRA. *Joan Smith*
- I liked Wimbledon. Thanks CT. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Not so sure about the cluing for TAS, I enjoyed ABACUS. *Kathy Horadam*
- I thought INHERIT a great clue, also ROE, AUDIO and of course DONG. *Julie Crowe*
- Loved SEE NO EVIL. *Krittibas Dasgupta*
- Thank God for reference materials. Nearly gave up on this one! *Stephen Matthews*
- Excellent puzzle. Especially loved 28ac, DONG! *Sandy Lim*
- Don't follow cricket, so hadn't heard of Root or Cook. Luckily, 'batter' made me think of cricket and Google confirmed that the two are famous batsmen. *Michael Vnuk*

October 4: Crowsman (Len Colgan)

- So many great clues in this puzzle. I especially liked the reversals in DYNAMOS and XYLENOL as well as the clues for LATINOS and MISTITLED and the sneaky definition in the F clue. *Brian Tickle*
- Very enjoyable! *Fraser Simpson*
- I liked INANE. I was tempted to put KAYAK as this always turns upright, but it is not a countryman like KAZAK. (a palindrome). *Roy Taylor*
- K word could possibly be KANAK. *[Accepted - Adj] Brian Symons*
- Toss up between KANAK & KAZAK - hopefully both are acceptable. Liked FEATHERED. QUALITY work! *Mal Cockburn*
- Some very enjoyable clues. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Great puzzle with so many good clues, favourites were FEATHERED, INANE and JAUNTIER. *Joan Smith*
- I do enjoy this style of crossword, the extra task of fitting the answers into the grid adds to the difficulty. I particularly liked the clues for BOWING OUT, DYNAMOS and TITRATES. I think KANAK could also be KAZAK. *Ken Francis*
- Favourites LATINOS, UNDULATIONS. *The Void*
- Thanks Len, for a worthy AJ. *Robyn Wimbush*
- A real torment: I couldn't get PRESS AGENTS for ages so was fairly stumped. Great clues for BOWING OUT, DYNAMOS, FEATHERED and INANE.. *Kathy Horadam*
- Unless I'm reading the K clue incorrectly then the answer could be either KANAK or KAZAK. *Hilary Cromer*
- Some very nice clues here. I particularly liked XYLENOL, TITRATES and INANE. *Julie Crowe*
- An AJ that tested me. I spent a lot of time with this one! *Cheryl Wilcox*
- Great clues, particularly liked INANE, BOWING OUT & QUALITY. Couldn't parse KAZAK (hope I got it right!) *Krittibas Dasgupta*

October 5: T-boy (Toby McLeay)

- Things are not always what they seem. *Rob Moline*
- Nice Nina spelled out by the final letters. It was easy to read the Acrosses, but a little harder reading the Downs in clue order just from the grid. Luckily, the answers are listed in order in Accolade just before we submit. *Fraser Simpson*
- Don't think I have come across MACULE and WIGWAG before. Thank you. *Ann Millard*
- Favourites IMPUGN, TABOO, NEW TOWNS. Can't parse TIME OUT, so fingers crossed. *The Void*
- TIME OUT had me scratching my head for a while & I liked OUTLAW. A nicely rounded puzzle. *Mal Cockburn*
- Finding out the title did make solving a little easier: things are not always what they seem. Thanks *Ulla Axelsen*
- A number of excellent clues, charivari, wigwag, bicyclist and ecstasy my favourites. *Ken Francis*
- Loved Wigwag. *Robyn Wimbush*
- A terrific puzzle from T-boy. The title certainly helped pick up that cleverly hidden Nina. I loved ELOQUENT, especially as we know Len's ambivalence towards anagrams. I also liked RAFFIA and MACULE. *Julie Crowe*
- Tricky, and with a telestich to boot! *Tony Dobebe*
- Hope you all got the message! *Toby McLeay*

continued on page 15

September 2025 Clue-writing Competition

Write a clue for **TORQUE (6)** - Adjudicated by Andrew Patterson

Some definitions from Collins:NOUN 1. A rotational or twisting effect of a force; a moment of force.

2. A tightly braided necklace or collar, often made of metal

This time round, 10 entries were received for September's judgement. I figured that entries would involve accommodating hidden type clues or homophones of 'talk'. Any other clue type would be creative, so well-received by me. A good surface and seamless wordplay are always the target. The entries are listed in alphabetic order.

Abdicator queen embraces moment * ½**

One of the expected clue types, a hidden which is very concise. 'Moment' can apply to rotational force, so a tick there. The surfaces also is smooth and fascinating. A decent contender for the prize

Actor questioned about unusual metal necklace ** ½ And another hidden. It differs by the definition, a historical braided necklace, which I did not know. The surface is reasonably smooth.

Adjudicator queries carry some force ... with a twist! ** ½

Hidden again. This time the submitter tries to stroke this adjudicator's ego by alluding to the importance of the role – a brilliant strategy. But will it work?!

Band chat on the radio * ½**

Sometimes the simple clue does the best job. I thought we'd get a homophone or two and here we have one. Chat/talk 'on the radio' allows 'torque'. The only difficulty is that definition 2 is much more obscure and would be hard to assess in a normal puzzle. This clue is up there

Called for discussion of necklace's torsion force ** ½

Another homophone of discussion/talk. The writer decided to add both definitions which while possible, wasn't so necessary. It probably only added doubt for the solver.

Encircling line untwisted without a twisting force * ½

In this clue, we have an indirect anagram, 'encircling line' for EQUATOR, losing it's A. Knowing the answer, it seems easy enough but not knowing, well it's a bridge too far for most solvers. They should be avoided.

Force French tortoise to take time out for question **

Instantly I was confused by the surface, so that was distracting. Then we had to know that 'tortue' is French for tortoise – a big ask. Compilers should consider how difficult the elements are to find. It may be correct but friendly?

In no time, dictator quelled revolution **

A hidden type clue. I'm not sure if 'no time' helps at all but extraneous words shouldn't be placed in the fodder. I mean, where does it stop? One extra? Ten? The surface is good but the wordplay could be better. The definition could be improved as well.

Left to disintegrate before that French revolution ** ½

I found this one interesting but a little lacking. Disintegrate/rot 'left', wanting it reversed, isn't very clear. 'that French' for 'que' and 'revolution' doesn't truly match the definition as it's more about the force.

Senator questions inclusion of rotating force ***

Another hidden. The wordplay is reasonable but I would've wanted to know why the senator did so. It just seems random. Maybe only 'force' would've helped as a senator might use that theme of army or coercion etc.

Thank you for all submissions. It's nice to see variations on the expected wordplay. The winner for this month is Alan Dyer, with, **"Abdicator queen embraces moment"**. It just had a clear, smooth surface while being tight in the wordplay. Congratulations, Alan.

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	*****		

November Clue-writing Competition

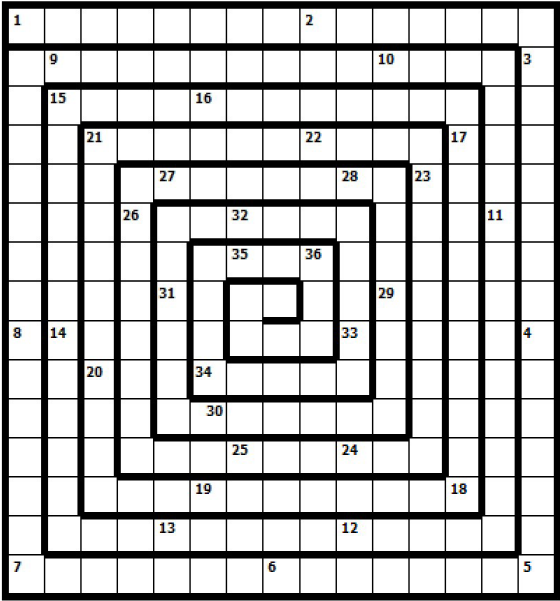
For the November competition you are invited to write a clue for the word **STROLLING (9)** complete with explanation. One only per member, please. Send your creations to Len.Colgan@unisa.edu.au 1 Ailsa Avenue, Warradale, SA 5046

Entries close Friday 12 December 2025

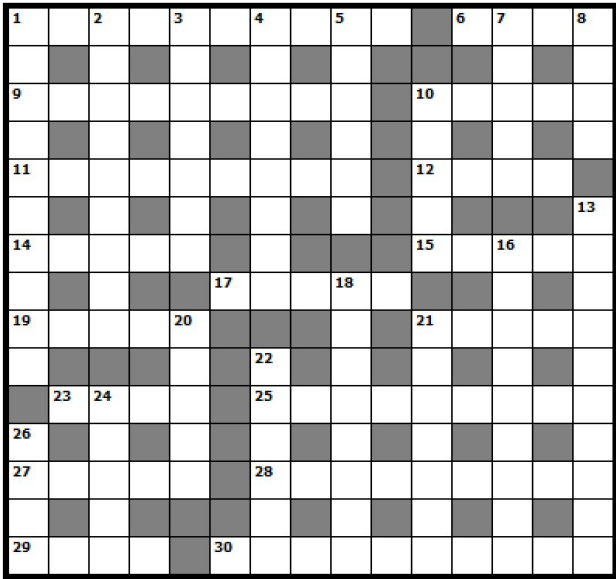
Feedback on Slot 5 - continued from page 14

- Is T-boy warning us of traps and mis-directions in his clues? Clever! *Kath Harper*
- Clever clue for BICYCLIST. *Ron Jarman*
- Liked the clue for BICYCLIST. *Joan Smith*
- Ahah for when the penny dropped, indeed they aren't! Clever puzzle,; T-boy,; thanks for the entertainment. I liked the CONCLUDE hint too. *Kathy Horadam*

November Slot 1Name.....

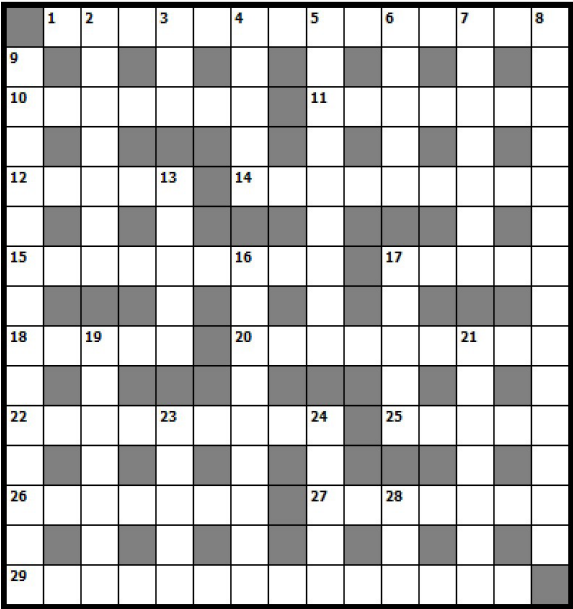


November SLOT 2

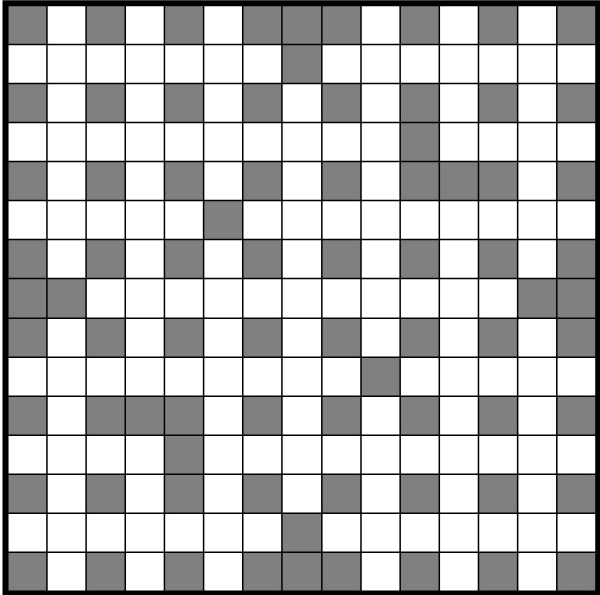


Clue of the Month

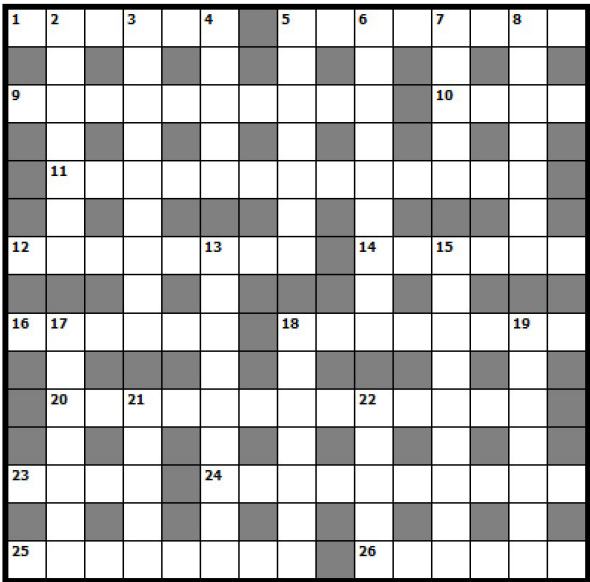
November SLOT 3



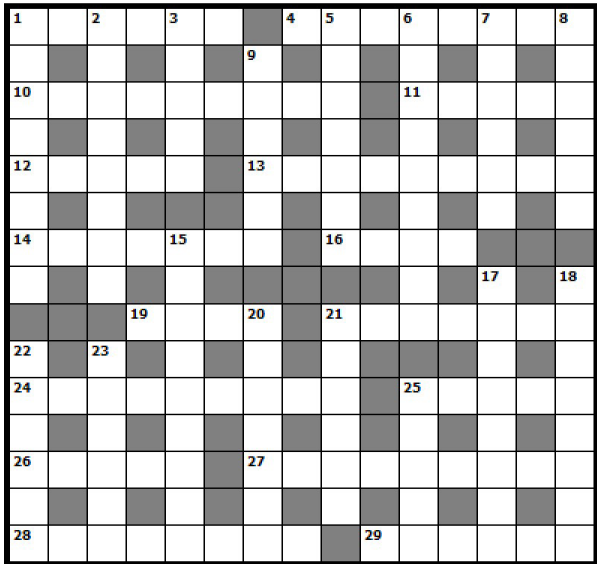
November SLOT 4



November SLOT 5



November SLOT 6



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



THE AUSTRALIAN CROSSWORD CLUB Subscription renewal for 2026

To: The Secretary/Treasurer, ACC, 48 Shakespeare Street, Comet Qld 4702

- Subscription to ACC for 2026 @ \$35 each (email only*) \$35
Please note that we are no longer seeking donations to the prize fund. However, any additional contribution you may wish to make will be gratefully received and acknowledged and will assist in defraying expenses and deferring any increase in subscriptions

TOTAL \$

Herewith my cheque/money order (payable to ACC) for \$.

Name

Address Phone:

E-mail address:

**Note that special arrangements can be made for existing members who are unable to print copies: Please contact the Secretary/Treasurer.*



Information for Members renewing for 2026

- It's time to ask you again for subscriptions for 2026. We're pleased that we are able to keep the subscription down to the familiar \$35 for the year. The following information will help you to renew your membership

The ACC website

- The website design enables you to renew online and provide information for our records. We regret that you will need to make your payment separately - direct transfer to our bank account is our preferred option, please.

Mail

- If you use the form above, please include your address, email and contact details so that we can keep our records up-to-date.

Gift memberships

- You may make a gift of membership to any person at the normal price of \$35, perhaps to give the perfect Christmas present that will be remembered and treasured for the rest of the year!

Donations to the ACC Prize Fund

- The Executive Committee has set membership costs and prizes at a level that should ensure that we remain solvent throughout 2026 without the need to seek donations. However, if you do wish to donate to the Club your generosity will be much appreciated and acknowledged.

Payment options:

- By direct transfer to our bank account or by cheque or money order payable to the ACC.
- Please send cheques/money orders to Jenny Wenham, 48 Shakespeare Street, Comet Qld 4702 with the form above. With many banks phasing out cheques, a money order may be the best option. If you are having difficulty paying by any of the available methods, please contact the Secretary at jenny@wenham.net.au to arrange payment by an alternative method.
- If making a direct transfer, please ensure the "notes" field on your transfer includes your name. Also, if you are paying more than just membership, please add a simple code to indicate how we should allocate the money. For example, a renewal plus a \$50 donation, may read "J. Citizen + \$50D" or a renewal plus gift "J Citizen and gift J Smith \$70".
- Amount payable to: ANZ Bank; BSB: 013259
- A/c name: The Australian Crossword Club A/c No: 490917945
- We regret that renewal online via PayPal is no longer available.
- Overseas members who do not have an Australian bank account should please contact the Secretary at jenny@wenham.net.au to arrange payment by an alternative method.

Here's looking forward to a great new year of CrOZworld!

The Executive Committee