THE AUSTRALIAN CROSSWORD CLUB



Cr OZ world

No 438 NOVEMBER 2026

www.crosswordclub.org

"Without knowing the force of words, it is impossible to know men." *Confucius (c. 550-c. 478 BC)*

LAST MONTH'S RESULTS

Puzzle No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Compiler	NanaKat	T-boy	Ninian	Crowsman	Manveru	CT	Crowsman
Entries Received	84	81	75	78	78	78	65
Correct Entries	76	79	61	60	75	55	50
Success %	90.5	97.5	81.3	76.9	96.2	70.5	76.9
Prize Winner	Lesley Carroll	Tony Dobele	Claire Batum	Kathy Horadam	Robyn McKenzie	Warren Allen	Andrew Patterson
Calendar Winners	Jill Lankshear	Ken Francis	Maureen Blake	Sam Howat	Frank Martin	Kathryn Forward	Greg Jones

Slots 1 to 5 all correct 41 members:
Winner: Scott Goodman - Calendar Kath Harper
Winner Quiz 2026/10: Cheryl Wilcox - Calendar Richard Skinner
Winner September Clue-writing Competition: Robyn McKenzie - Calendar: Rory Tarnow-Mordi
Congratulations to all our winners!

FROM THE ADJUDICATOR

SLOT 1 —Solvers had little difficulty with this puzzle. The only errors were single letter typos.
SLOT 2 — A puzzle with a high success rate even though there were some solvers reaching a right answer from some creative parsing for 4d. This was not a charade clue, with cricket ground as the definition and secinds of office opening (O) + rose garden (VAL), after the first Roserie in the world of Val du Marne in the Loire valley as a couple of solvers thought. Instead it was a dd with the other definition referring to the Oval Office at the White House, which opened onto a rose garden before the not so great pumpkin paved it over.
Spoonerism clues are often made obvious by reference to his name. 1D disguised it by reference to his career as an 'oxford don'. Other indications to keep an eye out for are other references to his work *cleric*, *preacher*, *warden;* another misspeaker, the Pole Marrowsky or Morowski ; or reference to the misspeaking: 'in a manner of speaking', or 'slip of the tongue'
SLOT 3 — Most errors were single occurrences but 17a had 5 solvers opting for DRAG, rather than the reverse WARD. Two solvers had MANTLE at 12a, possibly thinking Mickey was the definition and referred to the baseballer rather than 'mickey taking'. No solvers missed DYNAMIC at 19d although the clue had an error in Roman numeration. 99 is XCIX not IC.
Some uncertainty on parsing for 19D but no errors. "Male exhibits" as the definition pointed to the capital M in the clue. In both slots (21d) and slot 5 (25a) the setters used 'leg' to indicate 'on', a cricketing reference I wasn't aware of! It caught out one solver here with INWARD, although they correctly parsed the slot 5 25a clue.

Continued on Page 2

CONTACTS

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

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1



2



3



4



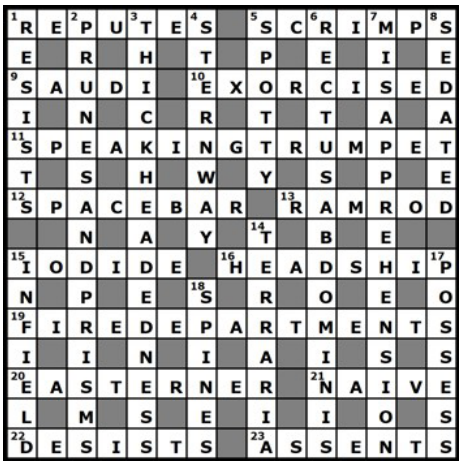
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6

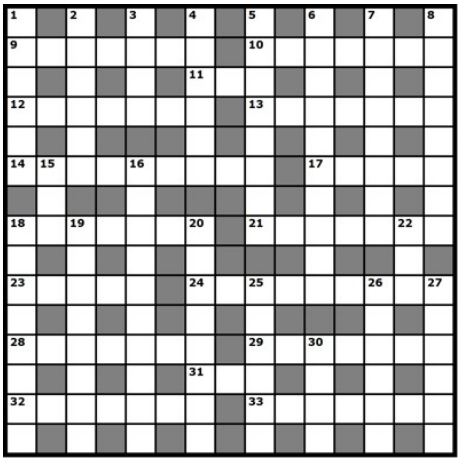


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NOVEMBER Slot 7



Name .....

Continued from Page 1

SLOT 4 — The main culprit contributing to a missed dot for 12 solvers was YIPPIES rather than YIPPEES. While both are cries of elation, only PEE and not PIE is number one.

SLOT 5 — A particularly well received puzzle with the highest success rate.

SLOT 6 — This one had quite a few single error occurrences but by far the greatest cause of lost dots (twelve) was 22a where SCALE was the expected answer, as in the deposit in a pipe or teapot and a measurement of level (as in the Beaufort or Richter scale) with nine going for STAKE, and six for STAGE with SHALE and ABASE also suggested. A case can be made for stake = to deposit a bet, but a meaning for level was not apparent and not accepted. Stage is for a level of progress is fine and stage can also mean "to place or deposit temporarily" at a staging post and so was accepted as an alternate answer.

SLOT 7 — Well liked by those who submitted feedback, but eleven solvers were caught out by the obscure Dickensian phrase at 2d PRUNES AND PRISMS and opting for Plumes and Crests.

COTM - Nominations were received from 40 members covering clues in all slots. An honourable mention to CT, whose slot 6 WINDOW SHOPPING and ANNO DOMINI tied for second place with five nominations each. But the stand-out winner this month was Crowsman with his ingenious cryptic definition for SPACE BAR *Using this, it is now here from nowhere!.* Congratulations to Len!

Drew Meek

Explanations for October Slots 1 to 7 *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 NanaKat. Down: 1 DE(DUCT)ED, **2** UP + DATING, **3** M + EAT, **4** tRUMP, **5** LID< + UTE, **6** PINS<, **7** DD, **8** ANAGRAM, **9** tANNOYS, **16** OVER + P + ROOF, **18** ALCOHOL + ICe, **20** TOW + NS, **21** RE + EVE, **23** (re)EVE, **25** ORE(o), **27** MAIL + DROP, **28** S(CH)OONER, **29** DD, **30** gALLOWS, **32** ANAGRAM, **34** REVERSAL, **35** REV HIDDEN, **36** IN + NS, **37** &LIT.
Slot 2 T-boy. Across: 1 COCK + S + COMB, **6** hw, **9** IN + TERN +TONIA* + ALLY, **10** oCKEr in KID, **11** LOSER< + shaVED, **13** REVE< (French for dream), **14** (SMELL + BAG + OF)*, **17** cd, **19** O + PUS, **22** ROGET< in CAY, **23** ORE in CHA, **25** STRAIGHT + FORWARD, **26** S + DIED*, **27** CHASE in PURR. **Down: 1** "pick cheese" Spooner, **2** CUT + LICE*, **3** fROSt< + BET, **4** dd, **5** BOILER + SUIT, **6** pasSENger + DOFFS, **7** B+OLIVIA, **8** YE in RAD, **12** (NORSE+C)*+SHIP, **15** (BAD + SENTRY)*, **16** anag, **18** TIRE in RED, **20** PE + SHARP*, **21** CH + URCHin, **22** CeO + STS, **24** sAFARi.
Slot 3 Ninian. Across: 1 cd, **5** O+(POINT)*, **10** VA(I)N, **11** anag, **12** SI(A+T)RE, **13** STOR (MI) ER, **14** PARTY+LINE, **16** (TEST)*, **17** <WARD, **18** (CLUE)* +I + DATE, **22** INTER+TEN<, **23** (POtIONS)*, **24** A+M + BaskeT around (VENIAL)*, **25** feLINE, **26** (MY CODE)*, **27** P + LUMBER. **Down: 2** <(A (RA) GAIN), **3** ONE...EON, **4** SU(R)RE +A+Lap, **6** <MOP MOP, **7** INTI + MATE + D, **8** N+ASCENT, **9** PITIES around (ORLEANS)*, **15** (EMU+Z+TAPIR)*, **17** (MANDY)* + IC, **19** CA + (PLAIT)*, **20** TRy + OUNCE, **21** ON + W + A + RD, **25** LAMb.
Slot 4 Crowsman. A ATTITUDE, with P for first T, **B** BO(RED)OM, **C** Spooner 'rock coach', **D** DIS(c) + CLOSURES, **E** homoph 'ate', **F** FO(ERR<)AL, **G** GRIM(L)Y, **H** HEM + LOCK, **I** IN(HUM)ANE, **J** JAM(BORE)ES, **K** KIN + CITE<, **L** OUT in LOCKS, **M** (EG + DIM)<, **N** PEN< + TUNE, **O** dd, **P** PROV(OK)ER, **Q** QUE(BECK)ER, **R** RIO + TRY, **S** SEA + MER, **T** T(REASON)ABLE, **U** (fig)URINE, **V** VERVE + (pries)T, **W** W(INN)ING, **X** X + AN + THOMAS, **Y** YIP(PEE)S, **Z** ZEBR(IN)A.
Slot 5 Manveru. Across: 1 (SLAVE+GIRL)*, **6** (E+S) in JUS(t), **9** (AVERTS+N)*, **10** (E+IS) in LURE, **11** T+HEME, **12** A+MAZE+MEN+T, **13** (ARCH+DETAIL-i)*, **15** SHEep+fARm, **16** CD, **18** (BRUTE+IS+D+D)*, **20** (STRUDEL+GroG)*, **23** REFER<>, **25** OP+IN+I+ON, **26** (DRIN(k)+ALE)*, **27** E in MOSS, **28** CD. **Down: 1** V+IS+IT, **2** (GREAT+L+S)*, **3** (ANSWER+S+E+A)*, **4** Hidden, **5** DD - Dic'tion'a'ry - 4 syllables, **6** homop "deuce", **7** S(QU<>n)EEZE, **8** S(H<>w) ELTERED, **13** CLASS+MOOR<, **14** (R+ALDENTE+P)*, **15** CD, **17** L(OR+R)IES, **19** BUFF+A+LO, **21** GR(a)INS, **22** (g<>D)RILL, **24** bRIDGE.
Slot 6 CT. Across: 1 CD, **9** F+OWL, **10** P+ACE+SETTER (&lit), **11** DI'S+CO, **12** (REAL+POO+P)*, **13** (BEDROBE+IT)*, **15** A+SIS, **16** hidden, **17** PRO+BAT+I+ON, **21** anag, **22** DD, **24** ANNOy+DO+MINI, **25** mORALs, **26** (A NOBLE FEASTING)*. **Down: 2** IN+ORDER, **3** DD, **4** homoph "WHY POUT", **5** HUCKLEBERRY+FINN, **6** (IS TO) inside PaneL, **7** IN+SIT around (T+RAN), **8** homoph "geysers", **14** DD, CD, **16** homoph "WHY FRONTS", **18** BEeSTING, **19** E inside ORGAN + O, **20** FiEiDs On RoAd, **23** A+BOUT.
Slot 7 Crowsman. Across: 1 SEER< around PUT, **5** S + CRIMPS, **9** S + AUDI, **10** EX(OR)CISED, **11** SET around (PEAKING + TRUMP), **12** cd, **13** RAM + ROD, **15** IE around DIDO<, **16** SHADE* + HIP, **19** (RED + RAPE<) in FITMENTS, **20** EA(STERNE)R, **21** EVIAN<, **22** DEISTS around S(ect), **23** AS + SENT + S. **Down: 1** RESITS around S(everal), **2** PRUNE + SAND(PRISM)S, **3** THICK(HEADED)NESS, **4** S(TERN)WAY, **5** S(POT)TY, **6** (BEAR+CUTS)* + DO+MINIS, **7** (PAPER* + HEN) in MISSION, **8** TAD< in SEED, **14** ERR in (AIR + AT)<, **15** hidden<, **17** POSSES + S(tage), **18** S + PINES.

Thusword

If Quick crosswords are your thing, we're afraid that we can't satisfy you within these pages, but you may be interested in a new style of Quick available at Thusword.com. Thusword is a challenging spin on the classic crossword, adding an interactive element to test your vocabulary and wits as you make your way through the grid.
Instead of the entire puzzle, you are given just two clues to start with. Solving them rewards you with more of the puzzle until the whole is revealed. Answer. Thus. Word!
No disclaimers, but it has been promoted on our Facebook page and no negatives have been reported by members there: there appear to be no ads, or in-app purchase offers, just the puzzles. Easy and hard modes are available if you wish to give it a try.

General feedback for October

- Many thanks for last month's quiz prize. *Robyn Wimbush*
- The Results Page is much better in the full page format. Happy for you to keep it that way. *Mal Cockburn*

MEMBERS' RESULTS FOR OCTOBER 2026 SLOTS 1 to 7

MEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Abbott P.	•		•	•		•	
Allen W.	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Audrins K.	•	•	•	•	•		•
Axelsen U.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Barbour J.		•		•	•	•	
Barnes J.	•	•			•	•	
Batum C.	•	•	•	•		•	
Bennett D.	•	•	•	•	•		
Bennett Moses L.	•	•	•		•		
Bettles K.	•	•	•		•	•	•
Blake M.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Burrows K.	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Carroll L.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Cockburn M.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Colgan L.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Coote P.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Copland F.	•	•			•		
Cornish W.	•	•			•	•	
Cromer H.	•	•		•	•		
Crowe J.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Dasgupta K.		•	•	•	•	•	•
Davis K.	•	•	•		•	•	•
Dobele T.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Ducker R.	•	•		•	•		
Evans J.	•	•			•		•
Fitzgerald M.	•	•	•		•		•
Forward K.	•	•	•		•	•	•
Fowler J.	•	•	•				
Francis K.	•	•		•	•		
Gamble K.		•	•	•	•		•
Garner P.	•	•			•		•
Goodman S.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Grainger D.	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Graves C.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Hagan R.	•				•	•	•
Harper K.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Hearn R.		•	•		•	•	•
Hocking A.	•	•	•	•	•		
Horadam K.	•	•		•			
Howat S.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Jarman L.				•			
Jones G.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Kennedy L.	•	•	•	•	•		
Kennedy M.					•		

MEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Lankshear J.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Leigh J.	•	•	•		•		•
Madden J.	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Martin A.		•	•	•	•	•	•
Martin F.		•	•	•	•	•	•
Matthews S.	•	•		•			
McClelland C.	•	•		•			
McKenzie I.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
McKenzie R.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
McLean J.					•		•
McLeay T.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Meek D.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Miles A.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Millard A.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Milton R.	•	•		•	•	•	•
Moline R.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Parsons D.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Patterson A.	•	•	•	•	•		•
Peach S.	•	•					
Pinder S.	•						
Rosendorff D.	•	•	•		•	•	•
Roulston S.	•	•					
Ryan W.		•	•	•	•	•	
Sansom G.	•						
Shield A.	•	•	•		•	•	•
Siegman B.	•	•		•	•		•
Simpson F.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Skinner R.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Smith J.	•	•	•	•	•		
Steinberger M.	•	•					
Storti A.	•	•		•	•	•	•
Symons B.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Tarnow-Mordi R.	•						
Taylor R.	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Taylor S.	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Thomas C.	•	•			•	•	
Thompson I.	•	•	•	•	•		•
Vnuk M.			•	•	•	•	
Wilcox C.	•	•			•		
Williams K.	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Wimbush R.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Wood J.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Woolston M.	•	•	•		•	•	•
Yeatman R.		•	•		•		



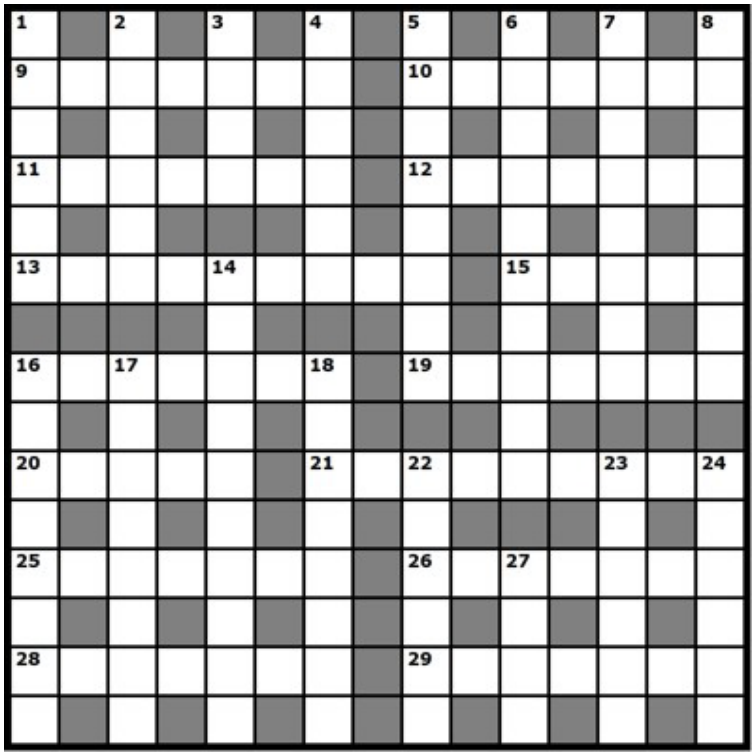
Forest Kingfisher

Slot 1

Half & Half
by
Valkyrie



Across clues are cryptic.
Down clues are normal 'quick' crossword style.



Across

9 A large support for study of numbers and letters (7)
10 Body attachment between Marquis and Viscount, love and live (7)
11 Put out second edition about offspring (7)
12 Sty or stye? (7)
13 Tag heads of spiders including insect by river (9)
15 Vehicle with very Eastern shape (5)
16 Unlimited scorn, sounds like road rot (7)
19 Lapdog departs messy room with a bone (7)
20 Short fair run! (3,2)
21 Symbol of Middle Eastern Republic, a variant of Franglais (5,4)
25 All round praise initially lauding our specialty shop (7)
26 Hotch-potch non-symmetry with no term for word of like intent (7)
28 Senior citizen regularly bowled before tea with priest (3,4)
29 Climactic articles about quiet, retrospective self-esteem (7)

Down

1 Sign of the Zodiac (6)
2 Becoming old (6)
3 Bird (4)
4 Creamy confection (6)
5 Clergyman (8)
6 Crucifix with arms of equal length (5,5)
7 Single sign standing for a word (8)
8 Most extreme (8)
14 Punctuation mark (10)
16 Publisher's emblem (8)
17 Clothing business (3,5)
18 Inscription on a building (8)
22 Sign language (6)
23 Greater distance (6)
24 A constellation (6)
27 Element (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
Tony Dobele; 10 Sharpe Street, Norman Gardens, Qld 4701

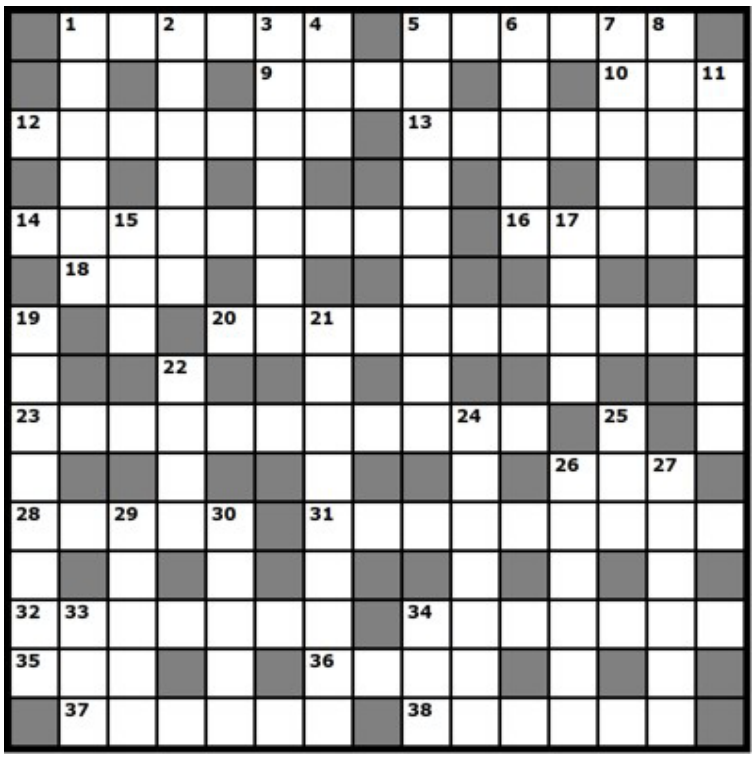
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Closing mail date for all puzzles is NOVEMBER 27, 2026.
ACCOLADE entries close at 00.01

Slot 2

Cryptic by Lexi Conner





Across

1 Retiring over mistake supplying alcoholic beverage (6)
5 Why cover most of disk with spirit? (6)
9 Senorita isn't upset, rejected by Sydney's local folk (4)
10 This man's greetings (3)
12 Prepared to get joint pain fixed by doctor (7)
13 Pressing moment (7)
14 Fruit from female factories? (9)
16 Heath emerged in the morning from the USA (5)
18 Consume skinned meats (3)
20 One reversed diagram in pen-produced shorthand (11)
23 Dork sits nervously outside meeting with utilitarians (11)
26 Toss incomplete part of an organ (3)
28 Organiser lost rain-bedevilled beasts (5)
31 Just like Dad to knock back sweetener for vegetable (9)
32 Sauce for a pie and a person who's made it (7)
34 Buries scattered bones including tibia and metatarsal primarily (7)
35 The spring that helps make Christmas parties (3)
36 Bob right away reveals a habit (4)
37 Mark on paper to put in top of the line tipple (6)
38 Bottle opener provided with hot drink (6)

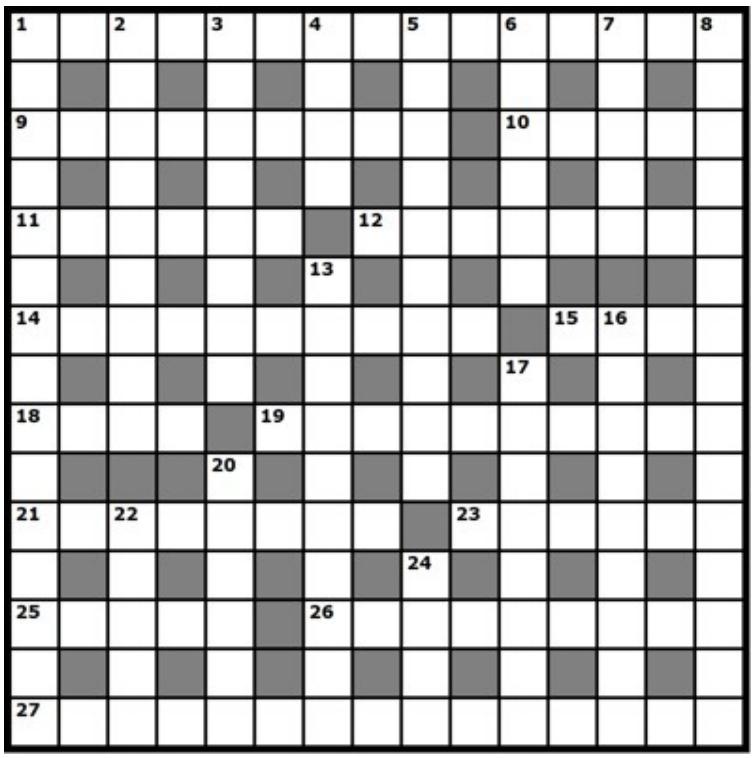
Down

1 Impose upon others with cake (6)
2 Expect constituents resolving to save (6)
3 Perform a second time among green activists (2-5)
4 Letter from Israel discarded at today's review (3)
5 Wood panelling exposes damaged icons in Buddhist temples (9)
6 Release the children! (5)
7 Drill called for device used to start vehicle (5)
8 Swagger off, braying about passive principle (3)
11 Control yourself, boyfriend anticipates working! (6,2)
15 Empty talk may be something wonderful! (3)
17 Way back or ahead to avoid middle section (4)
19 Fosters bears (8)
21 More open not to begin referring to outgoing individual (9)
22 Fever causes public relations fallout in European capital (4)
24 Footwear for an instructor (7)
25 38 can be tipped over extracted tooth (3)
26 The French continue to produce still water (6)
27 Lively toddler ably coping with a deficiency (6)
29 Country eliminated the urethral disorder (5)
30 Flight from a disturbing commotion (5)
33 Cap revised for 22-reducing medication (1,1,1)
34 Go out and return with a forsaken babe (3)

Slot 3

Cryptic by REW





Across

1 Carrying on luggage and mobile torch (10,5)
9 A secret merger on the run? (9)
10 Gossip craving thanks (5)
11 Lowest points burst drains (6)
12 A military unit of Team Reagan (8)
14 Rice proved messy and is a rip-off (10)
15 Tourist mecca back in Manila Bay (4)
18 Cost of principals telling odd little lies (4)
19 It saw a need for change. Show caution (4,3,3)
21 It's a breeze for Ely to take a disrupted rest (8)
23 Old US airline comes to a land (6)
25 Rosie swings willow (5)
26 Himalayan bird circles quickly, heralding impending seasonal rain (9)
27 Disregarded foods periodically offered by airlines (10,5)

Down

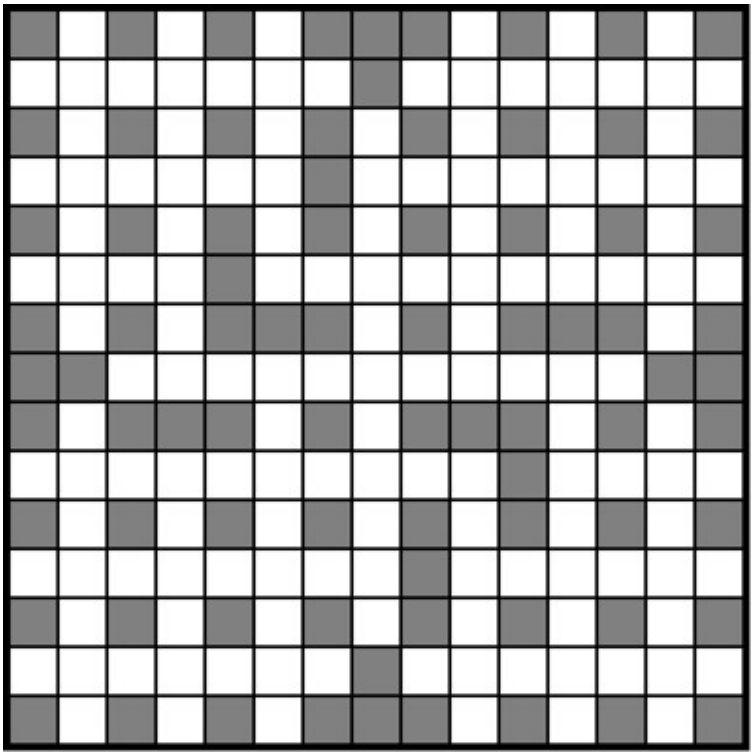
1 Over driver's limit? (3,3,2,3,4)
2 What poker players want is heaps? (1,4,4)
3 Lower penetrating gazes to find topical medicine (3,5)
4 Internet code is discovered when naked geek is captured by lieutenant (4)
5 In conclusion, manners may improve surfers' interactions (10)
6 Spooner announces 24 hour floral necklace for a pause in activity (3,3)
7 Missing Rex is someone doomed (5)
8 Exercise item unfortunately counters commuter information (5,10)
13 Wonder worker transforms manic realm (7,3)
16 Sailors ain't worried about returning teetotaller (9)
17 Snake? Quietly go (5,3)
20 We even fix radios! Eccentric? (6)
22 Mails small joints? (5)
24 Fussily dressed man lost power a singular time (4)

Slot 4

AJ by KA



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



A A scoundrel suppresses expression of surprise in hotel (8)

B American man at border with Scotsman is a gypsy (8)

C Scottish valley made conservative Caledonian laugh (6)

D Upset girl, putting sealant around instrument (11)

E Captivate final listener (6)

F Dismiss male stoker (7)

G Plenty for girl with money (6)

H Deformed lichees in the form of coils (7)

I Loafers not employed by Royal Society (6)

J Girl conceals injury in hybrid (7)

K Sheep has short drink in the middle of Sokuluk (7)

L American volume Ms Buttrose returned to the intelligentsia (8)

M Singer is angry at city with agenda (11)

N Unnecessary to annoy German soldiers (8)

O Revealed nothing to young fellow circling valley from below (6,2)

P River next to old city will flow (4)

Q Had a fast, that is to say hurried, drink (7)

R Airman in band is running (6)

S Soldier in religious ceremony on island (10)

T British tough guy perishes for bears (7)

U Pushtun civilization conceals something rude (7)

V Traveller is a very old hunter (7)

W Drunkenly, I renew call for alcohol storage space (4,6)

X Gull returned credit card (4)

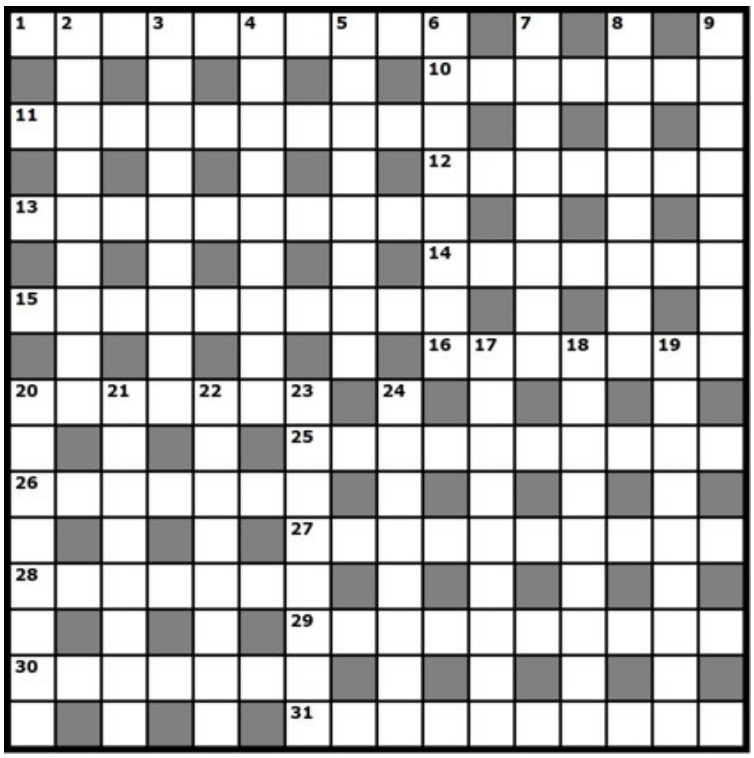
Y Poet ingests singular fungi (6)

Z Inventor's funny brother losing duck on turbulent Nile (8)

Slot 5

Cryptic by Helical Men



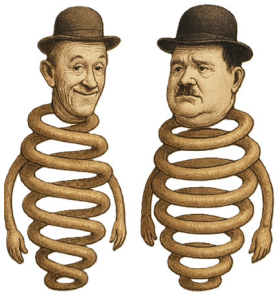


Across

1 Cascade engulfing main estuary. No worries! (5,5)
10 Firstly, adult learners acquire two degrees in this state (7)
11 Jewish leader imprisoning capital city pests (10)
12 Teaches the heads of secondary colleges how one overcomes lazy students (7)
13 Remove the rights from Enid's pulped publication (10)
14 Arrogant man raises disreputable girl (7)
15 Prevents bleeding for female organs in patients (10)
16 Jaguar, perhaps, eating a third of coatis in a locally adapted population (7)
20 Dirty storyteller is cut short in working group (7)
25 Unimportant person forgives retrospectively being put outside shopping centre (5-5)
26 Who is to blame when half of priory is overtaken by fanatical sect? (7)
27 At risk! No more taking in incense! (10)
28 Haircut sign (7)
29 Lunatic bares bottom in front of vehicle (10)
30 Missionary station consumed by booze (7)
31 Passing restricted test? Deprive of spirit! (10)

Down

2 Detest rocking me in a boat (9)
3 Set aside investigation held by clairvoyant (9)
4 Bury with a dark surrounding in the meanwhile (2,7)
5 Leaving a party, perhaps, after soy pasta is set out (8)
6 Stroke inclined to take advantage of rubber (8)
7 Scotsman with his little moustache evoking exaggerated manliness (8)
8 Loads carrying swine, a dark reddish-brown (8)
9 Place in class magazine (8)
17 Mark is Earth's first Republican person living permanently on the Moon, perhaps (9)
18 Hearing about that male doctor - more than two-faced! (9)
19 Dodgy creep sent in dodgy claims (9)
20 Type of driver to support Spanish make? (8)
21 Leave again and again, twice turning up for controversial doll (8)
22 Water engineer entering all worked up (8)
23 Highly regarded English horse carrying me (8)
24 Twice tie up the officers' mess (8)



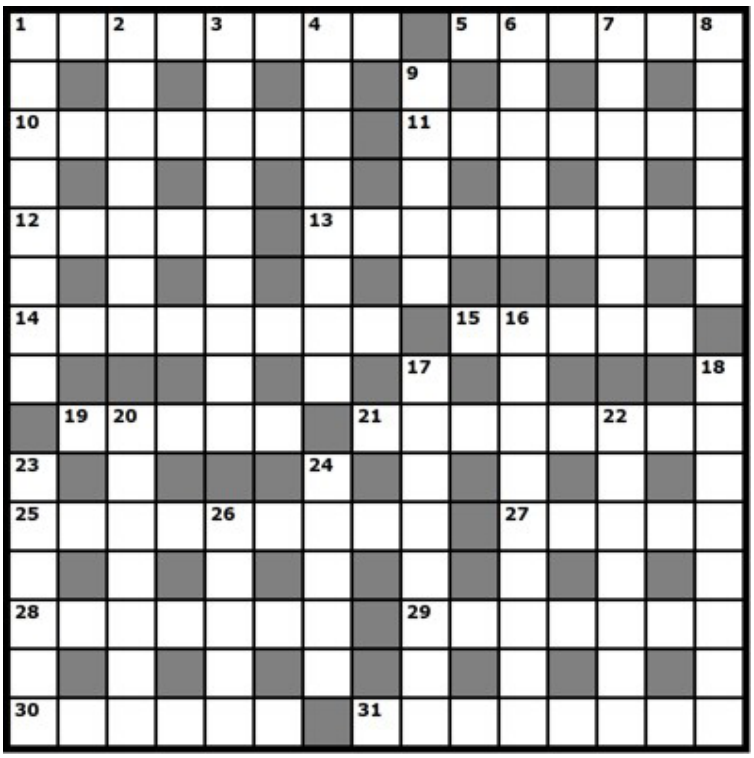
HELICAL MEN is a new pairing of Adelaideans Michael Vnuk and Len Colgan. Len and Michael's father Frank, who has recently celebrated his 100th birthday, were academics on the same campus for many years. The name HELICAL MEN is an anagram of the first names (MICHAEL + LEN)*.

Slot 6

Cryptic by Crowsman



Solvers may find that seven of nineteen consistent solutions are of relevance to this month's Quiz.



Across

1 Cheers with pitcher keeling over during stumble (8)
5 Lively type of music, turning into hit, going high (6)
10 Lists birds, omitting a duck (7)
11 Hispanics' country imprisoning revolutionary fool (7)
12 Extract whiskey with ease (5)
13 Stretchable bar from one's home has crack returning inside (9)
14 Backtracked conveyance turning over in a rush (8)
15 Native American duck pundit (5)
19 Defraud countrymen (5)
21 Touching badger's back, getting down outside (8)
25 Snoop around, taken in by costs for rings (9)
27 Fails to mention retracted bit in testimony (5)
28 Impact of bad reversal in law (7)
29 Tibetan religion providing escape outside old Asian country, heading west (7)
30 Scandinavian race welcomed inside upon returning (6)
31 Lopez taunt keeping Scandinavian around (8)

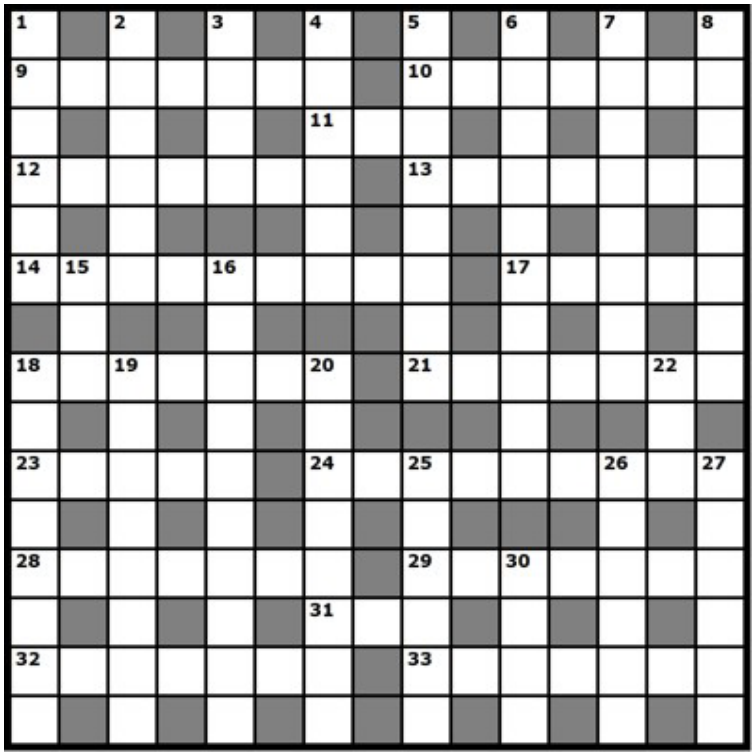
Down

1 Ex-president holding up one outstanding introduction (8)
2 Most daring break circled wood (7)
3 Grain deteriorates, drawing in high temperature (5,4)
4 Attended and told stories about catches lifted up (8)
6 It's raised in joke for this president! (5)
7 Telephoned about local turning up jogging (7)
8 Republic occupied by southern sycophants (3-3)
9 Run-away deer dodging one from colony (5)
16 Rampant Romans brought round trouble for mariner (6-3)
17 Break up hang-out, restricting rising casualty toll (8)
18 Steel industry pioneer bitter about botch-up (8)
20 One of Sophocles's characters with speech disorder, rising during long time (7)
22 Sheriff's officer upset wearing belt (7)
23 Propped vehicle up inside base (6)
24 Number three is out of order! (5)
26 Arrests slow mover, with head dropping completely (5)

Slot 7

Cryptic by The Mythtics





Across

9 Two *Jeune* filles may provide sweet, if mechanical, music (7)
10 He left a *Brew* of horsemeat - what a genius! (7)
11 28 reaction of punters who have not backed those found here? ... (3)
12 ... or joyful cry of those who have! (7)
13 Fool wearing guard lacking headpiece - perhaps a one-piece substitute for silks? (7)
14 *Toryboy* missing track but getting mark - is hot and liable to act up? (9)
17 Duke and *Silver Knight* conceal love for Philistine god (5)
18 Makes brutes remove tails of *Marabou* and *Chester* (7)
21 Horse *Artilleryman* may use this to create confusion round the start of race (7)
23 Triple *Trivalve* ending encloses male connector head for microphone controller (5)
24 Gives *Might and Power* to reorganised Greenies' Society (9)
28 Emotional *Statesman's* second gets a stern talking to (7)
29 Southern Christian arrests uncle - *The Grafter* (7)
31 Leaderless *Kiwi* village (3)
32 Examine regularly ear pain of old *Warrior* (7)
33 Asian centre of *Wotan* mixed up in revolutionary grab (7)

Down

1 Cup's lid lost! Stolen? It happens! (6)
2 Attractive-sounding, but unlikely to be pulled by any here present? (6)
3 Perhaps feed provided by *Comedy King* at *Comic Court* - we've heard it before! (4)
4 A saying all about *Bitali's* nose pieces – hot stuff! (6)
5 Weaves singular *Gold and Black* mesh into traps (8)
6 Scarlet fish incubates its young internally. Again inspiring a success (10)
7 Outsider – strong *Protectionist* for group (8)
8 *Subzero* might be an appropriate description for this meteorological phenomenon! (4,4)
15 Device to steer *Toparoa's* rear part? *Shocking*! (3)
16 In the open, by means of style, all Melbourne Cup winners do this! (10)
18,20 Evil resting-place confused *Very Elleegant* and *Tawrrific* perhaps (8,8)
19 Eastern Quarter of *Newhaven* is associated with church workers' entrances (8)
20 See 18
22 Old city supported by European *Banker* (3)
25 Sibyl is aesthetic, content to turn back *Without a Fight* (6)
26 Top score, short time, *Backwood* by the sounds of it (6)
27 *Efficient* translator blocks tune (6)
30 *Archer*, a violent criminal (4)

The blank grid for this puzzle is on page 2



Quiz 2026-11 4 reversed in 4 by Crowsman

Each 8-letter answer consists of a 4-letter word reversed in the centre of another 4-letter word, neither of which is connected logically to the answer. For example, DESPISAL is DE(SIPS<)AL while SIMULATE is SI(ALUM<)TE. Answers are in alphabetical order, although nine letters of the alphabet do not occur as initials. All answers would provide great clues for cryptic crossword compilers. Send your answers to Len Colgan preferably by email to Len.Colgan@bigpond.com or post to1 Ailsa Avenue, Warradale, SA 5046.

Closing mail date 27 November 2026

1 Sets in motion or turns on

2 Devotee

3 Large Australian ground-dwelling birds capable of flight

4 Secret identification expression used by the military

5 Morally and criminally leads astray

6 Thrown off course; thwarted

7 Taken aback with alarm

8 Riddance

9 Break down; break up

10 Honourably retired with a title

11 *Au revoir*

12 Preamble

13 Fine spider-threads

14 Thinks of very highly

15 ..... Lawrence

16 Paid attention

17 Hard candy

18 National Health Scheme

19 Be unable to find

20 Adequate

21 Sacks ruthlessly

22 Wretched

23 Backtracked

24 Expensive heavy dark-coloured cabinet-makers' timber

25 Pedestrian pavement

26 Abstain from booze

27 Measured the concentration of

28 Feudalistic servitude

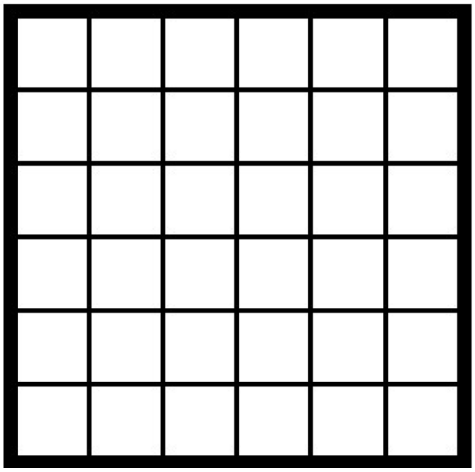
29 Small towns

30 Flourishing

FRAZ WORD SQUARE 6 - November 1

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

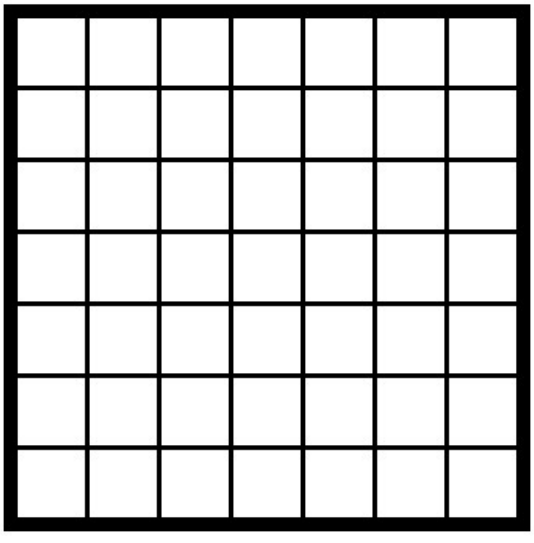
- Pass over muddy region
- Italy's Mr. Renzi at first discussing soldiers returning
- Leave carriage burning
- Put strain on small lock
- Chorus replacing one item with D, E-G-B, F#-A-C, etc.
- Fundamentals initially bothered Japanese shoemaker



FRAZ WORD SQUARE 7 - November 2

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

- Branching outward, welcoming conservative extremist
- Terrifying tweet about airport rental
- Holds up dead fishes
- Next to a European river, a desert
- Butter commercial before an Islamic fasting period
- Manatee, beginning with last spring
- Planetary colour ruined when sulfur's consumed (2 wds.)



Answers to Fraz Squares on page 13

Quiz 2026-10. It's not your business! by **Michael Vnuk.**
Entries: 28. Maximum score: 26.
Prizewinners: $50 Cheryl Wilcox; Calendar Richard Skinner. Congratulations!

Results: 26 W Allen, U Axelsen, J Barbour, K Forward, K Francis, K Harper, J Leigh, A Martin, R McKenzie, D Meek, A Millard, A Patterson, D Rosendorff, W Ryan, B Siegman, A Simons, R Skinner, A Storti, C Wilcox, R Wimbush, M Woolston, **25** H Cromer, F Martin, R Milton, S Roulston, **24** J Crowe, P Garner, **23** D Bennett.

Answers: (Bracketed material gives the rest of the famous person's name.)
A Bana's Bananas (Eric B), **B** Bobby's Bubblers (B Fischer), **C** Hitchcock's Choccies (Alfred H), **D** Dudley's Duds (D Moore), **E** Greene's Greens (Graham G), **F** Pfeiffer's Coffee (Michelle P), **G** George's Goggles (G Harrison), **H** Thatcher's Hashish (Margaret T), **I** Ingrid's Bikinis (I Bergman), **J** John's Jujubes (J Lennon), **K** Kokkinakis' Knickknacks (Thanasi K), **L** Lillee's Lollies (Dennis L), **M** Emma's Ammo (E Watson), **N** Lennon's Onions (John L), **O** Coco's Cookbooks (C Chanel), **P** Pippa's Poppies (P Middleton), **Q** Quinn's Quinces (Anthony Q), **R** Carrie's Carriers (C Fisher), **S** Sussan's Scissors (S Ley), **T** Tutu's Tatties (Desmond T), **U** Ursula's Tutus (U Andress), **V** Vivien's Valves (V Leigh), **W** Woodrow's Woodwinds (W Wilson), **X** Xenophon's Xylophones (Nick X), **Y** Yoko's Yo-Yos (Y Ono), **Z** Dizzy's Pizzas (D Gillespie)

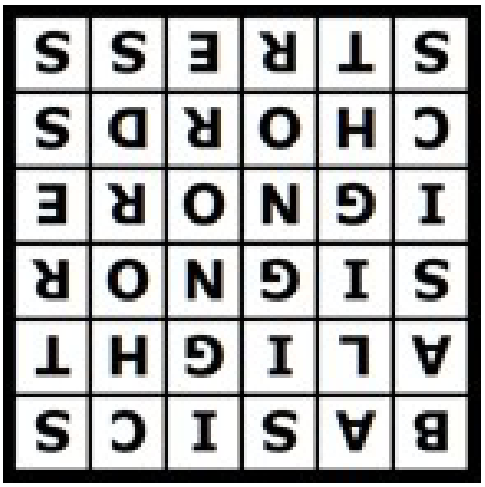
Setter's Observations
Although the examples had capitals, apostrophe Ss and plurals, I decided to mark leniently in this regard, as such features weren't essential. Similarly, for spelling, the intent and the correct number of specified letters was sufficient (eg for 'Vivien' I also took 'Vivian' and 'Vivienne').

For the 'leafy vegies', I was looking for 'greens' (as 'Greene's Greens' rolled off the tongue so well), but I did not think widely enough and I was pleased to also accept 'lettuces', 'endives', 'leeks' and 'celery', but not plain 'vegies'. Celery is not usually considered a leafy veg, but some sources said yes, and I've eaten the leaves in salads. Lennon could also sell 'fennels' as a bulb vegetable, while 'lollipops' could replace 'lollies' for Lillee. Some entries spotted Miriam Margolyes as an actress in the Harry Potter films, so that got a tick. I also accepted 'dum-dums' (various renderings) instead of 'ammo' for Emma (or Miriam), because 'dum-dum' can be a colloquial term for a variety of bullets.

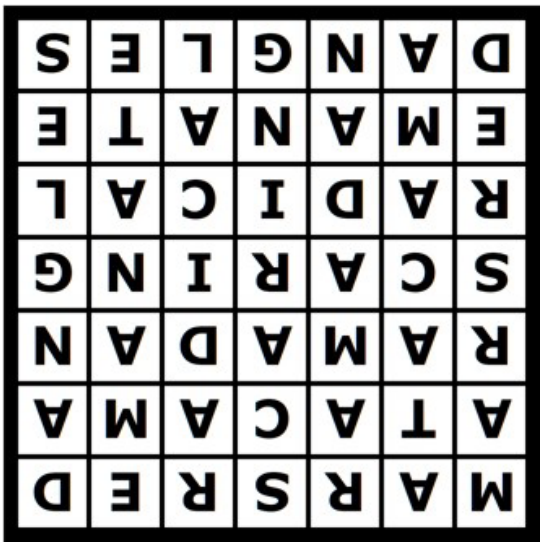
I toyed with having 'Tutu's Tutus' as an answer, but that was too, too much!

Solvers' Feedback
- Unique! *William Ryan*
- A fascinating quiz! Much more fun than the usual ones. *David Bennett*
- Thanks for a novelty quiz. Quite a lot of funny business going on there. *Betty Siegman*
- You sure do have some innovative ideas when it comes to the quiz, I'm really enjoying them. Business names sound so much better when both words start with the same letter. *Ulla Axelsen* [I avoided some alliteration so answers weren't as potentially guessable. *MV*]

FRAZ WORD SQUARE 6 - November 1 Solution



FRAZ WORD SQUARE 7 - November 2 Solution



- Different, thought provoking and fun. *Cheryl Wilcox*
- Thank you for another interesting challenge. *Julie Leigh*
- Oh what a delightful quiz! I read the instructions and thought: 'This is going to be tough.' But it just hit the spot with me and I had a ball and a really good laugh as I progressed through it. *Frank Martin*
- Thank you for your most intriguing quiz. As usual, I learned a lot along the way. *Robyn Wimbush*
- That was fun! Clear clues with a nice amount of consideration needed. *Andrew Patterson*
- This was a little different, but once I got the idea of it, it was fun. Thank you. *Sonia Roulston*
- Thanks for another interesting quiz! *Alan Storti*
- This was out of left field, but great fun. *Kath Harper*
- An interesting quiz. Thank you. *Ann Millard*
- This was a bit of fun. *Pat Garner*

GRIDATORIAL

Many thanks to those members who have already renewed their subscriptions for 2027. And a special thank you to those generous members who have made an additional donation to the prize fund, as noted in Member News. For convenience we have included a renewal form at the end of this issue but if your contact or other details have not changed there is no need to complete it or make a renewal application via ACCOLADE. Your deposit, with your name clearly shown on the deposit form, please, is all that we need under the streamlined process.

This month's issue is, as usual, crammed with goodies to exercise your brain and, according to many authorities, help to ward off Alzheimer's. Valkyrie entertains us with one of her classic half and half puzzles as a warm-up in slot 1 while Lexi Conner provides one of his more conventional cryptics in slot 2. Slot 3 features the third puzzle by the REW consortium, which will be sure to please as it provides its challenges. KA once again has consulted every corner of his dictionary to bring you the ever-popular AJ. We are delighted to welcome in slot 5 a compiler of crosswords whose work has not been seen for a considerable time. While he will be recognisable to puzzlers as an inventive quizmaster, his teaming with one of our more venerable members as one of the Helical Men will provide you with a most satisfying solving experience.

Speaking of that venerable member, Crowsman has devised a most ingenious slot 6 puzzle with one of his scholarly quizzes and encourages members to have a go at both for a most rewarding experience. The Mythtics have not forgotten the date and have visited some old stables to bring you a rather different slot 7 puzzle, which they hope will provide pleasure and enjoyment while you ponder what else you could have done with your "investment". That said, good luck to all who venture. The new Clue-writing Competition will be ably overseen by Ian McKenzie, who invites you to set a clue for BROADSIDE – a word offering much promise.

Our thanks to all our hard-working team who bring you this edition of CrOZworld and keep our Club going, not least of all to the compilers of our puzzles and quiz and to our adjudicators, especially Drew Meek, whose expert summary of your clues to CATACOMB in the September competition and of your efforts in slots 1 to 7 in October are well worth close study. Our grateful thanks to Rebel Warren for once again making her superb calendars available to lucky members.

Happy puzzling through November to all our members. **Ian**



NOVEMBER CLUE-WRITING COMPETITION

All members are invited to submit a clue for **BROADSIDE (9)**; Please submit your clue (one per member, please), together with the explanation, to Ian McKenzie by email to ianmalcolmmckenzie@outlook.com or post it to 47 Ronald Avenue Greenwich NSW 2065**.**

Closing mail date 11 December 2026.

Find us on Facebook



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 hyperlink**

MEMBER NEWS

New Member: We extend an enthusiastic welcome to Khani Burrows. We are sure that you will enjoy your membership and we look forward to your contributions.

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 devising 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 support. We also have some interesting grids available if you are hesitant about creating your own. Email Ian for more detail and some helpful information. We would also welcome new quizzes from members to refill our dwindling stock. The last appeal fell on deaf ears but we'd be very pleased to receive some fresh ideas.

New adjudicators and editors will be welcomed with open arms – we rely on our volunteers and can't have too many to be able to call upon.

Donations to the Prize Fund - Our sincere thanks to those members who have donated to the prize fund since the last issue, including Warren Allen, Claire Batum, Keith Bettles, Kahni Burrows, Ken Davis, Cheryl Gleeson, Kath Harper, Roger Hearn, Sam Howat, Ann Millard, Steve Peach, Sonia Roulston, Alison Shield, Sally Shipway, Anne Simons, Kate Williams, Robyn Wimbush. Donations are most welcome and help to stave off reductions in prizes or increases in subscriptions.

Subscriptions in credit: Jenny is emailing members who hold credit towards future subscriptions, to avoid such members paying twice for their 2027 membership. Also, please contact Jenny if you wish any future prize to be set against a future subscription. With the disappearance of cheques in the not-too-distant future you may find this useful.

Macquarie Dictionary and Thesaurus: The Executive Committee is pleased to confirm that members' free online access to Macquarie will be available throughout 2027, adding significant value to your subscription. We will refresh the access code in the new year.

October 1: NanaKat (Kathryn Forward)

- Enjoyable. *Fay Copland*
- Some great clues. Really liked RUMP and ALLOWS. *Scott Goodman*
- Loved it, tku Nanakat. *Christopher Thomas*
- Thanks for the fun. My family just had a big discussion about the pronunciation of OREO. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Who knew a good was a chattel? *Robyn Wimbush*
- Fav clue: Suspension device initially lacking permits, ALLOWS. *Guy Sansom*
- 28dn had a lovely surface and was the highlight for me, and 29ac was my 'today I learned' moment (I knew the word, but only from the magazine). *Michael Fitzgerald*
- Thank you NanaKat for a very enjoyable puzzle. *Laurence Kennedy*
- Half and half is always an interesting challenge. *Jean Evans*

NanaKat writes: *"Thanks to those who left a comment. I was pleased (relieved) that the puzzle attracted only a few errors, and that those errors seem to have resulted from typos rather than dodgy clues! I enjoy compiling the half-and-half style of puzzle and encourage anyone who wants to try compiling to have a go."*

October 2: T-boy (Toby McLeay)

- I liked 19ac OPUS - so simple! A fun puzzle. *Ann Millard*
- Still puzzled by 1dn, 4dn and 7dn. 5dn was a beauty. *Rick Yeatman*
- This required a lot of thought. I'm a bit worried about OVAL for 4dn. *Roy Taylor*
- Some clever clues, thanks. *Scott Goodman*
- Classy puzzle, loved it, tku Tboy. *Christopher Thomas*
- Thanks for an enjoyable solve. Took ages to work out the word play for 1dn until I realised 'Oxford don' referred to Spooner. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Liked BOILERSUIT. Struggled to justify OVAL (assuming I'm right) but I found VAL as a well-known rose garden. *Mal Cockburn*
- Roget was my Bible once. So long ago... *Robyn Wimbush*
- Took a while to parse 4dn! Eventually discovered Roseraie du Val-de Marne which is, I assume, the reference in the clue. *Richard Skinner*
- Struggled to parse CHICKPEAS and OVAL, an enjoyable grid otherwise. *Krittibas Dasgupta*
- I had fun with this one! Kathryn Forward
- Lots of great clues. Loved LEGS OF LAMB and CATEGORY. Hilary Cromer
- Some very interesting clues. Really liked EVER and COCKSCOMB *Jean Evans*

T-boy writes: *"I see that OVAL gave a lot of trouble.. The references were to OVAL as the famous English cricket ground, and the Office the US Oval office which opens onto the Rose Garden. My personal favourites were FRANK and LEGS OF LAMB. No bananas but I'm glad that many enjoyed it."*

October 3: Ninian (Scott Goodman)

- Nice puzzle with lots of clever misdirections. PARTY LINE my favourite. *Ian McKenzie*
- Thoroughly enjoyed, my favourites being 12ac, 17ac, 27ac and 4dn. A little perplexed by the definition in 19dn. *Michael Fitzgerald*
- I appreciated 9dn, giving it COTM. However, I disapprove of three consecutive unchecked letters in the grid, as well as 'in-sure'. Also, 'Male' unquestionably must be 'Male, for example'. *Len Colgan*
- Nice puzzle, struggled to parse "Lam" - no idea on that. *Christopher Thomas*
- Lovely puzzle, as always. Not sure if I parsed it correctly but 17dn, 99= xcic, not ic? 24ac thinking the wordplay = ambivalent, the definition suggests "indifferent" - ambivalent means "on the fence, seeing both sides". *Christopher Thomas*
- Very difficult but rewarding. *Brian Symons*
- That had some tricky cluing. *Ulla Axelsen*
- SURREAL involved some clever parsing. I liked PLUMBER and LAM had me scratching me noggin' for a while. *Mal Cockburn*
- I liked DRAW, INVERSE, NASCENT and PERSONALITIES. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Lots of really enjoyable clues, I particularly liked ELUCIDATE. *Ken Francis*
- I liked the clue for PARTY LINE! *Robyn McKenzie*
- Challenging. *Rick Yeatman*
- 7dn fooled me until I realised it was currency not city! *Toby McLeay*
- Like the clues for PLUMBER and INTERNET. *Hilary Cromer*

Ninian writes*: "I am grateful for all the comments received on my puzzle, many thanks. I concede that IC is not a fair representation of 99 - that was part of the learning curve for me. I am again interested to see how reasonable minds differ - including how clues of mine that I thought were average attract more praise sometimes than the clues I thought were my better ones! I hope to return in the new year - in the meantime, Merry Christmas to all.*

October 4: Crowsman (Len Colgan)

- Interesting to solve an anagram-free grid for a change! *Krittibas Dasgupta*
- Just right in difficulty and excellence of clues. *Roy Taylor*
- Lovely puzzle, cheers Len. *Christopher Thomas*
- Wonderful, no anagrams makes the AJ harder, loved EIGHT. *Brian Symons*
- A fun solve, took ages to work out word play of Z but I got there. Not sure what Crowsman has against anagrams. *Ulla Axelsen*
- YIPPEES & EIGHT are standout clues. Didn't miss the anagrams at all. *Mal Cockburn*
- Classic Len clue construction. *Richard Skinner*
- OUNCE - a crossword favourite. Loved YIPPEES. Thanks Len. *Robyn Wimbush*
- A demonstration of all the non-anagram options for cryptic clueing. *Kath Harper*
- Well done for omitting any anagrams! *Robyn McKenzie*
- What a teaser! Tough but cleverly put together. *Stephen Matthews*
- Very nice! Enjoyed this one tremendously! *Kahni Burrows*
- Great AJ. Favourite clues COCKROACH, EIGHT and SEAMER. *Joan Smith*
- The Y answer could be YIPPEES or YIPPIES. *Hilary Cromer*
- Great clues. Loved JAMBOREES and FOR REAl and URINE. *Jean Evans*

Crowsman writes: *"Knowing that finding creative clues for answers beginning with Q,X,Y is not easy, the main objective for this puzzle was to fit into*

Continued on Page 16

MEMBERS' FEEDBACK Continued from Page 15

the grid QUEBECKER, XANTHOMAS and YIPPEES, all available from my notebook. It is interesting to see that no comments were received regarding the first two clues, each of which I personally like a lot, but YIPPEES proved to be a disaster with so many YIPPIES being submitted instead. YIPPIES has a very different definition, while the correct parsing explanation uses 'number one = PEE (urine)' inside 'putting problems = YIPS' from golf, an intended mislead of 'putting'. Seeing some puzzles over-stacked with anagrams, I wanted a challenge to avoid any in this AJ puzzle."

October 5: Manveru (Michael Kennedy)

- 22dn DRILL Not obvious to me how the wordplay clues the "R". *Ian McKenzie*
- I found this to be very challenging. Lots of great clues though. 10ac LEISURE and 6dn JUICE nearly defeated me. Thank you. *Ann Millard*
- Biblical figures were tricky but fair. *Rick Yeatman*
- Excellent as usual, loved JUICE. Hard to go wrong with both JESUS and MOSES present. *Brian Symons*
- Couple of only minor mental breakdowns caused by upper right quadrant. *Roy Taylor*
- A good solve. Just that week I had told my grandson a joke about a thief, a parrot, Moses and Jesus. https://www.reddit.com/r/Jokes/comments/zkbzj6/a_burglar_breaks_into_a_house_he_begins_to_search/?rdt=47913 *Ulla Axelsen*
- Liked OPINION, JUICE & VISIT. A most enjoyable puzzle – thanks, Manveru. *Mal Cockburn*
- BATMAN had me a bit stumped for a while! *John McLean*
- Some clever misdirection caused a bit of head-scratching! Particularly liked 9dn! Kathryn Forward
- Enjoyable. Fay Copland
- Loved SQUEEZE for COTM (right into chess.com at the m), also VISIT and JESUS. Toby McLeay
- Enjoyable puzzle with great clues, my favourites were CLASSROOM and VISIT. Joan Smith
- Clue for SYLLABLES was clever. Hilary Cromer
- Lots of interesting clues. Particularly liked BUFFALO and JESUS. Jean Evans

Manveru is overseas

October 6: CT (Chris Thomas)

- 22a STAGE or STAKE? STAGE is a synonym for "level", STAKE for "deposit". I've opted for STAGE as a better synonym for "deposit" than STAKE is for "level". STAGE means "place or deposit temporarily" e.g. in: The equipment was staged at the construction site. *Ian McKenzie*
- So many wonderful clues such as WINDOW SHOPPING, YEAR and ANNO DOMINI. *Brian Symons*
- Lot of clever clues. ANNO DOMINI took some solving, gave it COTM. *Roy Taylor*
- Really liked ORIGANO and ANNO DOMINI (COTM). *Scott Goodman*
- Took a while to work out some of the definitions, and some I really still don't get. An enjoyable challenge all the same. *Ulla Axelsen*
- A tricky puzzle with clever clues. I liked ANNO DOMINI. I put SCALE for 22ac as Chambers thesaurus supports the double definition. *Mal Cockburn*
- ORTHOEPY! Who knew? A very worthy slot 6. *Richard Skinner*
- ORTHOEPY is a new word for me. Much fun, thanks Len. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Y fronts and window shopping made me smile, thank you. *Ken Francis*
- A good challenge! *Kathryn Forward*
- Lots of clever clues that made me laugh when I eventually got them! Robyn McKenzie
- Liked BRIDE-TO-BE. Probably won't ever see ORTHOEPY again! *Toby McLeay*
- *Most enjoyable, brought a smile to my face. Fay Copland*
- I struggled with 9Across. *Hilary Cromer*
- Bunged in an answer for 22A as none of the possibilities I had in mind seemed satisfactory. But thought this was a terrific puzzle. I generally dislike cryptic definitions but was so tickled by 1A that I've picked it as my COTM. *Michael Fitzgerald*
- Some really fun clues such as Y FRONTS and LOO PAPER and ORTHOEPY was a new word for me,. *Jean Evans*

October 7: Crowsman (Len Colgan)

- I'm still wondering about 2dn. PLUMES AND CRESTS fits, but is it right? *Michael Vnuk*
- Very satisfying to finish. It would have taken less time without my 3dn and fewer 7dns. I guess 12ac is SPACE BAR. *Roy Taylor*
- Some great clues. Feeling sad as having finished Slot 7 already, it is a long wait for the next Croz. *Ann Millard*
- That was a great challenge with a few unusual words to add interest. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Gosh! Some tricky clues found here. PRUNES AND PRISMS was a journey, and I'm not quite sure where the beach comes into the answer [*PruneS ANDprismS - Ed*]. The hard puzzles are the most enjoyable to get out. Thanks, Len. *Mal Cockburn*
- What's not to like?! 'Prunes and prisms' is a new one for me. *Kathryn Forward*
- All those books I've read and I've not remembered or heard the prunes and prisms phrase. I read Little Women (who knew?) a long, long time ago so I hope that explains it. Well done Len. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Many well-constructed clues. Good challenge. *Keith Bettles*
- I thought the spacebar clue was very clever! Robyn McKenzie
- RECTUS ABDOMINIS proved quite a challenge. Jean Evans

Crowsman writes: "Two of my favourite clues for SPEAKING TRUMPET *and FIRE DEPARTMENTS, waiting in my notebook, were overdue for an appearance, and so I needed four more fifteen letter answers to fit this particular grid. Tragically, PRUNES AND PRISMS resulted in a plethora of dots being lost with 'PLUMES AND CRESTS' being submitted. That answer certainly has a meaning and perhaps alludes to the definition 'superficial refinement', but it does not match the wordplay. The Dickensian PRUNES AND PRISMS is in Chambers and is parsed by 'cut = PRUNE', 'quartz, for example = PRISM' inside 'beach = SANDS'. It is pleasing that the clue for SPACE BAR was so popular, but I must personally agree with Kathryn's preference for SPEAKING TRUMPET***."**

Clue-writing Competition September 2026
adjudicated by Drew Meek

This challenge was to write a clue for CATACOMB. Thanks to all the members who submitted entries. Macquarie gives the broadest definition as 1. *(usually plural) an underground cemetery, especially one consisting of tunnels and rooms with recesses dug out for coffins and tombs*. Chambers gives a definition harking back to what was possibly the first use of the word in burial place sense *A subterranean excavation used as a burial-place, especially near Rome, where many of the early Christian victims of persecution were buried*. All the submitted entries used this sense of the word as the definition. Macquarie also indicates catacomb as 2. *any series of underground tunnels and caves*. Chambers second definition is *Any place built with crypt-like recesses for storing books, wine, etc*. None of the submitted entries used this type of definition.

The winner is Robyn McKenzie with: **Criminal Assessment Team starts a search for burial place.** Congratulations Robyn!

Further comment below . The seven entries are in alphabetical order. The definition is *italicised.*

About time! Tacoma Narrows Bridge's opening... and *ending in the depths*? ***1/2
One category of cryptic crossword clue is the CD (cryptic definition). In pure CD clues there is not separate definition and wordplay. The entire clue is one single definition, worded in a misleading way and you need to use some "out-of-the-box" reasoning to solve it. A variant is a double definition type clue where one definition is straightforward but the second definition is cryptic. This composer went for less common style with a single cryptic definition {*ending in the depths?*} as subterranean burial place but then used charade type clue for the wordplay to come to the answer : CA (about) + T (time) + tACOMa (with "Narrows" indicating the removal of first and last letters)+B (opening letter of bridge). Surface reading (SR) was good suggesting a long awaited bridge opening that then collapsed, even if one (including me) didn't previously know the history of the 1940s Tacoma Narrows bridge collapse (info in Wikipedia for those interested).

An ancient reality check about a terrible combat **
The wordplay for the secinds is fine: C (about)+ A + terrible (anagrind) COMBAT and the overall SR is good. However, I struggled to see how the definition part worked "an ancient reality check" for CATACOMB. Chambers indicates a reality check to be "A reminder of the true as opposed to the imagined state of affairs" while Macquarie indicates " any event which causes one's expectations, beliefs, etc., to more closely reflect actual circumstances " . So perhaps the definition used reflects some musing by the setter about death and resurrection.

Criminal Assessment Team starts a search for *burial place*. **
This clue has a concise structure with a charade for wordplay and a definition. It has excellent SR. CAT comes from the first letters (starts) of the police unit +A + COMB (search). Sometimes simple is best and this was the winning entry chosen.

Crypt*ically i see, i hear, friend missing pussy. A groomer? *
This setter chose an unusual clue structure and the surface reading was not up to the same standard as the other entries. There is the usual secinds to construct the word. CAT (pussy) + A + COMB (groomer?). While comb as a verb is synonymous with groom, the more common sense of groomer is the person doing the grooming, hence the ? For the definition, rather than a direct definition or an oblique definition as found in CD clues, the setter asks the solver to manipulate another word to arrive at the definition. From the word CRYPTically, "missing" is used to indicate the subtraction of letters : IC (I see, I hear) and ALLY (friend) to provide the part of the word that is the definition. I think this breaks Ximenean convention and so reduced my scoring but perhaps others may find this acceptable.

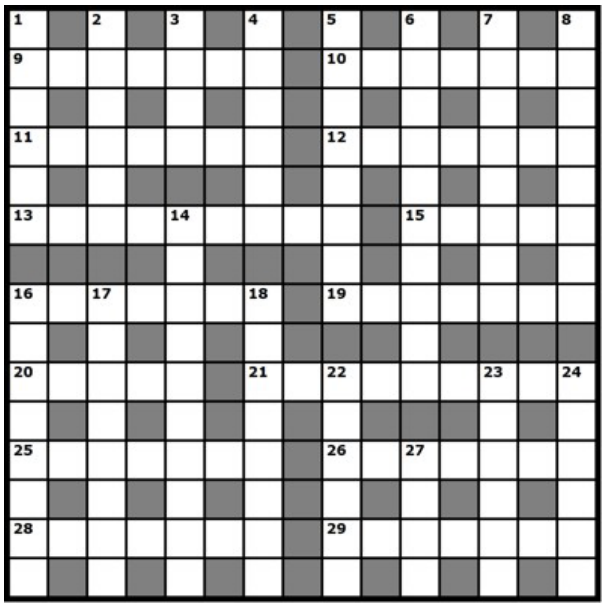
Pejorative catchphrase about Trump found in Cambridge *crypt* *
The answer is constructed from CA(TACO)MB, with CAMB as an abbreviation for Cambridge. There are so many pejorative names or phrases for Trump such as the Commander-in-thief, Mar-a-Lardo, Greedy McGolfy, Donald Duck the Draft and The Not-So-Great Pumpkin. However these don't easily reduce to a series of letters to insert in the word. The phrase required that is associated with Trump is "Trump always chickens out" (TACO). Not easy to go forward from that part of the clue to the answer but with the definition and indicated surrounding letters, a solver who keeps abreast of social media could find justification for the inner letters to be inserted.

Vocal Qld MP to search for *resting place* *
Another clue requiring the solver to be aware of politics, this time Australian. The Qld MP is Bob Katter with "vocal" indicating a homophone > CATA. I liked the SR of this part of the clue since Katter can also certainly be described as a vocal Qld MP. COMB (search) is then added to construct the answer to the definition.

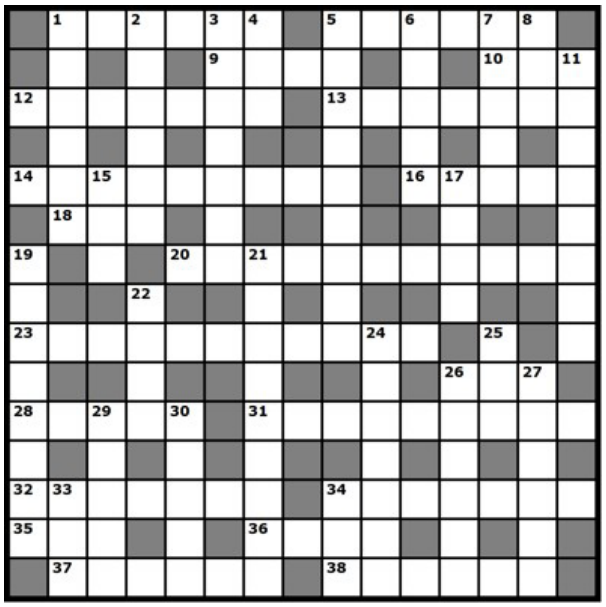
When last guardian leaves, mob can act - vandalizing *cemetery*! *
I liked the surface reading of this clue. This setter went for a reductive anagram clue. The solver needs to remove N (last guardian) and then rearrange MOBCAnAACT to reach the answer.

Slot 1

Name .....

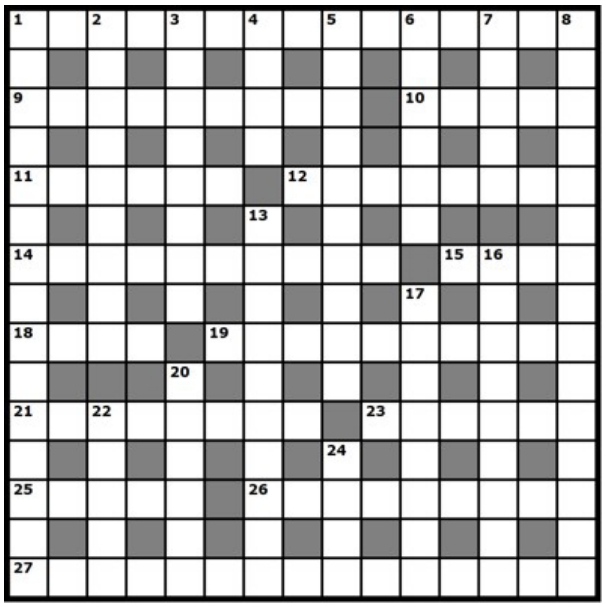


Slot 2

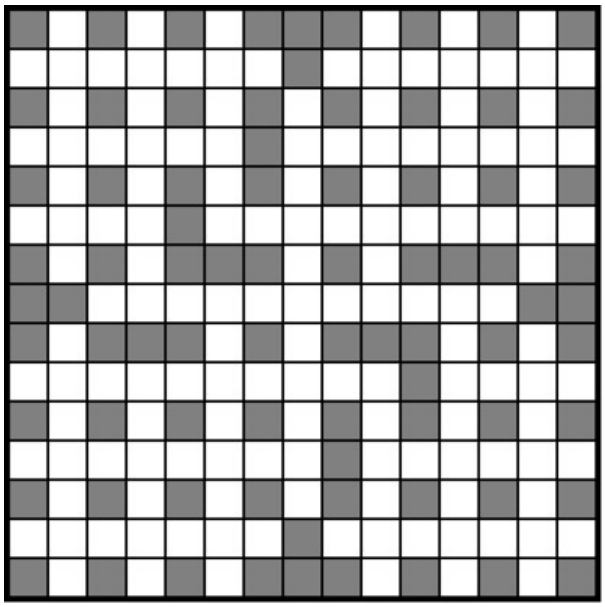


Clue of the Month .....

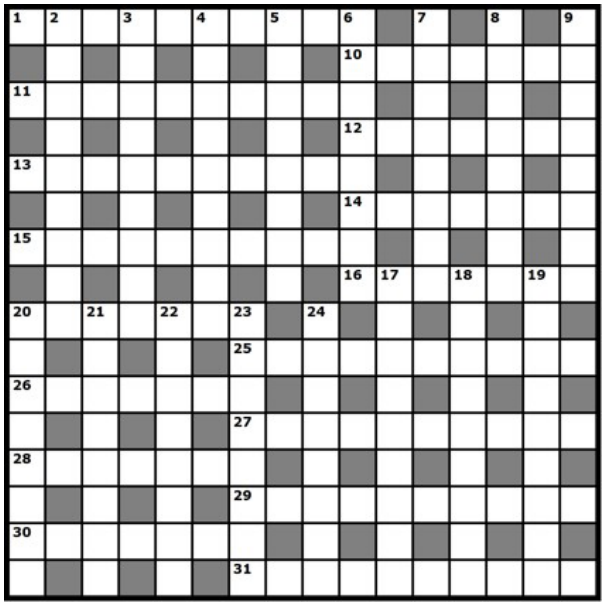
Slot 3



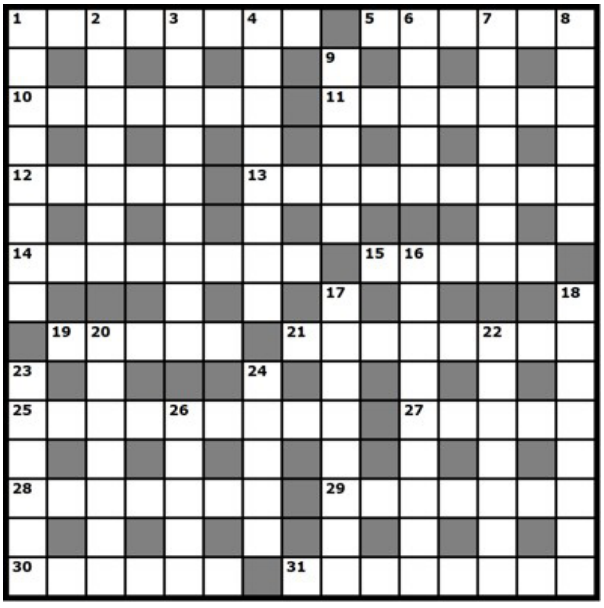
Slot 4



Slot 5



Slot 6



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Donations to the ACC Prize Fund
The Executive Committee has set the membership fee and prizes at a level that should ensure that we remain solvent throughout 2027 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. Note that cheques are being phased out by all banks and will not be an option in the future. Many members are finding that commuting their prizes to future subscriptions is a convenient option: just contact the Secretary at jenny@wenham.net.au if you wish to arrange it. Please send cheques/money orders to Jenny Wenham, 48 Shakespeare Street, Comet Qld 4702 with the form above. If you are having difficulty paying by any of the available methods, please contact Jenny to arrange payment by an alternative method.
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Here's looking forward to a great new year of CrOZworld!
The Executive Committee