



No 402 October 2023



www.crosswordclub.org



Preach not because you have to say something, but
because you have something to say. Richard Whately,
Apophthegms, 1854

GRIDATORIAL

A veritable feast of puzzles is presented for your delectation this month. Valkyrie leads off with one of her typically stylish half and half puzzles (in which the apparent absence of 17-across is intentional). Leprechaun provides food for thought in slot 2 in his normal polished manner and T-boy brings his familiar witty approach to the clues in slot 3. St Jude makes a welcome return with one of his ever-popular alphabetical jigsaws and Robespierre applies his revolutionary wiles in the clues to slot 5. Crowsman presents a pair of puzzles this month which require you to solve slot 6 to acquire the necessary information to tackle his elegant slot 7.

Fortuna 48, clearly inspired by the surroundings of her new accommodation, has devised a cryptically themed quiz which we hope will appeal to, and be enjoyed by, all members, not only by those whose sense of the ridiculous is satisfied by chasing a little white ball round a countryside containing inadequately-sized destinations.

It was pleasing to see the high success rates, 80 and 90 percent for four of September's slots 1 to 5; even slots 6 and 7 were solved successfully by 80 or so percent of the entrants. Are our members becoming more skilled, or are the puzzles becoming too easy?

The format of this magazine has been heavily influenced by the restrictions imposed by the former printed presentation and the submission of puzzles by mail. We would welcome any suggestions by members for any changes that could make the magazine more accessible and readable. **Ian**

FROM THE ADJUDICATOR

I was in the position of being able to see both the answers and the comments this month, and most members seemed happy with the lot on offer. Many favorable comments, and relatively few errors; most of them were avoidable with a little more careful checking.

Slot 1: A number of apparent spelling mistakes, REMAINNNG, BOXOM, ITCINESSS; where was the Accolade spell checker? 21dn, INERT, caused a few comments, 'odd' REGRET? RGE? Surely not?

Slot 2: Real Estate talk, DES RES, caught a few, with RES DES and BES RES being offered. TOES (TOGS), EDRESS (EGRESS), CATHIP, were others. Members not happy with 6-down as the clue indicates a plural answer, not singular.

Slot 3: Very favorable comments on this puzzle from Rob Moline. 5dn, QUIT, caught a few, JUST, CURT and OUST did not fit the clue, QUIT(E). Otherwise, not many errors here.

Slot 4: FRATERNIZED was not acceptable as the clue calls for anagram of DISHEARTENED, minus HATED. JUKEBOK, METEDUT, should have been spotted in Spell Checker. Otherwise, very few errors.

Slot 5: Most members enjoyed this one, and were quick to spot that all the down answers began with OVER. Otherwise there were very few errors.

COTM: There were 39 nominations for clues in all puzzles, 15 of them from slot 3, but by a narrow margin, CITY CENTRE scooped the pool with four votes. A beautiful clue, short and succinct. Congratulations Rob.

Betty Siegman

LEADING FIGURES

Puzzle No.	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Entries received	92	92	85	84	78	431
Correct entries	84	82	52	78	66	362
Success rate (%)	91	89	61	83	85	84
Prizewinners	Greg Jones	Margaret Steinberg	Richard Skinner	Julie Leigh	Judy Ferguson	from 97 members

Prizewinner: September Slots 1-5 correct: Tony Dobe. Congratulations!

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September 2023 Slot 1

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

September 2023 Slot 2

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

September 2023 Slot 3

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

August 2023 Slot 6

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

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

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

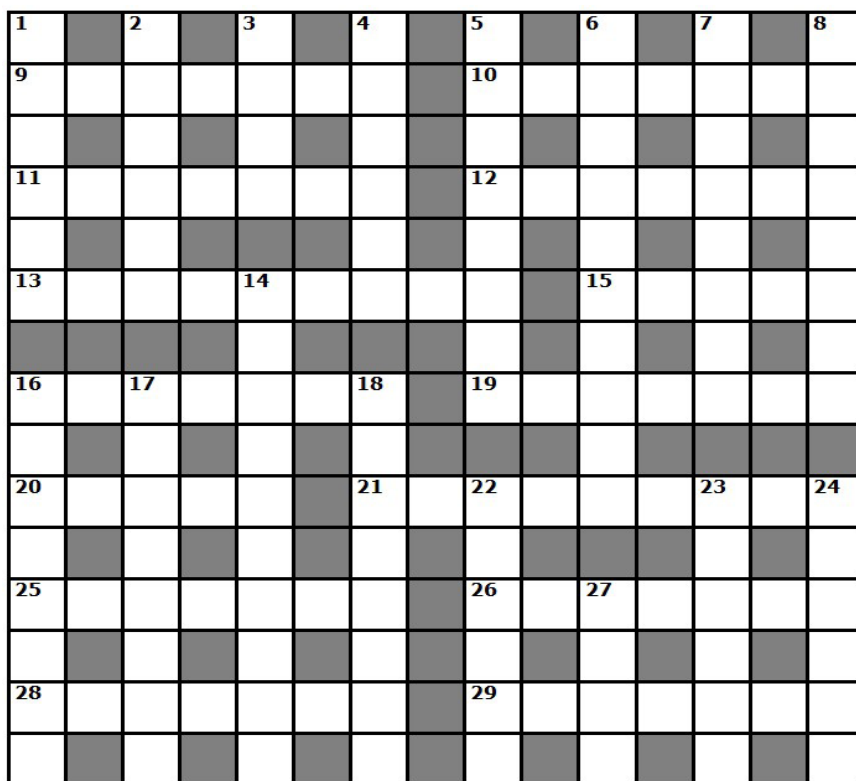
MEMBERS' RESULTS FOR October 2023 Slots 1 to 7

MEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	MEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	MEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Abbott P.	•	•		•		•		Gamble K.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Patterson A.	•	•		•	•		•
Allen W.		•	•	•		•		Garner P.	•	•		•	•	•	•	Peach S.	•	•	•				•
Anderson C.	•	•		•	•	•		Glissan B.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Pinder S.	•	•	•	•	•		
Audrins K.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Grainger D.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Procter D.	•	•	•	•			•
Axelsen U.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Hagan R.	•	•		•	•			Procter M.	•	•		•			
Barbour J.	•	•		•	•			Harper K.	•	•	•	•	•	•		Pyc M.	•	•		•	•		
Barnes J.	•	•	•	•	•			Hearn R.	•	•		•	•	•		Randall J.		•		•	•		
Batum C.	•	•	•	•	•	•		Hemsley D.		•		•				Rosendorff D.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Bennett D.	•			•	•			Heyes N.	•			•				Roulston S.	•	•	•		•	•	
Bettles K.	•		•					Howat S.	•	•				•	•	Ryan W.	•	•		•	•	•	•
Blake M.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Jarman L.	•	•		•	•			Shield A.	•	•		•		•	
Bradbury W.		•						Jarman R.	•	•		•				Shipway S.		•		•			
Carroll L.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Jones G.	•	•		•	•	•		Siegman B.	•	•	•	•	•		
Cockburn B.	•			•	•		•	Kennedy L.	•	•		•	•			Simons A.	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Cockburn M.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Lankshear J.	•	•	•	•	•			Simpson F.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Colgan L.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Leigh J.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Skinner R.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Cootie P.	•	•		•	•	•	•	Lloyd G.	•							Smith J.		•		•			
Cornish W.	•		•	•	•		•	Mackay-Sim C.	•			•	•			Steinberger M.	•	•					
Coulton L.	•	•						Madden J.	•	•	•	•	•			Storey N.	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Cromer H.	•	•	•	•	•			Martin A.	•	•	•	•	•	•		Symons B.	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Crowe J.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Martin F.		•	•	•	•	•		Taylor R.	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Davis K.	•	•	•	•	•		•	Mason I.	•		•	•				Taylor S.			•				
Dennis M.	•							McClelland C.	•	•	•	•	•	•		Thompson I.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Dobe T.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	McKenzie I.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Veress M.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Dowse B.	•							McKenzie R.	•	•	•	•	•	•		Wenham J.				•			
Ducker R.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	McLeay T.	•	•						Wilcox C.		•					
Dyer A.	•				•			McPherson T.		•						Williams K.	•	•		•	•		
Eaton L.	•	•						Meek A.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Wimbush R.	•	•		•	•	•	
Evans J.	•	•		•	•	•		Miles A.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Wood J.	•		•	•	•		
Ferguson J.	•	•	•		•			Millard A.	•	•	•	•	•	•		Woolston M.	•		•	•		•	
Finmore M.		•						Milton R.		•		•				Young A.	•	•					
Flinkenberg C.	•	•				•		Moline R.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•								
Fowler J.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Parsons D.	•	•	•	•	•	•									

Slot 1

**Half and
Half
by
Valkyrie**

**Prize
\$50**



Across

- 9 Ease (7)
10 Charm (7)
11 Act of inciting another to commit a crime (7)
12 Escalates rapidly (7)
13 Gains gotten without much effort (4,5)
15 Materials (5)
16 Fungal disease (7)
19 Affections (7)
20 A regular journey (5)
21 Very wicked (9)
25 Drilling structures (3,4)
26 Reduce to a fine spray (7)
28 Referring to states like Queensland, NSW and Victoria (7)
29 A first principle (7)

Down

- 1 Fat grains grow less (6)
2 Foreigners have a position in a new society (6)
3 Passion among lithe athletes (4)
4 Capital songwriter (6)
5 Duplicity lost early bat (8)
6 Hammer and tack engineer - a team builder? (10)
7 Language follows assumed attitude by Northern god (8)
8 Wrong spring in lock (8)
14 Spellbound Mr Smee damaged international bar (10)
16 Purple and red, nor right, cast away! (8)
17
18 Prison chant repeated (4,4)
22 Connivingly set up France about its southern sea (6)
23 He wants more old offal (6)
24 Sleep fantasies, first third dematerialize, the rest intermingle (6)
27 Sign on, short people welcome (4)

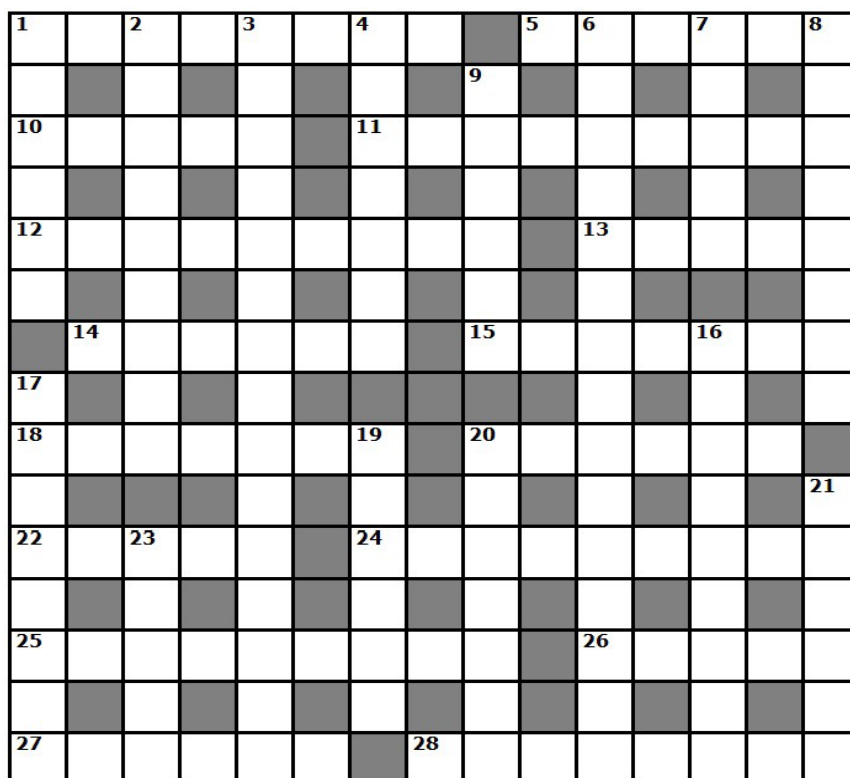
**SEND
SOLUTIONS
TO:**

For online entry, submission and adjudication of all slots via ACCOLADE click on the ACCOLADE button on www.crosswordclub.org home page.
By mail for Slots 1 to 5: Kath Harper 1/1 Church Street, Port Fairy Vic 3284 or (preferably) by email to harpy65@gmail.com
By mail for Slot 6 and 7: Len Colgan 1 Ailsa Avenue, Warradale, SA 5046 or (preferably) by email to len.colgan@unisa.edu.au

**BLANK
GRIDS
PAGE 11**

Closing mail date for all puzzles is 27 October 2023.

Slot 2

Cryptic
by
LeprechaunPrize
\$50

Across

- 1** Rough sailor is back in rant (8)
5 Spooner's food cutters produce alcoholic drinks (6)
10 Taxi not available for return short cut, perhaps (5)
11 Fungus providing seat for amphibian? (9)
12 You might need one now for this exercise! (9)
13 Library overshadowed by artificial intelligence story (5)
14 Ratify again or quit (6)
15 Shares based on percentage points (7)
18 Commissions duties (7)
20 Postpone Tuscan cellists' gathering (6)
22 Rustic heads of regions under review appropriate land (5)
24 Exorbitantly impoverish beginners of online university stretching limits of legality (9)
25 Former student assembly complex (9)
26 Crafty move reported in Irish county (5)
27 Assent thrashed out is most sensible (6)
28 Purchase grass cutters on telephone for ride-on machines (8)

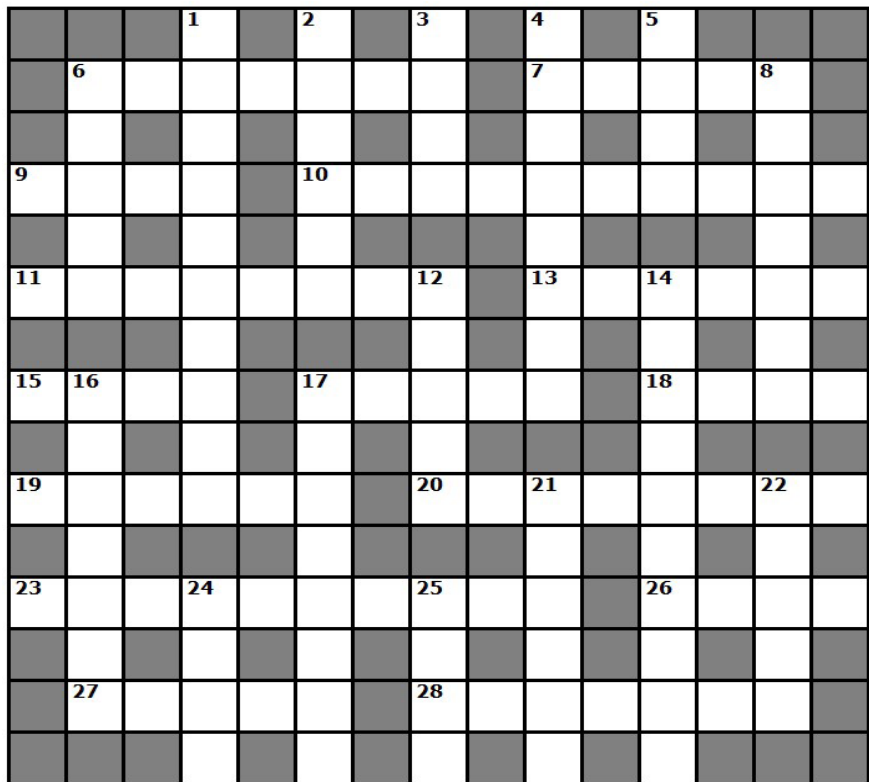
Down

- 1** Monks bringing back origins of scientific techniques of brewing bitter ale (6)
2 Fraudster uproar about drug set up (9)
3 Italian so agitated overwhelmed by feelings creates drama (15)
4 Old Tavener composition (7)
6 'Ready mixed' spray any louse promptly (15)
7 Initially express message of joy in smiley perhaps (5)
8 Most stupid accomplices lose heads captured in mud (8)
9 Salad for an emperor, perhaps? (6)
16 Fall below past surplus (9)
17 Floor spaces in sleeping quarters (8)
19 Twist in spar mishap (6)
20 Chinese leaders opposed to wine (7)
21 Fanny Lonsdale covered up synthetic fabrics (6)
23 Siren blasted pitch (5)

General Feedback for September

- Congratulations to Rob Moline and Alan Dyer for noticing in August Slot 3 cross and cruciform together with spectacles, testicles, wallet and watch (the parts of the body to make the sign of the cross). I used them to make the compiling more interesting for myself. I really didn't expect anyone to notice. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Many thanks for these challenges. *Norma Heyes*
- Many thanks for the early Christmas present of a year's free membership - much appreciated. *Margaret Dennis*
- Although crossword 6 & 7 are too hard for me I have solved part of them and give COTM to 9 across in No 7 UNHAIR. *Marian Procter*

Slot 3

Cryptic
by
T-boy

Across

- 6** Rock-shattering time charge (7)
7 A profit once more (5)
9 Cheese? Top of my list: Fontina, Emmental, Tillamook and Auvergne (4)
10 Doctoring players' assessment (10)
11 One unlikely to win Spot's blanket? (8)
13 Prioress consumed by ungodliness is terminated (6)
15 Disturbed bride gone to find lover (4)
17 Dig into strudel, very delicious! (5)
18 Melanoid fluid on male fur (4)
19 Vest cut short for grand old woman of Australia (6)
20 Cooked enchilada left out for the ranch house (8)
23 Sang out after fifties child returns (10)
26 Irritation when dog loses her lead (4)
27 Record I see makes good sense (5)
28 Tree butter about right for clipper (7)

Down

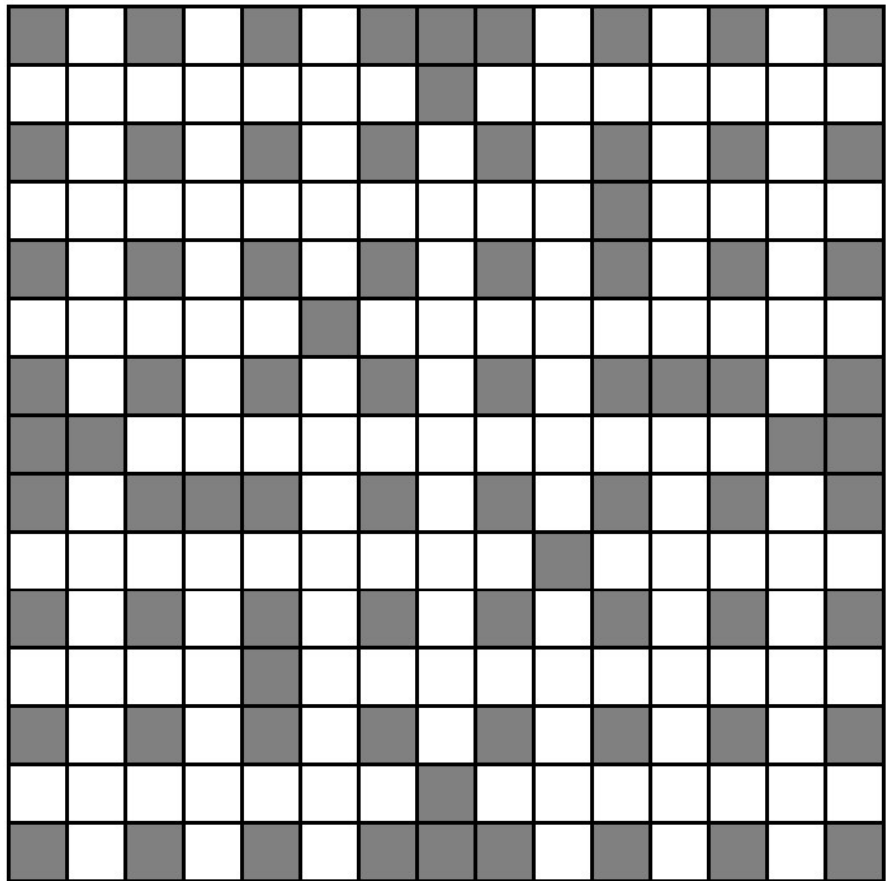
- 1** Take up a weapon old fellow for the final battle (10)
2 Bad narcotic ends in police operation (6)
3 The very best microbes drop their tail (4)
4 Scores amended after the French ball game (8)
5 Take public transport up to the shopping centre (4)
6 Lance is out; bowled without touching the ball! (5)
8 Granny enthusiastic for buff cloth (7)
12 Without active duty, Arthur's knight is a fool (5)
14 Butlers lie on the battle field with empty rifles (10)
16 Good earth location turning up black gold (7)
17 Creamy foodstuffs ordered for Marlene! (8)
21 You and I come back after doughnut? (6)
22 Procedure holding up interior design (5)
24 Assaults fools (4)
25 Silence after denial to eat (4)

Slot 4

AJ
by
St Jude

Prize
\$50

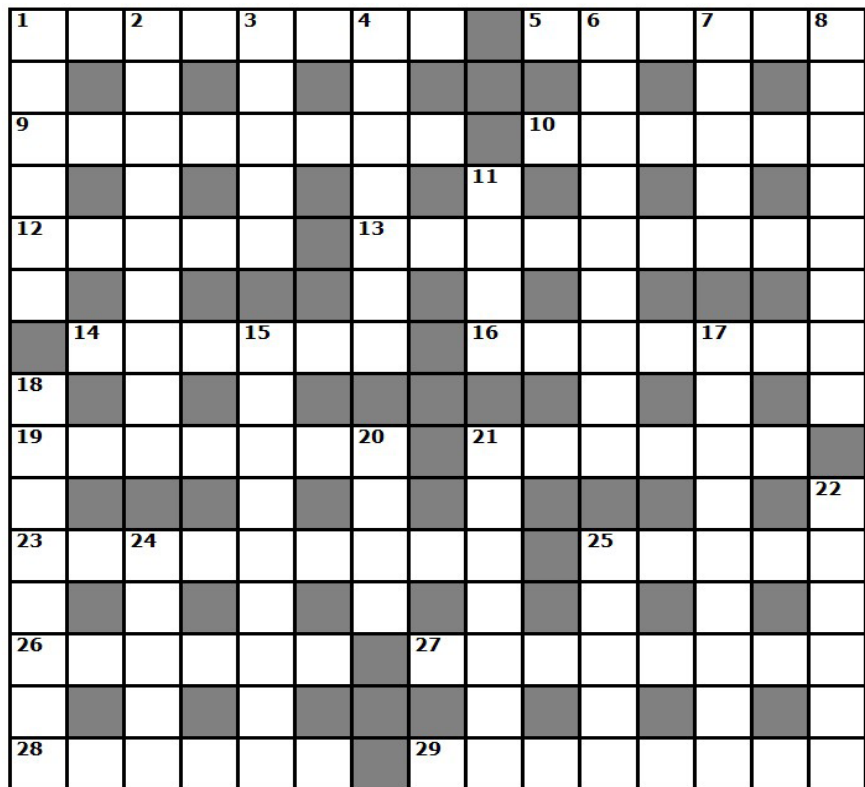
Solutions begin with the
given letter. Place them in
the grid jigsaw-wise,
where they fit.



- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>A Announced app to send awards for punctuation (11)</p> <p>B Puerile mistake, about to atone (in an old-fashioned way) (7)</p> <p>C Company philosophy: maturity is a trick (8)</p> <p>D Teetotal, sad, upset nymphs... (6)</p> <p>E ...judged site abysmal then coupled (9)</p> <p>F Often attended French queen is displaced by Edward (10)</p> <p>G Festival where Greek youths gathered for discussion with Eastern ruler, the leader of Assyria (8)</p> <p>H Passes on after Scot's hollow greetings (7)</p> <p>I Fetch yeti wandering about with desire to travel (5,4)</p> <p>J Cheeky person lifts surrounding article, and places copy inside (10)</p> <p>K Bowed down and capsized about noon (7)</p> <p>L League of leaderless Australian natives developed languages (7)</p> | <p>M To overcome division is one's greatest achievement (11)</p> <p>N Secure fastener (4)</p> <p>O Australia takes on energy to create invigorating, fresh air (5)</p> <p>P Nationalist Irish uprising? (7)</p> <p>Q Removing identification from a liquid and boiling is game? (5)</p> <p>R Audiovisual aids of government seized by communist and destroyed (7)</p> <p>S Car litter (5)</p> <p>T Current climate of the Gambia is not right (7)</p> <p>U Taking drugs is acceptable transgression? Grand! (5)</p> <p>V Slaves I order to get baggage (7)</p> <p>W Floating hospitals to protect children? (9)</p> <p>X Christ not even ready to beam (1-3)</p> <p>Y Agree totally that one day out is messed up (3,4,2)</p> <p>Z Pub I enter in South Africa to bloom (6)</p> |
|---|---|

Slot 5

Cryptic
by
Robespierre

 Prize
\$50


Across

- 1 Spooner's pig drench - disgraced setter here?! (8)
 5 Wearing these, comes back to life? (6)
 9 Meanie has French name but it's the wrong one! (8)
 10 Flag police down at last with gesture (6)
 12 Peer engrossed by rest area (5)
 13 See 24 Down
 14 Young woman reportedly prompt to slip in pool (6)
 16 Could take on colour when blotto, bleary-eyed, throwing up whisky (7)
 19 Soft ointment lacks essence that's strong-smelling (7)
 21 Basically gutless? Strangely, on the contrary (6)
 23 Dealt a last card, showing value of holding (9)
 25 Person paid to plug hollow ear-piercing (5)
 26 Promiscuous groupies, high, leaving for wild parties (6)
 27 With musical backing, orator displays clipped style (8)
 28 Reason to bring back money into state (6)
 29 Artists' competition for shrub? (5-3)

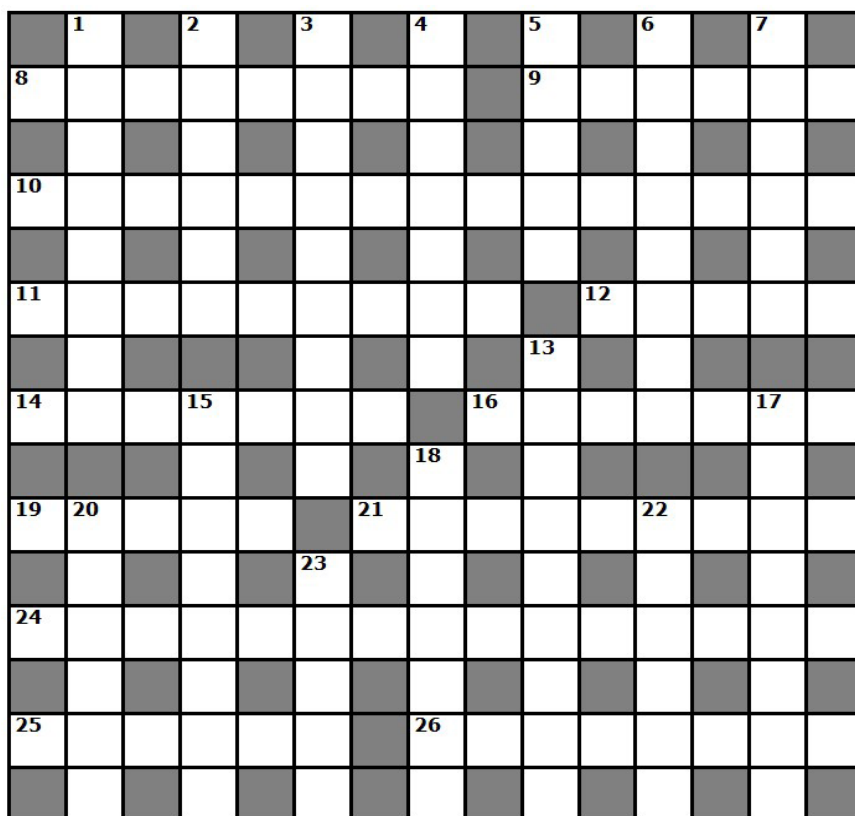
Down

- 1 Unhappy ending when cup of coffee comes without tasty starters (6)

- 2 Prognosticate poor crop lacking growth period (9)
 3 Much-studied layer described by round numbers? (5)
 4 Cover girl has inner passion (7)
 6 Robespierre's denial about being in trouble after commencement of proceedings is without rival (9)
 7 Understated chic in Gucci coat (5)
 8 Why washing lines are used for assorted items? (8)
 11 Went to find garden intruder (4)
 15 Comfort break ends, leaving both most tacky (9)
 17 A bandit so depraved gets sole punishment (9)
 18 Deceptive product descriptions contain admission of debt (8)
 20 Educated commentary is wrong (4)
 21 Hold up skirt-front with belt or elastic (7)
 22 Lose your temper when this is attached to the handle! (3,3)
 24,13 Drink them after party and infuriate selfish person (3,2,3,6)
 25 Loots library storage, wasting little time (5)

Slot 6

Cryptic
by
Crowsman

 Prize
\$50


Across

- 8 Spies backed scoops involving the Queen (8)
 9 Plan mutually, partly reversing fall (6)
 10 Renewals involve rip-off jobs for scouts (15)
 11 Within one minute, reversing infrequent route (9)
 12 Cast heard from beginning to end (5)
 14 Coming up, is welcomed into a group (7)
 16 Petty quarrel about weed, something a noisy dancer might use (3,4)
 19 Falls hard, up-ending what we have (5)
 21 Land covered by more experienced Casanova (9)
 24 Remarkable son is Latin smart, helping him to avoid these (15)
 25 Receiver regularly made money in Iran (6)
 26 Flowering plant gets unlimited heat after a freeze (8)

Down

- 1 Rat's tail swallowed by a less messy mammal (8)

- 2 Palm tree over grubby temporary home? (6)
 3 Lease involves European shouting, pointing inwards (2-7)
 4 Church porter moved to Syria (7)
 5 Dance which can be full of zest? (5)
 6 Small fish pongs (8)
 7 Endlessly fiddled with current measurement (6)
 13 "Come, O Lord!", with hostess who served dinner to Jesus bringing in two articles (9)
 15 Southern guzzler imbibing luxury sparkling wine (8)
 17 Hero worshipper stood under old Mediterranean shrub (8)
 18 Lumps on sickly male bird (3-4)
 20 TV chef's duck pâté ingredient (6)
 22 Eavesdropper in the Arctic Circle, but having no right to follow one! (6)
 23 Name a flowering plant (5)

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

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

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

Slot 1 InGrid. Down: 1 s+cram, 2 cent+ReAlly, 3 ce+land+in+e, 4 sOfT+te+r, 5 homoph "hi"+horse, 6 hidden, 7 plea(se)d, 8 (tremendously-men)*, 13 no+rot<+ious, 14 anag, 15 anag mu(l)berries, 17 Exhibit+Notable+masse, 19 tax+i+Calling+And+Booking, 21 in+rEgReT, 22 g+rasp, 24 Spooner "tow more".

September Slot 2 KA. Across: 1 sp+roo<, 5 (priest+t)*, 10 els(i)e, 11 mos+t, 13 out(r)age, 14 serge<+s, 15 dd, 16 Dee+ms, 18 leo+nine (Chamb), 19 cru+is+er, 20 eg+g+cups, 26)aloe+ros(e))* , 28 hidden<, 29 s+wage, 30 tu in foes, 32 tibia+l, 33 dd, 34 (id) in he, 35 shearer*, 36 dd. **Down:** 1 sec+e+de, 2 ulp<+g, 3 os+prey, 4 hidden, 5 got<+s, 6 (o+misers)*, 7 sat+a+n, 8 engine+er, 9 dd, 11 masse+use, 12 i in bass, 15 dd, 17 hidden, 20 ea(s)ter, 21 dd, 22 pop(u)lar, 23 f(Les)+h+y, 24 cat+nip, 25 (E+dress)*, 27 o+give, 30 (Suf(i)s)*, 31 un+do.

Slot 3 Isla. Across: 1 V in DUET, 4 <FINK in JACKET, 9 (AXE + X) in TEMPT, 10 W + A + Y + NE, 11 (N + EBITDa)*, 12 O + aCCIDENT, 14 (POX + LESIONS)*, 16 <EG inside AD, 19 hom. 'TIS, 20 (SCENE + S) outside CAR, 22 (LIQUID AIR - L)*, 23 (MOB)* + VIEw, 26 aBLE round WAR<, 27 hidden, 28 (O DOG)* + homoph "knight" (chess), 29 dd. **Down:** 1 RIM in DETENT, 2 V + hEXED, 3 TEXT + BO + OK, 4 B under JAM, 5 reverse cryptic: cITy, 6 K + WAIT touring U, 7 (VAGUELY)* inside IE, 8 missile + C in JET, 13 DISC + hom. EARNING, 15 PIZZA + TO check Initially C, 17 (chitlingS EDIBLE IF)*, 18 jEtSaM in BEARS, 21 <(NIL + SUM), 22 <(G + U + BED), 24 IDE in V + O, 25 QUITE.

Slot 4 Valkyrie. A (AUTOEROTICISM - TIME)*, **B** BRIE+FLY, **C** C+RATED, **D** DO(WAG)ER, **E** EMU+LATE+D, **F** F + RAT + (DISHEARTENED - HATED)*, **G** G(R)AINED, **H** (BAHRAIN DEER)*, **I** Hidden, **J** heads, **K** homoph "K+ mETTLE", **L** L+EVE+L, **M** homoph "meat" + OUT, **N** NEW+(REEL) in SS, **O** OR+(RED)*+ED, **P** hidden<, **Q** Q(A+RAT<)I, **R** RE(PEAT)E+D, **S** Hidden, **T** TIT+LE+D, **U** UN(L)IT, **V** VICE+R+O+Y, **W** WINTER (replace N by S) + AI<, **X** X+ N in ATHENE, **Y** Y+(L)EAR, **Z** Z[(OOmPH)+OBI]A.

Slot 5 Hot and Cold. Across: 1 KO + SO + V + O, 5 (c)OLOR + (SO-SO)<, 9 GEESE round VEN<, 10 Roman numeral II, 11 anag, 12 P + dd, 13 LOOTS<, 15 hidden, 16 O+NY+X, 18 dd, 20 hidden<, 21 THE* + O + S, 24 (ACRE + PLOT)*, 25 (LOVE IT)*, 27 HAIR + DO, 28 REAGENTS*, 29 F + LAW + LESSS, 30 (STET+CO)<. **Down:** 2 OVER + dd, 3 OVER + S dd, 4 OVER + homoph "lea", 5 OVER + SAIL* in SPECIES, 6 OVER + F+LOW, 7 OVER + SCOOT with H for c, 8 OVER + LA+Y, 14 OVER + THe + ROW, 17 OVER + heads, 19 OVER + tribALLands, 22 OVER + NET dd, 23 OVER + DO dd, 26 OVER + homoph "tea".



Bev Cockburn

Many happy returns to our Bev Cockburn, who achieves a notable milestone on October 7. Bev was one of our earliest members and for many years was a most efficient Secretary/Treasurer in the days of cash payments and handwritten cheques - and communication by means of letters (!) - creating a considerable workload, which she carried out with distinction. Among her notable achievements was her work in compiling puzzles and quizzes solo as The Eager Beaver and in concert with a number of our former Sydney-based members, most recently as half of The Co-op, with her son Malcolm and as the lady in The Lady and the Scamp with Crowsman. In addition to her other talents she organised the successful and enjoyable annual Sydney get-togethers for many years.

Congratulations, Bev - we wish you many more years of health and happiness.

Vale Joan McGrath

We were saddened to hear of the death this week of Joan McGrath, one of our longest-standing former members and the life and soul of many a Sydney get-together. She will be sadly missed by all her friends in the Club.

M	E	M	B	E	R
	N	E	W	S	

Welcome to all our new members. We look forward to your contributions.

Missed dots: Ken Davis and Greg Jones gained a dot for August Slot 6.

Donations to the ACC Prize Fund: Many thanks to our members, who have generously made donations to the Prize Fund this month.

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. Do let Ian know if you are interested.

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 hyperlink

September 1: InGrid (Jean Barbour)

- Nice puzzle. *Ian Thompson*
- Ideal Slot 1 puzzle, Jean. The word "is" intrudes in 2 dn, while Chambers shows E to be English, not England. *Len Colgan*
- 21dn: word play for ERT seems incorrect as "odd regret" points to RGE. Perhaps it could have been "ignoring odd regret" *Andrew Meek*
- ?21dn. *Brian Symons*
- Wasn't sure about 24 down, until I (just now) saw it could be tow+more/motor. So it has to be my favourite clue. *Michael Finemore*
- A good warm up. I always find it easier to do the cryptic clues. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Challenging as always and great fun to solve. I did like Spooner's towing vehicle. *Mal Cockburn*
- Enjoyable Half and Half. My favourite was 21dn, INERT. Such a perfect surface! *Bev Cockburn*
- The clue for 21dn (INERT) "Still popular before ODD regret" should be either "Still popular before EVEN regret" or something like "Still popular before odd egret" otherwise the answer comes out as INRGE. *Michael Veress*
- I learned a new meaning for BUXOM. I liked the Spooner clue for motor! *Robyn McKenzie*
- The answer I have for 23ac BUXOM has changed the way I think of that word! *Lynn Jarman*
- 21ac clue; should it have been 'even regret'? *Alan Dyer*

September 2: KA (Karl Audrins)

- A most praiseworthy grid with clever clues such as MOST, BLARE and HYPOS. But not keen on girl/man (four times) to be names. Pity about ISOMER, 6-down. *Len Colgan*
- 6dn: I don't think "compounds" is a fair definition for "isomer". The answer is singular while the clue is plural. Also, not all compounds are isomers so the definition seems imprecise. 19ac & 8dn both have a reference to the ruler of England to indicate ER. Perhaps KA submitted before Elizabeth's death! Setters will need to retire this clue or indicate "old" as we did for "princess" indicating DI, a mainstay clue for many years. *Andrew Meek*
- A few tricky ones - LEONINE and ISOMER; liked BOURBONS and the clue for POPLAR. DES RES was new to me. *Michael Finemore*
- ISOMER clue is for plural, answer singular. *Roy Taylor*
- To answer the clue correctly, 6dn should really be plural, but that would interfere with the grid symmetry. These types of puzzle must be a nightmare to set. Many thanks. *Julie Crowe*
- Took me a while to work out the last letter for 1ac. *Hilary Cromer*
- 6dn clue is for plural, answer singular. *Roy Taylor*
- Haven't heard the abbreviation DES RES before.
- A few new meanings to some common words. Thanks. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Togs again! 6dn has me scratching my head - shouldn't it be plural? Or is the grid mistaken. *Mal Cockburn*
- Barred crosswords always seem more challenging! *Nea Storey*
- I particularly liked OSPREY, DES RES and OGIVE. However, I was stuck for quite a while as a WINDSOR is also a drink. *Lynn Jarman*
- 6dn is a 7-letter solution not 6. *Keith Bettles*

- Liked DES RES! Interesting clues. *Jean Evans*

September 3: Isla (Rob Moline)

- Particularly liked CITY CENTRE & EJECT. *Ian McKenzie*
- Great spread of less common letters throughout the grid. Excellent clueing with clever misleads. Standouts were JAMB, TAX EXEMPT, SCARCENESS and DETRIMENT. Congratulations Rob! *Len Colgan*
- Clever but taxing! All understood eventually. CITY CENTRE and GOOD NIGHT took some thought. *Roy Taylor*
- Loved TAX EXEMPT, IRUKANDJI, EJECT among others. Well done Isla, lovely mix of cleverness and humour. *Tony Dobebe*
- I enjoyed the wordplay in SCARCENESS, DISCERNING and BESMEARS. Especially SCARCENESS. *Fraser Simpson*
- GOODNIGHT very tricky, half dozen great clues. *Michael Finemore*
- Many thanks. I enjoyed the clues here. 28ac took me a while to sort the wordplay. It was obviously GOODNIGHT, but it took a while for the penny to drop that "caught" meant "sounds like". *Julie Crowe*
- Solving this was extra-enjoyable because the surface readings were all smooth and interesting. *Ian Thompson*
- Nearly a double pangram, just the one H missing. Good fun. *Ulla Axelsen*
- A solid puzzle with some tricky ones. I learnt that scoff is a noun. *Mal Cockburn*
- An excellent puzzle. I particularly liked the clues for CITY CENTRE and BESMEARS! *Bev Cockburn*
- I enjoyed this crossword, particularly the clues for PIZZICATO, EJECT and BESMEARS. *Nea Storey*
- Took a while to parse 16ac. *Richard Skinner*
- Really enjoyed the grid. Thank-you. *Wayne Bradbury*
- Isla has managed to not only include every letter of the alphabet but also to use an unusual number of the 'difficult' ones (J, X, Z etc.) as checked letters. Well done! *Kath Harper*
- I wonder what persuaded Isla to use the answer to 22ac? *Lynn Jarman*
- JACKKNIFE is such a strange word with two k's together! Some great clues. *Jean Evans*

September 4: Valkyrie (Ulla Axelsen)

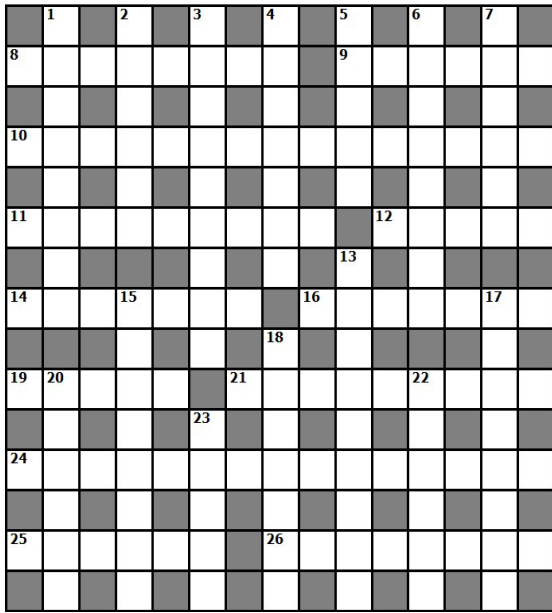
- Really liked the BRIEFLY and NEWSREELS clues. *Len Colgan*
- In H clue, is 'Wild' doing double-duty?! Shouldn't have got through the editing process. [Accepted as close to an &lit with an appealing surface - Ed] 'Somewhat' is not an anagrind. *Andrew Patterson*
- I liked NEWSREELS, PIETISTIC, SINATRA and VICEROY in particular. *Michael Finemore*
- Marvellous fun. *Jenny Madden*
- A nice honest set of clues, thank you, Ulla. Liked clues for UNIT and CRATED. *Bev Cockburn*
- PIETISTIC's a new one. Looks made up. Thanks Ulla. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Thanks to crossword buddies on hand/phone to discuss a few of these answers. *Lynn Jarman*
- What a great word is PIETISTIC. AJ is always fun with different words like ICTUS, XANTHENE and ZOOPHOBIA. *Jean Evans*

Continued on page 16

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

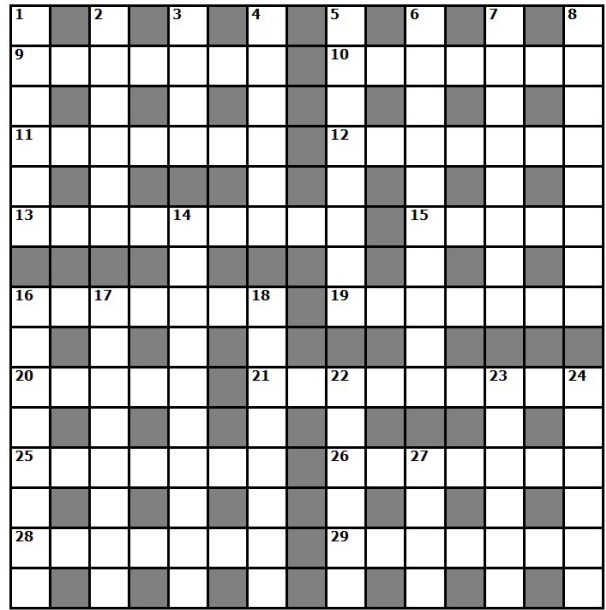
Name

OCTOBER 2023 SLOT 6



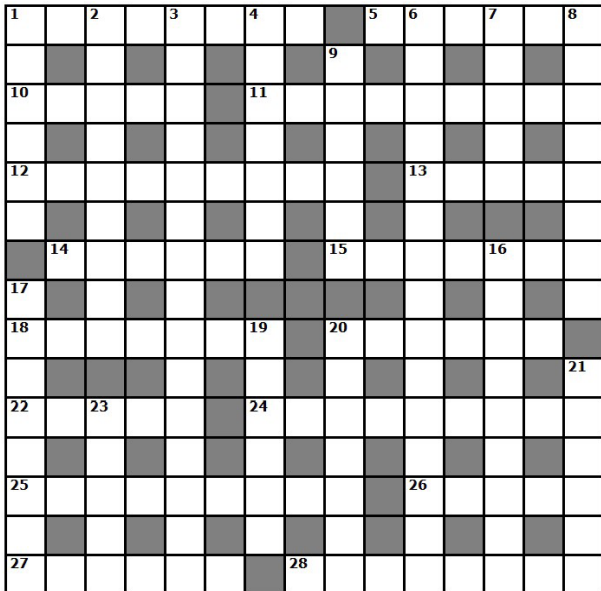
OCTOBER SLOT 1

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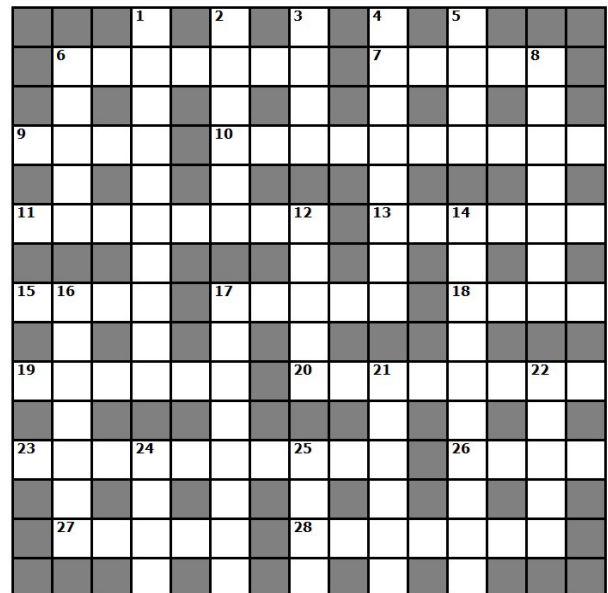


Clue of the Month

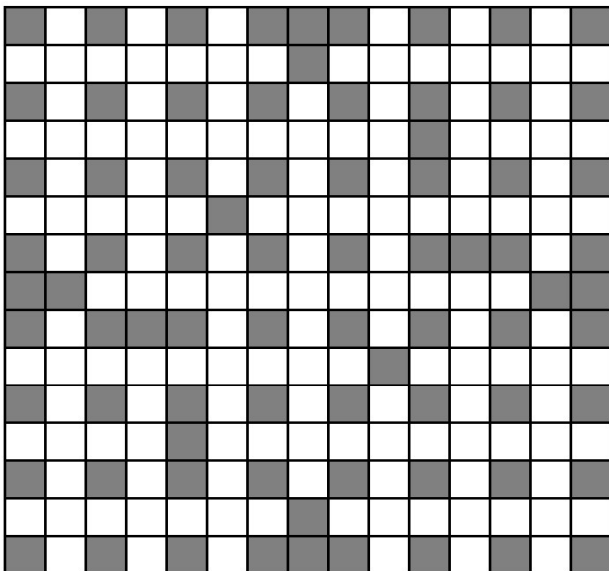
OCTOBER 2023 SLOT 2



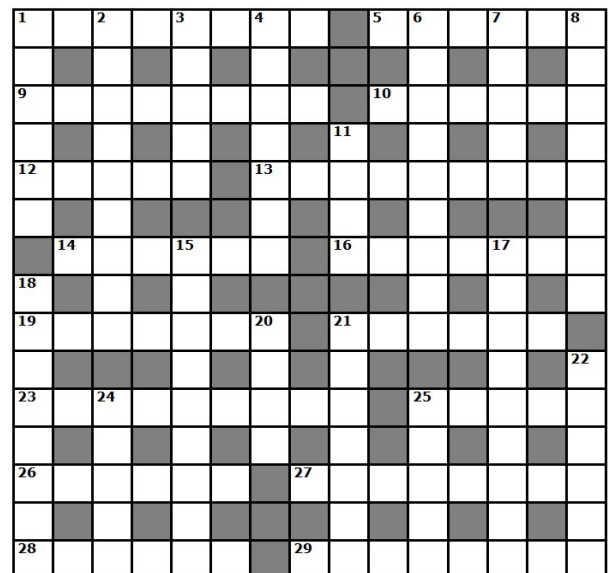
OCTOBER 2023 SLOT 3



OCTOBER 2023 SLOT 4



OCTOBER 2023 SLOT 5





Quiz 2023-10 PLAYING AROUND By Fortuna 48

Answers are in alphabetical order and have a common theme. Send your answers to Nea Storey by email chnestorey@netspeed.com.au or 37 Warbler Way Shortland NSW 2307. Closing mail date 27 October 2023

- 1 An unplayable serve (3)
- 2 The Ancient Mariner's burden (9)
- 3 Tweetie, perhaps? (6)
- 4 Part of a freight truck, not wanted on course (5)
- 5 Queen Elizabeth left restaurant (7)
- 6 A hidey-hole during the Blitz (6)
- 7 Brief instruction to scoundrel to stop breathing (6)
- 8 It comes off the old block (4)
- 9 Uber worker (6)
- 10 Executive assistant with broken leg (5)
- 11 Parramatta team loses leader (3)
- 12 Equitable system (7)
- 13 Hit back (4)
- 14 Said to be useful headwear (8)
- 15 Intact? No, headless (4)
- 16 Metal press (4)
- 17 Run tongue over business end of pen? The other way round! (7)
- 18 Number of 15s found front and back (4)
- 19 Reverse rap (3)
- 20 More numbers (4,5)
- 21 Horse Pop reordered after electricity failed in retail outlet (3,4)
- 22 Quietly, speak (6)
- 23 Organise Dan Sprat (4,4)
- 24 A birdwatcher – one suffering from 27! (8)
- 25 West Side (5)
- 26 Timber! (4)
- 27 Initially yellow, indigo, puce, scarlet (4)

Quiz 9 – 2023 A Potpourri of Australian Flowers! By K.A. (Karlis Audrins)

No of entries: 13

Results: **30** U. Axelsen, D. Grainger, D. Meek, A. Millard, A. Patterson, W. Ryan, R. Wimbush; **29** J. Leigh, D. Procter **28** P Garner, L. Jarman **27** J. Crowe, R. Jarman

Prizewinner: Ulla Axelsen. Congratulations!

Answers: 1 Ashburton 2 Barcoo 3 Barwon 4 Blue Gum 5 Boronia 6 Campaspe 7 Condamine, 8 Coopers Creek 9 Correa 10 Daisy 11 Dawson 12 Derwent 13 Diamantina 14 Dianella 15 Finke, 16 Flinders 17 Golden Wattle 18 Heather 19 Hunter 20 Jardine 21 Laurina 22 Lilac 23 Lotus. 24 Murray 25 Ovens 26 Pandorea 27 Pink Heath 28 Royal Bluebell 29 Violet 30 Waratah.

Compiler's Observations: Surprisingly few entries, but thanks to all who persevered. Thank you for I must say that I did not intentionally set out to create the puzzle as difficult as it seems to have turned out to be. Consequently, for the record, I would like to say that no individual entry had all the 'officially correct' list of answers. The main culprit was #21, which confounded everyone. However, there were lots of unexpected, surprising, debatable but semantically/technically correct alternatives, which were accepted and included in the results. Just a few examples:- #14 Donnelly #18 Gregory, Herbert #21 Jasmine, Jenolan, Jessamy. There were others, but, in any case, kudos to all who entered and stayed the course, and congratulations to the serendipitous winner.

Solvers' Comments

- That was incredibly difficult. So many flowering plants, and so many rivers. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Thank you for this entertaining quiz. *David Grainger*
- I think this might be the most challenging quiz in a long time. Knowing the difference between a "flower" and a "flower" didn't always help. *Ann Millard*
- Found this particularly brutal as a virtually endless set of answers (rivers and plants) were clued by equally open sets (names and obscurities) It was a grind. Thanks for compiling it though. *Andrew Patterson*
- Tough day at the office. But, thank you. *William Ryan*
- This was hard. There were so many choices: flower or flower! Enjoyed it, thanks. *Robyn Wimbush*
- I think this rates as the hardest quiz set so far, ever! *Julie Leigh*
- Thank you for an interesting floral / watery quiz *Lynn Jarman*
- I struggled with this one, as you can probably tell. Unfortunately I didn't have a lightbulb moment, so my answers are rather light on! *Julie Crowe*

September 6-2023 Cryptic by Robespierre (Ian McKenzie)**Entries received 64; Correct 50; Success rate 78%.****Prizewinner: Stephen Peach. Congratulations!****Compiler's observations**

Adjudication turned out to raise a few issues, with some additional solutions accepted. 20a: acceptable were both POP and PAP (take a surreptitious photo, derived as shortening of *paparazzo*). 6d: in addition to CHIP, CHOP was allowed [a stroke in cricket & a hit in baseball, hence "shot"; mark, seal, etc. in Asian officialdom, hence "token"]. 21d: as well as PAY, PRY was accepted (via reference to a phone tap). The only multiple error was the 4 cases of ODOR (cf. ODER, an important river in Central Europe), which couldn't be accepted as the homophone indicator clearly attaches to "smell".

Explanations –Across: 9 (I + C) in PRE, 10 (REDHEADS + O)*, 11 WAG + ER + ER, 12 dd, 13 caRbs in DIET*, 15 dd, 16 BUS + TY(re), 17 dd, 19 N + INN + wokE in IS, 20 palindrome, 22 (A + D) in TOY, 23 MOP<, 24 MO + YEN<, 26 BROTher + aLI, 28 Spooner "Lab toyed", 31 (MAY SEE)* round MPH, 32 T(R)OLL. **Down:** 1 S + PEW, 2 hidden, 3 BEE + youR, 4 homoph "odour", 5 NARC + MISSIS with downshifted M, 6 dd, 7 CREEP + SUP, 8 ME + SLY round A, 13 dd, 14 (DENUNCIATORY - erotica)*, 15 MONIES round O[no] POL, 16 BO(S)OM, 18 Spooner "pea soppy", 21 cd, 22 dd, 25 NEON round CO, 27 HI + AY<, 28 T + RAM, 29 hidden<, 30 DO + LE.

Solvers' Feedback

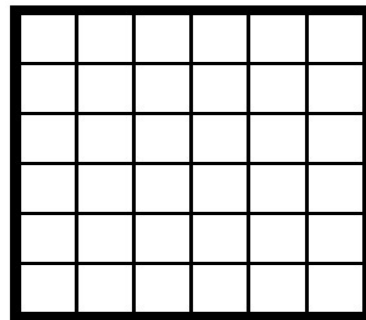
- A puzzle with plenty of interesting ideas and quirky definitions. COPPERS was excellent. *Ian Thompson*
- I found this harder than previous Robespierre puzzles. Just little things; such as "Dictator back" rather than "Dictator's back". Favourites are 12Ac and 5Dn (COTM). *Len Colgan* [Agree "Dictator's back" is preferable. *Rob.*]
- Every clue a gem; difficult and requiring a lot of lateral thinking. Gave BROTHEL COTM. And I loved BUSTY and BOSOM. *Roy Taylor*
- I found this puzzle hard; enjoyable as it came together; but hard. I love a challenge; so it ticked my boxes! Many thanks for the enjoyment. *Julie Crowe*
- Very challenging. I eventually worked out the word play for all the clues; but still not sure I am totally correct. *Ulla Axelsen* [All correct! *Rob.*]
- I struggled with this for so long I feared I would be unable to finish. Slowly it came together and HIYA was the last piece to fall into place. Diabolically hard. TABLOID gets my COTM. *Mal Cockburn*
- Loved Emphysema; sea poppy; dead horse and neocon amongst others. Mas kept me awake at night; but so simple in the end. Not sure about 28 dn. Went with TRAC. *Michael Finemore*
- Lots of fun clues and answers eg Mas; Pom; Dunny; Busty! *Nea Storey*
- Great clue construction. Challenging. Richard Skinner
- Some really interesting clues which I really enjoyed. Thank you. *Ann Millard*
- Some fun words and very challenging - a couple of guesses but most enjoyable. *Jean Barbour*

- Liked the Spoonerisms. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Particularly enjoyed the clues for MEASLY, BUSTY, DOLE and TROLL. *Jean Evans*

FRAZ WORD SQUARE 6-Oct (Solution on p 14)

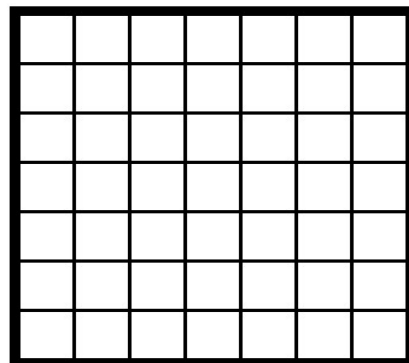
Identical words read across and down in this square. Clues are not listed in order.

- Changes the appearance of sunburnt toes, first off
- Fine-tune commercial fair
- Professor's rough lecture series
- Prophet packs for a clerk
- Respect engineer's first look around Turkey's capital
- Tenant subtracting three minus three

**FRAZ WORD SQUARE 7-Oct** (Solution on p 14)

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

- Correcting mistake, becomes a success (2 wds.)
- Improve offers finally to small hottie
- Positions ball with nothing in Marseille street to the west
- Sloth, male and sluggish, isn't very ambitious (2 wds.)
- Start to identify malware, avoiding loss that's familiar to me (2 wds.)
- The French gem -- there are no more after this (2 wds.)
- We shipped back Venus's last moisture



September 7-2023 Showdown by Flowerman (Ian Thompson)

**Entries received 35; Correct 28; Success rate 80%.
Prizewinner: Philip Coote. Congratulations!**

Compiler's observations

Thank-you, members, for your kind comments. I can't remember why I chose *The Two Ronnies* as the theme, but I do remember being keen to create a puzzle with an extended but not too difficult endgame. The success rate was quite high; however, four solvers opted for ETHS rather than the less common spelling EDHS in 12ac. Only the latter could be accepted as the wordplay was an anagram of SHE and D (final letter of posted). Crowsman pointed out to me that 19ac OCEANIAN was flawed because it could be solved either by removing a word (One) before solving, or by parsing it the way I had intended (see explanations) with an N being identified as the letter not provided by the wordplay.

Explanations – (Letters and words in Across clues are indicated thus [].) **Across:** 6 LO + INTO* [initial], 9 H in (U + (p)AIR) [N], 10 A + TIT, 11 hw<, 12 (SHE (poste) D)*, 13 N + CRO(w)D [I], 15 (WELL + O) around DOT< [letters], 17 (AMERICAN FULLY)*, 19 I in (A + CANOE)* [N], 21 GEOFF with T(im)E replacing G, 23 G(r)EEK [down], 25 (imp)LYING, 26 BE(in)G [A], 27 (L + D) in IRAN* [clues], 28 HE in LATE*. **Down:** 1 LIS(z) T, 2 (CLERIC (s)EN(t))* , 3 TU(t) + LASS<, 4 THE(s) E(s), 5 (G HAY DIET), 7 TOU(r)* + DO, 14 DA + CHA, 16 PIR(a)TE, 17 ((K)LI(m) NO CLUE)*, 18 GIANT* + (e)UAN, 20 I + D + LING, 22 hw, 24 (URGE DRAKE)* - EAGER*, 26 BOO around H.

Solvers' Feedback

- I couldn't finish the SE corner, but guessing the theme, and hence what was need on the long diagonal and perimeter, I was able to work backwards. Several very tricky clues, but an amazing achievement overall. *Len Colgan*
- So many layers! With accessible clues that didn't detract from the real fun. Excellent! *Andrew Patterson*
- Enjoyable challenge! *Tony Dobe*
- One of the most devious and convoluted puzzles I've ever had the pleasure of doing. The letters Nina led to 'letters of a long diagonal' which led to Corbett. The second part, 'Initial letters down clues' gave dog spruiker gun, all of which can mean barker. So of course, the Two Ronnies. I'm just so pleased to have solved this, hopefully correctly, and can only wonder at the hours spent making it all come together. Absolutely delightful. *Julie Crowe*
- This was fun. It prompted me to watch a few episodes of "The Two Ronnies" on YouTube. *Fraser Simpson*
- An enjoyable and clever puzzle. I found Corbett from the Nina, which was enough to solve 8 down. However, for how the initial letters of the down clues relate to Barker, I await the setter's explanation [See *Julie Crowe's comment. Adj.*] *Andrew Meek*
- Even after solving and knowing what to do, the hardest part was figuring out the two names. They were great weren't they? *Ulla Axelsen*
- I enjoyed this puzzle with its variety of ways to solve it. Extraneous words leading to initials of down clues giving three words that led to a surname. Then the perimeter letters of the grid led to a diagonal which gave us the second surname. Hence The Two Ronnies. *David Procter*

Solution to September Slot 7

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

Solution WORD SQUARE 6-43

W	E	E	T	S	E
E	E	S	S	S	L
E	S	R	O	U	C
T	S	U	S	D	V
S	E	O	D	E	R
E	C	L	E	A	O

Solution WORD SQUARE 7-Oct

S	S	E	N	T	E	W
S	I	N	E	I	R	O
E	N	O	T	S	A	L
N	E	T	E	E	W	S
T	I	S	E	S	A	K
E	A	R	E	W	A	M
W	L	O	S	I	M	A

- Phew, what a stinker! *Julie Leigh*
- Dante's Circles came to mind when solving this! Finding the missing letters and the extra words came only after successfully interpreting the rubric. THEN it was working out what to do with them, all the while solving a very difficult set of clues. Congrats to Flowerman for creating this. I have a smiley against 11A. *Mal Cockburn*

continued on page 16

Slot 7

Cryptic
by
Crowsman

 Prize
\$50

Eight clues are missing, but their answers are consistent with the advice in Slot 6, utilising the symmetry of the grid.

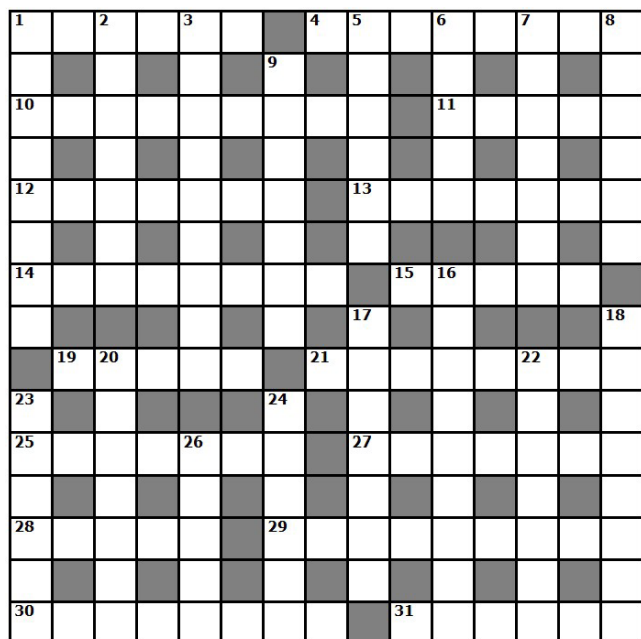
Across

- 1 See rubric (6)
 4 Heads release central documents in stages (8)
 10 See rubric (9)
 11 Scandinavian is right in the middle of smell (5)
 12 See rubric (7)
 13 Report second chance in politics (7)
 14 See rubric (8)
 15 Out-of-line question our group rejected (5)
 19 See rubric (5)
 21 At both ends of fairway, we're told, caddy carried it (5,3)
 25 See rubric (7)
 27 Potential power is in capital (7)
 28 See rubric (5)
 29 Resourceful vice follower has roof unit (9)
 30 See rubric (8)
 31 Lever welcomes a compliment (6)

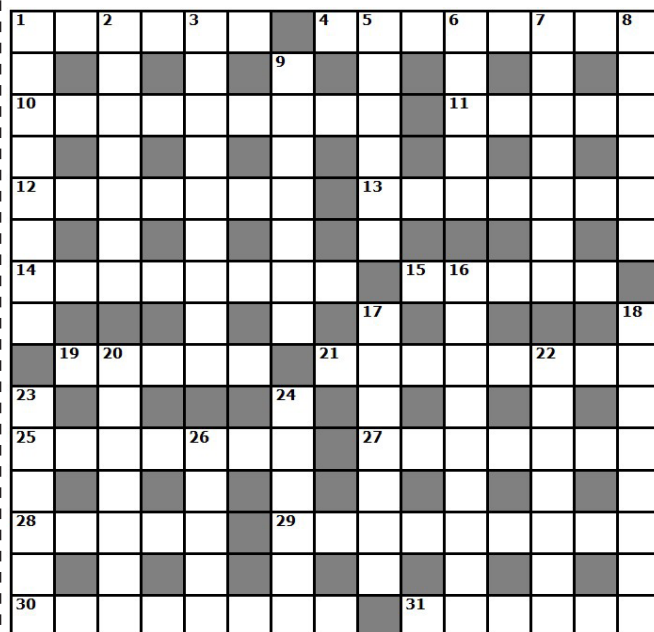
Down

- 1 Devious priests cover small remains (8)

- 2 I escape from climbing latticework, but fall back (7)
 3 Lacking a final declaration, last bit of water is pinched from SA to NSW, say (9)
 5 Reorganise place for relaxation (6)
 6 Quite pleasant, but incomplete referring to sound (5)
 7 Routine career on the rise, having Eastern upbringing (7)
 8 Covering for Shakespeare's leading character (Moor)? (6)
 9 Old ranges for egg producers (7)
 16 Jurassic inhabitant has reduced atmosphere; therefore gets up beforehand (9)
 17 Assault in drain leads to hanging (7)
 18 Shame was misinterpreted before "Me too!" (4,4)
 20 Aaron abandoned an addict, creating alarm (7)
 22 Visibility partly affected in Caucasian capital (7)
 23 Exploits dwarfs (6)
 24 Monkey's life-time (6)
 26 Daring new 24 ignored boundaries (5)



Slot 7: NAME: _____



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

Members Feedback Slot 5 - continued from page 10

September 5: Hot and Cold (Jenny Wenham and Ian Williams)

- Seeing the common element quite early helped a lot. *Ian Thompson*
- Well, that's over now! Clever. *Roy Taylor*
- That was confusing at first, but then I was overjoyed to be able to complete this type of puzzle at last! Thank you for a fun puzzle. *Sally Shipway*
- Not sure about 5ac. Google found it – SO-SO for mediocre helped. Kosovo gave me the hint that down words started with O. Overflow helped me see that words started with OVER. Liked 1, 9, 27, and 29 across. *Michael Finemore*
- This was tough to start, but after getting 14dn, it was all over. Fun. *Fraser Simpson*
- Took a while to understand instructions. Became reasonably easy once understood. Thanks for the challenge. *Ulla Axelsen*
- The only one missing is Overdosed! Clever in execution. *Mal Cockburn*
- Thank you HOT and COLD. *Jenny Madden*
- One has to be careful not to OVERTHINK this clever puzzle or you may end up OVERTIRED! *Bev Cockburn*
- Mmmn I used to love Oloroso sherry - never really got OVER it! *Nea Storey*
- Good fun from Hot and Cold! *Caroline Mackay-Sim*
- Very clever. Variety is the spice in Croz! *Ann Millard*
- Great fun! *Judy Ferguson*
- This was fun and clever. Even when the missing OVER was found there were challenges. Thanks for the entertainment. *Jean Barbour*
- Lots of fun. Helps to have found the common element early - unusually! *Robyn Wimbush*
- I enjoyed the extra challenge in this puzzle, thank you. *Robyn McKenzie*
- Liked the clues for ONYX, SOLE and OVERFLOW. *Ron Jarman*
- Some tough across clues; then once a few were solved; disbelief about the common element. Great fun! *Lynn Jarman*
- Thank you for an interesting puzzle. What fun all the down words starting with 'over'!! *Jean Evans*

Slot 7 Feedback - continued from page 14

- I'd love to say I completed this puzzle by finding all the necessary extra letters and missing words but it could be completed regardless! However, I see the NINA around the perimeter and the significance of the title SHOWDOWN! *Bev Cockburn*
- I've done a bit of guessing, so am crossing my fingers for a tick!!??? *Nea Storey*
- Tough puzzle. However, two of the greats, together or solo, so worth the effort. *Richard Skinner*
- Really difficult! Took me weeks to solve this even after finding the Nina - I didn't realise the letters were an anagram for ages. But what a thrill to actually complete it! I am crossing fingers that I entered all answers without a mistake. *Maureen Blake*

Slot 7 Feedback - continued

- An AMAZING puzzle with so many elements involved. When I eventually figured out BARKER & CORBETT, 'The Two Ronnies' was clearly the SHOWDOWN. *Michael Veress*
- Proudly I solved all the clues (I think) but could make nothing of Nina; dog; spruiker; gun. I hope you like my creative answer for 8 dn. *Roy Taylor*
- Ouch. (OTCRTBE)* + td(dog; spruiker; gun) = serious workout by the setter. *Roger Hearn*
- Thanks for the brain strain: that was very impressive and the down clues are especially neat considering the restriction. I got a bit stuck by incorrectly removing the word 'one' from 19A; and I can't quite parse 4D. *Sam Howat*

A Common Question (from *The Telegraph* newsletter)

Of all the subjects about which we receive letters here at Telegraph Puzzles, one of the most common is the use of general knowledge answers in our Cryptic Crossword.

It's obvious that there are those who fail to see why any general knowledge should be needed in these puzzles; after all, we publish more than one type of Cryptic Crossword and more than one type of General Knowledge Crossword, and ne'er the twain should meet. At least as far as the vocal minority are concerned.

However, isn't this rather limiting? Being able to use general knowledge answers in a cryptic adds some variety. After all, there are only so many ways to clue each answer; over time, these repeat and become boring. Using general knowledge answers also reduces the reliance on words that seem to only ever appear in crosswords, but not in real life. This includes words such as EWER or EDEMA, which one is tempted to think only exist to fill tricky slots in a crossword grid.

There's also the fact that general knowledge answers have led to some of the most memorable clues ever written, such as *Bar of soap (3,6,6)*

In case you're wondering, the answer to this is THE ROVERS RETURN, being a bar that features in a soap opera.

Another recent Telegraph clue was *Maiden, sorceress, hoarding silver for Dickens character (8)* [Magwich]

If we accept that there is a place for such answers, then we have to ask what constitutes general knowledge? Historically, it has been fair game to reference ancient Greeks and Romans, classical composers and 18th-century authors in our puzzles, but this is hardly keeping up with the times. After all, we are in an age when many readers are more likely to know about current films and television programmes rather than the works of Ovid, or the music of Elton John rather than compositions by Bach.

Chris Lancaster - Puzzles Editor

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How do ACC members view the appearance in our puzzles of clues involving what to the compiler may be general knowledge, but what to a solver may appear so arcane as to be unanswerable? Do let us know in an email to ianw@webone.com.au