



No 437 OCTOBER 2026



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"Words are like Leaves; and where they most abound,
Much Fruit of Sense beneath is rarely found."
Alexander Pope (1688-1744)

LAST MONTH'S RESULTS

Puzzle No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Compiler	Nigrum Cattus	Lexi Conner	Jesso	Manveru	KA	T-boy	Anon
Entries received	79	81	78	75	69	72	63
Correct entries	45	69	51	53	50	68	49
Success rate (%)	57	85.2	65.4	70.7	72.5	94.4	77.8
Prizewinners	Tony Dobeles	Claire Batum	Kate Williams	Warren Allen	Lesley Carroll	Roger Hearn	Robyn McKenzie



Slots 1 to 5 all correct 14 members:
Winner: Ken Davis
Winner of Quiz: Robyn Wimbush
Congratulations to all our winners!



FROM THE ADJUDICATOR

GENERAL : Getting toward the warmer weather now, so that should loosen up the synapses and the fingers. There were some variations in results of each Slot. How did they fare? Were they fair?

Slot 1: The critical point came with ALLAY (or was it ALLOY?). While both met the definition, only one met the wordplay. AY equalled 'indeed', OY did not. If in doubt, consult Chambers.

Slot 2: This was a wild cryptic grid, breaking many conventions. There weren't a lot of errors but many a head was scratched. Two-letter anagram? Probably a first for everyone.

Slot 3: Another dot-killer here with CARBONARO. 'Stir up' suggested 'ado' to many, probably just hopefully. The intention was 'arouse' minus 'use'. Expect to research some possible answers when you do a Jesso puzzle.

Slot 4: Not a lot of issues outside of typos but SIRENIC tripped a couple. The initial of 'calf' was required so SIRENIA wasn't justified. The Nina of 'square number' was noted but wasn't essential for a dot.

Slot 5: The oft repeated word among respondents was 'fun'. That seems a pretty good recommendation for any puzzle. No real pattern of errors. Just a smattering of wrong guesses.

Slot 6: At the time of writing, there were no errors recorded. T-Boy obviously wants to take away any fun an adjudicator might have. My Union boss will send the toe-cutter forthwith. (Update: typo errors arrived late, toe-cutter stood down).

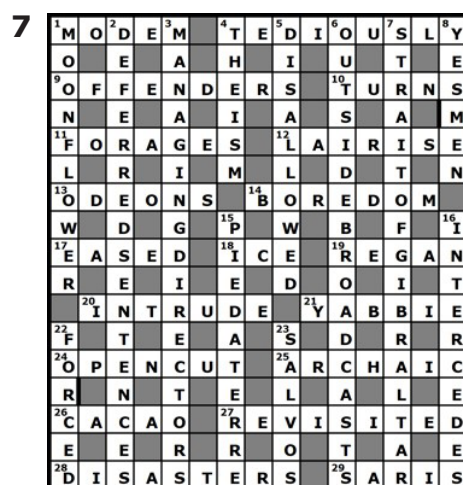
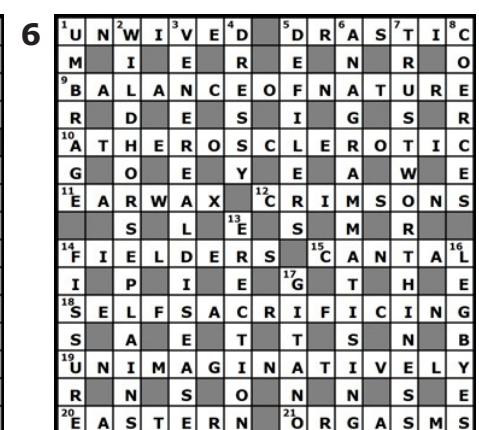
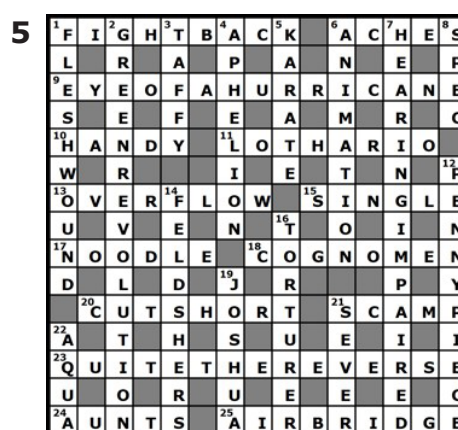
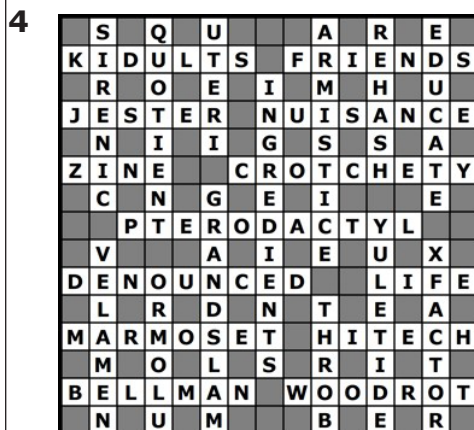
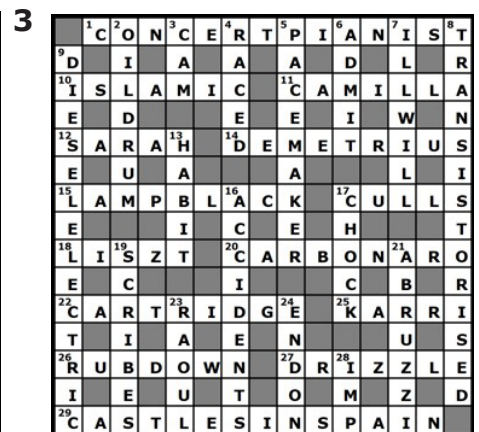
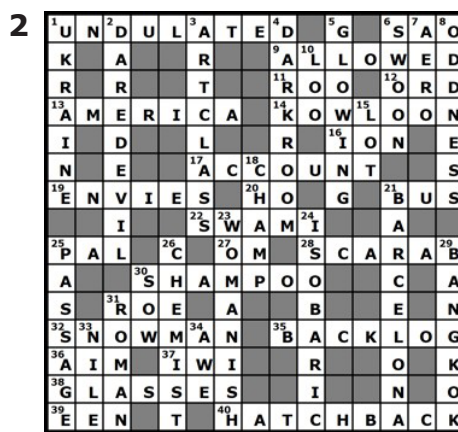
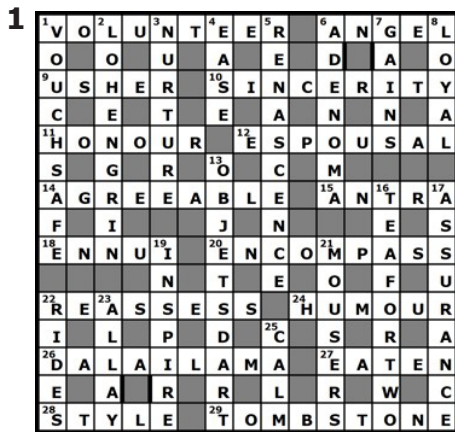
Slot 7: Seeing 17x15 grids as underutilised, Anon redresses the situation. I mean, we all thought it, right?! There were errors but not many, at least not interesting ones. It seemed to be reasonably challenging, judging by comments.

COTM : In a close run race between Slots 5 and 6, just one more vote for ANAGRAMMATISING secured the title over EYE OF A HURRICANE. Well done, T-boy.

Andrew Patterson

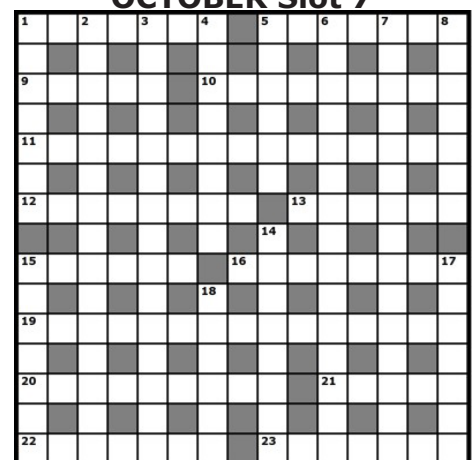
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OCTOBER Slot 7



Name

A few quotes

- Death is something we shouldn't fear because, while we are, death isn't, and when death is, we aren't.
—Antonio Machado
- Evil is boring. Cynicism is pointless. Fear is a bad habit. Despair is lazy. Hopelessness is self-indulgent. On the other hand: Joy is fascinating. Love is an act of heroic genius. Pleasure is our birthright. Chronic ecstasy is a learnable skill.
—Rob Breznsky
- A kind of light spread out from her. And everything changed color. And the world opened out. And a day was good to awaken to. And there were no limits to anything. And the people of the world were good and handsome. And I was not afraid any more.
—John Steinbeck
- Of all forms of caution, caution in love is perhaps the most fatal to true happiness. —Bertrand Russell

MEMBERS' RESULTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2026 SLOTS 1 to 7															
MEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	MEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Abbott P.	•	•			•	•		Madden J.	•	•			•	•	
Allen W.			•	•		•	•	Martin A.	•	•			•	•	•
Anderson C.					•	•	•	Martin F.	•	•			•	•	•
Audrins K.	•	•		•	•	•	•	Matthews S.		•	•				
Axelsen U.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	McClelland C.				•	•		•
Barbour J.	•	•	•		•	•	•	McKenzie I.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Barnes J.		•		•				McKenzie R.		•	•	•	•	•	•
Batum C.	•	•	•	•		•		McLean J.		•	•				
Bennett D.	•	•		•		•	•	McLeay T.		•	•	•		•	•
Bennett Moses L.		•	•					Meek D.	•			•	•	•	•
Bettles K.		•		•	•	•		Miles A.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Blake M.		•	•	•	•	•		Millard A.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Carroll L.		•	•	•	•	•	•	Milton R.			•			•	•
Cockburn M.		•	•	•		•	•	Moline R.	•					•	•
Colgan L.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Parsons D.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Coote P.	•	•		•	•	•		Patterson A.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Cromer H.	•	•	•	•	•	•		Peach S.		•	•			•	
Crowe J.	•	•		•	•	•	•	Pinder S.		•	•		•	•	
Dasgupta K.		•	•	•	•	•		Rosendorff D.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Davis K.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Roulston S.		•	•			•	•
Dobele T.	•	•	•		•	•	•	Ryan W.	•		•	•	•	•	
Dowse B.		•						Shapiro R.		•					
Ducker R.	•	•	•	•		•		Shield A.		•		•		•	•
Flinkenberg C.		•	•	•	•	•		Siegman B.		•	•	•	•	•	•
Forward K.	•	•				•	•	Simons A.			•	•	•	•	•
Francis K.	•	•		•		•	•	Simpson F.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Gamble K.			•	•	•	•	•	Skinner R.	•	•	•		•	•	
Garner P.		•				•		Smith J.		•				•	
Goodman S.		•	•		•	•	•	Storti A.		•		•	•	•	•
Grainger D.		•		•			•	Symons B.	•	•		•	•	•	
Graves C.	•	•		•	•	•	•	Tarnow-Mordi R.	•			•		•	
Harper K.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Taylor R.	•	•		•		•	•
Hearn R.	•	•	•	•		•	•	Taylor S.	•	•	•				
Hocking A.		•			•	•	•	Thomas C.	•					•	
Horadam K.			•	•				Thompson I.		•	•	•	•	•	•
Howat S.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Vnuk M.			•	•			
Jarman L.		•	•			•		Wenham J.	•	•		•			
Jarman R.					•			Wilcox C.					•	•	
Jones G.		•	•	•	•	•	•	Williams K.	•	•	•				
Kennedy L.	•	•	•	•	•		•	Wimbush R.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Kennnedy M.				•				Yeatman R.		•	•		•	•	
Lankshear J.	•	•	•		•	•	•	Young A.	•	•					
Leigh J.	•	•	•	•		•	•								



There will be a calendar for the winner of Clue of the Month

Explanations for September 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 Nigrum Cattus. Down: 1 HAVEFOCUS*, 2 LO+HEN+GRIN, 3 RUNTRUE*, 4 CEASE-C, 5 RE+N+A+SCEN(C) E, 6 (ANATOMISED-its)*, 7 DD, 8 L+O+LAY<, 13 STARTEDJOB*, 16 FAR+TOO+WET*, 17 RAN+CAUSES*, 19 I(SPIN*)RE, 21 M(O)USERS, 22 First letters, 23 ALL+AY, 25 CA+LiMe.

Slot 2 Lexi Conner. Across: 1 (nude adult)*, 6 SAigOn - gin*, 9 ALL + O + WED, 11 homoph rue, 12 interiOR Designer, 13 AM + ERICA, 14 homoph cow + LOON, 16 attractiON, 17 DD, 19 ENVisagES, 20 HOW, 21 sub<, 22 (news media - need)*, 25 lap<, 27 OMit, 28 SC + ARAB, 30 (homeopaths - the)*, 31 homoph row, 32 S(woman*)hotguN, 35 BACK + LOG, 36 cAIMan, 37 kIWI, 38 G + LASSES, 39 nee<, 40 HATCH + BACK. **Down:** 1 UK + RAIN + E, 2 DARE + lived^, 3 ART + CLASS, 4 (mark door)*, 5 GLENfield + OWING, 6 S(WOO)N, 7 mAKEs R oOm, 8 (safe and sound - fauna)*, 10 LOOKing, 15 DD, 18 DD, 21 (balance or)*, 23 W(OMAN)ISH, 24 (obstetricians - tents)*, 25 PASS + AGE, 26 CHE + MIST, 29 BAN(G)K + OK, 30 ShOWed - hed, 31 DD, 33 penNILEss, 34 homoph ore.

Slot 3 Jesso. Across: 1 CONCERT+ANIS in PIT, 10 (MALICIOUS-o,u)*, 11 C+A+MILL+A, 12 AR in HAS<, 14 anag, 15 L+AMP+BLACK, 17 anag, 18 Z in LIST, 20 CARBON+ARouse, 22 CART+RIDGE, 25 homoph "carry", 26 R+(UnB)+DOWN, 27 DR+ZZ in ILE, 29 anag &lit. **Down:** 2 OIL+DRUM, 3 dd, 4 anag, 5 MAKE in PACER, 6 AD+M+IT, 7 ILL+W+ILL, 8 TR+ANS+IS+TO+RISE+Duty, 9 ddd, 13 HAD+BIT, 16 ID in ACCENTS, 17 C+HOCK, 19 S+CRIB+E+S, 21 (R in BUZZ) in AI, 23 ReAsOn+U+L, 24 anag, 28 I+MP.

Slot 4 Manveru. A T in (CRIME+IS)*, **B** DD, **C** CROTCHET+Y, **D** DEN+OUNCE+D, **E** E+(qUiCk in DATE), **F** F(R)IENDS, **G** GRAND+SLAM, **H** E in HITCH, **I** TENDERISING*, **J** J+tESTER, **K** K(ID)ULT+S, **L** LI+FE, **M** S in (AT+ROME+M)*, **N** (INSURANCE-r)*, **O** ROOM*+L+U, **P** (PROTECT+LADY)*, **Q** CD, **R** Hidden, **S** SIRE+N+I+C, **T** THROw+B, **U** Hidden, **V** V+ENAMEL*, **W** W+O+DOOR*+T, **X** X+F+ACTOR, **Y** LE in (YoUr+DIET)*, **Z** Z+IN+E.

Slot 5 KA. Across: 1 raps<, 6 ach(ill)es, 9 hurrIcane, 10 h&y, 11 lo+t+Hari+o, 13 wolf<, 15 sing+le, 17 dd, 18 (gnome) in con, 20 cu(t), 21 s+camp, 23 quite>, 24 (h)aunts, 25 anag. **Down:** 1 shelf*, 2 reneg*, 3 dd, 4 anag, 5 ka+rate, 6 a+n(im)ation, 7 hergain*, 8 ceps<, 12 dd, 14 anag, 16 rt in tourer, 19 josh+ua, 21 sever(e), 22 dd.

Slot 6 T-boy. Across: 1 (W + IV) in NUDE*, 5 STI in CARD<, 9 BALANCE + (A FORTUNE)*, 10 (HER + COOLERS*) in ATTIC, 11 homoph "ear whacks", 12 RIMS in CON + S, 14 IF< + ELDERS, 15 hw, 18 ELF in (FACING CRISIS)*, 19 UNI + MAGI + NATIVE + acoLYtes, 20 SEA* + TERN, 21 OR + GAS + MS. **Down:** 1 (R + MUGABE)*, 2 WILD HORSE + L in PAINS, 3 (VERNA-LEE + SEASIDE)*, 4 DiSpEnSaRY*, 5 FIELDERS*, 6 cd, 7 (TURN THOSE WRISTS)*, 8 CO + (SECRET)<, 13 E(L<>R)ECTION, 14 F + IS + SURE, 16 GEL< + B + YES, 17 GIT + A + NO.

Slot 7 Anon. Across: 1 MOD+EM, 4 (TED+IOUS) in L...Y, 9 OFF(EN)DERS, 10 dd, 11 FOR AGES, 12 LA(IRIS) E, 13 hidden, 14 (MODE + ROB)<, 17 heads, 18 cd, 19 EG in RAN, 20 I+N+T+RUDE, 21 BAY<+Beach+IE, 24 (SPERM COUNT-mrs)*, 25 ARCH + CIA<, 26 CA + CA + O, 27 REVIS(IT)ED, 28 (SAID)*+(STRESS)*, 29 gARb in SIS. **Down:** 1 MOON(WOLF<)ER, 2 (ERRED + SENT) in DEFENCES, 3 (AGING + DIRECT) in MANORS, 4 THE(IS)M, 5 DI(SALLOW)ED, 6 OUTCASTS around (SIDE + BROAD), 7 S + TRAIT + (BIG FOR)* + ALTAR, 8 Y..E+S..M+E..N, 15 PIE(ATE)RRE, 16 TERCE in INDIES, 22 FOR+C+E...D., 23 cd.

Members' Feedback continued from Page 15

- Could work out defilers. Never heard of Wild Horse plains. Not really sure about anagrammatisers. *Rick Yeatman*
- I always find 15 letter answers so much easier than shorter ones, but so much easier to make typing mistakes with. Thanks for the challenge. *Ulla Axelsen*
- A terrific puzzle, Toby. Lots of very good clues. I thought UMBRAGE particularly clever. *Julie Crowe*
- Absolutely loved this puzzle with some cheeky, fun clues - great work, Toby! 21ac gave me some problems, but I got there in the end!!! *Kathryn Forward*
- Seemed to be a bit of a theme and the happy endings clue made us laugh! *Robyn McKenzie*
- I love big words! *Robyn Wimbush*
- If evil circus brats can become cruciverbalists, there's hope for all of us. *Kath Harper*
- Great puzzle, tku T-boy. *Christopher Thomas*

T-boy writes "8 x15 letter interlocking clues are not easy to get but thanks to my esteemed mentor for sharing a formula that makes it possible. Thanks for all the positive feedback. It certainly encourages me to keep compiling. I suspect that my years running a de facto STI clinic may show through. Sometimes Crossword Compiler forces my hand. I mean what else can you do with O?G?S?S!"

September 7: Anon (Len Colgan and Ian Williams)

- Tough challenge. Really struggled with the NE corner with several unknown words. I am still unsure about how to parse some of my answers. *Krittibas Dasgupta*
- Favourite was YABBIE, hope he survived the salinity! *Toby McLeay*
- An enjoyable solve although the last couple of words took a while to find. *Ulla Axelsen*
- A great puzzle. Lovely precise clues. I thought 27ac and 24ac very clever. *Julie Crowe*
- A number of clues were difficult to parse plus a couple were serious contenders for our COTM. Excellent crossword. *Richard Skinner*
- An appropriately tricky Slot 7 which provided lots of entertaining clues. *Kathryn Forward*
- A great way to finish the month of Croz and those wonderful 17 letter solutions. I wonder why STRAIT(S) of GIBRALTAR is commonly used. As far as I can tell there is only one of them. Thank you! *Ann Millard*
- So hard to print Strait of Gibraltar. 'Straits of' has been in my head for 80 years! *Robyn Wimbush*
- Good, tough puzzle. 27ac REVISITED and 5dn DISALLOWED were excellent clues. *Ian Thompson*

Anon writes "Thank you for the kind words: We're glad that members enjoyed our efforts. A number of one-off errors seemed to result from incorrect reading of the definition. A click on the built-in spell check prior to submission would have avoided the missed dots for GIBRALTER, a repeated error!"

Slot 1

Half & Half
by
NanaKat

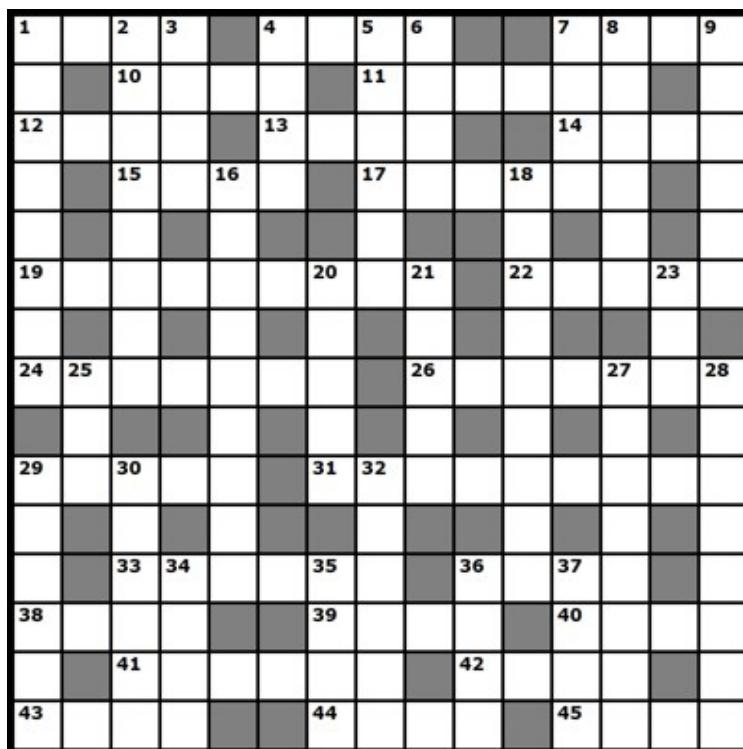


Second Prize Rebel's 2027 Calendar

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

Across

- 1 Beat rhythmically (4)
4 Queensland rugby union team (4)
7 Small Turkish coin (4)
10 South American country (4)
11 Beginnings, informally (6)
12 Father, in baby talk (4)
13 Landlocked African republic (4)
14 Scrutinise (4)
15 Above (4)
17 Burning the midnight oil (2,4)
19 Period of three months (9)
22 Ciphers (5)
24 Offered in a hairy handshake! (4,3)
26 Disinters (7)
29 A lively party, quaintly (5)
31 Oysters and abalone (9)
33 Not switched off (4,2)
36 Kept cold (4)
38 Chattel; upright (4)
39 Wail (4)
40 Grandmother, informally (4)
41 Oenologist's milieu (6)
42 Area of restricted entry (2-2)
43 Remainder (4)
44 Sold with any/all faults (2,2)
45 Mast (4)



Down

- 1 Diminished passage captured by instrument (8)
2 Refreshing to feel optimistic over courting (8)
3 A thousand consume flesh (4)
4 Best to ignore model revealing backside! (4)
5 Thin cover mounted on vehicle (6)
6 Fixes up cut (4)
7 Upright job (4)
8 Get-up for wild dances (6)
9 Irritates speakers when time is cut (6)
16 Strong bowling session at opening of pitch cover (9)
18 Problem drinker has juice with ice, mostly (9)
20 Large settlements draw Poles (5)
21 About the night before; it's official (5)
23 First lady again missing from '21' (3)
25 'American Biscuit' endlessly produces rock (3)
27 Spies' secret delivery place, post fall (4,4)
28 A glass of beer? Rather be around church! (8)
29 Snag old car (6)
30 Suspension device initially lacking permits (6)
32 Shy one upset sweethearts (6)
34 Adjust for rising tide (4)
35 Lady's finger found in park office counter (4)
36 Popular partners at Bridge Hotels (4)
37 For example, good origin of species! (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
Drew Meek; 6 Levien Street, Scullin 2614 ACT

**BLANK
GRIDS
PAGE 16**

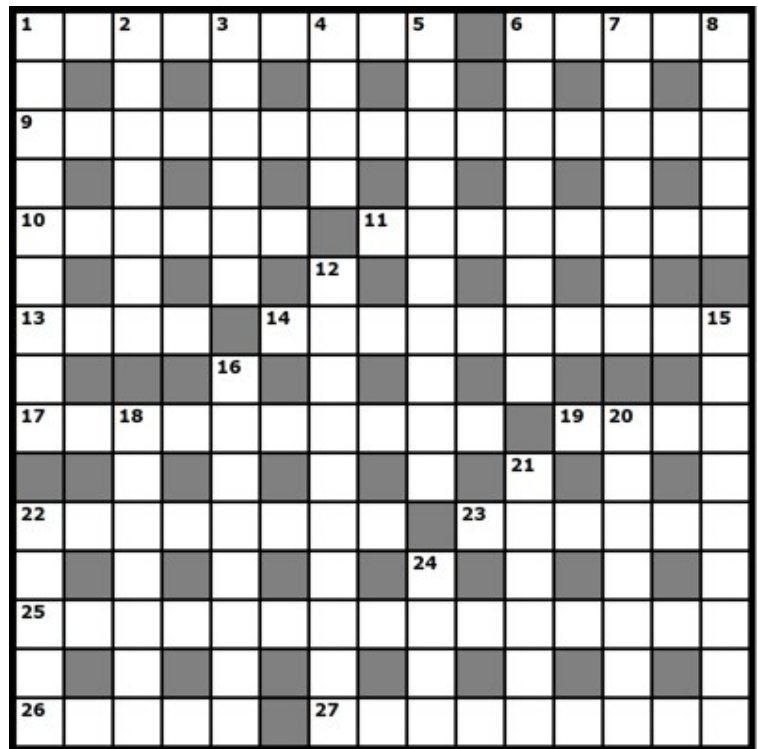
Closing mail date for all puzzles is October 31, 2026.
ACCOLADE entries close at 00.01

Slot 2

Cryptic
by
T-boy



Second Prize Rebel's 2027 Calendar



Across

- 1 Jester's cap put at an angle with small hair implement (9)
- 6 Can intrinsic dipso be rehabilitated as teetotal? (5)
- 9 Globally fashionable bird, Tonia, mistreated associate (15)
- 10 Recoiled from naked ocker involved in joke (6)
- 11 Unravelling loser returns half-shaved (8)
- 13 Parisian dream recurring eternally (4)
- 14 Smell bag of rotten meat (4,2,4)
- 17 Special talent in bridge perhaps (6,4)
- 19 Work without discharge? (4)
- 22 Kind thesaurus writer retired in small islet (8)
- 23 Tea containing mineral causes nervous disorder (6)
- 25 Frank is heterosexual and precocious (15)
- 26 Allied son died horribly (5)
- 27 Drone about hunt for customer (9)

Down

- 1 Salad legumes to go with Oxford don's select curd (9)
- 2 Skin snip treated lice (7)
- 3 Speculate after endless frost turned to water ice (6)
- 4 Cricket ground office, opening onto rose garden (4)
- 5 Overall litigation pursued old bird (6,4)
- 6 Passenger at heart lifts hat making farewells (4-4)
- 7 Baron Orsino's desire for country (7)
- 8 Beamed dose of radiation enveloping you once (5)
- 12 Norse captain primarily upset with travel ban (10)
- 15 Bad sentry, terrible witness (9)
- 16 Drag Nina around, giving entry! (8)
- 18 Flag divides socialist left (7)
- 20 Sharp burst after exercise maybe (7)
- 21 Child ragamuffin not in chapel (6)
- 22 Saints coming after heartless CEO for expenses (5)
- 24 Unbounded journey from a distance (4)

General feedback for September

- I find the dot grid quite difficult to read in it's smaller format. Could it be enlarged? We're not restricted by space in an emailed document. *Jenny Wenham*
- Thanks for the prize for slot 7. It's such a buzz! *Corryn Anderson*

Slot 3

**Cryptic
by
Ninian**



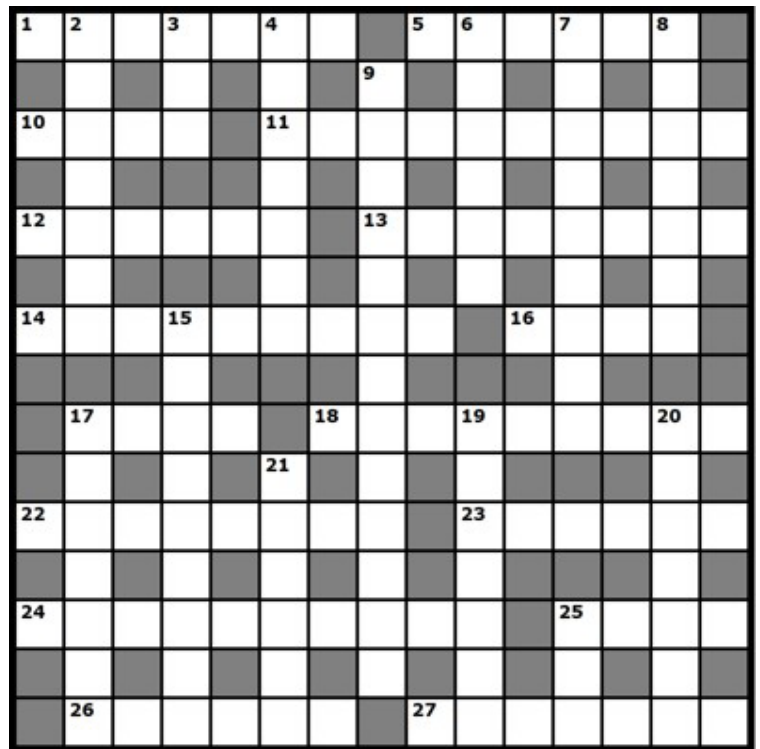
Second Prize Rebel's 2027 Calendar

Across

- 1** Poetically transposed? (7)
- 5** Right over silly point (6)
- 10** Proud one in front (4)
- 11** Emma is hurt, suffering a painful condition (10)
- 12** Mickey taking father around a first time (6)
- 13** More ferocious hoarder holding military intelligence (8)
- 14** Conga dance? Do 25 horizontally! (5,4)
- 16** Keep in spinning test (4)
- 17** Backward sweep! (4)
- 18** Throw light on cryptic clue - I see! (9)
- 22** Bury X in retirement home of X and others (8)
- 23** Timeless potions brewed for pervert (6)
- 24** Couldn't care less for a married basket case covering venial error (10)
- 25** Pedigree of iron deficient leopard, say (4)
- 26** My code encrypted for 12 say (6)
- 27** Worker in lead or soft wood? (7)

Down

- 2** Once more takes in object of sun worship when travelling up river (7)
- 3** An age when one's last may be first (3)
- 4** Queen insure a laptop - fantastic! (7)
- 6** Wash twice and turn up for ornamental ball (3-3)
- 7** Suggested partner died below Peruvian capital (9)
- 8** Young knight, rise (7)
- 9** Feels sorry about New Orleans public figures (13)
- 15** Bone broth of emu and Zulu tapir (9)
- 17** Driving, Mandy is out on 99 (7)
- 19** Male exhibits roughly twisted plait (7)
- 20** Easily best short essay on big cat (7)
- 21** Leg before wicket on a road when going forward (6)
- 25** Clip innocent fly (3)



Slot 4

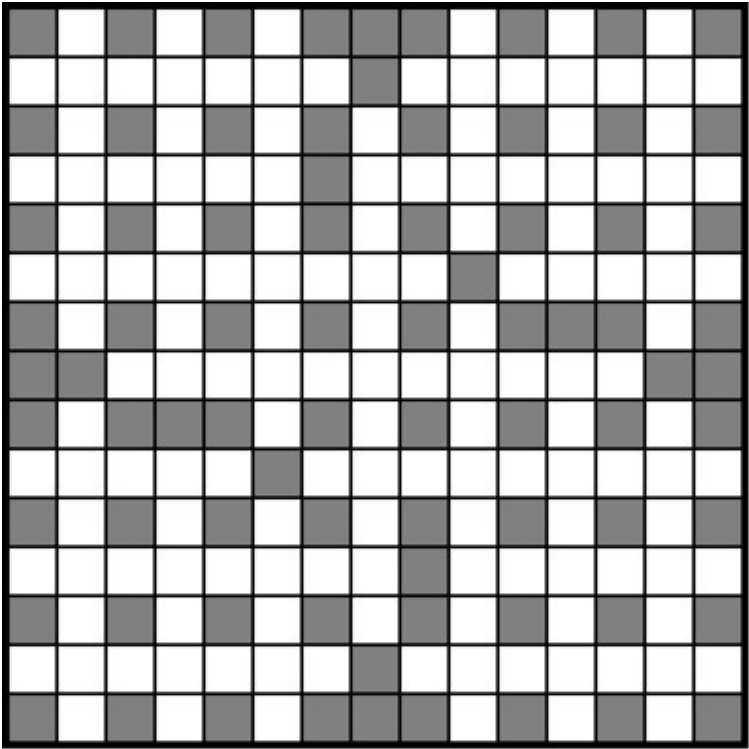
A-F AJ*
by
Crowsman



Second Prize Rebel's 2027 Calendar

*An Anagram-Free Alphabetical Jigsaw.
Solutions begin with the given letter.
Place them in the grid jigsaw-wise,
where they fit.

- A Bent mindset, getting power for first time (8)
- B Danger sign in report, but lack of interest (7)
- C Spooner's beat-music teacher is a pest! (9)
- D They reveal almost record shutdowns (11)
- E Cardinal chewed audibly (5)
- F Serious mistake overturned in young animal (3,4)
- G Filthy houses left in a dreadful way (6)
- H After border doubled down, catch poisonous plant (7)
- I Callous and stupid imprisoning drone (8)
- J Get-togethers carried in relative of Jesus (9)
- K Family name recalled due to motion (7)
- L Not here cutting hair leads to industrial dispute actions (8)
- M Small insect, for example, hard to see returning (5)
- N Write about musical composition, one by Holst (7)
- O Lightweight cat (5)
- P Instigator's fine locked in by one giving irrefutable evidence (8)
- Q Significant gesture adopted by eccentric Canadian (9)



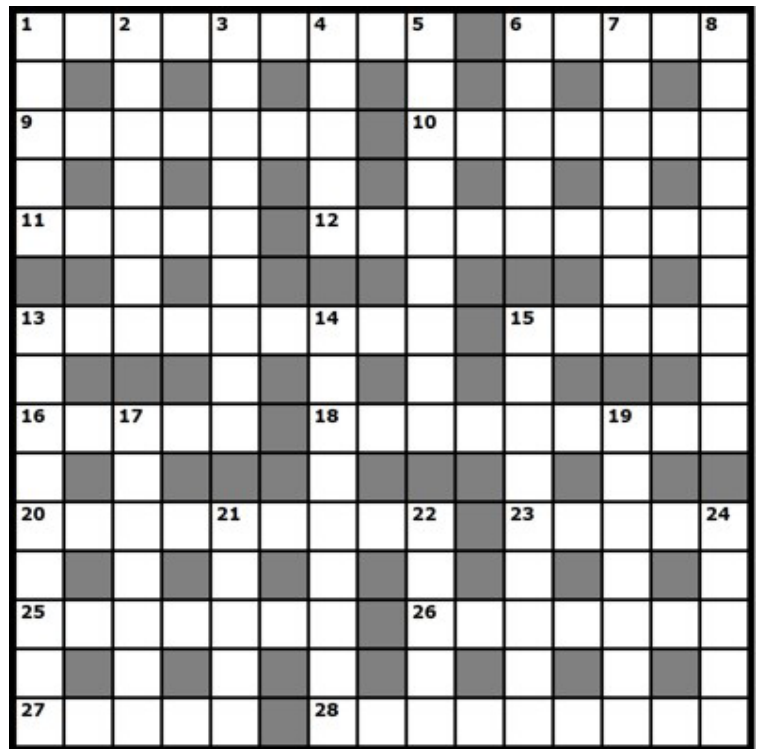
- R Uncontrollable wild behaviour makes South Atlantic port strain (6)
- S Type of fast delivery of water, French version (6)
- T Disloyal justification carried by board (11)
- U Waste fluid and fruit removed from small ceramic (5)
- V Energy has priest finally becoming primate (6)
- W Local breaks branch on top (7)
- X Wrong indication has an unconvinced person doubting yellow tumours (9)
- Y Cries of elation from number one, putting problems outside! (7)
- Z Animal carried in Central American trailer (7)

Slot 5

Cryptic
by
Manveru



Second Prize Rebel's 2027 Calendar



Across

- 1 They live in town with liberated slave girl (9)
- 6 He's virtuous, timeless and embraces everyone's sins (just the original ones) (5)
- 9 Batman averts disaster with Robin's butt getting caught (7)
- 10 Head of eel is stuffed inside bait for fishing perhaps (7)
- 11 Topic: 'A type of cell relating to blood' (5)
- 12 Bewilderment with advanced puzzle pieces and a touch of trigonometry (9)
- 13 Arch detail constructed to hide head of icon in Hagia Sophia originally (9)
- 15 Fleece taken from 60% of sheep on unfenced farm (5)
- 16 Legend that's useful in this book! (5)
- 18 Psychotic and desperate brute is dead and buried, finally! (9)
- 20 Tried hard to make strudel filled with grog, but it's empty! (9)
- 23 Send on or send back? (5)
- 25 Surgery on hip and one leg will provide stance (7)
- 26 Nearly finish drink (ale) brewed from place of Guinness (7)
- 27 Small flowerless matted plant storing energy - one separating water? (5)
- 28 It requires focus and resolution to reveal 14d perhaps (9)

Down

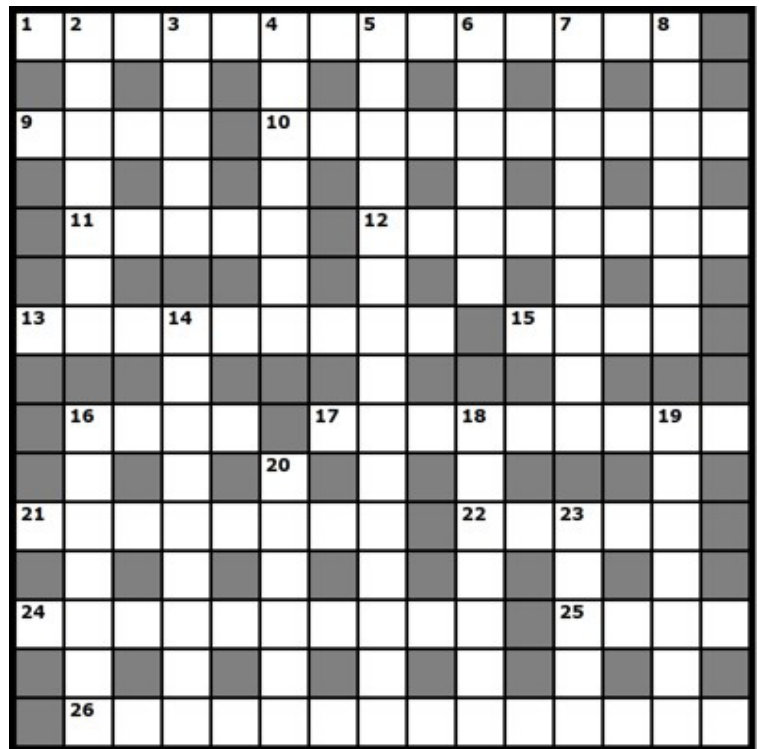
- 1 See 5 - is it... (5)
- 2 ...great Lake Superior's northern point reimagined as the most vast (7)
- 3 Understanding comes from answer cryptically compiled with 'special' Australian English (9)
- 4 Special newspaper edition uncovers characters involved in sex trafficking (5)
- 5 They make up words and dictionary has four of them! (9)
- 6 Sounds like a pair or pear perhaps? (5)
- 7 Pressure as queen takes knight in the unexpected Schnoz opening? (7)
- 8 Took refuge and was uncomfortably hot, needing hospital after losing weight (9)
- 13 'Social status and Othello's rise' could be taught here (9)
- 14 Mars Bar, finally with al dente version infused with nib of pistachio (3,6)
- 15 Flying perhaps with nuts onboard? (9)
- 17 Trucks, whoppers, loaded with gold rupees (7)
- 19 Muscular - a look for horny ones? (7)
- 21 Beams or particles? There's no answer (5)
- 22 Pierce with a bullet or interrogate? Dead, not good (5)
- 24 Link magnetic flux density disappearing with an elongated area of high pressure (5)

Slot 6

Cryptic
by
CT



Second Prize Rebel's 2027 Calendar

**Across**

- 1** Good-looking? (6-8)
- 9** Bird following bird (4)
- 10** Pack leader, the top dog! (10)
- 11** Cop's commanding officer's nightclub (5)
- 12** Recycled real poo page? (3,5)
- 13** Fiancée's bed robe - it's undone (5-2-2)
- 15** A relative's unchanged (2,2)
- 16** By earth, covering a trip around the sun (4)
- 17** Trial period for flier with one leg (9)
- 21** Poetry. Oh cruel oral tradition! (8)
- 22** Deposit level (5)
- 24** No end of trouble with party against small ad (4,6)
- 25** Exam exposed teachings (4)
- 26** A noble feasting could cause the opposite? (4-10)

Down

- 2** At home, demand it's neat (2,5)
- 3** Distributes benefits (5)
- 4** Financial disaster is auditor's reason to sulk (7)
- 5** Storied vagabond - an American, Bush, lords it over European (11,4)
- 6** Gun is to be hidden in hollow panel (6)
- 7** Popular model has time managed when travelling (2,7)
- 8** Old fellas in hot springs, gossiping (7)
- 14** Casualties' inheritance tax? (5,4)
- 16** Jocks on the radio question political groups (1-6)
- 18** Overcoming loss of energy from insect venom (7)
- 19** Herb Elliott, initially, involved in paper on Olympic opening (7)
- 20** Fields on road occasionally, like a bowler? (6)
- 23** A fight that's concerning (5)

Slot 7

**Cryptic
by
Crowsman**

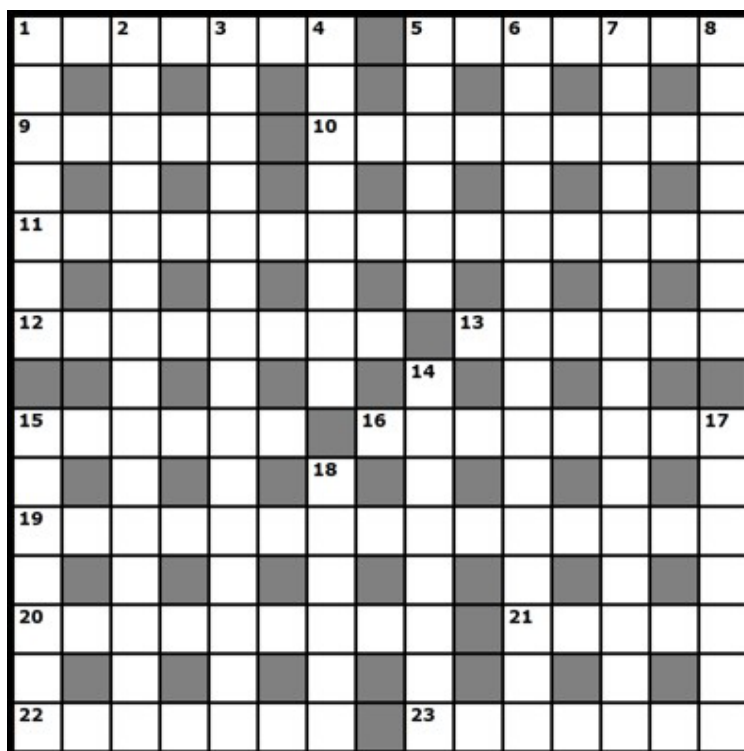


Calendar

Second Prize Rebel's 2027 Calendar

**Across**

- 1 Sibyl heading west, taking in place names (7)
- 5 Tightens one's belt with small folds (7)
- 9 Arab's second car (5)
- 10 Removed spirit from being taxed, restricting otherwise (9)
- 11 Resolute about reaching the top, president means to be heard (8,7)
- 12 Using this, it is now here from nowhere! (5,3)
- 13 Push staff to force a proposal to be accepted (6)
- 15 Salt additive that is holding back Carthaginian queen (6)
- 16 Shade ordered by trendy chief's office (8)
- 19 Emergency brigades coming from bloodstained sex crime returning amidst fixtures (4,11)
- 20 18th century Anglo-Irish novelist embraced by listener, New Englander perhaps (9)
- 21 Innocent tipping over of bottled water (5)
- 22 Stops those believing in God welcoming leader of sect (7)
- 23 Says "OK" when posted south (7)

CROWSMAN'S CORNER**Down**

- 1 Takes test again, involving first of several bucks (7)
- 2 Superficial refinement cut quartz, for example, found in beach (6,3,6)
- 3 Ran, breaking consistency with stupidity (15)
- 4 Bird caught in wave from backward motion of vessel (8)
- 5 Marked cannabis found in filthy place (6)
- 6 Carry out with small cars after wild bear cuts abs (6,9)
- 7 Wrong idea adjusting paper layer during operation (15)
- 8 Applied a tranquilliser, raising small amount in the beginning (7)
- 14 Blunder admitted by raising vent towards mini ecosystem containers (8)
- 15 Place of diamond swindle if night-watchman held up (7)
- 17 Have western bands front of stage? (7)
- 18 Prickles from small trees (6)

The blank grid for this puzzle is on page 2



Quiz 2026-10. It's not your business! by **Michael Vnuk**. Send your answers by email to Michael Vnuk michaelv@futureweb.com.au or post to 583 Greenhill Road, Burnside SA 5066. Closing mail date 30 October 2026.

Using the clues, create appropriate business names for famous people to sell products. For example:

G4 Australian golfer 'The Shark'; hen products = Greg's Eggs [from Greg Norman]

N4 US president; serviettes = Nixon's Napkins [from Richard Nixon]

The letter and number show how often the letter must occur in the 2-word business name. The business name must use the person's usual first or last name, but not both, followed by the product. Words in the business name may start with any letter.



Second Prize Rebel's 2027 Calendar

A5 Australian star of Chopper and Hulk; 'bent fruit

B6 American former world chess No 1; drinking fountains

C6 Psycho director; chocolates (colloq.)

D4 Comedian and Arthur actor; clothes (colloq.)

E5 The Third Man author; leafy vegies

F5 Catwoman in Batman Returns; popular hot drink

G5 Beatle; protective eyewear

H5 Iron Lady; processed cannabis

I5 Casablanca actress; women's swimwear

J3 Beatle; Asian date-like fruit

K8 Australian tennis player; trinkets

L6 1970s fast bowler; candy

M4 Harry Potter actress; bullets (colloq.)

N5 Beatle; bulb vegetable

O6 Female French fashion designer; recipe compilations

P6 Prince William's sister-in-law; flowers of remembrance

Q2 Zorba the Greek actor; apple-like fruit

R5 Star Wars actress; baskets etc

S8 Former Federal Opposition leader; cutters [S after apostrophe is counted]

T5 South African Nobel; potatoes (UK colloq.)

U4 Dr No actress; ballerina costumes

V4 Gone With the Wind actress; flow controllers

W4 US president during WW1; flutes etc

X2 Former independent SA senator; percussion instruments

Y3 Beatle's wife; spinning toys

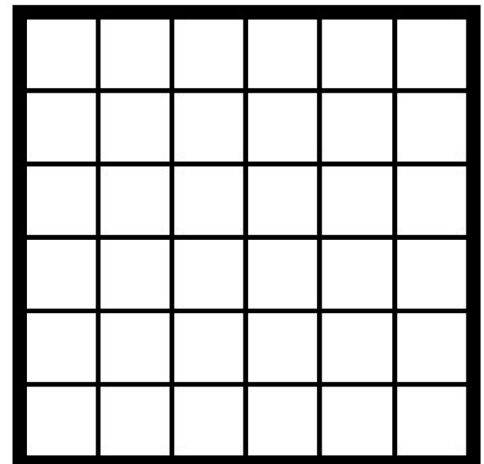
Z4 Jazz trumpeter; popular dishes of Italian origin

FRAZ WORD SQUARE 6 - October 1

Identical words read across and down in this square.

Clues are not listed in order.

- Look toward the setting sun at its nadir
- Moonwalking competition's excellent prize
- Slice of lamb inside brown toast
- Paper tiger's first bone of contention
- Restlessness in June, as ever
- A distinguished man is striking youth

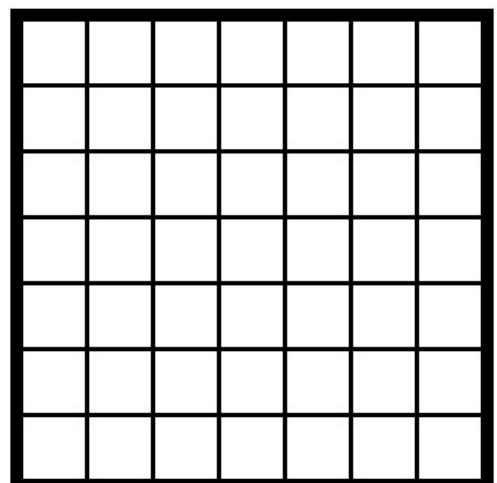


FRAZ WORD SQUARE 7 - October 2

Identical words read across and down in this square.

Clues are not listed in order.

- Herder doesn't start wrapping each novel container? (hyph.)
- Go with current kind of bond in chemistry
- Aim for fun time to fill Saturday (2 wds.)
- The man's interrupting with a quiet voice
- Dotty is to write, "Come on in!" (2 wds.)
- Rex records tenants
- Strike hard before...hey! (2 wds.)



Answers to Fraz Squares on page 13

Quiz 2026-9 Three Of a Kind by KA (Karl Audrins)

Results: Correct: 30. Axelsen U. Colgan L. Crowe J. Garner P. Harper K. Jarman L. Jarman R. Leigh J. Martin F. Meek D. Millard A. Rosendorff D. Ryan W. Symons B. Vnuk M. Wimbush R. **29. Allen W. Flinkenberh C. Francis K.** Patterson A. Wilcox C. **28.** Barbour J. Blake M.
Prizewinner Robyn Wimbush. Congratulations!

Answers: **1** AGAMA, **2** ASTRAGAL, **3** BALATA, **4** CANTATA, **5** CATAPLASM, **6** CHARLATAN, **7** DATABANK, **8** DHARMSALA, **9** FALBALA, **10** HAMADRYAD, **11** HAPHAZARD, **12** JACAMAR, **13** KAABA, **14** MANDALA, **15** MARSALA, **16** NAGANA, **17** PAPAYA, **18** PATAMAR, **19** PHANTASMAL, **20** RATAPLAN, **21** SANDARAC, **22** SARABAND, **23** SAVANNAH, **24** SCALAWAG, **25** TARLATAN, **26** TARTANA, **27** TRAGACANTH, **28** VALHALLA, **29** WADMAAL, **30** YATAGAN.

Adjudicator's Observations

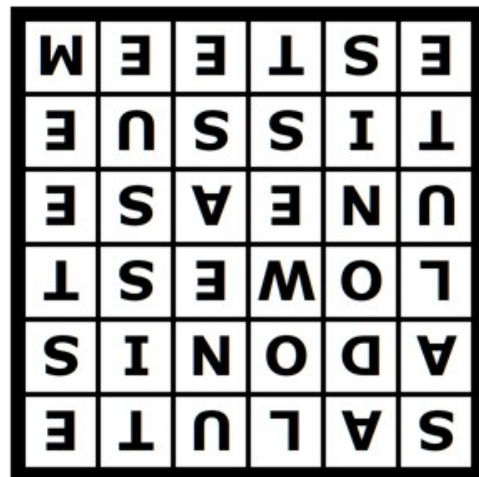
Not much of relevance to say except thank you to all the participants and congratulations to the winner. For those in error; cadaga is an Australian tree, banana is not a tree, and one answer was alphabetically incorrect. Cheers.

Solvers' Feedback.

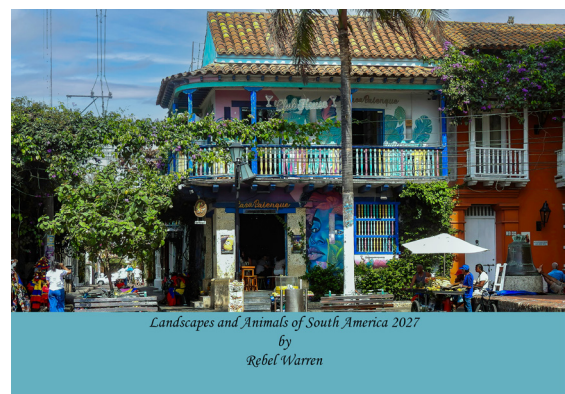
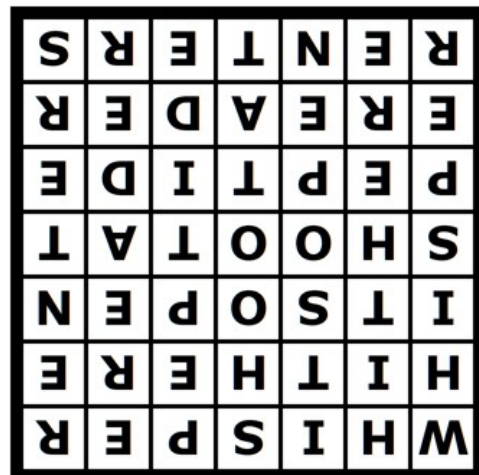
- Thank you for this interesting quiz for which I needed to do some research to discover new words. *Maureen Blake*
- Thanks for a challenging and enjoyable quiz – a few new words gleaned in the process in solving it. *Jean Barbour*
- Challenging at times – however did expand my vocabulary. *Cheryl Wilcox*
- I found it pretty tricky but the range of possibilities was at least limited/ *Andrew Patterson*
- Can't believe it is No 9 already and yet another one pointing out how much my general knowledge is lacking. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Tough!! Had to google several. Thank you. *William Ryan*
- This quiz was, by far, the most challenging in a long time. That's a compliment! I thought I had a reasonable vocabulary. But nearly half these answers were new to me. Great stuff! *Ann Millard*
- Lots of new words. Had to look up over half of them. *Drew Meek*
- Yet another original idea introducing me to totally new vocabulary. Thank you. *Julie Leigh*
- This quiz definitely has a triple A rating. *Kath Harper*
- Well, that was a workout with the dictionary. Vast majority unknown, so I enjoyed the hunt. *Julie Crowe*
- Can't say I have heard of too many of these words. Thanks for the challenge. *Ulla Axelsen*



FRAZ WORD SQUARE 6-October 1 Solution



FRAZ WORD SQUARE 7- October 2 Solution



If you are looking for that perfect Christmas gift for someone or just for yourself, my 2027 calendar is bright and colourful. It is \$20 plus \$2.00 postage within Australia. My email address is rebelwarren51@gmail.com

GRIDATORIAL

The Executive Committee is very pleased to advise that the budget remains in a healthy condition so that we will be able to offer all the benefits of membership (including free access to the Macquarie Dictionary and Thesaurus) at the same bargain price of \$35, as last year. We are also able to offer the same value for each prize to the lucky solver of one of our scintillating puzzles, the monthly quiz, successful completion of slots 1 to 5 and the clue-writing competition. You will find all necessary information on renewing for 2027 on the final page of this issue. We look forward to your company for the coming year.

Back in this year, we have our usual feast of puzzles and other brain-liveners for your delectation this month. Starting with a richly-checked Half and Half from the "pen" of NanaKat, you may move on to the enjoyment offered by T-boy's carefully constructed slot 2. Ninian's unique sense of humour is clearly on display in the clues to his slot 3 puzzle and Crowsman applies his formidable talent to the alphabetical jigsaw that occupies its normal place in slot 4. Manveru appears in a non-AJ persona in his challenging slot 5 and CT makes a welcome appearance with a slot 6 puzzle that will surely stir the brain cells into activity. Crowsman shows his skill again in his Corner with a slot 7 puzzle that is relatively conventional for him, and contains a selection of the 15-letter solutions that members appreciate.

The quiz this month from Michael Vnuk breaks new ground and will provide an amusing diversion as you apply **your** sense of humour to the cues in his clues. The more-challenging 6- and 7-letter Fraz squares are featured again and we remind budding compilers that the clue-writing competition for September is still open.

Once again we are indebted to Rebel Warren for her generosity in presenting calendars as an additional prize for this month's competitions. I know that last year's recipients were pleased to have a year's display of Rebel's expert photography on their walls. Thank you, Rebel, from the Club.

We wish you challenging, and we hope pleasurable, solving through October.

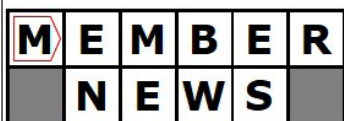
Ian



Please note that the clue-writing competition is still open for **CATACOMB (8)**; Please submit your clue (one per member, please), together with the explanation, to Drew Meek by email to **drewski1@hotmail.com** or post it to 6 Levien Street Scullin 2614 ACT. **Closing mail date 9 October 2026.**



Second Prize Rebel's 2027 Calendar



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 resulted in one only – from an established quiz compiler, so if you have any fresh ideas for a quiz we'd be pleased to hear from you.

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 their prizes to the prize fund, including Coryn Anderson, Karl Audrins, Wendy Cornish, Cheryl Wilcox and Anne Young. Such donations are most welcome and help to stave off reductions in prizes or increases in subscriptions..

Subscriptions in credit. Jenny will soon be 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.



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

September 1: Nigrum Cattus (Ray Gooderick)

- 23dn, a bit tricky to distinguish between ALLOY & ALLAY but AY, unlike OY, is a synonym of "indeed". *Ian McKenzie*
- Tea for two was a cute clue. Thanks. *Guy Sansom*
- Good slot 1. *Roy Taylor*
- As is often the case with half & half's, the cryptic clues are easier than the normal ones. Thanks for the solve. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Some good clues and a great start to the month! *Ann Millard*
- I enjoyed this gentle start! *Kathryn Forward*
- Gently eased into September. Thanks NC. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Harder than the usual slot 1, but good fun. *Scott Goodman*

September 2: Lexi Conner (Ron Shapiro)

- A lot of unchecked letters in the NW and SE corners of this one made some of it a bit difficult. I liked "unloaded shotgun" for S-N. *Jenny Wenham*
- Haven't seen many crosswords with 2-letter answers. Unorthodox. *Rick Yeatman*
- I enjoyed a bit of armchair travel with this one. *Kath Harper*
- I had a chuckle with the clue for AMERICA. *Toby McLeay*
- What an unusual grid. I can't remember ever having a two-letter answer in a cryptic crossword. Very different. *Ulla Axelsen*
- A little geography, an unusual grid and some funny little words. What more can you ask for! *Richard Skinner*
- An interesting grid! *Ann Millard*
- Some tricky little three-letter answers kept me on the ball! *Kathryn Forward*
- I liked AMERICA, ROMAN and CAIMAN. *Kathy Horadam*
- Interesting set-up and enjoyable puzzle. We don't see 2-letter words very often. *Robyn Wimbush*
- I found this a very strange grid, one I did not like. What do other members think? *Corryn Anderson*
- The grid layout was too fussy and its printout was very small. The physical complexities lessened the enjoyment of the cryptic. *Lynn Jarman*

Lexi Conner writes "The grid produced more comments than the clues and that's atypical. I haven't used this grid much but two advantages are that it provides many more clues than those we are used to and there are fewer blocked squares. I won't otherwise try to justify using it as members' responses to the grid were quite mixed."

September 3: Jesso (Noel Jessop)

- 26ac, UNBENDS = UB? *Roy Taylor*
- Created a real challenge for myself by making the clues much more complex than they were. Thanks for the challenge. *Ulla Axelsen*
- An interesting slot 3. I'm not at all sure that 24dn using Erect as meaning "end on" is correct? I also always thought that Oil Drum (2dn) was two words? *Richard Skinner*
- I'm not sure about IMP and CONCERT PIANO. *Rick Yeatman*
- CASTLES IN SPAIN was new to me. HABIT was very well clued. Still unsure about CARBONARO. A most enjoyable puzzle thanks Jesso. *Kathy Horadam*
- This was an odd mix of obscure and easy. Kept me on my toes - liked ILLWILL. *Robyn Wimbush*

September 4: Manveru (Michael Kennedy)

- UTERI a very good clue. I noticed the Nina, square number. *Roy Taylor*
- I had to work hard for a few of these answers but I think I have it now. *Jenny Wenham*

- Why do I never notice the NINA until I enter it! Square Number! *Julie Leigh*
- Thanks to the 'square number' I corrected 'throw' to 'throb'. A fun challenge. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Square number? Not too sure what the Nina refers to. I notice that on the right we have "The Yes" climbing up. Just a coincidence? *Richard Skinner*
- Some challenging clues all in the left-hand top corner - S, K, J (especially) and Z. AND, a NINA being "Number the yes square". Does it mean anything! Thanks. Always a favourite. *Ann Millard*
- Thanks Manveru, I enjoyed it all especially KIDULTS and the two 11 letter anagrams. *Kathy Horadam*
- Thanks Michael. KIDULTS and VELAMEN were new words for me. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Good job, Michael. *Laurence Kennedy*
- Was that a NINA I saw? *Robyn Wimbush*
- Liked both the 11 letter clues and the NINA. *Ron Jarman*

September 5: KA (Karl Audrins)

- The ten "literal" clues provided an enjoyable puzzle. *Ian McKenzie*
- Well done Karl. Another enjoyable innovation. *Len Colgan*
- What a fun puzzle, thank you KA. *Jill Lankshear*
- This was fun to solve! I got HY straightaway, which helped me with others like it. *Krittibas Dasgupta*
- Lots of good clues and I enjoyed the ten amusing clues. *Roy Taylor*
- This was fun. I must be really old, I think of penny as D. *Julie Leigh*
- Very amusing. *Brian Symons*
- What a great puzzle. Different, and lots of fun. EYE OF A HURRICANE gets my COTM, shortest clue ever. *Betty Siegman*
- Lots of fun clues in this one. Most enjoyable thank you! *Toby McLeay*
- That was tricky, good fun though. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Well, this was different! Very enjoyable though. Despite going down a few dry holes trying to work out the ten unusual clues we eventually sussed how they worked. It was a no brainer to give 9ac the COTM! Well done KA. *Richard Skinner*
- Great puzzle with many clever clues, thanks KA. *Scott Goodman*
- An enjoyable puzzle with an interesting twist. *Kathryn Forward*
- A bit of fun and I hadn't come across COGNOMEN before! Thanks, Karl. *Ann Millard*
- How to make the bleeding obvious look bafflingly cryptic. *Kath Harper*
- Some clever clues without definitions. *Rick Yeatman*
- A very enjoyable, unorthodox puzzle. *Laurence Kennedy*
- Great set of rebuses, or should that be rebi? *Keith Bettles*
- Really enjoyed the extra challenge - thanks. *Jean Barbour*
- This was a bit different and fun too. *Hilary Cromer*
- Pretty unsure of COGNOMEN - enjoyed this puzzle a lot. *Christopher Thomas*

KA (Karl Audrins) writes "I am very pleased and surprised at the reaction of so many battle-hardened veterans."

September 6: T-boy (Toby McLeay)

- An outstanding cryptic. *David Bennett*
- Very clever and witty as usual. I voted VENEREAL DISEASE COTM. *Roy Taylor*

Continued on page 4

[illegible]

THE AUSTRALIAN CROSSWORD CLUB**Subscription renewal for 2027**

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

- Subscription to ACC for 2026 @ \$35ea (email only*)

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

Name

Address

Phone:

E-mail address:

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

The ACC website

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

Mail

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

Gift memberships

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

Donations to the ACC Prize Fund

The Executive Committee has set 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.

If making a direct transfer, please ensure the "notes" field on your transfer includes your name. Also, if you are paying more than just membership, please add a simple code to indicate how we should allocate the money. For example, a renewal plus a \$50 donation, may read "J. Citizen + \$50D" or a renewal plus gift "J Citizen and gift J Smith \$70".

*Amount payable to: ANZ Bank; BSB: 013259**

A/c name: The Australian Crossword Club A/c No: 490917945

*We regret that renewal online via PayPal is **no longer available**.*

Overseas members who do not have an Australian bank account should please contact the Secretary at jenny@wenham.net.au to arrange payment by an alternative method.

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

The Executive Committee