



No 413 September 2024



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For of all sad words of tongue or pen, The saddest are these: 'It might have been!' John Greenleaf Whittier, 1854, Maud Muller.

## GRIDATORIAL

Some administrative matters this month. Firstly, the Executive Committee is delighted to welcome to the ranks of Life Members of the Club Len Colgan, Michael Kennedy and Andrew Patterson, all of whom have made a significant contribution to our solving pleasure over many years. More detail in Member News. Also, you will see on page 13 a summary of the position of the Club following the year of free membership, both to members and interested outsiders. The aim of the free year was to reduce a bank balance which, due to good husbandry over many years, was significantly larger than our foreseen needs in the age of the internet. An analysis of our future outgoings gives us confidence that we can offer members another year of pleasure (and perhaps frustration?) for the familiar bargain price of \$35. We'll be putting out our invitations to renew with the October issue. Thanks to the members who have expressed views on recent changes of format: it is clear that, unfortunately, we cannot satisfy all. We hope that the compromise in these pages will be acceptable to the majority. For this month we are pleased to offer puzzles and quizzes from a combination of relatively new and well-experienced compilers and welcome a new to us, but experienced, compiler in slot 7. A short bio of The Void will be found under his puzzle. We wish you fruitful solving.

Ian

## FROM THE ADJUDICATOR

No major problems with any of the clues in the five slots this month. In fact, no clue had more than three incorrect entries. However, typos were numerous in some slots.

**Slot 1:** There were 14 different errors in this enjoyable offering from Valkyrie, suggesting that it was slightly harder than usual. BEAU was praised by a few commenters, and it gained two votes in COTM.

**Slot 2:** The only non-typo error in this slot was YARROW instead of MARROW. Possible the definition for marrow, essence, was not familiar to the two members who lost a dot. CT's clues were highly rated in general, and several, particularly the one for RECIPROCAL, were singled out for praise.

**Slot 3:** This scrummy puzzle by Katydid took the biscuit! I guess most people like biscuits, so there were many light-hearted comments about the theme. Nine different clues caused members problems, however, with the VOVO part of ICED VOVO being the undoing of three members.

**Slot 4:** As is usual, several members indicated their love of this kind of puzzle. Relatively generous clueing but a difficult grid seemed to be the consensus about this offering from KA, although not all found the solving to be straightforward. XERES and FEVER were interchangeable in the grid.

**Slot 5:** A remarkable puzzle by Timid Terrier with all answers beginning with E and ending with S. Crowsman is acknowledged by the setter in comments as the one who created the grid. Some solvers didn't notice the pattern until finished or almost finished, and one was pleased to notice the E beginnings early on, but didn't notice the S endings until the end. There were only three errors.

**COTM:** There were nineteen different nominations for clue of the month, with the top four clues all coming from slots 6 and 7. The winner was Manveru's POETS, a very clever &lit, with seven votes. Crowman's SPECTRES with its unusual kind of wordplay gained five votes and his ETCHER gained four. Manveru's POTHOLEs also gained three votes. Congratulations to Manveru.

Ian Thompson

## LEADING FIGURES

Puzzle No.	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Entries received	81	85	83	83	84	416
Correct entries	70	79	75	65	77	366
Success rate (%)	86	93	90	78	92	88
Prizewinners	Robert Hagan	Julie Crowe	Jean Barbour	Alison Hocking	Judy Randall	from 89 members

Prizewinner: August Slots 1-5 correct: Jeremy Barnes . Congratulations!

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August 2024 Slot 1

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

August 2024 Slot 2

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

August 2024 Slot 3

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

August 2024 Slot 4

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

August 2024 Slot 5

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

August 2024 Slot 6

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

MEMBERS' RESULTS FOR AUGUST 2024 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.								Graves C.								Pikler M.							
Allen W.								Hagan R.								Pinder S.							
Anderson C.								Harper K.								Procter D.							
Audrins K.								Hearn R.								Randall J.							
Axelsen U.								Hocking A.								Rosendorff D.							
Barbour J.								Horadam K.								Roulston S.							
Barnes J.								Howat S.								Ryan W.							
Batum C.								Jarman L.								Shield A.							
Bennett D.								Jarman R.								Shipway S.							
Bettles K.								Jones G.								Siegmán B.							
Blake M.								Kennedy L.								Simons A.							
Carpenter R.								Kennedy M.								Simpson F.							
Carroll L.								Lankshear J.								Skinner R.							
Cockburn B.								Leigh J.								Smith J.							
Cockburn M.								Mackay-Sim C.								Storey N.							
Colgan L.								Madden J.								Storti A.							
Coote P.								Martin A.								Symons B.							
Cornish W.								Matthews S.								Taylor R.							
Cromer H.								McClelland C.								Taylor S.							
Crowe J.								McKenzie I.								Thomas C.							
Davis K.								McKenzie R.								Thompson I.							
Dobele T.								McLeay T.								Tickle B.							
Ducker R.								Meek A.								Veress M.							
Ferguson J.								Miles A.								Void							
Flinkenberg C.								Millard A.								Wilcox C.							
Forward K.								Milton R.								Williams K.							
Francis K.								Moline R.								Wimbush R.							
Garner P.								Parsons D.								Wood J.							
Glissan B.								Patterson A.								Woolston M.							
Grainger D.								Peach S.															

Slot 1

Half and Half  
by  
Leprechaun

Prize  
\$50

1		2		3		4			5	6		7		8
							9							
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	14						15				16			
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18						19	20							
													21	
22		23				24								
25									26					
27							28							

Cryptic clues are shown in italics

Across

- 1 Approve (8)
- 5 Studious (6)
- 10 *Motor in service, including wash* (5)
- 11 *London area journalist worn out* (9)
- 12 Edible (9)
- 13 *Saucy dance?* (5)
- 14 *Lament when nail bent in physical training* (6)
- 15 *Curious holy man phoned ecclesiastical head* (7)
- 18 A good month for a beerfest (7)
- 20 *Deputies have state backing to arrest honourable man* (6)
- 22 *US art misrepresented Indian aphorism* (5)
- 24 *Dynamos* (4,5)
- 25 *Penalties, perhaps, for unrestrained thrills?* (4,5)
- 26 *Italian dish sent back at sapper party* (5)
- 27 Leavens (6)
- 28 *Handy seating features?* (8)

Down

- 1 *Sudden origins of a buckled railway upset public transport* (6)
- 2 Type of setting for romantic dinner? (9)
- 3 *Total under-charged for bed warmer* (8,7)
- 4 Restrict (7)
- 6 Visual aid Spooner might need at 8D (10,5)
- 7 *Peaceful situation goes amiss around ends of day* (5)
- 8 *Journey disliked by Spooner becomes waterlogged* (8)
- 9 Entry (6)
- 16 Skinny dippers? (9)
- 17 Domestic insect (8)
- 19 *Slicer cut up scraps* (6)
- 20 Coach (7)
- 21 Academy awards (6)
- 23 Letter from Athens? (5)

For online entry, submission and adjudication of all slots via ACCOLADE click on the ACCOLADE button on [www.crosswordclub.org](http://www.crosswordclub.org) home page.  
Slots 1 to 5: Betty Siegman email to [betty\\_siegman@hotmail.com](mailto:betty_siegman@hotmail.com) or mail to 2/46 Neale Street, Long Jetty NSW 2261  
Slot 6: Kay Williams: email to [ianw@webone.com.au](mailto:ianw@webone.com.au) or mail to 12 Lindrum Crescent Holt ACT 2615  
Slot 7: Kay Williams: email to [ianw@webone.com.au](mailto:ianw@webone.com.au) or mail to 12 Lindrum Crescent Holt ACT 2615  
Closing mail date for all puzzles is 27 September 2024.

SEND  
SOLUTIONS  
TO:

BLANK  
GRIDS  
PAGE 16

Slot 2

Cryptic  
by  
NanaKat

Prize  
\$50

			1		2				3		4			
	5							6					7	
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		13			14						15			
	16												17	
18			19						20		21			
22									23					
	24							25						

- Across
- Down
- 5 Helmsworth, losing value and having nothing, corrupted detective (6)

6 A question about programming asked out loud by the biographer of 5-across (6)

9 Insubstantial stigma isn't to be confused with Orthodox icons (6)

10 In spite of expectations, 2000 racquet champ loses opener and drops first ball (5,3)

11 Still with first person: singular, hairy humanoid, purportedly (4)

12 A near orbit irregularity (10)

13 Encountered brick carrier; nothing lethargic about his 18! (11)

18 Reproduces rickety steps (10)

21 Carefully observes choice pieces of fillet steak (4)

22 Owns tin and initially galvanises steel production for an historic battle (8)

23 As a bit of an actor, I opted for a turn as a dandified Belgian PI (6)

24 Most secure South Australian special event (6)

25 70s Argentinian tennis champion left inside townhouses (6)
- 1 Type of patience found in Yukon territory (8)

2 Colourful former Persian king announced tea ceremony director (6)

3 Idyllic country life is over, it's said (8)

4 Anarchic priest shows enthusiasm (6)

5 Casual shirt front, according to Spooner, was strongly contested (6)

7 Admiral's wrestling hold (6)

8 Initially, computer aided learning has a purpose and will come up in months (11)

14 The don is tempted, inwardly, to be a bon vivant (8)

15 Irregular great ape, by the sound of it (8)

16 Court cases about a criminal's lair to be reversed (6)

17 Sounds dire, son turning to criminals (6)

19 Large town, if central, will urbanise (6)

20 Stepsister ditches sobriety without hesitation and gets blood poisoning (6)

- General Feedback for August
- I was thrilled to receive a prize for July slot 5 which coincided with my birthday month. Thank you. Appropriately my treat will be subscribing to Chambers Dictionary! *Patricia Abbott*

I don't like the new format for AJs as much as there is less room to list the solutions by length (to help with placement). *Kathy Horadam*

I like this layout for Slot 4. Room to write answers; plus some space for working. *Nea Storey*

Many thanks to the Club for my prize last month. It's the icing on the top! *Beverley Cockburn*

Thanks to all concerned in August and thanks for the recent slot 6 prize. *Anne Simons*

Slot 3

Cryptic  
by  
T-boy

Prize  
\$50

1		2		3		4			5	6		7		8
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	14							15				16		
17														
18						19		20						
														21
22		23				24								
25										26				
27								28						

Across

- 1 One in setback going over Belgian fence (8)
- 5 Wretches almost uncovered on board (6)
- 10 A Hebrew said farewell (5)
- 11 Overwhelmed from practitioners’ time charge (9)
- 12 Alarms after Watergate dispute? (4,5)
- 13 Small bird moth (5)
- 14 First bowler placing marker during over (6)
- 15 Chief psychiatrist? (7)
- 18 Ring and rattle glass cover (4,3)
- 20 Comply when appraisal has mess sorted out (6)
- 22 Some carnivore licking remains (5)
- 24 Hopper gets gas for carriers (4,5)
- 25 Last tinny demolished at once (9)
- 26 Suffer a fashionable scoundrel (5)
- 27 Exposed practice introducing numerous unacceptable discrepancies into scientific method (6)
- 28 Workers in principle apartment (8)

Down

- 1 Allow to bring up the Spanish poison (6)
- 2 Rip out Inca’s heart with one friend for the chief (9)
- 3 Gail hung out with African penguin, a cackling bird! (8,7)
- 4 Roman Empire disintegrating with loss of main ruler (7)
- 6 Forces employment - never antisocial correction (8,7)
- 7 Bird flies up circling a pen (5)
- 8 Covering quiet gathering with leader unavailable (8)
- 9 Soup with a bit of lamb or schnitzel (6)
- 16 Eyeglass framing extremely costly mode of transport (9)
- 17 A cheat lifted it up on termination (8)
- 19 Veterinary operating without even curiosity (6)
- 20 Force unit after an old analgesic (7)
- 21 Wit trips out under Ecstasy (6)
- 23 Broken down clay is held evenly (5)

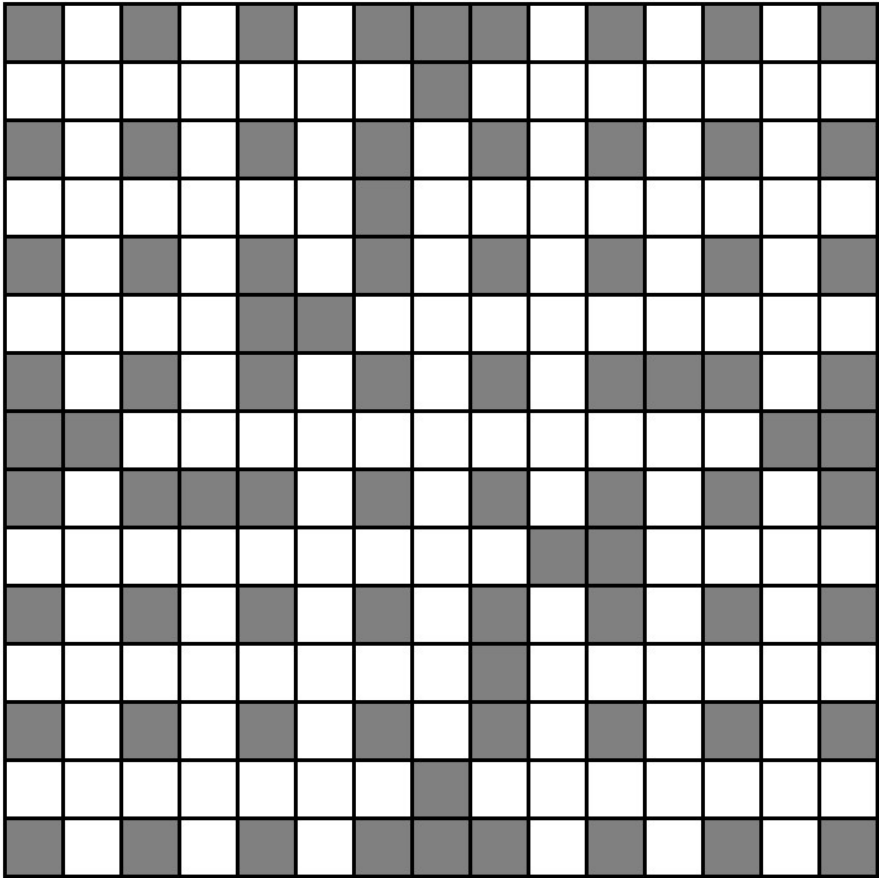
**The compiler:** we heard recently that T-boy (Toby McLeay AM) had retired after a long perid of service in our remote areas. A moving tribute to Toby and his work may be found [here](#) and personal information in our Rogues' Gallery [here](#)

Slot 4

AJ  
by  
Valkyrie



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



- A** Protons perhaps, purging positive features (8)

**B** Battered old, male poet found in sack (9)

**C** Beach jacket restricts sun (5)

**D** Cuts allowed to split rejected spawn (7)

**E** Danes, perhaps, last to start cake (6)

**F** Windy apartment sadly unlet (9)

**G** Executing gradual advances initially, with harness-racing lacking leadership (9)

**H** Wholesomely drunk, they'll laugh on changing limitations of flirting (11)

**I** I will and I have to embrace America? Unreal! (8)

**J** Merited drug for magistrate (7)

**K** Small fruit, fix up for Spooner's dog (5,4)

**L** Discoloration of the skin, distinctively blue without scent (8)

**M** Hitches sheep over on another rise (7)

**N** Slight electro-convulsive therapy after middle of knee starts to go limp (7)

**O** Old dress with trendy provenance (6)

**P** Beautiful fairy-like creature living in round Devonshire potatoes (4)

**Q** Monarch briefly restricting union line (5)

**R** Submits clues following note (7)

**S** Flaunts props (6)
- T** In the presence of prostrate ache, reference guide (7)

**U** A French duke regularly outlays more than is reasonable (6)

**V** Beetle that is within range of sight (4)

**W** Oddly, wintertime without men is more amusing (7)

**X** Bar performer? (11)

**Y** Cart around unopened pages showing uses for enclosed spaces (8)

**Z** Unknown primarily inestimable, 50 by 50 by 10<sup>n</sup>, a very large number (7)

Slot 5

Cryptic  
by  
Crowsman

Prize  
\$50

1	2		3		4			5	6		7		8	
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					17									
18			19							20	21			
									22					
23	24							25						
26								27						
28									29					

Across

- 1 Lay records in reverse choice (7)
- 5 Boss better back at home (7)
- 10 One staggering mammal with short smooth hair during half of winter (8)
- 11 Result of dropping off pet container back to front? (6)
- 12 Worry brings in extremes of trouble and distress (8)
- 13 Crowsman restricted by route travelled (6)
- 14 Sovereign knocked back booze (5)
- 15 Person who soaps you with flannel (9)
- 18 Redesigns outlet with controls outside (9)
- 20 Central Vietnam once turned over delicious food (5)
- 23 Definitely not common cold involved in panic! (6)
- 25 Backlash from Establishment moving Conservative leader further to the right (8)
- 26 Shoot towards a Mexican revolutionary (6)
- 27 Drop off wild reckless youth (8)
- 28 Cancelled document holding permit (7)
- 29 Died following dangerous cut (7)

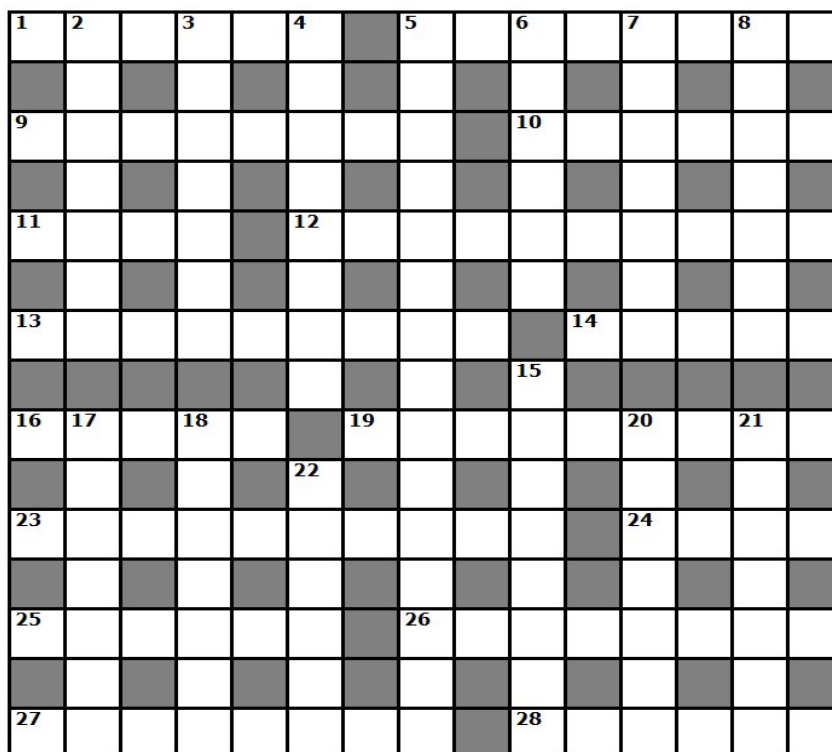
Down

- 2 Lying down, call girl is held up by novel language? (9)
- 3 Orange juice constituent, for example, written up in diet article (7)
- 4 Fan took in food including date (6)
- 6 Unerring copper breaks a case (8)
- 7 Measure strength and speed of bird (7)
- 8 Cross that is worn by informer (5)
- 9 I left schools and learned to write in letters of another alphabet (13)
- 16 Fancy talk after Truss turned up (9)
- 17 Long time put into opening rear of mosque for worship (8)
- 19 Hurried up judge for recount (7)
- 21 New 3 removes carbon for fertiliser (7)
- 22 Where chops are delivered, butchers partake without opening (6)
- 24 Charge after opening of cold case (5)

# Slot 6

## Cryptic by Hot and Cold

Prize  
\$50



### Across

- 1 Almost everyone except leaders of advocates undergoing trial possesses law degree (3,3)
- 5 Gatherers all rise. Right? Wrong! (8)
- 9 Mischievous march around southern California (8)
- 10 Dennis! He was a duck producer (6)
- 11 Advise on elements necessary to enunciate Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlantysiliogogoch (4)
- 12 Yell "Lord God!" Lose your head over plated metal (6,4)
- 13 Humorously reserved about tone on telephone (9)
- 14 A consort, externally calm (5)
- 16 Recover line left in fish (5)
- 19 Tree-dwellers dribble messily when consuming core of melon with taste of satsuma (9)
- 23 Marlene in WWII decorated in fish roe - about 0.061 cubic inches! (10)
- 24 Still halve head of superfluous animals (4)
- 25 Turnbull, ageless, exhibits spare capacity (6)
- 26 Leaderless gang you heard, sick on a Caribbean island (8)
- 27 Nell left Rev. Llewellyn dissipated! OK? (4,4)
- 28 Raw pain vocalised (6)

### Down

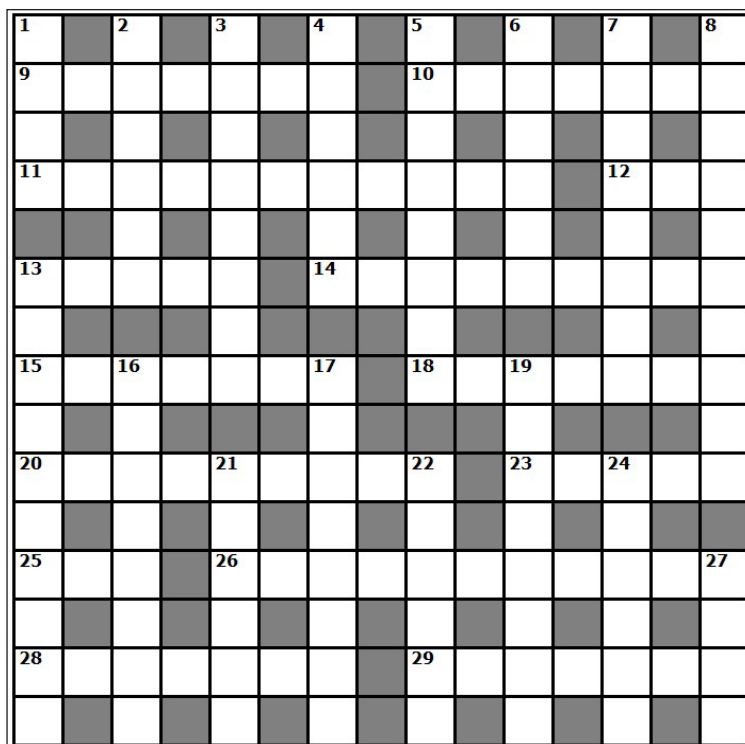
- 2 Plains inhabitant taking everything back to emperor (7)
- 3 Dangerous agents' taxi reversed to the centre of Scillies (7)
- 4 Dwarf Queen removed access to turnpike (4,4)
- 5 London venue set up a large oversized gun during revolution (5,6,4)
- 6 Layabout texted appreciation of modern illumination (6)
- 7 Bad wedgie reportedly banned (7)
- 8 Acanthus laurel I ordered (7)
- 15 Sensitive to everything with German rice blend (8)
- 17 Surreal 59 - an essence up under the arms (7)
- 18 Song from short 60's pop star, ably composed (7)
- 20 Resentment is unhealthy, Mr Ferrell (3,4)
- 21 Six island works out for American author (7)
- 22 Assert member consumes beer? To the contrary! (6)

Submit your solution via the ACCOLADE button on [www.crosswordclub.org](http://www.crosswordclub.org) home page, or for mail entries see page 3 for adjudicator and closing mail date.

## Slot 7

**Nor'wester  
by  
The Void**

**Prize  
\$50**



## Across

- 9 Polish setter's hype's almost at an end (7)  
 10 Neat French Élysée deserted after contemptible people abandoned student (3-4)  
 11 Mountain unit contains independent soldier on pot (11)  
 12 See 25  
 13 Chips regularly served with firm whitefish (5)  
 14 Music of mythical bird-king buried in small hill (4,1,4)  
 15 Hold water in plastic dust pan (5,2)  
 18 One reducing quality of duvets breaks some cord occasionally (7)  
 20 They pretend naughty children are surrounding large outcrop (9)  
 23 Baroness who wrote of gold and carbon axes (5)  
 25,12 Barista presumably isn't a member of an African cricket team (6)  
 26 A 24 into travelling near a certain line of latitude (11)  
 28 Smelly smoke initially is not clogging everyone's noses, safely evaporating (7)  
 29 Discharge businessman with pickup (7)

## Down

- 1 Yokel disrobed fool (4)  
 2 New sale includes quiet pressure cookers? (6)  
 3 Matilda's promise to bag maiden wickets with two balls (8)  
 4 Wailing person bent knee before old queen (6)  
 5 Paid for swimming federation to meet American state journalist (8)  
 6 Barrymore now necessarily coming to grips with fame (6)  
 7 Speeches without catering? (8)  
 8 Scientific discipline male departed over unspecified illness (10)  
 13 Stars overheard someone giving money to electronics company, perhaps (10)  
 16 Way cartoon miner skinned fish (8)  
 17 Film boss might make rude crop (8)  
 19 Ornaments worn by British jumper on shirtless torso (8)  
 21 Lady is returning pigment (6)  
 22 Fallen star, Rosewall? (6)  
 24 Gang requires hint about one question (6)  
 27 Ogle from lecturer ultimately made police dossier (4)

The blank grid for this puzzle is on page 11



I'm a British juggler and kendama player/author who these days is more prone to manipulating words. I set as Mev in The Independent, and as The Void in County Cricket Matters, 1Across and online. While co-hosting "Off-Grid, the not-really-about crosswords podcast", we never know which topics are coming up in the next episode until a crossword tells us, whereupon we chat with The General about them (Crozworlders should try episodes 41, 31 or 19 [here](#)). Latecomer to cryptics, but I'm here now, with a coffee and a croissant for good measure.

Submit solution via ACCOLADE button on [www.crosswordclub.org](http://www.crosswordclub.org) home page or for mail entries see page 3 for adjudicator and closing mail date.



### Quiz 9-2024 Double Trouble by Valkyrie (Ulla Axelsen).

The following answers all have something in common. They are in alphabetical order, but the common

elements are not. Send your answers by email to [ullaaxelsen@hotmail.com](mailto:ullaaxelsen@hotmail.com) or mail to 6 Maud Street Donnybrook Qld 4510. **Closing mail date is 27 September 2024. Prize \$50.**

- 1 Exaggerated display (11)
- 2 Area held on an enemy's shore for purpose of landing (9)
- 3 Harassing (9)
- 4 South African bird (6)
- 5 Infamous oil-spill tanker (5, 6)
- 6 Anything tempting and prohibited (9, 5)
- 7 CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub> for example (10, 5)
- 8 Pilgrim to Mecca (5)
- 9 Freshness of appeal (9)
- 10 Duke Ellington and Louis Armstrong for example (7)
- 11 Danish philosopher (11)
- 12 A feeling of weariness (9)
- 13 Wishbone (12)
- 14 Competitive snow event (6, 6)
- 15 Persian poet (4, 7)
- 16 Confer (6)
- 17 Argue over unimportant details (7)
- 18 Skipped along the ground (11)
- 19 Iranian city (6)
- 20 Expert detector and mender (14)
- 21 On your own (13)
- 22 Empty space (6)
- 23 Vain fantasist (7)
- 24 Yellow plant pigment (11)
- 25 The world of the upwardly mobile (9)
- 26 Continuously moving in short, sharp turns (10)

3 cauliflower, 4 circulatory system, 5 discourage, 6 exhaustion, 7 favourite, 8 groundbreaking, 9 hallucinogen, 10 inconsumable, 11 jailhouse, 12 keratinous, 13 lounge lizard, 14 malnourished, 15 mouthwatering, 16 nefarious, 17 one-upmanship, 18 pandemonium, 19 pelargonium, 20 question mark, 21 resuscitator, 22 running commentary, 23 soul-searching, 24 tongue-lashing, 25 uncomplicated, 26 vexatious, 27 walking wounded, 28 xiphopaguses, 29 young ladies, 30 Zonuridae,

**Setter's Comments:** It was stated that all answers needed to satisfy a common property which, for this quiz, required that they all contained each of the five vowels A,E,I,O,U exactly once. Unbelievably, there are two answers both satisfying #25's clue, word-length and the five vowel property. In addition to the expected UNCOMPLICATED, we have UNPROBLEMATIC. Even though it is not in Chambers, it is widespread and was accepted. I knew the X and Z answers would be tricky to find, but there were no other options available.

### Solvers' Feedback:

- I enjoyed your supervocalic quiz! *Fraser Simpson*
- Nice! Penny dropped quickly, but had to do some serious thinking for many, and major digging for the last two in: X & Z. Literally, read the Z section of my Chambers - twice! *William Ryan*
- Thanks for a challenging quiz. Once the penny dropped, things became much easier, although X and Z took some chasing. Not too many errors I hope. *Betty Siegman*
- This was a highly entertaining and enjoyable quiz. *Patricia Abbott*
- Quickly worked out that A E I O and U were each used once in every answer. Surprisingly I was able to work out quite a few of the words without help. Good fun. *Ulla Axelsen*
- I enjoyed this puzzle, even though it took a little working out the theme. Obvious in hindsight, of course. 24 was my last in, and 28 gave me much grief until I took note of the plural pairs! *Julie Crowe*
- Here is my submission for your quiz - which I thoroughly enjoyed. It was a perfect blend of doddle and difficult, and I'm still not at all sure about 'z' - I struggled to find anything to fit! I particularly enjoyed the extra tussle involved in figuring out which letters were repeated. Thanks for the fun and distraction during the coldest weeks of winter! *Kathryn Forward*
- Thank you for another excellent challenge. *Julie Leigh*
- Thank you for a clever quiz. I find myself constantly trying to find other words that fit the complete vowels pattern but it's not easy! *Robyn McKenzie*
- Took a while to pin down those pesky lizards! *Richard Skinner*
- Could you confuse yours truly much further? *Warren Allen*
- How do you come up with such wonderful ideas? No 28 & No 30 took some finding but it isn't fun without a challenge. *Ann Millard*
- I was beginning to get a bit panicky before the 'something in common' came to me. There were a few words with acceptable synonyms so which to choose? Xiphopagi doesn't work does it? Pity. Great fun, thank you. *Robyn Wimbush*
- The common theme appears to be that all vowels are used in each solution. 30 has me stumped. Given that you indicate there is at least one word for each letter of the alphabet, 30 must start with z but I was unable to find any z lizards meeting that theme. *Drew Meek*

### Results of Quiz 8-2024, by Crowsman.

**Entries: 28**

**Winner: Patricia Abbott. Congratulations!**

**Results: 30:** P Abbott, W Allen, U Axelsen, J Crowe, D Grainger, L Jarman, R Jarman, J Leigh, R McKenzie, A Miles, A Millard, D Procter, D Rosendorff, W Ryan, B Siegman, F Simpson, R Skinner, M Veress, R Wimbush **28:** K Forward, P Garner, R Taylor, K Watt **27:** C Anderson, D Meek, J Randall **24:** C Flinkenberg **22:** D Bennett

**Answers: 1 ambidextrous, 2 businesswoman,**

Continued on page 12

**September 6-2023 Cryptic by Manveru (Michael Kennedy)** *The solution of this puzzle is on page 2.*  
**Entries received 71. Correct 47. Success rate 66%.**  
**Prizewinner: Ian McKenzie. Congratulations!**

**Compiler’s observations**

Thank you to all the solvers that gave this a crack. There’s a long story about bringing this crossword to publication. I won’t repeat it here but do ask if I bump into you one day. A couple of pesky clues undid a few of you, particularly the one for EYRIE. With the homophone indicator (noises) at the end of the clue, only EYRIE fits. A few punters went with FEND for FEUD, and there was a smattering of misspellings to round off the remaining errors. ACNED undid no one, but indeed the *Holden Caprice* should have been travelling west – let’s blame the GPS.

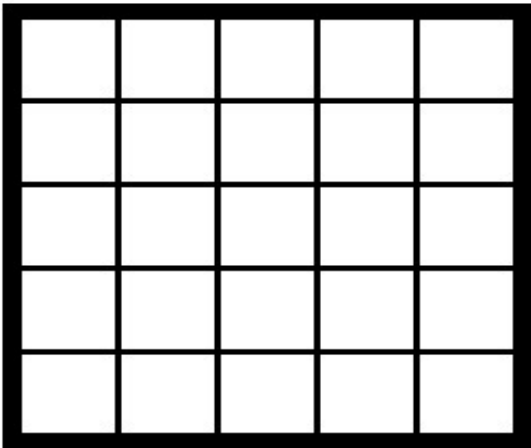
**Explanations – Across:** 7 A/U/(T(IS)M, 8 R/GEAR/LEN(s), 10 Play on White Nile/ Blue Nile, 11 CD?, 12 S.A.R.I, 13 S(TILLER), 14 LOOSEPATH\*-A, 16 C(ANON), 17 D/WEE/B, 19 T/WIN, 21 USING/E/E\* around C, 24 CINEMA\*, 25 DD, 27 hidden, 29 A(X)LE, 30 TO/SMILE/O, 31 D/MISS/A. **Down:** 1 M/UNIT/I/ON, 2 DECLINES/AG\*, 3 IMP/AIRED, 4 F+DUE(Rev), 5 f(ALLOUT), 6 SIRI, 9 Homophone, 14 POE/TS, 15 HOT/DANCERS\*, 18 DD, 20 IN/A/F/LASH, 22 Hidden, 23 BANJO\*after I, 26 DD, 28 HIDDEN.

**Solvers’ Feedback**

- Liked POTHOLEs, AXLE and SADISM. *Ian McKenzie*
- Favourite clue TILLER *Fraser Simpson*
- Loved POTHOLEs - wise advice, and gave it my COTM. *Betty Siegman*
- A great challenge, enjoyed so many of the clues. ICEMAN and ACNED had me scratching my head and then they ended up being so straight forward. Although in my defence, I think the Holden Caprice should have been travelling west. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Favourite POETS. SEPT was fun. *The Void*
- Quite tough. POTHOLEs and POETS had very good clues. *Ian Thompson*
- Great puzzle didn’t quite understand the clue for ANON, liked the clues for AUDIO, TWIN and IN A FLASH *Joan Smith*
- I really appreciated the Poe and TS clue! *Robyn McKenzie*
- POETS gets my COTM - brilliant! *Mal Cockburn*
- Prolonged pondering punctuated by bursts of inspiration. *Roy Taylor*
- I thought POETS was very clever. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Great clues, particularly likes clue for IRIS. *Beverley Cockburn*
- Some clever clues for the short words particularly ‘twin’ and ‘axle’. *Hilary Cromer*

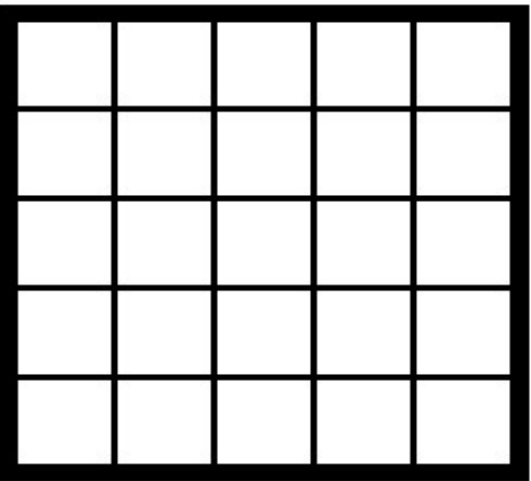
**FRAZ WORD SQUARE 5-Sept 1** (Solution on p 16)  
Identical words read across and down in this square. Clues are not listed in order.

- Announce central feature of warships
- Bush senior
- Enthusiastic about round skirt
- Gullible one enters part of a basilica
- Idiotic how Kate, Dave and Anne all finish




**FRAZ WORD SQUARE 5-Sept 2** (Solution on p 16)  
Identical words read across and down in this square. Clues are not listed in order.

- Condition one: jog back with energy
- Gun at extremely unsafe variety show
- Make tea, dear
- Means silver net tangled
- Norm is Romeo’s rival



Blank grid for September slot 7

Name:.....



1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8
9								10						
11													12	
13														
15		16				17		18		19				
20				21				22		23		24		
25				26										27
28								29						

**August 7-2024: Cryptic by Crowsman (Len Colgan)**

Entries 71. Correct 58. Success rate 82%.

**Prizewinner: Ron Carpenter. Congratulations!**

**Adjudicator's Comments:** The aim in compiling this puzzle was to avoid any anagrams and to include eight 9-letter answers which were constructed as containments, having one word inside another word. As can be seen from the explanations below, this was achieved.

**Explanations.** Across: 1 homoph of 'pick a door', 5 (b) ASSISTS, 9 M(AND)ARINE, 10 RIO + JA, 11 homoph of 'leads', 12 C(LAMB)AKES, 13 ETC + HER, 15 T(h)ANKFUL, 18 dd, 20 AS + SURE, 22 C(HEWS)OVER, 24 SQUAD, S moved to end, 25 dd, 26 V(AND)ALISE, 27 (di)SPENSER, 28 DE(LAY)ED. Down: 1 P(IMP)LY, 2 C(ONCE)ITED, 3 SWARD<, 4 RAIL + CAR(p), 5 ABE(NAY<)T, 6 S(ARAB)ANDS, 7 dd, 8 S(PARSE)LY, 14 H(ILLS)IDES, 16 FOR(MALI)TY, 17 RE in SPECTS, 19 palindrome, 20 A(PRONE)D, 21 AS + C + END, 23 (d)ELUDE, 24 dd.

**Members' feedback:**

- I really enjoyed this puzzle. Hope I haven't made mistakes [AOK - Adj]. *Wendy Cornish*
- Particularly liked SPECTRES. *Ian McKenzie*
- An enjoyable solve. Liked PICADOR and (b)ASSISTS! My dad was a double bass player with the Copenhagen Philharmonic Orchestra. He carried it on his back while riding his bike. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Favourite CHEWS OVER, ETCHER, TANKFUL, SARABANDS all nice too. *The Void*
- Such clever clueing on the nine-letter words! *Kathryn Forward*
- I liked the up and down stimulant, and also scores being forty. But my favourite was the clever 17 down, SPECTRES. *Julie Crowe*
- I gave 17D SPECTRES my COTM only because it was so tongue in cheek after Len's earlier comment. *Richard Skinner*
- Very enjoyable, challenging puzzle with so many good clues my two favourites were TANKFUL and SPECTRES *Joan Smith*
- All my favourite clues were in Slot 7: ETCHER, ASSIST and QUAIL. Thank you, Crowsman. *Nea Storey*
- Every clue was so well written Thank you, Len. *Robyn McKenzie*
- A great many good clues in this puzzle. Being told that there were no anagrams probably saved me some time but I was tempted to look. *Mal Cockburn*
- Excellent anagramless puzzle. *Roy Taylor*
- I thought ETCHER was clever. Thanks Len *Robyn Wimbush*
- Have you noticed or counted the number of hidden words in the 9 letter answers.? All eight answers have hidden words! Amazing! Well done, Len! *Beverley Cockburn*
- Loved it Crowsman. *Chris Thomas*
- So many entertaining clues! Made it hard to choose COTM. *Keith Bettles*
- A few tricky ones in there. Still not sure of a few words; but at least I don't have any blanks! *David Parsons*

**Quiz 8-2024: Feedback - Continued from page 10**

- I attach what I hope is my acretinous solution to your Panvowelium quiz! There was some hard finds here, not least of which were saved for the end in XIPHOPAGUSES and ZONURIDAE. Thanks for the challenge! *Andrew Miles*
- Thank you for your quiz, and the EUPHORIA I felt on finishing it. *David Grainger*

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

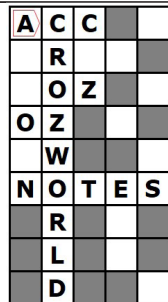
**August Slot 7 solution****Solution WORD SQUARE 5-Sept 1**

R	E	D	E	
E	V	I	N	
D	I	O	V	
L	V	A	N	
E	N	A	N	I

**Solution WORD SQUARE 5-Sept 2**

P	E	E	T	S
E	R	N	I	
E	U	V	R	
T	N	E	A	
S	I	R	P	

- Interesting quiz requiring a lot of thinking as well as research. Those lizards! *Roy Taylor*
- Thanks for the quiz - it was a real brainteaser. One lizard proved difficult to track down - the other had me laughing my head off. *Ron Jarman*
- A challenging and enjoyable quiz but "jailhouse" is American not English. You made up for it by spelling "favourite" correctly. *David Bennett*
- What a busy month you have had and coming up with the parameters for this quiz - what a challenge you've given us. Thank you, and thanks to nephew Ron who latched onto the 'something in common' before I did. *Lynn Jarman*
- Thanks for this enjoyable quiz, although I'm not sure of all my answers. There's certainly a few unusual ones. *Corryn Anderson*
- Thank you for all the mind-bending puzzles you set for us. My ageing brain needs all the stimulation it can get! *Pat Garner*



**Explanations for clues in August 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 Valkyrie. Across:** 1 BAIL+YE<, 4 P+L+ACE(BO)S, 10 RASP+ homoph "bury", 11 S+TERN, 12 AX(L)E, 13 (CRUDE ROT OR)\*, 15 INTER+N+S, 16 DESK substitute AMA for E, 19 CR+AVE+D, 21 Double, 23 Spooner "batter chocs", 25 BUREAU - RU<, 27 END + OWners, 28 (ONE LOG IN)\* + K, 29 M+A+N+DRAKE, 30 SEVEN + RE.

**Slot 2 CT. Across:** 1 LOGIC around (MATH+I+R)\*, 9 NY around rUNNER, 10 BAS + MA +IT<, 11 OCT + ET, 12 LEG + A+L+A+G+E, 14 dd/cd, 15 homoph "in", 17 dd/cd, 19 C+OLD+CH+IS+hELI, 22 homoph "miss" +MATCH, cd, 23 fINAL Link, 25 NU+(CRIME)\*, 26 A LA + S+K+A+N, 27 NEW+(EVER EASY)\*. **Down:** 1 &lit, 2 GRAPE arnd EAT, 3 pRAYS, 4 (LA sandbelt)\*, 5 trump AH SIMPLY<, 6 CHA+PAT+I, 7 (GAME)\* in (ENCOUNTER)\*, 8 (NEWS + LEAD + ELGIN)\*, 13 MO+TO+ReCYCLE, 16 SAKE around (tHeIdIoT), 18 (STUD)\*+ MAN, cd, 20 SHACK+L+E, 21 (RAM)< + ROW, 24 FAIRy.

**Slot 3 Katydid (Kathy Horadam). Across:** 1 CD, 3 CD, 10 anag, 11 rhyming slang, 12 CD, 13 CD, 15 EX+ILE, 16 anag, 18 DICK+IN+SON, 21 inits, 23 d(ADALAS <), 25 anag, 27 KO(a)LA\*+IN+G, 28 NECK+TIE, 29 ORSIR\*+ROOTS, 30,26 CD. **Down:** 1 Spooner "blows needs", 2 Co+LOSS+I, 4 anag, 5 DD, 6 CD, 7 REP+LET+E, 8 O+RE+O, 9 GIF<- + yoUREye, 14 Spooner "brought shed", 17 CD, 19 CD, 20 cd/anag, 21 W(R)ENCH, 22 FR+ANT+IC, 24 anag.

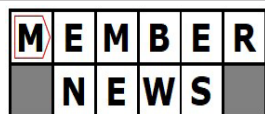
**Slot 4 KA (Karl Audrins). A** aide+me+moire, **A** or(g)an, **B** bet+(r)enoir+e, **C** ce(l for r)ebrate, **D** r in daughter, **E** e(men)d, **F** f(ve)r, **G** dd, **H** all in h.....s, **I** rev, **J** dd, **K** dd, **L** (Haz)litt+orals, **M** mort+gage+e (all in CH), **N** anag, **P** pat+ron+homoph "eyes", **Q** (s)quirt, **R** rev, **S** anag, **T** think+anag+cap, **U** hid, **V** va(i)n+glory, **W** first letters, **X** rev, **Y** anag, **Z** br in ze.

**Slot 5 Timid Terrier. Across:** 7 ex+ample+s, 8 Hidden, 9 es+sent+(sail)\*, 10 <hidden, 11 e+spots<, 12 eg+(d)resses, 13 e+n+sues, 15 (trees)\*+s, 18 First letters, 20 es+pies, 22 hidden, 23 era + (dacites)\*, 24 et+h+(sly)<, 25 (h)e+merit+u+s. **Down:** 1 exi(s)ts, 2 dd, 3 e+(tiles)\*, 4 (w)es(t)+capes, 5 (as) in eels, 6 edge + less, 8 e+(nurses)\*, 13 exce(r)pts, 14 e+lope+rs, 16 hidden, 17 e+s+t(Ate)+s, 19 es+says, 20 ex+(m)iles, 21 e+re+bus.

### State of the Nation - August 2024

The free membership offer has been operating for 7 months now and from a membership of around 150 at the end of 2023 we now number 230. The number of members submitting puzzles for adjudication has remained fairly steady at around 100 per month and the mix of puzzles and quizzes and their difficulty has not raised any adverse comment from our members. We have welcomed a number of new, active solvers and the work of four new (and appreciated) compilers has been published. Funds held by the club will be sufficient to cover necessary expenditure and prizes for the rest of the year. The balance of our account is actually a little higher than we had estimated, thanks to the generosity of the members who have donated their prizes back to the club.

The Executive Committee has been considering the level of subscriptions that we will need to operate in 2025. While we do not know how many of the members joining free this year will re-join, we have concluded that the former subscription of \$35 will enable us to run at the present level and continue to offer prizes throughout 2025. We will be issuing subscription invitations later this year.



**Life Members:** The Executive Committee is delighted to announce the grant of Life Membership of the Club to Len Colgan, Michael Kennedy and Andrew Patterson. All have been closely involved in the administration of the Club, adjudication and compiling puzzles and quizzes for many

years and have made a massive contribution to members' solving pleasure. Thank you, gentlemen, most sincerely.

**September Clue-writing Competition:** You are invited to write a clue for the word MISERABLE (9) complete with explanation. Note: only one clue per person. Send your clue and explanation to the adjudicator Len Colgan by email to [Colgan@unisa.edu.au](mailto:Colgan@unisa.edu.au) or mail to 1 Ailsa Avenue, Warradale, SA 5046 **Closing mail date: Friday 11 October 2024** Prize \$50.

**Donations to the ACC Prize Fund:** Many thanks to our members, who have generously made donations to the Prize Fund this month, directly or by declining a prize.

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

**Grids to clue:** For those who feel more comfortable clueing an existing grid, Crowsman has devised a number of novel grids for members that will be interesting to clue. Contact Ian for details.

Find us on

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

**Search for [Australian Crossword Club](#) or click the above hyperlink.**

**August 1: Valkyrie (Ulla Axelsen)**

- I found this on the hard side for a Slot 1. *Fraser Simpson*
- Thanks for a neat Slot 1 Valkyrie. I liked BEAU and DAMASK. *Kathy Horadam*
- Thoroughly enjoyed this! *Kathryn Forward*
- I liked the Spoonerism! *Robyn McKenzie*
- Nice puzzle to start the month. favourite clues PLACEBOS AND BEAU. *Joan Smith*
- A little tougher than usual? *Richard Skinner*
- Favourite INGLENOOK. *The Void*
- BEAU is a clever clue, voted it COTM. *Roy Taylor*
- Not sure about the Family feud. *Lynn Jarman*
- I found this slot hard. Unsure of 26d. *Anne Simons*

**August 2: CT (Chris Thomas)**

- Plenty of good clues in this. Liked LOGARITHMIC and MOTORCYCLE especially. *Ian Thompson*
- A good mixture of clues, I liked all the maths ones. Cold Chisel is a great band. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Very enjoyable with some challenging clues. *Kathryn Forward*
- Favourite FAIR for the surface. RECIPROCAL was neat. ENCOUNTER was very nice, apart from five letters ENCOU being unchanged. *The Void*
- LEGAL AGE and RECIPROCAL were very enjoyable clues but LUNATIC says it all! *Kathy Horadam*
- Maybe wrong -- maybe right but there were a couple that had me flummoxed for a while. *Kate Williams*
- RECIPROCAL is a great clue. *Mal Cockburn*
- Loved MISHAP - very topical. *Ron Carpenter*
- Good clues. *Roy Taylor*
- A enjoyable puzzle. Nice mix of cryptic clues. *Beverley Cockburn*
- Now I know a synonym for goblin. Thanks CT. I enjoyed your cryptic. *Lynn Jarman*

**August 3: Katydid (Kathy Horadam)**

- Like GINGERNUT & BISCUIT. *Ian McKenzie*
- Scrumptious. *Ian Thompson*
- Congratulations on an enjoyable puzzle. *Len Colgan*
- A bit of fun as I was sitting having my morning tea cuppa and biscuits. Have no idea about clue for 12ac. *Ulla Axelsen*
- I started chasing French towns, then I solved 12ac, BISCUIT! Great puzzle, so many old favourites in there. *Betty Siegman*
- Favourite COLOSSI. Two Spoonerisms in one puzzle is probably one too many, but I enjoyed them both. *The Void*
- Great Fun discovering the biscuits. Thanks for the entertainment. *Maureen Blake*
- I refuse to say what this takes! I will say that thankfully, my wife is an Aussie and knew a few that I had never heard of. She's a knowledgeable cookie my wife. *Richard Skinner*
- The biscuit theme was fun! Thank you. *Robyn McKenzie*
- My keyboard is full of biscuit crumbs! *Nea Storey*
- I thought TYPES was a great clue. SHAPES are my favourite biscuit. *Mal Cockburn*
- Is anyone else hungry? *Warren Allen*
- Had a lot of fun with the family as they helped to identify all the biscuits - particularly liked Monte Carlo, Oreo and Iced Vovo. *Ron Carpenter*
- Needed a few cheddar shapes to keep me going. Last I worked out was MONTE CARLO. *Roy Taylor*

- A fun slot but am still not happy with 13ac. *Ann Millard*
- Loved the search for Arnott Biscuit varieties! Although my favourite, Kingston, wasn't there! *Beverley Cockburn*
- Well, after an enjoyable puzzle, I sat down with a cuppa and a few of my favourite bickies. *Sally Shipway*
- Good fun. Not sure I've tasted all of those biscuits. *Hilary Cromer*
- Snack time! *Kath Harper*
- Loved BISCUIT, Latin twice and French cooked, and this appears to be the origin of the word i.e. twice cooked. Très intéressant! *Toby McLeay*
- This was fun, and made me hungry. *Anne Simons*

**August 4: KA (Karl Audrins)**

- Very enjoyable! *Fraser Simpson*
- I always look forward to Slot 4. Thank you. *Julie Leigh*
- Considering the grid, an unexpectedly friendly AJ puzzle. Thanks Karl. *Len Colgan*
- Having 'zebra' and 'quirt' in wrong places caused a bit of a headache. Otherwise an enjoyable AJ. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Hope I've got FEVER and XERES in the right spots as they were interchangeable. *Patricia Abbott*
- Had my thinking cap on backwards for a while. *Kate Williams*
- Always fun, thanks KA. FEVER and XERES are interchangeable. *Kathy Horadam*
- Interesting grid which made the challenge more difficult! *Maureen Blake*
- A harder grid this month. We went quite a way through before realising an earlier placement error! *Richard Skinner*
- Favourite YODELLERS. Tough grid to fill with so many undercrossed entries, but that's AJs, I suppose. FEVER & XERES are interchangeable, and I wasn't entirely sure which way round CE(R/L)EBRATE should be. *The Void*
- A bit more challenging than usual. KAVA and KOLA had me mystified for a while. Always a favourite. *Ann Millard*
- I enjoyed the French touches at a time when we were seeing so much of Paris! *Robyn McKenzie*
- I don't understand MORTGAGEE but I'm sure it will be explained. *Mal Cockburn*
- I had to decide whether the C clue required cerebrate or celebrate, but then decided it should all be about having fun. *Ron Carpenter*
- Clues not too hard, which is appropriate when there is a lot of work in placement. FEVER and XERES are interchangeable. *Roy Taylor*
- Another enjoyable AJ with some interesting words, namely VAINGLORY, DRAUGHTER and Jess! *Beverley Cockburn*
- Not completely sure about some of my answers, it was a challenging puzzle. *Sally Shipway*
- This grid layout is always harder to solve. *Hilary Cromer*
- Challenging. Grid did not make it any easier. *Anne Simons*

**August 5: Timid Terrier (Joan Smith)**

- I would like to acknowledge Crowsman for the excellent grid for which I have had the pleasure of compiling the clues. This was not so easy with all the words E...S and knowing it was Len's

## Cont from page 14

puzzle I tried to stick by the rules. Hope you all enjoyed it.  
*Joan Smith*

## August 5: Timid Terrier (Joan Smith)

- Solving speeded up when the penny belatedly dropped that the setter had somehow managed the feat of having every solution begin with E. *Ian McKenzie*
- Apart from 6dn (which I probably got wrong), this was unusually easy for a Slot 5. *David Bennett*
- E-lightful! *Fraser Simpson*
- Congratulations to the compiler for compiling a puzzle where all the answers begin with the letter E and end with the letter S. *David Procter*
- I was congratulating myself for noticing the starting letter of E early on! I didn't notice the ending letter of S until I put it into Accolade! *Julie Leigh*
- Very EE-SY, but not all that easy. *Betty Siegman*
- Clever compiling with every word beginning with E and finishing with S. This is the first time I have ever been able to solve each clue as I've come to it. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Very clever puzzle with emphasis on 'S', every answer starts with E and ends with S! *Allan Storti*
- Clever to fit them all in! E-Sy to solve then. *Kathy Horadam*
- What a clever puzzle. It wasn't until I was checking my solution that I realised that not only did all the answers start with the same letter, they also finished with the same letter. Well done. *Claire Batum*
- Clever. *Kate Williams*
- A challenging puzzle which became easier once the penny (or should that be Euro?) dropped! *Kathryn Forward*
- No excuses for not getting this slot errors free. Tough to set though I suspect. *Richard Skinner*
- Completed with 'ease'. *Maureen Blake*
- I can't say that was e e s s y but the pattern helped. *Jenny Madden*
- Es and Ss everywhere! *Ann Millard*
- What an amazing feat! Every solution begins with E and ends with S. My favourite clue was the one for EXCERPTS. *Brian Tickle*
- Quite early I spotted that the answers began with E and ended with S, which helped solve the rest of the clues. *Nea Storey*
- How clever to find a whole puzzle of E-S words. I wish I'd spotted it sooner! *Robyn McKenzie*
- The E and S keys on my keyboard got a good workout. *Mal Cockburn*
- Very clever with all the esses and eees. Thanks TT. *Robyn Wimbush*
- How on earth could I finish this not noticing the Es and Ss?? I did! *Roy Taylor*
- I'm ashamed to admit I completed the WHOLE PUZZLE without realising that all the answers began with E Then I saw the S at the end of each answer and felt really stupid! I see that Len's afoot! Congratulations to both the compiler and the setter. *Beverley Cockburn*
- Only when I'd almost completed the clues did I realise that all the words started with E. Clever. *Hilary Cromer*
- Wow! I made the mistake of solving 2dn as 'monarchs' first and couldn't get the rest of the puzzle to fit until I noticed everything else started with E!! Great puzzle, thank you. *Sally Shipway*
- Es to the left of us, Ss to the right - we're surrounded! *Kath Harper*
- Ee ba gum! *Keith Bettles*
- Troublesome before I discovered E....S. *Anne Simons*

## The things we say

In correspondence with a member recently we both used some unusual expressions, the origins of which escaped us and which seemed to deserve a little research.

**Tickety boo:** chiefly and originally British slang. Possibly from an [Indo-Aryan language](#): compare [Hindi](#) (ṭhīk hai, bābū, "it's all right, sir"). The phrase could have been picked up by British personnel in [India](#) before independence and spread in modified form to the United Kingdom and elsewhere in the [Commonwealth](#). It may also be a corruption from French: "ce que t'es beau", "how beautiful you are", likely from WW1 Tommies. Alternately, it may be an extended version of [that's the ticket](#), possibly influenced by [peekaboo](#).

**Oojah-cum-spiff**, meaning "fine, all right" is an adjective, perhaps an alteration of the noun oojah capivvy, after the preposition **cum**, borrowed from Latin, meaning **with** and the adjective **spiffy**, meaning *smart, spruce*. The noun **oojah capivvy** denotes a thing whose name the speaker cannot remember, does not know, or does not wish to mention—synonym: [oojah](#).

The first two documented occurrences of the adjective **oojah-cum-spiff** are from stories by the English author [Pelham Grenville Wodehouse](#) (1881-1975), who may have coined it.

The British term 'toodle-pip' is a combination of [toodle-oo](#) and 'pip-pip' – which all mean the same thing. There are several variants of combinations of these expressions 'tootle-oo', 'toodle-doo', 'tootle-pip' and so on. All of these expressions are considered archetypally English, although you would be hard pressed to find anyone in England now using them. [Toodle-oo](#) and pip-pip were the preserve of a certain upper-class English parlance from the 1920s and 30s – more to be found between the covers of Jeeves and Biggles books than in real life. It would be reasonable to assume that toodle-pip is of the same vintage. In fact it is much more recent – a harking back to the age of country house weekends rather than a phrase actually used then. Surprisingly, the earliest uses of 'toodle-pip' in print come not from England but Canada and Australia.

All this started because I thought that I recalled "tickety boo" from a Disney film. That seems to have been a vague recollection of "bibberty bobberty boo" from Disney's *Cinderella*. A little more research showed that my recall was based on a song by Danny Kaye from *Merry Andrew*, a film from 1958. The magic of YouTube enables me to present [this clip](#) to you. It's sure to raise smiles, but beware of the earworm! I hope that all is tickety boo and oojah-cum-spiff with you today. Toodle pip!

**Results of the July Clue Writing Competition****Write a clue for CYBERSPACE (10)****Adjudicated by Michael Kennedy**Definition from Chambers (12<sup>th</sup> edition)

n The three-dimensional environment, or space, of virtual reality, generated by computer; The notional space which electronic communication takes place over computer networks

Cyber- as a combining word, coming from cybernetics, which in turn comes from the Greek *kybernetes* (a steersman), was coined by mathematician Norman Wiener in 1948. I bet even he would not have guessed it would have led to such a range of words like cyberspace, cyberterrorist, and cybercafe. For this month the compilers outdid themselves with clever and interesting definitions. There were several clues vying for the top prize, but there could only be one winner. Congratulations to Larry Kennedy who has picked up his first gong in this competition for **Half of German capital surrounded by cleared country area for superhighway network (10)**

The entries are listed in alphabetical order and the definitions, where appropriate, are *italicised*.

**A notional venue where apples converse \*\*\***

We start off with a cryptically defined clue that plays on 'apples' (i.e. Apple computers), connected in cyberspace. On its own it would be a challenging solve, and I reckon one would need a checked letter or two to help. Technically, *apples* should be capitalised as well, but would then work better at the front of the clue to disguise this.

**Can you believe Elon's rocket starts opening into the cloud? \*\*\*1/2**

What would be a clue writing competition about cyberspace be without mentioning Mr. Musk. Here the compiler takes the first five initials and adds it to *space* (opening) to arrive at the definition – *the cloud*. Lovely definition, and one that lends itself to a myriad of disguises. The surface rendering tells a fair story.

**CBS broadcasting a creepy story on the Internet \*\***

This clue shows plenty of potential with some choice anagram fodder involving CBS/A/CREEPY. Unfortunately, the placement of the anagram indicator (broadcasting) excludes CBS. The other issue here is 'story' is a superfluous word. One suggestion to improve the parsing would be 'A *creepy CBS broadcast on virtual reality*', or something along those lines.

**Creepy cabs travelling superhighway of dope? \*\*\*\***

Cyberspace doesn't provide the most convenient anagram fodder, but the compiler here has used *creepy cabs* well by creating a travel theme, even if it's inventively absurd. The definition is wonderful and the clue itself could have come from a Stephen King novel.

**Deep breath heard before enemy cut out an opening into somewhere with links to the Amazon \*\*\*1/2**

Speaking of novels, this clue is more reminiscent of Wilbur Smith. The parsing works as follows – CY (homophone of sigh) with BER (Foe is removed from before) with SPACE (opening). Ideally, 'foe' should be removed wholly but otherwise the parsing is fair. By incorporating 'somewhere' into the definition, the compiler has managed to retain the nebulous notion of cyberspace.

**From what I hear, see why beer caps messing around with imaginary computer data \*\*\***

This clue starts with a homophone of C & Y. This is then followed by an anagram of *beer caps*. There's no question that cyberspace is full of data, but more emphasis on a place/venue/environment is required. The clue's surface sense is meant to indicate that drinking beer is preferable to working on a computer. While I don't doubt this, the clue's surface sense is not quite a smooth ale.

**Half of German capital surrounded by cleared country area for superhighway network \*\*\*\***

This is a masterfully disguised clue. It's parsed as C(BER)Y+SPACE and is indicated perfectly. The definition is brilliant and fits the theme splendidly.

**Not all PC cable - layers slide into the void \*\*1/2**

This clue is an anagram of PCCABLELAYERS with a subtraction of ALL. Typically, when it comes to fodder subtraction, the subtracted fodder (in this case ALL), should be as is, rather than broken up in the anagram fodder. 'The void' seems to first the definition at first as it designates space. However, cyberspace is certainly not empty.

**Novel – Rebecca with spy web \*\*\*1/2**

This is a simple anagram of REBECCA & SPY as indicated by *novel* (one of my favourite anagram indicators). *Web* is of course the definition. It's a neat clue and while it's been many years since I read it, I don't recall a spy web as such, although at least Mrs. Danvers was prone to peeping through windows.

**Time Lord's enemy, unmanned, gets room to manoeuvre in virtual environment \*\*\*\***

This one needs a little *Dr. Who* knowledge to solve. A cyberman is one of Dr. Who's iconic enemies, known for wanting to convert humans into cybermen (maybe more fact than fiction these days). The parsing is simple but effective. The definition is perfect, equally suitable for a *Dr. Who* episode or the WWW.

**VR item? \*\*\*\***

This must be one of the shortest clues I've ever come across. The compiler got it right when he said that the parsing is 'cheeky'. It is indeed! Even knowing the answer, can you work out this clue works? The '?' at least indicates something devious is at work. VR is 'virtual reality' and serves as the definition. To parse the solution, you must be canny enough to spot IT (cyber) and EM (space). Get it? Obviously very unorthodox and not a parsing technique I'd suggest you go and adopt. Nevertheless, it is clever and original, particularly as a VR item, like the new augmented reality headsets, transport one into cyberspace.

**Clue-Writing Competition Scoring System**

	Poor	Proper	Perfect
Definition	0	1	2
Secondaries	0	1	2
Fairness	0	1	2
Surface	0	1	2
x-factor	0	1	2
Total score	Star Rating		
1 or 2	*		
3 or 4	**		
5 - 7	***		
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Name .....

## Name.....

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## Clue of the Month .....

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