



No 425 September 2025



www.crosswordclub.org



Words, as is well known, are the great foes of reality.
Joseph Conrad, 1911, *Under Western Eyes*, Prologue

GRIDATORIAL

Some very sad news this month with the passing of our long-time Secretary and enthusiastic and active member Bev Cockburn. Her obituary and tributes from fellow-members are on page 13.

Many thanks to Michael Kennedy who took on the role of Editor for this month's offerings and to Andrew Miles for his thoughtful adjudication.

An interestingly different half and half puzzle will be found in slot 1 by NanaKat. An Aussie treat is at slot 2 from the pen of P-brane and slot 3 contains one of Lexi Conner's trademark polished puzzles. Bogeymanfills slot 4 with the traditional AJ and Hot and Cold provide us a puzzle with a bit of a twist in slot 5 - can you spot it?

A classic Betelgeuse *Displaced Definition* puzzle will occupy not a few waking hours for its solution, while our Canadian correspondent, in addition to providing us with a set of Word Squares, has compiled the enigmatically entitled *Book Outline* in slot 7. Ingrid makes a welcome return with a quiz which should not require any Googling.

The small number of engaging entries to the clue-writing competition has been ably adjudicated by Drew Meek, whose advice will be of interest to experienced and novice compilers alike. You are invited to submit your clue for the new competition for TORQUE, which will be adjudicated by Andrew Patterson.

We wish you happy and successful puzzling for September.

Ian

FROM THE ADJUDICATOR

August was a reasonably well-solved month, although there were some tricky clues, including a fiendish construction in *Manveru's* AJ.

Slot 1: A clement start from Valkyrie, with her half-and-half. Solvers enjoyed the clever clueing of ARSENAL, ELEVEN and POLEDANCE. DIVORCE COURT was a clever clue.

Slot 2: This Slot had dodgy anagram fodder for two of the clues – PIT BULL TERRIERS and MARIE ANTOINETTE but nobody slipped up. The two other clues that caused the most problems were IMP and MITOTIC. The "little empress" being referenced was the short version of the Latin IMPERATRIX, which gave IMP. EMP is a little empress, but not a naughty girl. For MITOTIC, care in identifying the anagram was required – (ITS+ATOMIC)* minus AS. The way 18ac was clued meant that only WON (not NOW) could satisfy the wordplay. The clueing for TRIPLET and GANDHI was appreciated. However, the underchecked grid, especially of the 4 x 3-letter solutions, was not especially appreciated by solvers.

Slot 3: KA's Ximenean barred grid was well-solved. At least a couple of solvers learnt CANTABRIGIAN from this puzzle (this one included). Favourite clues included AWRY, IMAM and DIVE BOMBER. There weren't really any thematic problems.

Slot 4: *Manveru's* AJ had 2 clues that were largely responsible for lost dots. The first was the C-clue, in which the mention of "vehicles" at the "rear" effectively misdirected some solvers into entering CABOOSE. What was sought was CAR(O+U)S+E ("noisy"). However, the really difficult-to-parse clue was OOZE. Referring to decapitation of "the creature" understandably suggested OOSE to a number of solvers (from GOOSE or MOOSE), but OOSE is not synonymous with OOZE. "The creature" being referred to was an alcoholic drink (BOOZE).

continued on page 2

LEADING FIGURES

Puzzle No.	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Entries received	78	80	81	73	74	386
Correct entries	68	54	75	33	61	291
Success rate (%)	87.2	67.5	92.6	45.2	82.4	75.4
Prizewinners	Kathy Horadam	Warren Allen	Michael Vnuk	Lesley Carroll	Allan Storti	from 88 members

Prizewinner: August Slots 1-5 correct: Michael Kennedy. Congratulations!

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August Slot 1

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

August Slot 2

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

August Slot 3

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

August Slot 4

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

August Slot 5

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

August Slot 6

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

MEMBERS' RESULTS FOR AUGUST 2025 Slots 1 to 7

MEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	MEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	MEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Abbott P.	•	•	•	•			•	Grainger D.	•	•	•		•	•	•	Parsons D.	•	•	•			•	•
Allen W.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Graves C.			•		•		•	Patterson A.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Anderson C.	•	•	•				•	Hagan R.	•	•	•			•	•	Peach S.			•	•			
Audrins K.	•	•	•	•	•		•	Harper K.	•	•	•			•	•	Pinder S.	•	•	•	•	•		•
Axelsen U.	•	•	•	•	•		•	Hearn R.	•	•	•		•		•	Rosendorff D.	•	•	•	•		•	•
Banks H.	•							Hocking A.		•	•		•			Roulston S.	•	•	•		•		
Barbour J.	•		•				•	Horadam K.	•							Ryan W.		•	•	•	•		
Barnes J.		•	•	•				Howat S.	•	•	•		•		•	Shield A.	•	•	•		•		•
Batum C.	•	•			•			Jarman L.	•		•	•	•			Siegman B.	•	•			•	•	•
Bennett D.			•					Jarman R.	•	•	•		•	•		Simons A.	•	•	•	•			
Bettles K.	•		•		•		•	Jones G.	•	•	•		•			Simpson F.	•		•		•	•	•
Blake M.	•	•	•		•	•	•	Kennedy L.	•		•	•	•	•	•	Skinner R.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Carroll L.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Kennedy M.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Smith J.			•		•		
Cockburn M.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Lankshear J.	•		•		•		•	Storey N.	•	•	•	•			
Colgan L.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Leigh J.	•	•	•	•	•		•	Storti A.	•	•	•		•		•
Coote P.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Lim S.			•					Symons B.	•		•	•	•		•
Cornish W.	•	•	•	•	•			Madden J.	•				•		•	Taylor R.			•		•	•	•
Cromer H.	•		•		•			Martin A.	•	•	•		•			Thomas C.			•				
Crowe J.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Matthews S.	•	•	•					Thompson I.		•	•	•	•	•	•
Dasgupta K.		•	•		•		•	McClelland C.	•		•		•		•	Tickle B.		•			•		
Davis K.	•		•		•	•	•	McKenzie I.	•	•	•		•	•	•	Vnuk M.	•	•					
Dennis M.			•					McKenzie R.	•		•		•	•	•	Void T.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Dobele T.	•		•	•		•	•	McLeay T.	•	•		•	•		•	Wilcox C.	•		•				
Evans J.			•		•		•	Meek D.	•	•	•		•		•	Williams K.	•						
Francis K.	•	•	•		•			Miles A.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Wimbush R.	•	•	•		•	•	
Gamble K.	•		•	•	•		•	Millard A.	•	•	•	•	•	•		Wood J.			•	•	•		
Garner P.	•		•					Milton R.	•		•			•		Woolston M.	•	•	•		•		•
Goodman S.	•	•	•	•		•		Moline R.		•	•	•	•	•	•	Young A.	•	•	•				

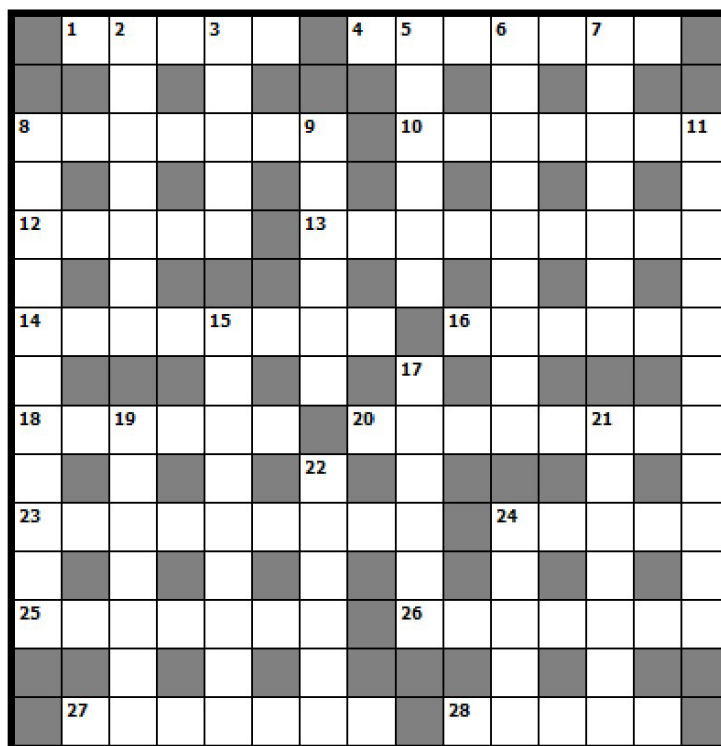
From the Adjudicator: continued from page 1

Slot 5: Finally *Crowsman* took us on a wondrous tour of the world’s modern wonders. It was a well-solved puzzle with most of the lost dots seemingly typos or one-off errors. The clever clues for ATOMIC, SOMALI, LOCAL and HELIUM were particularly rewarding for solvers.

COTM: Five votes for Ray’s GANDHI in Slot 2, just pipped by two of *Crowsman*’s in slot 5 - LOCAL (Pub for dieters?) and ATOMIC (He has this number 2). Congratulations on both counts!

Andrew Miles

Slot 1

Half and Half
by
NanaKatPrize
\$50

Across

- 1 Declare a regional division (5)
- 4 Figurine getting sandblast finish before the final: it's the law (7)
- 8 Absurd 21 in that place! (7)
- 10 Peak time-out following the night before (7)
- 12 Club drug outlet supplying party (5)
- 13 Tending to call up memories of Evita Cove retreat (9)
- 14 Sort date out for licence requirement (4,4)
- 16 It's Saint's Day if I dance this hot salsa at last! (6)
- 18 Sulky horse strikes king, causing stumble (6)
- 20 *Snowy Connection* is a band employed for special occasions (5,3)
- 23 Unfair criticism of design shop caught in fraud (5,4)
- 24 Nipple right in? Goodie! (5)
- 25 Jessie, a wee lass, went around some lateral drifts (7)
- 26 Branch briefly conceals French porcini? She has her doubts (7)
- 27 Vigilante groups get direction to occupy (7)
- 28 Refuse pipe of whisky held by Sybil (5)

Down

- 2 Tory Mrs May (7)
- 3 Larceny (5)
- 5 'Hamburger speak' for 'everything' (3,3)
- 6 One who treats disease (9)
- 7 Grand Prix locale; extremely unpleasant (3,4)
- 8 Not practical; speculative (11)
- 9 One who believes in God or gods (6)
- 11 Possessing a curative power, like 6 (11)
- 15 Dramatic artists (9)
- 17 Letter of the Greek alphabet, in plural (6)
- 19 Formal term: to the thing just mentioned (7)
- 21 Where 15 often ply their trade (7)
- 22 A stated proposition to be proved or discussed (6)
- 24 Topic; subject of discourse (5)

SEND
SOLUTIONS
TO:

For online entry, submission and adjudication of all slots via ACCOLADE click on the ACCOLADE button on www.crosswordclub.org home page.
 Slots 1 to 5: Betty Siegman: email to betty_siegman@hotmail.com or post to 2/46 Neale Street, Long Jetty NSW 2261
 Slots 6 and 7: Kay Williams: email to ianw@webone.com.au or post to 12 Lindrum Crescent Holt ACT 2615

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GRIDS
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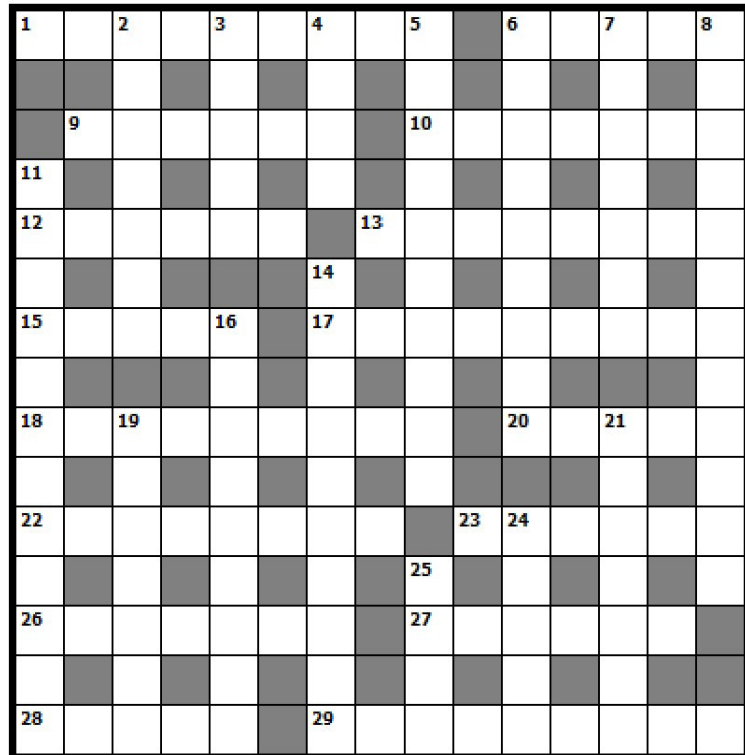
Closing mail date is 26 September 2025. ACCOLADE entries close at 00.01

Slot 2

Cryptic
by
P-brane

 Prize
\$50

A number of clue definitions rely on the solution of two other clues. Four solutions are not in the ACC's standard references.



Across

- 1 15,17: being covert however loudly (9)
- 6 Small team to affix 8? (5)
- 9 15,17: worth covering river (6)
- 10 Gallant analyst reveals garden escapee often living among 15,17 (7)
- 12 Cell protein is visibly clear but missing peptide end (6)
- 13 Air conditioned watering hole reportedly an example of 15,17 (8)
- 15 Tall forests have them in common with families (5)
- 17 Where and when wombats are in? (4,5)
- 18 Resuscitate victim to make their cause known (4,3,2)
- 20 Muse chopped up oak tree stealing ockers heart (5)
- 22 One of 15,17' dining partners (8)
- 23 17's camp tucker used to still the flame (6)
- 26 Bag Rome about trade ban (7)
- 27 Penthouse residents in 15,17? (6)
- 28 Plant propagation by a chook (5)
- 29 15,17: broadcast live sport (9)

Down

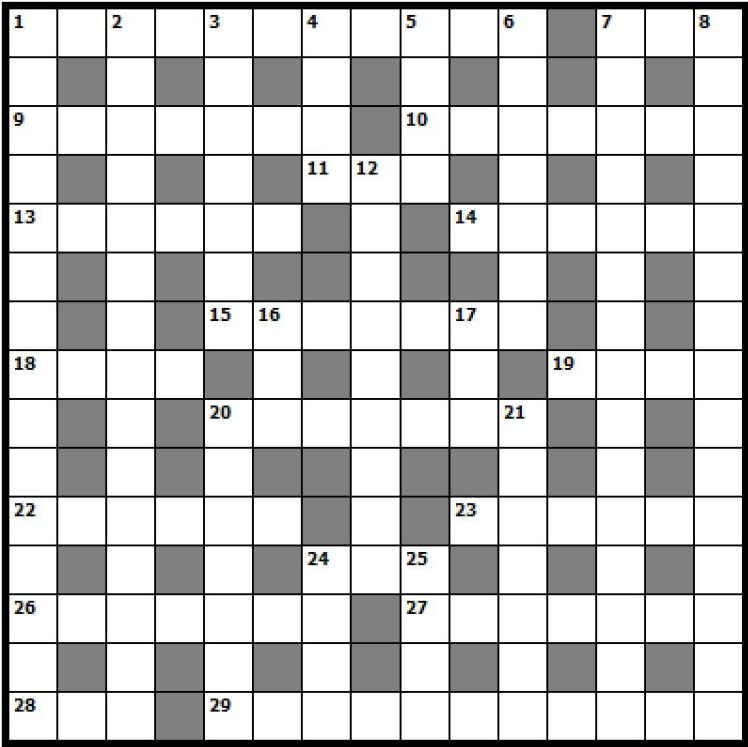
- 2 Mean to state a case on maturity (7)
- 3 Discuss transport for 15,17 (5)
- 4 Reportedly ahead, a couple at the limit (2,2)
- 5 15,17: wax lumber (10)
- 6 Record application of one-off disposable item (6-3)
- 7 Heard to have ridden over garden with an engineered foundation (7)
- 8 Cut from 15,17, could they head up the Climate Council? (12)
- 11 Milky chewy okay for 15,17' watering hole (5,3,4)
- 14 Loving adulations for a party quota system introduction (10)
- 16 Way an uninitiated strong critic becomes a troubled articulator (9)
- 19 Clearly seeing Ivy Libs failing (7)
- 21 As announced, woollen material laid on 7 (7)
- 24 A late celebration kept revellers from sleeping? (5)
- 25 Ask Olaf essentially "What's 'cheers' in Sweden?" (4)

General Feedback for August

- I am grateful for the very kind comments on my debut puzzle. Thank you. *Scott Goodman*
- Thank you for my Slot 6 prize last month. It was a pleasant surprise. *Claire Batum*
- Thanks for my July slot 5 prize - so nice to be rewarded for all the mental effort each month!. *Corryn Anderson*

Slot 3

Cryptic
by
Lexi Conner



Across

- 1 3 exemplifies incomplete silk net found by a sea (11)
- 7 Worthless inner state (3)
- 9 Contracts to have current supplied with cables (7)
- 10 Get a more expensive version as business is on the increase (5,2)
- 11 Knowledge from Geneva indicates Taiwanese user of 3 (3)
- 13 From which to dispense marijuana twice? (6)
- 14 Greeting the team in tailored, detailed gingham (2,4)
- 15 Be swallowed by giant tongue (7)
- 18 Grasp intelligence exposing a desired slant (4)
- 19 Incline to avoid starting long, tiring walk (4)
- 20 Forced fresh air into drink (7)
- 22 Sex sells we hear; does better if topless! (6)
- 23 Photogenic model not open to a dark style (6)
- 24 Unwell still? No way! (3)
- 26 Acknowledged when cured around mid-January (7)
- 27 Loose tailboard drops off this time on curved track (7)
- 28 Spot electrician abandon vessel (3)
- 29 Bidding farewell, Aussie's introduction ushered in triumph (11)

Down

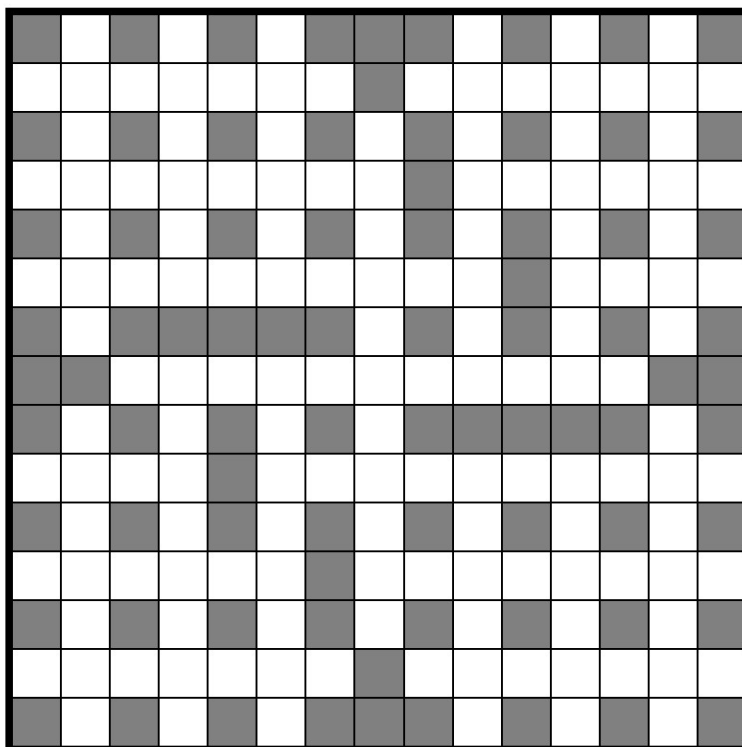
- 1 They propose to grill lovers (15)
- 2 "Short of a platform, I see", said associate idly (15)
- 3 Make known connection point identified by Leonardo da Vinci e.g. (7)
- 4 Only alternate lamps seem in this part of a church (4)
- 5 A small bit of audiotape! (4)
- 6 Great joy from showing attempt to increase speed rejected (7)
- 7 Wet ash got all over the place after the conflict at a 1943 uprising site (3,6,6)
- 8 Usually keeps a circle chart by way of a printing method (15)
- 12 What holds beer spilt by the governor? (4-5)
- 16 Nominally, the first Oz media personality in Britain (3)
- 17 Total wage and salary expenditure reduced by losing vote in Qld town (3)
- 20 Doctor is shouted plentiful fiery 'cocktail' (7)
- 21 Protozoic Frenchman fills in for restricted aerobic contortions (7)
- 24 Somewhat unusually diverting reflective pastoral work (4)
- 25 Charge boy admitting nothing (4)

Slot 4

AJ
by
Bogeyman

Prize
\$50

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



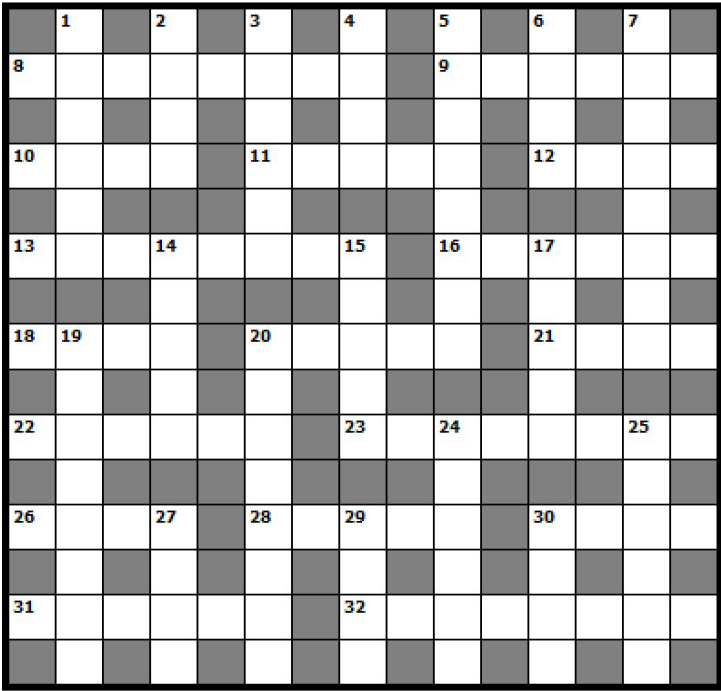
- A** Large military force requires seaborne force to be in agreement (4)
- B** Very unpleasant - one cat lost its tail in a vehicle (7)
- C** Sri Lanka duck - certain introduction to sporting feelings of satisfaction (8)
- D** Pour out high notes, avoiding introduction to scherzo (6)
- E** City to record unconventional use of pastoral poems (8)
- F** Sociable, as people on the outskirts of Surrey (6)
- G** Lover in performance, unaccompanied, missing the opening (6)
- H** Bone reported to be tickling another bone? (7)
- I** Compounds the case of idler, when taking some sun (7)
- J** Projects initially described as jobs utilising trained staff (4)
- K** Relatives to long-distance traveller in charge of energy (7)
- L** Crop to support half of capacity (6)
- M** Find inspiration by rejecting endless obscenity exhibitions (7)
- N** Mad at desperate situation covering for Brazil? (8)
- O** Cooked field vole recipe - too much! (10)

- P** Decorated father, French father, died (7)
- Q** Initially Hugh Grant identified swift steed of cinematic Ranger as Number 80 (11)
- R** Meal in Latvian capital served with style on island ... (8)
- S** ... where singular long johns were found literarily! (6)
- T** Flee situation in confusion, leaving also reduced education costs (7,3)
- U** Shaun, disturbed, with Barbie's friend, not disturbed (8)
- V** Five serene, polished appearances (7)
- W** Spring at crazy eccentric is effectively carried out (4-4)
- X** Movie kiss - a new commercial indicator of social acceptability? (6)
- Y** Mexicans state Tom's in the money! (7)
- Z** Nothing to secure bearing to face of Renault security device (3,8)

Slot 5

Cryptic
by
Hot and Cold

Prize
\$50



Across

- 8 Diplomatic studies, initially utilising lectures and reading (8)
- 9 Associate with unrefined American woman overseas (6)
- 10 Perhaps capital wisdom is lacking a body of legend (4)
- 11 Native American to prosecute in hearing (5)
- 12 Tax strike (4)
- 13 Agreement for prisoner to return painting to court (8)
- 16 Worsening crying when wife leaves (6)
- 18 17 with one lira discount for priest (4)
- 20 Effrontery of British fool... (5)
- 21 ...and gangster, likewise (4)
- 22 Tiny particle supporting great weight (6)
- 23 Sat back with extreme enthusiasm for island! (8)
- 26 Great ruler of State in Türkiye (4)
- 28 Protective gear for a porn criminal (5)
- 30 Expensive material from the wings of skylark with the Italian lining (4)
- 31 Amazon, favouring dancing - no fun (6)
- 32 Bird, or sunfish? (8)

Down

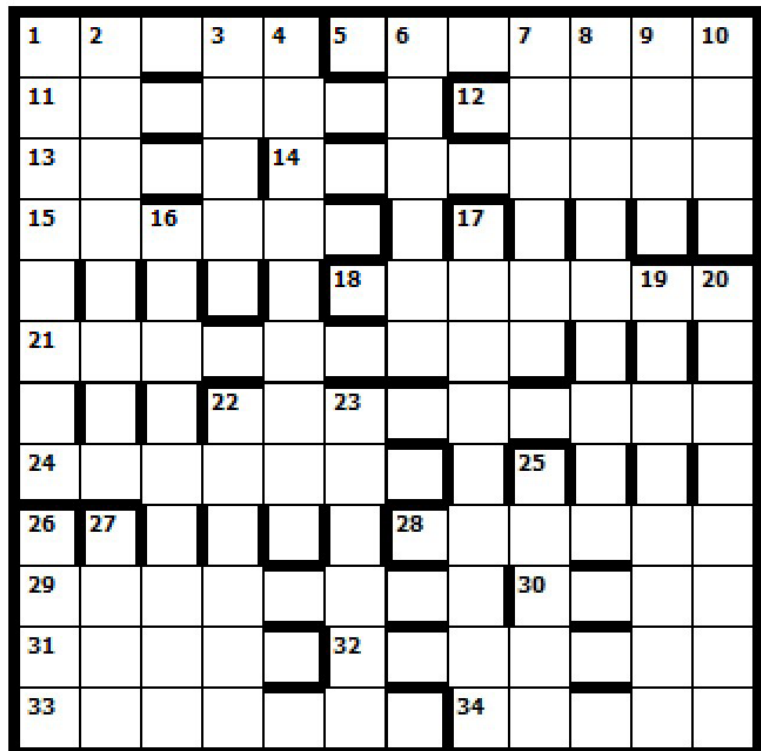
- 1 Big fish - Irish vocalist holds it (6)
- 2 Blanched a quail (4)
- 3 Hot gas located during Graham's alpine climbing (6)
- 4 Ensemble to loveless Brazilian city (4)
- 5 Tasman, wrecked, saved ninety animals (4,4)
- 6 Hard left? Wrong turn (4)
- 7 Spooner's boy groups in barren area in South Dakota (8)
- 14 Plot of a booklet (5)
- 15 Drink to a saint (5)
- 17 Animal found in Tullamarine (5)
- 19 This/ Irritating parasite/ Could sound/ Kind of angry (8)
- 20 A blowgun demolished house (8)
- 24 Correct English customs following reported offence (6)
- 25 In lake and away from the sea (6)
- 27 Inaugural race on a drag way (4)
- 29 Radical outbreak (4)
- 30 Review last season (4)

Slot 6

Displaced Definitions by Betelgeuse

Prize \$50

Clues are normal cryptic except for the definition, which in each case will be found in another clue having the same number of letters. Word length indicators refer to the defined word in its actual place in the grid. For example, if the solution to be inserted at 5ac was LOOK OUT, it might be defined in 11ac as "...beware..." but the indication (4,3) would appear in the clue for 5ac.



Across

- 1 Cover not working for the Italian spy (5)
- 5 Made red city return agents after the start of Christmas (7)
- 11 After Christmas in recession one finds direction for New Years Eve (7)
- 12 Sort of fool, a relation, say? (5)
- 13 Doctor Silver's long story (4)
- 14 Doctors eat meat, say, after return of small cow (8)
- 15 Spice Girl. author, returned as object of admiration (6)
- 18 Second placing after fashion model produced some bitterness (7)
- 21 Sailor hastened back to the horse he left covered in crustaceans (9)
- 22 Preserver of iron gate (4,5)
- 24 Tendril found during deanery renovation (4-3)
- 28 Fellow left capital after union response to commission (6)
- 29 Say goodbye to Prince, one new into battle (8)
- 30 A psycho cat is something truly tedious (4)
- 31 Opening of plant demonstrates a time for introduction of new technology (5)
- 32 Service on reduced playing area is a matter of pride (7)
- 33 Small bristles became tangled after second brushing (7)
- 34 Fire child from corporation (5)

Down

- 1 Top French marshal supports the rise of revolutionary American city (8)
- 2 Father in Paris eats main course. Horse? (8)
- 3 Collaborate as part of debating league (5)
- 4 Plant organ absorbs safe compound (9)
- 6 Whole Cornish town backing swap of tin for love (6)
- 7 A hint of subtlety brings success smoothly (6)
- 8 Legendary followers of Primrose family member, elusive when scarlet (9)
- 9 Eyes Ecstasy, lost about power to relax (4)
- 10 Removing of bits from wood in minutes (4)
- 16 Odds of salt being found in naked condition (9)
- 17 Those who tell stories about Australian leaving army manoeuvres for field placements (9)
- 19 Infiltrate corporation under vocal old Communist president (8)
- 20 Types of lights, for example, connected with a sun god (8)
- 22 Crawls very slowly but arrives up in the finish (6)
- 23 Symbol of territory in Ireland (6)
- 25 Aromatic seeds taken before food in bed (5)
- 26 Watch undergoes severe loss of colour (4)
- 27 Helium, eg, rises from box (4)

Slot 7

Book Outline by Fraz

Prize \$50

	1		2		3		4		5		6		7	
8							9							
10									11					
12							13		14					
15			16		17								18	
19	20						21		22		23			
24							25							
26									27					

Across

- 8 Excitement: a large bear turns around (6)
- 9 Sent principal guards I supervised (6,2)
- 10 Auditor's tidy hamper (8)
- 11 Flipped Lorde's "All Shook Up" (6)
- 12 Deduced infrared lacks a confining energy (8)
- 14 Certain believer is entering precisely the wrong way (6)
- 15 Mr. Ed hopes coffee is brewed right (7,2,6)
- 19 Hebrew ascetic dropped off, naked (6)
- 21 Volunteers backed a car company somewhere in Europe (8)
- 24 Immobilize eight bats infected with blood in the heart (6)
- 25 Suddenly exposed rock below corral (4,4)
- 26 Petroleum sample captivates former partner and leader of association (5,3)
- 27 Composer stirred vodka containing last of mixer (6)

Down

- 1 Laundry liquid spilled on the face more frequently (8)
- 2 Love cracker spread containing one drug (6)
- 3 Second coffee drink by mid-afternoon (6)
- 4 Sign of the future: For Ladies Only? (4)
- 5 Simpleton values fertilizer compounds (8)
- 6 Dash onto street, enthralled by missing jewel (8)
- 7 A tropical location's lanes (6)
- 13 Lets go of doctor before operations (5)
- 16 Ultimate square with short story written outside university (8)
- 17 Excited to repeat musical production (8)
- 18 Fancies Charlie, that guy with funny ears (8)
- 20 Tool back in control after big push (6)
- 22 Go too far with shy Italian composer wearing glasses? (6)
- 23 Many upset fan, too (1,3,2)
- 25 Wild pig put to sleep, we hear (4)

**Quiz 9-2025 by InGrid.**

There is a sequential commonality with each of these answers and the clues are in alphabetical order of this commonality. Send your answers to Jean Barbour email jeanb1405@gmail.com or post to PO Box 290, Wonthagi Vic 3995 **Closing mail date 26 September 2025.**

- 1 African village (5)
- 2 Lasting (7)
- 3 Handcuff (8)
- 4 Stick (6)
- 5 Evil spirit (6)
- 6 Raised platform (8)
- 7 Instrument (8)
- 8 Small axe (8)
- 9 Attacker (9)
- 11 Rank (5)
- 10 Dummy cannon (6)
- 12 Interment (6)
- 13 Undergarment (8)
- 14 Insane (8)
- 15 Clay (7)
- 16 Thong (5)
- 17 Ornamental plate (6)
- 18 Greed (7)
- 19 Hound (6)
- 20 Joy (7)
- 21 Colour (5)
- 22 Annoy (9)
- 23 Retreat (10)
- 24 Jawbone (7)
- 25 Ever (6)
- 26 Market (6)

Quiz 8-2025 by Valkyrie (Ulla Axelsen).

Results: 20 Correct: 16 (80%) Prizewinner Ray Taylor. Congratulations!

30 W Allen, M Blake, J Crowe, K Harper, R Jarman, J Leigh, C McClelland, D Meek, A Millard, A Patterson, D Rosendorff, W Ryan, B Seigman, R Skinner, R Taylor, R Wimbush **29** R McKenzie, A Miles **28** K Francis **26** P Garner

Answers 1 Ambergris, **2** Aquamanile, **3** Blackball or blacklist, **4** Blueprint, **5** Cream puff, **6** Cyanide, **7** Dunderhead, **8** Emerald Isle, **9** Fawningly, **10** Flamenco, **11** Goldilocks, **12** Greenhorn, **13** Greyhound, **14** Hoarder, **15** Jadedness, **16** Jettison, **17** Lemonfish, **18** Limerick, **19** Marooned, **20** Orangeman, **21** Pinkerton, **22** Plummet, **23** Redundant, **24** Rosella or redwing, **25** Sageness, **26** Sandwich, **27** Skylarking, **28** Tantalize, **29** Whitewash, **30** Yellowhammer
Adjudicator's Observations: Thanks very much for all your kind words, I'm glad I was able to bring a bit of colour into your lives. As I did not state that a common element could not be repeated, I accepted both 'rosella' and 'redwing' for #24. Unfortunately, I could not accept 'brown-nose' for #5 as it doesn't really fit the definition. It would have been a good word to have in the quiz though.

Solvers' Feedback

- Easy penny-drop moment- Famous last words! Tougher than at first sight! *William Ryan*
- Thanks for the interesting quiz. The theme became clear after solving several clues, but even so there were some new words for me (always a pleasure) such as 2 and 17. Also hadn't really thought about hoar or flame as colours and #11 only dawned on me after considering its alphabetical position. *Drew Meek*
- Thanks for the quiz. The theme was not a mystery but some answers were! LOI was 21. Never heard of it. *Andrew Patterson*
- Thanks for a very colourful quiz. *Roy Taylor.*
- Thanks for another great quiz. Some interesting colours. *Ann Millard*
- Here are some colourful answers for you. *Warren Allen.*
- There a significant number of colours, aren't there! Looking at a list opened my eyes to just how many. Thanks, it always good to learn a little more. *Richard Skinner*
- I really enjoyed doing this puzzle, wasn't too difficult. *Claire McClelland*
- So clever, so many colours. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Thanks for another colourful quiz, very enjoyable. *Ken Francis*
- Goodness, so many colours! Quite an interesting quiz, many thanks. *Betty Siegman*
- Another lovely interesting quiz! I had to look long and hard for goldilocks and aquamanile. *Julie Crowe*
- Our family does so enjoy your quizzes. *Robyn McKenzie*
- Another bit of inspired fun from you! Some tough bits and some guesses, but all enjoyable. *Pat Garner*
- Thank you for bringing colour into cold dark winter days. *Kath Harper*
- Funnily enough, it was the short colours – DUN and TAN – that caused the most trouble. An enjoyable solve! *Andrew Miles*
- Thank you for an intriguing enjoyable puzzle! *Maureen Blake*
- Thank you for another enjoyable quiz. *Ron Jarman*
- A fun colourful quiz *Lynn Jarman*

Members' Feedback - Crowsman Sot 5 continued from page 13

- Wonderful indeed Len. Thanks for the memories. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Like so many of Len's puzzles I found this one very challenging and very enjoyable at the same time. My favourite clues were those for ATOMIC and SOMALI. *Brian Tickle*
- Great puzzle and wonderful wonders! Lots of lovely clues. TWO and EAGLE clever. *Julie Crowe*
- Lovely puzzle. COLOSSEUM was the key to the other thematic entries, which made the grid rather easy to solve! Favourites are ATOMIC and UNSPOTTED. Is TWO cryptic? [TWelve +One - Ed] *Krittibas Dasgupta*
- I liked the clue for LOCAL! *Robyn McKenzie*
- Wonderful indeed! Crowsman must be counted as one of the wonders of the cruciverbal world. *Kath Harper*
- Took a while for the penny to drop on PETRA, loved HELIUM - my COTM. *Chris Thomas*
- Great puzzle with great clues, favourites were LOCAL, ECHO, TIE and UNSPOTTED. *Joan Smith*
- Is there general agreement on what the 7 Wonders of the Modern World are? [Chosen in 2007 through a global poll by the New 7 Wonders Foundation - see Wikipedia Ed Nea Storey]
- Wonderful is an understatement for I have 4 candidates for COTM: LYMPH, LOCAL, TIE & ATOMIC, which wins my vote for He for helium - brilliant! *Mal Cockburn*
- Great theme and interesting clues. *Jean Evans*

August Slot 6 2025 Cryptic by Robespierre (Ian McKenzie)
Entries received 63 Correct 33 Success rate 52%.
Prizewinner: Robyn McKenzie. Congratulations!

Compiler’s observations

The puzzle seems to have been well received by solvers but unhappily a whopping 17 entries opted for DISTILL instead of DESKILL. The clue read: *Reduce role of secretary in poor shape*. Both solution options end in -ILL & thus satisfy “in poor shape” but it is only DESK that matches “secretary” (via its meaning of “writing desk, secretaire”). And DESKILL is surely a better fit than DISTILL to “Reduce role of”.

Explanations –

Across: 1 DEB, hUNK, 4,29 HOG, WARTS, sEX PRESS, 10 A, VOCA(L), DO, 11 (fateD, TO LEAP)* &lit, 12,9 LONG, JOHNS, 13 (LEARNT, BIKE)*, 15 (CARTOONS - TA)*, 16 W in (T, ADDLE), 20 LES, BIAs, wheN, 21 ELF+R inside BY, 24 cd, 26 (TO AND FRO - DONT)*, 28 DESK, ILL, 30 (maN, TEMP) in COT, 31 EX, DUES => UDES. **Down:** 1 Spooner “led doc”, 2 BROWN, homoph “knows”, 3 NO AH, 5 rev. anag. WOLFS, 6 WIDE, BOD, IE, seated, 7 ROOS, Trepidation, 8 SItTER, RA, 14 BOOBY, PRIZE, 17 cd, 18 BACK, FLIP, 19 PONY’S<, SIS, 22 (ID, I) inside A, CC, 23 R(aspberry) in STEW, 25 (IS ONE)*, 27 APE, X.

Solvers’ Feedback

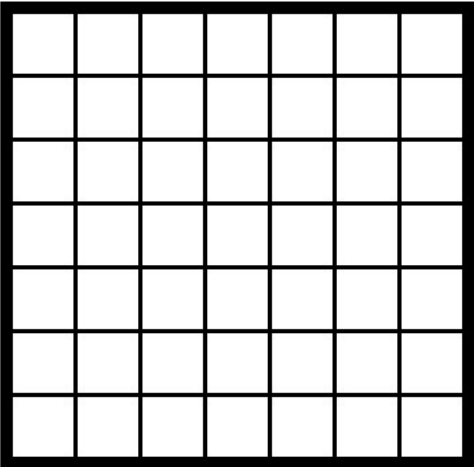
- So many very clever and very deceptive clues! *Roy Taylor*
- Favourites TADPOLE; ANKLE BITER; TWADDLE. *The Void*
- A great challenge. Some very tricky definitions. *Ulla Axelsen*
- I liked LONG JOHNS; AVOCADO and STREW *Toby Mcleay*
- Right or wrong a real joy So clever *Brian Symons*
- We thought this was a tougher than normal month with this (slot 6) perhaps the toughest of the lot. *Richard Skinner*
- The clue for TADPOLE is very clever. *Len Colgan*
- Very enjoyable puzzle. My favourite was LEFT FIELD. Not entirely sure how LESBIAN works. *Krittibas Dasgupta*
- I appreciated the humour! *Tony Dobelev*
- Loved TADPOLE. *Ian Thompson*
- I especially liked the clue for LEFT FIELD *Robyn Mckenzie*
- Good clues *Anne Simons*
- Interesting puzzle - loved LONG JOHNS and EOSIN was a new word *Jean Evans*
- BOOBY PRIZE is a great clue and candidate for my COTM - terrific misdirection *Mal Cockburn*

FRAZ WORD SQUARE September 1

(Solution on p 12)

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

- Briskly, fool crosses empty newsroom with oxygen (2 wds.)
- Pest bothered anyone with rupees
- Caught some rays outside terminal in Frankfurt, bewildered
- In case scoundrel falls
- Red nose (bad sign)
- Composer Dvorak is in ascendant on instrument
- Willing losers stop working, endlessly curt

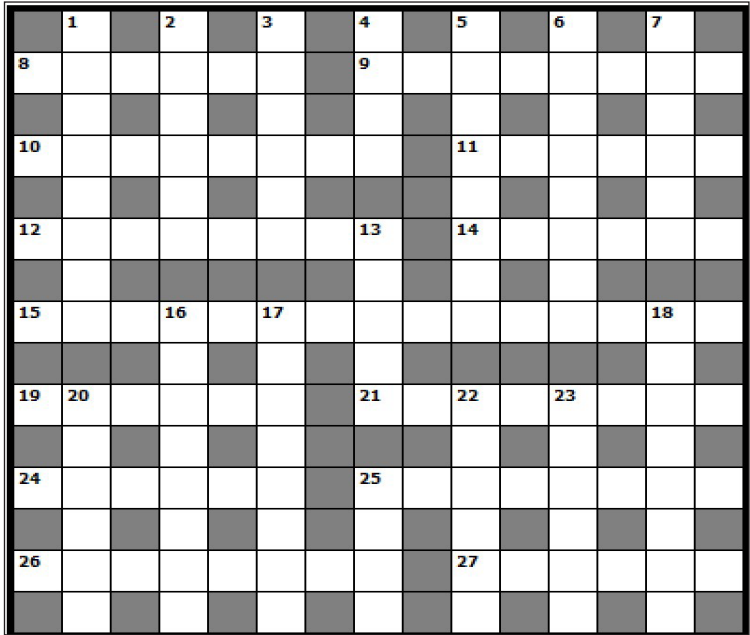
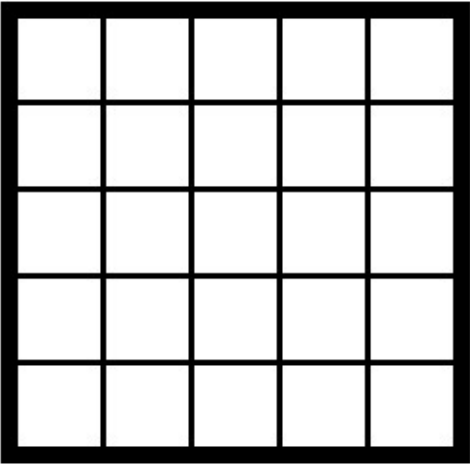


FRAZ WORD SQUARE September 2

(Solution on p 12)

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

- Clipped some Easter Seals
- Have a goal, but not a church-appropriate top?
- Recalled old British PM's snooze
- Stadium tilts
- Urge one legislator to train



August 7-2024: Apart from the Perimeter, ... by Crowsman (Len Colgan)
Entries 64 . Correct 48 . Success rate 75%.
Prizewinner: Roger Hearn. Congratulations!

Adjudicator's Comments: Apart from the perimeter, all answers begin and end with the letter E. A number of dots were lost by entering EXEGESES instead of EXEGETES, people who interpret, clued as E in (EXE + GETS). Other errors were one-offs.

Explanations: Across: **1** E in (EXE + GETS), **5** dd, **9** EX + CHANGE, **10** dd, **11** LEAVE* + T(h)E, **12** cd, **13** palindrome, **14** rev hidden, **16** @#\$%&, **18** palindrome, **20** (I + TOME)< + (e)VE(n), **21** EPIC + (g)ENE(s), **23** E(MIG)RE, **24** EDGE + WISE, **25** (twELVE + oNE)*, **26** (E + SEVEN + EG)<.
Down: **1** homoph of 'islet', **2** M(usi)C, **3** NAME< + ATE, **4** (b)EAGLE, **6** BONNE< + (p)LE(a), **7** ERA + DIC(t)ATE, **8** (g)EEZER abound BEN, **12** EE holding DUX<, **13** EXPOS + LIVE, with L moved forward, **14** (isra)ELITE(s), **15** (pain)TER EBENE(zer), **17** E + REGIME*, **18** (EYE + LIVE)<, **19** (d)EGENER(ate)<, **21** ENDU(r)E, **22** LIX< in (w)EE(k).

Members' feedback:

- Good fun; this. Favourite EBB-TIDE. *The Void*
- Excellent. *Roy Taylor*
- EE BAH GUM that was tricky! *Patricia Abbott*
- I love your crosswords! How do you come up with the initial ideas? *Julie Leigh*
- The E's have it! 16ac took a while to understand @#\$%&! Fun solve. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Done with ease. Like EMIGRE and RENEGE *Toby Mcleay*
- Absolute masterpiece. Even by Crowsman's lofty standard; the completed grid is an extraordinary feat of word craft. And clues replete with clever wordplay & nifty constructions. *Ian Mckenzie*
- I've been trying to make something of TGRT but too hard! Hopefully it's not relevant. Thanks Len. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Working out the first letter helped to make it EESY. *Betty Siegman*
- What a lovely lot of e's !! I particularly liked 5a; 15d and 18a *Julie Crowe*
- Great puzzle. I like the 'E' theme. *Allan Storti*
- Excellent puzzle; particularly enjoyed the alternative cluing for essentially the same word in 17D and 23A. Favourite 16A. *Krittibas Dasgupta*
- Eeeeeee! *Kath Harper*
- Such a clever puzzle with lots of great clues *Jean Evans*
- For once I didn't need to wait until I'd solved the whole puzzle to realize the theme. I particularly like EXPLETIVE; EMCEE & EBENEZER. I also note that EWE is totally self-reflective! But ELEVEN has me stumped. *Mal Cockburn*

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

June Slot 7 solution

Solution WORD SQUARE September1

E	S	R	O	N	E
S	R	E	T	I	D
R	E	Y	O	N	A
O	T	O	M	N	C
D	E	N	N	T	S
N	I	N	O	T	A
E	A	D	E	C	A

Solution WORD SQUARE September 2

P	E	E	L	S
E	S	R	E	T
E	R	I	P	S
L	E	P	M	I
S	T	S	I	L



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

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 SCAR+C'EST, 5 FAB+RICH, 10 A+(SANER)*+L, 11 AB(D+O)MEN, 12 Homoph "calmer", 13 POLE DAN(C)E, 14 A+N+NOUN+CEMENT, 18 (CURATOR VOICED - A)*, 21 Double, 23 Hidden, 24 BR+AVA+DO, 25 EX+E+CUT+E, 26 dEaL+ EVEN, 27 STATU(T)ES.

Slot 2 Nigrum Cattus. Across: 1 (RAMPANT+LIES)*, 7 dd, 10 anag, 11 IN+(BRUCKNER AROSE)*, 12 TUC>, 13 anag, 16 (hERONS+ AU) in ATS, 18 NOW<, 21 anag, 22 anag, 23 hidden, 24 WeEkS iTeM zIoNiSm ThEoRy. **Down:** 2 anag, 3 dd, 4 AFL+OAT, 5 (TI+CE) in END, 6 ToughH+ROBBED, 8 anag, 9 (ITS+ATOMIC-AS)*, 14 DD, 15 PA+PAL+SEE, 17 cd/dd, 19 G(AND)HI, 20 (SERB + IF)<.

Slot 3 KA (Karl Audrins). Across: 1 cantabrigian - gi, 10 cow+i, 12 DR+AMA, 14 Ra+ER<, 15 SALT+PAN, 16 ad+here, 17 homoph "stalk", 20 hidden, 21 I'm a m, 24 (finest)*+r, 26 cd, 27 hidden, 29 dd, 34 anag, 35 (alcohol - o)*, 36 a+bashes, 38 to = to<, 40 dd, 41 homoph "curb", 42 bombe in diver. **Down:** 1 a in cart, 2 mead* in ace, 3 dd, 4 wet*+et, 5 anag, 6 dd, 7 hidden, 8 s+mart, 9 hidden, 11 anag, 13 PO in Astle, 17 dd, 18 (s)tiff, 19 (acrid+Ca)*, 22 Mitt(y), 23 a+w+ry, 24 anag, 25 earl+OBE, 26 pal+ace, 28 TAB+OO, 30 heads, 31 hidden, 32 anag, 33 hidden<, 37 cd, 39 r in ob.

Slot 4 Manveru. A AL(O)E+RAVE*, **B** (A+B/) in BOON, **C** (O+U) in CARS+E, **D** (C+AGO) in DEN, **E** (LUX<) in ET, **F** (ICE+REF)*+R, **G** GOT+H, **H** (A+HONEY+TRAP+ME)*, **I** I+RID+I+C, **J** (O+CULT) in JAR, **K** homoph "clean" +E+X, **L** (LAP+A+S+COOPER)*, **M** M+OR+BI(D)IT*Y, **N** homoph "new" + NERO*, **O** b(OOZE), **P** PAGE+VI+EW, **Q** QU+BIBLE*+R, **R** t(RUSTY), **S** AS<+NEST, **T** (RATE +R)*+C+IN+G, **U** fl(UTTERED), **V** (TASMANIANDEVIL - TINEA)*, **W** Spooner "cries whack", **X** X+AV(I)ER, **Y** ELDER in Y(ar)IS, **Z** Z<>jEALOUS.

Slot 5 Crowsman. Across: 8 INTER + ROI<, 12 L(ivel)Y + MPH, 13 A(SHE)S, 14 LO-CAL, 15 TW(elve) + O(ne), 18 YAWS<, 23 dd (radio code), 24 O + TIT + IS + MEDIA, 28 dd, 29 PURE< + T(yre), 30 DO + ZED, 31 IS< + NEW, 32 RESIDE around (jan)U(ary). **Down:** 1 DIP + (O + M) in LACY, 2 cd (Helium), 3 dd, 4 SO + MALI, 5 SUIT* in MORE, 6 DISC + MAIL*, 7 dd, 17 dd, 21 R(ac)E + COURSE, 22 (bou)T + W(O)EDGED, 25 IN(AID<)N, 26 DJNG(H)Y, 31 SA(lo)ME.

Vale Beverley Cockburn

We are most saddened to report the passing of the club's former Secretary and long-time member Beverley Cockburn. She was taught cryptics at an early age by her father. She was introduced to the club by her Aunt Betty Wallace in 1994 so that, with the later recruitment of her son Mal, the Club became quite a family affair. Her many talents were identified by Patrick at an early stage when she was persuaded to take on the position of Secretary/Treasurer, which she performed most successfully and effectively for many years, as well as adjudicating quizzes and crosswords. She compiled many devious quizzes and crosswords as *The Eager Beaver* and partnered with many luminaries of the club, including Carole Noble as *The Busybodies*, Steve Workman as *Double Cross*, Audrey Austin as *The Familiars* and several others. For many years she also organised the annual Sydney get-together lunch of Club members. For her many achievements and contributions to the Club, she was deservedly honoured by the grant of Life Membership.

Mal, tells us that she loved doing her crosswords and they would always compare notes at the end of the month with the goal of getting all 7 dots. They paired up to compile a few puzzles under the name *The Co-Op* and more recently she teamed up with Len Colgan (Crowsman as *Lady and the Scamp*). She had a sharp mind that never dulled and was still solving puzzles during her final days. Among her other passions were tennis, international cricket, Formula One and teaching history with U3A. She will be sadly missed by her many friends in, and outside, the Club.

Beverley was the first person I met at the very first get together we ever had in Sydney, and I remember not just how welcome she made me feel, but how genuinely funny she was. She will be missed. *Michael Kennedy*

There was the deepest sadness on my behalf upon learning of the passing of Bev Cockburn, not many days after another long telephone chat that Bev and I regularly enjoyed. We had jointly compiled puzzles for CrOZworld for which she invented the pseudonym "The Lady and the Scamp". Yes, Bev was unquestionably a lady, the dearest, kindest, most generous hard-working lady and fun to be around. I will miss Bev, and I pass on my sincerest condolences to Malcolm and the family. *Len Colgan*.

A long standing, valued member of the club who organised great Luncheons and challenging Quizzes. I also had the pleasure of compiling cryptic puzzles with Bev where a lovely friendship began. In latter years we spent many hours on the phone discussing difficult clues, working well as a team. I will miss those lovely conversations and ideas. RIP Bev. *Joan Smith*

M	E	M	B	E	R
	N	E	W	S	

Lost dots: MOMA was acceted in place of MIME in July Slot 5. Mal Cockburn, Ken Davis, Tony Dobebe, and Joan Smith are hereby credited with dots. Wendy Cornish was awarded a dot for Slot 2, in sympathy for a six day trip for her entry from Tasmania to Victirua! Luckily they treated her sumissions more kindly this month!

Donations to the Prize Fund: Many thanks for her generous donations to Corryn Anderson. Much appreciated by all members!

Congratulations to Danuta Rosendorff, the winner of The Crossword Centre's July Prize Puzzle "Dame" by Skylark.

August 1: Valkyrie (Ulla Axelsen)

Favourite ARSENAL. *The Void*

Nicely tricky. *Ian Thompson*

ELEVEN threw me for quite a while until I looked at the first word of the clue as a stand-alone word and the cricket happened to be in the news at the time - so my "eleven" eventually made sense when I was wondering how this could be when eleven is "not odd" as it is very much an odd number - so clever cluing leading me scratching my head for quite a while. *Helen Banks*
Enjoyable puzzle. *Roy Taylor*

Substantive and noun slowed me down for a bit but a good Slot 1. Thanks Ulla. *Robyn Wimbush*

Is "adulterated" a synonym of "cut"? Or am I missing something? [*In Chambers as a definition - Ed*] *Len Colgan*

I found this a challenge and extremely satisfying! *Robyn McKenzie*

I enjoyed POLEDANCE and ELEVEN. This took me longer than expected! *Kathy Horadam*

I was stumped by ELEVEN until I finally realised that 'side' was the definition. *Michael Vnuk*

Really liked ELEVEN. *Scott Goodman*

I found this puzzle quite difficult! *Anne Simons*

Shouldn't 13ac be 4,5 not 9 in the letter format? *Stephen Matthews*

A challenge for a Slot 1. *Lynn Jarman*

Half and half are always an interesting challenge. *Jean Evans*

- August 2: Nigrum Cattus (Ray Gooderick)**

[*Editorial apologies for the typos in some anagram clues*]

- Didn't like the grid design of 14 undercrossed lights, especially the 4 threes. Oh well, I solved it. And TRIPLET made me laugh. :-) *The Void*
- Not knowing GHEE could be GHI had me stuck on 19dn, GANDHI, for ages. *Ann Millard*
- I really liked the clues for AFLOAT and GANDHI. *Brian Tickle*
- Not my favourite grid. Too many underchecked answers. *Andrew Patterson*
- My only worry is 7ac, I don't think a little empress is imp [*Imperatrix in Chambers - Ed*], and when I google emp I find it is a very naughty text message from a girl. The anagram for 8dn seems a letter out. *Roy Taylor*
- GANDHI was clever. So many ways to spell so many things... *Robyn Wimbush*
- Lots of helpful anagrams. It was the 3-letter words that were the trickiest, still not sure of a couple. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Liked TRIPLET and GANDHI. *Toby McLeay*
- A bit disappointing that all six 15-letter answers had clues involving an entire anagram. But their surfaces were good! *Len Colgan*
- Some excellent clues, particularly AFLOAT, TRIPLET and GANDHI. *Krittibas Dasgupta*
- Is there a problem with the 8dn anagram fodder? *Tony Dobe*
- I liked TRIPLET. Mis-spellings in 10ac and 8dn were unfortunate. *Kathy Horadam*
- Great pun in GANDHI! *Sandy Lim*
- Had a chuckle at TRIPLET and GANDHI. *Ken Francis*
- WON had me flummoxed for ages, until I finally thought of capital as currency. Clever. *Julie Crowe*
- The deception in GANDHI is great. *Scott Goodman*
- Interesting clues. *Jean Evans*

- 19dn total guess GANDHI...nfi - enjoyed it, tku. *Chris Thomas*
- Not sure about 7ac but not many options. 8dn as an anagram, has too many Ns. I liked AFLOAT. *Mal Cockburn*
- Thanks for the long answers which help with adjacent answers. *Lynn Jarman*

- August 3: KA (Karl Audrins)**

- I really enjoyed solving this puzzle and I especially liked the clues for TIFF and DIVE BOMBER. *Brian Tickle*
- A lot of fun but easier than the usual Slot 3. *David Bennett*
- Favourite AWRY. Several 'a's & 'the's could have been omitted, I think, as they don't contribute to the cryptic reading. *The Void*
- Could do most without a dictionary which is always a bonus. Thanks for the fun. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Excellent puzzle. IMAM gave me a good giggle. *Sandy Lim*
- I learnt CANTABRIGIAN from this. *Tony Dobe*
- Nice puzzle! *Krittibas Dasgupta*
- This type of puzzle is always a challenge but also interesting. *Jean Evans*
- I enjoyed solving these clues but not the [barred] format. *Lynn Jarman*

- August 4: Manveru (Michael Kennedy)**

- My favourite clues were those for DECAGON and UTTERED. *Brian Tickle*
- And DARWIN as a NINA. Thanks! *Ann Millard*
- I spotted DARWIN, I hope I haven't missed something else? *Julie Leigh*
- Love AJs. Thanks Michael. *Robyn Wimbush*
- The shortness of the H definition made it difficult, luckily it was an anagram. Some tricky definitions. Visited DARWIN during the solve. Thanks. *Ulla Axelsen*
- This one seemed impossible at first so I was proud to have completed it although some persisting mysteries. *Toby McLeay*
- Unsure about OOZE. Ooze means snuff not slime. *Brian Symons*
- I assume that Darwin was a coincidence? [*Rarely in a puzzle by Manveru - Ed*] *Richard Skinner*
- The O clue has me bamboozled. I think slime = ooze but what creature 'decapitated' gives that? [booze - the craythur - Ed] *Tony Dobe*
- Always my favourite puzzle, some great clues. *Jean Evans*
- Some very enjoyable inventive clues, also, some a little libertarian. *Ian Thompson*
- I found OOZE for the O clue, but I can't find the decapitated creature. *Mal Cockburn*
- Always fun! I liked ALOE VERA and KLEENEX but am not sure of R or O. *Kathy Horadam*

- August 5 Crowsman (Len Colgan)**

- Interesting theme. *David Bennett*
- I thought I was well travelled until these wonders appeared together. Thanks, Len! *Ann Millard*
- Elegantly clued and educationally themed. Voted ATOMIC COTM. *Roy Taylor*
- Wonderful indeed! *Andrew Patterson*
- Took me the longest time to get the theme. And to get ATOMIC, which is my favourite. An old trick, but a good 'un. *The Void*
- Once I found Machu Picchu the theme list fell into place. Took a while to work out some of the word plays but I finally got there. Thanks for the challenge. *Ulla Axelsen*

Continued on page 10

Clue-writing Competition for July – Adjudicated by Drew Meek

This challenge was to write a clue for **PARADOXICAL**, the adjectival form of paradox. Thanks to all the members who submitted entries.

There are some nuances of meaning for paradox. The three club references have dictionary definitions along the lines of "Something which is apparently absurd but is or may be really true" ; but thesauruses linked to these references suggest "absurd" as a synonym without the qualification. Other meanings or synonyms used by the clue setters were illogical, contradictory and hard to believe (and that's not a value judgement on the setters' work!)

The winner is Michael Kennedy with: **Priest and a fanatic adopting old cross - it's conflicting.**

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

A lax picador? Absurd! **^{1/2}**

Teetering somewhere between double duty, semi &Lit and &Lit, this is a lovely succinct clue. The letters of the solution are in (a lax picador)* with absurd being the anagram indicator. Is "absurd" the definition or is the absurd concept of a lax picador the definition, elevating it to an &lit clue?

Absurd friend consuming brand of bath salts with iodine and calcium ***

The struggle with charade clues for longer words is that the clues can become a mega sentence with the piecing together of many small groups of letters. This was one of the shorter charade clues submitted. Friend is PA-L consuming (going around) brand of bath salts (RADOX) + iodine (I) + calcium (CA). When I first started writing puzzles for the club, Patrick's advice was to avoid brand names in clues. While in recent years, I note this rule is less applied, that background of mine reduced my scoring of this clue, which, otherwise, had an amusing surface reading.

Defying logic, century and a half century follow grade cricket side hosting a bash *^{1/2}**

Grade is the indicator of PAR and the cricket side is eleven (XI) and this is followed by century (C) and a half century (A+L). These letters are surrounding ("hosting") "a bash" = A+DO to form the definition. The surface reading with various cricket related elements was also appealing.

Priest and a fanatic adopting old cross - it's conflicting. **^{1/2}**

Conflicting is the definition but also, for those with Russian church history knowledge, it can relate to the reforms of [Patriarch Nikon](#) in the 17th century and the change from two-finger crossing to three finger crossing and the unrest between old and new believers [Edward Rutherford's novel RUSSKA elucidates this]. In this clue the priest (P) and a fanatic A+RADICAL adopt (surround) old cross (O+X). Both for being the most succinct charade clue and for the historical reference (even if possibly unintended), my x-factor score elevated this to my choice as winning clue.

Seemingly absurd but may be true, fuss after expected score on golf hole is followed by eleven! Then about fifty ! ****

This entry had the dictionaries' definitional qualification that the seemingly absurd thing may be true. The extended definition contributed to the surface reading of the seconds recounting a golfing story. Fuss (ADO) is after "expected score on golf hole" (PAR) + eleven (XI) + about (CA) + fifty (L)

Street celebration cut short by mobster holding something potentially lethal given time - hard to believe! ***

A charade clue where the answer (hard to believe) is formed by "street celebration cut short" : PARAD(e) next to "mobster" (AL) [still often popping up in clues 78 years after Capone's death] holding "something potentially lethal" (t)OXIC. "Given" is used as an indicator to remove the "time" (t). For me, "given" suggests adding a letter as per Chambers "bestowed", "granted" "admitted") although the verb "to give" does have a definition "to yield" which could suggest removal of a letter. However, I don't think the part of speech is correct for the word play, although it contributes to the surface reading.

Unduly coax laird, pa? Absurd! **^{1/2}**

The second of the anagram entries and the third with the simple "absurd" definition. The letters to be rearranged are (coaxlairdpa)*. The anagrind is "unduly". There is such an array of possible anagrinds. "Unruly" I've often seen but I wondered about "unduly" being acceptable based on Chambers definitions of "unjustifiably, more than right or reasonable". However Chambers also has an archaic definition "wrongfully" and Collins includes the American English usage "improperly", so "unduly" is an appropriate indicator. It has a coherent surface readability, but I preferred the SR of the other anagram clue.

Clue-Writing Competition Scoring System

	Poor	Proper	Perfect
Definition	0	1	2
Secondaries	0	1	2
Fairness	0	1	2
Surface	0	1	2
x-factor	0	1	2
Total score	Star Rating		
1 or 2	*		
3 or 4	**		
5 - 7	***		
8 - 9	****		
10	*****		

September Clue-writing Competition

For the next competition, please write a clue for the word **TORQUE (6)** complete with explanation. One only per member, please. Send your creations to Andrew Patterson: email to mcandap@bigpond.net.au or post to 372 Great North Rd, Abbotsford NSW 2046

Entries close Friday 10 October 2025

Clue of the Month

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[illegible][illegible][illegible]

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

Name