



|N|o.|2|1|6| |A|P|R|I|L| |2|0|0|8

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Words — so innocent and powerless as they are, as standing in a dictionary, how potent for good and evil they become, in the hands of one who knows how to combine them!  
 Nathaniel Hawthorne, 1841-52, *American Notebooks*.

## |G|R|I|D|A|T|O|R|I|A|L|

## |F|R|O|M| |T|H|E| |A|D|J|U|D|I|C|A|T|O|R|

One of our esteemed members has suggested that the Slots 1-6 puzzles be amalgamated. That is, the closing mail date for the Slot 6 puzzle would be same for Slots 1-5. This will mean that the trophy winners will not have to wait another month for the results; that there will be a saving on postage and envelopes and that the page 11 grids will not have to be cut. It will be easier for Brian Symons who keeps a tally of the cumulative scores. On the down side, it will mean extra work for our devoted Adjudicators. If you would like to let us know your thoughts, please contact Ian Williams who has kindly offered to co-ordinate the matter. Ian's contact details can be found in the grid at the foot of this page.

Puzzleman Ian Williams has selected another fascinating range of puzzles for you this month. Ian has decided to have a go at his first Half & Half in Slot 1. Well done, Ian! In Slot 2, we welcome a new compiler (*Robespierre*) (Ian McKenzie) who has crafted a fine cryptic. You can read his compiler profile on page 4. All-time favourites *Southern Cross* and *Praxis* are back in Slots 3 and 4. And *Aeolian* (Max Roddick) has presented us with a delectably-titled puzzle called *Petit Fours*: it sounds eminently digestible! In Slot 6, *Betelgeuse* (Gillian Champion) has compiled a beauty in Slot 6 called *Seeing Stars*. It sounds like a knock-out puzzle doesn't it? Our quizmaster is the popular *Ann Ass* (Jenny Wenham) who has devised a fascinating Quiz which should find favour with all animal lovers.

Just a quick note to thank our tireless Secretary Bev Cockburn, our skilful Puzzleman Ian Williams, our brilliant compilers and hard-working adjudicators for their enduring work in maintaining our successful and thriving Club. Good Luck with your solving this month. Kindly note that the closing mail date is a Public Holiday so solvers should ensure that their entries are posted in good time. —Patrick

Hello to all in 2008. I hope that everyone had a very Happy Easter – plenty of Easter Eggs and correct puzzles. I feel sure it is a record with 54 members getting a full set of puzzles correct. The March puzzles were much appreciated by the members after the testing puzzles of February. Unfortunately there were still transcription errors, including many vacant spaces. It seems such a shame to have to mark puzzles wrong where it is obvious that the solver knows that answer.

**Slot 1:** Nero (x5), for Nemo, was the biggest offender here. An odd assortment of other errors.

**Slot 2:** 9 lucky members gained dots for BOADECIA. While most members had the usual spelling – BOADICEA – I accepted the alternative as there was some reference to it in the internet. Both answers fitted the (anagram) clue. Lennon caused a few loss of dots.

**Slot 3:** GRANDAD (for Trinidad) was the biggest offender here and some reference to Capital (?) as the capital of Trinidad is Port-of-Spain. Trini Lopez is a guitarist/singer. A few members had concerns about the numbers of letters in the answers – 14 rather than 5,9. 17dn – L (lecturer) OZ (Australia) ENGE (gene, anagram) = Pill.

**Slot 4:** Corporators caught out a few members here – cooperators, corporaters, comparators. Quillet stumped a few – quelled. The last line was well appreciated – T H E E N D. If you did not see it before then have another look at the grid on page 2. Well done Carole!

**Slot 5:** I liked that one Kev, as did many members. Just a few transcriptions errors spoil the success rate in this one.

**COTM:** While there were many nominations it was “Dizzy Gillespie” that took the honours for March. Congrats to *InGrid* (Jean Barbour). Wishing everyone a great year of puzzling and good health and Happy birthday to Irene Watts who will be 94 this month.—Veniece Lobsey

|L|E|A|D|I|N|G| |F|I|G|U|R|E|S|

Puzzle No.	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Entries received	118	112	107	113	102	552
Correct entries	101	99	84	92	95	471
Success rate (%)	85	88	78	82	93	85
<b>Prizewinners</b>	H Freeman K Pullen	N Hazell J Barnes	J Stocks O Greenberger	P Heath	N Storey J Randall	from 119 members

|H|I|G|H|L|I|G|H|T|S|

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Acrostic Jigsaw by <i>Praxis</i>	6
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**Prizewinner: March 2008 Slots 1-5: Jill Freeland**

|L|E|A|D|I|N|G| |L|I|G|H|T|S|

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<b>Secretary</b>	Bev Cockburn	12 Norman St, Merrylands West NSW 2160	Ph (02) 9635 7802	bevco4@bigpond.com
<b>Puzzle/Quiz submission</b>	Ian Williams	12 Lindrum Cres, Holt ACT 2615	Ph (02) 6254 6860	ianw@webone.com.au

### March 1-2008

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

### March 2-2008

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

### March 3-2008

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

### March 4-2008

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

### March 5-2008

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

### Feb 6-2007

N	R	S	M	A	T	C	H	A	L	S	O
Y	O	K	E	L	E	A	R	E	A	T	S
A	U	R	A	M	S	P	O	U	S	E	S
F	E	S	T	A	L	S	M	A	S	A	I
F	R	A	P	H	A	C	E	T	O	N	E
D	O	R	I	S	See	O	N	E	W	S	
E	S	E	E	S	p7	M	I	D	A	S	
H	E	E	L	T	A	P	S	K	A	T	E
O	I	L	S	R	W	I	N	O	B	T	C
R	O	E	M	E	R	N	A	L	U	R	E
N	W	C	R	A	T	U	R	A	R	T	S
S	A	T	E	K	I	P	L	I	N	G	H

## MEMBERS RESULTS FOR FEB Slot 6 & MAR 2008 Slots 1-5

MEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6
ALLEN W	.	.	.	.	.	.
ALSTON B	.	.	.	.	.	.
ANDERSON C	.	.	.	.	.	.
ARCHIBALD C	.	.	.	.	.	.
AUSTIN A	.	.	.	.	.	.
BALNAVES J	.	.	.	.	.	.
BARBOUR J	.	.	.	.	.	.
BARNES J	.	.	.	.	.	.
BARRETT A	.	.	.	.	.	.
BATUM C	.	.	.	.	.	.
BENNETT B	.	.	.	.	.	.
BENNETT D	.	.	.	.	.	.
CAINE R	.	.	.	.	.	.
CALLAN A & D	.	.	.	.	.	.
CAMPBELL G	.	.	.	.	.	.
CARROLL L	.	.	.	.	.	.
CHAMPION G	.	.	.	.	.	.
CHANCE C	.	.	.	.	.	.
COATES D	.	.	.	.	.	.
COCKBURN B	.	.	.	.	.	.
COLE G	.	.	.	.	.	.
COLLINS M	.	.	.	.	.	.
COOKE L	.	.	.	.	.	.
COPLAND F	.	.	.	.	.	.
COWAN M	.	.	.	.	.	.
CROMER H	.	.	.	.	.	.
DAVIS M	.	.	.	.	.	.
DEARIE P	.	.	.	.	.	.
DENNIS M	.	.	.	.	.	.
DINHAM V	.	.	.	.	.	.
DUCKER R	.	.	.	.	.	.
EGGLETON B	.	.	.	.	.	.
FOSTER C	.	.	.	.	.	.
FOWLER J	.	.	.	.	.	.
FREEMAN H	.	.	.	.	.	.
FRELAND J	.	.	.	.	.	.
FULLER D	.	.	.	.	.	.
GALBREATH M	.	.	.	.	.	.
GARNER P	.	.	.	.	.	.
GLISSAN B	.	.	.	.	.	.
GRAINGER D	.	.	.	.	.	.
GREENBERGER O	.	.	.	.	.	.

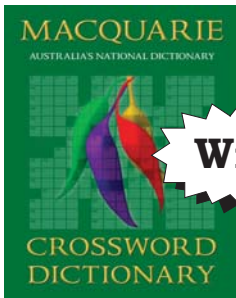
MEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6
GREENING D	.	.	.	.	.	.
HAGAN R	.	.	.	.	.	.
HAMBLING C	.	.	.	.	.	.
HARPER K	.	.	.	.	.	.
HAZELL N	.	.	.	.	.	.
HEAGNEY R	.	.	.	.	.	.
HEATH P	.	.	.	.	.	.
HEMSLEY D	.	.	.	.	.	.
HOWARD L	.	.	.	.	.	.
HOWARD V	.	.	.	.	.	.
HOWELLS S	.	.	.	.	.	.
IBBOTT B	.	.	.	.	.	.
JERMY A	.	.	.	.	.	.
JESSOP N	.	.	.	.	.	.
JONES C	.	.	.	.	.	.
JONES D	.	.	.	.	.	.
KENNEDY D	.	.	.	.	.	.
KENNEDY M	.	.	.	.	.	.
KITTO J	.	.	.	.	.	.
KNIGHT S	.	.	.	.	.	.
KNIGHT V	.	.	.	.	.	.
LAYTON K	.	.	.	.	.	.
LEE N	.	.	.	.	.	.
LEEDS G	.	.	.	.	.	.
LLOYD G	.	.	.	.	.	.
LOBSEY V	.	.	.	.	.	.
McCLELLAND C	.	.	.	.	.	.
MacDOUGALL I	.	.	.	.	.	.
McGRATH J	.	.	.	.	.	.
McKENZIE I	.	.	.	.	.	.
McPHERSON T	.	.	.	.	.	.
MARTIN A	.	.	.	.	.	.
MARTIN F	.	.	.	.	.	.
MAUNDER M	.	.	.	.	.	.
MAY S	.	.	.	.	.	.
MEEK D	.	.	.	.	.	.
MERCER P	.	.	.	.	.	.
MILES A	.	.	.	.	.	.
NOBLE C	.	.	.	.	.	.
O'BRIEN E	.	.	.	.	.	.

MEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6
O'BRIEN S	.	.	.	.	.	.
OGAWA T	.	.	.	.	.	.
O'ROURKE R	.	.	.	.	.	.
PARSONS D	.	.	.	.	.	.
PATTERSON A	.	.	.	.	.	.
POTTS M	.	.	.	.	.	.
PRICE D	.	.	.	.	.	.
PROCTER D	.	.	.	.	.	.
PROCTER M	.	.	.	.	.	.
PULLEN K	.	.	.	.	.	.
PYC M	.	.	.	.	.	.
RANDALL J	.	.	.	.	.	.
RAW M	.	.	.	.	.	.
RODDICK M	.	.	.	.	.	.
RYAN W	.	.	.	.	.	.
SAVANAH T	.	.	.	.	.	.
SIEGMAN B	.	.	.	.	.	.
SMITH J	.	.	.	.	.	.
SOLOMON B	.	.	.	.	.	.
STANDARD J	.	.	.	.	.	.
STEINBERGER M	.	.	.	.	.	.
STOCKS J	.	.	.	.	.	.
STOREY N	.	.	.	.	.	.
SYMONS B	.	.	.	.	.	.
TAYLOR R	.	.	.	.	.	.
TAYLOR S	.	.	.	.	.	.
TICKLE B	.	.	.	.	.	.
TOFONI B	.	.	.	.	.	.
TROLLOPE S	.	.	.	.	.	.
VERESS M	.	.	.	.	.	.
VILLIERS W	.	.	.	.	.	.
WAITES L	.	.	.	.	.	.
WALTER A	.	.	.	.	.	.
WATT K	.	.	.	.	.	.
WATTS I	.	.	.	.	.	.
WEBBER B	.	.	.	.	.	.
WENHAM J	.	.	.	.	.	.
WILCOX C	.	.	.	.	.	.
WILSON N	.	.	.	.	.	.
WILSON R	.	.	.	.	.	.
WOOD J	.	.	.	.	.	.
ZUCAL H	.	.	.	.	.	.

A	P	R	I	L	
2	0	0	8		
S	L	O	T		1

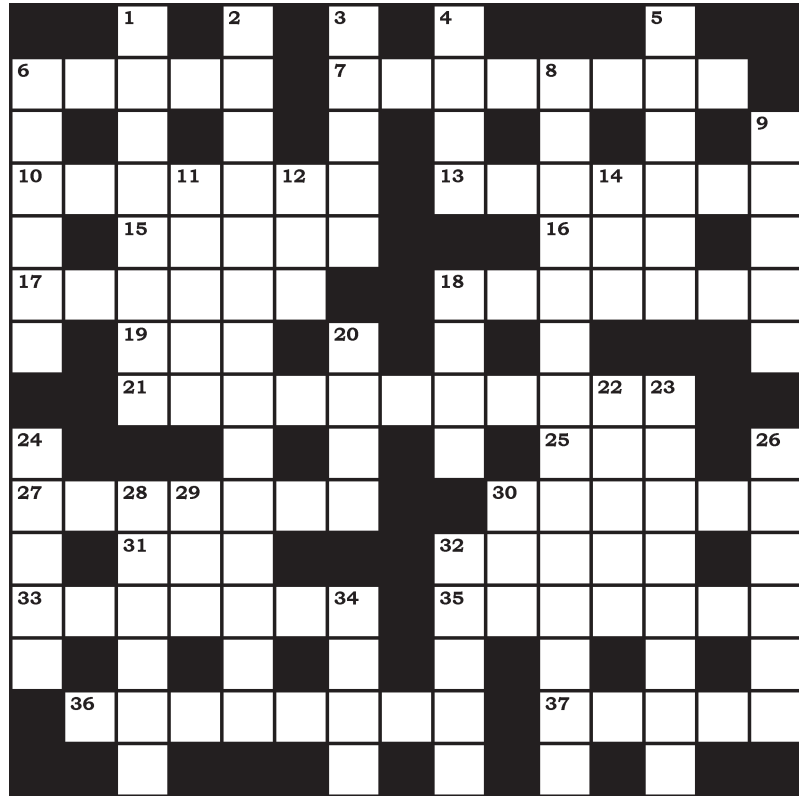
**Half and Half  
by  
midships**

**Prizes: \$50**



**Win!**

[2007 edn]



**Across**

- 6 Conduct (5)
- 7 Act of stealing (8)
- 10 Camera operators (7)
- 13 Chemical bond (7)
- 15 German autos (4)
- 16 Charged particle (3)
- 17 Violent (6)
- 18 Knitted goods (7)
- 19 Maori meal (3)
- 21 Rhythmic alteration (11)
- 25 Scot's "No" (3)
- 27 Computer file (4,3)
- 30 Departure (6)
- 31 Ingenuity (3)
- 32 Dressed like Batman? (5)
- 33 Expectant female? (7)
- 35 Wearing away (7)
- 36 Thin porcelain (8)
- 37 Cosy homes (5)

**Down**

- 1 Characters in Soho nick maltreated Native Americans (8)
- 2 Service at sunrise sometimes involving clergymen Bruce and Howard for example (5,9)
- 3 Surprises in first seven barrels (4)
- 4 Account for William (4)
- 5 Courteous in town and end of village (6)
- 6 ...except when first setting off to be dull (6)
- 8 Painting HIV son developed focus (9,5)
- 9 Lady Stone (5)
- 11 Bouquet missed, it's rumoured (5)
- 12 English city associated with negatively-geared investment (3)
- 14 Shy-sounding fish (3)
- 18 Stop American cutter, fool (4)
- 20 Thomas, motherless inebriated party-giver (4)
- 22 Stash in East End said to be operated by sweep (5)
- 23 Is end tee refurbishment the most wanting? (8)
- 24 Allegedly I possessed an implement in the US (5)
- 26 Customs take the filling from our sausage sandwich (6)
- 28 Pinch old pair returning, for example (6)
- 29 Publicise and announce male 33 (3)
- 30 Feature of Pearly Queen (3)
- 32 Inner chamber said to be a lower room (5)
- 34 Specialised recreational vehicle reversed in dells without initially looking (4)

|S|E|N|D|  
|S|O|L|U|T|I|O|N|S|  
|T|O|:

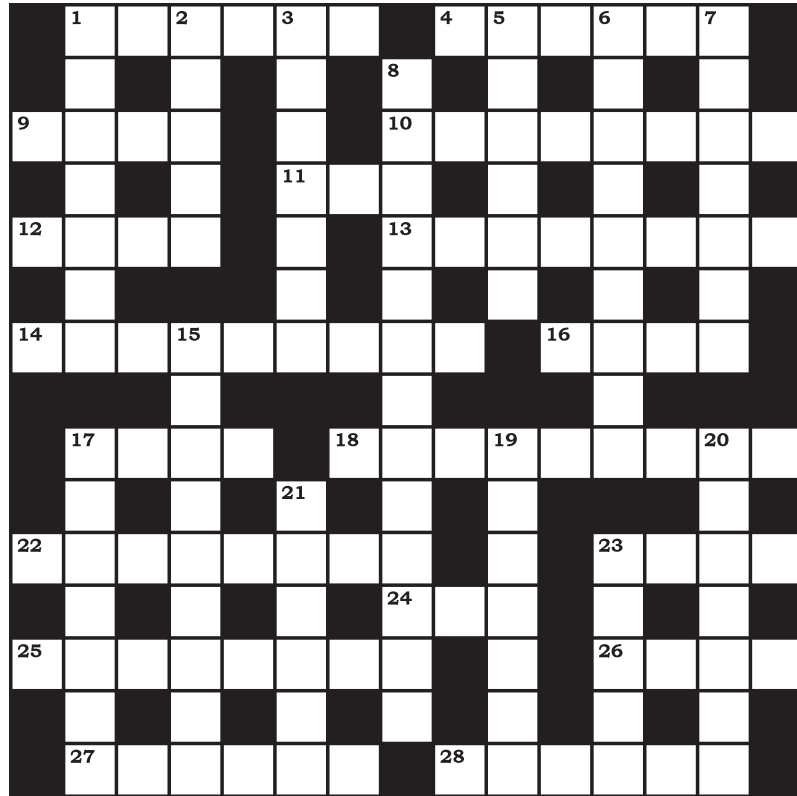
Slots 1-5: Doreen Jones, 89 Second Ave, Rossmoyne WA 6148.  
e-mail: dorjones@bigpond.com  
Closing mail date: Friday 25 April 2008.  
e-lodgment: ianw@webone.com.au

G	O	O	D		
G	R	I	D	S	
P	A	G	E		11

Slot 6: Gillian Champion, c/o Post Office, Metung Vic 3904  
e-mail: gchampion@westnet.com.au Closing mail date: 9 May 2008.

A	P	R	I	L	
2	0	0	8		
S	L	O	T		2

## Cryptic by Robespierre



### Across

- 1 Ice blocks from rough care while imprisoned by Nazis (6)
- 4 Tip lug please (6)
- 9 European worked without pressman's contribution (4)
- 10 Across reversed pole, light drug produces urine element (10)
- 11 Jeffery dispensed with the woman's discharge (3)
- 12 Wolf, head to tail, represents Greek capital (4)
- 13 Advance along, working hard (and avoiding 21dn?) (4,4)
- 14 Changing sexy woman? (9)
- 16 Slippery toil – you take a piecemeal approach (4)
- 17 9 across changes regularly for a change (4)
- 18 Adult insect, by clever ruse, gets cutters (9)
- 22 Scene of girl flanked by her parents (8)
- 23 Code nonsense to create difficulties (4)
- 24 This member, when held, establishes an initial position (3)
- 25 Busy time, late finishing and hunger so take the cake! (8)
- 26 Oversight to lose a letter-opener? Found in church (4)

27 Gibson, say, rested but tossed and turned (6)

28 Ascends, drops dead – crashed aircraft results (6)

### Down

- 1 Talkative but, after a change of leadership, capable of being answered (7)
- 2 Solve without a French composer (5)
- 3 Wipe the floor and win (5,2)
- 5 Oriental spies mutant reptiles (6)
- 6 The needier, in distress, receive hospital parking and a stimulant (9)
- 7 Fugitive urn? (7)
- 8 Subject of speculation that produces tears? (8,5)
- 15 Similarities of rear-end orgies that are not restricted (9)
- 17 Water leaked but was washed up? (7)
- 19 Has muscles and money, but is deprived of party leadership, so has time off (7)
- 20 A strong caffeine source? No, quite the reverse (7)
- 21 Deathtrap blast casualty (6)
- 23 What one grim person does when species are crossed? (5)

### COMPILER PROFILE: Robespierre (Ian McKenzie)

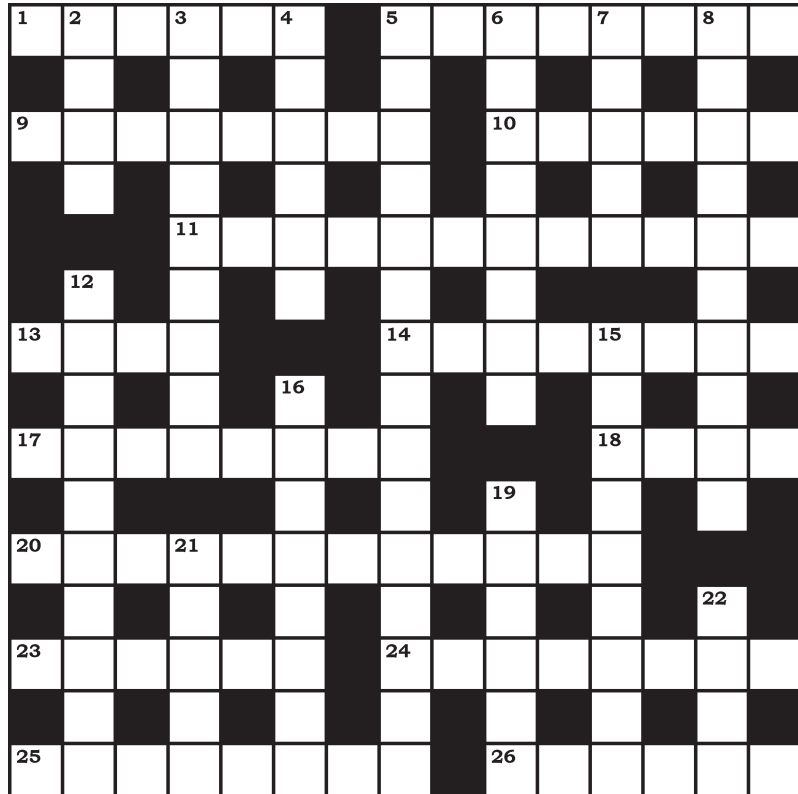
**Robespierre** (Ian McKenzie) recently retired after a career in economic policy and investment banking. A Francophile and frequent traveller to France, he is an accredited French-to-English translator. After being a keen solver for many years, he is now trying his hand at setting.

### BOOK REVIEW by Max Roddick: Collins Million Word Crossword Dictionary

Using this I was able to answer all of *Virgo's* January *Reel Men Quiz* – otherwise unknown territory to me. But when I sit down to write about it, my enthusiasm wavers. At first glance, the setup is bewildering: reading the 2-page How To section is essential. Broadly, each headword is a mini-thesaurus, its contents listed by wordlengths. But there are starters, enders, fill-in-the-gap clues and other divisions within each. And there are all the usual lists you would expect, and more (eg, Kentucky Derby winners since 1875!) each under its own relevant headword. The publishers claim there are 'around 1,004,429 answers' in the book, and I don't doubt that whatever you're seeking will be among them, but do study that How-To-Use section first!

Max Roddick

A P R I L   2 0 0 8   S L O T   3
<h2 style="margin: 0;">Cryptic by Southern Cross</h2>



**Across**

- 1 Candle-maker has everybody in tow (6)
- 5 Finished before the woman takes note where we are (4,4)
- 9 Where the admiral might be found in Iris's joint (8)
- 10 Beasts come to rest in the mesa's centre (6)
- 11 Our fathers set out to trap Eliot undoubtedly (5,3,4)
- 13 An anecdote from Lisle perhaps (4)
- 14 Ethical shift having bearing on this country's heart (3,5)
- 17 Go around poor chap carrying all letters and cold soup (8)
- 18 Worker right to have a drink? (4)
- 20 "Dear Sir" – it's often used by the secretary (6,6)
- 23 Angela uncertain? Lead in here (6)
- 24 Straight away cancel entry in account spoken of (5,3)
- 25 Dangerously cut off, the Spanish initially yield (8)
- 26 Fear making the first mistake? (6)

**Down**

- 2 Adamson pronounced fit? (4)
- 3 Shed some of the load making one feel more cheerful (7,2)
- 4 Distinctive musical sound upset controversial lord (3-3)
- 5 They're not likely to agree to workplace do (10,5)
- 6 Sties can be ugly places (8)
- 7 Cures some toothache also (5)
- 8 Aimed again straight into grass (10)
- 12 Agrees to gala performance where unwanted items are sold (6,4)
- 15 Plain-speaking hostage freer? (9)
- 16 Maple, willow and some eucalyptus cause irritation (8)
- 19 A dark time, reportedly, for man on board (6)
- 21 The first person's objective topic (5)
- 22 Guy Sebastian has one in "Manna from Heaven" (4)

**Quiz Results Comments continued from p9:**

- I loved your quiz; difficult enough to be interesting but not impossible. I much prefer quizzes one can solve in one's head rather than chasing round Google. *Margaret Galbreath*
- Thanks for this lovely quiz. I so enjoyed giving the grey matter a thorough workout. Some of the quizzes in *Crozworld* are really beyond me, or need the use of a lot of reference material. I loved this one – sitting in a chair with just a pen and paper and putting in a lot of thought. *Judy Randall*
- I think this was my favourite quiz to date – appealed to the inner process-mapper! Lots of fun, too. *Cally Martin*
- This was such fun. I thoroughly enjoyed working on it! *Gabrielle Leeds*
- I enjoyed this which needed a different approach to most others. Thanks for the challenge! *Jenny Wenham*
- Thank you for this most innovative puzzle. It took quite a bit of work but I really enjoyed figuring it all out. *Catherine Hambling*
- At first I thought I would never be able to work it out, but after some perseverance I found it quite challenging. *Claire McClelland*
- Another fantastic production from our most prolific member! Thanks again for your continued output. *Bev Cockburn*

- I do very few quizzes but this one caught my eye. No heartache, no Google required – just some fiddling. *Andrew Patterson*
- How you ever worked this out is amazing. *Marian Procter*
- A fun puzzle. Ophelia and Alexis had me flummoxed for a while. *Phyl Heath*
- Originally when I looked at it I decided it was too complicated for my elderly brain, but with the help of my 'Crozleaide' (how's that for a neologian!) I hope I've made a reasonable attempt. Thank you for your wonderful puzzles and quizzes. *Ted O'Brien*

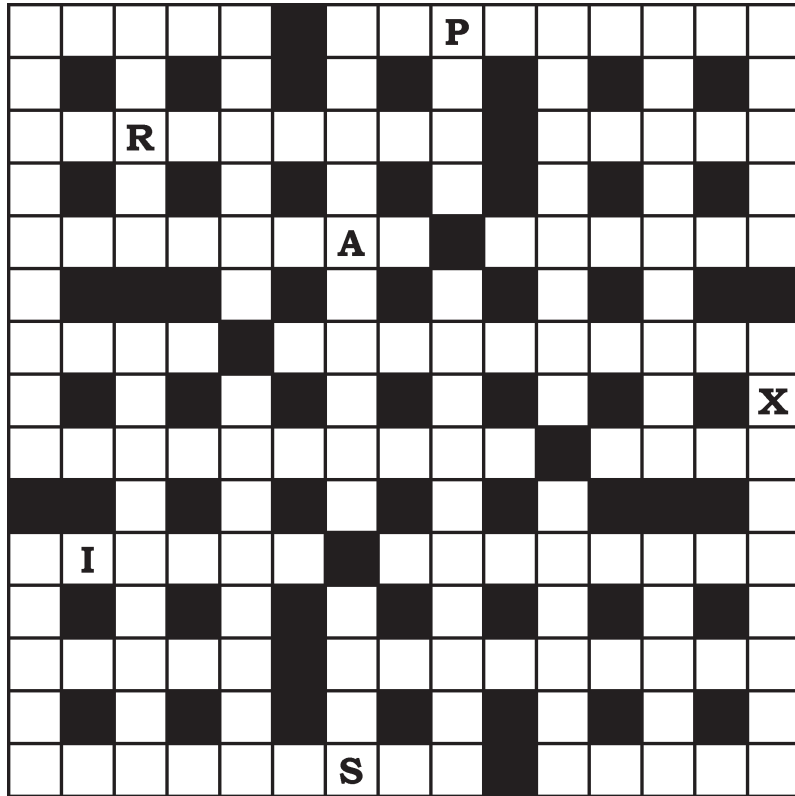
**Adjudicator's Comments:** The response to this quiz was pleasing: 38 entries, some of whom had never sent in a quiz before. And a high success rate too. I had hesitated to submit this originally, it being so different from a standard quiz but – nothing ventured etc. Some members sent diagrams with their entries showing how everything worked and although this was not required – I thought I'd be able to tell who submitted guesses and who had worked it out logically – these efforts were appreciated. Thanks to Alison Martin and Cally Martin (sisters?) who, coincidentally, both sent nice cards. *Virgo (Audrey Austin)*



A	P	R	I	L	
2	0	0	8		
S	L	O	T		4

## Acrostic Jigsaw by Praxis

**Prize:**  
**Chambers  
Dictionary of  
World History  
3rd edn.**  
[rrp \$79.95]



Solutions should be fitted into the diagram jigsaw-wise (scattered letters PRAXIS will help). When completed, arrange the *clues* from the first Across to the last Down – their 32 initial letters contain an instruction which, when followed, will give 6 answers from within the puzzle, which should be nominated in the appropriate spaces.

**Answers: See Rubric**

- |         |         |
|---------|---------|
| 1 _____ | 2 _____ |
| 3 _____ | 4 _____ |
| 5 _____ | 6 _____ |

### Clues

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Trouble adapting to include state in entertainment (3, 7) | Expression of pain follows medication; it helps if you're lying down (6) |
| Test shifted load on us; it's bad! (10)                   | Alcohol has lob about to slip up (6)                                     |
| Very unstable and misguided scholar has a weapon (3, 7)   | Toy snake? (6)   |
| Stop the song! The French song! (10)                      | It could be sticky! Dorothy's retired, initially denying age (6)         |
| Races Tess out to see the performers (9)                  | French and female! A knockout! (5)                                       |
| Yank pale plant for one that's appealing (9)              | Perfidious rogue has fellow hold me back (5)                             |
| Old postulate before the interpreter (9)                  | Revolutionary PLO lead king on a merry dance (5)                         |
| Absent-minded cast lost end of new flute (9)              | Eagle grabbed hold of one chap (5)                                       |
| I'll follow drama production on love for animal (9)       | The animal's hit in the lane (5)   |
| Odd to oppose eastern territory (9)                       | Ruin child in advance? (5)   |
| Easiest meeting's held in quiet time zone (9)             | Extortionist's granted sanctuary by the church (5)                       |
| Wicked pagan hero's found in waifs' home (9)              | Scribe's starting to dial mother in America (5)                          |
| Tidy golf scores brought about clever stories (8)         | Apollinaire's written about a bird? (4)                                  |
| Riots develop after gold departs with examiners (8)       | Echo is a deity? (4)   |
| Footwear takes time to cripple (8)                        | Recalled manufactured cheese, ... (4)                                    |
| Fine ale's different, after a number (8)                  | ... liquid sustenance's therefore adequate (4)                           |


### GENERAL COMMENTS:

- Dear Patrick, I was very chuffed to find I'd won the Chambers *Dictionary of World History* for Feb slot 4. Many thanks indeed. It will provide great browsing opportunities. *Robyn Caine*
- Dear Bev and *Crozworld* Committee. Thank you for my Feb Slot 3 prize; I was especially thrilled to receive it because I only managed to complete that one slot last month. "I dips me lid to the powers-that-be, And the puzzle-setting fraternity; For all you do to enrich our leisure – Your efforts give us endless pleasure!" (and some pain, too!) *Catherine Jones*
- Hello Patrick: Thank you so much for the wonderful service you do for the ACC. Also many thanks for the pleasant surprise – a package delivery at my door and on opening, finding a great book prize – but wait, there's more – a beautifully printed cheque for \$100! Long live our terrific club and the workers who keep it going! *Cate Foster*
- Hello Patrick: I wish to thank you in appreciation for the parcel sent to me last week containing a number of crossword books – I was a little surprised at the numerous number of crosswords contained and a little confused at not quite knowing where to start – however, as I am rather busy with voluntary work and family commitments – I have little time to spare time with completing the task I love most – I will only be too happy to be able to contact The Australian Crossword Club to enjoy the pleasures of it all at a later date. Many thanks again for your kind thoughts. Regards. *Helen Mayberry*

A	P	R	I	L	
2	0	0	8		
S	L	O	T		5

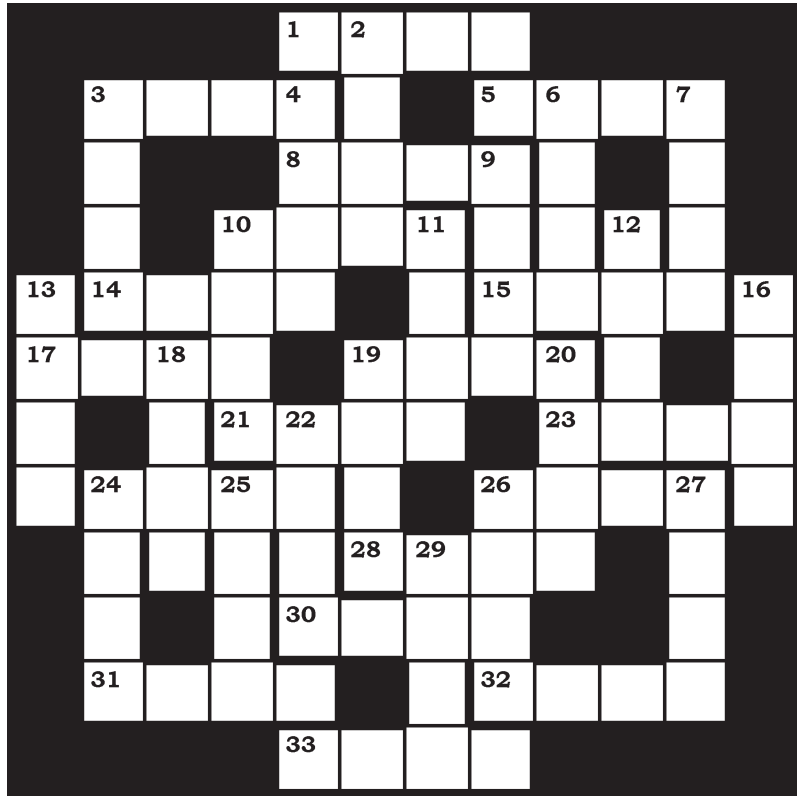
**Petit Fours**  
by  
**Aeolian**

**Prizes: \$50**



**Win!**

**2006 edn**



Cross-referenced clues may lack definitions. Identically worded clues require different answers.

All words are in *Chambers*.

**Across**

- 1 Castor was one (4)
- 3 Brass instrument (4)
- 5 What you are if you've 15 + 10dn (4)
- 8 Donnybrook (4)
- 10 Person of Scots-Irish race (4)
- 14 One thing (4)
- 15 Extended 13 (4)
- 17 Anagram of 3 (4)
- 19 Accustomed (4)
- 21 American jerk (4)
- 23 Scandinavian book (4)
- 24 Satisfy (4)
- 26 Put the containers back and secure the latch (4)
- 28 Black man's name for a white man (US) (4)
- 30 Anagram of 22 (4)
- 31 Accustomed (4)
- 32 Customs demand this obligatory 11 (4)
- 33 Deceased (4)

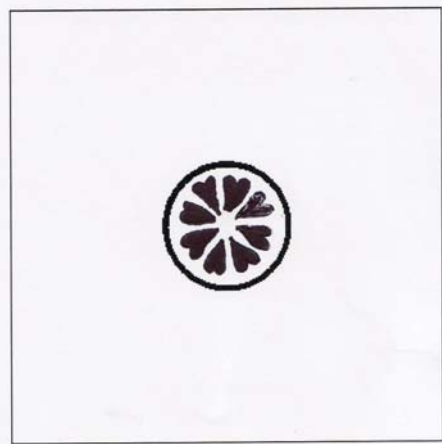
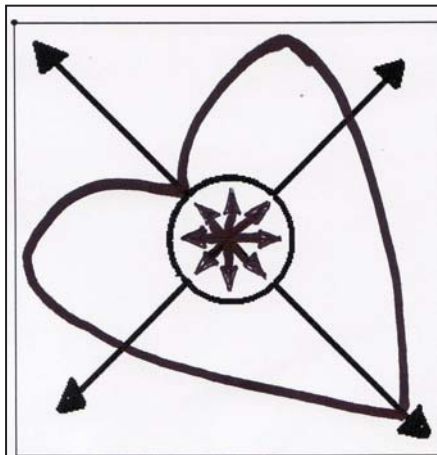
**Down**

- 2 Antonym of 31 (4)
- 3 Many four-letter words are (4)
- 4 Encourage, help (4)
- 6 Hebridean isle (4)
- 7 South American wild cat (4)
- 9 Short piece of poetry, maybe spoken by 10ac (4)
- 10 Developed form of 25 (4)
- 11 Job (4)
- 12 Mature (4)
- 13 Anagram of 33 (4)
- 16 Deceased (4)
- 18 Javanese poison tree (4)
- 19 Seduce (archaic) (4)
- 20 Gainsay (4)
- 22 A vague poetic anagram of 7 (4)
- 24 Being thus, you might be 33 (4)
- 25 Anagram of 31 (4)
- 26 A semi-precious stone (4)
- 27 Traditional apian state (4)
- 29 Antonym of 24dn (4)

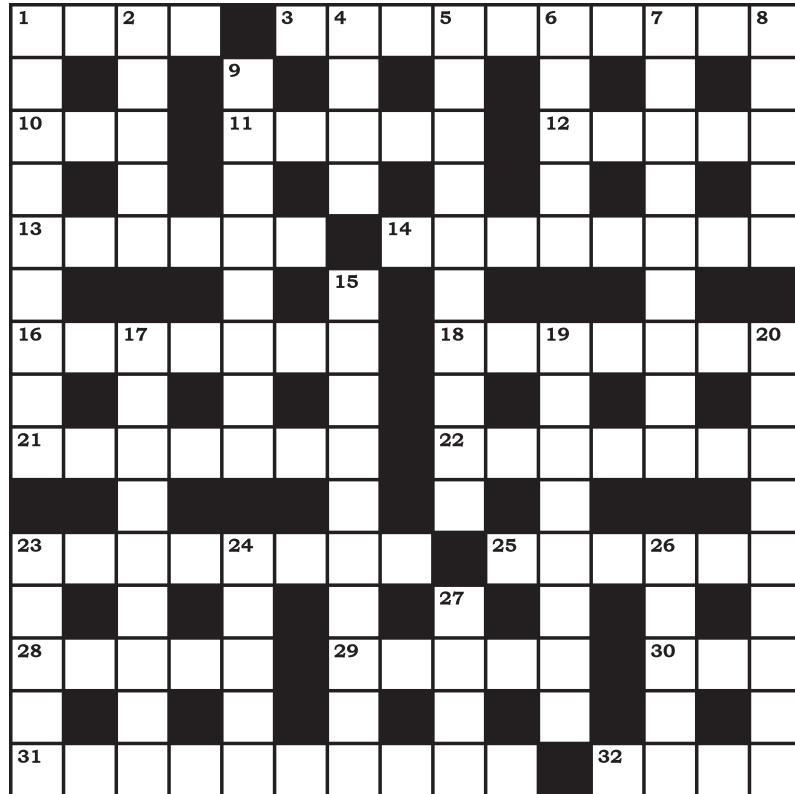
**February 6-2008:  
Long Distance  
Relationships by  
Wag (Taro Ogawa).**

**The final solution  
to the optional  
additional  
challenge.**

**Graphic by  
Taro Ogawa.**



A P R I L   2 0 0 8   S L O T   6
<b>Seeing Stars by Betelgeuse</b>

**Across**

- 1 A degree of length in the observatory (4)
- 3 Film lead runs in, breaks ornaments (10)
- 10 Return of first unknown alien transport (3)
- 11 Possession of a private licence with a purpose (5)
- 12 Flow of a space-warp lacks energy (5)
- 13 One uses opening drive carelessly and is given out (6)
- 14 Gear first, to top of observatory (4,4)
- 16 Dissolute fellow to cut back on midnight boat racing? (7)
- 18 Observatory messy – palatial when one is not here (2,5)
- 21 Wall is a long way back in the observatory (2,5)
- 22 Returned soldier's back inside for the party (7)
- 23 Reactionary prole's rumoured too wise to change with heat (8)
- 25 Japanese emperor holding office in ancient observatory (6)
- 28 True, Thomas Penman runs about the yard with end of term energy (5)
- 29 Wizard place for one with gas (5)
- 30 Blue moon but not new (3)
- 31 Get chicken high for Earth Goddess at ancient observatory (10)
- 32 Restore empty suit for aliens (4)

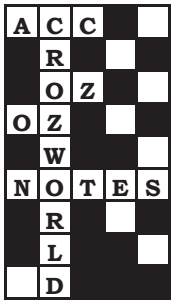
**Down**

- 1 Audible disapproval regarding sign at the old observatory (3,6)
- 2 Battle with ring-in satellites (5)
- 4 Express thanks with long heady kiss (4)
- 5 Marge left in retirement with no comeback (10)
- 6 Organisation fixed while the sun is up? (5)
- 7 Direction of raised hat points a way to the stars (9)
- 8 Flash of light from explosion of 23dn (5)
- 9 Frothy lather that is heavenly (8)
- 15 Proceed up Gammon Street. Anybody can find the Irish monument (5,5)
- 17 Mark time while storm breaks along the length of old observatory (2,7)
- 19 Parking place for Hawaiian honey-bird (8)
- 20 Old observatory causes anxiety about afternoon flexi-work (no Sabbath included) (6,3)
- 23 Amusement facilities for observatory lacking direction (5)
- 24 Instrument captures first class variable stars (5)
- 26 Hill rises behind one small area of land (5)
- 27 Despondency on the up when missing a number on the synthesiser (4)

**Post  
Solution  
to:**

**Gillian Champion  
c/o Post Office, Metung Vic 3904  
e-mail: [gchampion@westnet.com.au](mailto:gchampion@westnet.com.au)  
Closing mail date: 9 May 2008.**





**Results of February 2008 St. Valentine's Day Quiz by Virgo (Audrey Austin)**

**Scores: 20:** S. Atkinson, J. Barbour, H. Cromer, B. Cockburn, M. Galbreath, B. Glissan, C. Hambling, P. Heath, A. Hocking, S. Howells, D. Kennedy, M. Kennedy, G. Leeds, G. Lloyd, C. McClelland, A. Martin, C. Martin, A. Miles, C. Noble, Ted O'Brien, A. Patterson, D. Procter, M. Procter, M. Roddick, B. Siegman, M Steinberger, J. Stocks, B. Symons, R. Taylor, K. Watt, J. Wenham, N. Wilson and A. Walter. **19:** C. Anderson and J. Randall, **16:** S. Knight. **14:** Bob Hagan **10:** H. Freeman.

**Prizewinner: Ken Watt. Congratulations!**

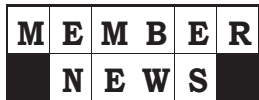
**Solutions:** 1. Eliza, 2. Eustace, 3. Quentin, 4. Alexis, 5. Herbert, 6. Roger, 7. Celia, 8. Sheila or Shelia, 9. Barry. 10. Chris, 11. Thomas, 12. Vernon, 13. Sonja, 14. Samuel, 15. Wanda, 16. Cindy, 17. Tony, 18. Kathy, 19. Cedric, 20. Fiona, 21. Laura, 22. Maude, 23. Ophelia, 24. Stephen, 25. Simone, 26. Peter.

**Members' Comments:**

- What a great idea for a quiz!
- Something really different and very enjoyable.
- Hope the letters have gone to the correct recipients. Happy St Valentine's Day to all the romantics. This was my actual engagement day many years ago, so it always is a day of fond recollections. Thanks, *Virgo!*
- Thanks for such a fun puzzle. I became so engrossed that a couple of evenings just flew by. More please!
- What a clever quiz! Took ages to find the first set of names, only to discover I had been taken for a stroll up the garden path to meet Emelia, Athan, Evita, Ester, Donna, and a myriad of their casual acquaintances. Alexis and Chris seem to be interchangeable as M/F to make up the 13F, 13M combination.
- Loved the quiz. I fiddled around for ages until I got on the right track.
- It was great to have a quiz where I had to use deduction rather than relying on general knowledge and looking up in books. I don't often bother with the quiz, but this was a good one.
- I really enjoyed this quiz. At first I thought it would be a breeze but when I got all the names and checked the alphabet found it more challenging than I estimated.
- I really liked this one, and how good to see such a friendly, sociable class of students. A joy to teach.
- First time I've attempted any quiz, let alone sending by e-mail, so here goes!
- I've had a lot of fun with this, but feel it's not right as the thrown-out letters don't fit in all the time. However, it was fun and beats vacuuming the floor.
- I enjoyed every minute of my agonies. It was a real challenge – no dictionaries, no computers – Bravo!
- Wow! Here, after the umpteenth check, are my answers. The mark of a good quiz – the answers aren't what they would seem to be at first glance.
- Something a bit different – I think I've nailed it! *Carole Noble*

*Michael Kennedy*  
*Brian Symons*  
*Alan Walter*  
*Alison Martin*  
*Jack Stocks*  
*Del Kennedy*  
*Hilary Cromer*  
*Barbara Glissan*  
*Betty Siegman*  
*Glenda Lloyd*  
*Sally Knight*  
*Sonia Atkinson*  
*Max Roddick*

[Comments continued on p5]



**New Member: Helen Mayberry** from Bentleigh East, Vic (a Gift Membership from Max Roddick). Welcome to the Wonderful World of *Crozworlding!*

**Membership Renewals for 2008:** Ross Bryant, David Stickleby and Michael Vnuk.

**Puzzle Adjustments:** The source for the C clue in Quiz No 3/2008 *The A-Z of Imaginary Places* should be 'Sir Thomas Malory' not 'Sir Thomas More'; and the word length indicator for the 'E' clue should read (2,6). Michael Kennedy, Carole Noble and Roy Taylor gained a dot for January 7-2008. Bev Solomon gained a dot for Feb Slot 3. Denis Coates lost a dot for January slot 7: this was Denis' email: "Somehow I received a dot in the March *Crozworld* for Slot 7 – for which in fact I did not enter. Perhaps the record should be corrected!" Done, Denis.

**Results of Chess Game Problems:** No 3/2008: 1. Qg4 threat 2 Ktd4. Winner: Catherine Hambling. No 4/2008: 1. Rg3 waiting. Winner: Bev Solomon. Congratulations! Answer to Brian Symons' Mini Quiz No 2: STRENGTHS, STRAIGHTS, STRETCHED and SCRATCHED. Thanks to Doug Butler for his contributions to the list: he contends that the latter is the longest by 0.1mm in an appropriate font! **Mini quiz 3 by Brian Symons:** Good puns are a source of real delight in a crossword but they are not easy to compile. Can you solve this one from the Glasgow Herald? They grow up as they grow down (9).

**The Australian Oxford Dictionary**

**WORD OF THE MONTH**

**risible** *adj.* 1 laughable, ludicrous. 2 inclined to laugh. 3 *Anat.* relating to laughter (*risible nerves*). **risibility** *n.* **risibly** *adv.* [ORIGIN: Late Latin *risibilis* from Latin *ridere ris-* 'to laugh'.]

*The Australian Oxford Dictionary*, Second Edition, 2004. Edited by Dr Bruce Moore. \$110. ISBN 9780195517965

**Quiz No 4/2008 — RHYME TIME by Ann Ass**

Below is a list of words which begin a newly invented (by me) rhyming slang term for 20 animals. Your task is to complete the rhyme and name the animal. For example, if the word given was GLOBE, the rhyming phrase would be GLOBE TROTTER and the animal OTTER. The rhyming phrases are all well-known and in common use. Answers are in alphabetical order of the linking (middle) rhyming word and **not** the animal. Alternative answers that meet the criteria will be accepted.

Send your answers to Jenny Wenham c/o Post Office Comet Qld 4702. email: [sandjwenham@optusnet.com.au](mailto:sandjwenham@optusnet.com.au)  
 Closing mail date: Friday 9 May 2008. Book prize.

- 1 BRANDY \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 CHERRY \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 PEAT \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 MORALE \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 HIGH \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 FAIRY \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 ELECTRIC \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 THICK AND \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 NAIL \_\_\_\_\_
- 10 GENTLEMAN \_\_\_\_\_
- 11 AIR \_\_\_\_\_
- 12 GRASSY \_\_\_\_\_
- 13 SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_
- 14 BEER \_\_\_\_\_
- 15 COFFIN \_\_\_\_\_
- 16 POISON \_\_\_\_\_
- 17 SHOES AND \_\_\_\_\_
- 18 PADDLE \_\_\_\_\_
- 19 FIRE \_\_\_\_\_
- 20 COTTON \_\_\_\_\_

### March 1-2008: Half & Half by Jesso (Noel Jessop)

- After putting in AGAR instead of ALGA, I was stuck for a while until light dawned.
- One of Noel's nifty normal Half and Halfs – not an exceptionally easy essay; nevertheless a really refreshing relief to follow on after the February ghastly *gizmo* gambol.
- Enjoyable ½ - ½.
- 30dn: A groovy clue: Race up without book? In the groove! = RA+BB+ET. Thanks Noel.

Peter Dearie  
Irene Watts  
Brian Tickle  
Alan Walter

### March 2-2008: Mainly British by Sue Donim (Bruce and Audrey Austin)

- More of a Slot 6 with a couple of place names which are not in the dictionary. "ONAGRI" was a new word to me. Peter Dearie
- Took ages to find any answer to 10ac. In the end I found the word in my (early 60s) edition of the *Concise Oxford dictionary!* Don Hemsley
- ONAGRI is a guess (from onager). *Chambers et al* don't seem to list it/them. Maurice Cowan
- A nice thematic, I really enjoyed meeting those well-known British characters. Another one would be welcome. Irene Watts
- I'm pleased to see Bruce get his name in this puzzle. If you take letters from 14ac, 1dn, 8ac and last of 28ac and 22dn Audrey gets a mention too. Ted O'Brien
- Thanks for your 'Mainly British' to 9ac. Alan Walter

### March 3-2008: Cryptic by InGrid (Jean Barbour)

- I have noticed a tendency for definitions to be rather imprecise if not downright inaccurate eg. "MISSING ONE LEG" for Amputee and "CAPITAL" for TRINIDAD. 21ac took me ages as I was looking for a 14-letter word. Peter Dearie
- *InGrid's* cryptic was a good one with some very clever clues. Irene Watts
- Anyone who can fit Dizzy Gillespie into a crossword deserves the COTM. Good one Jean. Ted O'Brien
- Loved SULPHUR and TRINIDAD. Max Roddick
- 21ac sent me DIZZY till I realised (14) should have been (5,9)! 22ac: MORON-R =MOON= Daydream. 4dn: DUST STORM given in *Chambers & Macquarie* as (4,5) not (9). Alan Walter

### March 4-2008: AJ by Waratah (Carole Noble)

- A well crafted A-J. In the 'X' clue I don't understand what "EMBLEM OF AUTHORITY" has to do with the answer. Peter Dearie
- A *Waratah* puzzle and a normal AJ at that means ENJOYMENT. I found the C clue tricky and I loved the T & G clues. Irene Watts
- This one had this elderly brain in overdrive which is good for it. Ta, Carole. Ted O'Brien
- Great to have a *Waratah* puzzle again. Shirl O'Brien
- I think the reference to TORI SPELLING is a bit raw-prawnish but all is forgiven for finishing the puzzle with "THE END". Doreen Jones
- XIPHOID is an adjective, whereas 'Emblem of authority' is a noun. Better to put 'Like an emblem of authority' to equate to this adjective. An enjoyable AJ. Thanks *Waratah*. Alan Walter

### March 5-2008: Acrostic by The Beast (Kev Layton)

- An amusing and entertaining puzzle. Peter Dearie
- Fun and legible. Brian Tickle
- Acrostics are not my favourites mainly because of the writing up strain on my old eyes. Fortunately not too beastly this time. Irene Watts
- I just love puzzles that make me laugh! Thanks a million Kev. Shirl O'Brien
- I had worked out half the clues before I read the instructions and found I was not looking for some well-known verse, but that *The Beast* had lived up to his name! Well, I succeeded in getting it out, groaned at all the puns and can only say that, as poetry it never got up to speed! Nea Storey
- The humour compensated for the quality of the verse! Kath Harper
- Kev's original verses make his acrostics much better than those which use works of well-known authors. One can't cheat or take short cuts with K's one-offs. Ted O'Brien
- Alas, poor Fred! At least His epitaph gave us a laugh For which we thank *The Beast!*
- Loved your humorous verse Kev. Seems as though Fred's health was worse than his car! Max Roddick  
Alan Walter

### GENERAL COMMENTS:

- Many thanks for the book prize for February's slot 5. It's already come in handy for this month. Also, a belated thanks for the trophy for July-December – totally unexpected. Dave Parsons
- Many thanks for my prize – a lovely surprise on my return from holidays when you usually receive bills! Ro Ducker
- Thank you Crozzie Club so much for my prize last month. What a thrill it is to be REWARDED for having fun. Easter Blessings to All. Del Kennedy
- Many thanks for my \$50 prize. I really enjoyed this month's puzzles – very entertaining. Fay Copland
- Belated thanks for both my trophy for July-Dec slots 1-5 and my magnificent *Chambers Crossword Dictionary*, which keeps tempting me away from "serious" work. Irene Watts
- Winning the prize for puzzles 1-5 in November 2007 was amazing. Now another prize, for Feb 2008. Thank you, Col for picking my name out of the hat. It's in good time for my coming 94<sup>th</sup> birthday – must be my lucky year. Irene Watts
- Thank you for the book prize for Quiz No 1. It is the *Chambers Dictionary of Eponyms* and it has already come in handy in confirming an answer to a question in a UK quiz. David Procter
- Thanks to all of you wonderful people at ACC for the great work you do each month. A terrific selection of puzzles this month, making it difficult to choose one's favourite COTM. We must all welcome back *The Beast* with his clever clues and his marvellous sense of humour and talent for verse. Best wishes to all the workers who keep this great club going! Catherine Foster
- A month of fine puzzles – a pleasure to solve. Max Roddick
- Happy 18<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to the ACC on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2008. Hope the APRIL puzzles are as enjoyable as these March puzzles. Alan Walter

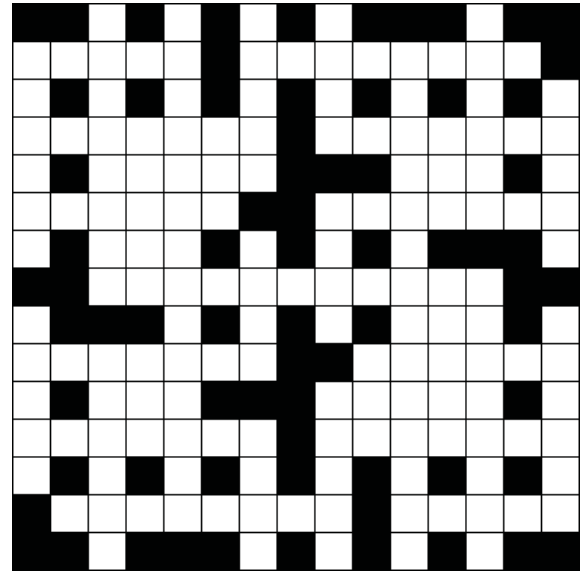
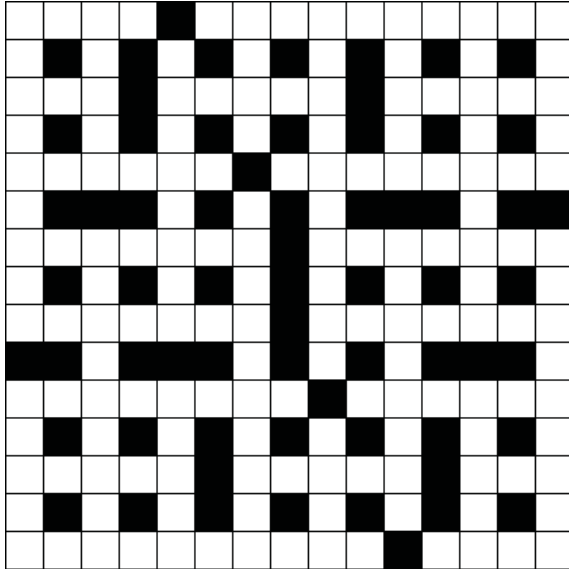
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|G|O|O|D| |G|R|I|D|S|

|A|P|R|I|L| |6| |2|0|0|8|

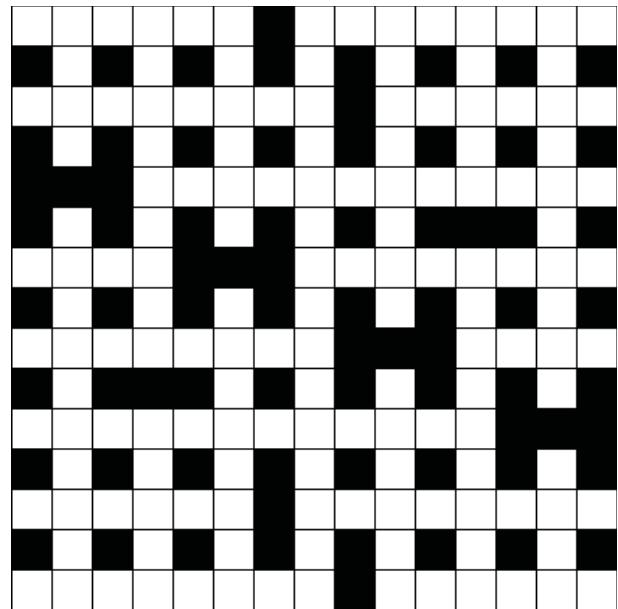
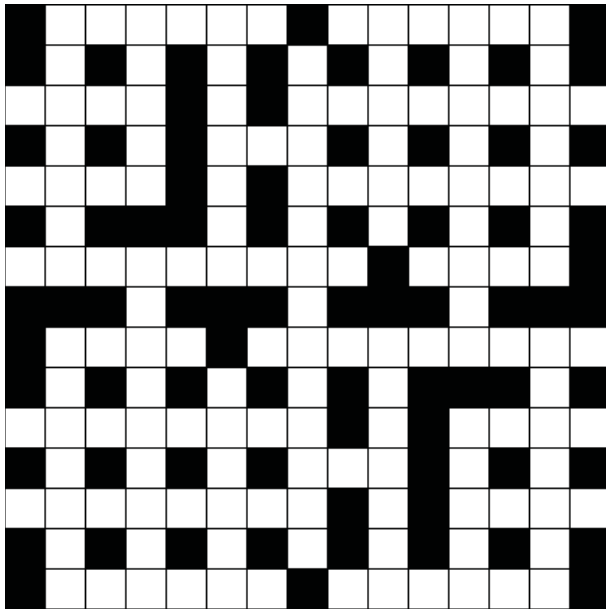
|A|P|R|I| |1| |2|0|0|8| NAME.....

Send solution to: Gillian Champion,  
c/o Post Office, Metung, Vic 3904.  
Closing mail date: Friday 9 May 2008.  
NAME: .....



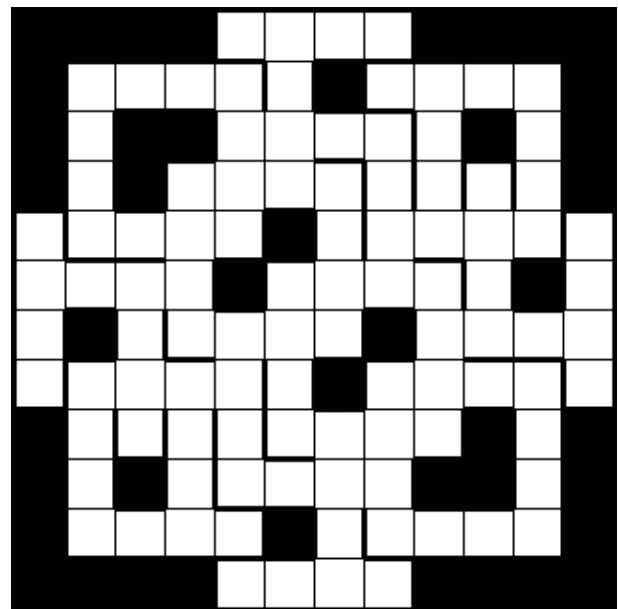
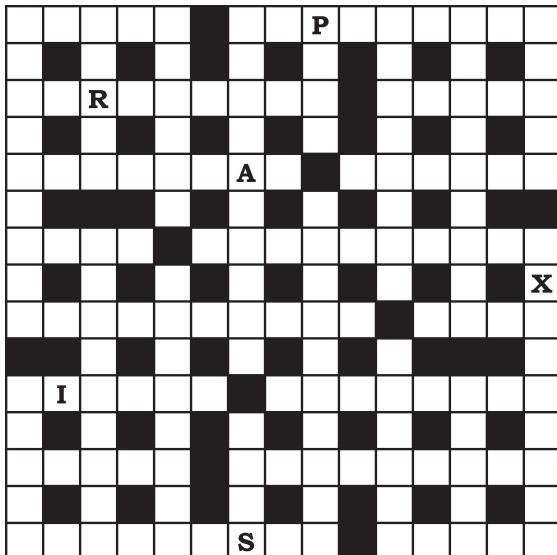
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|A|P|R|I|L| |3| |2|0|0|8|



|A|P|R|I|L| |4| |2|0|0|8|

|A|P|R|I|L| |5| |2|0|0|8|



- |         |         |
|---------|---------|
| 1 _____ | 2 _____ |
| 3 _____ | 4 _____ |
| 5 _____ | 6 _____ |

Clue of the Month .....

**February 6-2008: Long Distance Relationships by Wag (Taro Ogawa) Entries: 49. Correct: 35. Success rate: 71% and see below. Prizewinners: Margaret Galbreath and Del Kennedy. Congratulations!**

**Setter's Notes:** Many congratulations to the eight mighty (and mightily persistent) solvers of the bonus element of the puzzle: David Procter, Roy Taylor, Andrew Patterson, Betty Siegman, Doreen Jones, Del Kennedy, Jan Wood and Mike Potts: please take a well-deserved bow. Bonus solvers had to locate partners NORTH & SOUTH (separated magnetically), and EAST & WEST ("East is East and West is West and never the twain shall meet till Earth and Sky stand presently at God's great judgement seat" according to KIPLING). Interpreting the "H" of SOUTH as "HEARTS" they then had to draw a HEART [#A] which passed over the four "H" cells and draw ARROWS [#Bs] over the partners. With ARROWS conventionally oriented, the overlay became a DIAMOND [#C]. A COMPASS [#D] could locate the letters "ACOMPASS" around the central void and draw the required RING [#E]. Within the RING, a COMPASS ROSE of eight ARROWS (N, S, E, W, NE, SE, NW, SW) had to be drawn. On the back of the overlay another RING was required and within that a RING of eight HEARTS. This provided a stylised representation of a HEARTS and ARROWS DIAMOND, which when viewed with a special viewer displays eight arrows from the crown, and eight hearts from the pavilion. Many, many thanks go to Ian Williams, whose tireless editing made this a much kinder (!) and definitely fairer puzzle. See p7 for graphic. In response to requests for explanations of some of the clues: **Across:** S+MATCH/A+L+SO/YOKE+L/RE in A+A/AU+R[=River=Flower]+A/P(ort) in SOUSE+S/FE+ST[=Valentine, perhaps]+AL/M+A+SA+I/F+R[=ROMEO]+AP/ACE+TO+N(evil)E/DO+R before I+S[=Saint];def=(Doris) Day/(o)NEW(o)S/rev DIM+\*S(p)A/\*(ca)PTA(in) after HEEL/\*KATE/L(adie)S after OI(k)[=boor almost]/WIN+O[=old]/\*OROMANTICRETREAT=ATTRACTION+ROEMER/A(l)LURE/CUR round RAT/(he)ARTS. **Down:** (li)SATE(mptation)/KIP+LING/(ma)NYAFF(airs)/ROGUE -G(irl)/hom MEET +[mag]PIE/ALMA[=see Chambers appendix]+H/C(hocolate)+A[=An]+PS;def=clue in capitals+??/?LASS+O+ED/(couple)S+TEA+N[=14th letter/item]/(c)OSSIES/ROMEO-O=\*MORE/hom. ROES/D(am)E+HORNS/REEL+E+C(hoose)+T[=TANGO]/\*ALLINOKATES/hom WHAT/ST+REAK / SEC+\*SHE/IN in PUP/weave (a)N(d)R(e) & SAL[using GAL for GNARL also accepted] /IO before WA/B+U+R+N. Some of the more frequent incorrect answers were SPOUSED for SPOUSES resulting in OLDIES for OSSIES [see Chambers] and OILY for OILS. (GNARL was accepted for SNARL). Apologies to any who were confused by the typo in 22dn.

**Solvers' comments:**

• Thank you for a great puzzle especially the optional part. It took me some time to work out what the 5 words were but gradually I think I have worked them out. It was also difficult to work out the instructions and I'm sure a lot of members won't try the optional challenge.

*David Procter*

• Dear WAG, Many thanks for your devilish puzzle. No small wonder it left me with a WINDOW BLANK in the centre of this grid. The only 4 letters I can insert in your window frame are H+E+L+P! You are certainly a RASCAL setting a LONG puzzle like this! Loved your DORIS Day?? clue in 22ac. In 33ac it took me ages to realise that "boor almost" = OI (being derived from OIK=boor). *Alan Walter* [I probably should have just used OIK. -T.]

• Quite a few words I didn't know but generally good clues to them so the answers are clear. I particularly liked 16ac, 17ac, 40ac, 2dn, 14dn, 31dn.

*Drew Meek*

• This was hard enough without all the extra requirements. After reading the rubric 20 times I still said "huh?" *Carol Noble* [Thanks for your second letter -T.]

• A very interesting puzzle. The instructions for the pattern looked very daunting at first reading. *Bob Hagan* [So close, Bob, but #A couldn't have been CROSS as that would have meant that #As were "CROSSs" -T.]

• Welcome back to the club. And what a difficult puzzle to present to us to start with! You gave us some really interesting words - eg smatch, heeltap, roemer, cratur, nyaff & secesh to mention a few. As far as the "honorable mention" activity was concerned, I'm afraid I have to pass - way too esoteric for me!

*Bev Cockburn*

• Brilliant puzzle Taro.

*Roy Taylor*

• A delightful puzzle for which I thank you. I can't get my head round the challenge - have found greaseproof paper just the shot for seeing through, but can't progress past 'North' and 'South'. I await the explanation in April with interest.

*Pat Garner*

• There were plenty of new words to keep the old brain going. The rest, I'm afraid, was much too complicated for the old boy!

*Ted O'Brien*

• You have certainly created a very complex and testing puzzle. I have spent a lot of time on it and I did enjoy a lot of the clues once I worked out the answer. The second part of the puzzle has confused me and

I have left it uncompleted.

• Very ingenious!

*Ron O'Rourke*

*Andrew Patterson*

• I found this one quite a challenge! Loved the clues and solving the grid and notice we have, running off at diagonals: NORTH, SOUTH, EAST and WEST, which remind us of Kipling's words.

*Roy Wilson*

• Thank you for a difficult and challenging puzzle. I couldn't fathom out the honourable mention. The clues were all clever but I particularly liked 7dn.

*Jean Barbour*

• Congratulations on a very novel, interesting and pretty difficult puzzle. This morning in desperation I Googled "heart arrow diamond" and found out something I didn't know about diamonds. Fantastic! I must make sure the next diamond I acquire (dream on) is a hearts and arrows cut... Thanks again for giving me so much fun.

*Betty Siegman*

• Having belonged to the English Crossword Club for over 25 years, I thought I'd seen every theme and gimmick in the book but this is a new one to me. Congratulations on a fine puzzle.

*Doreen Jones*

• What a toughie, for me anyway, but many thanks for the challenge. No way can I do the optional extra; will be pleased enough to get this much right.

*Valerie Howard*

• The crossword was sufficient challenge. I congratulate anyone who achieves an "honorable mention".

*Jill Freeland*

• This is all I can do and even that was a challenge! As to the rest, I haven't a clue! I've read it many times but it becomes no clearer. So the faraway lovers will have to haunt me until the April *Crozworld* appears.

*Shirl O'Brien*

• I managed to solve all the clues - correctly, I hope - but have neither the time nor the inclination to pursue the next stage. I did look without success for the four hidden words but could not find them so was stymied anyway.

*Margaret Davis*

• I do hope the 'completed grid' is reckoned to be complete without the small square in the middle? Anyway, I enjoyed the puzzle, so thanks.

*Margaret Galbreath*

• The bottom left-hand corner held me up a long time, but I think that the pennies finally dropped!

*Denis Coates*

• I found the hidden words courtesy of Kipling but thereafter...?

*Maurice Cowan*

• Good puzzle tho challenge was a bit too tough - my fumble hands!

*Bill Bennett*

• Thank you for your challenging Slot 6. It was very clever to theme all your clues and I can tell that you put a lot of work into it. My favourite clues were 7dn, 32ac, 35ac, and 38ac. I look forward to more Wagging.

*Michael Kennedy*

• Pleased to receive a puzzle from you, though I did find it quite difficult. The square in the centre has me intrigued. I finished answering the clues a while ago & have been trying to figure out your instructions for the remainder of the puzzle. I'm sorry, Taro, but I cannot follow them. *Graeme Cole* [#A couldn't have been "AITCH" since that would have made #As "AITCHs" -T.]

• A great crossword but I didn't have time to work on the challenge.

*Hilary Cromer*

• You've got to be joking! As if the puzzle wasn't hard enough to solve then you send us on another hunt! Enough Taro! I'm old & frail & now I'm quite demented! I just hope I got my A's & B's not too confused with my C's & D's to say nothing of my E's!!! Great fun though, I must admit. *Del Kennedy* [And here I was thinking that advanced cryptics were meant to be good for the brain. Thanks muchly for the card; a fine use of artistic ability! -T.]

• Your brilliant and devious mind leaves me awestruck! I am posting off what I hope is an unstylish representation of a HEARTS and ARROWS DIAMOND as might be set in a DIAMOND RING - or did my lack of A COMPASS point me in the wrong direction? *Jan Wood* [Minor variations in number, shape, direction of arrows, relative position of hearts to compass rose, etc were all acceptable - T.]

• Enjoyed your puzzle, until I completed the grid. Then I looked at the challenge. That is all I could do, LOOK.

*Jack Stocks*

• Thanks for the Valentine special. Unfortunately I've run out of time to complete the secondary puzzle. My favourite clues were 26dn & 30dn. I look forward to seeing more of your puzzles in the future.

*Jenny Wenham*

• The instructions defeated me though "A COMPASS" and "NORTH SOUTH EAST and WEST" were not too difficult to work out. Congratulations are in order for any members successfully solving this.

*Peter Dearte*

• Many thanks for an interesting puzzle. I have spent so much time on the bottom left-hand corner clues 33ac and 34dn trying to stretch my lateral or hoping for a bright inspiration, I have slotted in OILS and IOWA in desperation. As for the bonus bit, it is all Greek to me I have to confess.

*Catherine Foster*

• Enjoyed the solving, except for 22ac. My answer is a guess. OK so it starts DORI (Do-right-I ?) but what is the last letter, and how does it work?

*Max Roddick*